

LOK SABHA DEBATES

(English Version)

Ninth Session
(Fourteenth Lok Sabha)



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LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

Thursday, November 23, 2006/Agrahayana 2, 1928 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock.

[MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

...(Interruptions)

11.01 hrs.

MEMBER SWORN

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Babu Lal Marandi has to take oath. He has come as a representative of the people of his constituency. He is entitled to take part in the proceedings of the House. Kindly allow him to take oath.

Secretary-General may now call his name to take oath or make affirmation.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI (Kodarma)

11.02 hrs

(At this stage Shri Shailendra Kumar and some Hon. Members came and stood on the floor near the Table)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, whatever issue you feel is so important that it should be taken up before the Question Hour, I am prepared to consider, but if everyone speaks together nothing can be heard. I am earnestly requesting you to speak one by one. If everybody speaks together what will happen?

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Mohan Singh ji please tell, how can I hear you?

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Let me hear you one by one.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN SINGH (Deoria): Sir, please listen to me...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Mohan Singh ji, how can I hear you if all of you speak together?

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I will hear you. Please go to your seats.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: If hon. senior Members also say this, how can I hear them?

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Let Mohan Singh Ji sit here and conduct.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: You come here and decide this.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Mohan Singh Ji, please come here.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I will request you to come and control this House. Please come here.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: This is not fair.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: I want to hear you.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I do not know what is it. Nobody, wants to hear me. I want to hear you. Please go back to your seats. I will hear Mohan Singh Ji.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN SINGH: Our 10,000 men are lodged in jail and they have not allowed even our Minister to meet them ...(Interruptions). Our hon. Member is also in jail.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: The House stands adjourned till 1115 hours.

11.07 hrs

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Fifteen minutes past Eleven of the Clock.

11.15 hrs

The Lok Sabha reassembled at fifteen minutes past Eleven of the Clock.

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Let me make a point.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: What is this happening?

...(Interruptions)

11.15 hrs.

(At this stage Shri Rajnarayan Budholia, Shri Chandra Kant Khairi and some other hon. Members came and stood on the floor near the Table)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I am earnestly appealing to all sections of the House. We have all agreed; we have

decided yesterday; all the Parties have decided. It is very unfortunate. We are meeting after nearly three months. The Parties have identified so many important issues, and I find today deliberately the House is being disturbed. I thoroughly condemn this approach. Whoever is responsible, I am very sorry today, it is not keeping with the dignity of the House.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record.

...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I can only express my agony. All are very responsible Members of Parliament. I am appealing to all of you again, please allow the House to function.

...(Interruptions)

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[Translation]

Introduction of Train Services

*21. DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether all the train services which have been announced in Railway Budget for 2006-07 have been started;

(b) if so, the names of train services which have been introduced so far;

(c) the names of train services which are yet to be started and the reasons for delay in their introduction; and

(d) the programme envisaged by the Railways to start the remaining passenger trains?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI LALU PRASAD): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) The train services announced in Rail Budgets are introduced during the course of the ensuing financial year. The train services of Budget 2006-07

*Not recorded.

introduced so far and to be introduced are given in the enclosed statement. The remaining services will be introduced during the current financial year on availability of rolling stock, completion of projects including gauge conversion works and new lines, completion of terminal facilities etc.

Statement

Budget 2006-07 train services provided so far

Introduction

Sl.No.	Train name
1	2
1.	Radhikapur-Sealdah Link Express with 3453/3454 Gour Express (daily)
2.	Mailani-Palia Kalan Passenger (Metre Gauge) (daily)
3.	Nagpur-Raipur Intercity Express (daily)
4.	Mathura-Alwar passenger (daily)
5.	Delhi-Raibareli Express (tri-weekly)
6.	Visakhapatnam-Nizamabad Express (bi-weekly)
7.	Howrah-Mumbai Express (weekly)
8.	Howrah-Puri Express (bi-weekly)
9.	Indore-Bhopal Intercity Express (daily)
10.	Saharsa-Patna Kosi Express (daily)
11.	Pune-Lucknow Express (weekly)
12.	Chennai-Bilaspur Express (weekly)
13.	Saharsa-Amritsar Garib Rath (AC) (bi-weekly)
14.	Jalandhar City-Nakodar Diesel Multiple Unit (daily)
15.	Jabalpur-Jammu Tawi Express (weekly)
16.	Yeswantpur-Ajmer Garib Nawaj Express (weekly)
17.	Chennai-Tiruvananthapuram Express (Daily)
18.	Machilipatnam-Tirupati Fast Passenger (tri-weekly)
19.	Bankura-Ranchi (Hatia) Passenger via Purulia
20.	Kishanganj-Ajmer Garib Nawaj Express (weekly)

1	2
21.	Asansol-Bokaro (Main line Electric Multiple Unit)
22.	Gudur-Tirupati Passenger (daily)
23.	Chennai Egmore-Nagercoil Express (weekly)
24.	Chennai-Tiruvananthapuram Express (weekly)
25.	Chennai-Coimbatore Express (weekly)
26.	Chennai-Mangalore Express (tri-weekly)
27.	Madurai-Tirupati-Manmad Express (weekly)
28.	Hajipur-Sonpur-Chhapra-Siwan-Thawe Passenger (daily)
29.	Motihari-Porbander Express (weekly)
30.	Bangalore-Ernakulam (Kochuvelli) Express (weekly)

Extensions

Sl.No.	Train Name and extended to
1	2
1.	Vijayawada-Lokmanya Tilak(T) Express to Kakinada Town & Bhavnagar
2.	Mysore-Kumbakonam Express to Mayiladuturai
3.	Tiruchhirappalli-Kumbakonam Passenger to Mayiladuturai
4.	Tiruchhirappalli-Thanjavur Passenger to Mayiladuturai
5.	Itarsi-Bina Vindhyachal Express to Habibganj
6.	Jabalpur-Kota Express to Jaipur
7.	Jaipur-Kota Passenger to Shamgrh
8.	Okha-Surendranagar Passenger to Bhavnagar
9.	Puri-Sambalpur Passenger to Rourkela
10.	Jodhpur-Ahmedabad Express to Bandra (T)
11.	Tiruvananthapuram-Jodhpur Express to Bikaner
12.	Raipur-Sambalpur Express to Bhubaneswar
13.	Jaipur-Agra Fort Express to Gwalior
14.	Bilaspur-Itwari Express to Nagpur

1	2
15.	Pune-Ahmedabad Ahimsa Express (tri-weekly to Jodhpur (once a week)
16.	Puri-Jaipur Express to Jodhpur
17.	Pune-Nanded/Mudkhed Passenger to Nizamabad
18.	Gorakhpur-Rohtak Gorakhdham Express to Bhiwani
19.	Guwahati-Jodhpur Express to Barmer
20.	Ahmedabad-Delhi Mail to Haridwar
21.	Haridwar/Kalka-Jodhpur Express to Barmer
22.	Jaipur-Chennai Express (tri-weekly) to Coimbatore once a week
23.	Hyderabad-Chittapur Passenger to Wadi
24.	Tirupati-Ongole Passenger to Chirala
25.	Sholapur-Bijapur Passenger to Bagalkot
26.	Bangalore-Bijapur Express to Bagalkot

Increase in frequency

Sl.No.	Train name
1	2
1.	Chennai Egmore-Tenkasi Pothigai Express from bi-weekly to 3 days in a week
2.	Belgaum-Miraj Passenger from 5 days in a week to 6 days in a week
3.	Belgaum-Miraj Passenger from 4 days in a week to 6 days in a week
4.	New Delhi-Guwahati Sampark Kranti from bi-weekly to tri-weekly
5.	Howrah-Dehradun Upasana Express from weekly to bi-weekly
6.	Hatia-Lokmanya Tilak (T) Express from weekly to bi-weekly
7.	Bangalore-Guwahati Express from bi-weekly to tri-weekly
8.	Howrah-Guwahati Saraighat Express from tri-weekly to 5 days in a week

1	2
9.	Kathgodam-Dehradun Express from bi-weekly to tri-weekly
10.	Bangalore-Ernakulam Express from weekly to bi-weekly
11.	Patna-Pune Express from weekly to bi-weekly
12.	Amritsar-Nanded Sachkhand Express from 5 days in a week to daily

*Budget services yet to be provided**Introduction*

Sl.No.	Train name
1	2
1.	Rae Bareilly-Pratapgarh-Lokmanya Tilak (T) Link Express (bi-weekly)
2.	Delhi (Nizamuddin)-Chennai Garib Rath (AC) (weekly)
3.	Tatanagar-Yesvantpur Express (weekly)
4.	Bhubaneswar-Baripada Express (tri-weekly)
5.	Bhubaneswar-Pondicherry Express (weekly)
6.	Delhi (Nizamuddin)-Mumbai (Bandra) Garib Rath (AC) (weekly)
7.	Delhi (Nizamuddin)-(Nizamuddin)-Patna Garib Rath (AC) (weekly)
8.	Ahmedabad-Patna Azimabad Express (weekly)
9.	Darbhanga-Kolkata (Chitpur) Mithilanchal Express (bi-weekly)
10.	Muzaffarpur-Kolkata (Chitpur) Tirhut Express (weekly)
11.	Jogbani-Kolkata Express (tri-weekly) (after gauge conversion)
12.	Bhuj-Bareilly Express (tri-weekly)
13.	Sonpur-Chhapra-Jammu Tawi Mour Dhawaj Express (weekly)
14.	Bangalore-Darbhanga Express via Chennai, Patna (weekly)
15.	Delhi (New Azadpur)-Saharsa Poorabiya Express via Lucknow (weekly)

1	2
16.	Purna-Adilabad Passenger (after gauge conversion) (weekly)
17.	Nanded-Adilabad Passenger (after gauge conversion) (daily)
18.	Purna-Nanded-Patna Express (after gauge conversion) (weekly)
19.	Durg-Gorakhpur Express via Faizabad (weekly)
20.	Ajmer-Ranchi Garib NawaJ Express via Varanasi (weekly)
21.	Valsad-Udhna (Surat)-Chhapra-Sonpur Shramik Express (weekly)
22.	Valsad-Udhna (Surat)-Kanpur Udyogkarmi Express (weekly)
23.	Jaipur-Amritsar Express (bi-weekly)
24.	Link Express between Darbhanga and Guwahati with 5609/5610 Avadh-Assam Express (daily)
25.	Madurai-Rameshwaram Passenger (after gauge conversion) (daily)
26.	Ajmer-Udaipur City Express (after gauge conversion)
27.	Kumarghat-Agartala (after commissioning of new metre gauge line) (daily)

Extension

1. Danapur-New Jalpaiguri Capital Express to Kamakhya (Guwahati) (4 days a week)
2. Mathura-Lucknow Express (via Faizabad-Varanasi) to Patna (3 days a week)
3. Lokmanya Tilak(T)-Muzaffarpur Express to Raxaul
4. Chennai-Varanasi Ganga Kaveri Express to Chhapra (2 days a week)
5. Vasco-Vijayawada Express (4 days a week) to Howrah
6. Madurai-Manamadurai Passenger to Rameswaram (after gauge conversion)
7. Madurai-Manamadurai Passenger to Rameswaram (after gauge conversion)

1	2
8.	Mumbai-Nanded Nandigram Express to Nagpur (after gauge conversion)
9.	Visakhapatnam-Nizamuddin Hirakud Express to Amritsar
10.	Bangalore-Visakhapatnam Prashanti Express to Bhubaneswar
11.	Delhi-Meerut City Passenger to Muzaffarnagar

Aircraft Accidents

*22. PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT:
SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of aircraft and helicopters met with accidents during each of the last three years and the current year;

(b) the loss of lives and property suffered as a result thereof;

(c) the reasons for the frequent air crashes of aircraft/ helicopters;

(d) whether despite constant efforts new trainer aircraft has not been manufactured so far;

(e) if so, the reasons therefor and the progress made so far in this regard;

(f) whether the Government proposes to replace existing helicopter fleet of Army Aviation operating on high altitude; and

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

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY):

(a) to (g) A total number of 43 aircraft and 15 Helicopters of the Defence Forces have met with accidents during the last three financial years and the current financial years so far. The major causes of these accidents are Human Error and Technical Defect. The details of the accidents, loss of lives and property in these accidents are given in the enclosed statement.

The Indian Air Force (IAF) is procuring 66 HAWK Advanced Jet Trainer (AJT) aircraft for training purpose. Out of the 66 HAWK AJT, 24 aircraft will be procured in flyaway condition from UK. Delivery will commence from September, 2007 at the rate of 4 aircraft per month. The remaining 42 aircraft are being licence produced by Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL). Delivery will be at the rate of 1-2 aircraft per month from March, 2008.

Besides, the IAF is also supporting the HAL project for indigenous development and manufacture of Intermediate Jet Trainer (IJT) aircraft for training purpose.

The existing fleet of Chetak and Cheetah helicopters available with the Indian Army is planned to be replaced by a technologically advanced light helicopter in a phased manner.

Statement

Year	Accidents							Loss of lives Service Personnel/Civilian				Loss of civil Property (in Rs.)
	IAF		Army		Navy		Total	IAF	Army	Navy	Total	
	Aircraft	Heptr*	Aircraft	Heptr*	Aircraft	Heptr*						
2003-2004	13	2	—	—	1	—	16	9/12	-/-	-/-	9/12	9,46,375
2004-2005	13	4	—	3	1	—	21	7/3	3	-/-	10/3	15,120
2005-2006	9	2	—	—	2	3	16	9	-/-	9	18/-	47,853
2006-2007 (from 1.4.2006 to 17.11.2006)	3	—	—	1	1	—	5	-/-	3	-/-	—	
Total	38	8	—	4	5	3	58	25/15	6/-	9/-	40/15	10,09,348

*Heptr: Helicopter

[English]

Reduction in Prices of Petroleum Products

*23. SHRI M. RAJA MOHAN REDDY:
SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA:

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

(a) whether the prices of petroleum products in the country have been increased on several occasions when the prices of crude oil were increased in the international market;

(b) if so, whether the Government is aware that during the recent months, the prices of crude oil come down in the international market;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government proposes to reduce the prices of petroleum products keeping in view the decline in crude oil prices in the international market;

(e) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken or being taken by the Government to pass on the benefit of lower oil prices to consumers; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MURLI DEORA): (a) The prices of petroleum products have been raised on several occasions when crude prices in international markets have increased in the past years. However, these increases have been much less than the increases required corresponding to prices of crude in the international market.

During 2006, retail prices of petrol and diesel have been increased only once. Retail prices of petrol and diesel and diesel were increased only partially and not in

line with the then prevailing international oil prices. No increase has been made in retail prices of PDS kerosene

and domestic LPG. The increase required and the increases made are elaborated in the table below:

Product	Petrol (Rs/ltr)	Diesel (Rs/Ltr)	PDS Kerosene (Rs/Ltr)	Dom.LPG (Rs/Cyl)
Increase required as per May/June 06 international prices	10.55	9.88	17.16	114.45
Increase made on 6.6.06	4.00	2.00	Nil	Nil
Balance	6.55	7.88	17.16	114.45

(b) and (c) The Indian basket of crude oils was at about \$ 67/bbl when the last increase in prices of petrol and on June 2006 was made. The prices went up \$ 75/bbl in August this year. The Government, however, did not raise the domestic retail prices and the additional burden was borne by the Government and the PSUs.

The oil marketing companies continue to incur heavy under recoveries in diesel, PDS Kerosene and domestic LPG, even when the prices have currently come down to \$ 57-58/bbl.

(d) to (f) The oil marketing companies are still incurring under recoveries (difference between retail price equivalent to the level of international oil prices and price actually charged from the consumer) on diesel, PDS kerosene and domestic LPG. In case of PDS kerosene, the last price revision was done almost 5 years ago when the international oil prices were very low. Similarly domestic LPG prices were revised marginally two years ago.

In the first half of 2006-07 (1.4.2006 to 30.9.2006) the under recoveries have amounted to about Rs. 33,200 crores. These under recoveries have been partially met through burden sharing of Rs. 12,000 crores by upstream companies, viz. ONGC, OIL and GAIL and assurance of issue of bonds of Rs. 14,150 crores.

The international oil prices continue to fluctuate. The Government is keeping a close watch on the volatile prices. Seasonally oil are expected to increase during the winter months. The Government will consider downward revision in the prices and diesel when there is sustained drop in the prices of crude in the international market

[Translation]

Adulteration of Petrol and Diesel

*24. SHRI JASWANT SINGH BISHNOI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the transportation policy of public sector oil companies for supply of petrol and diesel to dealers;

(b) the details of oil companies which have been providing their own tankers for supply of petrol and diesel to dealers;

(c) whether the Government has received complaints regarding adulteration in petrol and diesel being carried out when the tankers are en-route;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the steps taken by the Government to check adulteration of petrol and diesel?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MURLI DEORA): (a) Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) supply petrol and diesel to dealers from their terminals through tank trucks owned by OMCs or contracted for transportation of the products on the basis of public tenders. The transporter has to conform to the safety requirements and has to conformity with OMCs stipulations. Public tenders on industry basis are invited for engaging tank trucks for transportation of bulk petroleum products to the dealers. There is a provision for reservation of 15% for Scheduled Caste and 7.5% for Scheduled Tribe category transporters. Oil companies give preference to their own dealers in awarding contracts for lifting their own requirement of products at tender finalized rates, provided they have participated in the tender.

(b) Details of company-owned TTs, company-wise are as under:

Name of Oil Company	Number of (TTs)
HPCL	149
IOC	153
BPCL	161
IBP	12

(c) and (d) The Government is aware that the possibility of inducement for adulteration of petrol/diesel by some unscrupulous elements cannot be ruled out owing to the huge price difference between petrol and diesel and various adulterants available in the market. IOCL, BPCL and HPCL have reported the receipt of 14, 25 and 8 complaints respectively of en-route adulteration during the current year.

(e) The Government/Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) have taken the following steps to contain the menace of adulteration:

- (i) Under the Control Orders issued by the Government to prevent fuel adulteration, under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955, State Governments are empowered to take action against those indulging in adulteration. Government have requested the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations to take steps to control adulteration.
- (ii) OMCs undertake regular and surprise inspections of Retail Outlets and also take action under Marketing Discipline Guidelines (MDG) and Dealership Agreements against those indulging in adulteration and malpractices. MDG provide for termination of dealership in cases of adulteration being established.
- (iii) Government has taken the initiatives to expedite the installation of Global Positioning System (GPS) to monitor the movement of tank trucks.
- (iv) OMCs have introduced new tamper proof tank-truck looking systems to prevent en-route adulteration by transporters.
- (v) Keeping in view the misuse/diversion of SKO for adulteration, the import of SKO by private parties has been canalized through OMCs.

- (vi) As advised by the Government, Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) have created a separate wing to report to a Director other than Director (Marketing), which will oversee and monitor all activities and operations to curb adulteration and specify norms and guidelines in this regard.

In order to check adulteration, the Government has recently taken a number of new initiatives which are given in the enclosed statement.

Statement

Details of New Initiatives Taken to Check Adulteration Of Petrol/Diesel and Streamlining PDs Kerosene Distribution

Checking adulteration is a continuous process and the Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas has been reviewing steps taken to curb adulteration from time to time. In the process, several technological and institutional measures have been taken to contain adulteration. The recent steps taken by the Ministry are summarized below:

1. Automation of Retail Outlets: In order to monitor the activities at retail outlets by adopting the latest technological improvements, automation of retail outlets is being implemented. MOP&NG has directed the oil marketing companies to complete automation of retail outlets selling more than 200 KL per month by March 2007.

2. Third Party Certification of Retail Outlets: OMCs have been directed to complete third party certification of all the retail outlets selling more than 100 KL per month by March 2007.

3. Monitoring of movement of Tank Trucks through Global Positioning System (GPS): In order to prevent adulteration during transportation, OMCs have been directed to install GPS for complete monitoring of the movement of all the company owned/dealer owned/contractor owned tank trucks by March 2007.

4. Marker System in Kerosene: To check adulteration in auto fuels, Government has asked public sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) to take various steps, including introduction of marker in adulterants. OMCs have commenced introduction of marker in kerosene on all India basis with effect from 1.10.2006. Under the new system, Marker is being put in kerosene in all depots. This system heralds the introduction of world

class technology to curb and eventually eliminate the menace of adulteration of transportation fuels along the supply chain. With the marker's presence, adulteration even with very low levels of kerosene can be detected.

5. Revising the Marketing Discipline Guidelines: The Marketing Discipline Guidelines (MDG) under which the oil marketing companies take penal actions against the erring dealers have been revised during August 2005 making the penal actions more stringent. As per MDG, 2005, a dealership would be terminated in the first instance of adulteration itself.

6. Jan Kerosene Pariyojna: To streamline the PDS Kerosene distribution system and contain diversion of kerosene for adulteration and other unauthorized usages, Jan Kerosene Pariyojna (JKP) had been launched initially for a period of 6 months on a pilot basis in 414 blocks with effect from 2.10.2005. The Pilot scheme has been further extended upto 30.6.2007.

7. Smart Card Scheme: With the objective of ensuring that the benefit of the subsidy reaches the targeted consumers in an efficient and cost-effective manner and to prevent any leakages, this Ministry has proposed introduction of Smart Card System for distribution of PDS kerosene. The scheme is proposed to be introduced initially on an experimental basis in three districts-Latur in Maharashtra, Nalanda in Bihar and Nainital in Uttaranchal Card is proposed to be available to BPL families while all other ration card holders would be given non-subsidized kerosene. Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) would ensure adequate availability of PDS as well as non-subsidized kerosene during the entire period of implementation of the pilot.

[English]

Leakage and Bursting of LPG Cylinders

*25. SHRIMATI KALPNA RAMESH NARHIRE:
SHRI SRICHAND KRIPLANI:

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

(a) whether the incidents of leakage and burst of LPG cylinders is increasing;

(b) if so, the number of such incidents reported during each of the last three years;

(c) whether any guidelines have been issued by the Government to the LPG filling plants;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the other steps taken by the Government to check such incidents?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MURLI DEORA): (a) and (b) Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) have reported some incidents of leakage of LPG cylinders supplied by their LPG distributors during the last 3 years as under:

Year	No. of incidents
2003-04	2603
2004-05	1903
2005-06	1680

OMCs have reported 7 cases of bursting of LPG cylinders during 2005-06 on account these cylinders getting engulfed in a fire.

(c) and (d) Ministry of Commerce & Industry has laid down Gas Cylinder (GC) Rules and Static and Mobile Pressure Vessels (SMPV) Rules. OMCs are required to obtain licences from the Explosives Department for up of LPG in cylinders, storage of filled cylinders are also required to obtain licence from Explosives Department for storage of cylinders under GC Rules. Oil companies have to conform to the provision of GC Rules to prevent leakage of LPG from cylinders.

The Bureau of India Standards (BIS) has prescribed the specifications for manufacture and design of LPG cylinders and valves. BIS exercises strict control over the manufacturing process of cylinders and valves.

(e) In order to check leakage of LPG from cylinders, OMCs conduct stringent controls while filling the cylinders at their bottling plants. LPG cylinders received from distributors/transporters at the bottling plants are mandatorily checked for their quality and genuineness to avoid the entry of fake and spurious cylinders in circulation which may result in leakage. On detection of sub-standard/spurious cylinders, these are confiscated and thereafter de-shaped/crushed to prevent their re-entry into circulation.

Bed and Breakfast Scheme

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

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has launched "Incredible India Bed and Breakfast Scheme";

(b) if so, the salient features thereof;

(c) the cities where this scheme has been launched; and

(d) the extent to which the scheme will address the accommodation shortage in the metro cities?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The main requisite of the scheme is that only those home owners, who are able to offer a minimum of one room or a maximum of five rooms of prescribed specification and who are physically residing in the house are eligible to apply for this scheme. The idea is to provide a clean and affordable place for foreign and domestic tourists and an opportunity to stay with an Indian family to experience local customs and traditions and relish authentic local cuisine.

(c) This scheme has been launched all over the country and a pilot project has been taken up in Delhi for focussed marketing/attention.

(d) The scheme will help to add to the inventory of hotel rooms especially in Delhi and all metro cities.

[Translation]

Revival of Closed Airports

*27. SHRI HARISINH CHAVDA:
SHRI JIVABHAI A. PATEL:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of airports closed during the last few years;

(b) the reasons for closure of these airports;

(c) whether any of the closed airports has so far been revived by the Government;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) No airport has been closed by Airports Authority of India during last three years (i.e. 2003-04, 2004-05 & 2005-06).

(c) to (e) Question does not arise.

Merger of Air India and Indian Airlines

*28. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA:
SHRI DUSHYANT SINGH:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has taken decision regarding merger of Air India (AI) and Airlines (IA);

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has also taken decision in respect of status of employees of these two airlines after merger;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the time by which the merger process is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a), (b) and (e) The proposal for merger of the two airlines is under active consideration of the Government. The Committee on merger of Air India and Indian Airlines constituted by Air India Board has appointed M/s. Accenture India Private Limited as Consultant. The consultants have indicated that they would be able to complete the initial work relating to pre-merger activities in 10 weeks time from the date of award of their mandate, which would enable companies to prepare a detailed note to the Government for its approval. After receipt of Government approval, the necessary merger process will be taken up. The exercise is likely to be completed by the beginning of the next financial year.

(c) and (d) As regards human resources, the Government have mandated the Consultants to tailor the merger process so as to ensure that (i) the salary, status *etc.* of every employee is protected; and (ii) the integration process should be as painless as possible. The Consultants have confirmed that while devising the integration process, due care is being taken to ensure protection of current compensation, perquisites *etc.*

[English]

Financial Assistance to States

*29. SHRI JUAL ORAM: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the proposals submitted by the Government of Orissa and other States for Central financial assistance for development of tourist infrastructure in those States during the current financial year;

(b) the estimated cost of each project submitted by the State Governments; and

(c) the Central financial assistance for implementing those projects?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) to (c) The Ministry of Tourism extends Central Financial Assistance to States/UTs for development of tourism infrastructure as per the existing scheme of 'Product/Infrastructure Development for Destinations and Circuits'. This assistance is extended based on project prioritized in consultation with the State/UT concerned and based on the detailed proposals received from them. The State/UT-wise Statement of such tourism infrastructure projects prioritized for the current financial year is given in the enclosed statement-I. The State/UT-wise Statement of Central Financial Assistance released for the projects, during the current financial year based on the proposals received is given in the enclosed statement-II

Statement-I

Prioritised Projects to be Implemented during the year 2006-07

S.No.	State	Destination	Circuit	Rural Tourism
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1. Hyderabad including Charminar & Golconda 2. Warangal 3. Nellore (Pulicat Lake)	1. Beach circuit Vizag 2. Buddhist circuit 3. Kalahasti-Kanipakam-Talakona Circuit	1. Kuchipudi (near Vijaywada) 2. Dharmakaram (near Puttuparthi) 3. Surabhi (near Pochampalli)
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	1. Amenities at Parsuramkund Lohit District. 2. Restoration & Preservation of Heritage Site (Stone Rampart) at Dambuk.	1. Tinsukia (Assam)-Namsai-Tezu-Walong-Dongi circuit	1. Ligu Village, Upper Subansiri District 2. Ego-Nikte Village
3.	Assam	1. Kamakhya and Satellite Pilgrimage Township of Hazo. 2. Convention Centre & Wellness Centre at Hotel Brahmaputra Ashoka, Guwahati.	1. Orang-Tespur-Nameri-Bhalukpong-Tawang Tourist Circuit.	1. Charideo sukafa Nagar in Sivasagr District
4.	Bihar	1. Mandeshwari Temple	1. Bodhgaya-Nalanda-Rajgir circuit	1. Pattharkathi (near Gaya)
5.	Chhattisgarh	1. Chitrakote fall 2. Rajim	1. Jagdalpur circuit	1. Chilpi (Near Kanha National Park) 2. Churri (Near Hasdeo Bango Dam)

1	2	3	4	5
6.	Delhi	1. Development of Infrastructure as per Master Plan for Commonwealth Games	...	...
7.	Goa	...	1. North Goa Circuit 2. South Goa circuit	...
8.	Gujarat	1. Champaner Pavagadh 2. Gir 3. Dwarka	1. Junagarh-Veraval Porbandar circuit	1. Dandhi 2. Vadnagar 3. Nageshwar
9.	Haryana	1. Surajkund 2. Sonapat-Ethnic India 3. Badhkal	1. Kurukshetra circuit	...
10.	Himachal Pradesh	Dharamshala	1. Eco Tourism circuit in Tribal Areas 2. Pilgrim Circuit	1. Mashobra village in Simla 2. Baroh village Near Dharmashala 3. Gurukul Oriented Village
11.	Jammu & Kashmir	(a) Specific tourism infrastructure projects for Tourism Development Authorities of Bhaderwah, Kishtwar, Poonch, Rajouri, Lakahnpur-Sarthal, Kokernag, Leh and Kargil (b) Specific tourism infrastructure projects for Tourism Development Authorities of Pahalgam, Gulmarg, Sonamarg and Patnitop (c) Restoration of Heritage building at Mubarak Mandi, Phase-I (d) Golf Course at Jammu (e) Reconstruction of gutted TRC at Srinagar	Development of Tourist Circuit in Kargil	(a) (Software Work Plan) support for 5 villages viz., Drung, Pahalgam, Jheri, Surinsar and Gagangir (b) support for 10 new villages to be identified by the State Government
12.	Jharkhand	1. Rajmahal 2. Parasnath	1. Ranchi-Ramgarh-Rajarappa-Tenughat-Hazaribagh-Padmaitkhori circuit	1. Amadubi, Distt. Singhbhum 2. Kharsavan, Distt. Saraikela-Kharsavan

1	2	3	4	5
13.	Karnataka	1. Hampi 2. Lingamakki	1. Bijapur-Biddar-Gulbarga circuit 2. Southern Wilderness Circuit	1. Chenputna village -Bangalore 2. Alkan village Bagalcote
14.	Kerala	1. Vagamon 2. Kumarkom 3. Padnabhapuram Palace 4. Thrippunithura	1. Southern Eco-Tourism circuit	1. Kathakali Costume Village 2. Coir Village 3. Spice Village
15.	Madhya Pradesh	1. Panna 2. Mandu	1. Amarkantak-Mandla-Dindoi circuit 2. Hasangabad-Maheswar-Onkareshwar-Barwani circuit	1. Sivra in Datia 2. Ram Nagar in Mandla 3. Any Village in Maheshwar
16.	Maharashtra	Kunkeeshwar	1. Kolhapur Circuit 2. Fort Circuit	1. Village near Kolhapur 2. Village near Pune for Gurukul
17.	Manipur	1. Nongmalching (Eco-Park with Golf course) 2. Imphal	1. Imphal-Bishnupur-Sendra -Churachandpur circuit	1. Andro, khongiom at None
18.	Meghalaya	1. Protection & development of Caves around Jowai 2. Tura	1. Villamnagar-Jakrem-Jowai circuit 2. Shillong-Cherrapunji Jowai Mawplong circuit	
19.	Mizoram	1. Chaltlang 2. Chalfih	1. Southern-Hrangchakawn, Tawipul'S', Lawngtlai, Saiha, Vawmbuk, Sangau, S. Vanlaiphal circuit 2. Eastern-Keltum, N. Vanlaiphal, East Lungdar, Khawbung, Farkwan. Zokhawthar, Hnahlan circuit	
20.	Nagaland	1. Tourist Travel Destination Toupheima, Kohima District. 2. Aizuto, Zunheboto District.	1. Zunheboto-Tuensang-Kiphiri circuit 2. Governor's cap (Wokha)-Nui Land Area (Dimapur)-Jalukie (Peren)	1. Leshuni village
21.	Orissa	1. Chilka	1. Bhubaneswar-Puri-Konark circuit 2. Simlipal-Chandipur-Talsari-Panchlingameshwar circuit 3. Araku valley-Sonebeda-Koreput-Malkangri circuit	1. Daringi Badi Village Deuljhari Dist. Anupur 2. Khelliyajali village

1	2	3	4	5
22.	Punjab	1. Ropar 2. Fatehgarh Sahib (Including Aam Khas Bagh with SEL show) 3. Kapurthala	1. Freedom Struggle Circuit Delhi-Amritsar 2. Pilgrim Circuit	1. Village Paldi (Distt. Hoshiarpur) 2. Village Kalanour (Distt. Gurdaspur) 3. Village Maisor Khana (Distt. Bhatinda) 4. Boothgarh Distt. Hoshiarpur
23.	Rajasthan	1. Ajmer Sharif 2. Jaisalmer	1. Eco-Tourism circuit 2. Floodlighting of monuments	...
24.	Sikkim	1. Development of Amusement Park at Samsa. 2. Pilgrim centre at Sorang	1. Development of Tourist Centers at Phodang and Mangan in North Sikkim 2. Development of Assam Lingzey and Khedi Trek Route in East Sikkim	1. Rong Village in South Sikkim. 2. Tharpu village in West Sikkim
25.	Tamil Nadu	1. Madurai 2. Thanjavur 3. Kanyakumari.	Chennai-Kanchipuram (Pakshithirham Circuit)	
26.	Tripura	1. Chaturdashi Devta Bari	1. Development of North west Tripura Circuit	...
27.	Uttar Pradesh	1. Aligarh	1. Agra-Fatehpur Sikri-Mathura circuit 2. Varanasi-Sarnath circuit 3. Brajbhoomi-Vrindavan circuit	...
28.	Uttaranchal	1. Yamnotri 2. Tehri	1. Rishikesh-Haridwar (Mega Project) 2. Bindar-Baljnath-Manesar circuit	1. Village Trijugi Narayan, Distt. Rudraprayag.
29.	West Bengal	1. Goke 2. Kalimpong 3. Plassey	1. Freedom circuit 2. Tea Tourism circuit 3. Beach circuit	

Statement-II

The details of Projects Sanctioned by the Ministry of Tourism, Amount Sanctioned and Released during the current Financial Year

(Rs. in lakhs)

Sr.No.	State/UT	Project	Amount sanctioned	Amount Released
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	Development of Laknavaram Lake as Eco-Tourism Destination in Warangal District.	468.63	337.90

1	2	3	4	5
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	Preservation of Heritage site (Stone Rampart) at Yobgo, Dambuk, Lower Dibang Valley	283.22	226.58
		Construction of Tourist Complexes at Parasuram Kund	462.68	370.15
3.	Assam	Construction of Integrated Convention Centre and Wellness Centre in the Centre of Hotel Brahmaputra Ashok, Guwahati	454.28	363.42
4.	Chhattisgarh	Development of Rajmarggarh (Amarkantak)	275.73	220.58
		Development of Rajim	295.95	236.76
		Development of Chitrakote	278.45	222.76
5.	Gujarat	Development of Tourist Circuit on Junagadh-Veraval-Portbandar-Dwarka	329.83	263.86
6.	Himachal Pradesh	Development of Rohru and Chanshal as a Tourist Destination	260.00	208.00
7.	Jammu & Kashmir	Infrastructure Development in Kishtwar	271.86	200.00
		Development of Mubarak Mandi and Socio-Culture-cum-Heritage Centre, Jammu	437.00	300.00
		Improvement of existing sanitary system in Pahalgam	495.75	200.00
		Development of Betab Wadi Area in Pahalgam	238.00	100.00
		Infrastructure Development in Bhaderwah	303.72	200.00
		Infrastructure Development in Poonch	243.52	200.00
		Infrastructure Development in Kokernag	287.82	200.00
		Infrastructure Development in Lakhanpur	264.10	200.00
		Infrastructure Development in Rajouri	249.55	200.00
8.	Karnataka	Development of Wilderness Tourism Circuit	226.88	204.20

1	2	3	4	5
9.	Kerala	Development of Rural Touring Village at Anakkara, Distt, Idukki for Spice Circuit	46.00	36.80
		Development of Rural Touring at Village Kalady, Distt., Emakulam for Spice Circuit	47.20	37.76
		Development of Padmanabhapuram Palace Complex	308.19	246.55
10.	Madhya Pradesh	Development of Mandu	471.74	377.40
		Development of Panna	421.36	337.00
11.	Maharashtra	Development of Mahabaleshwar (Phase-II), Distt. Satara	480.57	384.45
12.	Manipur	Development of Imphal	418.00	334.00
		Development of Eco-Tourism Park at Imphal, Manipur	345.29	172.64
13.	Nagaland	Development of Aizuto, Zunheboto District in Nagaland	438.94	351.17
14.	Orissa	Development of Rural Tourism at Village Bharpali, Distt. Baragarh	50.00	40.00
		Development of Rural Tourism at Village Hirapur, Distt. Khurda	50.00	40.00
		Development of Rural Tourism at Village Padmanavpur, Distt. Ganjam	50.00	40.00
		Development of Simlipal in Distt., Mayurbhanj	297.12	237.70
15.	Punjab	Integrated Development of Freedom Trail, Punjab Tourism Circuit-Nabha Town	784.45	627.56
16.	Rajasthan	Conservation, Restoration and Preservation of Gagron Fort, Jhalawar Distt. in Rajasthan	281.71	225.36
		Development of Udaipur, Rajasthan	276.68	221.34
		Development of Rural Tourism in Haldighati Region, Distt. Rajsamand	50.00	40.00
17.	Tamil Nadu	Development of Rural Tourism at Village Kombai, Distt. Theni, for Spice Circuit	50.00	40.00

1	2	3	4	5
		Development of Rural Tourism at Village Thadiyankudisai	50.00	40.00
		Development of Madurai	478.03	382.42
18.	Uttar Pradesh	Revitalization of Varanasi as a Special Tourist Destination	786.00	628.80
		Development of Agra and Visitor Management for Taj Mahal	758.00	606.40
		Development of Haridaspur, Khereswar Dham etc. in Aligarh District	497.04	397.63
		Development of Simoni Tourist Complex, in Distt. Banda	397.86	318.29
19.	Uttaranchal	Development of Yamunotri Dham	448.99	359.19
20.	West Bengal	Development of 'Tea Tourism Circuit' in North Bengal	388.98	311.18
		Development of Kalimpong in the State of West Bengal	498.38	398.70
		Development of Rural Tourism at Village Mukutmonipur, Distt. Bankura	50.00	40.00
Total			15347.50	11726.55

Shortage of Manpower in Armed Forces

*30. SHRI BALASHOWRY VALLABHANENI:
SHRI SURESH PRABHAKAR PRABHU:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether officers at all levels are quitting the Armed Forces worsening an already severe manpower shortage as reported in '*The Hindustan Times*', dated October 30, 2006;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the number of officers who have quit the armed forces during each of the three years, force-wise;

(c) whether the Government has conducted study in this regard;

(d) if so, the outcome thereof; and

(e) the remedial steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to check the trend and increase the intake in the Armed Forces?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY):

(a) to (e) Details of the number of officers who have been granted premature retirement/resignation during the last three years in the Army, Navy and Air Force are given in the statement laid on the Table of the House. The statement indicates that there is no significant increase in the number of personnel whose requests for discharge have been approved. No study has been conducted by the Government.

Statement

The number of Defence officers who were discharged from India's armed forces during the last three years

Year	Army	Navy	Air Force
2003	349	110	175
2004	290	115	244
2005	365	168	175

Vision Strategy and Action Plan for Food Processing Industries

*31. SHRI VIJOY KRISHNA: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has finalized vision strategy and action plan for food processing industries in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the concrete steps taken to give effect to the vision?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) to (c) A Vision Document 2015 on Food Processing Industries has been finalized by this Ministry, which envisages trebling the size of the processed food sector by increasing the level of processing of perishables from 6% to 20%, value addition from 20% to 35% and share in global food trade from 1.5% to 3% by 2015.

Under the Vision 2015, the thrust areas identified for strategic intervention are establishing Mega Food Parks, Modernization of abattoirs, Cold-chain/value addition and preservation infrastructure, upgrading safety and quality of street food and establishment/upgradation of Quality Control Laboratories. Government has identified strategies along with a detailed action plan in this regard to realize the Vision 2015. These proposals are being discussed with the Planning Commission as part of the exercise to finalize the Eleventh Plan.

Doubling of Railway Line Projects

*32. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the ongoing doubling of railway line projects; zone-wise;

(b) the progress made so far on these projects, project-wise;

(c) whether these projects are running behind the schedule particularly Sealdah-Canning doubling of railway line project;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) the details of funds allocated and spent so far on this project; and

(f) the time by which these projects are likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI LALU PRASAD): (a) and (b) The Zone-wise details of ongoing doubling projects and physical progress made so far is given in the statement enclosed.

(c) The projects are being progressed as per the availability of resources. On Sealdah-Canning section (45kms), double line already exist between Sealdah and Sonarpur (16 kms). The doubling of Sonarpur-Ghutuari Sharif (15 kms) on Sonarpur-Canning section has been taken up. Sonarpur-Champahati was commissioned on 7.7.2005 and Champahati-Ghutuari Sharif is likely to be commissioned during December, 2006 after inspection by Commissioner of Railway Safety. Doubling on balance section from Ghutuari Sharif to Canning (14 kms) is not sanctioned.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) The sanctioned cost of Sonarpur-Ghutuari Sharif doubling is Rs. 30.47 crore and expenditure incurred upto March 2006 is Rs. 30.68. An outlay of Rs. 2.50 crore and has been provided during 2006-07.

(f) The ongoing doubling projects are likely to be completed in about 4 years period depending upon the availability of resources.

Statement

S.No.	Railway	Name of The Project	Kms.	Anticipated Cost	Expenditure upto March, 2006	Outlay 06-07	Status
					Rs. in Crore		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Central	Diva Kaiyan doubling of 5-6 line	10.73	69.75	56.67	5.5	the work is targeted for completion during 2006-07.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
2.	Central	Parvet-Pen	35.48	96.16	0	0.01	Work included in Supplementary Budget 2006-07.
3.	Central	Pakni-Mahol	17	42.73	10.08	30.01	Work is under implementation by Rail Vikas Nigam Limited and targeted for completion during 2007-08.
4.	Central	Pakni-Solapur	16.28	38.52	7.83	20.5	Work is under implementation by Rail Vikas Nigam Limited and likely to be completed during 2007-08.
5.	East Coast	Sambalpur-Rengali	22.7	60.45	20.29	20	Earthwork, bridgeworks taken up and Sambalpur-Saria (7.4 kms) is targeted for completion during 2006-07
6.	East Coast	Jharsuguda-Rengali	25.96	91.41	0	10	Final location survey completed and tenders processed.
7.	East Coast	Rajatgarh-Barang	20	178.98	1.36	72.7	Work is under implementation by Rail Vikas Nigam Limited and formation works have been taken up. Targeted for completion during 2008-09.
8.	East Coast	Khurda Road-Barang 3rd line	35	200.28	0.11	46.6	Work is under implementation by Rail Vikas Nigam Limited and formation works have been taken up targeted for completion during 2008-09.
9.	East Coast	Cuttack-Barang	12	127.13	0	40.15	Work is under implementation by Rail Vikas Nigam Limited and formation works have been taken up. Targeted for completion during 2008-09.
10.	East Coast	Khurda Road-Puri PH-1	15.3	58.65	45.01	10	The formation works are in advance stage of completion and targeted for completion during 2006-07.
11.	East Coast	Titlagarh-Lanjigarh	47	136.61	122.56	15	Lanjigarh-Kesinga Road has already been completed and Kesinga Road-Titlagarh (13 km) targeted for completion during 2006-07.
12.	East Coast	Sambalpur-Titlagarh	182	474.25	0	5	New work included in the Budget 2006-07. Preliminary works like Final Location Survey taken up.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
13.	East Coast	Talcher-Cuttack-Pardeep (2nd Bridges on Mahanadi & Birupa)	3	109.45	21.06	39.9	Second bridge over river Birupa completed and the bridge over river Mahanadi is targeted for completion during 2008-09.
14.	East Coast	Vizianagram-Kottavalasa 3rd line	34.7	167.67	0	5	New work included in the Budget 2006-07. Preliminary works like Final Location Survey taken up.
15.	East Coast	Kottavalasa-Simhachalam North 4th line		86.32	0	0.01	New work included in the Supplementary Budget 2006-07.
16.	East Central	Maheshkunt-Thanabihpur	31.75	68.75	0	40	Earthwork, bridgeworks etc. taken up and targeted for completion during 2006-07.
17.	East Central	Taregna-Jahanabad	15.2	87.16	0.95	3.48	Earthwork & bridgeworks taken up.
18.	East Central	Kursela-Semapur	26.95	49.28	0	30	Earthwork, bridgeworks etc taken up and targeted for completion during 2006-07.
19.	East Central	Bela-Chakhand	9.98	23.19	0.66	1	Earthwork & bridgeworks taken up.
20.	East Central	Sonepur-Hajipur including Gandak Bridge	5.5	53.97	0.138	20	Earthwork & bridgeworks taken up.
21.	East Central	Chhapra-Hajipur	59	88.13	75.77	20	Chhapra - Kacheri - Digwara completed and balance targeted for completion during 2006-07.
22.	East Central	Jehanabad-Bela	27.47	75	0	2	Preliminary works taken up.
23.	East Central	Tilrath-Begusarai	7.24	19.35	0	4	Preliminary works completed and tenders under process.
24.	East Central	Begusarai-Khagaria	40.23	108.36	0	18	work taken up.
25.	East Central	Thahanabihpur-Kursela	34.2	72.96	0	20	Work taken up.
26.	Eastern	Sonarpur Canning PH-1 (Sonarpur-Ghutiani Sharif)	29	30.46	30.68	2.5	Sonarpur-Champahati completed and commissioned and balance is likely to be commissioned in December, 2006
27.	Eastern	Chandpara-Bongaon	9.77	22.23	0.26	0.01	Detailed estimate sanctioned.
28.	Eastern	Bandel-Jirat	22.01	50.14	15.18	12	Bandel-Bansberia completed and Bansberia-Tribeni (4 kms.) targeted for completion during 2006-07.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
29.	Eastern	Kajra-Kiul	15	23.23	2.63	8	Earthwork and bridgeworks taken up and part section is planned for completion during 2006-07.
30.	Eastern	Habra-Chandpara	22.25	40.81	10.4	8	Habra-Maslandpur (9.2 km.) completed.
31.	Eastern	Kalinarayanpur-Krishnanagar including Ext. as GC from Krishnanagar-Shantipur and New line Krishnanagar to Chartala	51	43.49	23.29	15	Bimagar-Krishnanagar (17 Kms.) is targeted for completion during 2006-07.
32.	Eastern	Chinpai-Sainthia	29.71	80	0	10	Final location survey completed and tenders processed.
33.	Eastern	Baruipur-Lakshmikantpur PH-I (Baruikpur-Dakshini Barasat)	17	31.82	9.27	8	Braulpur-Dhapdhapi (7 Kms) is targeted for completion during 2006-07 and balance during 2007-08.
34.	Eastern	Baruipur-Magrahat	15	30.1	1.5	1	Final location survey completed and tenders processed.
35.	Eastern	Pandabeswar-Chinpai	21.41	69.04	0	14.98	Final location survey completed and tenders processed.
36.	Eastern	Barharwa-Tinpahar	16.49	41.13	1.61	15	Barharwar-Bakudi (8 Kms) is targeted for completion during 2006-07
37.	Eastern	Barasat-Hasanabad doubling with electrification PH-I (Barasat-Sondalia)	12.12	23.65	4.04	1	Earthwork and bridgeworks taken up.
38.	Eastern	Tarakeshwar-Sheoraphulli PH-I (Sheoraphulli-Nalikul)	17.76	38.88	31.26	12	Sheoraphulli-Singpur completed and balance targeted for completed during 2006-07.
39.	North Central	Lohgara-Katiadandi	32.3	65.03	4.14	29.99	Targeted for completion during 2006-07.
40.	North Central	Tundla-Yamuna Bridge	21	27.06	20.01	0.1	In first phase, twin single line between Tundla-Etmatpur has been completed and commissioned. The detailed estimate for the balance work is in process.
41.	North Central	Cheonki-Lohgara	26.88	51.58	37.53	16	The work is nearing completion.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
42.	North Central	Bhimsen-Juhi	13.82	17.94	0	15	Earthwork and bridgeworks taken up.
43.	North Central	Kanpur-Panki 3rd line	9	65.7	56.93	6	The progress is about 87% and likely to be completed during 2007-08.
44.	North Central	Palwal-Bhuteshwar 3rd line	81	214.68	0.01	150	Work is under implementation by Rail Vikas Nigam Limited and tenders are under process.
45.	North Central	3rd line between Panki-Bhaupur	11.38	23.69	0	10	Final location survey completed and detailed estimate processed.
46.	North Central	Allahabad-Subedarganj 3rd line	3.69	3.29	0	2.99	The work is nearing completion.
47.	North Central	Aligarh-Ghaziabad 3rd line	106.15	230.73	65	85.5	Work is under implementation by Rail Vikas Nigam Limited and work has been taken up.
48.	North Eastern	Bhatni-Jiradei	38.11	100.27	0	5	Final location survey completed and detailed estimate sanctioned.
49.	North Eastern	Sahjanwa-Munderwa patch doubling	32.19	80.89	0.49	10	Earthwork and bridgeworks up.
50.	North Eastern	Bhatni-Baitalpur	28	71.59	0	0.01	Final location survey completed and estimate under process.
51.	North Eastern	Ekma-Jiradei patch doubling	43.8	89.74	0	10	Earthwork and bridgeworks taken up.
52.	North Eastern	Ghagharaghat-Chowkaghat	5.63	82.64	0	5	Final location survey completed and estimate under process.
53.	North Eastern	Munderwa-Babhnai	45.25	102.1	0	5	Final location survey completed and estimate sanctioned.
54.	North Eastern	Chhapra-Ekma	28	62.3	19.43	45	Work taken up and targeted for completion during 2006-07.
55.	North Eastern	Gonda-Mankapur	28.17	52.01	11	35	Work taken up and targeted for completion during 2006-07
56.	North Eastern	Gorakhpur-Sahjanwa	17.3	69.8	27.63	15	Gorakhpur-Domingarh completed and balance work is in progress.
57.	North Eastern	Babhnai-Mankapur patch doubling	30.15	62.8	6	8.65	earthwork and bridgeworks taken up.
58.	North Eastern	Gorakhpur-Baitalpur	37.93	89.18	0	5	Detailed estimate sanctioned and work taken up.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
59.	Northern	Zafrabad-Utratia PH-II (Zafrabad- Srikrishnnagar)	34	70.28	57.03	10	The work is nearing completion and targeted for completion during 2006-07.
60.	Northern	Utratia-Chandrauli and Sultanpur- Bandhua Kalan	37	65.83	64.91	10	The work is nearing completion and targeted for completion during 2006-07.
61.	Northern	Hapur-Kankather	42.71	106.64	25.35	30	Hapur-Simbholi (23 Kms) is targeted for completion during 2006-07.
62.	Northern	Dayabasti- Grade Separator	6	33.55	0	4	Work has been de-frozen and detailed estimate under process.
63.	Northern	Jalandhar- Pathankot- Jammu Tawi	203	461.23	257.08	120	58 Kms has already been commissioned and 110 Kms is targeted for completion during current year and balance during 2007-08.
64.	Northern	New Delhi-Tilak Bridge 5th and 6th line	2.65	53.14	22.01	14.5	6th line (3.4 Kms) is targeted for completion during 2006-07.
65.	Northern	Utratia-Sultanpur- Zafrabad balance doubling-148 Kms	148	301.18	0	25	Final location survey completed, detailed estimate sanctioned and tender processed.
66.	Northern	Amroha-Kankather	31	56.98	36.4	1	Formation works completed.
67.	Northern	Rohtak-Jakhai	52	66.75	12.44	20	Barsola-Uchana-Ghaso (18 Kms) targeted for completion during 2006-07.
68.	Northern	Tughlakabad- Palwal 4th line	33.5	83	0	10	Work is under implementation by Rail Vikas Nigam Limited and tenders are under process. Targeted for completion during 2008-09.
69.	Northern	Sahibabad- Anand Vihar- 3rd & 4th line	4	49.57	0	0.5	Detailed estimate sanctioned and tenders under process.
70.	Northern	Garrah Bridge	0.7	14.22	11.17	2.35	Completed and commissioned.
71.	North Western	Jaipur-Phulera	54.75	82.8	0.05	15	Detailed estimate sanctioned and tenders under process.
72.	North Western	Dausa-Bandikui	29.04	67.11	0	5	Final location survey completed and detailed estimate under process.
73.	North Western	Jaipur-Dausa	61.28	148.38	0.0012	15	Detailed estimate sanctioned and tenders under process

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
74.	South Central	Raichur-Guntakal	81.1	145.81	0	57	Final location survey completed and tenders under process. The work is under implementation by Rail Vikas Nigam Limited.
75.	South Central	Hospet-Guntakal	115.4	268.23	210.37	60	Guntakal-Tornagallu completed and Tornagallu-Hospet (32 kms) targeted for completion during 2006-07.
76.	South Central	Gotty-Renigunta-Patch doubling	151	305.95	38.2	68.4	Works have been taken up and targeted for completion during 2009-10.
77.	South Central	Guntur-Krishna Canal	27.12	76.17	0	10	New work included in Budget 2006-07 and works taken up.
78.	South East Central	Bilaspur-Urkura	110	375.42	136.75	26.5	Bilaspur-Bhatapara completed and balance is targeted for completion during 2008-09.
79.	South East Central	Jharsuguda Bypass	8.73	27.74	9.4	13.62	Earthwork, bridgeworks etc taken up and likely to be completed during 2007-08.
80.	South East Central	Bhilal-Durg 3rd line	13.16	38.61	0	6.5	Final location survey completed and detailed estimate under process.
81.	South East Central	Bilaspur-Saika Road	39.4	90.02	1.23	16.4	Bilaspur-Uslapur (9 Kms) targeted for completion during 2006-07.
82.	South East Central	Khodri-Anuppur	61.6	223.44	0	0.1	Preliminary works have been taken up.
83.	South East Central	Bilaspur-Anuppur (except Kalachand Khongsara) with fly-over at Bilaspur	25.83	96	0	1	New work included in the Budget 2006-07. Preliminary works taken up.
84.	South Eastern	Padapahar-Banspani	0	99.55	0	5	New work included in the Budget 2006-07. Preliminary works taken up.
85.	South Eastern	Goelkera-Manoharpur 3rd line (Chakradharpur-Bondamunda Section)	40	186.92	1.62	10	Work have earlier frozen and has now been decided to be taken up.
86.	South Eastern	Tiklpara-Santragachi IV line	5.6	46.79	7.51	22.5	Work taken up and likely to be completed during 2007-08.
87.	Southern	Shoranu-Calical	86	188.13	155.47	4	Calicut-Pallipuram completed and balance targeted for completion during 2006-07.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
88.	Southern	Kankanadi-Panamburu Patch Doubling	19	70	0	0.01	New work included in Supplementary Budget 2006-07. Preliminary works taken up.
89.	Southern	Ernakulam-Mulanturutti	17.37	58.23	34.31	16	Work is in advance stage and targeted for completion during 2006-07.
90.	Southern	Chennai Beach-Korukkupet	4.1	55.23	0	0.5	Preliminary works taken up.
91.	Southern	Pattabiram-Tiruvallur 4th line & Tiruvallur-Arakkonam 3rd line	41.89	71.94	36.9	28.5	Pattabiram-Tiruvallur 4th line completed, Tiruvallur-Arakkonam 3rd line is likely to be completed during 2006-07.
92.	Southern	Attipattu-Korukkupettai	18	70.56	37.55	21	Korukkupet-Ennore (6 kms) is nearing completion.
93.	Southern	Mavelikara-Kayankulam	7.89	26.81	9.95	10	Earthworks and bridges taken up.
94.	Southern	Madurai-Dindigul	62.05	128.56	1.17	30	Earthwork and bridgeworks taken up.
95.	Southern	Chengannur-Chengavanam	26.5	99.69	0	4.99	Detail estimate under Process. Targeted for completion during 2008-09.
96.	Southern	Mullanturutti-Kuruppentara	24	79.93	0	2	Detail estimate under process. Targeted for completion during 2008-09.
97.	Southern	Calicut-Mangalore	221	572	512.81	8	218 Kms out of 221 Kms have already been completed and commissioned.
98.	Southern	Irugur-Coimbatore	17.7	38.54	19.03	5	Coimbatore-Coimbatore North completed and balance targeted for completion during 2007-08.
99.	Southern	Chennai Beach-Attipattu 4th line	22.1	50.23	0	0.5	Preliminary works taken up.
100.	Southern	Cheppad-Haripad patch doubling	5.28	14.39	1.4	2	Final location survey completed, detailed estimate sanctioned and tender processed.
101.	Southern	Cheppad-Kayankulam	7.76	21.48	6.92	2	Final location survey completed, detailed estimate sanctioned and tender processed.
102.	Southern	Mavelikara-Chengannur	12.3	33.65	4.64	10	Earthwork and bridge works nearing completion & targeted for completion during 2007-08.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
103.	South Western	Dharwad-Kambarganvi	25	87.48	0	0.01	New work included in Supplementary Budget 2006-07. Preliminary works taken up.
104.	South Western	Hubli-Hebsur	19	56.99	0	0.01	New work included in Supplementary Budget 2006-07. Preliminary works taken up.
105.	South Western	Bangalore-Whitefield-Bangalore City-Krishnarajpuram	23	85	0.016	0.01	Work would be taken up after obtaining requisite clearances.
106.	South Western	Bangalore-Kengeri with Elect.	12.46	26.45	24.92	5	Work nearing completion, targeted for 2006-07.
107.	South Western	Kengeri-Ramnagaram	29.83	106.96	26.13	5	Kengeri-Bidadi targeted for completion during 2006-07 and balance during 2007-08.
108.	South Western	Yeshwantpur-Tumkur	69	98.47	59.53	11	The works are in various stages and entire doubling is targeted for completion during 2006-07.
109.	Western	Surat-Kosamba PH-I of 3rd line between Vadodara and Virar	35	133	0.01	0.1	Works has low operational priority.
110.	Western	Akodia-Shujalpur	13.15	34.4	4.12	8	Targeted for completion during 2007-08.
111.	Western	Kalapipal-Phanda/Maksi-Bhopal	41.49	97.84	44.52	25	Work in progress & targeted for completion during 2007-08.

[Translation]

Development of Unprofitable Airports

*33. SHRI J.M. AARON RASHID:
SHRI AVTAR SINGH BHADANA:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Airports Authority of India (AAI) is contemplating to develop some of the unprofitable airports in the country;

(b) if so, the details of these airports; and

(c) the details of the plan formulated in this regard?

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

(b) and (c) Development, improvement and modification of infrastructural facilities at unprofitable airports owned by Airports Authority of India (AAI) have been taken up considering the projected traffic demand and request from airline operators, State Government and other agencies.

Strengthening and extension of runway, construction of new integrated terminal complex, strengthening and expansion of apron, new link taxiways, expansion and modification of terminal building etc. have been taken up at airports at Trichy, Madurai and Coimbatore in Tamil Nadu; Khajuraho, Bhopal, and Jabalpur in Madhya

Pradesh; Nagpur in Maharashtra; Mangalore and Mysore in Karnataka; Dehradun in Uttaranchal; Srinagar in Jammu & Kashmir; in Chandigarh; Gaya in Bihar; Silchar, Lilabari and Dibrugarh in Assam; Jaipur, Udaipur, Jaisalmer and Jodhpur in Rajasthan; Lucknow and Varanasi in Uttar Pradesh; Agatti in Lakshadweep Islands; Raipur in Chhattisgarh; Ranchi in Jharkhand; Port Blair in Andaman & Nicobar; Bhubaneswar in Orissa; Agartala in Tripura; and Kangra and Kullu in Himachal Pradesh.

[English]

Train Accidents

*34. SHRI KIRTI VARDHAN SINGH:
SHRI HEMMAL MURMU:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of train accidents which occurred in the country since July, 2006;

(b) the number of persons killed and injured as a result thereof alongwith loss of properties suffered, accident-wise;

(c) the compensation/*ex-gratia* relief paid to the relatives of those killed and to the injured, accident-wise;

(d) the *prima-facie* cause of each accident;

(e) whether inquiries have been conducted by the Railways to ascertain the exact cause of such accidents;

(f) if so, the details and outcome thereof and the action taken thereon, accident-wise; and

(g) the steps taken/being taken by the Railways to avert such accidents?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI LALU PRASAD): (a) to (f) There have been 80^{*} consequential

Statement

S.No.	Date	Type of Accident	Railway	Train No.	Brief Particulars	Killed	Casualty	Injured	Cost of damage in Rs.	Ex-gratia/Compensation	Prima-facie cause	Type of Inquiry	Findings/Outcome	Responsibility	D & AR Action taken
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
1.	02-Jul-06	Fire	Madhya Pradesh	1 MBN Passenger	Train engine caught fire				7800		Less defect.	Departmental	Less defect.	Defect found /ND	D & AR action under process
2.	05-Jul-06	Unmanned Level Crossing	East Coast	Rail Yatra apt.	One Island Car Dashed against train engine	1			0	Not Payable	Negligence of road users.	Departmental	Negligence of road users.	Road user	Not applicable
3.	06-Jul-06	Derailment	South Western	PMBM Goods Train	8 wagons derailed.				600000		Track defect	Departmental	Track defect	SEPMay	D & AR action under process
4.	08-Jul-06	Unmanned Level Crossing	Southern	2644 Express	One Car Dashed against train engine	1		3	2700	Not Payable	Negligence of road users.	Departmental	Negligence of road users.	Road user	Not applicable
5.	10-Jul-06	Derailment	South Eastern	EMRDTN-21 Goods	19 wagons derailed.				2500000		Rail fracture.	Departmental	Rail fracture.	SEPMay	D & AR action under process

train accident on Indian Railways during the period from July 2006 to October 2006, in which 72^{*} persons lost their lives and 61^{*} sustained injuries. Loss of railway property on account of these accidents has been estimated to be Rs. 12.78^{*} crores. A sum of Rs. 1,05,000^{*} as *ex-gratia* has been paid in cases where admissible. Compensation, however, shall be payable after the claim cases are filed and awarded by the claim tribunals. However, Rs. 8,23,640 has been paid to the two railway employees under 'Workmen Compensation Act'. Further, Rs. 1,70,000 have been paid as relief money on humanitarian ground as a special case in the unmanned level crossing accident on Southern Railway which took place on 31.10.2006.

Out of these 80 accidents, 5 cases are being enquired into by the respective Commissioners of Railway Safety and in case of remaining 75, departmental enquiry Committees were constituted. Depending on finding of the enquiry reports, so far finalized in 65 cases, action as warranted is in progress including punitive action under Discipline and Appeal Rules against those found responsible. Accident wise details are at Annexure.

(g) All possible steps are undertaken on a continuing basis to prevent accidents. These measures include timely replacement of over aged assets, adoption of suitable technologies for upgradation and maintenance of track, rolling stock, signaling and interlocking systems, safety drive and inspections at regular intervals to monitor and educate staff for observance of safe practices. As a result, there has been a declining trend in the number of accidents from 473 in 2000-01 to 234^{*} in 2005-06. In the current financial year, from April to October 2006, the number of consequential train accidents has been 137^{*} as against 141^{*} during the corresponding period of last year.

*Figures are provisional.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
5	10-Jul-06	Derailment	South Eastern	EA90DTN-21 Goods Train	19 wagons derailed.			2908800		Rail failure.	Departmental	Rail failure.	SEP. way	D & AR action under process
6	14-Jul-06	Derailment	Northeast Frontier	865 Passenger	Train engine derailed.			500		Subsidence.	Departmental	Subsidence.	Manufacture safety	Not applicable
7	14-Jul-06	Derailment	Central	8810 Express	1 coach derailed.			0		Track defect.	Departmental	Track defect.	JEP. Way	D & AR action under process
8	25-Jul-06	Derailment	East Coast	BNF Goods Train	1 wagon derailed.			600000		Wagon defect.	Departmental	Manufacturing defect	Equipment Failure	Not applicable
9	24-Jul-06	Manned Level Crossing	Northern	Jai Jagtar Goods Train	One Tractor Trolley derailed against train engine	1		3000	Not payable as the claimant did not turn up	Failure of gatesmen.	Departmental	Failure of gatesmen.	Gatesmen	D & AR action under process
10	27-Jul-06	Derailment	East Coast	ETRMENDL Goods Train	4 wagons derailed.			100000		Jumping of wagon at 3 degree curve.	Departmental	Excessive speed	Loco pilot	D & AR action under process
11	29-Jul-06	Derailment	East-Coast	BYF Goods Train	13 wagons derailed			2309000		Derailage of rail	Departmental	Derailage of rail	Equipment Failure	Not applicable
12	30-Jul-06	Derailment	Central	7618 Express	Train engine derailed			0		Subsidence.	Departmental	Subsidence	Manufacture safety	Not applicable
13	31-Jul-06	Derailment	North Western	MDPT-AJC Goods Train	5 wagons derailed.			38000		Track defect.	Departmental	Track defect.	JEP. Way	Reduction by one stage for 3 years
14	02-Aug-06	Derailment	South Western	7210 Express	Train engine derailed.			0		Improper setting of Tongue rail	Departmental	Improper setting of Tongue rail	JEP/Way	D & AR action under process
15	03-Aug-06	Derailment	Central	2410 Express	2 coaches derailed.			34800		Track & coach defect	Departmental	Inquiry under process		
16	04-Aug-06	Unmanned Level Crossing	North Western	348 Passenger	One Tractor Trolley derailed against train	1		18000	Not payable	Negligence of road users.	Departmental	Negligence of road users.	Road user	Not applicable
17	04-Aug-06	Derailment	South Western	889 Passenger	1 coach derailed.			387.28		Weld failure	Departmental	Weld failure	JEP/Way	D & AR action under process
18	06-Aug-06	Unmanned Level Crossing	North Western	488 Passenger	One Bus derailed against train engine.	5	12	600	Not payable	Negligence of road users.	Departmental	Negligence of road users.	Road user	Not applicable
19	07-Aug-06	Derailment	Central	8236 Express	Train engine and 1 coach derailed.			2000		Land slide	Departmental	Land slide	Incidental	Not applicable
20	08-Aug-06	Fire	Northern	4655 Express	Train engine caught fire.			0		Loco defect.	Departmental	Loco defect	BS/Mechanical	D & AR action under process
21	10-Aug-06	Derailment	South East Central	1 NRC Passenger	Train engine derailed.			0		Track & loco defect	Departmental	Track & loco defect	JEP. Way & SGEORL	D & AR action under process
22	10-Aug-06	Unmanned Level Crossing	Northern	6 LNH Passenger	One Car derailed against train engine	1	2	880	Not payable	Negligence of road users.	Departmental	Negligence of road users.	Road user	Not applicable
23	10-Aug-06	Derailment	North Eastern	137 Passenger	1 coach derailed.			50		Heavy iron rod blown away by explosion on track when train was in moving condition.	Departmental	Inquiry under process		
24	13-Aug-06	Unmanned Level Crossing	Southern	725 Passenger	One Truck derailed against train engine	2	1	51348	Not payable	Negligence of road users.	Departmental	Negligence of road users.	Road user	Not applicable
25	15-Aug-06	Unmanned Level Crossing	North Central	6883 Express	One Truck derailed against train engine		5	4800	Not payable	Negligence of road users.	CPS	Negligence of road users.	Road user	Not applicable
26	14-Aug-06	Derailment	West Central	2511 Express	Train engine derailed.			0		Land slide	Departmental	Land slide	Incidental	Not applicable

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
27.	14-Aug-05	Damblant	North Western	1 BR Passenger	3 coaches derailed.			2820		Track defect.	Departmental	Track defect.	SEEP, Way & Other	D & AR action under process
28.	15-Aug-05	Damblant	Northern	425 Express	1 coach derailed.			20200		Cattle run over	Departmental	Cattle run over	Incidental	Not applicable
29.	17-Aug-05	Unmanned Level Crossing	Northern	342 Passenger	One Car derailed against train engine	2		0	Not payable	Negligence of road users.	Departmental	Negligence of road users.	Road user	Not applicable
30.	17-Aug-05	Unmanned Level Crossing	North Eastern	382 Passenger	One Car derailed against Train engine	1	3	480	Not payable	Negligence of road users.	Departmental	Negligence of road users.	Road user	Not applicable
31.	18-Aug-05	Unmanned Level Crossing	Southern	857 Passenger	One Auto Rickshaw derailed against train engine	4	1	1020	Not payable	Negligence of road users.	Departmental	Negligence of road users.	Road user	Not applicable
32.	18-Aug-05	Damblant	West Central	226 Express	Train engine derailed.			0		Breakage of fish plate.	Departmental	Inquiry under process		
33.	18-Aug-05	Unmanned Level Crossing	North Central	328 Passenger	One Tractor Trolley derailed against train engine	1		0	Not payable	Negligence of road users.	Departmental	Negligence of road users.	Road user	Not applicable
34.	19-Aug-05	Unmanned Level Crossing	Western	1484 Express	One Car derailed against train engine	1	3	0	Not payable	Negligence of road users.	Departmental	Negligence of road users.	Road user	Not applicable
35.	20-Aug-05	Pie	South Central	2763 Express	3 coaches caught fire			102000		Stove combustible material lying in the ballast between portion or coach No. 5-4	CPS	Inquiry under process		
36.	24-Aug-05	Damblant	Central	PWP OT Goods Train	4 wagons derailed.			1020		Wagon and track defect	Departmental	Inquiry under process	...	
37.	24-Aug-05	Unmanned Level Crossing	Southern	724 passenger	One JCB derailed against train engine	1	1	2070	Not payable	Negligence of road users.	Departmental	Negligence of road users.	Road user	Not applicable
38.	26-Aug-05	Unmanned Level Crossing	West Central	One Light Engine	One Bus derailed against train engine		9	0	Not payable	Negligence of road users.	Departmental	Negligence of road users.	Road user	Not applicable
39.	28-Aug-05	Unmanned Level Crossing	Western	Dal Light engine	One Auto Rickshaw derailed against train engine	6	11	0	Not payable	Negligence of road users.	Departmental	Negligence of road users.	Road user	Not applicable
40.	29-Aug-05	Damblant	Northern	591 Express	13 coaches derailed.			7800		Track defect.	Departmental	Track defect.	SEEP, Way	D & AR action under process
41.	30-Aug-05	Damblant	Northern	Jai-SCPO Goods Train	7 wagons derailed			20200		Section joint and over speeding	Departmental	Section joint and over speeding	SEC/Construction, Other & Yard staff	D & AR action under process
42.	31-Aug-05	Damblant	Eastern	828 DM	Train engine derailed.			600		Movement over unmarked point	Departmental	Movement over unmarked point	Collaborator, ABM & Other	D & AR action under process
43.	31-Aug-05	Damblant	South East Central	NOR-DNH Goods Train	3 wagons derailed.			27700		Hot axle	Departmental	Hot axle	JEC & W & Guard	D & AR action under process
44.	01-Sep-05	Damblant	North Western	8294 Western Express	1 coach derailed.			200		Cattle run over.	Departmental	Cattle run over	Incidental	Not applicable
45.	02-Sep-05	Miscellaneous	Southern	1043 Express	Push trolley derailed against train engine.	3	1	1402	4500	Non protection of push trolly.	Departmental	Non protection of push trolly	JEP, Way & SM	D & AR action under process
46.	07-Sep-05	Damblant	North Eastern	457 Passenger	Train engine derailed			0		Track defect.	Departmental	Inquiry under process		
47.	07-Sep-05	Unmanned Level Crossing	South Western	2880 Express	One Tractor Trolley derailed against train engine.	2		0	Not payable	Negligence of road users.	Departmental	Negligence of road users.	Road user	Not applicable

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	
48	07-Sep-06	Derailment	Northern	2 NCB Passenger	2 coaches derailed.			34000		Wheel defect and excessive buffer height & excessive speed.	Departmental	Wheel defect and excessive buffer height & excessive speed.	Driver & JEC & W	D & AR action under process	
49	15-Sep-06	Derailment	Northern	242 Passenger	1 coach derailed.			0		Land slide	Departmental	Land slide	Incidental	Not applicable	
50	16-Sep-06	Derailment	Eastern	P-46 Passenger	1 coach derailed			0		Inadequate maintenance of track and fittings	Departmental	Inquiry under process			
51	17-Sep-06	Derailment	North Central	AD-1 Passenger	Train engine derailed.			140000		Signal Passing at danger by driver	Departmental	Inquiry under process			
52	18-Sep-06	Unmanned Level Crossing	South Western	304 Passenger	One Jeep derailed against train engine.	3		2	0	Not payable	Negligence of road users.	Departmental	Negligence of road users.	Road user	Not applicable
53	18-Sep-06	Manned Level Crossing	East Central	320 Passenger	One Auto Rickshaw derailed against train engine.	3		3	0	60000	Negligence of train driver.	Departmental	Negligence of train driver.	Driver	D & AR action under process
54	19-Sep-06	Unmanned Level Crossing	North Western	4707 Express	One Car derailed against train engine	1			200	Not payable	Negligence of road users.	Departmental	Negligence of road users.	Road user	Not applicable
55	20-Sep-06	Derailment	Southern	6831 Express	3 coaches derailed.			30000		Track defect.	Departmental	Track defect.	Equipment Failure	Not applicable	
56	21-Sep-06	Derailment	Northern	1 PBJ Passenger	Train engine derailed			0		Sinking of track due to settlement of embankment.	Departmental	Sinking of track due to settlement of embankment.	Driver & SSEP. Way	D & AR action under process	
57	21-Sep-06	Derailment	Eastern	M-250 Passenger	3 coaches Derailed.			280000		Inadequate maintenance of track and excess	Departmental	Inadequate maintenance of track and excess	SSEP. Way & Motorman	D & AR action under process	
58	22-Sep-06	Derailment	Central	2115 Passenger	Train engine and 1 coach derailed.			30000		Under investigation.	CRS	Inquiry under process			
59	28-Sep-06	Derailment	Western	477 Passenger	1 coach derailed			0		A Parcel packet comprising rubber items rolled and got entangled with the train.	Departmental	A parcel packet comprising rubber items rolled and got entangled with the train.	Chief Parcel Supervisor	D & AR action under process	
60	30-Sep-06	Collision	South Central	M28 Goods train and KSM goods train	Goods train collided with Electric loco.	2		2917482	82840	Driver of M28 goods passing signal at danger	CRS	Driver of M28 goods passing signal at danger	Driver & Assistant Driver	D & AR action under process	
61	03-Oct-06	Derailment	Eastern	G-102 EMU	2 coaches derailed.			0		Track & coach defect	Departmental	Track & coach defect	SSEP. Way & SSECar shed	D & AR action under process	
62	05-Oct-06	Collision	North Central	5004 Express and 4308	5004 Express side collided with 4308 express.			1695000		Signal Passing at danger by driver of 5004.	CRS	Signal passing at danger by driver of 5004.	Driver	D & AR action under process	
63	06-Oct-06	Derailment	Northeast Frontier	NGC Goods	1 wagon derailed.			12000		Wagon defect.	Departmental	Wagon defect.	Equipment Failure	Not applicable	
64	08-Oct-06	Derailment	East Coast	KOT Goods Train	Train engine and 6 wagons derailed.			1194500		Subsidence.	Departmental	Subsidence.	Microevents	Not applicable	
65	09-Oct-06	Derailment	Northeast Frontier	BCN Empty Goods Train	Train engine and 11 wagons derailed.			616040		Rail fracture.	Departmental	Inquiry under process			
66	19-Oct-06	Derailment	South Eastern	NKCC Goods Train	11 wagons derailed			7480916		Rail fracture	Departmental	Rail fracture	JEP.Way	D & AR action under process	

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
67.	10-Oct-06	Unmanned Level Crossing	South Central	2703 Express	One Tractor Trolley derailed against train engine.	1		4888	Not payable	Negligence of road users.	Departmental	Negligence of road users.	Road user	Not applicable
68.	10-Oct-06	Deraiment	Southern	CTC Goods Train	3 wagons derailed.			8015	Improper sitting of	Departmental	Improper sitting of	SM of points	D & AR action under process	
69.	11-Oct-06	Deraiment	Eastern	3072 Express	1 coach derailed.			5000		Violation in track profile.	Departmental	Violation in track profile.	SEEP/Way	D & AR action under process.
70.	11-Oct-06	Unmanned Level Crossing	Western	812 Passenger	One Auto Rickshaw derailed against train engine.	3		0	Not payable	Negligence of road users.	Departmental	Negligence of road users.	Road user	Not applicable
71.	19-Oct-06	Collision	North Central	8048 Express and Goods Train	8048 Express collided with Goods train.			38000		Signal passing at danger by driver.	Departmental	Inquiry under process		
72.	23-Oct-06	unmanned South East Level Crossing	Central	8 DDM One Two wheeler passenger	Dashed against train engine.	2		0	Not payable	Negligence of road users.	Department	Negligence of road users.	Road user	Not applicable
73.	24-Oct-06	Unmanned Level Crossing	Western	MDPD-SBT Goods Train	One Tractor Trolley derailed against train engine.	2		0	Not payable	Negligence of road users.	Departmental	Negligence of road users.	Road user	Not applicable
74.	28-Oct-06	Deraiment	East Coast	2822 Express	1 coach derailed.			0		Track defect & coach defect	Departmental	Inquiry under process		
75.	29-Oct-06	Unmanned Level Crossing	Southern	339 Passenger	One Car derailed against train engine.	1	4	13980	Not payable	Negligence of road users.	Departmental	Negligence of road users.	Road user	Not applicable
76.	30-Oct-06	Deraiment	East Central	449 Passenger	6 coaches derailed.			38000		Subsiding.	Departmental	Subsiding.	Misconduct activity	Not applicable
77.	30-Oct-06	Deraiment	East Coast	BVF Goods Train	Train engine and 14 wagons derailed.			0		Subsiding.	Departmental	Subsiding.	Misconduct activity	Not applicable
78.	30-Oct-06	Deraiment	South Central	2703 Express	1 coach derailed.			384000		Track & coach defect	Departmental	Track & coach defect	SEEP, way & PDSO.	D & AR action under process
79.	31-Oct-06	Unmanned Level	South Western	1018 Express	One Auto Rickshaw derailed against train	4		0	Not payable	Negligence of road users.	Departmental	Negligence of road users.	Road user	Not applicable
80.	31-Oct-06	Unmanned Level Crossing	Southern	6 TLB Passenger	One Auto Rickshaw derailed against train engine.	17		0	Though on-path not payable, however, Rs. 170000 relief money given in humanitarian ground	Negligence of road users.	Departmental	Negligence of road users.	Road user	Not applicable

[Translation]

Fratricide in the Armed Forces

*35. SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT:
SHRIMATI RUPATAI D. PATIL:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the cases of killing the senior officials and colleagues by the Jawans are increasing in the Armed Forces;

(b) If so, the number of such cases reported during each of the last three years and the current year, force-wise;

(c) whether the Government has ascertained the factors attributed to these killings;

(d) if so, the conclusion drawn therefrom; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to prevent such cases?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY):

(a) to (e) The number of fratricide cases reported during

the last three years and the current year, forces-wise is as under:

Force	2003	2004	2005	2006 (upto 14.11.2006)
Army	05	05	06	11
Navy	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Air Force	Nil	01	01	Nil
Coast Guard	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

The factors attributed to these killings are:

(a) Perceived grievances due to harassment by seniors.

(b) Argument (s) between colleagues.

Various steps have been taken to contain and prevent such incidents. These include:

- (i) Study by Defence Institute of Psychological Research, Delhi to identify factors, which lead to these incidents and suggest remedial measures.
- (ii) Strengthen the Zilla Sainik Boards (ZSBs) to make them more responsive to the problems and difficulties of the soldiers and their families.
- (iii) Establish a network so that the problems of families of soldiers are intimated to the ZSBs who may follow up the matter with the concerned civil authorities. The nearest nominated unit also should be in touch with ZSB and give feed back to the unit of the soldier.
- (iv) Impart training to Junior Commissioned Officers (JCOs) to act as counsellors in sensitive areas.
- (v) Increased formal and informal interaction between senior and junior officers, improved accessibility of leaders and frequent interaction of junior leaders with soldiers, better man management and prompt attendance to grievances;
- (vi) Strengthening time tested reporting and feedback system in the unit;
- (vii) Liberalised leave policy to attend to domestic problems;
- (viii) Identification and counselling of persons who are at higher risk of combat stress by Regimental

Medical Officers, junior leaders and unit commanders;

- (ix) Counselling by religious teachers;
- (x) Psychological counselling by psychiatrists were required;
- (xi) Training capsules in relaxation exercise including yoga/meditation;
- (xi) Rotation of units and individuals to minimize exposure to stress;

These measures are being monitored by the senior officers. All officers and other personnel in the Services have been sensitized to the above issues.

[English]

Marker System to Check Adulteration

*36. SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO:
SHRI BAPU HARI CHAURE:

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

(a) whether the Government has launched marketing of kerosene laced with imported markers to check diversion of the subsidized fuel for adulteration of motor fuels and industrial solvents;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of the countries from where this marker is being imported;

(d) the annual expenditure is likely to be incurred thereon;

(e) the other options adopted by the Government to check adulteration; and

(f) the effective steps taken by the Government to implement these measures?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MURLI DEORA): (a) to (f) To check adulteration in auto fuels and diversion of PDS Kerosene Government has asked public sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) to take various steps, including introduction of marker in kerosene. OMCs have commenced introduction of marker in kerosene on all India

basis with effect from 1.10.2006. Under the system, marker is being put in kerosene in all supply location depots/terminals. The system heralds the introduction of a world class technology to curb and eventually eliminate the menace of adulteration of transportation fuels along the supply chain. Through this introduction, adulteration even with very small quantities of kerosene can be detected. OMCs are importing the marker from United Kingdom (U.K.). Expenditure for introduction of marker would involve the cost of the marker for doping in kerosene and the cost of test kits which would vary from year.

The details of others steps taken recently by OMCs to curb adulteration of petrol/diesel and streamlining the PDS kerosene distribution is given in the enclosed statement.

Statement

Steps taken to check Adulteration of Petrol/Diesel and Streamlining PDS Kerosene Distribution

Checking of adulteration is a continuous process and the Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas has been reviewing steps taken to curb adulteration from time. In the process, several technological and institutional measures have been taken recently to contain adulteration. The recent steps taken by the Ministry are summarized below:

1. Automation of Retail Outlets: In order to monitor the activities at retail outlets by adopting the latest technological improvements, automation of retail is being implemented. MOP & NG has directed the oil marketing companies (OMCs) to complete automation of retail outlets selling more than 200 KL per month by March 2007.

2. Third Party Certification of Retail Outlets: OMCs have been directed to complete third party certification of all the retail outlets selling more than 100 KL per month by March 2007.

3. Monitoring of movement of Tank Trucks through Global Positioning System (GPS): In order to prevent adulteration during transportation, OMCs have been directed to install GPS to complete monitoring of the movement of all the company owned/dealer owned/contractor owned tank trucks by March 2007.

4. Jan Kerosene Pariyojna: To streamline the PDS Kerosene distribution system and contain diversion of kerosene for adulteration and other unauthorized usages,

Jan Kerosene on a pilot basis in 414 blocks with effect from 2.10.2005. The Pilot scheme has been extended upto 30.6.2007.

5. Smart Card Scheme: With the objective of ensuring that the benefit of the subsidy reaches the targeted consumers in an efficient and cost-effective manner and to prevent any leakages, this Ministry is considering introduction of Smart Card System for distribution of PDS kerosene. The scheme is proposed to be introduced initially on an experimental basis in three districts -Latur in Maharashtra, Nalanda in Bihar and Nainital in Uttaranchal w.e.f. 1.1.2007. In the Pilot project, subsidized kerosene through Smart Card is proposed to be available to BPL families while all other ration card holders would be given non-subsidized kerosene. An independent agency will be engaged to monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of the Pilot. Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) would ensure adequate availability of PDS as well as non-subsidized kerosene during the entire period of implementation of the Pilot.

Unviable Aviation Industry

*37. SHRI N.S.V. CHITTHAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the aviation industry has become a financial unviable industry;

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

(c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to save the aviation industry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Government has taken several steps to facilitate growth of civil aviation in a sustained manner through restructuring of important metro airports, facilitating construction of private greenfield airports, allowing FDI in airport infrastructure upto 100%, development of important non-metro airports through public private partnership, adopting a liberal bilateral regime with other countries to enhance international operations, offering concessions in airport charges to small aircraft and in parking charges at select airports, liberalising the regulatory regime for employment of foreign pilots/engineers etc.

Committee/Task Force to Monitor 15-Point Programme

*38. SHRI C. KUPPUSAMI:
PROF. K.M. KADER MOHIDEEN:

Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any Committee/Task Force has been constituted to monitor the progress of implementation of 15-Point Programme for the welfare of minorities;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the manner in which the Government monitors the effective implementation of 15-Point Programme;

(d) whether any funds are provided to each State specifically for its implementation;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) whether all State Governments are implementing the Programme effectively; and

(g) if not, the State Governments which have not been implementing the programme effectively and the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI A.R. ANTULAY): (a) to (c) The Prime Minister's New 15 Point Programme for the Welfare of Minorities provides for close monitoring of the implementation of the programme. At the Central level, the implementation of the programme is to be monitored, once in six months, by a Committee of Secretaries and thereafter a report has to be submitted to the Union Cabinet. Prime Minister has written to all the Chief Ministers for putting in place a similar mechanism at the State level so that the implementation of the programme receives due attention at the highest level. Detailed guidelines for implementation of the programme have been sent to all State Governments/ Union Territories advising them to constitute State and District level committees for monitoring the implementation of the programme.

(d) and (e) The programme does not envisage any additional allocation for the States to implement this programme. It provides that, wherever possible, 15% of targets and outlays under various schemes, included in

the programme should be earmarked for the minorities. In pursuance of this, earmarking of targets and outlays in respect of schemes of Ministers/Departments which are amenable to earmarking, have been worked out in consultation with them.

(f) and (g) Responses have been received from States/UTs regarding their taking steps for implementing the programme. So far no State/UT has responded that it would not be implementing the programme.

[Translation]

Fake LPG Cylinders

*39. SHRI BRAJESH PATHAK: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM and NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware of large scale circulation of fake LPG cylinders in the country;

(b) if so, the total number of such cases reported in the country particularly in Delhi during each of the last three years; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to check circulation of fake LPG cylinders?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MURLI DEORA): (a) and (b) Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) have not reported instances of large scale circulation of fake LPG cylinders in the country. However, there have been some instances when spurious cylinders were detected by the OMCs in the last 3 years at their bottling plants, details of which are given in the enclosed statement.

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

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

any distributor is found in possession of spurious equipment or inducts such equipment in the distribution system, Marketing Discipline Guidelines provide, *inter-alia*, for confiscation of equipment, imposition of fine and recovery at penal rates for the 1st and 2nd offences and termination of distributorship in the event of a 3rd offence.

Statement

Details of Spurious Cylinders Detected

<i>Year</i>	<i>Number of spurious cylinders detected in the country</i>	<i>Number of spurious cylinders detected at Delhi</i>
2003-04	1873	135
2004-05	2145	123
2005-06	4459	56

[English]

Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board

*40. SHRI BADIGA RAMAKRISHNA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has constituted the Board under the provisions of the Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board Act, 2006;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the progress so far made by the Government in this regard; and

(d) the time which it is likely be constituted?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MURLI DEORA): (a) to (d) Action for setting up the Board under the provisions of the Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board (PNGRB) Act, 2006 is under progress. The Search Committee set up on 31-08-2006 under the PNGRB Act, 2006 for selecting the Chairperson and other Members of the Board and for preparing a panel of persons to be considered for appointment as Technical Member (Petroleum & Natural Gas) of the Appellate Tribunal had its first meeting on 10-10-2006 in which it was decided that advertisement for the posts of Chairman and Members of the PNGRB and Technical Member (P & NG) of the Appellate Tribunal may be issued in leading newspaper, including vernacular

newspapers, throughout the country. Accordingly, advertisement for the same has since been issued/published in the newspapers seeking applications upto 07.11.2006. The applications received in response to the advertisement are being processed for placing before the Search Committee.

Railway Projects in Karnataka

226. SHRI G.M. SIDDESWARA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the large number of railway projects are pending with the Union Government in respect of Karnataka State;

(b) if so, the details of the pending proposal of the Karnataka State with the Railway Ministry;

(c) whether the Karnataka Government has sent proposals for railway crossing works to be taken by the Indian Railways in major and medium irrigation projects which are in progress under reference ID 20 NMS 2000, dated November 11, 1998;

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

(e) by what time all the pending proposals in respect of Karnataka State are likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (e) Pending projects are considered as those projects which have been included in the Budget but clearances are awaited. In the State of Karnataka, Bangalore City Krishnarajapuram doubling project is pending for clearance.

However, some demands received during last one year for gauge conversion, new line/extension of new lines & doubling of rail lines falling fully/party in the State of Karnataka are as under:

- (i) Rayadurg-Tumkur via Kalyandurg new line
- (ii) Talguppa-Honavar new line
- (iii) Tumkur-Chitradurg-Davangere new line
- (iv) Chitradurg-Jagalur-Kottur new line
- (v) Extension of Kottur-Harihar new line upto Shimoga
- (vi) Ramanagaram-Mysore doubling

No time frame has been fixed for clearance of these proposals.

No time frame has been fixed for clearance of these proposals.

About 26 proposals for execution of various Canal crossing works have been received by Zonal Railway from Irrigation Department of Government of Karnataka during the last few years.

There has been no delay on the part of Zonal Railways in the execution of these canals crossing works. Out of the twenty six proposals received, eight canal crossing works have already been completed. One work is being executed by the party itself. Other fifteen work are planned to be completed in phased manner by October, 2007. The remaining two canal crossing works shall be executed on the deposit of necessary money by the sponsoring department of State Government of Karnataka.

Development of Srisuryapahar in Goalpara

227. SHRI M.K. SUBBA: Will the Minister for CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Archaeological Survey of India has submitted any proposals for conservation and development of the famous archaeological ruins at Srisuryapahar in Goalpara;

(b) of so, the details thereof; and

(c) the decision taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) to (c) The Sri Surya Pahar Site at Goalpara is conserved and protected by the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI). Provision is made within the Annual Conservation Plan of the ASI for its conservation and development.

The provision for conservation and environment development of the monument for 2006-07 is as below:

Structural Conservation including Rs. 7.60 lakhs
annual maintenance

Environmental Development Rs. 6.70 lakhs

Promotion of Tourism in Haryana

228. SHRI NAVEEN JINDAL: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the number of tourists, both foreign and Indian, who visited Haryana during the last three years, year-wise;

(b) the financial assistance given by the Union Government for the development of tourist places in Haryana during the above period;

(c) whether places is any proposal to develop new tourist spots in Haryana and promote village and adventure tourism in the State; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) The details pertaining to number of tourists, both foreign and Indian, who visited Haryana during the last three years, year-wise are given as under:

Year	Indian Tourists	Foreign Tourists
2003	5903196	84931
2004	5399099	66153
2005	5913394	59353

(b) A list of the projects for which Central Financial Assistance has been sanctioned for the State of Haryana during the last three years is given in the enclosed statement;

(c) and (d) Development and promotion of tourism is undertaken primarily by the State Governments/UT Administrations. The Ministry of Tourism, Government of India, extends financial assistance to the State Governments/UT Administrations for tourism related project which are identified in consultation and interaction with them under schemes for Integrated Development of Tourist Circuits, Product/Infrastructure Development of Destinations and Assistance to Large Revenue Generating Projects.

Following projects have been prioritized for the State of Haryana in the year 2006-2007:

Destination

1. Surajkund
2. Sonapat—Ethnic India
3. Badhkal

Circuit

1. Kurukshetra

3. Art & Craft Festival Kamal — 5 lakh

4. Surajkund Craft Mela — 10 lakh

Events/Festivals

1. Kurukshetra-Sufi Fest — 10 lakh

2. Heritage festival Pinjore — 10 lakh

Project proposals that are complete in all respect are examined as per guidelines and approved on the basis of inter-se priority and funds released subject to availability under the respective head.

Statement

Projects Sanctioned to the State of Haryana during the years 2003-2004, 2004-2005, and 2005-2006

(Rs. in lakh)

S.No.	Name of the project	Amount sanctioned
1	2	3
2003-04		
1.	Renovation/strengthening of tourist infrastructure at Kurukshetra and Pipli	108.25
2.	Providing sheet roofing over Viewers Gallery at Jyotisar, Kurukshetra	2.68
3.	Surajkund Craft Mela	15.00
4.	Installation of Mahabharat Rath at Jyotisar, Kurukshetra	210.00
5.	Integrated Development of Tourism Circuit from Adi Badri (Haryana) to Dholavira (Gujarat)—Rs. 796.00 lakhs.	
	(i) Construction of Archaeological Complex at Adi Badri (Distt. Yamuna Nagar), Haryana	72.00
	(ii) Construction of Archaeological Complex at Thanesar, Haryana	250.00
	(iii) Construction of Archaeological Complex at Rakhi Garhi Distt. (Hissar), Haryana	52.00
	(iv) Construction of Archaeological Complex at Banawali (Distt. Fatehabad), Haryana	52.00
	(v) Construction of Archaeological Complex at Sirsa, Haryana	52.00
	(vi) Construction of Archaeological Complex at Hanuman Garh, Rajasthan	52.00
	(vii) Construction of Archaeological Complex at Kalibanga, Rajasthan	52.00
	(viii) Construction of Archaeological Complex at Rang Mahal, Rajasthan	90.00
	(ix) Construction of Archaeological Complex at Baror, Rajasthan	52.00
	(x) Construction of Archaeological Complex at Juni Karan, Gujarat	72.00
6.	Development of Udgam Sthal of River Saraswati, Adi Badri (Distt. Yamuna Nagar)	178.79
7.	Gita Jayanti Samaroh	5.00
8.	Construction of Cafeteria and development of an environment park, public toilets, joy rides and creation of mini lake near Ottu Barrage.	147.69
9.	Development of Morri and Tikkar Tal area in Dist Panchkula	170.76

1	2	3
10.	Development of Kurukshetra as a Tourist Destination – Development of Tapovan park– B	125.84
11.	Development of Jyotisar Village (Distt. Kurukshetra) under Rural Tourism Scheme	50.00
12.	Construction of Convention Centre at Suraj Kund (Distt. Faridabad)	108.00
Total		1918.01

2004-05

1.	Construction of Multipurpose Hall at Kingfisher Tourist Complex at Ambala	27.44
2.	Integrated Development of Surajkund as a Tourist Destination	81.37
3.	Landscaping/Beautification and Development of Badkhal Lake, Faridabad	146.05
4.	Preservation and restoration of old monuments at Yadvindra Gardens, Pinjore	403.69
5.	19th Surajkund Craft Mela, 2005	15.00
6.	GOI-UNDP Endogenous Tourism Project of Village Jyotisar in Kurukshetra Distt.	20.00
Total		693.55

2005-06

1.	Development of Karma Lake at Uchana (Distt. Karnal)	159.00
2.	Development of Tilyar Tourist Complex at Rohtak	441.00
3.	Kurukshetra Festival-2005	15.00
4.	Surajkund Craft Mela, 2006	15.00
5.	Mango Mela, 2005	2.45
6.	Gondwanaland Expedition in March, 2006	5.00
7.	Art and Craft Mela at Karnal in March, 2006	5.00
Total		622.45

Cold Storage for Farmers at Railway Stations

229. SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways propose to provide cold storage and transport facilities to farmers at railway stations;

(b) if so, the details of the plan prepared by the Railways in this regard;

(c) whether the Railways admitted that there is no shortage of funds for infrastructure; and

(d) if so, the time by which such facilities are likely to be provided to farmers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (d) A policy to promote Agriculture Products collection and distribution outlets with backward integration of transportation is under active consideration. A committee of Executive Directors has been formed to prepare a concept paper for above policy frame-work. The farmers as well as the economy in general will be benefited by this policy.

[Translation]

Rail Services on NH No. 1A

230. SHRI SANJAY DHOTRE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Northern Railway is contemplating to provide Railway services along the National Highway No. 1A; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) National Highway No.1A runs from Jalandhar City to Uri Sector via Jalandhar city, Pathankot, Jammu Tawi, Udhampur, Kud, Avantipur, Srinagar, Pattan and Baramula. The railway track touches major points on the highway but does not run parallel/alongside the highway. It presently runs from Jalandhar to Jammu Tawi and a new line is being constructed from Jammu Tawi to Baramula via Udhampur and Srinagar. The portion between Jammu Tawi and Udhampur has already been opened to rail traffic.

[English]

Electrification of Tirupati-Vellore Route

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

(a) whether Tirupati-Pakala-Katpadi-Vellore electrification project is slated to be completed before March, 2007;

(b) if so, the estimated cost of the project;

(c) the date on which the project work started and the original target set to complete the electrification of this stretch;

(d) the length of route in kilometres so far completed;

(e) the reasons for slow progress of work on the project; and

(f) the steps taken by the Railways to complete the project within the target period?

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

(b) Estimated cost of Tirupati-Vellore section is Rs. 45.24 crore.

(c) The project work started after the sanction of estimate in January 2004. The original target for completion was March, 2006.

(d) Over Head Equipment (OHE) and mast erection on Tirupati-Pakala section has been completed and are in progress in remaining section.

(e) and (f) Slow progress of OHE work and non procurement of materials by the contractor who was initially awarded the contract, led to termination of the contract. A fresh contract was awarded to complete the balance work and progress is being monitored.

Defence Purchase and Preparation by Pakistan

232. SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has made any assessment of the impact of Defence purchase and preparation by Pakistan;

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

(c) the manner in which the Government proposes to prepare our defence system to complete with neighbouring country?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY):

(a) to (c) Force structure of Army is reviewed continually to keep pace with the dynamics of developing strategic scenarios to include threat perception and the military capability of our adversaries. Procurement of various weapon systems and equipment for modernization of the Army, updating of our strategy and organizational structure is an ongoing process, reviewed on a regular basis to maintain the desired combat edge over our adversaries.

Night Landing Facilities at Airports

233. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the existing airports in the country which have night landing facilities at present;

(b) the details of the airports which are proposed to be provided the above facilities during the current and next three years; and

(c) the funds allocated by the Government for this purpose?

THE MINISTER OF THE STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) At present, Night landing facilities are available on the following 57 airports: Agartala, Ahmedabad, Amritsar, Aurangabad, Bagdogra, Bangalore, Belgaum, Bhavnagar, Bhubaneswar, Bhopal, Bhub, Calicut, Chandigarh, Chennai, Cochin (Nedumbassery), Coimbatore, Delhi, Dibrugarh, Dimapur, Gaya, Gorakhpur, Goa, Guwahati, Hubli, Hyderabad, Imphal, Indore, Jaipur, Jammu, Jamnagar, Jodhpur, Jorhat, Khajuraho, Kolkata, Lilabari, Lengpui, Lucknow, Mangalore, Madurai, Mumbai, Nagpur, Patna, Pune, Port Blair, Ranchi, Raipur, Rajkot, Srinagar, Tezpur, Tirupathi, Trichy, Trivandrum, Udaipur, Vadodara, Varanasi, Vijaywada, and Vishakhapatnam.

(b) It is proposed to provide night landing facilities at six more airports during the current financial year and next three years. They are, Dehradun, Gondia, Mysore, Anantnagar, Porbandar and Silchar.

(c) Rs. 14.76 crores.

Production of Oil and Gas

234. SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the production of crude oil and natural gas is almost stagnant during the current Plan period;

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

(c) whether the Government has projected higher production of crude oil and natural gas in the Eleventh Plan period;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to attain the projection made?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL): (a) and (b) The oil production in the country during the X Plan period (2002-03 to 2006-07) ranged

between 33.043 MMT (actual) in 2002-03 to 35.200 MMT (BE) in 2006-07. The gas production during this period has been 31.394 BCM in 2002-03 and 31.061 BCM (BE) in 2006-07.

The main reasons for the near stagnation in production of oil and gas are as follows:

- * The major oil/gas producing fields of ONGC and OIL are old in natural declining phase after attaining plateau period.
- * No new major discoveries have been made during the last few years to offset the natural decline.

(c) The Government proposes to fix higher targets in the XI Plan.

(d) and (e) Do not arise in view of (c) above.

[Translation]

Railway Projects of Bihar

235. SHRI GIRIDHARI YADAV: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of railway projects from Bihar pending for completion;

(b) the amount allocated for these projects during each of the last three years along with the amount released, project-wise;

(c) the details of projects running behind their schedule; and

(d) the action taken by the Railways to ensure early completion of these projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) The following are the details of ongoing railway projects in Bihar together with outlay allocated during each of the last three years project-wise.

Name of Project (Kms)	Anticipated Cost (Rs. in Crore)	Anticipated Expenditure Upto 31.3.2006. (Rs. in Cr.)	Outlay		
			2003-04	2004-05	2005-06
1	2	3	4	5	6
New Lines					
Ara-Sasaram (98 km.)	189.14	133.26	16.00	16.00	18.00

1	2	3	4	5	6
Sakri-Hasanpur (76 Km.)	89.70	37.51	10.00	10.00	8.00
Khagaria- Kusheshwarsthan (42.31 Km.)	162.87	20.13	2.00	2.00	1.00
Muzaffarpur- Sitamarhi (64.51 Km.)	210.79	68.05	12.00	10.10	8.00
Fathua-Islampur Restoration & new line from Sheikhpura to Neora (171.5 km.)	406.92	183.43	12.00	10.00	5.00
Hajipur-Sagauli (148.3 Km.)	324.66	7.55	—	10.00	1.00
Munger rail bridge on Ganga (19.8 Km.)	921.00	131.1	30.00	10.00	12.00
Patna-Ganga bridge with linking lines between Patna & Hajipur (19 km.)	684.47	235.29	50.00	50.00	12.00
Kosi Bridge (21.85 km)	341.41	5.46	10.00	10.00	4.00
Rajgir-Hisua-Tilaiya (67 km.)	245.18	155.74	12.00	10.00	10.00
Chhapra-Muzaffarpur (84.65 km.)	378.56		New work included in Budget 2006-07.		
Hathua-Bhatani (73.6 km.)	230.03	12.25	...		4.00
Maharajganj-Masrak (35.49 km.)	113.75	0.22		2.00	1.00
Gauge Conversion					
Jaynagar-Darbhanga- Narkatiaganj (268 km.)	329.28	69.86	18.00	25.04	20.00
Sankri-Laukhabazar- Nirmli & Saharsa- Forbesganj (206.06 kms.)	355.81			8.00	10.00
Kaptanganj-Thave- Siwan-Chhapra (233.5 km.)	320.1	78.99	10.00	15.00	8.00

1	2	3	4	5	6
Jogbani-Katihar-Barsoi-Radhikapur (200 km.)	492.98	303.63	21.00	25.00	20.50
Mansi-Saharsa & Saharsa-Purnea (142 km.)	257.01	112.91	16.00	20.00	10.01
Samastipur-Khagaria & Mansi-Khagaria (94 km.)	122.45	70.38	5.00	12.00	34.04
Doubling					
Punpun-Tarengna (16 km)	63.53	62.00	5.00	5.00	0.50
Taregna-Jahanabad (15.2 km)	87.16	0.95	1.00	2.00	3.50
Jahanabad-Bela (27.47 km.)	75.00			2.00	2.00
Bela-Chakand (9.98 km.)	23.19	0.66	...	1.00	2.00
Chakand-Gaya (9.29 km.)	24.09	13.50	2.00	2.00	5.00
Barauni-Tilrath bye-pass (14 km.)	15.37	12.52	1.00	12.00	0.52
Tilrath-Begusari (8.33 km.)	19.35		...		0.01
Begusarai-Khagaria (40.38 km.)	108.36			...	0.01
Maheshkunt-Thanabihpur (31.75 km.)	45.41	...		...	3.00
Thanabihpur-Kursela (33.57 km.)	45.00		...	...	0.01
Kursela-Semapur (26.95 km.)	49.28				13.00
Semapur-Katihar (11.26 km.)	17.23	16.31	2.00	3.26	2.50
Sonepur-Hajipur including Gandak Bridge (5.50 km.)	53.97	0.13	1.00	2.00	2.00

1	2	3	4	5	6
Chhapra-Ekma (28 km.)	62.30	19.43		3.00	5.00
Ekma-Jiradei (43.60 km.)	78.34		...	...	8.00
Kajri-Kiul (16 km.)	23.73	2.63	2.56	2.56	3.00
Sonenagar- Mughalsarai 3rd line (110 km.)	271	263.00	0.01	0.01	0.01
Karpurigram-Siho (26 km.)	31.20	31.10	7.00	1.00	0.01

(c) and (d) These projects are being progressed as per the overall availability of resources. A number of initiatives have been taken for augmenting resources for expediting completion of the ongoing projects. These include cost sharing by State Governments, Public/Private Partnership, funding from Ministry of Defence and funds for National Rail Vikas Yojana and National Projects.

Licence to Foreign Automobile Companies

236. SHRI KASHIRAM RANA: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the foreign automobile companies have applied for licence to start their plants in India;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the terms and conditions on which the Government agreed for setting up automobile plants in India by foreign companies; and

(d) the estimated revenue alongwith employment opportunity expected to be generated through it?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES, MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) The automotive industry was delicensed in 1991 except for motor car which was delicensed in 1993. In respect of delicensed industry/sector, all entrepreneurs are required to file Industrial Entrepreneur Memorandum (IEM) with Secretariat for Industrial Approval (SIA),

Department of Industrial Policy & Promotion as per the prescribed procedure. Entrepreneurs are also required to obtain Industrial Licence under the provision of the Industrial (Development & Regulation) Act 1951 to set up units in the automobile sector of the location of the project falls within 25 kilometer from the periphery of a city having population of one million according to 1991 census. During the period from August, 1991 to September, 2006, a total of 990 IEMs in the Transportation Sector (which includes automobile and auto components for both domestic and foreign) have been filed envisaging proposed investment of Rs. 35,791 crore and proposed employment of 2,78,776 persons. During the same period, a total of 97 Letter of Intent/Direct licence have also been issued in the sector envisaging proposed investment of Rs. 6114 crore and proposed employment of 36978 persons which include foreign companies. In the period between April, 2005 to October 2006, a total of 44 IEMs have been filed in the transportation sector envisaging a proposed investment of Rs. 6941 crore and proposed employment of 19,655 persons which include prominent foreign companies like Komatsu India Pvt. Ltd., General India Motor Ltd., Skoda Auto India Pvt. Ltd. etc.

Running of Special Container Train Connecting Ports

237. SHRIMATI JAYABEN B. THAKKAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Container Corporation of India Ltd. is running a special container train in the country connecting ports; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Container Corporation of India Ltd. (CONCOR) is providing container train services to all major ports from its hinterland Inland Container Depots (ICDs) to ports like Jawaharlal Nehru Port, Mumbai Port, Mundra, Pipavav, Kolkata, Kandla, Chennai, Tuticorin, Cochin *etc.*

Construction of Rail Overbridge at Haveri Railway Station

238. SHRI MANJUNATH KUNNUR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have received any request for construction of overbridge at Haveri Railway Station; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Railways thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) No, Sir. No formal proposal was received from State Government. However, representation from Hon'ble MP was received to provide Road over bridge in lieu of Level Crossing (LC) No. 237 near Haveri Town where an under bridge had already been constructed as Road Under Bridge (RUB) No. 43A at Km. 393/11-12 during Gauge conversion of Harihar-Hubli in 1996. Another facility in lieu of same LC can only be considered on deposit terms *i.e.* if proposal is sponsored by State Govt. duly agreeing to bear the entire cost of construction and the recurring maintenance charges thereto.

Upgradation of Railway Tickets

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

(a) whether the railway tickets are being upgraded to next higher class;

(b) if so, whether all the passengers under the same PNR are upgraded for travel in higher class;

(c) if not, whether a passenger travelling with minor or children below 8 years under the same PNR, has the right to refuse upgradation to higher class is made for one or more passengers under the same PNR but not for all;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Railways have received complaints that the chart at the railway station depicts upgradation of the class of travel of the passenger but upgraded coach number and berth number is not indicated in the chart thereby causing great inconvenience to the passengers; and

(f) if so, the steps being taken by the Railways to inform the passengers in advance about upgradation of their travel?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) To ensure optimum utilization of available accommodation, a scheme to upgrade full fare paying passengers to higher class has been launched in all Mail/Express trains, having sleeping accommodation, with effect from 24.02.2006.

(b) to (d) In the upgradation scheme the passengers can give their option for upgradation or otherwise at the time of booking of ticket. Upgradation is done only from amongst the passengers opting for the same. All passengers in one PNR are upgraded together. In case enough berths are not available to upgrade all of them, they are not considered for upgradation.

(e) The information regarding upgradation is reflected in the chart of the class in which the passenger was initially booked, in the charts of the upgraded class and a separate chart of upgraded passengers.

(f) Upgradation is done at the time of preparation of about four hours before the scheduled departure of the train and hence it is not feasible to inform passenger in advance. The passenger can, however, check the status through railway reservation enquiry.

[Translation]

Renovation of Gandhi Darshan Samiti

240. SHRIMATI BHAVANA PUNDLIKRAO GAWALI: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to give a new shape/look to the Gandhi Darshan Samiti organizing permanent exhibition on Mahatma Gandhi;

(b) if so, whether the Government has also chalked out any scheme to renovate the Gandhi Darshan Samiti

situated near Samadhi of Mahatma Gandhi at Rajghat; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) to (c) Government would like to see effective utilization of Gandhi Darshan Complex under the Gandhi Samiti & Darshan Samiti near Rajghat. To spread the message of the values and philosophy of Mahatma Gandhi, particularly among the younger generation, steps are being taken to prepare projects for this purpose.

[English]

Gauge Conversion in Karnataka

241. SHRI G. M. SIDDESWARA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the pending demands of Karnataka for gauge conversion, new routes, extension of routes and increase in frequency;

(b) whether the Government of Karnataka has offered to enter into an agreement to have projects on Build-Operate-Transfer basis;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the time by which the pending demands of Karnataka are likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (d) As per available records, details of demands received during last one year for gauge conversion & new line/extension of new lines falling fully/partly in the State of Karnataka are as under:

- (i) Rayadurg-Tumkur via Kalyandurg new line
- (ii) Talguppa-Honavar new line
- (iii) Tumkur-Chitradurg-Davangere new line
- (iv) Chitradurg-Jagalur-Kottur new line
- (v) Extension of Kottur-Harihar new line upto Shimoga

No time frame is feasible to be fixed in regard to approval of these works.

Certain works are being executed on cost sharing basis/public-private partnership. State Government have proposed for taking up Ramanagaram-Mysore doubling and Gulbarga-Bidar new line on cost sharing basis.

Provision of increase in the frequency of the existing trains are received on Indian Railways at various levels viz. Railway Board, Railway's Headquarter level, Division's level and station's level from various fora. These requests are received continuously through out the year. This voluminous data is not compiled. However, action as justified and feasible is taken.

Fire at Salarjung Museum

242. SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a major fire broke out at Salar Jung Museum at Hyderabad recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof and total loss suffered by the museum due to fire;

(c) the number of priceless antiques destroyed in this fire;

(d) whether the Government has inquired into the reasons of fire;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the steps taken or being taken to prevent recurrence of such incidents in future?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. There was a fire accident in the Auditorium in the Western Block of the Salar Jung Museum, Hyderabad on 3rd November, 2006, which was noticed by CISF security personnel at around 6.45 a.m. The fire was brought under control by the fire brigade and the CISF personnel by 8.00 a.m. Due to heat generated inside, part of the furniture, fixtures, fitting and false ceiling in the auditorium have been damaged. The approximate cost of the damage is estimated to be Rs. 15.00 lakhs. No priceless antiques/artifacts have been damaged in the fire which was confined to the auditorium.

(d) to (f) Yes, Sir. H.E. the Government of Andhra Pradesh and Chairman of SJM Board has constituted a Committee consisting of Board Members and a nominee

of Director General Fire Services, Govt. of Andhra Pradesh, to inquire into the cause of fire and suggest remedial measures.

Development of Hampi

243. SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Karnataka has sent a project proposal at an estimated cost of Rs. 610 lakh for development of infrastructure at Hampi under Large Revenue Generating Scheme to the Union Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Union Government has considered the proposal of the State Government; and

(d) the time by which the project is likely to be approved and amount released to the Government of Karnataka?

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

(b) to (d) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Raising of Platforms in Punjab

244. SHRI AVINASH RAI KHANNA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have accorded approval to raise various platforms at railway stations in Punjab;

(b) if so, whether the work to raise platform has since been started;

(c) if so, the progress so far made in this regard; and

(d) if not, the time by which the work is likely to be undertaken?

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

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Railway Projects in Uttar Pradesh

245. SHRI HARIKEWAL PRASAD: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the ongoing railway projects in Uttar Pradesh;

(b) whether these projects are running behind schedule;

(c) if so, the reasons thereof; and

(d) the steps taken by the Railways to complete these projects expeditiously?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) At present, there are 6 New Line, 6 Gauge Conversion, 23 Doubling and 5 Railway Electrification ongoing projects falling partly/fully in Uttar Pradesh.

(b) and (c) The projects are being progressed as per availability of resources. Delay in land acquisition, adverse law and order condition and failure of contractors is affecting the progress of works.

(d) A number of initiatives have been taken for generating additional resources through Public Private Partnership, cost sharing by State Govts., funding through Ministry of Defence and National Projects *etc.* Funds also been allocated through increased internal resource

Extension of Uttaranchal Express

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

(a) whether the Railways propose to extend 9265/9266 Dehradun Okha Uttaranchal Express upto Saharanpur railway station; and

(b) if so, the time by which the proposal is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) No, Sir. At present, there is no such proposal.

(b) Does not arise.

*[English]***Train between Bhiwani and Delhi**

247. SHRI KULDEEP BISHNOI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have decided to run an additional train between Bhiwani and Delhi via Kalanour;

(b) if so, reasons for delay in its introduction; and

(c) the fresh steps taken by the Railways for early introduction of the new train between Bhiwani and Delhi via Kalanour keeping in view the increasing passenger traffic on this sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (c) No, Sir. Introduction of a train between Bhiwani and Delhi via Kalanour is not feasible, at present, due to operational and resource constraints.

*[Translation]***Facilities at Railway Stations under Jabalpur Division**

248. SHRI GANESH SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways are aware that Mazhgwa, Chithara, Khutaha, Jaitwar, Lagargwa, Uchehra, Amadra, Jhukehi, Khanna Bazari railway stations come under Jabalpur Division of Western Central Railway;

(b) if so, the details of passenger facilities available at said stations;

(c) whether drinking water, electricity hall, bridges for movement, toilet, sanitation, security facilities, etc. are available at said stations; and

(d) if not, the time by which said facilities are likely to be provided to passengers?

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

(b) and (c) All the minimum essential amenities as per prescribed norms have been provided at all the Stations under Jabalpur Division of West Central Railway.

Further, law and order being the State subject, it is the primary responsibility of State Government to provide Security at Railway Stations. There are no Government Railway Police Thanas at any of these Stations. However, four Railway Protection Force staff are permanently deployed for guarding duty at Jhukehi Railway Station. At other stations Railway Protection Force staff is deployed as and when required.

(d) Does not arise.

*[English]***Protection to Heritage Monuments**

249. SHRI K.S. RAO: Will be Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the heritage monuments and sites in Rajasthan and other States, are threatened by mining and other illegal activities;

(b) if so, the steps taken to protect these sites; and

(c) if so, the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) No threat is reported to the centrally protected heritage monuments and sites in Rajasthan and other States due to mining or other illegal activities.

(b) and (c) Statutory provision exist in the Ancient Monuments & Archaeological Sites and Remains Act 1958 and Rules framed thereunder banning mining operation and construction near the protected monuments and for prescribing punishments for violation of these statutory provisions.

Powers are vested with the Director General, Archaeological Survey of India and with Superintending Archaeologist for the removal of encroachments from the protected places. An area upto 100 metres from the protected limits of centrally protected monuments is declared as a prohibited area where all construction and mining activities are banned. Another 200 metres beyond this has been declared as regulated area where construction/mining activity is permitted only in accordance with the terms and conditions of the licence issued by the Director General, Archaeological Survey of India.

Archaeological Survey of India is constantly in touch with the State Government administrations for removal of

encroachments and prevention of other illegal activities in protected monuments/sites.

Duty Free Shops at Airports

250. SHRI E.G. SUGAVANAM: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has imposed restrictions on purchase from duty free shops at the airports;

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

(c) whether there is any proposal to relax restrictions and to simplify the procedure to offset the losses by the shops;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) Pursuant to report that terrorist outfits in United Kingdom. (UK) have devised a new *modus operandi* to smuggle components of an IED on board an aircraft as part of hand baggage to avoid normal screening procedure, instructions have been issued vide Bureau of Civil Aviation Security Circular No 14/2006 dated 11.8.2006 prohibiting carriage by passengers in cabin baggage or on person of liquid items/gel/paste or other items of similar consistency except medicine/inhaler accompanied by prescription and body food. In partial modification of the above mentioned circular, procedure have been prescribed on 29.8.2006 for carriage of duty free items purchased from duty free shops. As per the procedure certain restrictions have been put on the owners of the duty free shops such as all duty free items shall be sold under proper cash receipts incorporating the name of the passengers, seat No., name of carrier; the items shall be handed over to the passenger at the gate of the aircraft after proper security check etc. There is, however, at airports.

(c) to (e) Review of the instruction/procedures are undertaken periodically to make them more passenger friendly and this is a continuous process.

Cancellation of Flights of IA

251. SHRI K.C. PALLANI SHAMY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether many of the Indian Airlines (IA) flights have been grounded resulting in cancellation of flights in various sectors in the past few months;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the estimated loss to IA;

(c) whether the Government has taken any steps restore and augment the services of IA;

(d) If so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) The cancellation rate of Indian Airlines and Alliance Air flights during the last three months i.e. August, 2006 to October, 2006 due to grounding of aircraft for technical reasons was 0.23%. On account of these cancellations, the estimated loss in terms of these cancellations, the estimated loss in terms of loss of contribution, cost of extra flying and expenditure on passenger meals, hotel and transport has been Rs. 110 lacs.

(c) to (e) All technical delays and cancellations are investigated and remedial action taken immediately. A meeting of the representatives of operating department at the regional level is held every day. At the base station, delays and cancellations are special maintenance action is immediately taken. At the Headquarters level, the punctuality of services is monitored on a daily basis. Regular meeting are also held with the vendors or manufacturers for bringing an improvement in the product and systems.

[Translation]

Rail Over Bridge at Rangpur Road

252. SHRI RAGHUVeer SINGH KOSHAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for continuous delay and non-completion of the work of rail over bridge at Rangpur Road in Kota Division under Western Central Railway;

(b) by when the said work is likely to be completed;

(c) whether the delay in the construction of the said over bridge has escalated its cost;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the State Government has completed its quota of construction works in respect of this over bridge; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Late approval of General Arrangement Drawing by State Government, also late approval of drawing and design of sub structure and obstructions, like removal of cables, electric poles, problem of design, delay in inspection of bearing by inspecting agency.

(b) By the end of February 2007.

(c) Not yet.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) and (f) Not yet fully. State Government has completed 75% of the main work, on Rangpur end one last span is to be cast. Whole work is likely to be completed by the end of February 2007.

Expansion of Airports in Uttaranchal

253. MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Airports in Uttaranchal are being expanded;

(b) if so, the amount allotted by the Government for the purpose; and

(c) the time by which expansion work is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) Yes, Sir. Airports at Dehradun and Pantnagar are being expanded.

(b) Estimated cost of the project for Dehradun Airport is Rs. 72.85 crores and that for Pantnagar Airport is Rs. 36.72 crores.

(c) Expected date of completion of these airport projects is June, 2008.

[English]

Export of Petrol and Diesel

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

(a) whether the Government has decided to export petrol and diesel during the current financial year;

(b) if so, the countries to which these would be exported;

(c) whether the export of petrol and diesel has any impact on the import of crude oil from the Arabian countries;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to check increase in oil import bill?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL): (a) and (b) Public Sector Oil Companies have exported 163 TMT of petrol and 991 TMT of High Speed Diesel (HSD) during April-September 2006 to Nepal, Sri Lanka, UAE, Indonesia, Mauritius, Bangladesh and Yemen.

(c) and (d) In order to put a check on net oil import bill, efforts were made to maximize export of petroleum products. As per provisional figures, the net export of petroleum product during 2005-06 rose by 48% in terms of quantity and 200% in terms of value, as compared to the year 2003-04, resulting in corresponding reduction in the net oil import bill.

(e) Various measures are being taken to substantially accelerate exploratory activities for enhancing domestic oil and gas production. These measures include the following:

- (i) increasing exploration efforts through the New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP): Under NELP, 110 exploring blocks have been awarded to National Oil Companies, foreign companies and private/joint venture companies through International Competitive Bidding. This includes 20 Exploration Blocks awarded in the fifth round of NELP. Another 55 blocks now been offered under NELP-VI.

- (ii) improving the recovery factor from existing major fields by implementing Enhanced Oil Recovery (EOR)/Improved Oil Recovery (IOR) schemes—in particular. Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Ltd. (ONGC) have taken up 15 fields for this purpose at an estimated investment of Rs. 10,972 crore, which would also help in accelerating oil production from these fields;
- (iii) exploring new areas, especially in deep waters and difficult frontier areas, as also the deeper layers of already producing fields;
- (iv) developing newly discovered fields speedily and stepping up the use of new technologies for seismic surveys, work over, and stimulation operations, drilling of wells *etc.* in producing areas;
- (v) 26 contracts include 10 contracts under the recent third round have been signed so far for exploration of Coal Bed Methane (CBM);
- (vi) Acquisition of overseas oil and gas reserves through equity or participating interest; and
- (vii) With the delicensing of the refinery sector since June 1998, more petroleum infrastructure including domestic refineries have been set up in the country.

Smuggling of Ammunition from Ordnance Factories

255. SHRI ABU AYES MONDAL:
SHRI MILIND DEORA:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether cases of smuggling of ammunition from ordnance factories to extremist groups by army officials have come to the notice of the Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the details of such ordnance factories;

(c) whether any inquiry has been conducted in the matter;

(d) if so, the outcome thereof; and

(e) the action taken against the officials found guilty?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (RAOINDERJIT SINGH): (a) to (e) No case of involvement of any army official in smuggling of ammunition from Ordnance Factories premises, to extremist groups has come to the notice so far. However, some empty Mines cases, produced by private firm for Ordnance Factories, have been seized by the Police Authorities. These empty bodies have been missing from the concerned private firm's premises and not from the Ordnance Factories.

Illegal Occupation of Land by Mafias

256. SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government is aware that defence land in thousands of acres are under illegal occupation of land mafias in connivance with DGDE officials across the country;

(b) if so, the facts thereof;

(c) whether the Government has formulated any time-bound plan to get the encroached land vacated from mafias;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) to (e) Illegal occupation of thousands of acres of Defence Land by land mafias in connivance with DGDE officials has not come to notice. Eviction proceeding in accordance with the Public Premises (Eviction of Unauthorised Occupants) Act, 1971 are taken from time to time for removal of encroachments. Since legal proceedings are not time bound it may not be feasible to indicate a strict time frame for removal of all encroachments.

Fire Incident in Chennai-Bangalore Express

257. SHRI MILIND DEORA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways are aware of incident of fire in Chennai-Bangalore Express on August 20, 2006;

(b) if so, the details of the incident alongwith loss of lives and properties therein;

(c) whether the cause of the fire has been ascertained;

(d) if so, the details thereof alongwith the officials found responsible for the incident and action taken against them; and

(e) the steps taken by the railways to prevent such accidents?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Yes, Sir. The train involved in fire was 2753 Ex-Chennai-Hyderabad Express. 2753 Express was detained at Secunderabad Station for about 40 minutes due to derailment of a goods train on the same track ahead of Secunderabad Station. The passengers in the ill fated coaches had detrained at Secunderabad Station which is the penultimate halt. Thus the coaches were almost empty when the fire broke out.

(b) On 20.8.2006 at about 06.01 hrs. train No. 2753 Ex-Chennai to Hyderabad express arrived on Platform No.10 of Secunderabad Station. Due to derailment of one oil tank wagon of a goods train at Hussain-Sagar Junction, 2753 Express was detained at Secunderabad Station for 40 minutes. The train commenced its onward journey to Hyderabad at 06.40 hrs. Immediately after about 10 minutes of the train departure, the Loco-Pilot and his assistant noticed smoke in one of the coaches

of the train. The fire was extinguished by fire brigade. No causality occurred. The damage/loss to the fire incident amount to Rs. 1,88,25,190/-.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Commissioner Railway Safety of South Central Railway Circle, Secunderabad conducted a statutory inquiry into the incident and his provisional findings are that it was caused due to fire of some combustible material lying in the Hyderabad end bathroom portion of coach number S-9, seventh from the locomotive by unidentified passenger/passengers other than railway staff while the train was on run at a speed of 10-15 Kilometre per hour starting from Secunderabad. The accident falls under category—'failure of person/persons other than Railway Staff'.

(e) Steps taken for prevention of fire incidents.

1. Intensive Safety Drives are conducted on all the Division on sustained basis.
2. Safety awareness by conduction Seminars and Campaigns.
3. Periodic checks on Gas operated cooking arrangements in Pantry Car.
4. Focused checks on wiring circuits of Direct Current Loco, Alternative Current Loco and Air-conditioned Coaches.
5. Security of packages and observance of packing conditions inside Second Class Luggage cum break van (SLRs).
6. Safety propaganda through safety posters, advertisement in compartments, timetables, Newspapers and at Stations slides displayed in local cinema theatres etc.
7. Drives are being organized by Railway Protection Force for prevention of carriage of Gas Cylinders, Explosive materials, crackers, other inflammable materials etc. by passengers in trains.
8. Cases under relevant sections of Railway Act are booked by Railway Protection Force (RPF) against smokers in the Trains & other railway premises.
9. Strict measures are taken by Railway Protection Force to prevent unauthorized hawkers and vendors using Sigris and Stoves on trains.
10. Frequent announcements are made in all important railway stations through public address system about the fire precautions.

Bogibeel Bridge Project

258. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have moved for reconsideration of the proposal for treating Bogibeel Bridge project declared under PM's special initiative for NER 1996 as National Project;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) when the projects is likely to be considered as a National Projects to ensure its time-bound completion?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) The proposal for declaring Bogibeel Rail-cum-Road mega project as 'National Project' and providing additional funds over and above normal Railway's Plan was earlier considered by the Govt. and it was directed that the project be implemented through a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) for which funds be located in consultation with the Ministry of Finance and the Planning Commission. Since the project is non-viable, funding through SPV mechanism may not be amenable. In view of this, the matter has been proposed for reconsideration of the Government.

(c) No time frame is feasible to be given.

[*Translation*]

Linking of Scholarship Amount with Price Index

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

(a) Whether the Government is contemplating to link the amount given as Scholarship to the Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Other Backward Classes (OBCs) students with the price index; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBLAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

[*English*]

Reforms In Food Processing Sector

260. SHRI N.S.V. CHITTHAN: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to bring reforms in Food Processing Sector in the country particularly in Tamil Nadu;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the incentives proposed to be provided to this industry including quality improvement, credit package and exemption from taxes; and

(d) the measures taken/proposed to be taken to increase competitiveness and market their produce to get maximum returns?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) to (d) Introduction of reforms in food processing sector is an ongoing process. Several reforms have been introduced by the Government from time to time for promotion of food processing industries in the country. The Government has enacted The Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006 which has been notified on 24th August, 2006. The objective of the Act is to Government of India have taken several measures towards quality improvement, extension of bank credit and tax exemptions to the food processing sector with a view to enhance competitiveness of the sector. These include financial assistance under various Plan Schemes in the form of grant-in-aid for Technology upgradation/Modernization/ Establishment of Food Processing Units, Development of infrastructure, support for R & D, and Human resource Development besides other promotional measures to encourage for Promotion of Quality Assurance, Total Quality Management, Strengthening of Codex Cell in various institutions and Setting up of Quality Control Laboratories.

In order to ensure easy availability of credit, Government has included food processing industries in the list of priority sector for bank lending. Fruit and vegetables processing units are already exempted from payment of excise duty. Further, in the year 2004-05, Government has allowed under Income Tax Act, a deduction of 100% of profit for five years and 25% of profits for the next five years in case of new agro processing industries set up to process, preserve and package fruits and vegetables. Excise duty of 16% on dairy machinery has been fully waived for promotion of dairy processing industries. Excise duty on meat, poultry and fish products has been reduced from 16% to 8%. Excise duty on food grade hexane used in edible oil industry has been reduced from 32% to 16%. In the Budget of 2005-06 excise duty of Rs. 1.00 per kg on refined edible oil and Rs. 1.25 per kg on Vanaspati were abolished. Customs duty on refrigerated vans was reduced from 20% to 10%. In the budget 2006-07 the Govt. has waived excise duty on condensed milk, ice cream, preparations of meat, fish and poultry, pectins, pasta and yeast. Excise duty on ready to eat packaged foods and instant food mixes, like dosa and idli mixes have been reduced from 16% to 8%. Excise duty on aerated drinks has been reduced from 24% to 16%. NABARD has created a refinancing window with a corpus of Rupees one thousand crore for agro processing infrastructure and market development.

New Air Services

261. SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY:
SHRI VIKRAMBHAI ARJANBHAI MADAM:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to start domestic air services to those cities where air services are not available as yet;

(b) if so, the details of such cities; and

(c) the time bound programme drawn by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (c) The Government has laid down route dispersal guidelines with a view to achieve better regulation of air transport services taking into account the need for air transport services of different regions of the country including North-East Region. It is, however, up to the airlines to provide air services to specific places depending upon the traffic demand and commercial viability. As such, the airlines are free to operate anywhere in the country subject to compliance of route dispersal guidelines issued by Government. At present scheduled air services are available to/from 73 destinations in the country and the airlines are addition of new stations by the airlines is a continuous process.

[Translation]

Funds for Development and Maintenance of Historical Monuments

262. SHRI BRAJESH PATHAK:
SHRI RASHEED MASOOD :
SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE:

Will the Minister for CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) gets meagre funds for development and maintenance of historical monuments in the country;

(b) if so, the details of funds provided to ASI during each of the last three years; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to provide adequate funds for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) to (c) Considering the enormity of the task of conservation and restoration work of heritage sites and monuments ASI requires more funds.

The details of budgetary allocations to the ASI during the last three years is as below:

(Rs. in Crore)

Year	Revised estimate
2003-04	216.36
2004-05	223.30
2005-06	227.28

Need based requirements of funds for the ASI will be assessed and projected for consideration while submitting proposals for the eleventh plan.

Women Engaged In Night Soil Practice

263. SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK:
PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA:

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

(a) whether more than 10 lakh women are engaged in carrying night soil even today in the country;

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

(c) whether the Government has failed in achieving the target fixed for bringing the said practice to an end;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the efforts being made by the Government to achieve the target and the time by which the said practice is likely to come to an end?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) A scheme titled 'Integrated Low Cost Sanitation Scheme' for conversion of dry latrines into water borne latrines is being implemented by the Ministry of Housing and Poverty Alleviation by providing a mix of subsidy and loan. Moreover, employment of manual scavengers as well as construction or maintenance of dry latrines is prohibited under the Employment of Manual Scavengers and Construction of Dry Latrines (Prohibition) Act, 1993.

Shortage of LPG

264. SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY:
YOGI ADITYA NATH:
SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH:
SHRI PANNIAN RAVINDRAN:
SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI:
SHRI MANJUNATH KUNNUR:.
SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY:
SHRI KULDEEP BISHNOI:
MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI:

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

(a) whether despite all out efforts of the Government, various parts of the country are still facing the shortage of Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) and the shortage is likely to continue in the coming years;

(b) if so, whether the Government has received complaints from various State Governments regarding LPG crisis in their States;

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

(d) whether the Government has formulated any plan to set up new refineries in order to increase the production of LPG;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the quantum of increase likely to accrue in the production of LPG after the setting up of new refineries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL): (a) and (b) At present, there is no overall shortage of LPG in the country and LPG supplies to distributors are being made by the Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) through indigenous production and imports in accordance with the genuine

demand of customers registered with the LPG distributors. However, OMCs have reported a backlog of 2-8 days in some Southern States like Andhra Pradesh, Kerala, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu due to unplanned shutdown of refineries, transporters strike, bad road conditions and riots in Mangalore. No complaint has been received from State Government about any LPG crisis.

(c) Government has advised OMCs to liquidate the backlog in these States by operating the bottling plants on holidays and during extended hours.

(d) to (f) In addition to capacity expansion of the existing refineries, three new grass-root refineries are being set up during 11th Plan at Bina, Bathinda and Paradip by Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL), Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL) and Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOC) respectively, which would add 30 Million Metric Tonnes per annum (MMTPA) of refining capacity. The production of LPG at the end of the 11th Plan is estimated to increase to 12.763 MMT from 7.717 MMT at the end of financial year 2005-06.

[English]

Construction of Crossing Points between Hasnabad-Barasat

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

(a) whether it takes a long time for the local trains to cross the distance from Hasnabad to Sealdah section under the Eastern Railways as there exists no crossing point between Hasnabad-Barasat section;

(b) whether a detailed proposal has been submitted by the Eastern Railway authorities in this regard; and

(c) if so, the action taken by the Railways on the said proposal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) No, Sir. Between Barasat and Hasnabad Section there are 4 crossing stations viz. Sondalia, Harua Road, Basirhat and Champapukur having interstation distance as 12.12 kms, 12.26 kms, 6.44 kms and 10.10 kms respectively and running time of 11 mts., 18 mts., 18 mts., 9 mts. & 13 mts.

(b) Yes, Sir. Proposal for conversion of 3 station namely Labutala (Halt), Malahpur (Flag) and Madhyampur (Halt) into block stations has been submitted by Eastern Railway through Preliminary Works Programme 2007-08 to Railway Board to increase section capacity.

(c) The proposal mentioned in part (b) is under consideration at Railway Board's level.

[Translation]

Encroachment on Railway Land

266. SHRI V. K. THUMMAR:
SHRIMATI SANGEETA KUMARI SINGH DEO:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have made any assessment about the losses being suffered due to illegal occupation of its land;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Railways to remove the encroachers from its land and make use of that land?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) No, Sir. Railways continue to be the owner of their land presently under illegal occupation. Therefore, there is no direct loss to the railways.

(c) Railways are engaged in a continuous exercise to free their land of encroachments as per provisions of Public Premises (Eviction of Unauthorised Occupants) Act, 1971 and the Railways Act, 1989. Such land when released are either being used for railway's own needs or leased/licensed for commercial purposes.

[English]

New Airports

267. SHRI HARIBHAU RATHOD:
SHRIMATI BHAVANA PUNDLIKRAO GAWALI:
PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether, keeping in view the increasing air passenger traffic there is any proposal to set up new airports in different parts of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the other steps taken/proposed to be taken for setting up of new airports in the country;

(d) whether Reliance has submitted any proposals for setting up of airports with cargo facilities in any part of the country for their Mega Special Economic Zone; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (c) Government has approved proposals for Hyderabad International Airport & Bangalore International Airport. 'In-principal' approval has also been given for a new airport at Goa. The concerned State Governments have proposed airports at Navi Mumbai, Pakyong in Sikkim, Chiethu near Kohima in Nagaland, Itanagar in Arunachal Pradesh, Kannur in Kerala, Halwara in Punjab and Chakken (Rajgurunagar) near Pune.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Non-Operational Aircraft

268. SHRI SANTASRI CHATTERJEE: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether a substantive number of Aircraft belonging to Indian Airlines, remained non-operational during January to October, 2006;

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

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to make these aircraft operational?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) Out of a fleet of 74 aircraft available with Indian Airlines and Alliance Air, 16 aircraft remained grounded for different periods during January, 2006 and October, 2006. Further, out of a fleet of 48 A-320 aircraft, normally 6 remain grounded for scheduled major maintenance at any given point of time. As against this, 10 A-320 aircraft are presently grounded for major maintenance/want of engines as also for scheduled maintenance.

(c) Since the grounding of aircraft was primarily due to shortage of engines, Indian Airlines Limited is vigorously pursuing all possible means to increase engine availability through augmenting production of engines in its Jet Engine Overhaul Centre, out sourcing of engine overhaul and continued retention of 3 short-term leased engines till January/February, 2007.

[English]

Gauge Conversion

269. SHRI M. APPADURAI:
SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN:
SHRI JOACHIM BAXLA:
SHRI JASHUBHAI DHANABHAI BARAD:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the total length of metre gauge and narrow gauge railway line in the country, State-wise and zone-wise;

(b) the length of metre gauge and narrow gauge railway lines converted into broad gauge during each of the last three years, State-wise and zone-wise;

(c) the funds allotted and spent by Railways for the purpose during the said period, State-wise and zone-wise;

(d) the details of the projects running behind schedule alongwith the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps taken by the Railways to expedite the completion of works?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) The State-wise and zone-wise length of metre gauge and narrow gauge railway line (route kilometres) in the country as on 31.3.2006 (latest available) are given below:

S.No.	Name of State	Route kilometers	
		Metre Gauge	Narrow Gauge
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	329	Nil
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	1	Nil
3.	Assam	1057	Nil
4.	Bihar	1099	Nil
5.	Chhattisgarh	Nil	89
6.	Delhi	22	Nil
7.	Gujarat	1475	787
8.	Haryana	316	3
9.	Himachal Pradesh	Nil	246
10.	Karnataka	398	Nil
11.	Kerala	117	Nil
12.	Madhya Pradesh	500	708
13.	Maharashtra	429	733
14.	Manipur	1	Nil
15.	Mizoram	2	Nil

1	2	3	4
16.	Nagaland	2	Nil
17.	Orissa	Nil	37
18.	Punjab	Nil	12
19.	Rajasthan	2201	87
20.	Tamil Nadu	1813	Nil
21.	Tripura	64	Nil
22.	Uttar Pradesh	1708	2
23.	Uttaranchal	61	Nil
24.	West Bengal	239	220
Total		11834	2924

Note: The remaining State have no metre/narrow gauge rail lines

Railway	Route kilometres	
	Metre Gauge	Narrow Gauge
Central	Nil	573
Eastern	Nil	133
East Central	722	Nil
East Coast	Nil	Nil
Northern	88	261
North Central	46	288
North Eastern	1854	Nil
Northeast Frontier	1612	87
North Western	2510	Nil
Southern	1929	Nil
South Central	829	Nil
South Eastern	Nil	37
Southeast Central	Nil	758
South Western	398	Nil
Western	1846	787
West Central	Nil	Nil
Total	11834	2924

(b) The length of Railway lines converted in last three years, State-wise and zone-wise is given in the enclosed Statement-I

(c) The funds spent by Railways during the last three years, zone-wise is given in the enclosed Statement-II. The State-wise expenditure figures are not maintained.

(d) The works are being progressed as per availability of resources.

(e) A number of initiatives have been taken to generate additional resources to expedite completion of ongoing projects.

Statement I

State-wise and Railway-wise breakup of gauge conversion (MG/NG to BG) completed in last three years

S.No.	Name of State	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	30	163	14
2.	Assam & NE States	Nil	61	Nil
3.	Bihar	Nil	Nil	85
4.	Delhi	Nil	Nil	25
5.	Gujarat	152	92	248
6.	Haryana	Nil	Nil	58
7.	Jharkhand	Nil	67	Nil
8.	Karnataka	57	45	44
9.	Madhya Pradesh	Nil	28	Nil
10.	Maharashtra	Nil	20	Nil
11.	Orissa	Nil	52	Nil
12.	Rajasthan	241	131	Nil
13.	Tamil Nadu	176	48	86
14.	Uttar Pradesh	Nil	30	137
15.	West Bengal	198	42	47
Total		854	779	744

1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5
Railway					9.	North Western	241	161	Nil
1.	Central	Nil	Nil	Nil	10.	Southern	176	48	86
2.	Eastern	Nil	Nil	Nil	11.	South Central	30	163	14
3.	East Central	Nil	52	51	12.	South Eastern	Nil	109	Nil
4.	East Coast	Nil	Nil	Nil	13.	Southeast Central	Nil	48	Nil
5.	Northern	Nil	Nil	83	14.	South Western	57	45	44
6.	North Central	Nil	Nil	Nil	15.	Western	152	92	248
7.	Northern Eastern	Nil	Nil	165	16.	West Central	Nil	Nil	Nil
8.	Northeast Frontier	198	61	53	Total		854	779	744

Statement II

Railway-wise fund allotted and expenditure incurred on Gauge Conversion during 2003-04, 2004-05, and 2005-06

(Rs. in crore)

Railway	2003-04		2004-05		2005-06	
	Revised Estimates (Gross)	Expenditure (Gross)	Revised Estimates (Gross)	Expenditure (Gross)	Revised Estimates (Gross)	Expenditure (Gross)
Central	18.75	21.64	25.00	28.46	35.00	36.89
Eastern	—	—	—	—	—	—
East Central	28.78	38.77	57.12	72.15	95.01	99.47
East Coast	12.00	12.38	13.00	12.82	9.00	7.42
Northern	—	(-)0.93	—	—	—	—
North Central	—	—	0.01	—	0.01	—
North Eastern	61.23	68.61	64.00	93.06	133.47	133.09
Northeast Frontier	268.69	334.34	199.00	254.44	360.27	347.49
North Western	106.53	113.69	145.00	154.04	111.59	116.82
Southern	140.52	175.61	154.69	142.74	171.81	208.48
South Central	131.18	133.46	160.00	166.82	214.08	219.13
South Eastern	53.11	45.20	78.04	83.22	51.00	51.63
South East Central	34.69	36.31	38.07	38.28	23.80	20.73
South Western	66.01	73.27	56.79	57.13	34.11	36.73
Western	171.93	165.21	128.52	80.06	43.52	45.74
West Central	1.00	—	—	—	—	—
Total Gross	1094.42	1217.56	1117.24	1183.22	1282.67	1323.60

Repair of Railway Bridges and Tracks

270. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK:
SHRI M. RAJA MOHAN REDDY:
SHRIMATI SANGEETA KUMARI SINGH DEO:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the last rain and floods have damaged a large number of Railway Bridges and tracks;

(b) if so, the State-wise and zone-wise breakup of such bridges/tracks which are in the dilapidated condition particularly in Andhra Pradesh and Orissa;

(c) the estimated loss caused to Railways thereby; and

(d) the steps taken to repair the damages?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Yes Sir. There has been damage to certain Railway Bridges and tracks on some Zonal Railways during last rain & floods. Damages were in the form of ballast washouts & embankments erosions, washouts in various affected stretches & partial damage to some Bridges.

(b) The Bridge/track details are maintained Railways-wise and not State-wise. Boulder fall, landslide & shifting of Bridge abutments have occurred at about 90 locations on East Coast Railway which caters to, besides other States, Orissa and Andhra Pradesh. All the Bridges/tracks damaged by recent rain & foods have already been repaired and made fit for rail traffic.

(c) The approximate loss caused to Railways due to last rain & floods, as per preliminary estimates, is Rs. 35 Crore for all Railways.

(d) Immediate necessary action was taken by Railways for restoration of Rail services and repair & rehabilitation of damaged assets whenever there was disruption of traffic and damage to Railways assets due to rain & floods. Necessary manpower, machinery & other resources were mobilized and work was taken up on war footing to restore the traffic first. Each Zonal Railways maintain stocks of items like boulders, sand, gunny bags, rails, sleepers and temporary spans at nominated places to meet with such emergent situations.

Doubling of Railway Line from Nergundi to Bhubaneswar

271. SHRI B. MAHTAB: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the pace of work of the doubling of line from Nergundi to Bhubaneswar is very slow;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the target date set for completion of doubling of this line; and

(d) the steps taken to expedite the construction of this project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (d) Between Nergundi and Bhubaneswar, the line is already doubled between Nergundi and Cuttack (barring the segment of 2nd bridge over River Mahanadi) and between Barang and Bhubaneswar. Construction of 2nd bridge over River Mahanadi and doubling of the line from Cuttack to Barang are being executed by Rail Vikas Nigam Limited (RVNL) for their speedy completion. Necessary funds are already available with RVNL for progressing these two works satisfactorily. Cuttack-Barang doubling project is being funded partially through the Asian Development Bank (ADB). The finalization of tenders as per the ADB procedures took time. The contracts for major bridges, roadbed, track and overhead electrification works have now been awarded and the substructure of Kuakhai Bridge has been completed. The work of 2nd Mahanadi Bridge is continuing as per schedule. Both the works are likely to be completed during 2008-09.

[Translation]

Security of Engines/Coaches

272. SHRI BHANU PRATAP SINGH VERMA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of rail engines/coaches lying neglected on railway tracks due to accidents and other reasons;

(b) whether the parts of such engines and coaches are stolen and sold by the railway officials who are having nexus with scrap dealers;

(c) If so, the steps taken by the Government to provide security to such rail engines/coaches; and

(d) the estimated value of such rail engines/coaches lying at different locations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) There are no engines and coaches lying neglected on Indian Railways. However five locos and fourteen coaches damaged in accidents are awaiting disposal.

(b) No, Sir. No such cases have come in the notice of the Government.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) The approx assessed value of these locos and coaches is Rs. 87 lakhs.

Market Share of Public and Private Airlines

273. SHRI KAILASH NATH SINGH YADAV:
SHRI SHISHUPAL PATLE:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has made any comparative assessment of increasing participations of public and private sectors airlines in domestic air services;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the share of private airlines has increased during the first half of the current year;

(d) if so, the percentage decrease in the share of public sector airlines; and

(e) the steps being taken to increase the share of public sector airlines in the market?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (d) The market share of all scheduled private airlines and Indian Airlines is as under:

Month	Market Share (%)	
	Indian Airlines	Scheduled Pvt Airlines
Jan, 2006	25.0	75.0
Feb, 2006	23.7	76.3
March, 2006	23.2	76.8
April, 2006	23.5	76.5
May, 2006	21.6	78.4
June, 2006	20.8	79.2

(e) Entry of several new private scheduled passenger airlines and substantial induction of capacity by existing as well as new scheduled passenger airlines has also contributed to the drop in market share of Indian Airlines. To overcome this declining market share, Indian Airlines is augmenting capacity by inducting 43 new aircraft as well as taking aircraft on lease. Simultaneously, Indian Airlines constantly strives to improve its performance and image to remain competitive in the market. Some of the measures taken in this regard are market initiatives, product and service upgrades, in-flight initiatives, fleet augmentations/renewal, improvement in cabin ambience and rebranding corporate identity. Indian Airlines has also introduced various promotional fares/schemes to remain competitive and to improve traffic on its routes.

[English]

Defence Procurement Manual and Procedure

274. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI
SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH:
PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR:
SHRI G.V. HARSHA KUMAR:
SHRI K.C. PALLANI SHAMY:
SHRI RAGHUVeer SINGH KOSHAL:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has announced a new Defence Procurement Manual and Defence Procurement Procedure;

(b) if so, the salient features thereof;

(c) the extent to which these new measures are likely to be helpful in checking the corruption in defence deals;

(d) whether it is mandatory for the foreign companies to invest 30 percent amount of the defence deals in India;

(e) if so, the details of economic zones where the said investment can be made and conditions thereof;

(f) whether the Government has considered a level playing field for Indian Industry in terms of costs and payments; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY):

(a) to (g) The Defence Procurement Manual (DPM-2006) and Defence Procurement Procedure (DPP-2006) have been promulgated with effect from 1st September, 2006.

DPP 2006 covers all Capital Acquisitions (except medical equipment) undertaken by the Ministry of Defence. It includes a new procedure for the 'Make' category, a revised procedure for Indigenous Naval Ship building and a revamped Fast Track Procedure.

DPM-2006 covers Revenue Procurements of the Ministry of Defence.

The salient features of the DPP-2006 include:

- (i) Major decisions being taken in a 'collegiate' manner.
- (ii) An 'Integrity Pact' between the Government department and the bidder for all contracts above Rs. 100 crores.
- (iii) Enhanced transparency in the conduct of field trails.
- (iv) Pre-bid meetings with the vendors.
- (v) Placing generic requirements of the Services on Ministry of Defence website.
- (vi) Generating vendor registration through the internet.
- (vii) Dealing directly with Original Equipment Manufacturers (OEM) or Authorised vendors of Government Sponsored Export Agencies (applicable) in case of countries where domestic laws do not permit direct export by OEMs).
- (viii) Prohibiting the use of undue influence by the seller for obtaining any contract with the Government.

- (ix) Prohibiting the engagement of any individual or firm to recommend to the Government the award of a contract to the seller, and the payment of any amount in respect of any such recommendation.

The salient features of DPM-2006 inter-alia include Integrity Pact, pre-bid conference for firming up technical specifications and placing details of award of tenders/contracts on the Website of the Ministry of Defence.

Both the DPP-2006 and DPM-2006 have been placed on the website of the Ministry of Defence (www.mod.nic.in).

As per DPP-2006 an Offset provision is applicable for all procurement proposals where the indicative cost is above Rs. 300 crores involving the outright purchase from foreign/Indian vendors and purchase from foreign vendor followed by Licensed Production. These Offset obligations shall be discharged directly by the direct purchase of, or executing export orders for, defence products and components manufactured or services provided by Indian Defence Industries. These Offset obligations may also be discharged by direct foreign investment in Indian defence industries, and in Indian organizations engaged in research in defence R & D.

The Offset provisions are applicable for only Indian Defence Industry and is not related to any specific economic zone.

A level playing field for the Indian industry has been ensured in DPP-2006 by incorporating the following guidelines to neutralize the impact of taxes and duties payable by Indian industry while carrying out evaluation of bids to determine L1 vendor, without making any changes in the tax structure:

- (i) In case of foreign supplier, the basic cost (CIF) quoted should be the basis for the purpose of comparison of various tenders.
- (ii) In case of indigenous suppliers, excise duty on fully formed equipment would be off-loaded.
- (iii) Sales Tax and other local levies, i.e. octroi, entry tax etc. would be ignored in case of indigenous suppliers including Defence Public Sector Undertakings (DPSUs)/Ordnance Factories (OFs).
- (iv) The payment conditions should be similar for domestic private suppliers, Defence PSUs/Ordnance Factories and the foreign suppliers.

*[Translation]***Cases of Irregularities against Contractors**

275. SHRI SURAJ SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of cases of irregularities against major contractors of Indian Railways Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) are pending in the Vigilance department;

(b) if so, the details and present status thereof;

(c) the details of major service providers/contractors of IRCTC which have been allotted the work of catering and bed-rolls for five or more mail/express trains; and

(d) the details of the complaints received against the contractors of IRCTC and the action taken against the same during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) Thirteen cases regarding overcharging and irregularities in award of contracts, against major contractors of Indian Railway Catering and Tourism (IRCTC) are under investigation with IRCTC and Zonal Railways.

(c) A statement is enclosed.

(d) 48 complaints, which include both vigilance and non-vigilance complaints, regarding overcharging, irregularities in award of contracts and providing sub-standard meals were received against contractors of IRCTC during the last three years. Fines were imposed on two contractors and administrative action was taken in four cases.

Statement

(c) No licensee is providing Bedrolls in five or more trains.

S.No.	Name of Licensee providing Catering Services in 05 or more trains
1	2
1.	M/s R.C. Goel
2.	M/s Ambuj Hotels & Real Estate Pvt. Ltd.

1	2
3.	M/s Arengo Catering
4.	M/s Roop Caterers
5.	M/s Bharat Catering Corporation
6.	M/s Boon Catering Co. (P) Ltd.
7.	M/s C.K.K. Catering Services
8.	M/s Doon's Caterers
9.	M/s R.K. Agarwal
10.	M/s Food World
11.	M/s Hakmi Chand & sons
12.	M/s KMA Caterers
13.	M/s Mahesh H Caterers
14.	M/s Our's Aarya Bhawan
15.	M/s P.K. Shefi
16.	M/s Poorvanchal Caterers
17.	M/s R.K. Enterprises

*[English]***Retail Outlets for Agro Products at Stations**

276. SHRI RUPCHAND MURMU:
SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways are planning to set up retail outlets for agro products at railway stations across the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Railways purchase milk, fruits, vegetables and other products of farmers through these outlets at minimum support price;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the stations selected for setting up such retail outlets and the time by which these are likely to set up; and

(f) the benefits likely to be accrued to the passengers therefrom?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (f) A policy to promote Agriculture Products collection and distribution outlets with backward integration of transportation is under active consideration. A committee of Executive Directors has been formed to prepare a concept paper for above policy frame-work. The farmers as well as the economy in general will be benefited by this policy.

Loss Incurring Heavy Industries

277. SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the heavy industries in the country which are running in losses, State-wise; and

(b) the efforts taken/being taken by the Government to help such heavy industries to come out of losses?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES, MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH): (a) There is no classification of Industry as 'heavy'. However, so far as the Public Sector Enterprises (PSEs) under the Department of Heavy Industry are concerned, 21 PSEs incurred loss during 2005-06. A statement showing state-wise location of these PSEs is enclosed.

(b) The process of revival/restructuring of loss making PSEs was initiated as per the policy laid down in the National Common Minimum Programme. The Board for Reconstruction of Public Sector Enterprises (BRPSE) is making recommendations on revival and future of the PSEs. So far, Government has approved implementation of revival/restructuring packages in case of 10 PSEs based on recommendations of BRPSE.

Statement

State-wise list of Public Sector Enterprises (based on location of office) which are running in losses.

West Bengal	1. Andrew Yule & Co. Ltd. (AYCL)
	2. Burn Standard Co. Ltd. (BSCL)
	3. Hindustan Cables Ltd. (HCL)
	4. Tyre Corporation of India Ltd. (TCIL)
Andhra Pradesh	1. Bharat Heavy Plates & Vessels Ltd. (BHPV)

2. Praga Tools Ltd. (PTL)

3. HMT (B) Ltd.

Tamil Nadu

1. Hindustan Photo Films Ltd.

Karnataka

1. HMT (MT) Ltd.

2. HMT (Watches) Ltd.

3. Tungabhadra Steel Products Ltd. (TSPL)

New Delhi

1. Cement Corporation of India Ltd. (CCI)

Bihar

1. Bharat Wagon Engg. Co. Ltd. (BWEL)

Jharkhand

1. Heavy Engineering Corporation (HEC)

Rajasthan

1. Hindustan Salts Ltd. (HSL)

2. Sambhar Salts Ltd. (SSL)

3. Instrumentation Ltd. (IL)

Madhya Pradesh

1. Nepa Ltd.

Maharashtra

1. Richardson & Cruddas Ltd. (R & C)

Uttar Pradesh

1. Triveni Structural Ltd. (TSL)

J & K

1. HMT (Chinar Watches) Ltd.

National Meat Board

278. SHRI M. SHIVANNA: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is planning to invest Rs. 50,000 crore in the food processing industry during the Eleventh Plan (2007-12);

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government is considering to set up a National Meat Board to promote meat processing industry; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) and (b) Government will be promoting the setting up of food processing industries and other

related activities through various Plan schemes during the Eleventh Plan period through financial assistance and other incentives. The investment proposals for the Eleventh Plan are being finalized in consultation with the Planning Commission.

(c) and (d) It is proposed to set up a National Meat Board for overseeing the growth and further promotion of Meat and Poultry sector in the country. This has been considered necessary because of a felt need for a focused intervention in meat and poultry sector. The proposed Board will inter alia, (i) lay down policies for healthy development of the sector (ii) evolve standards of hygiene and quality (iii) support R & D, and (iv) organize capacity building efforts.

[Translation]

Impact of Diseases on Tourism

279. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH:
SHRI K.C. PALLANY SHAMY:

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the current outbreak of Dengue and Chikungunya diseases is likely to have any impact on foreign tourists visiting India; and

(b) if so, the precautionary measures taken/being taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) The tourist arrival figures do not reflect any impact of Dengue and Chikungunya. The arrival figures for the corresponding months from May to October are as under:

Month	2005	2006	Percent. Change
May	229172	262860	+14.7
June	258822	286257	+10.6
July	292345	331227	+13.3
August	270779	299211	+10.5
Sept.	252625	276118	+9.3
October	347757	394009	+13.3

(b) The Ministry has suitably briefed all its overseas offices on the situation and advised them to liaise with concerned agencies and discerning tourists and take necessary steps in order to counteract any negative impact. Appropriate information has also been hosted on official website of the Ministry.

[English]

Sales/Service Efficiency of PSUs

280. SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the PSUs have not been able to achieve the sales/service targets during the last three years despite tendering service abroad.

(b) if so, the reasons therefore together with the targets fixed for the sales/service; and

(c) the steps taken to boost the operating efficiency of PSUs?

THE MINISTER OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI SANTOSH MAHON DEV): (a) and (b) The performance parameters including those for sales/services are fixed for MoU signing CPSEs. The aggregate sales/service figures (table below) of MoU signing CPSEs shows that targets were achieved during the last three years

(Rs. in Crores)

Year	No. CPSEs Signed MoU	Targets Sales/ Service (Total)	Actual Achievements (Total)
2003-04	43	80849	67362
2004-05	83	539325	622421
2005-06 (Prov.)	83	1351155	1602485

(c) Some of the measures taken by Government and the managements of CPSEs, to improve the performance of CPSEs, are given below:

(i) Further strengthening of MoU system.

(ii) Performance review by the administrative Ministries and Inter-Ministerial Committee, Apex Committee.

- (iii) Delegation of enhanced powers to Board of Directors of Navratna, Miniratna PSEs and other profit making CPSEs.
- (iv) Professionalisation of Board of Directors
- (v) Training and human resource development.
- (vi) Diversification of product-mix.
- (vii) Technology upgradation, research and development.
- (viii) Improved inventory control.

Licenses Issued to MNCs

281. SHRI SUBRATA BOSE:
SHRI HITEN BARMAN:

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

(a) the details of multi-national companies which have set up food processing industries in the country; State-wise;

(b) the number of licences issued to the multi-national companies to set up food processing units during 2006-07; and

(c) the details of locations where those multi-national companies have set up their units, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) to (c) Hundred percent Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) is permitted on the automatic route in Food Processing Sector subject to sectoral rules/regulations. No separate date of Licence/Industrial Entrepreneurs Memoranda (IEM) Acknowledgment issued to Multi-national Companies (MNCs) are maintained. However 3417 Industrial Entrepreneur Memoranda with a proposed investment of Rs. 40,258 crores have been filed and 89 Letter of Intent/Direct Industrial Licences have been issued with proposed investment of Rs. 2299 Crore under food processing industries since August 1991 to September 2006. One direct industrial licence has been issued for food processing industries during 2006-07 (up to September 2006).

[Translation]

Prices of LPG in International Market

282. DR. CHINTA MOHAN:
SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH "LALAN":

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

(a) whether there has been heavy decline in the prices of Liquid Petroleum Gas (LPG) in the international market during August 2006 to October 2006;

(b) if so, the percentage thereof and the minimum price of LPG in international market during aforesaid two months separately;

(c) whether resultant benefits of the aforesaid decline in the prices have reached the Indian Common Consumers; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor alongwith the names of the individuals/firms which were benefited on account of the aforesaid decline in place of consumers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL): (a) and (b) The monthly prices of LPG in the international market (Saudi Aramco Contract Price) from August 2006 to October 2006 are tabulated below:

Month	US \$/Ton
Aug'06	547
Sep'06	561
Oct'06	483

(Based on quotes of Saudi Aramco Contract Price in respect of Butane and Propane in the ratio of 60:40).

(c) and (d) The current price of domestic LPG correspond to \$ 269/MT while the prevailing rate in the international oil market is \$ 460/MT. The under-recovery estimated for November 2006 in respect of domestic LPG is Rs. 790 crores.

In the post Administered Pricing Mechanism (APM) era, domestic LPG is partially subsidized by Government from the fiscal budget. Additionally, the oil marketing companies (OMCs) are also bearing huge under-recoveries

in marketing domestic LPG. Despite steep increase in the prices of curde oil and other petroleum products in the international market, which includes LPG, the basic domestic selling prices of domestic LPG have not been revised since 5.11.2004. The Government has reduced customs and excise duties on domestic LPG to Nil with effect from 1.3.05. Further, in the last Union Budget for 2006-07, domestic LPG has been categorized as "Declared Goods" so that the sales tax levied by State Governments are pegged at 4%. All these steps have been taken to reduce the losses/under-recoveries suffered by PSU oil marketing companies in marketing of domestic LPG.

Import of Crude Oil

283. SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN:
SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH "LALAN":
SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY:

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

(a) the details of the crude oil prices in international market during the last six months, month-wise;

(b) the total import of curde oil during the last six months;

(c) whether the country's oil import bill is likely to increase manifold this year in comparison to the last few years;

(d) if so, whether the policy and initiatives taken by the Government to reduce the oil import bill remain ineffective;

(e) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(f) the steps, the Government proposes to take to save foreign exchange on this count?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL): (a) The details of monthly average crude oil price in the international market (Indian basket) is as follows:

Month	US\$/Bbl
May	67.33
June	66.75

Month	US\$/Bpl
July	71.29
August	70.87
September	60.94
October	57.26

(b) The total import of crude oil during the last six months was 53.65 MMT (Prov.).

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) to (f) No, Sir. In order to put a check on net oil import bill, efforts were made to maximize export of petroleum products. As per provisional figures, the net export of petroleum product during 2005-06 rose by 48% in terms of quantity and 200% in terms of value, as compared to the year 2003-04, resulting in corresponding reduction in the net oil import bill.

Various measures are being taken to substantially accelerate exploratory activities for enhancing domestic oil and gas production. These measures include the following:

- (i) increasing exploration efforts through the New Exploration Licensaing Policy (NELP): Under NELP, 110 exploration blocks have been awarded to National Oil Companies, foreign companies and private/joint venture companies through International Competitive Bindding. This includes 20 Exploration Blocks awarded in the fifth round of NELP. Another 55 blocks have now been offered under NELP-VI.
- (ii) improving the recovery factor from existing major fields by implementing Enhanced Oil Recovery (EOR)/Improved Oil Recovery (IOR) schemes—in particular. Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Ltd. (ONGC) have taken up 15 fields for this purpose at an estimated investment of Rs. 10,972 crores, which would also help in accelerating oil production from these fields;
- (iii) exploring new areas, especially in deep waters and difficult frontier areas, as also the deeper layers of already producing fields;
- (iv) developing newly discovered fields speedily and stepping up the use of new technologies for seismic surveys, work over, and stimulation

operations, drilling of wells etc. in producing areas;

- (v) 26 contracts included 10 contracts under the recent third round have been signed so far for exploration of Coal Bed Methane (CBM);
- (vi) Acquisition of overseas oil and gas reserves through equity or participating interest; and
- (vii) With the delicensing of the refinery sector since June 1998, more petroleum infrastructure including domestic refineries have been set up in the country.

[English]

Curb on Expansion of Airlines

284. SHRI SHRINIWAS DADASAHEB PATIL: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is holding back permission for new airlines and curbs on fleet expansion for existing operating airlines;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the period up to which this restriction has been imposed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (c) No Sir, there is no curb on fleet expansion of existing scheduled airlines operators. Government has issued NOC for one scheduled airline operator during the current year. Other applications are being examined.

Revision of Prices of Petroleum Products

285. SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH:
DR. K.S. MANOJ:

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

(a) the profit/loss position of the public sector oil companies during the last six months, company-wise;

(b) whether the oil companies have again sought another revision of the prices of petroleum products;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the Government is aware of the heavy burden on the consumers due to the recent revision of the prices of petroleum products; and

(e) if so, the steps taken by the Government to protect the interests of the consumers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL): (a) The profit after tax of oil marketing companies (OMCs) for April-Sept.' 2006 is given as under:

(Rs. In crore)

IOC	BPC	HPC	IBP	Total
4831*	832**	614	(625)	5652

* Includes profit of Rs. 3225 crore being long term gain on sale of ONGC shares

** After merger with KRL.

The profit/(loss) of OMCs is due to large external support extended in the form of oil bonds (Rs. 14,150 crores), contribution from upstream companies (Rs. 12,000 crores) and profit from sale of shares (Rs. 3225 crores) without which they would all have reported huge losses.

(b) and (c) The oil companies had sought another revision of the prices of petroleum products in July 2006 when the Indian crude basket touched US \$ 70.69/bbl. However, the Government did not accede to this proposal. At current prices of US \$ 57-58/bbl, the OMCs are still incurring under recovery on diesel PDS kerosene and domestic LPG.

(d) and (e) Yes, Sir. The Government has taken the following steps to mitigate the impact of increased international prices on consumers:

- There has been no increase in prices of PDS kerosene since March 2002 and domestic LPG since November 2004.
- The Government has allowed a moderate upward revision in the prices of petrol and diesel on 6.6.2006 by Rs. 4 per litre and Rs. 2 per litre respectively (price increase at Delhi), although the movement in international prices warranted a much higher increase. The price rise effected in June 2006 has resulted in passing only 13% of the total burden projected for 2006-07 at the time of price hike to the consumers.

- The Government has changed the pricing of petrol and diesel on trade parity basis, which shall be weighted average of import parity and export parity prices in the ratio of 80.20. The principle of trade parity pricing will apply for the refinery gate price as well as for determining the retail price.
- Several State Government have reduced the sales tax on petrol and diesel to cushion the burden of price hike effected on 6th June 2006. Domestic LPG has been given the status of 'Declared Goods' under CST Act and the maximum sales tax/VAT rate is 4% effective 19.4.06 across all the states/union territories.

ATF at Non-Metro Airports

286. SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether a private sector company has been cleared by the Airports Authority of India to sell Aviation Turbine Fuel (ATF) at 25 non-metro airports in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether this step has been taken to infuse competition in ATF supply; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by the Government ensures that benefit of cheaper ATF rate is likely to be passed on to the consumers in terms of lower airfare?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) Permission to market Aviation Turbine Fuel (ATF) is given by Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas. Airports Authority of India (AAI) only allots land for construction of Aviation Fuel Station to enable the eligible oil companies to sell ATF to various airlines/aircrafts.

A private sector company namely M/s. Reliance Industries Ltd. (RIL) which was one of the oil companies permitted by Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas to market ATF was allotted land at 25 non-metro airports following the codal procedure.

(b) M/s. Reliance Industries Ltd. (RIL) have been allotted land at the 25 non-metro airports viz. Ahmedabad, Amritsar, Bhubaneswar, Guwahati, Hyderabad, Jaipur, Lucknow, Nagpur, Ranchi, Udaipur, Vadodara, Varanasi, Agartala, Aurangabad, Belgaum, Bhavnagar, Dimapur, Gaya, Imphal, Jabalpur, Juhu, Kandla, Madurai, Porbandar and Raipur.

(c) and (d) M/s. RIL is yet to commence provision of ATF to airlines at these airports.

Navratna Status to PSUs

287. SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is considering new rules and standards for according Navaratna status to public sector undertaking (PSUs).

(b) if so, details thereof and how they differ from the existing ones;

(c) whether Navaratna PSUs which do not conform to the new rules will lose their status; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV):

(a) to (d) The grant/divestment of Navratna status is decided on the basis of recommendations of the Apex Committee. The Apex Committee undertakes comprehensive review of the performance of the concerned Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs) and lays down the criteria for such a review and the necessary procedure and guidelines for grant/divestment of Navratna status.

Shortage of Instructors

288. SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE:
SHRI EKNATH MAHADEO GAIKWAD:
SHRI KIRTI VARDHAN SINGH:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any shortage of instructors to train air pilot;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

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

(b) Due to the recent boom in the aviation industry resulting in hefty remunerations being offered by airline operators to commercial pilots, most pilots opt to join these airlines rather than work as an instructor in a flying institute. This has manifested in the shortage of flying instructors in flying clubs in the country.

(c) The Civil Aviation Requirements (CAR) for Chief Flying Instructor (CFI)/Pilot Instructor Incharge (PII) has been amended to enable experienced serving and retired Civil and Defence Pilots in the country to join as CFI/PII.

Foreign Licence validation is also in vogue for pilots who pass prescribed examinations conducted by Directorate General of Civil Aviation to become eligible to work as CFI/PII.

[Translation]

Evaluation of Public Undertakings

289. SHRIMATI SANGEETA KUMARI SINGH DEO:
SHRI SUNIL KUMAR MAHATO:

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

(a) the machinery in place for evaluation of the public undertakings;

(b) whether the said machinery is unable to make evaluation at the prevailing market price;

(c) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to adopt new technique in the evaluation process?

THE MINISTER OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV):
(a) There are machineries for evaluation of performance of CPSEs. These include (1) quarterly performance review by the concerned administrative Ministry/Department. (2) annual performance review under the MoU system by the Department of Public Enterprises, (3) performance review by the Apex Committee and the Inter-Ministerial Committee in respect of Navratna and Miniratna CPSEs respectively.

(b) No, Sir,

(c) Does not apply.

(d) Does not apply.

[English]

Doubling of Railway Lines in Kerala

290. SHRI P.C. THOMAS: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the work on doubling of railway lines from Kayumkulam and Emakulam via Kottayam and Alpuza is in progress;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of the portions in these railway lines where provision of doubling is yet to be made; and

(d) the time schedule fixed for completion of works on these projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) Patch doubling works on Emakulam-Mulanturutti via Tripunittura (17.37 kms), Mulanturutti-Kuruppantara (24 kms), Kayankulam-Mavelikara (7.89 kms), Mavelikara-Chengannur (12.30 kms) & Chengannur-Chingavanam (26.5 kms) on Kottayam route and Kayankulam-Cheppad (7.76 kms) & Cheppad-Haripad (5.28 kms) on Alleppey route have been taken up.

(c) At present, both of these routes via Kottayam/Alleppey are single line.

(d) The on-going doubling works are expected to be completed in next 2-3 years period.

[Translation]

Airport at Navi Mumbai

291. SHRI EKNATH MAHADEO GAIKWAD:
SHRI MOHAN RAWALE:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to refer to reply to Unstarred Question No. 2434 dated August 17, 2006 regarding 'Airport at Navi Mumbai' and state:

(a) whether the simulation study done by the International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) for setting up of airport at Navi Mumbai has been examined by the Airports Authority of India (AAI);

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by AAI thereon?

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

(b) The simulation study indicates that simultaneous aircraft operations from the existing airport at Mumbai and the proposed airport at Navi Mumbai is feasible.

(c) The report has been sent to City & Industrial Development Corporation of Maharashtra Limited. They have also been requested to furnish more details about the financial aspect of the proposal.

Agreement between India and Brazil

292. PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA:
SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK:

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

(a) whether any agreement has been signed between India and Brazil to reduce the dependence on oil and to increase the production of Ethanol in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the benefits likely to be accrued to the country therefrom?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL): (a) to (c) Government had entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Federative Republic of Brazil on April 8, 2002 for enhancing their cooperation in the field of ethanol blending with transport fuels, on the basis of equality and mutual advantage, and identify desirable areas of cooperation, taking into account the experience gained by subject experts and the possibilities available.

A team from Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL) visited Brazil in September 2006 to explore the possibilities of acquiring sugarcane acreage and putting up ethanol manufacturing industrial units in Brazil.

[English]

Appointment of Airport Regulator

293. SHRI PRABODH PANDA:
SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL:
SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to appoint a new airport regulator which will control issues related to airport functions;

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

(c) whether the new airport regulator would replace the existing Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA);

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government proposes to bring in any entry barriers for new airlines; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) Airports Economic Regulatory Authority (AERA) is proposed to be set up, through an Act of Parliament, to fix, review and approve tariff structure for the aeronautical services and monitor pre-set performance standards at Indian airports. The Authority will ensure a level playing field for all categories of airport operators and also oversee and deal with natural monopoly and common user/carrier segments of airports.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arises.

(e) and (f) The matter is under consideration of the Government.

[Translation]

Agreement on Siachin

294. DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY:
SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether India and Pakistan have reached to a solution on Siachin;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the issues on which both of the countries have agreed?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY):

(a) to (c) The India-Pakistan Foreign Secretary level talks were held on November 14-15, 2006. Both sides agreed to continue the discussions to resolve the Siachen issue in a peaceful manner.

[English]

Deficiencies Noticed in Rajdhani Express

295. SHRI TUKARAM GANGADHAR GADAKH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways are aware that the repairing and checking of berths in some Rajdhani Express are not being done regularly;

(b) whether the Railways are aware that in some 3 AC coaches of New Delhi-Guwahati and other Rajdhani Express, the lock of side berth is broken and nobody bothers to repair those berths despite mentioning the same by the passenger in suggestion leaflet given on the train;

(c) whether the Railways are aware about the filthy condition of toilet in 3AC coaches of Rajdhani Express; and

(d) if so, the measures taken/being taken by the Railways to check up the Above-mentioned deficiencies in such prestigious trains and maintain status of these trains?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS: (SHRI R. VELU): (a) All trains including Rajdhani Express are subjected to through checking and maintenance including repairing of berths as required during primary/secondary maintenance schedule at coaching depots where infrastructural facilities are available for maintenance of coaches.

(b) Proper attention is being given towards provision/repair of items of passenger amenities of all coaches including AC 3 Tier.

In long distance trains like Rajdhani Express, certain defects do occur in coaches sometimes, which are taken care of either enroute by escorting staff or at the end of journey and particular attention is paid to defects recorded in complaint cum suggestion book.

(c) and (d) Rakes of all trains including Rajdhani Express are attended for interior cleanliness including toilet cleaning before placement of rake on platform. With the continuous use during journey especially trains covering long distance, toilets tend to become dirty and are a cause of passenger complaints. Cleaning staff are deputed to escort prestigious trains like Rajdhani and Shatabdi Express for enroute cleaning. They clean coach toilets periodically as also on demand from passengers.

[Translation]

Sale of Kerosene in Packed Tins

296. SHRI SHISHUPAL PATLE:
SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR:
PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR:

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

(a) whether the public sector oil companies are contemplating to sale kerosene in packed tins;

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

(c) the time by which it is likely to be made available in the market?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL): (a) and (b) It is planned to introduce sale of kerosene in small packs on trial basis in selected markets initially to assess the acceptability of product in small packs by customers. It is envisaged that kerosene would be made available in small packs of 1 litre to customers who are not covered under the Public Distribution System (PDS).

(c) It is projected that the trial project for selling kerosene in small packs would commence by the middle of next year.

[English]

Setting up of Aerodrome at Kanyakumari

297. SHRI A.V. BELLARMIN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to set up an Aerodrome at Kanyakumari;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Kanyakumari is situated at an aerial distance of 77 Km. from Trivandrum International Airport. At present, there is no demand from any airline Company for setting up of an Aerodrome at Kanyakumari. Hence, Airports Authority of India (AAI) has no plan to develop an aerodrome at Kanyakumari.

Modernisation of FPIs

298. SHRI RANEN BARMAN: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to modernize the food processing industries in the country, to make it a high technology sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the increased export target of processed foods would be achieved; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) and (b) Ministry of Food Processing Industries extends financial assistance for Technology Upgradation/Modernization/establishment of food processing units in the form of grant-in-aid to all implementing agencies @ 25% subject to maximum of Rs. 50 lakhs in general areas or 33.33% subject to a maximum of Rs. 75 lakhs in difficult areas of cost of plant and machinery and technical civil works.

(c) and (d) According to the export data upto July 2006, the target of Rs. 22538.18 crores is likely to be achieved.

[Translation]

Availability of Domestic LPG

299. SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the purposes for which the use of Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) has been permitted by the Government;

(b) whether due to other uses of LPG, the availability of domestic LPG is being affected; and

(c) if so, the measures taken/being taken by the Government to meet the requirement?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL): (a) Government has allowed Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) to market Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) in domestic, non-domestic (packed and bulk) and auto LPG sectors.

(b) and (c) At present, there is a deficit of LPG from indigenous sources in the country and therefore LPG imports are arranged to meet the total demand of LPG in the country. The requirement of LPG imports in the country is worked out considering the total demand including domestic, non-domestic and auto LPG sector and indigenous availability of LPG in the country. Availability of LPG for domestic use has not been affected due to other usages of LPG.

Submission of Report of Sachar Committee

300. SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPPA:
SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI:
SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA:

Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to refer to reply given to Unstarred Question No. 502 on July 27, 2006 regarding Sachar Committee on Muslim Community and state:

(a) whether the Justice Rajender Sachar Committee has submitted its report to the Government;

(b) if so, the details of the findings of the Committee and follow-up action taken by the Government thereon;

(c) if not, the reasons for non-submission of report so far; and

(d) the time by which the Committee is likely to submit its report?

THE MINISTER OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI A.R. ANTULAY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) It is proposed to table the report of the Committee in both Houses of Parliament shortly.

(c) and (d) Does not arise.

*[English]***HIV Test In Armed Forces**

301. SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has decided to make HIV test compulsory for selection in the Armed Forces; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) to (b) Government has not taken a decision to make HIV test compulsory for selection in the Armed Forces.

Wagon Building Factory in Kerala

302. SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways propose to set up a wagon building factory in Kerala:

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

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

(b) and (c) Do not arise. Only a few Railway wagons are built departmentally; most such Rolling Stock is built in units in Private and Public Sector. At the moment sufficient capacity to meet Indian Railway requirement is available in existing wagon manufacturing units in the country.

ONGC Projects

303. SHRI PARSURAM MAJHI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) proposes to set up Refineries, Petro-chemical Plants, Power Plants and Liquefied Natural Gas Plants in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith capacity of each of those plants;

(c) whether the sites have been identified for these projects;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the time by which the works on these projects are likely to be started and completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL): (a) to (e) Oil & Natural Gas Corporation Ltd. (ONGC) is a navratna company and its Board of Directors is empowered to take investment decisions on setting up of specific value chain integration projects within the core area of competence of the company. ONGC periodically identifies, as per their strategic business plan, such projects which are considered to achieve growth with stability through enhanced synergies amongst its operational units.

In line with the above, ONGC have identified the following projects, the implementation of which will depend upon the techno commercial viability of each project:

1. Refinery

- (i) Well head refinery at Rajasthan
- (ii) Coastal refinery at Kakinada, Andhra Pradesh.
- (iii) Expansion of existing refining capacity of Mangalore Refinery & Petrochemicals Ltd. (MRPL), the subsidiary of ONGC, from 9.69 MMTA to 15 MMTA.

2. Petrochemicals

- (i) Petrochemicals plant at Dahej.
- (ii) Petrochemicals plant (Aromatics) at Mangalore.
- (iii) An Olefin based petrochemicals plant at Mangalore, based on successful tie up with LNG source in future.

3. Power plants

- (i) Gas based power plant at Tripura.

4. LNG Plant

- (i) LNG re-gas terminal and associated downstream projects at Mangalore.

The financial outlays and timelines for these projects can be worked out only after completion of detailed techno economic feasibility study.

Import of Cooking Gas

304. SHRI PANNIAN RAVINDRAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) proposes to import cooking gas through Cochin Port;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the sources from which the material is proposed to be imported; and

(d) the present status of the proposal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. There is a proposal of Indian Oil Corporation for setting up LPG import facility at Cochin. The proposal is still at the study stage and if viability and feasibility of the project is established, IOC would consider setting up LPG import facility at Cochin.

Railway Line Project In Jharkhand

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

(a) the funds spent by Railways on Hazaribagh-Kodarma railway line project of Jharkhand;

(b) whether the work of this project is going on a very slow pace;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the time by which the work on this project is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Hazaribagh-Kodarma section is part of Kodarma-Barkakana-Ranchi new line project. An amount of Rs. 321.79 crore has been spent on the project up to 31.3.2006.

(b) and (c) The work on this project is affected due to obstruction by villagers, miscreant activities and failure of contractors.

(d) Hazaribagh-Kodarma section is likely to be completed in about 2 years period.

Atrocities against SCs/STs

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

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

(a) whether the Government has constituted the Monitoring Committee for effective coordination to develop a mechanism for curbing atrocities against the SCs and STs;

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

(c) whether the said Committee has suggested any mechanism to curb atrocities against the SCs and STs;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A Committee under the chairpersonship of the Hon'ble Minister (Social Justice & Empowerment) has been constituted for effective coordination to devise ways and means to curb offences of untouchability and atrocities against Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes and effective implementation of the Protection of Civil Rights Act, 1955 and the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989. While the Hon'ble Minister for Tribal Affairs is a Special Invitee, the Secretaries in the Ministries of Social Justice & Empowerment, Tribal Affairs, Home Affairs, Department of Justice, the National Commission for Scheduled Castes and the National Commission for Scheduled Tribes, Joint Secretary (National Crime Records Bureau) in the MHA, two non-official representatives from amongst the SCs and one non-official representative from amongst STs are Members and the Joint Secretary-in-charge of Scheduled Castes Development Division is the Member-Secretary.

(c) to (e) The provisions of the PCR Act and POA Act are implemented by the State Government/Union Territory Administrations. The committee held its first meeting on 18.9.2006 in which various issues for curbing

atrocities against the meeting on 18.9.2006 in which various issues for curbing atrocities against the SCs/STs like advisories to State Governments/UT Administrations proposed installation of Toll Free phone connection at the Headquarters of the National Commission for Scheduled Castes, institution of a National Award for such untouchability and combating offences of atrocities against SCs, holding regular meetings by the State and District-Level Vigilance & Monitoring Committee, sensitization of police personnel, public prosecutors and judicial officers, etc.

[Translation]

Hotels in Foreign Countries

307. PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to open hotels in foreign countries;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the details of such countries;

(c) whether there is any plan for participation by foreign companies to open these hotels;

(d) whether all hotels being run by public undertaking are earning profit; and

(e) if so, total profit earned during first half of the current year?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) No, Sir. The Government has no proposal to open hotels in foreign countries.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

(d) and (e) The India Tourism Development Corporation, a Public Sector Undertaking in Ministry of Tourism presently owns eight hotels in addition to managing one Hotel and having five Joint Venture Hotels. During the first half of the current financial year (*i.e.*, April, 2006 to September, 2006), the profitability position of the hotels are as under:

(Rs. in crore)

Sr. No.	ITDC owned Hotels	Net Profit/Loss (Before Tax) (Provisional)
1.	Ashok Hotel, New Delhi	7.74
2.	Janpath Hotel, New Delhi	(-) 0.38
3.	Samrat Hotel, New Delhi	0.86
4.	Lalitha Mahal Palace Hotel, Mysore	0.18
5.	Hotel Jaipur Ashok, Jaipur	(-) 0.86
6.	Hotel Jammu Ashok, Jammu	(-) 0.10
7.	Hotel Kalinga Ashok, Bhubaneswar	(-) 0.53
8.	Hotel Patliputra Ashok, Patna	(-) 0.02
Managed Hotel		
1.	Hotel Bharatpur Ashok, Bharatpur	(-) 0.36
Joint Venture Hotels		
1.	Hotel Brahmaputra Ashok, Guwahati	(-) 0.18
2.	Hotel Pondicherry Ashok, Pondicherry	0.17
3.	Hotel Ranchi Ashok, Ranchi	0.10
4.	Hotel Lake View Ashok, Bhopal	0.05
5.	Hotel Doni Polo Ashok, Itanagar	0.19

Alternative Source of Fuel

308. SHRI SUNIL KUMAR MAHATO:
SHRI HARIKEWAL PRASAD:

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

(a) whether the prices of petroleum products soar due to excessive dependence on foreign countries for it and not promoting alternative source of fuel;

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government in this regard;

(c) the steps taken by the Government for promoting alternative source of fuel; and

(d) the success achieved by the Government so far in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL): (a) and (b) Global prices of crude oil and petroleum products reached new highs in the past two years. The Indian basket of crude oil touched an all-time high of \$75.20 per bbl on 8th August 2006.

This steep increase in prices is having major impact on the Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) and Indian economy, as about 78 percent of crude oil requirements are imported. Given the high level of import dependence, the impact of volatile international prices needs to be reflected in the domestic prices.

Since passing on the entire impact of the steep increase in the oil prices to the consumers would have resulted in steep increase in the domestic prices, the Government took certain measures in favour of vulnerable sections of society by ensuring that 87% of the burden was shared by the Government, the upstream Oil Companies and Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs), and passing on only 13% of the burden to the consumers.

While moderate increases have been made in the price of petrol and diesel, domestic LPG price has not been revised since November, 2004 and PDS Kerosene since March 2002. While alternative fuels are being developed and tested for their adaptability to engines and machines, as well as their environmental impacts, the available quantities are far below the required quantities. Their progressive use will take a few years to make any substantial impact, hence the dependence on petroleum products will continue.

(c) Government has taken several initiatives for promoting alternative fuels including Bio-fuels, hydrogen and fuel cells and development of electric and hybrid vehicles. MOP & NG has notified vide notification No. 580 (E) dt. 20th Sept., 2006 that subject to commercial viability, the Oil Marketing Companies shall sell 5% ethanol blended-petrol as per Bureau of Indian Standard specification through out the country except North Eastern States, J & K, Andaman & Nicobar Islands and Lakshadweep w.e.f. 1.11.2006. As regards bio-diesel, this Ministry has announced a Bio-diesel Purchase Policy which has provided for 20 Purchase Centres to be set up by OMCs all over the country, where these companies would purchase bio-diesel which meets the standards prescribed by Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) at a price valid for six months. The Ministry of New & Renewable Energy is carrying out R & D activities on applications of

bio-diesel for stationary and transport applications including testing diesel engines using different blend levels of bio-diesel with diesel. That Ministry has set up a National Hydrogen Energy Board and prepared the National Hydrogen Energy Road Map which provides pathway for production, storage and use of Hydrogen Energy in the country upto 2020.

(d) Ethanol gasoline blend has been commercialized in the country and biodiesel blend is in the demonstration stage. Studies are in progress for using hydrogen as transport fuel.

Investment by Oil Companies

309. DR. DHIRENDRA AGARWAL:
SHRI SUNIL KUMAR MAHATO:

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

(a) whether the Public Sector Oil Companies have invested a big amount in and outside the country;

(b) if so, the total investment made by these companies during the last three years, country-wise and company-wise; and

(c) the profit earned through such investment by these companies during the said period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[English]

Incident of near-miss in Domestic Skies

310. DR. M. JAGANNATH: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether a massive mid-air disaster was averted in the Gujarat skies in September, 2006 when a Jet Airways Boeing carrying more than 100 passengers and the crew on board swerved away after coming within a grazing 500 feet of an Air Force Sukhoi-30 MKI fighter as reported in the Times of India dated September 22, 2006;

(b) if so, the facts thereof;

(c) whether the Government has instituted an Enquiry Committee to assess the reasons for the growing incidents of near-miss in the domestic skies;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the remedial measures taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to avert such incidents in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) No, Sir. There was no possibility of mid air collision as the fighter aircraft was in visual contact. However, due to the speed at which the feather aircraft travels the Traffic and Collision Avoidance System (TCAS) of transport aircraft of Jet Airways gave a warning as the fighter aircraft came in the vicinity of the transport aircraft.

(c) and (d) Separate Inquiry committees have been constituted by Indian Air Force and Director General of Civil Aviation.

(e) Safety of aircraft operations and avoiding airmiss incidents is ensured by Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) through relevant Civil Aviation Requirements, making installation of Airborne Collision Avoidance System (ACAS) and Mode "S" transponder on aircraft mandatory. Apart from this Airports Authority of India (AAI) have installed Automatic Dependent Surveillance and Controller Pilot Data Link Communication (CPDLC) at Delhi and Mumbai airports. Refresher courses and proficiency checks for controllers are being carried out annually. DGCA has also advised AAI to ensure strict compliance of Air Traffic Control procedures and instructions.

[Translation]

Catering Services at Stations

311. SHRI RAKESH SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of proposals pending with Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation for provision of catering services at railway stations under Jabalpur Railway Division; and

(b) the reasons for delay in this matter and the time by which a decision is likely to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) There are proposals for installation of 27 Water Vending Machines, 34 Automatic Vending Machines and 8 Food Plazas/Fast Food units at stations of Jabalpur Division of West Central Railway with Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) and it has been decided to set up these units by awarding licences through tender process. There is no delay in this regard.

Linking of North-Eastern Region with Rail Lines

312. SHRIMATI KIRAN MAHESHWARI:
SHRI PRASANTA PRADHAN:
SHRI VIKRAMBHAI ARJANBHAI MADAM:
SHRI JASHUBHAI DHANABHAI BARAD:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to make a plan to link the States in the North-Eastern region of the country with rail lines;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the amount likely to be incurred on the said plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (c) No, Sir. However, a number of new line and gauge conversion projects have been taken up to improve rail connectivity to the North-Eastern States. These projects require about Rs. 6000 crore for completion.

Shortage of Wagons

313. SHRI RAJNARAYAN BUDHOLIA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a shortage of wagons in Railways;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps being taken by the Railways to meet the shortage of wagons?

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

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

*[English]***Engines of Airbus Aircraft**

314. SHRI TARIT BARAN TOPDAR: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether non-availability of spare parts of engines are the reasons for grounding of Airbuses of Indian Airlines;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Indian Airlines has failed to adhere payment schedule for the engines of Airbuses;

(d) if so, the details and the reasons therefor; and

(e) the remedial measures proposed to be made to remedy the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) No, Sir. The A-320 aircraft were grounded due to non-availability of serviceable engines and aircraft undergoing major maintenance.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) Shortage of engines has resulted in grounding of some aircraft in Indian Airlines fleet. Since April, 2006, 20 engines have been exported for refurbishment to repair agencies out of which 8 have been received back. Negotiations are on with outside vendors for refurbishment of another six engines. Short-term lease of three engines have also been extended upto 31.1.2007. The overall effect of engines being received from outside agencies has improved the availability of aircraft for scheduled operations.

Pathankot Airport

315. PROF. CHANDER KUMAR: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to upgrade Pathankot Airport;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

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

(b) and (c) A New Terminal Building to cater to 300 passengers, apron to park 2 AB-320/B-737-800 class of aircraft at a time, link taxiway, car park for 200 cars and allied works at Pathankot airport have already been completed at a cost of Rs. 35 crores (approx).

*[Translation]***Fire Proof Coaches**

316. SHRI MAHESH KANODIA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways are aware that fire break often causes accidents in trains;

(b) if so, whether the Railways are considering to make the interior of rail coaches fire proof; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. With a view to enhance safety against fire in passenger trains, Indian Railways are continuously improving material used in coaches to make them more and more fire retardant and less toxic in the event of burning to reduce chances of damage caused by fire. Some of the important items so upgraded are as under:

1. Curtain cloth of AC Coaches.
2. Compreg board for coach flooring.
3. Seat upholsteries.
4. FRP Modular toilets.
5. Natural Fibre Thermoset Composite sheet and Asbestos free limpet sheets for roof ceiling.
6. Laminated sheets for paneling.
7. PVC flooring.
8. Denafied thermal bonded polyster blocks/PU foam for seats and berths.

Reduction in Fee on E-Ticketing

317. SHRI MAHESH KANODIA:
SHRI BHUPENDRASINH SOLANKI:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) propose to reduce the rate of fee on e-ticketing; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) No, Sir. At present no such proposal is under consideration.

(b) Does not arise.

[English]

New Train between Mumbai CST and Manmad

318. SHRI DEVIDAS PINGLE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the modification of Mumbai Chhatrapati Shivaji Terminus (CST) has been completed;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Railways have any plan to start new train between Mumbai CST and Manmad; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) No, Sir. The work of remodeling of Mumbai Chhatrapati Shivaji Terminus is in progress and planned for completion by June 2008.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Gauge Conversion of Railway Line at Vani Railway Station

319. SHRI SUBODH MOHITE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the conversion of metre gauge railway line into broad gauge railway line at 'Vani' railway station under Central Railways in Madhya Pradesh has been completed;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the time by which the track is likely to be made operational on that route;

(d) the names of the trains which are proposed to be run on that route;

(e) whether the developmental work of 'Vani' railway station has been completed; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a), (b), (e) and (f) There is no meter gauge of Central Railway. Neither there is Vani station on the Railway. However, there is a station by the name 'Wani' which is already on broad gauge. The work of provision of panel interlocking, signaling & communication facilities for introduction of passenger services on Wani-Impalkutti section is under execution by Central Railway.

(c) It is likely to be made operational for passenger trains by March, 2007.

(d) Introduction of 7609/7610 Purna-Patna Express (weekly) via Nanded-Adilabad-Majri-Nagpur and extension of 7605/7606 Mumbai CST-Nanded Nandigram Express upto Nagpur via Adilabad-Majri (after gauge conversion) have been announced in Railway Budget 2006-07.

Requirement of Funds for Railway Projects

320. SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways are facing any financial constraints in meeting the funds required for its projects;

(b) if so, the total funds required for actual implementation of all the announced projects in the stipulated time period; and

(c) the steps being taken by the Railways to generate funds for the projects?

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

(b) The ongoing projects require over Rs. 54,000 crore for completion.

(c) A number of initiatives have been taken for generating additional resources through Public/Private Partnership, cost sharing by State Governments, funding through Ministry of Defence and National Projects. Funds have also been allocated through increased internal resource generation.

Cancellation of Festive Special Trains

321. SHRI SUBODH MOHITE: Will the Minister of RAILWAY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways had to cancel special trains being run during the festive season for want of passengers;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the total loss suffered by the Railways due to the cancellation of such trains;

(d) whether the number of passengers is assessed before introducing special trains; and

(e) if so, the reasons for cancellation of such trains?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (e) To clear extra rush of passengers, Indian Railways plan special trains on various sectors subject to the pattern, operational feasibility and availability of resources. The traffic pattern is closely monitored. This year also, Indian Railways planned various services/trips on different sectors. However, of the planned trips, only very few trips were not run as the traffic on some sectors was found to be less than the anticipated. The details are as under:

Sector	Trips planned	Trips actually run
Howrah-Bhubaneswar	3	1
Bhubaneswar-Howrah	3	1
Howrah-Mumbai CST	6	4
Mumbai CST-Howrah	6	4
Guwahati-Sealdah	6	4
Sealdah-Guwahati	6	4
Nagpur-Patna	1	0

As the resources like stock, crew etc. planned to be deployed on such special trains on the grounds of passenger amenity, upon being released, are used for other services, no loss is suffered.

Facilities to Unreserved Passengers

322. SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the number of passengers travelling on unreserved tickets are more among the total number of railway passengers;

(b) if so, the break up the number of railway passengers travelling on reserved and unreserved tickets;

(c) whether the Railways are comparatively benefitted more by the unreserved passengers than the reserved passengers;

(d) if so, the comparative data in this regard;

(e) the expenditure incurred to provide facilities to the unreserved passengers by the Railways during 2005-06 and 2006-07;

(f) whether any scheme has been formulated by the Railways to provide more facilities to the unreserved passengers; and

(g) if so, the details thereof alongwith funds earmarked for the purpose?

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

(b) As per the latest available data, approximately 6.5 lakh passengers travel by reserved tickets and 164 lakh passengers on unreserved tickets on an average daily basis.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. Railways incur more losses on unreserved segment of traffic. Although, Indian Railways do not work out the profitability separately for passengers travelling on reserved and unreserved tickets, class-wise profitability analysis of passenger services is worked out which reflects losses in second class ordinary traffic (fully unreserved), suburban traffic (fully unreserved) and second class Mail/Express traffic (partially unreserved).

(e) to (g) Separate data of expenditure incurred on facilities provided to unreserved and reserved passengers

is not maintained. However, the expenditure incurred under Plan Head "Passenger Amenities" during 2005-06 (provisional) is Rs. 256.23 crores. However, an amount of Rs. 353.20 crores have been allotted for Passenger Amenities in the Budget Estimate for 2006-07 and the expenditure against this allotment incurred to end of September, 2006 is Rs. 115.73 crores. Recently Unreserved Ticketing System (UTS) has been introduced for the convenience of unreserved passengers. Works relating to provision of UTS at about 800 stations in Indian Railways and installation of Automatic Ticket Vending Machines at 200 locations in Mumbai area have been sanctioned in the budget for 2006-07 at an estimated cost of Rs. 112 crores.

Development of Civil Aviation Projects in Rajasthan

323. PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the projects sanctioned for development of Civil Aviation in Rajasthan during the Tenth Five Year Plan;

(b) whether the work is proceeding as per schedule;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the steps taken/proposed to be taken for timely completion of these projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (d) Several projects have been taken up in Rajasthan. The details of which are as under:

At Jaipur airport, extension of runway and associated works at a cost of Rs. 25 crores has been completed. Construction of new International Terminal Building and allied works at a cost of Rs. 63.73 crores (expected date of completion by March, 2008) is in progress. Tender process is on for the construction of apron in front of New Terminal Building at a cost of Rs. 30.32 crores.

At Jaisalmer airport, tender process has been initiated for construction of a boundary wall around the newly acquired land at a cost of Rs. 1.02 crores.

Widening and resurfacing of taxiway and apron at a cost of Rs. 11.45 crores (expected date of completion by March, 2007) is in progress at Jodhpur airport.

At Udaipur airport, construction of new Terminal Building complex at a cost of Rs. 46.64 crores (expected date of completion by March, 2007) and extension of apron with link taxiway, construction of isolation bay with link taxiway, strengthening of existing apron and taxiway including shoulders and associated pavement works at a cost of Rs. 11.10 crores (expected date of completion by December, 2007) are in progress.

The works are proceeding as per schedule.

[English]

Separate Airline for NE Region

324. SHRI M.K. SUBBA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has any proposal under consideration to set up a separate regional airline for the North-eastern region;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the regional services are likely to be duly subsidized to cater to the North Eastern region; and

(d) if so, the manner and extent to which the subsidy is proposed to be funded?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (d) The North Eastern Council (NEC) had commissioned a feasibility study by Foundation for Aviation and Sustainable Tourism (FAST) for improving air connectivity and starting a regional airlines for the North Eastern Region (NER). The report submitted by FAST has been examined by a Committee under the chairmanship of H.E. The Governor of Manipur. In its report submitted to the NEC on 31-10-2006, the committee has recommended (i) setting up of a regional airline through public private partnership to operate in the NER or (ii) provision of minimum subsidy to airlines through a Reverse Bidding Process to operate the required services in the NER. The proposal is under consideration of the NEC.

Autonomy to PSUs

325. SHRI NAVEEN JINDAL: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to grant more powers to public sector undertakings (PSUs) as reported in the *Tribune* dated October 31, 2006;

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

(c) the benefits that are likely to accrue to these PSUs?

THE MINISTER OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI SANTOSH MOHAN DEV):

(a) to (c) The National Common Minimum Programme (NCMP) provides that the Government is committed to a strong and effective public sector, and to devolve full functional and commercial autonomy to the successful, profit-making companies in a competitive environment. In line with this policy, and on the basis of the recommendations of the Ad-Hoc Group of Experts (AGE) enhanced powers relating to capital expenditure, establishing joint ventures/subsidiaries, human resources management and approval of foreign tours of functional directors, etc. have already been delegated in August, 2005 to the Boards of Navratna, Miniratna and other profit making Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs). The remaining recommendations of the AGE are under consideration.

Research and Development Work on 'Trishul'

326. SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL:
SHRI DUSHYANT SINGH:
SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has decided to stop research and development work on the indigenous ship defence missile Trishul as reported in the *Hindu* dated October 15, 2006;

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

(c) the number of tests conducted and the amount spent on developing the Trishul missile so far; and

(d) the likely impact of stopping the research and development work on Trishul missile on the development of other missiles?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY):

(a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) So far, 82 number of flight tests have been conducted and Rs. 275 40 crore have been spent on development of Trishul missile for all the three services and ground systems.

(d) Does not arise.

Integrated Food Zones

327. SHRI BADIGA RAMAKRISHNA: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the aims and objectives of the Integrated Food Zones or Mega Food Parks;

(b) the infrastructural facilities provided by the Integrated Food Zones for promotion of processed food in the country;

(c) whether any consultations have been held about this scheme with the stakeholders and the Planning Commission; and

(d) if so, the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) to (d) The Ministry of Food Processing Industries has held consultations with Planning Commission as well as other stakeholders for restructuring of the existing infrastructure schemes including on formulation of a scheme for Integrated Food Zones/Mega Food Park as a part of the exercise for preparation of XI Plan. The objective behind the concept is to provide for development of state of the art infrastructure for Food Processing; establish sustainable raw material supply chain; facilitate induction of latest technology etc. The infrastructure facilities envisaged include, both general infrastructure like land, road, drainage, sewerage, power supply, water supply etc. and technical infrastructure like cooling chambers, grading & sorting unit, quality testing laboratory etc. The XI Plan schemes have not been finalized by the Planning Commission.

Railways' TV Channel

328. SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have any proposal to start exclusive TV channel to provide updated information to the travelling public;

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

(c) the time by which it is likely to be started?

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

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Introduction of Laptop Computers for Railway Officials

329. SHRI KASHIRAM RANA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways are planning to introduce laptop computers for the use of its officials;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the total cost involved therein; and

(d) the extent to which the performance of the officials is likely to improve with the introduction of laptops?

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

(b) there are 4347 officers in Indian Railways eligible for provision of Laptops.

(c) A ceiling limit of Rs. 55,000 per laptop has been fixed. The total cost will depend on the number of requests received for provision of laptop from eligible officers, who have an option to choose between a desktop and laptop computer.

(d) The performance and efficiency of officers is expected to improve as data and information would be readily available to officers at any place and time.

Airports in NE Region

330. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is considering to expand air service in North-Eastern States;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of airports suitable for air services in North-Eastern States and the number of airports available there and the conditions of the same;

(d) whether the existing airports including Bagdogra are being or proposed to be modernised upto the level of other important airports of the country;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) The Government has laid down route dispersal guidelines with a view to achieve better regulation of air transport services taking into account the need for air transport services of different regions of the country including North-East Region. It is, however, up to the airlines to provide air services to specific places depending upon the traffic demand and commercial viability.

As such, the airlines are free to operate anywhere in the country subject to compliance of route dispersal guidelines issued by Government. Air services of Indian Airlines and Alliance Air in the North-East States have steadily increased over the past year and presently 109 flights/week are offered by Indian Airlines and Alliance Air to and within the North-Eastern Region.

(c) Of the 22 airports available in the North-East 11 are operational at present.

(d) and (e) Yes, Sir. Airports at Agartala, Dibrugarh, Guwahati, Silchar, Shillong and Bagdogra are being modernised/upgraded.

(f) Does not arise.

Gauge Conversion between Ahmedabad and Udaipur

331. SHRIMATI JAYABEN B. THAKKAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) when the work of gauge conversion of Railway line between Ahmedabad and Udaipur is likely to start; and

(b) the details of budget provisions for this project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) This work is not yet sanctioned.

(b) Does not arise.

Development of Chilka Lake

332. SHRI JUAL ORAM: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 4264 on 18th May, 2006 regarding development of Chilka Lake and state:

(a) the amount out of Rs. 389.05 lakh spent on the development of tourist destination near Chilka Lake in 2005-06.

(b) whether any fresh allotment of funds has been made for the same purpose during 2006-07; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) An amount of Rs. 389.05 lakh was sanctioned for development of Chilka Lake in the month of March 2006.

Implementation of projects is the responsibility of the State Government. Ministry of Tourism, Government of India monitors the progress of the projects from time to time. The balance fund for a project is released only on receipt of completion/utilization certificate in respect of the installment released earlier for it.

(b) and (c) No, Sir.

Anti-Collision Device

333. SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any progress has so far been made in installing Anti-Collision Device (ACD) in trains;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the expenditure incurred on the project so far; and

(d) the target fixed for installation of ACD in the entire Railways?

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

(b) Railway has carried out the Site Acceptance Test of Anti-collision Device (ACD) system deployed on Katihar-New Jalpaiguri-Guwahati during the period 31-7.2005 to 17.8.2005. During the tests, the system developed by Konkan Railway Corporation Limited (KRCL) was found to be having certain deficiencies as compared to the relevant specifications. Installation of ACD on Guwahati-Tinsukia-Dibrugarh section has also been completed. KRCL has been advised to further improve the ACD system design to eliminate the problems like generation of false messages, unnecessary brake applications and speed restrictions and to fit it in the remaining locomotives of North-east Frontier Railway (NFR). Final evaluation on NFR will be taken up on completion of all pending works by KRCL. ACD has also been installed on KRCL and shall be commissioned after successful implementation and certification of ACD project on NFR.

(c) The expenditure so far on ACD project on Indian Railways is about Rs. 82.18 Crores.

(d) After elimination of deficiencies observed on NFR and successful completion of the project on NFR, it is proposed to provide the ACD system over the Broad Gauge network of Indian Railways by 2013-14.

[Translation]

Stoppage of Trains

334. DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state the status report in regard to the stoppage of the trains demanded at the railway stations under the Ratlam and Kota Division and approval accorded for the same during 2006?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): Demands and status report are as under:

Kota Division

S.No.	Stations	Train No.	Status
1	2	3	4
1.	Kota	2917/2918 Nizamuddin-Ahmedabad Gujarat Sampark Kranti Express (tri-weekly), 2449/2450 Nizamuddin-Madgaon Goa Sampark Kranti Express (weekly), 2653/2654 Chandigarh-Kochuveli Kerala Sampark Kranti	Operational stoppage of these trains has been converted into commercial stoppage from 15.1.2006

1	2	3	4
		Express (weekly) and 2907/2908. Nizamuddin-Bandra (T) Maharashtra Sampark Kranti Express (bi-weekly)	
2.	Gangapur City	5635/5636 Okha-Guwahati Dwarka Express (weekly)	Stoppage has been provided from 1.7.2006.
3.	Vikramgarh Alot	2903/2904 Mumbai Central-Amritsar Golden Temple Mail	Not justified.
4.	Shamgarh	2471/2472 Mumbai Central-Jammu Tawi Swaraj Express (4 days a week) and 8773/8474 Puri-Jodhpur Express (weekly)	Not justified.
5.	Dakhania Talav	2181-2182 Jabalpur-Jaipur Dayodaya Express	Not justified.
6.	Kapren	2181/2182 Jabalpur-Jaipur Dayodaya Express	Not justified.
7.	Lakheri	2181/2182 Jabalpur-Jaipur Dayodaya Express	Not justified.
8.	Bayana	2415/2416 Indore-Nizamuddin Express	Not justified.
9.	Bayana	2963/2964 Nizamuddin-Udaipur Mewar Express.	Not justified.
10.	Bharatpur	2471/2472 Mumbai Central-Jammu Tawi Swaraj Express (4 days a week)	Not justified.
11.	Bhawani Mandi	2973/2974 Indore-Jaipur Express (bi-weekly) and 2979/2980 Jaipur-Bandra (T) Express (tri-weekly)	Not justified
12.	Bundi	2963/2964 Nizamuddin-Udaipur Mewar Express and 2965/2966 Jaipur-Udaipur Express.	Not justified.
13.	Mandalgarh	2963/2964 Nizamuddin-Udaipur Mewar Express and 2965/2966 Jaipur-Udaipur Express	Not justified
14.	Antah	2181/2182 Jabalpur-Jaipur Dayodaya Express	Not justified
15.	Chau Mahla	2903/2904 Mumbai Central-Amritsar Golden Temple Mail	Not justified
16.	Gangapur City	2963/2964 Nizamuddin-Udaipur Mewar Express	Not justified
<i>Ratlam Division</i>			
1.	Chittaurgarh	2965/2966 Udaipur-Jaipur Express	Stoppage has been provided from 1.1.2006
2.	Ratlam	2917/2918 Ahmedabad-Nizamuddin Gujarat Samark Kranti Express (tri-weekly)	Stoppage has been provided from 15.1.2006
3.	Thandla Road	2961/2962 Indore-Mumbai Central Avantika Express	Stoppage has been provided from 1.2.2006

1	2	3	4
4.	Meghnagar	2471/2472-2473/2474-2475/2476 Jammu Tawi Mumbai Central/Ahmedabad/Hapa/Jamnagar Express	Stoppage has been provided from 1.2.2006
5.	Chanderiya	2963/2964 Nizamuddin-Udaipur Mewar Express	Stoppage has been provided from 15.3.2006
6.	Ratlam	2431/2432 Thiruvananthapuram-Nizamuddin Rajdhani Express (bi-weekly)	Not justified.
7.	Bamania	2961/2962 Indore-Mumbai Central Avantika Express	Not justified
8.	Dahod	All Mail/Express trains	Not justified
9.	Meghnagar	All Mail/Express trains	Not justified
10.	Kachroad	9303/9304 Ratlam-Bhopal Intercity Exp.	Not justified
11.	Kalisindh	9303/9304 Ratlam-Bhopal Intercity Exp.	Not justified
12.	Berchha	285/286 Chhindwara-Indore Passenger	Under examination and will be provided if found justified.
13.	Shujalpur	285/286 Chhindwara-Indore Passenger	Under examination and will be provided if found justified.
14.	Sehore	285/286 Chhindwara-Indore Passenger	Under examination and will be provided if found justified.
15.	Maksi	285/286 Chhindwara-Indore Passenger	Not justified.
16.	Bairagarh	All Mail/Express trains	Not justified.

Maintenance and Development of Temples in U.P.

335. SHRI HARIKEWAL PRASAD: Will be Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has taken any steps to bring certain temples in Uttar Pradesh under the patronage of Archaeological Survey of India for maintenance and development; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) and (b) The Archaeological Survey of India is in charge of protection and maintenance of the centrally protected monuments which have been declared so under the provisions of Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act, 1958. In the State of Uttar Pradesh a total number of 742 monuments/

sites have been declared as centrally protected, out of which 138 are temples. The conservation, preservation and environmental development of the protected monuments is an ongoing process which is being undertaken by the Archaeological Survey of India.

Construction of Railway Bridges

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

(a) the State-wise number of such rail bridges in the entire country where work has not yet been started despite the sanctioning;

(b) whether construction of bridge at Sharda Nagar Railway crossing has not been started despite of the fact that the bridge has been sanctioned by the Railways; and

(c) if so, the time by which the work on this bridge is likely to be started?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Physical work of construction on 294 road over/under bridges sanctioned

Central	—	11	Western	—	14
Eastern	—	12	East Central	—	10
Northern	—	43	East Coast	—	12
North Eastern	—	15	North Central	—	4
Northeast Frontier	—	3	North Western	—	1
Southern	—	91	South Western	—	26
South Central	—	33	South East Central	—	4
South Eastern	—	10	West Central	—	5

(b) and (c) Execution of work depends upon sanctioning of combined Estimate of the work which is prepared on receipt of detailed cost of approaches, approved plan and design from State Govt. In the case of Sharda nagar level crossing detailed estimate has been prepared which is under examination for sanction. This work was sanctioned in 2005-06 and efforts are under way to finalise the Central Arrangement Drawing, Calling of Tenders and taking up of physical work at site is expected in near future.

[English]

National Institute of Food Technology at Kundli

337. SHRI KULDEEP BISHNOI: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to get up a National Institute of Food Technology at Kundli, Haryana;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) to (c) The Government is setting up a National Institute of Food Technology Entrepreneurship & Management at Kundli in the State of Haryana. The Institute will function as a knowledge center in food

on Railways on cost sharing basis could not be started till now due to various reasons like non receipt of undertaking for cost sharing, closure of Level Crossing (LC), approved plan, estimate for approaches etc. from State Government concerned. The zone-wise position is given below:

processing with emphasis on enter-disciplinary research, developing new products and processes, incubating innovative ideas, provide a forum for interaction for industry, Government, consumers and experts on the emerging contours of the food processing industry, guide and advise on the HRD support required for the sector and the regulatory framework for the industry. The Institute is likely to be partly operational this year.

Production of Natural Gas

338. SHRI K.S. RAO: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the findings and production of natural gas in the country and the need to set up pipelines for transporting and distribution of gas;

(b) the design and carrying capacity of these gas pipelines;

(c) whether the Government proposes to invite private sector in the business of natural gas production, transportation, marketing and distribution; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL): (a) to (d) Exploration acreages for oil and gas are being awarded by the Government under New

Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP) for which 110 Production Sharing Contracts (PSCs) have already been signed. 165 Bids for 52 blocks have been received by the bid closing date of 15.9.2006 under the 6th round of NELP. The bids are presently under evaluation.

Under the NELP, 35 discoveries of oil and gas have been made and 510 MMTOE reserves have been established from 16 discoveries. The natural gas production in the country in the year 2005-06 was 32.19 Billion Cubic Metres (BCM).

The Government acquires right of user in land for the authorized entities to lay gas pipelines both for Government and private companies. The design and carrying capacity of the gas pipeline depends on techno-commercial feasibility, including quantity of gas to be transported. The business of natural gas exploration and production, transportation, marketing and distribution is open to Government and private companies.

Gail is operating more than 5400 Kms. of pipelines with a capacity of around 130 MMSCMD for transportation of natural gas to various customers in the country.

Reliance Gas Transportation and Infrastructure Limited (RGTEL), a subsidiary company of M/s. Reliance Industries Limited, is laying a natural gas pipeline in the Kakinada-Hyderabad-Uran-Ahmedabad sector to cater to the demand for gas of various customers. RGTEL has also been issued Expression of Interest (EOI) for Kakinada-Nellore-Chennai sector.

Gujarat State Petroleum Corporation Limited (GSPCL) has also been issued Expression of Interest (EOI) for Kakinada-Ahmedabad sector. The pipeline will be passing via Vijaywada, Dundigal, Nagpur and Bhopal.

The Government has invited the private sector in natural gas production, transportation, marketing and distribution. Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board Act, 2006 has been enacted to provide a legal frame work for the same. Policy for development of Natural Gas Networks and city/local gas distribution Networks is being formulated by the Government to encourage participation of private sector along with public sector.

Ban on Entry of Non-Passengers Into Platforms

339. SHRI E.G. SUGAVANAM:
SHRI K.C. PALLANI SHAMY:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of revenue collected by the Railways through sale of platform tickets during each of the last three years and the current year;

(b) whether the Railways have any proposal to impose a ban on the entry of non-passengers into the platforms;

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

(d) whether the Railways have conducted any study on the revenue loss while imposing a ban on the issue of platform tickets; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

(b) and (c) The Standing Committee on Railways in their 21st Report (2005-2006) on Terminal Facilities in Metropolitan Cities has recommended that only genuine passengers with the restricted number of accompanying persons should be allowed at the platforms as is being done in the case of airports. Efforts are being made to have a consensus view on the subject. Therefore, no formal decision on this recommendation has yet been taken.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Rail Underbridge in Kota

340. SHRI RAGHUVeer SINGH KOSHAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that the construction work of the rail under bridge at Railway colony in Kota Division under Western Central Railway has not been started as yet, despite having been approved since long;

(b) if so, the details of progress regarding construction work of the said underbridge;

(c) the details of amount sanctioned and released to the Division for the construction of the said underbridge; and

(d) the action plan prepared to start work of said underbridge and the time by which it is likely to be completed?

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

(b) Tender for construction of this underbridge were invited thrice in June, 5, Dec. 05 & April, 06 which could not be finalized due to high rates and lack of credentials of tenderers. Now tender is scheduled to be opened on 30.11.06 by amalgamating the work with other work of under bridge.

(c) Abstract cost was estimated as Rs. 1.80 Cr. Detailed cost as Rs. 2.60 Cr. Rs. 30 lakh were provided during 2004-05, Rs. 91 lakh during 2005-06 and Rs. 69 lakh have been kept during 2006-07.

(d) Tender is scheduled to be opened on 30.11.06 and is likely to be finalized within 3 months. Work shall be taken up on finalization of tender, and likely to be completed by June 2008.

[English]

Procurement of Battle Tanks

341. SHRI MILIND DEORA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to procure 124 battle tanks for the Army;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which these are likely to be procured?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. An indent has been placed on Ordnance Factory Board for 124 Main Battle Tank Arjun. Delivery of these Tanks is scheduled to be completed by 2007-2008.

Wage Negotiation with Unions

342. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Guidelines for seven round of wage negotiations for the employees of Central Public Sector

Undertakings (PSUs) has been approved by the Cabinet which has asked management to start negotiation with unions;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether different unions have already expressed their strong objection to the conditionalities mentioned in the guidelines;

(d) if so, the details of issues raised by the unions and the reaction of the Government thereto;

(e) whether Unions have registered their protest against guidelines in respect of wage negotiation for employees of sick PSUs; and

(f) if so, the details and action taken/proposed to be taken in this regard?

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

(b) The Government has issued guideline on policy for the Seventh Round of Wage negotiations for unionized workers (which falls due on 1.1.2007) in Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs) on 9.11.2006. The conditions of the same, inter alia, stipulate that the management of CPSEs would be free to negotiate the wage structure, no budgetary support for the wage increase shall be provided by the Government, wage settlement would be for a period of 10 years with 100% DA neutralization with effect from 1.1.2007, wage revision in sick CPSEs registered with Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) after approval of the revival plan by BIFR and that such negotiated wages would not come in conflict with the pay revision of officers and non-unionised supervisors of the respective CPSEs. These are broadly similar to the existing policy on sixth round of wage negotiations in CPSEs.

(c) to (f) The wage negotiations are carried out by the managements of respective CPSEs with the workers' unions and issues raised by the unions are discussed and settled by the respective managements and union during these negotiations, within the framework of the guidelines laid down.

Doubling of Bandel-Katwa Railway Link

343. SHRI ABU AYES MONDAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the railways have any proposal for doubling Bandel-Katwa railway line;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Railways in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (c) On Bandel-Katwa section, doubling of Bandel-Jirat (22 km.) has been taken up. Bandel-Bansberia (4 km.) doubling has been completed and Bansberia-Triveni (4 km.) is targeted for completion during 2006-07. The work of doubling beyond Jirat is not yet sanctioned.

Indian's Share in World Tourism

344. SHRI M. RAJA MOHAN REDDY:
SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO:

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the percentage of India's share in world tourism during the last three years, years-wise;

(b) the constraints being faced by the Government to boost tourism in the country in a big way; and

(c) the remedial measures proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) India's share in world tourist arrivals during the years 2003, 2004 and 2005 is estimated as 0.39%, 0.45% and 0.49% respectively. The estimated share of India in international tourism receipts during these years is 0.69%, 0.76% and 0.84% respectively.

(b) Various constraints facing the tourism sector in India include lack of adequate tourism infrastructure such as shortage of hotel accommodation & high hotel tariffs, deficiencies in infrastructure such as airports, roads, railways, etc., multiplicity and high level of taxation, restricted land use policies for hotel projects, lack of easy facility of entry of international tourists to India, shortage of air seat capacity, high air fares, etc.

(c) As the constraints being faced by the tourism industry relate to different Ministries/State Governments, the Ministry of Tourism regularly takes up the issues with

them in order to mitigate the constraints being faced by the travel trade. Besides this, the Ministry of Tourism also takes up these issues with the Planning Commission, Group of Ministers meeting in the State Tourism Ministers' Conference and other high level fora. Further, in order to develop tourism infrastructure at tourist destinations & circuits, the Ministry of Tourism provides financial assistance to the State/UT Governments for projects prioritized every year in consultation with them. So far in the 10th Plan, 1008 projects have been approved and more than Rs. 1500 crore sanctioned under various plan schemes for tourism infrastructure development in the States/UTs.

[Translation]

Tankers for Transporting Petrol and Diesel

345. SHRI JASWANT SINGH BISHNOI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether dealers of various oil companies have applied for using their own tankers for transporting petrol and diesel to curb the adulteration problem at tender rates in Rajasthan;

(b) if so, the details thereof?

(c) whether the permission has been granted to those dealers;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reason therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL): (a) to (d) Public tenders on industry basis are invited for engaging tank trucks for transportation of bulk petroleum products to the dealer and customers. The delivered supplies of petrol and diesel to dealers external/depots of oil companies are made from tank trucks owned by oil marketing companies or those awarded contract for transportation job. The tender for transportation of petrol and diesel for all locations in Rajasthan was finalized w.e.f. 1.10.2005 for a period of 3 years. Dealers and customers were advised to participate in the public tender. The number of dealers who participated and were inducted, company-wise are as under:

Name of the Company	Number of dealers participated	Number of dealers inducted
IOC	245	239
HPCL	137	119
BPCL	131	131
IBP	38	38

(e) It has been reported by IOC that 6 retail outlet dealers could not be inducted as they were disqualified in the tender evaluation process. HPCL has reported that 9 dealers were rejected in the technical evaluation process, 6 dealer had not accepted L1 finalized rates and 3 dealers did not sign the transportation agreement.

[English]

Production Sharing Contract with Cuba

346. SHRI NAVEEN JINDAL:
SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA:

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

(a) whether ONGC has signed a production sharing contract with Cuba recently;

(b) if so, the share that ONGC will get from this pact;

(c) the details of such pacts linked with other countries during the past six month; and

(d) the quantum of share India will get therefrom?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. ONGC Videsh Ltd. (OVL), the wholly owned subsidiary of ONGC has signed Production Sharing Contracts (PSCs) with Cuba recently, the details of which are given in the enclosed statement-I

(c) The details are given in the enclosed statement-II

(d) The above cited projects in Cuba, Brazil and Vietnam are in Exploration phase, the results of which will be known only after this phase is completed.

The project in Colombia jointly acquired by OVL and

Sinopec of China presently produces 17,850 barrels of oil per day which is likely to increase upto 70,000 barrels by 2012-13 OVL's share of oil from this project would be proportionate to its stake in the project.

Statement-I

OVL's Production Sharing Contract with Cuba

S.No.	Project	OVL's Share	Partners
1.	Block 34	100%	—
	Blocks 35	100%	—
2.	Block 25	30%	Repsol —YPE-40% (Operator),
	Block 26	30%	Norsk Hydro—30% (Common
	Block 27	30%	in all Blocks)
	Block 28	30%	—
	Block 29	30%	—
	Block 36	30%	—

Statement-II

Acquisition of Shares in E & P assets by OVL during the past six months

S.No.	Project	OVL's Share	Partners
1.	BC 10, Brazil	15%	Shell-50% (Operator) Petrobras-35%
2.	Block 127, Vietnam	100%	—
3.	Block 128, Vietnam	100%	—
4.	Acquisition of Omimex Colombia	50%	Sinopec—50%

[Translation]

Waiver of Rent for using Hanger

347. SHRI VIJAY KUMAR KHANDELWAL:
SHRI KRISHNA MURARI MOGHE:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to refer to reply given to Unstarred Question No. 2492 on August 17, 2006 regarding "write off rent for using Hanger" and to state:

(a) whether the request received from the Government of Madhya Pradesh for waiver of rent for old hanger has been examined by Airports Authority of India (AAI);

(b) if so, the details and the decision taken by AAI thereon; and

(c) if not, the reasons for delay?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Request of Madhya Pradesh Government for waiver of rent for old hanger is under active consideration of Airports Authority of India (AAI).

[English]

Appointment of Chief of Defence Staff

348. SHRI SUGRIB SINGH:
SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL:
SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT "BACHDA":
SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE:
SHRI EKNATH MAHADEO GAIKWAD:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether recently a meeting of former Army Chiefs was convened in the Army Headquarters;

(b) if so, the main points discussed in the meeting;

(c) whether former Army Chiefs have given opinion for appointment of Chief of Defence Staff for proper understanding between three forces; and

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

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY):
(a) and (b) A conclave of former Chiefs was held at Army Headquarters of 16th October 2006. The former Chiefs were briefed on the emerging security perspective

as also other issues pertaining to the welfare and well being of the Army.

(c) There was no deliberation on the subject of appointment of the Chief of Defence Staff.

(d) The question does not arise.

[Translation]

Tehelka Scam

349. SHRI HARISINH CHAVDA:
SHRI JIVABHAI A. PATEL:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the investigation in Tehelka case has been completed;

(b) if so, the findings thereof; and

(c) the details of the officials found guilty and the action taken against them?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY):
(a) and (b) No, Sir. The Tehelka cases are still under investigation of CBI.

(c) CBI has registered regular cases against Shri H.C. Pant, the then Staff Officer, Ordnance Factory Cell, Shri Narender Singh, the then Asst. Financial Advisor, Shri P. Sasi, the then Assistant, Lt. Col V.P. Sayal (Retd) and Maj Gen M.S. Ahluwalia (Retd), the then Addl. DG, Ordnance Service (Technical Stores), MGO Branch, Army HQs and Maj Gen S.P. Murgai (Retd). Preliminary Enquiry has been registered against Shri LM Mehta, the then Addl. Secretary, MOD and Maj Genl. S.P. Murgai (Retd.).

2. The following departmental action has been taken against the indicted Officers:

S.No.	Name of the official	Punishment awarded
1.	Maj Gen (Retd) Satnam Singh	Censure
2.	Maj Gen (Retd) Manjit Singh Ahluwalia	Censure
3.	Lt Col (Retd) B.B. Sharma	Dismissed from service
4.	Maj Gen PSK Choudhary	Cashiering and rigorous imprisonment for one year.
5.	Brig Iqbal Singh	Cashiering and rigorous imprisonment for two years.
6.	Col. Anil Sehgal	Cashiering and rigorous imprisonment for four years.
7.	Sh. H.C. Pant, Staff Officer/OF Cell	Dismissed from Service.
8.	Sh. Narender Singh, AFA.	Under suspension and inquiry is in progress against him.
9.	Sh. P. Sasi, Assistant	Under suspension and inquiry is in progress against him.

[English]

**Construction of Rail Overbridges in
Andhra Pradesh**

350. SHRI BALASHOWRY VALLABHANENI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have received any proposal from the Government of Andhra Pradesh for construction of Railway overbridges in the State;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Railways thereon?

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

(b) and (c) 31 proposals were received for construction of Road over bridges (ROBs) at different places in Andhra Pradesh. Out of those one is already sanctioned on out-of-turn basis. In the current year nineteen (19) proposals are under scrutiny for inclusion in Preliminary Works Programme (PWP) 2007-08, whereas 11 proposals do not qualify for replacement by Road Over Bridge on cost sharing basis. However, at present 63 works are sanctioned in Andhra Pradesh on cost sharing basis which are at different stages of planning and execution.

[Translation]

Development of Surroundings of Taj Mahal

351. SHRI J.M. AARON RASHID:
SHRI AVTAR SINGH BHADANA:
DR. RAJESH MISHRA:
SHRI SAJJAN KUMAR:

Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has held talks recently with the local officials to give a modern look to the surroundings of 'The Taj' keeping in view the international tourism;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the target set for completion of the said project?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Several site visits and series of discussions have been held recently. Based on this a comprehensive project for "Agra Revitalization and Visitor Management for Taj Mahal" vicinity has been prepared with a project cost of Rs. 39.34 crore. Ministry of Tourism has already sanctioned Rs. 767.00 lakhs for infrastructure improvement from East Gate Entry to Taj Mahal and Rs. 758.00 lakhs from West Gate Entry to Taj Mahal. A detailed break up is given in the enclosed statement-I. In addition, the other projects sanctioned for Agra and surrounding areas are given in the enclosed statement-II.

The State Government and District Administration has been requested to remove encroachments, hoardings and ensure a high level of civic governance.

(c) The integrated project will be completed within a period of 36 months.

Statement

Detailed Break-up

*Integrated Development of Agra-Revitalisation and Visitor Management for Taj Mahal Vicinity
in the State of Uttar Pradesh as a Special Destination*

East Gate Entry to Taj Mahal		(Rs. in lakhs)
S.No.	Items	Amount
1	2	3
B	East Gate Entry to Taj Mahal	
1.	Road Improvement from JP Crossing to Shilpgram: WBM road, red rubbed sand stone paving, precast PCC KERB stone, landscaping, boundary wall	113.00
2.	Road Improvement from Shilpgram to Taj Mahal East Gate: WBM road, red rubbed sand stone paving, precast PCC KERB stone, landscaping, railing, Electric poles of CI with fixtures.	85.00

1	2	3
3.	<i>Revitalisation of shipgram including new shopping facilities and other improvement measures:</i> WBM road, red rubbed sand stone paving, precast PCC KERB stone, landscaping, landscaping left over, building (new), building (renovation), Electric poles of CI with fixtures, boundary wall, repair estimates submitted UP tourism department, fir protection works	276.00
4.	<i>Trekking route to Taj Mahal-Nature Park Improvement:</i> WBM road, red rubbed sand stone paving, precast PCC KERB stone, improving old trek route, landscaping, building (new), building (upgrade), OAT, upgradation of play area, machan, water body, fountain, Electric poles of CI with fixtures.	94.00
5.	<i>Improvement of Visitor Approach at East Gate Entry to Taj Mahal:</i> WBM road, repair of WBM roads, cc road, M20, red rubbed sand stone paving, precast PCC KERB stone, landscaping, railing, building (new), Electric poles of CI with fixtures, demolition/shifting work.	51.00
6.	<i>Covering of Nalah near Eastern Gate and landscaping (200 meters of either sides):</i> Masonary work, PCC work 1:4:8, RCC slab, red sand stone over RCC, landscaping, Culvert-fountain, pier, slab, railing.	102.00
7.	<i>Upgradation of facilities at Taj Khema:</i> WBM road, cc road 20, red rubbed sand stone paving, precast PCC KERB stone, landscaping, external landscaping, building (new), building (renovation), Bamboo restarant with open and bamboo umbrella, Electric poles of CI with fixtures, swiss cottages.	46.00
Total		767.00

West Gate Entry to Taj Mahal

(Rs. in lakh)

A	West Gate Entry to Taj Mahal	
1.	<i>Redesigning parking node at Amrood Ka Tila including construction of new shopping centre:</i> WBM road, CC road M-20, Red Rubbed Sand Stone paving, recast PCC KERB stone, land spacing, building (new), shops, security, toilets, electric poles of CI with fixtures, signage	201.00
2.	<i>Approach to Taj Mahal through proposed Rose Garden:</i> WBM Road, Red rubbed sand stone paving, Recent PCC KERB stone, landscaping including Rose Garden, railing, building (new), electric poles of CI with fixtures, Sump, tube well	52.00
3.	<i>Upgradation of the green Bus corridor/road to Taj Mahal:</i> WBM road, CC road M-20, Rubbed Red Sand Stone paving, recast PCC KERB stone, landscaping, railing, electric poles of CI with fixtures, signage	21.00
4.	<i>Upgradation of visitor approach to west gate entry to Taj Mahal:</i> WBM road, CC road M-20, Rubbed Red Sand Stone paving, recast PCC	44.00

1	2	3
	KERB stone, landscaping, building (new), building (renovation), electric poles of CI with fixtures, fountain	
5.	<i>Improvement of Shahjahan Park—An archaeological Park:</i> WBM road, CC road M-20, Red Rubbed Sand Stone paving, recast PCC KERB stone, landscaping, railing, building (new), electric poles of CI with fixtures, children play areas, Sump, tube well, de-sitting of lakes, improving old irrigation system/facilities	153.00
6.	<i>Upgradation of Road from Purani Mandi to Rani Lakshmi Bai Chowk:</i> WBM road, Red Rubbed Sand Stone paving, recast PCC KERB stone, landscaping, railing, electric poles of CI with fixtures	41.00
7.	<i>Proposal for River Front Road improvement:</i> WBM road, Red Rubbed Sand Stone paving, recast PCC KERB stone, landscaping, railing, electric poles of CI with fixtures	35.00
8.	<i>Upgradation of road from Lakshmi Bai Chowk to Parking node at Amrood Ka Tila:</i> WBM road, Rubbed Red Sand Stone paving, recast PCC KERB stone landscaping, railing, electric poles of CI with fixtures	35.00
C	Signage	20.00
F	Upgradation of road connectivity of railway station/airport to JP crossing: WBM road, CC road M-20, Rubbed Red Sand Stone paving, recast PCC KERB stone, landscaping, boundary wall, electric poles of CI with fixtures	156.00
Total		758.00

Statement-II*Year-wise Details of Projects Sanctioned for Agra*
(Rs. in lakh)

S.N.	Name of the Project	Amount sanctioned
1	2	3
1992-93		
1.	Flood Lighting of Fatehpur Sikri	15.15
1993-94		
1.	Improvement of Ghats at Bateshwar	20.00
1995-96		
1.	Sound & Light Show at Agra Fort	20.00

1	2	3
1996-97		
1.	Refurbishment of Akbar's Tomb	35.32
1997-98		
1.	Visitor Centre, Agra	20.92
1998-99		
1.	Refurbishment of Aram Bagh, Agra	11.34
2.	Flood Lighting of Bateshwar Temple in Agra Distt.	05.00
1999-2000		
1.	Toilets at Taj Mahal, Agra (5 Star level)	21.00

1	2	3
2.	Floodlighting of Sikandara (Distt. Agra)	04.27
3.	Floodlighting of Etmad-Ud-Dullah (Distt. Agra)	05.29
2000-01		
1.	Renovation of Toilets at Tajganj Agra	07.54
2.	Renovation of Community toilets at Fatehpur Sikri (Main Gate) and Panch Mahal (Inside) Fatehpur Sikri	16.90
3.	Integrated Development of Bateshwar (Distt. Agra)	50.00
2003-04		
1.	Construction of Interpretation Centre/ Shopping Centre and related development works and services at Fatehpur Sikri (CPWD)	495.80
2005-06		
1.	Investors' Meet at Agra in Feb. 2006	15.00

Construction of Platform at Kurdwadi Station

*352. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways are contemplating to construct another platform at Kurdwadi station in Maharashtra keeping in view increase in rush of passengers in trains;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which it is likely to be constructed?

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

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[English]

Indo-Iran Gas Pipeline Project

353. SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any discussions were held among the participating countries of Indo-Iran gas pipeline project during the last three months;

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

(c) the present status of the Indo-Iran gas pipeline project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL): (a) to (c) India is pursuing import of natural gas from Iran through Iran-Pakistan-India Gas Pipeline. Various aspects of the project are being discussed in bilateral and trilateral fora. The third trilateral Joint Working Group meeting between Iran, Pakistan and India was held in New Delhi on August 3-4, 2006. It was decided in the meeting to appoint a consultant to work out the gas price as per the methodology agreed between the three countries. Subsequently, M/s Graffney Cline & Associates have been appointed as consultant by the Iranian side. A meeting to finalize the methodology to be adopted for working out the gas price was held in Dubai on September 28-29, 2006. The price worked out by the consultant, which was based on certain parameters given by Iran, was not acceptable to India and Pakistan. The consultant has been given revised parameters to work out the gas pricing.

[Translation]

Joint Venture Projects with Russia

354. SHRI BRAJESH PATHAK: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is considering to start some projects with Russia in the field of research development and hi-tech weapons system;

(b) if so, the details thereof?

(c) the time by which these projects are likely to start; and

(d) the amount likely to be spent by the Government on these projects?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) No, Sir. There is no project proposal on Research and Development, in specific, under consideration with Russia, other than ongoing Brahmos supersonic cruise missile.

(b) to (d) Does not arise.

Rail Coach Factory in Bihar

355. SHRI HEMMAL MURMU: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to set up a rail coach factory in Bihar;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

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

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Mobile Train Radio Communication System in Trains

356. SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways propose to provide Mobile Train Radio Communication (MTRC) system in trains to ensure more safety;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the names of trains in which the said system is proposed to be provided initially; and

(d) the time by which such system is likely to be provided in all trains?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) As per the Railway Safety Review Committee recommendations which is accepted by Ministry of Railways, the Mobile Train Radio Communication (MTRC) is to be introduced on A, B & C routes of Indian Railways. Of this, work on 3200 RKM (Route Kilometre) on Northern Railway, North Central Railway, East Central Railway, Eastern Railway & Northeast Frontier Railway has been sanctioned and is under execution.

(c) and (d) This facility shall be provided in passenger and goods trains in phased manner from March 07 onwards.

[English]

Setting up of National Aviation Board

357. SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is considering to set up a National Aviation Board;

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

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[Translation]

Criteria/Norms for hiring Aeroplanes

358. SHRI V.K. THUMMAR: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the criteria/norms adopted by the Government for permitting the public sector airlines to hire aeroplanes;

(b) the number of aeroplanes hired by these airlines during the last three years and till date alongwith company-wise details thereof and the justification therefor;

(c) whether any cost-benefit analysis has been conducted for hiring the aeroplanes by these companies;

(d) if so, the findings thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (e) The leasing of aircraft is resorted to by the airlines to meet their capacity requirements in short to medium term perspective. The national airlines have had to resort to leasing to overcome the capacity constraints due to the pendency of their aircraft acquisition proposals at the relevant time, as well. The Board of Directors of airlines is competent to decide about leasing on a case to case basis *inter-alia* upon consideration of cost benefit analysis. The number of planes hired by Air India, Air India Charters Limited and Indian Airlines during the last three years alongwith company-wise details are given in the enclosed statement.

Statement

Details of the Airplanes hired by Air India Ltd. Since 1.1.2004

Sl. No.	Aircraft Name	Registration No.	Owner	Date of Registration
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Airbus A310-300	VT-AIB	Singapore Airlines Ltd., Airline House, 25 Airlines Road, Singapore.	10.2.2004
2.	Airbus A310-300	VT-AIH	Boeing Aircraft Holding Company, 1901 Oakesdale Avenue, SW Renton, WA 98055, USA	14.7.2004

1	2	3	4	5
3.	Airbus A310-300	VT-AIG	Boeing Aircraft Holding Company, 1901 Oakesdale Avenue, SW Renton, WA 98055, USA	29.06.2004
4.	Airbus A310-300	VT-EWW	Osprey Aircraft Leasing Ltd., C/o M & C Corporation Service Ltd., Ugland House, South Grand Cayman, Cayman Islands	21.12.2004
5.	Airbus A310-300	VT-EVX	Osprey Aircraft Leasing Ltd., C/o M & C Corporation Service Ltd., Ugland House, South Grand Cayman, Cayman Islands	21.12.2004
6.	Boeing B777	VT-AIJ	US Bank Trust National Association, 225, Asylum Street 06103, Hartford Ct, USA	17.2.2005
7.	Boeing B747-400	VT-AIM	Wells Fargo Bank, Northwest, National Association, C/o Aircastle Advisor LLC1251, New York, USA	28.4.2005
8.	Boing 777	VT-AIL	US Bank Trust National Association, 225, Asylum Street 06103, Hartford Ct, USA	27.5.2005
9.	Airbus A310-300	VT-AIN	Rivers of India Ltd., 2nd Floor, Fairfax House 21 Monseigneur Gonin Street Port Louis, Republic of Maritius, Maritius	7.6.2006
10.	Airbus A310-300	VT-AIO	Rivers of India Ltd., 2nd Floor, Fairfax House 21 Monseigneur Gonin Street Port Louis, Republic of Maritius, Maritius	5.8.2005
11.	Airbus A310-300	VT-AIP	Rivers of India Ltd., 2nd Floor, Fairfax House 21 Monseigneur Gonin Street Port Louis, Republic of Maritius, Maritius	21.9.2005
12.	Boeing B747-400	VT-AIF	Wells Fargo Bank Northwest, 79 South Main Street Salt Lake City, Utha 84111, USA	30.12.2005
13.	Boeing B747-400	VT-AIE	Wells Fargo Bank Northwest, 79 South Main Street Salt Lake City, Utha 84111, USA	31.12.2005
14.	Boeing B777	VT-AIR	Wells Fargo Bank Northwest, 79 South Main Street Salt Lake City, Tha 84111, USA	4.1.2006
15.	Boeing B777	VT-AIK	Wells Fargo Bank Northwest, 79 South Main Street Salt Lake City, Utha 84111, USA	27.1.2006

Details of the Airplanes hired by Indian Airlines since 1.1.2004

1.	Airbus A320	VT-EYF	Orix-Aviation System Ltd., AIG Central, International Financial Centre, Naorthwal, Dublin, Ireland	9.7.2004
2.	Airbus A320	VT-EYA	ALS Irish Aircraft Leasing MSN 376 Ltd., Debis Air Finance, Ireland Ltd, DEBIS Air Finance, Ireland	7.12.2005
3.	Airbus A320	VT-EYB	ALS Irish Aircraft Leasing MSN 386 Ltd., Debis Air Finance, Ireland Ltd, DEBIS Air Finance, Ireland	7.12.2005

1	2	3	4	5
4.	Airbus A320	VT-EYG	ALS Irish Aircraft Leasing MSN 344 Ltd., Debis Air Finance, Ireland Ltd., DEBIS Air Finance, Ireland	7.12.2005
5.	Airbus A320	VT-EYH	ALS Irish Aircraft Leasing MSN 344 Ltd., Debis Air Finance, Ireland Ltd., DEBIS Air Finance, Ireland	7.12.2005
6.	Airbus A320	VT-AYI	ALS Irish Aircraft Leasing MSN 344 Ltd., Debis Air Finance, Ireland Ltd., DEBIS Air Finance, Ireland	7.12.2005
7.	Airbus A320	VT-AYJ	Aerco Limited, Debis Air Finance, Ireland, PLC, Debis Air Finance, Ireland	7.12.2005
8.	Airbus A320	VT-AYK	Aerco Limited, Debis Air Finance, Ireland, PLC, Debis Air Finance, Ireland	7.12.2005
9.	Airbus A319	VT-SCA	CIT Aerospace International, 1 Stokes Place St. Stephen, Green, Dublin 2, Ireland, Ireland	31.12.2005
10.	Airbus A319	VT-SCB	CIT Aerospace International, 1 Stokes Place St. Stephen, Green, Dublin 2, Ireland, Ireland	31.12.2005
11.	Airbus A319	VT-SCC	CIT Aerospace International, 1 Stokes Place St. Stephen, Green, Dublin 2, Ireland, Ireland	31.12.2005
12.	Airbus A319	VT-SCE	ALS Irish Aircraft Leasing MSN 386 Ltd., Debis Air Finance, Ireland Ltd., DEBIS Air Finance, Ireland	9.5.2006
13.	Airbus A319	VT-SCD	ALS Irish Aircraft Leasing MSN 344 Ltd., Debis Air Finance, Ireland Ltd., DEBIS Air Finance, Ireland	11.5.2006
14.	Airbus A320	VT-EYL	Orix Aviation System Ltd., AIG Centre, International Financial Centre, Northwal, Dublin, Ireland	23.5.2006
15.	Airbus A319	VT-SCF	Bayern Aircraft Ltd., C/o Maples Finance Ltd., PO Box 1093, queens Gate, South Church Street, George Town, Cayman Island, Cayman Islands	23.10.2006
16.	Airbus A320	VT-EYC	Aerco Ltd., Debis Air Finance, Ireland, PLC, Debis Air Finance, Ireland	3.11.2006

Details of the Airplanes hired by Air India Charters Ltd., since 1.1.2004

1.	Boeing B737-800	VT-AXA	Vells Fargo Bank North West, National Association C/o Boullion Aviation INC, Bellevue Washington, USA	15.3.2005
2.	VT-AXB		M/s C.I.T. Leasing Corporation, 1211 Avenue of the America, Newyork. USA	8.4.2005
3.	Boeing B737-800	VT-AXC	M/s C.I.T. Leasing Corporation, 1211 Avenue of the America, Newyork, USA	22.4.2005
4.	Boeing B737-800	VT-AXD	Int'l Lease Finance Corporation, 10250 Constellation Boulevard, 34th Floor, Los Angle, California 90067, USA	20.3.2006

1	2	3	4	5
5.	Boeing B737-800	VT-AXE	Int'l Lease Finance Corporation, 1999 Constellation Boulevard, 39th Floor Los Angeles, CA 90067, USA	10.4.2006
6.	Boeing B737-800	VT-AXF	Int'l Lease Finance Corporation, 1999 Constellation boulevard, 39th Floor, Los Angeles, CA 90067, USA	10.4.2006
7.	Boeing B737-800	VT-AXG	Int'l Lease Finance Corporation, 10250 Constellation Boulevard, 34th Floor, Los Angles, California 90067, USA	29.5.2006

Alliance Airlines has not hired any Airplanes since 1.1.2004

Pawan Hans Helicopters Ltd has not hired any Helicopters/Airplanes since 1.1.2004

[English]

Setting up of DRCs

359. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has set up District Rehabilitation Centres for physically handicapped persons in the country particularly in rural areas;

(b) if so, the names of DRCs presently functioning in the country, location-wise;

(c) whether the Government proposes to set up more such centres;

(d) if so, the details alongwith locations thereof, State-wise; and

(e) the time by which these centres are likely to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) and (b) DRCs were set up in the years 1984 to 1989 at the following locations: (i) Virar in Maharashtra, (ii) Jagdishpur and Sitapur in Uttar Pradesh, (iii) Midnapore in West Bengal, (iv) Bhiwani in Haryana, (v) Vijaywada in Andhra Pradesh, (vi) Mysore in Karnataka, (vii) Bilaspur in Chhattisgarh, (viii) Kota in Rajasthan, (ix) Chengalpattu in Tamil Nadu, and (x) Bhubneshwar in Orissa.

(c) to (e) No Sir. No new DRCs are proposed to be set up.

Scheme for Travel Agents and Tour Operators

360. SHRI HARIBHAU RATHOD: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has recently revised the scheme of approving travel agents and tour operators;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the new criteria for according approval; and

(c) the precautionary measures being taken by Government to ensure that tour operators and travel agents do not cheat the foreign tourists and earn bad name for the country?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) and (b) No, Sir. The Scheme of approving Travel Agents and Tour Operators was revised in 2003.

(c) A Complaint Cell has been set up in the Ministry of Tourism to redress complaints from tourists. On receipt of specific complaints against Travel Agents and Tour Operators, the matter is examined and appropriate action taken based on the findings.

New Guidelines on Adventure Tourism

361. SHRI SURESH PRABHAKAR PRABHU:
SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR:

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has issued new guidelines on adventure tourism;

(b) if so, the salient features thereof;

(c) whether trampoline bungee, popular with mall crawlers and their children has been ignored under the new guidelines.

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the corrective steps taken or likely to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. Ministry of Tourism issued guidelines laying down basic minimum standards for adventure tourism related activities, in order to ensure safety of participants/tourists in such activities as well as minimum acceptable standards in terms of equipment and human resources. These guidelines cover land, air and water based activities which includes mountaineering, trekking, hang gliding, paragliding, bungee jumping and rafting.

(c) to (e) Ministry of Tourism extends Central Financial Assistance to the State/UT Governments for the development of tourism projects including adventure tourism on the basis of proposals received from them subject to availability of funds and *inter-se* priorities.

Trampoline bungee is mainly an entertainment activity used in shopping malls and therefore not taken into consideration under adventure tourism.

Safety-precautionary measures to prevent any untoward incident are under the purview of the concerned state governments.

Supply of Petrol/Diesel through Pipelines

362. SHRI M. APPADURAI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is considering to supply petrol/diesel to petrol pumps through pipelines to avoid wastage of fuel in transporting; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL): (a) and (b) No, Sir, No such proposal is under consideration with the Government. However, Oil Marketing Companies are operating/constructing pipelines for bulk transportation of petroleum products from different locations.

Private Sector Participation in Railways

363. SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA:
SHRI ANANTA NAYAK:
SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI:
SHRI NAVEEN JINDAL:
SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPPA:
SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA:
SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased state:

(a) whether the Railways have any proposal to take up some of the Railway projects during Eleventh plan on public/private partnership;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether a Committee of Experts is also proposed to be set up to set clear terms for the role of the private sector in railway expansion;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the selection of projects have also been streamlined; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) to (f) A number of areas/activities such as upgradation of stations at major metropolitan cities, establishment of super speciality hospitals, setting up of manufacturing units for rolling stock, infrastructure projects for port connectivity through Rail Vikas Nigam Limited (RVNL) and several activities in catering/tourism and hospitality area have been identified for possible execution through public-private partnership route. Consultation with various Chambers of Commerce/Industry as also the Ministry of Finance and Planning Commission is a continuous and ongoing exercise in this regard. The entire process is at an incipient stage.

Direct Train between Bhubaneswar and Mumbai

364. SHRI B. MAHTAB: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have any proposal to provide additional direct trains between Bhubaneswar and Mumbai;

(b) if so, the time by which the additional trains are proposed to be introduced between these two cities;

(c) whether direct train between Cuttack and Surat is also proposed to be introduced; and

(d) if so, the steps taken in this direction?

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

(b) Does not arise;

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Use of non Conventional Sources of Energy for Running Train

365. SHRI BHANU PRATAP SINGH VERMA:
SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR:
SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have considered utilizing the non-conventional sources like Bio-Gas, Bio-Diesel and Wind Energy for running trains; and

(b) if so, the details thereof

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

(b) Successful field trials have been carried out by using 10% blend of bio-diesel on Jan Shatabdi Express between Lucknow and Allahabad as against earlier trial conducted with 5% blend on Amritsar Shatabdi Express in December 2002.

In addition to the above, Southern Railway operates 4 Diesel/Electric Multiple Units (DEMU) and 2 Metre Gauge (MG) locos for passenger service with 5% blending of bio-diesel.

On South East Central Railway between Raipurdhantari Narrow Gauge Section, two nominated locos are hauling two different NG trains with 5% blend of Bio-diesel with High Speed Diesel from 21.7.06 on trial basis.

As and when bio-diesel becomes freely available commercially, detailed planning will be undertaken to exploit this fuel as regular option.

Shortage of Cooking Gas

366. SHRI KAILASH NATH SINGH YADAV:
SHRI SHISHUPAL PATLE:
SHRI E.G. SUGAVANAM:

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

(a) whether there is shortage of cooking gas in the country due to recent fire in a private sector refinery;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to improve the supply position of cooking gas in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL): (a) and (b) At present, there is no overall shortage of LPG in the country and LPG supplies to distributors are being made by the Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) as per the genuine demand of customers registered with the LPG distributors. However, OMCs have reported a backlog of 2-8 days in some Southern States like Andhra Pradesh, Kerala, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu due to unplanned shutdown of refineries, transporters strike, bad road conditions and riots in Mangalore.

(c) Government has advised OMCs to liquidate the backlog in these States by operating the bottling plants on holidays and during extended hours.

[English]

Indo-US Military Co-operation

367. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether India and US have decided to step up their military to military co-operation, hold more bilateral exercises and discuss ways to share information with each other;

(b) if so, whether an agreement was signed between United States Pacific command Chief Admiral with Navy Chief Admiral of India in October, 2006;

(c) if so, the salient features thereof; and

(d) the extent to which the agreement signed between Defence Minister and American counterpart in June, 2005 has been implemented and boosted our military strength?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) The agreement signed in June, 2005 provides a framework for Defence relations between two countries for next 10 years. Various events are being executed by both countries in meetings held annually. This has resulted in enhanced interoperability; sharing of experience in combat, peacekeeping operations and disaster management.

Investment and Production by ONGC and OIL in Assam

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

(a) the extent of investment and production trend of Oil India Limited (OIL) and Oil and Natural Gas corporation (ONGC) in Assam oil fields during last three years alongwith prospect for future in oil and gas;

(b) the extent of flaring of gas during the period showing the figure of associated and free gas separately alongwith plan for its future control by both the companies; and

(c) the allotment of new blocks in the North Eastern Region (NER) to these companies during last three years and future target, if any?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL): (a) The details are as follows:

- (i) Investments by Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC) and Oil India Limited (OIL) in Assam oilfields during the last three years:

Investment (Rs. crores)

Year	ONGC	OIL	Total
2003-04	755.82	481.23	1,237.05
2004-05	598.45	660.49	1,258.94
2005-06	501.87	521.17	1,023.04

- (ii) Oil and gas production by ONGC and OIL during the last three years:

Year	Oil Production (MMT)		Gas Production (MMSCM)	
	ONGC	OIL	ONGC	OIL
2003-04	1.621	2.969	498	1,706
2004-05	1.546	3.155	467	1,780
2005-06	1.285	3.187	400	2,003

To augment crude oil production in Assam following major steps are being taken by ONGC:

- (i) ONGC has already planned to invest about Rs. 3000 crores in Assam Renewal Plan for upgradation/modernization of surface facilities, pipeline, network, drilling & workover rigs etc. in addition to drilling of hitech wells, side track wells and Ultra Short Radius Drain Hole (USRDH) wells.
- (ii) Implementation of IOR schemes in all three major producing fields of Assam i.e. Lakwa, Rudrasagar and Geleki.

With the implementation of these projects, the oil production in Assam is expected to reach a level of 3.00 MMTPA by 2009-10.

As regards OIL, taking into consideration the old, matured and depleting nature of the producing fields in Assam, OIL will be able to maintain the present production profile of crude oil in Assam Oil Fields. Accordingly, uniform crude oil production target of 3.45 MMT per annum is projected throughout the XI Five year Plan period.

- (b) No free gas is being flared in Assam. Flaring of associated gas in Assam during the last three years is as follows:

Associated Gas (MMSCMD)

Year	ONGC	OIL
2003-04	0.18	0.29
2004-05	0.18	0.36
2005-06	0.15	0.31

The following measures have been or are being taken by ONGC, OIL and Pvt. Cos./JVs to reduce flaring of gas:

- (i) Installation of Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) system for effective control of gas system.
- (ii) Getting new fields connected to the gas network immediately.
- (iii) Incorporation of capacity control in gas compressors and installation of gas holders to negate the surging effect.
- (iv) Supply of low pressure gas from marginal fields directly to low pressure systems of tea gardens in the vicinity.
- (v) Further de-bottle necking of existing gas transportation lines.
- (vi) Boosting of low pressure gas at isolated fields through gas compression.
- (vii) Identification of small consumers near isolated fields where gas is being produced at low pressure in low quantities.
- (viii) Urging consumers of natural gas to uplift committed quantity of gas as there are no fall back customers.
- (ix) Installation of low pressure booster compressors.
- (x) Implementation of Zero Gas Flaring Projects at Offshore installations.

- (c) During the last three years, the following blocks in the North-Eastern Region were awarded to the consortia led by ONGC and OIL under various NELP rounds:

State	Block
1	2
NELP-III	ONGC-led consortia
Assam	AA-ONN-2001/3

1	2
Nagaland	AA-ONN-2001/4
Tripura	AA-ONN-2001/1
Mizoram	AA-ONN-2001/2
NELP-IV	ONGC-led consortia
Assam	AA-ONN-2002/3
Nagaland	AA-ONN-2002/4
NELP-V	OIL-led consortium
Assam	AA-ONN-2003/3

In the sixth round of NELP, 55 blocks have been offered for bidding.

[Translation]

Military Education

369. SHRI SURAJ SINGH: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to make military education mandatory or to include it in the curriculum for its promotion;

(b) if so, the details therefor; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY):

(a) No, Sir.

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

[English]

CNG Filling Stations on Highways

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

(a) whether the Government is considering to set up a chain of Compressed Natural Gas filling stations along the National Highways to facilitate CNG motorists without switching to petrol or diesel;

(b) if so, the details thereof?

(c) whether some State Governments have also shown interest in setting up of CNG station along National Highways; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL): (a) and (b) No, Sir. However, it is proposed to progressively introduce CNG in a greater number of cities, with the expansion of the pipeline infrastructure and the increased availability of natural gas.

(c) and (d) No specific request for setting up CNG stations along National Highways has been received from State Governments.

[Translation]

Transportation of Livestock

371. SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether transportation of livestock through freight trains has been permitted by the Railways;

(b) if so, the number of animals, species-wise, transported to West Bengal during each of the last two years, alongwith the names of the States from which they were so transported; and

(c) whether smuggling of cow-progeny through freight trains has come to the notice of Railways; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by the Railways to prevent smuggling of cow-progeny through freight trains?

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

(b) The number of animals, species-wise, transported to West Bengal during each of the last two years, alongwith the names of the State from which they were so transported are shown in the enclosed statement.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Statement

Year	State from where loaded	State to which transported	No. of cattle	Species of animals
2004-05	Haryana	West Bengal	480	Milky Buffalo with suckling
	Punjab	West Bengal	(i) 2704	Milky Buffalo with suckling
			(ii) 2496	Buffalo
	Haryana/Punjab	West Bengal	688	Buffalo
	Bihar	West Bengal	925	Horn Cattle
2005-06	Haryana	West Bengal	(i) 3536	Milky Buffalo with suckling
	Punjab	West Bengal	(ii) 2528	Buffalo
			(i) 1568	Milky Buffalo with suckling
			(ii) 1224	Buffalo
	Haryana/Punjab	West Bengal	809	Buffalo
2006-07 (upto 15.11.2006)	Bihar	West Bengal	500	Horn Cattle
	Haryana	West Bengal	(i) 4704	Milky Buffalo with suckling
			(ii) 4739	Buffalo

*[English]***Promotion of FPIs**

372. SHRI SUBRATA BOSE:
SHRI JOACHIM BAXLA:

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

(a) whether the Government has formulated any package of incentive for promotion and development of food processing industries;

(b) if so, the details thereof, scheme-wise and funds provided under each scheme during each of the last three years, State-wise;

(c) the number of food Processing Industries in West Bengal particularly in hilly areas of West Bengal; and

(d) details of programme proposed and finalized for 2006-07 for West Bengal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) and (b) For promotion and

development of food processing industries, Government has implemented several plan schemes. Under these schemes financial assistance in the form of grant-in-aid is provided for Technology upgradation/Modernization/ Establishment of Food Processing Units, Development of infrastructure, Support for R & D, Human Resource Development, Promotion of Quality Assurance, Total Quality Management, Strengthening of Codex Cell in various institutions and Setting up of Quality Control Laboratories besides other promotional measures to encourage development of the Food Processing Industries.

In order to ensure easy availability of credit, Government has included food processing industries in the list of priority sector for bank lending. Fruit and vegetable processing units are already exempted from payment of excise duty. Further, in the year 2004-05, Government has allowed under Income Tax Act, a deduction of 100% of profit for five years and 25% of profits for the next five years in case of new agro processing industries set up to process, preserve and package fruits and vegetables. Excise duty of 16% on dairy machinery has been fully waived for promotion of dairy processing industries. Excise duty on meat, poultry and fish products has been reduced from 16% to 8%. Excise duty on food grade hexane used in edible oil

industry has been reduced from 32% to 16%. In the Budget of 2005-06 excise duty of Rs. 1.00 per kg. on refined edible oil and Rs. 1.25 per kg on Vanaspati were abolished. Customs duty on refrigerated vans was reduced from 20% to 10%. In the budget 2006-07 the government has waived excise duty on condensed milk, ice cream, preparations of meat, fish and poultry, pectins, pasta and yeast. Excise duty on ready to eat packaged foods and instant food mixes, like dosa and idli mixes have been reduced from 16% to 8%. Excise duty on aerated drinks has been reduced from 24% to 16% NABARD is to create a refinancing window with a corpus of Rupees one thousand crore for agro processing infrastructure and market development. Scheme-wise and State-wise financial assistance provided during last three years is in the enclosed statement I, II and III respectively. The

Government has also enacted the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006 which has been passed by the Parliament on 2.8.2006 and published in the Gazette of India Extraordinary, part-II Section I, dated 24th August, 2006 as Act No. 34 of 2006. The objective of the Act is to bring out a single statute relating to food and establish Food Safety and Standards Authority.

(c) and (d) As the Food Processing Industries are mostly in unorganized sector, the data regarding number of Food Processing Industries are not centrally maintained in the Ministry. However, the details on the number of food processing industries assisted by the Ministry of Food Processing Industries in the State of West Bengal during the 10th Plan period is given in the enclosed statement-IV.

Statement-I

Details of Financial Assistance Extended to Projects in Different States for Major Schemes during 2003-04

(Rs. in lakhs)

Plan schemes	infrastructure Development	Technology Upgradation/modernization/expansion of FPI	Quality Assurances, Codex Standards and R & D	Backward & Forward integration & other promotional Activities	Human Resource Development	Strengthening of Institutions	Lump sum provision for North East including Sikkim	Common to the NE States	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
State/UT									
Andaman and Nicobar Islands					1.00				1.00
Andhra Pradesh		465.57		10.17	51.00				526.74
Assam				0.45			307.32		307.77
Bihar				0.42					0.42
Chandigarh				7.85					7.85
Chhattisgarh					3.00				3.00
Delhi	100.00		19.64	100.94	54.00				274.58
Goa		17.00			22.00				39.00
Gujarat		165.85	4.00	11.89	8.00	3.88			193.62
Haryana		185.94	61.00		10.00	1.00			257.94
Himachal Pradesh		99.18			4.00	1.00			104.18
Jammu and Kashmir		108.78	50.00		3.00	5.00			166.78

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Karnataka		151.49	66.84	40.00	3.00				261.33
Kerala		192.53		7.00	10.00				209.53
Madhya Pradesh	200.00	88.93	4.85		8.00	1.00			302.78
Maharashtra	469.92	529.03	28.22	9.38	64.00				1,100.55
Manipur							110.29		110.29
Mizoram							111.50		111.50
Nagaland							40.75		40.75
Orissa					4.00	1.00			5.00
Pondicherry				0.03					0.03
Punjab		163.00	8.76	0.60	82.00				254.36
Rajasthan	100.00	86.00		2.34	8.00				196.34
Sikkim							0.50		0.50
Tamil Nadu		274.03		36.90	25.00	239.00			574.93
Tripura							34.07		34.07
Uttar Pradesh	200.00	263.19	150.55	7.82	13.00				634.56
Uttaranchal		5.37							5.37
West Bengal	300.00	132.96	6.13	10.77	23.00				472.86
Common to the NE State							40.33	40.33	
Total	1369.92	2928.85	399.99	246.56	396.00	251.88	604.43	40.33	6,237.96

Statement II*Details of Financial Assistance Extended to Projects in Different States for Major Schemes during 2004-05*

(Rs. in lakhs)

Plan schemes	Infrastructure Development	Technology Upgradation/modernization/expansion of FPI	Quality Assurances, Codex Standards and R & D	Backward & Forward Integration & other Promotional Activities	Human Resource Development	Strengthening of Institutions	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
State/UT							
Andaman and Nicobar Islands	—	—	—	—	0.25	—	0.25
Andhra Pradesh	3.39	797.67	—	2.27	50.37	0.36	854.06
Assam	—	245.74	—	—	0.60	—	246.34

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Bihar	—	25.32	3.74	4.34	12.00	—	45.40
Chhattisgarh	—	32.61	—	—	4.14	—	36.75
Delhi	—	2.50	14.85	271.50	19.35	—	308.20
Chandigarh	—	—	—	5.00	—	—	5.00
Goa	—	25.00	—	—	1.16	—	26.16
Gujarat	3.40	262.15	—	17.55	77.60	1.00	361.70
Haryana	211.35	183.34	39.00	33.17	—	—	466.86
Himachal Pradesh	25.72	75.51	—	—	9.60	—	110.83
Jammu and Kashmir	—	74.78	—	0.50	—	—	75.28
Jharkhand	—	—	58.40	2.94	25.60	4.93	91.87
Karnataka	—	425.32	6.81	9.78	28.31	—	470.22
Kerala	—	152.86	—	—	16.68	1.00	170.54
Madhya Pradesh	128.76	45.62	—	10.00	38.78	1.00	224.16
Maharashtra	250.00	778.67	53.61	18.76	42.22	—	1,143.26
Meghalaya	—	12.14	—	—	—	—	12.14
Mizoram	182.00	12.30	—	—	3.54	—	197.84
Orissa	—	63.31	—	—	30.98	1.00	95.29
Pondicherry	—	24.54	—	—	—	—	24.54
Punjab	—	538.23	0.50	—	9.01	—	547.74
Rajasthan	—	35.83	—	—	4.67	—	40.50
Sikkim	—	—	—	—	0.90	—	0.90
Tamil Nadu	—	310.60	—	4.50	47.03	25.20	387.33
Uttar Pradesh	200.00	591.76	45.80	17.15	122.04	2.00	978.75
Uttaranchal	—	87.88	7.50	—	—	—	95.38
West Bengal	177.38	325.74	69.50	30.85	77.12	—	680.59
NE States	—	—	—	—	14.14	—	14.14
Total	1182.00	5129.42	299.71	395.14	669.26	36.49	7697.88

Statement III*Details of Financial Assistance Extended to Projects in Different States for Major Schemes during 2005-06*

State	Scheme						Total (in Rs. Lakhs)
	Setting up	HRD	Info & Promotional	QA	Infrastructure Dev.	Strengthen NA	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Andhra Pradesh	750.22	26.29	5.00	175.19	0.00	0.00	956.70
Assam	44.34	0.25	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	44.59
Bihar	24.51	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	24.51
Gujarat	282.25	74.93	46.94	137.40	3.35	0.00	544.87
Haryana	49.37	8.94	10.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	68.31
Himachal Pradesh	110.10	9.19	7.50	0.00	0.00	0.00	126.79
Jammu and Kashmir	41.59	5.64	0.50	0.00	72.87	0.00	120.60
Karnataka	293.64	4.04	0.00	2.81	0.00	0.00	300.49
Kerala	306.92	52.72	0.00	8.20	29.61	0.00	397.45
Madhya Pradesh	168.56	10.03	0.00	14.85	0.00	0.00	193.44
Maharashtra	877.84	13.16	5.00	19.77	265.50	0.00	1181.27
Manipur	11.77	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	11.77
Meghalaya	21.80	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	21.60
Nagaland	17.35	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	17.35
Orissa	3.96	10.28	0.00	2.00	0.00	0.00	16.24
Punjab	468.52	60.92	0.00	71.57	0.00	0.00	601.01
Rajasthan	102.96	50.76	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	153.71
Tamil Nadu	345.71	105.43	11.00	146.72	16.03	0.00	624.89
Tripura	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Uttar Pradesh	579.10	84.57	6.45	0.15	24.34	0.00	694.61
West Bengal	322.39	61.77	0.00	239.35	128.21	0.00	751.72
Sikkim	0.00	0.12	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.12
Andman and Nicobar Islands	0.00	0.15	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.15
Arunachal Pradesh	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Chandigarh	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Dadra and Nagar Haveli	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Delhi	11.77	144.48	10.25	44.68	37.50	0.00	248.68

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Daman and Diu	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
L M & A Islands	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Mizoram	10.15	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	10.15
Pondicherry	14.67	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	14.67
Goa	47.58	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	47.58
Jharkhand	48.28	4.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	52.28
Uttaranchal	119.19	9.23	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	128.42
Chhattisgarh	91.76	4.80	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	96.56
Total (in Rs. Lakhs)	5166.09	741.70	102.64	862.99	577.41	0.00	7450.53

Statement IV*Scheme-wise number of proposals approved pertaining to the State of West Bengal during 10th plan period*

Sl.No.	Name of the Schemes	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
1.	Scheme for infrastructure Development	1	6	2	2	1
2.	Scheme for technology Upgradation; establishment & modernization of food processing industries.	2	6	13	10	13
3.	Scheme for Backward and forward integration & other promotional activities.	1	1	—	—	1
4.	Scheme for quality assurance, codex standards & R & D	1	2	2	4	4
5.	Scheme for HRD	4	2	4	4	7

*[Translation]***Profit Earned by Oil Companies**

373. DR. CHINTA MOHAN:

SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH "LALAN":

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

(a) the details of the profit earned by the Public Sector

Oil Companies during first half of 2006-07 company-wise; and

(b) the percentage of profit of the Public Sector Oil Companies in terms of capital invested by these companies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL): (a) and (b) The details of profit (profit after tax) earned and the percentage of profit in terms of capital invested by the major oil PSUs during April to September, 2006 are as follows:

Name of the oil PSU	Profit (Rs./cr.)	% of profit in terms of capital invested
IOC	4,830.79	9.58
BPC	832.00	8.43
HPC	614.32	4.45
ONGC	8292.97	14.92
GAIL	1,040.00	9.54
OIL	778.24	12.10

Award to Indian Military Troop

374. SHRI BAPU HARI CHAURE:
SHRIMATI BHAVANA PUNDLIKRAO GAWALI:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether recently an Indian military troop posted in Lebanon has been honoured with an award; and

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

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY):
(a) and (b) 4 Sikh battalion is positioned in Lebanon as a part of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL). Their action during the Israel-Hezbollah conflict was praised and they have been awarded the Unit Citation and 73 individual awards for gallantry by the Force Commander of United Nations Mission in Lebanon.

'Atithi Devo Bhava' Drive

375. SHRI JIVABHAI A. PATEL:
DR. DHIRENDRA AGARWAL:

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has launched 'Atithi Devo Bhava' awareness drive;

(b) if so, the details of the States where this drive has been launched;

(c) whether a number of States have been left out in this drive in which several places are quite important from the tourism point of view; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) Two phases of 'Atithi Devo Bhava' awareness campaign for bringing about attitudinal change among service providers have already been undertaken in 2004-05 and 2005-06 covering seven cities in six States namely; Hyderabad in Andhra Pradesh, Delhi, Goa, Mumbai and Aurangabad in Maharashtra, Jaipur in Rajasthan and Agra in Uttar Pradesh. 'Atithi Devo Bhava' awareness campaign on Graffiti Garbage at the Monuments has been launched from November 2006 covering the entire country through print and electronic media.

Upgradation of Patna and Gaya Airports

376. SHRI GIRIDHARI YADAV:
DR. DHIRENDRA AGARWAL:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to upgrade Patna and Gaya airports;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(b) and (c) Gaya airport has already been upgraded and developed for operation of AB-320 type of aircraft. New Integrated Terminal Building with all modern amenities to handle 500 passengers at peak time, car park, apron, link taxiways, isolation bay and associated pavements has been constructed.

Present runway at Patna airport is suitable for AB-320 type of aircraft. At present, due to obstacles (trees etc.) on the approach path, the full length of runway is not available. There is a need of pruning of trees. The State Government is initiating action in this regard. There is a plan for construction of a new Terminal Building subject to handing over of required land by the State Government.

[English]

Selling of Railway Tickets

377. SHRI DUSHYANT SINGH:
SHRI L. RAJAGOPAL:
DR. M. JAGANNATH:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have made any arrangement with banks, P & T and other departments for issue of railway tickets;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the objectives behind selling the tickets at such places;

(d) whether the railway stations are not adequate to sell the tickets to the passengers;

(e) if so, the implications of selling tickets outside the railway stations; and

(f) the remedial measures taken by the Railways in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) has been signed with State Bank of India for installation of Automated Teller Machines (ATMs) for provision of facility of issue of e-tickets alongwith ATMs at A, B & C categories of stations. Similar MoU has also been finalised with six other nationalised banks.

Arrangements also exist with Defence Authorities and some State Governments for issuing reserved tickets in far off areas having no rail head.

(c) to (f) These arrangements have been made to ensure easy availability of reserved tickets to the passengers even in far off regions. Although the arrangements made for issuing of reserved tickets are generally adequate, during peak rush periods long queues can be seen for issuing of reserved tickets despite opening of additional counters. In this direction, a number of steps are being taken by Railways to increase the reach of reserved tickets which include opening of new computerised Passenger Reservation System (PRS) centers, introduction of scheme of issuing of tickets through Internet, etc. Adequate safeguards are being taken to avoid its misuse.

Ticketless Travellers

378. SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL:
SHRI DALPAT SINGH PARSTE:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether some incidents of ticketless traveling by Ministers, MPs, MLAs and their staff/relatives have come to the notice of the Railways;

(b) if so, the details of such incidents reported during 2005 and 2006 and the action taken/proposed to be taken thereon; and

(c) the instructions issued by Railways to prevent recurrence of such incidents?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (c) Yes Sir, some incidents of irregular travel have come to notice. Such cases are dealt with as per extant provisions of Railways Act. However, no separate statistics are maintained in this regard. Instructions exist to all reservation staff to be vigilant against fraudulent bookings on various passes and travel authority including Identity cards of Members of Parliament (MPs)/ex-MPs' and Rail Travel Coupons of Members of Legislative Assemblies (MLAs). Instructions also exist to ticket checking staff to keep a strict watch on the misuse of various travel authority including those mentioned above.

Financial Assistance to Distinguished Persons

379. SHRI G. M. SIDDESWARA: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has received any proposal from the Government of Karnataka requesting for financial assistance to persons distinguished in field of culture, arts and such other walks of life who are in indigent circumstances;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Union Government has considered the proposal of the Government of Karnataka;

(d) if so, the decision taken thereon; and

(e) if not, the reasons for delay and the time by which a final decision is likely to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) to (e) Yes, Sir. The Government of Karnataka have recommended the names of 131 artists for financial assistance under the Scheme of Financial Assistance to Persons Distinguished in Letters, Arts and such other walks of life who are in indigent

circumstances. Such applications received are considered by an Expert Committee constituted by the Ministry of Culture. Meeting of the expert Committee for considering these applications is to take place shortly.

Discontinuation of Trains

380. SHRI P. C. THOMAS:
SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPPA:
SHRI PANNIAN RAVINDRAN:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways propose to discontinue two Kerala bound weekly trains from Delhi namely Swarna Jayanti Express and Millennium Express;

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

(c) whether the Railways have any proposal to increase the frequency of other trains such as Rajdhani Express/ Sampark Kranti Express; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. At present, there is no such proposal.

[Translation]

Introduction of Smart Cards for LPG / Kerosene Consumers

381. PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA:
DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 514 on July 27, 2006 regarding 'Smart Card to Cooking Gas/Kerosene Consumers' and to state:

(a) whether the Government has taken final decision regarding introduction of Smart Card to LPG and kerosene consumers;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the time by which final decision is likely to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL): (a) to (c) With the objective of ensuring that the benefit of the subsidy reaches the targeted consumers in an efficient and cost-effective manner and to prevent any leakages, this Ministry is considering introduction of Smart Card System for distribution of PDS kerosene. The scheme is proposed to be introduced initially on an experimental basis in three districts—Latur in Maharashtra, Nalanda in Bihar and Nainital in Uttaranchal w.e.f. 1.11.2007. In the Pilot project, subsidized kerosene through Smart Card is proposed to be available to BPL families while all other ration card holders would be given non-subsidized kerosene. An independent agency will be engaged to monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of the Pilot. Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) would ensure adequate availability of PDS as well as non-subsidized kerosene during the entire period of implementation of the Pilot.

[English]

Defence Co-operation Agreement with Germany

382. SHRI PRABODH PANDA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether he had visited Germany in September, 2006;

(b) if so, whether any defence co-operation agreement has been signed with Germany; and

(c) if so, the salient features thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) to (c) A high level delegation led by Shri Pranab Mukherjee, the then Raksha Mantri visited Germany during September 6-7, 2006. During this visit, an agreement was signed on September 6, 2006 between the Ministry of Defence of the Republic of India and the Ministry of Defence of the Federal Republic of Germany concerning Bilateral Defence Co-operation. The salient features of the agreement were—

(i) Establishing of framework for strategic dialogue for the benefit of the armed forces at the level

of Defence Secretary/State Secretary of Defence called India-Germany High Defence Committee (HDC), and

- (ii) Establishing framework for Bilateral expert talks by forming sub-group focusing on "Strategic Defence Co-operation", "Defence Technical Cooperation" and Military to Military Co-operation"

Regional Science Centre at Dharwad

383. SHRI MANJUNATH KUNNUR: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Karnataka has submitted any proposal for establishment of Regional Science Centre at Dharwad, Karnataka;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the action taken by the Government thereon;

(d) whether the Government has sanctioned and released the financial assistance for this project;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor and the time by which the required funds will be released to the Government of Karnataka?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) to (f) Yes Sir. A project proposal estimated at Rs. 6.50 crores for setting up of Regional Science Centre at Dharwad was received. The State Government was to provide 10 acres of land and meet 50% of the Capital cost. Government of India has not sanctioned/released any financial assistance for this project since a suitable site for setting up of the Regional Science Centre at Dharwad, is yet to be finalized.

Revival of Defunct Flying Schools/Institutes

384. SHRI L. RAJAGOPAL: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has drawn up any long-term measures to tackle the acute shortage of pilots in the public sector airlines;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government is disincline in taking pilots who retired from the Indian Air Force to fly commercial aircraft of Indian Airlines and Air India;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether there is any proposal to review the 15-odd flying schools/institutes in the country which have become defunct over the years;

(f) if so, the details thereof;

(g) whether many of the flying schools/institutes in the country do not have even trainer aircraft; and

(h) if so, the concrete steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) The national carriers have been recruiting from time to time trainee pilots and cadet pilots from Indira Gandhi Rashtriya Uran Akademi (IGRUA) as well as other flying clubs to meet their requirements. Government has decided to upgrade IGRUA to provide 100 pilots per year as against the present capacity of 40. With the increased demand of pilot in recent times, Air India has decided to recruit about 150 Science and Engineering graduates to be recruited as cadet pilots in Air India. A new flying training institute is also proposed to be set up by Airports Authority of India with a Joint Venture Partner at Gondia, Maharashtra. The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has also taken steps to meet shortage of pilots by increasing the age-limit of pilots to 65 years for exercising the privileges of their licences for commercial transport operations under prescribed conditions for pilots.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) and (f) No, Sir. The Flying Clubs in the country are not under the direct control of Government. The non-operational flying clubs would need to take steps as are necessary for their revival.

(g) and (h) No, Sir. Most of the flying clubs have aircraft given to them by Government of India through Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) and Aero Club of India (ACI) or procured themselves/through State Governments. Aero Club of India (ACI) and DGCA have been providing aircraft to the flying clubs operating, on no profit no loss basis, subject to availability. In the Annual Plan 2006-07 a Provision of Rs. 12.79 crores has been made for releasing as Grants-in-Aid to ACI for procurement of aircraft for allotment to identified needy

flying clubs which are approved by DGCA for conducting flying training for Commercial Pilot Licence.

Introduction of Night Train from Nagercoil to Coimbatore

385. SHRI A. V. BELLARMIN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways propose to increase the frequency of superfast trains from Chennai to Nagercoil and Chennai to Coimbatore;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Railways also propose to introduce a night train from Nagercoil to Coimbatore; and

(d) if so, the time by which the train is likely to be introduced?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Setting up of Stem Cell Transplant Centres

386. SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to set up stem cell transplant centres in the Armed Forces Medical Centres in the country;

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

(c) whether the Government has identified the locations for setting up of such centres;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the time by which these centres are likely to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) to (e) Stem cell transplant centres at Army Hospital (Research & Referral), Delhi Cantonment and Armed

Forces Medical College, Pune are already functioning for treatment of cancer patients with adult Stem Cell. Another Centre at Indian Naval Hospital Ship (INHS) Asvini, Mumbai is expected to be functional in the near future.

Life Enhancement of MIG-29

387. MS. INGRID MCLEOD: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Air Force has sought the life enhancement of its frontline fighter MIG-29 by an additional 500 hours over and above the existing norms;

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

(c) the steps proposed to ensure that the enhancement of flying life of the MIG-29 does not affect its performance and safety as well as air-worthiness?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY):

(a) and (b) The Indian Air Force has proposed a mid-life upgrade and Total Technical Life (TTL) extension of MiG-29 aircraft. As part of the mid-life upgrade, from of MiG-29 aircraft, which were inducted between 1986 and 1995, gets extended from 25 years/2500 hours to 40 years/3500 hours to meet the requirements of the IAF. These aircraft use technologies of 1980s vintage and better technologies are now available which can considerably enhance the operational capability of the aircraft.

(c) Mid-life upgrade and TTL extension is a globally accepted process and is undertaken scientifically to ensure performance, safety and air-worthiness. The proposed life enhancement is based on the studies done at Russian Federation facilities.

Share in Retail Market of Processed Food

388. SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has asked the leading business industrial chambers for suggestions to generate revenue through processed food;

(b) if so, the details suggestions made by these chambers; and

(c) the time by which a detailed plan is likely to be chalked out by the Government for gaining larger share in the retail market of processed food?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) to (c) The Industry Associations have submitted proposals for the Budget 2007-08 to the Government for tax incentives to the food processing industry in order to enhance the level of processing and value addition, reduce wastages and increase India's share in global trade of agricultural products, generate employment for large number of people, increase the income of farmers and contribute to overall economy of the country. The suggestions made include following a multi-pronged strategy in the form of direct and indirect tax incentives, making available concessional rate of finance, speedy clearance of projects, provision of tax holding to the entire chain of the food processing and agro-based industry across the country under the Income Tax Act, 1961, exemption of excise duty for food processing machinery and refrigerated trucks and other vehicles used by processed food industry, exemption of customs duty and countervailing duty for import of food processing machinery by mega food processing plants, developing forward linkages for fresh and processed food and excise duty reductions in various processed food items.

Introduction of Insurance Scheme in Army

389. SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to introduce any insurance scheme in the army;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which it is likely to be introduced?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) to (c) The Army already has an Insurance Scheme which provides cover to Defence Service Officers and Personnel below Officers Rank on payment of a monthly subscription. The said Scheme also provides extended insurance cover to Ex-Servicemen upto 25 years after retirement or 75 years of age whichever is earlier on payment of one time non-refundable premium.

[Translation]

Private Companies to Operate Container Trains

390. SHRI GANESH SINGH:

SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of operators including private companies who have applied for licences to run container trains;

(b) the number of operators obtained licences to run container trains;

(c) whether the Railways have allowed foreign partnership to these operators;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Railways have permitted FDI in infrastructure or operation; and

(f) if so, the details thereof alongwith the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Fourteen.

(b) Fourteen.

(c) and (d) Any person individual or a joint venture or a company registered under the Companies Act, 1956 shall be eligible to obtain the permission to operate container trains.

(e) and (f) Indian Railways allow investment including Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in infrastructure in line with Government of India's policy. However, no Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) is permitted on Passenger/ Freight transportation by rail as these are reserved for Public Sector.

Income Certificate for Scholarship to SCs

391. SHRIMATI BHAVANA PUNDLIKRAO GAWALI: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has made it mandatory to submit an income certificate for granting scholarship to scheduled caste students;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has issued instructions to the State Governments in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI

SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) to (d) No new directions regarding modalities of implementation of the Scholarship Schemes for Scheduled Caste candidates have been issued in the last two years.

(English)

**Expansion of Terminal Facilities at Delhi/
New Delhi Railway Stations**

392. SHRI PARSURAM MAJHI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways have any proposal for the expansion of terminal facilities at Delhi/New Delhi Railway stations;

(b) whether new terminals are also proposed to be created at these stations; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the action plan prepared in this regard?

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

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) 4 passenger platforms at New Delhi, 1 washing line at Delhi Main, 1 passenger platform at Delhi Sarai Rohilla, New Delhi-Tilak Bridge 5th & 6th line, entry and exit at New Delhi, Sarai Rohilla-Rewari gauge conversion, Sahibabad-Anand Vihar 3rd & 4th line and grade separator

at Rampura Cabin are being executed for expansion of existing terminal facilities. The work of an additional terminal at Anand Vihar has been taken up at a cost of Rs. 85 crore. A proposal for acquisition of land at Bijwasan for development of integrated freight & Coaching terminal has been included in the Supplementary Demand for Grants (2006-07) at a cost of Rs. 75.29 crore. A directional terminal at Holambi Kalan is also being proposed.

Development of Rail Services in Jharkhand

393. SHRI TEK LAL MAHTO:
DR. DHIRENDRA AGARWAL:
SHRI SUNIL KUMAR MAHATO:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state: _

(a) whether the Railways have initiated any new projects to boost rail services in Jharkhand after its inception;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the funds allocated and spent thereon during the above period; and

(c) the progress made in implementation of these projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (c) The details of new projects included in Budget after inception of Jharkhand State along with expenditure incurred upto March, 2006, funds allocated during 2006-07 and progress made is as under:

S.No.	Name of Project/Year of inclusion in Budget	Anticipated Cost (Rs. in Crore)	Expenditure incurred upto 31.3.2006	Outlay Allocated (2006-07) (Rupees in Crore)	Progress
1.	Koderma-Tilaiya new line (68 km.) (2001-02)	307.71	26.91	10.00	Land acquisition earthwork and bridge works have been taken up.
2.	Barharwa-Tinpahar Doubling (16.49km), (2003-04)	4.13	1.61	15.00	Barharwa-Bakudi (8 km.) section is targeted for completion during 2006-07.

Expansion Plan of AIA

394. SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Air India (AI) and Indian Airlines (IA) plan to expand their operation and to create about 4,300 more jobs as reported in 'The Times of India' dated September 17, 2006;

(b) if so, the details of schemes chalked out by the public sector airlines in this regard;

(c) the time by which the said expansion plan is likely to be implemented; and

(d) the extent to which the market share of these companies will be increased as a result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (d) In view of the acquisition of new aircraft by Air India and Indian Airlines and also to cater to the natural wastages, the national airlines are likely to induct additional manpower based on their operational requirements over the induction period and beyond. Though the airlines are expected to increase their market share because of increased capacity induction but the extent of this would depend upon the market conditions prevailing at that time.

[Translation]

Replacement of AC Coaches

395. PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways propose to replace AC coaches of trains in phased manner as reported in "Rashtriya Sahara" dated October 23, 2006;

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

(c) the life span of these coaches and the time by which all coaches are likely to be replaced?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) No, Sir. There will be no premature replacement of AC coaches as a result of Montreal Protocol.

(b) Railways have got about 4200 AC coaches at present. Out of these 780 AC coaches are having R-12 refrigerant. These coaches were manufactured before 1994. After 1994, Railways have already switched over to manufacturing AC coaches with environmental friendly refrigerant.

(c) R-12 refrigerant has to be phased out by 2010. About 300 coaches out of 780 would complete their service life by year 2010 and will be phased out in normal course. The balance 480 coaches shall be converted by year 2010 with environmental friendly gas. Work in this direction has already been taken up.

New LPG Marketing Policy

396. SHRI SUNIL KUMAR MAHATO:
SHRI HARIKEWAL PRASAD:

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

(a) whether the Government proposes to formulate any new marketing policy for Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG);

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL): (a) to (c) No such proposal to formulate new marketing policy for Liquefied Petroleum Gas is under consideration of the Government.

[English]

Requirement of Special Coaches

397. DR. M. JAGANNATH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has assessed the annual requirement of air conditioned and other coaches;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the public sector factories are able to fulfil the requirement of the Railways;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, how the Railways plan to meet the requirement of coaches?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A total of 2821 coaches have been planned for acquisition in 2006-07 including AC coaches.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) In addition to 2736 coaches expected to be procured from the Railways' own Production Units *i.e.* Integral Coach Factory (ICF) and Rail Coach Factory (RCF) and from the public sector entity *i.e.* Bharat Earth Movers Limited (BEM), 85 coaches are expected to be procured from the private sector in 2006-07.

(e) Requirement of coaches is expected to substantially rise in future due to a surge in passenger demand. As an immediate measure, works to enhance capacity of ICF and RCF have been sanctioned.

Ferry Service for Physically Challenged Persons

398. SHRI M. SHIVANNA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a ferry service for physically challenged passengers in the battery-operated car was launched at the Bangalore city railway station recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether such facility is to be provided in other cities; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A rechargeable battery operated four-wheeler ferry is being operated at bangalore city railway station for physically challenged passengers. The ferry is sponsored by M/s Manni Materials Private Ltd. and the maintenance is entrusted to M/s Sriшти Communications.

(c) and (d) There is no such proposal at present.

[Translation]

New Civil Aviation Policy

399. SHRI RAJNARAYAN BUDHOLIA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to chalk out a new civil aviation policy;

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

(c) the time by which it is likely to be announced and implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (c) The matter is under consideration of the Government.

[English]

New Railway Time Table

400. SHRI VIJOY KRISHNA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have issued new railway time table from 1st July, 2006 for only about 5 months instead of one year as per earlier practice for Rs. 30 per copy;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the people have to purchase Railway Time Table twice in a year to know the time-table; and

(d) if so, the steps being taken by the Railways to revert the earlier practice of issuing time table for the year to protect the interest of poor persons?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. In pursuance of the announcement in the Railway Budget 2006-2007, Indian Railways had initiated action to review the All India Time Table *de-novo*. Consequently, in the first phase, the timings of a large number of trains have been made convenient and 140 trains have also been made superfast. These changes have been reflected in the July-November, 2006 edition of time table. Since the second phase of the exercise for further reviewing the Time Table was going on, (which has since been completed) time table valid for one full year would have been rendered useless due to large scale changes taking place in the second phase of the exercise. Hence, in order to disseminate information to public at large, the need for printing time tables twice was felt. Accordingly, second time table incorporating all changes is to be released in December, 2006. It is only for this year that time tables are being printed twice.

Nasik Road Railway Station as Terminal

401. SHRI DEVIDAS PINGLE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have received any request for modification of Nasik Road railway station as terminal; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Yes, Sir. Request for modification of Nasik Road Railway station as a terminal station has been received.

(b) In a distance of 260 kms between Mumbai Chhatrapati Shivaji Terminus and Manmad, four coaching terminals viz. Mumbai Chhatrapati Shivaji terminus, Dadar Terminus, Lok Manye Tilak Terminus and Manmad are already provided. Nasik Road station is already provided with 2 platforms each of 24 coach capacity, a route relay interlocked cabin for safer and automated operation and easier crossings of loads to be placed/withdrawn from Goods sheds. Thus needs for providing another terminals at Nasik Road does not arise. The facilities available at Nasik Road station are considered sufficient to deal with the existing level of traffic.

[Translation]

**Construction of Railway Overbridges
on Rupangarh Road**

402. PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the criteria adopted by the Railways for construction of railway overbridges at very busy roads crossing railways lines;

(b) whether the Railways have received requests for construction of railway overbridge at the busiest Rupangarh Road near Kishangarh Station from various organisations;

(c) if so, the reasons for delay in starting construction of the railway overbridge by the Railways despite sanctioning of half the costs of the said overbridge and sending of the proposal for the same work by Government of Rajasthan; and

(d) the time by which the construction of the said bridge is likely to be started?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Railways construct Road over/under bridges in lieu of busy level crossing on cost sharing basis if the traffic density at level crossing is one lakh or more TVUs (TVU – A unit obtained by multiplying the number of trains with the number of road vehicles passing over the level crossing in 24 hours); otherwise on deposit terms i.e. at the cost of State Government/ Local Authority, Proposals in both cases have to be sponsored by State Government concerned duly fulfilling certain preliminary prerequisites required under extant rules. In addition, Road Over Bridges/Road Under Bridges (ROB/RUBs) are also being constructed by NHAI (National Highway Authority of India on Deposit Term basis.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The proposal now agreed to by State Government on cost sharing basis is being examined for taking up as out-of-turn work or for inclusion in the ensuing Works Programme of 2007-08.

(d) After sanctioning of work, combined Estimate shall be prepared and approved, along with drawings and plans of the same to take up physical execution of work.

[English]

Additional Crude Supply for Refineries in Assam

403. SHRI M.K. SUBBA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the crude production and refineries output in the North Eastern Region during each of the last three years;

(b) whether the Indian Oil Corporation has submitted any proposal to allocate additional crude for Bongaigaon Refinery and other refineries in Assam in view of the static crude supplies from the North eastern oil fields;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL): (a) Crude oil production and refineries output in

the North Eastern region during the last three years are given below:

	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06
Crude oil Production (MMT)	4.572	4.692	4.503
Refineries Output (MMT)	4.649	4.771	4.529

MMT: Million Metric Tonne

(b) and (c) In September, 2002, IOC had approached MOP & NG for allocation of Ravva Crude to BRPL and other refineries in Assam.

In order to increase the capacity utilization further, in January, 2006, IOC has requested MOP & NG for allocation of additional Ravva Crude to BRPL.

(d) The Ministry has been allocating 1.5 MMTPA Ravva crude to BRPL since 2003-04 for BRPL & other refineries in Assam.

Joining of Armed Forces by Foreign Nationals

404. SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL: will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it has come to the notice of the Government that the Bangladeshi and Pakistani nationals are trying to join the Indian Armed Forces by using fake documents at recruitment centres;

(b) if so, the number of such incidents came to the notice of the Government in the recent past;

(c) the number of persons arrested and the action taken against them; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to check recruitment of foreign nationals in the Armed Forces?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY):

(a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

(d) Stringent verification measures are in force to scrutinize the domicile/nationality, age and educational

qualification etc. of all candidates appearing for recruitment in the Armed Forces. Due care is being exercised by the Recruitment Officers/Centres to follow these measures. Further, character and antecedents of the recruits are verified through the respective police/Intelligence authorities.

Restoration of Connemara Public Library Building, Chennai

405. SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) has restored the world famous Connemara Public Library Building, Chennai;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the cost involved for the renovation of the same and its special features thereof;

(d) whether it is also proposed to renovate the other dilapidated library buildings in the country;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the time by which these are likely to be renovated?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The major items of restoration include:

- * relaying of damaged tiled roof in central portion and Madras terrace roof on the aisle portion,
- * mending and replacement of missing pieces of stained glasses with floral designs on vaulted roof and wall panels,
- * restoration of stucco work and architectural features inside the building, and
- * restoration of damaged art work on the ceiling.

The total cost involved in the restoration is Rs. 1,02,21,079.

(d) to (f) No such requests have been received by ASI from any other agencies in the country.

[Translation]

**Upgradation of Railway Stations under
Ratlam and Kota Divisions**

406. DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state the details of works being executed under the head 'increasing passenger amenities and upgradation of stations' in Ratlam and Kota

Divisions and the total amount sanctioned as well as the position of said works during 2006-07?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): Details of passenger amenities works sanctioned on Ratlam and Kota Divisions along with progress is enclosed as Statement. Total costs of all passenger amenities works under Ratlam and Kota Divisions are Rs. 18.37 crore and Rs. 4.86 crore respectively.

Statement

Details of Passenger Amenities works sanctioned on Ratlam and Kota Divisions along with progress are as under

S.No.	Description of work	Cost in thousand of Rs.	Physical Progress	Status of work
1	2	3	4	5
Ratlam Division				
1.	Indore-(BG)-Extension of passenger platform No.5 to accommodate 24 coach trains at Mhow end and related land acquisition	25087	—	New Work sanctioned
2.	Indore-Prov. drainage arrangement in station area to remove stagnation of water in circulating area.	20,88	14%	Retender opened on 29.8.06. Tender under Tender Committee
3.	Mhow sub Division Extension of Platform no. 1 to accommodate full length of pass. Train at Mhow & at Barnagar extension of platform shelter & providing waiting hall addl. Shed & improvement to platform No. 2	2997	75%	Work completed at Mhow Barnagar and Maskanwa. commissioner for Railway Safety sanctions awaited.
4.	Dahod-Repair to platform surface of passenger platform No. 1, 2 & 3	1329	100%	Work Completed.
5.	Ratlam-Improvement to watering arrangement by providing storage Capacity (i.e. RCC cover head tank and sumps) and necessary pipe line for station.	2985	1%	Retender opened on 12.10.06. Note under Accounts vetting Tender under Tender Committee
6.	Sehore-Extension of platform No. 1 for 24 coaches.	1301	100%	Work completed
7.	Laxmibainagar-Providing RCC OH water tank in lieu of MS tank of 2.25 lakhs litres and providing 150mm dia GI pipe line in place of CI pipe line.	4991	—	Estimate under revision.
8.	Dewas-Providing covering shed on platform No. 2	816	62%	Work in progress. Fabrication completed. Erection work in progress. Tender cancelled due to higher rates.
9.	Ujjain-Providing CC apron on platform No. 1, 3/4.	4515	—	Retender to be opened on 3.11.06
10.	Indore-Providing CC apron on platform No. 5	2975	—	Tender to be opened on 3.11.2006

1	2	3	4	5
11.	Laxmibainagar-Provid. cover shed toilet block and extension of Foot over bridge with improvement to circulating area.	2984	100%	Work completed.
12.	Indore-Providing High pressure jet cleaning plant	1679	—	Work in progress.
13.	Ujjain-Bhopal Section-Providing Foot over bridge at Kalapipal & Bichpuri	2486	—	Tender cancelled. Revised estimate sanctioned. Tender to be reinvited.
14.	Indore (Model station): Providing kota stone flooring at PF No. 1	1666	60%	Work in progress.
15.	Meghnagar-Providing 1 No. of RCC over head Water Tank capacity 1.00 lakh litres in place of existing corroded steel tank.	1157	2%	Work in progress.
16.	Piplod Jn-Providing 1 No. RCC over head water tank capacity 1.00 lakh litres in place of existing corroded steel tank.	1159	2%	Work in progress.
17.	Mangliyagaon:-Providing foot over bridge	2887	—	Plan under approval since 3.10.06. Retender to be opened on 3.11.06.
18.	Ujjain-Providing CC apron at PF no. 06(05-06)	2998	—	Revised estimate sanctioned. Retender to be opened on 3.11.06.
19.	Ratlam division-Providing signages board glow sing board at Mandsaur, Neemuch, Bairagarh & Indore	519	—	New work planned and estimate sanctioned.
20.	Indore (Model station):-Improvement to circulating area (BG & MG) with proper parking facilities.	2967	62%	Tender opened on 3.3.06. Tender cancelled due to higher rates. Work is now being done in zone no 15 except work of Foot over bridge. Tender opened on 4.8.06 for Foot over bridge under Tender Committee.
21.	Indore (Model station):-Providing, Passenger Amenities (the thrust area) at 'A' category station.	2968	10%	Work in progress.
22.	Ratlam (Model station):- Providing separate entry to station.	2991	75%	Work in progress.
23.	Ratlam (Model station):- Provision of Passenger amenities (the thrust area) at A-Category station.	2956	70%	Work in progress.
24.	Dahod-Ratlam Section-Improvement of circulating area with extenstion of waiting hall at Meghnagar and provision of waiting hall and toilets at Panchpiplia.	2965	98%	Work completed.
25.	Other ancillary works	1296		

1	2	3	4	5
Kota Division				
26.	Sawai Madhopur-CC apron in line No. 1	8135	—	Tender under preparation
27.	Chauthahal-Improvement of existing surface in platform No. 1 & 2	2224	100%	Work completed.
28.	Gangapaur City-Providing covered shed at platform No. 2	2146	100%	work completed.
29.	Kota: Providing RCC overhead raw water tank 2.25 lacs litre capacity	1721	95%	Work almost completed.
30.	Nagda-Mathura section-Provision of public address system at 34 station of B class station.	2924	—	Tender under finalisation.
31.	Bharatpur-Construction of 225000 litre capacity on 20 m height	1524	—	Work awarded.
32.	Kota-Providing converging over passenger platform No. 5.	2999	10%	Work in progress.
33.	Kota Divn.-Providing 200 mm dia borewell to improvment of water supply at Lalpur Umri, Narayanpur Tatwar & Nimoda.	1393	90%	Work in progress.
34.	Piloda & Bayana section-Providing 2 Nos. borewell	1107	—	Work awarded.
35.	Kota Division-Improvement in lighting arrangement in circulating area at various station.	1500	100%	Work completed.
36.	Kota-Ruthiyar & Kota-Chitourgarh section-Provision of PA system at B class station.	1538	—	Tender under finalisation.
37.	Hindaun City-Providing OH water tank 2.25 Lacs litre capacity	1535	—	work awarded.
38.	Gangapur City-Providing RCC OH water tank 2.25 Lacs litre on 20 mm height	2990	—	Tender under preparation.
39.	Kota-Providing 200 mm dia borewell with RCC overhead tank 2.25 lacks litre capacity near loco shed in c/w new washing pit line	1721	—	work awarded.
40.	Kota-Providing 250 mm dia borewell at old & new Chambal	899	—	Tender under finalisation.
41.	KAPREN-Improvement water supply by providing 200 mm dia borewell and providing GI pipe line and overhead Tank	811	—	Tender under finalisation.
42.	Dara-Providing RCC Overheadwater tank 80000 litre on 20 m height	1126	—	Tender to be opened on 21.11.2008.

1	2	3	4	5
43.	Garot Nagda section-Improvement to water supply in Asstt. Engineer/Shamgarh section.	2997	—	Tender under finalisation.
44.	Baran-Replacement of corroded steel Overhead tank at station	1608	—	Tender re-called.
45.	Shamgarh-Providing RCC overhead water tank 50000 gallon capacity at filter plant on 20 m height	2215	—	Tender re-invited.
46.	Kota Divi. Provision of 27 Nos water cooler of 150 litter capacity on additional account at various stations	1800	100%	Work completed.
47.	Sawai Madhopur-Providing passenger facilities enquiry office Pay & Use toilet.	495	50%	Work in progress.
48.	Bayana-Providing waiting hall and additional and alteration.	495	90%	Work in progress.
49.	Bayana-Providing circulating area	485	15%	Work in progress.
50.	Kota-Providing PNR enquiry with Touch screen	500	100%	Work completed.
51.	Gangapur City-Providing booking office	495	50%	Work in progress.
52.	Providing Glow sign boards indicating passenger amenities at Kota, Gangapur City, Sawai Madhopur & Bayana.	400	10%	Work in progress.
53.	Provision of air conditioned dormitory and improvement to lighting in RR/Kota	480	100%	Work completed.
54.	Water coolers at Passenger Reservation System/Booking offices at Gangapur City, Kota, Sawai Madhopur & goods shed at Kota & Sawai Madhopur	336	100%	Work completed.

Construction of Railway Overbridges in Haryana

407. SHRI KULDEEP BISHNOI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether despite 72 railway level crossings with traffic density of 1 lac TVU in Haryana no road overbridges have been sanctioned for the same;

(b) if so, the reasons thereof; and

(c) the concrete steps taken by the Government for construction of rail overbridges at these level crossings in order to save long waiting time of road users at these level crossing and ensure smooth road traffic movement?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (c) Of total qualifying 94 level crossing (LCs) so far 20 have been sanctioned. At present, 20 number of proposals have also been received from Haryana Government which are under scrutiny for inclusion in the Works Programme of 2007-08. There are still 54 LCs qualifying for replacement by Road Over Bridge/Road Under Bridge (ROBs/RUBs) on cost sharing basis but no firm proposals have yet been sponsored by State Government. State Government is being regularly persuaded to sponsor proposals. As and when the proposals are received from State Government, they will be considered.

*[English]***Report of NCRLM**

408. SHRI E.G. SUGAVANAM: Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to refer to reply given to Unstarred Question No. 500 on July, 27, 2006 regarding report of NCRLM and state:

(a) whether the National Commission for Religious and Linguistic Minorities (NCRLM) has submitted its report to the Government;

(b) if so, the recommendations given by the Commission and follow-up action taken by the Government thereon;

(c) if not, whether there is any proposal to extend the term of the Commission;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the reasons for extension of time; and

(e) the time by which its report is likely to be submitted?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) The term of the Commission has already been extended up to 31-3-2007 to enable it to collect, collate and analyze the data and to concretize its recommendations.

(e) By 31-3-2007.

*[Translation]***Railway Inquiry Service**

409. SHRI RAGHUVeer SINGH KOSHAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways are aware of the problems faced by rail commuters due to lack of adequate services in rail reservation and information on its confirmation and cancellation as well as the number of platforms arriving and reaching the trains, telephonic and manual inquiry about the arrival and departure of the trains and other issues related to consultancy and help;

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

(c) the details of such arrangements for rail-commuters at 'A' class railway stations in respect of the West Central Railway;

(d) whether such arrangements are made in proportion to the passenger density;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) Some complaints regarding lack of adequate services in rail-reservation and train enquiry have come to notice.

In order to facilitate passengers in getting rail reservation and train enquiry, various steps have been taken by Railways like provision of additional terminals of computerised Passenger Reservation System (PRS), Internet booking of tickets, Passenger Operated Enquiry Terminals (POET), Interactive Voice Response System, electronic display boards, touch screens etc. Besides, Railways are setting up Integrated Train Enquiry System (ITES) by providing call centres throughout the country for dissemination of information on train running status, reservation status, availability of accommodation alongwith other value added services.

(c) The required facilities like Interactive Voice Response System (IVRS) for furnishing information relating to reservation and train running position, Passenger Operated Enquiry Terminal (POET), Touch Screen, face to face enquiry, electronic display board have been provided at all 'A' class railway stations of West Central Railway. These facilities are reviewed continuously and additional arrangements are being made as and when required.

(d) to (f) Provision/augmentation of passenger amenities is a continuous process depending upon the level of traffic handled at the stations subject to availability of funds.

*[English]***Production of Equipments in Railways**

410. SHRI MILIND DEORA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the production of engines, wheels, axles and coaches have continued to fall short of Railways' requirements;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the annual requirements of Railways of each of these items;

(d) whether the demand projected by railways during the 10th Plan period for the above equipment will be met by the two coach manufacturing Unit of Railways, considering the growth in traffic; and

(e) if not, the steps taken by the Railways to meet the demand?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) No, Sir. Railway's Production Units have generally been exceeding their targets set by the Ministry of Railways, based on Plan forecasts. However, a shortage of Locos, Coaches, Wheels and Axles is now anticipated due to recent spurt in traffic demand.

(c) Requirements for the current year (2006-07), are as under:

Diesel Engine (Locomotives)	—	150
Electric Engine (Locomotives)	—	150
Coaches	—	2821
Wheels	—	2,25,000
Axles	—	69,000

(d) Yes, Sir. However, in respect of EMUs (Electrical Multiple Units) for Suburban Services, there is likely to be a shortfall during the 10th five year plan period. This is being balanced by higher acquisition of other coach types, so that the total number of coaches acquired are equal to, if not more than, the plan targets.

(e) Works have also been sanctioned for augmenting capacity of RCF (Rail Coach Factory) & ICF (Integral Coach Factory) from 1000 coaches per year to 1400 coaches & 1500 coaches per year respectively, to meet increase in forecasted demand. Works have also been sanctioned to enhance EMU building capability at ICF.

Recommendations of Khanna and Rakesh Mohan Committees

411. SHRI M. RAJA MOHAN REDDY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether all the recommendations made by the Khanna Committee and Rakesh Mohan Committee on the safety of Railways and other related matters have since been implemented;

(b) if so, the details of recommendations accepted by the Railways and progress made in regard to their implementation; and

(c) the recommendations which have not been accepted by the Railways alongwith the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) No, Sir. All the recommendations of Khanna Committee have not yet been implemented. As per the present position, out of 240 recommendations that have been accepted fully or partially, 177 recommendations, primarily relating to issues of Railway Recruitment Boards, training, track, rolling stock, safety organization, formulation of Corporate Safety Plan etc. have already been implemented till October, 2006. Implementation of remaining 63 accepted/partially accepted recommendations is at various stages depending upon availability of resources and success of trials, etc. Recommendations of Rakesh Mohan Committee do not pertain to Safety/other safety related matters.

(c) Of the 278 recommendation, 38 could not be accepted as these were not found feasible for implementation. These relate to retirement age, allowances, educational qualifications for recruitment, incentives, amendment to trade union Act, reduction of staff strength, not to make appointment on compassionate grounds to posts in safety category, etc.

[Translation]

Frequency of Trains

412. SHRI JASWANT SINGH BISHNOI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the status of the passenger traffic on the passenger trains bound for Chennai, Bangalore, Hyderabad, Pune and Mumbai from Jodhpur;

(b) whether all the seats get reserved within one or two hours of the booking for the trains on the said routes and no room like situation arises;

(c) if so, whether the frequency of some trains on these routes is likely to be increased in view of the above situation;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) These trains are well patronised.

(b) Except in Pune and Secunderabad bound trains, no room situation occurred in other trains on some occasions during 2006.

(c) to (e) At present, there is no proposal to increase the frequency of Jodhpur bound trains. However, with a view to serve the passengers of Jodhpur in a better way, the following trains have been extended during 2006-2007;

- (1) 1089/1090 Pune-Ahmedabad Express (weekly) to Jodhpur.
- (2) 8473/8474 Puri-Jaipur Express (weekly) to Jodhpur.
- (3) 5631/5632 Guwahati-Jodhpur Express (bi-weekly) to Barmer.
- (4) 6311/6312 Trivandrum-Jodhpur Express (weekly) to Bikaner.
- (5) 2479/2480 Jodhpur-Ahmedabad Express to Bandra Terminus.

Procurement of Aircraft

413. SHRI VIJAY KUMAR KHANDELWAL: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the international competition has accelerated to sell fighter planes to the Indian Army after signing of defence co-operation agreement between India and the US; and

(b) if so, the names of the aircraft the Governments is likely to give priority for the Army?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) and (b) Government constantly review the security environment and accordingly decide to induct appropriate equipment and to make other arrangements for adequate defence preparedness. The purchase of fighter aircraft required for the Air Force is made in accordance with the established Defence Procurement Procedure.

[English]

Loan for Planes by AI

414. SHRI SUGRIB SINGH:
SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA:
SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Air India (AI) proposes to raise loan from banks/financial institutions for purchase of planes under its mega plan purchase programme, as reported in The Times of India, dated October 10, 2006;

(b) if so, the details of the banks/financial institutions, the amount of loan along with the terms and conditions thereof;

(c) whether Air India has received any planes so far from the Boeing Company under the said programme;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the time by which the first lot of planes is expected to be received from the said company?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) Air India and its subsidiary, Air India Charters Limited propose to finance 85% cost of the project i.e. for acquisition of 68 aircraft through Loan guaranteed by US Exim bank. Though no Final agreement has yet been finalized/signed in this regard, M/s. ABN Amro Bank have been mandated as Exim guaranteed lender for first tranche of 17 aircraft. The balance 15% would be raised through commercial loans for which State Bank of India/ICICI Bank have been mandated. The total cost of financing package for first tranche of 17 aircraft is US\$1.5 Billion. Financing for balance 51 aircraft totalling US\$5.7 Billion will be arranged later.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) The first aircraft is scheduled to be delivered in end November 2006.

[Translation]

**Surendranagar-Dhagandhra Gauge
Conversion Project**

415. SHRI HARISINH CHAVDA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Surendranagar-Dhagandhra gauge conversion project is approved by Railways under Surendranagar-Bhavnagar gauge conversion project;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the work on the project has been started;

(d) if so, the progress made so far; and

(e) if not, the time by which the work on this project is likely to be started?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The work of conversion of Surendranagar-Dhagandhra (34.48 Kms.) has been sanctioned at a cost of Rs. 33.78 crore.

(c) and (d) 1.2 out of 4.19 lakh cubic metre (cum) earth work, 2 out of 7 nos, major bridges, 3 out of 26 nos. minor bridges and 10323 cum out of 85000 cum ballast supply have been completed.

(e) Does not arise.

Uniform Gas Pricing Policy

416. SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to introduce a uniform gas pricing policy as reported in the Financial Express dated October 24, 2006;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the initiatives taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL): (a) to (c) There is no such proposal.

[English]

Quality of CNG

417. SHRI BALASHOWRY VALLABHANENI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any discrepancy in the quality of Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) being supplied by various agencies;

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

(c) whether the Government has inquired into the matter;

(d) if so, the outcome thereof; and

(e) the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL): (a) to (d) The CNG being supplied by various agencies is within the parameters prescribed in the Auto Fuel Policy, 2003.

(e) It has been felt that the specification in the auto Fuel Policy regarding CNG need to be made more stringent. Accordingly, Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) is formulating CNG fuel quality specifications. This is also being monitored by Environment Pollution (Prevention and Control) Authority (EPCA) for the National Capital Region; EPCA is submitting its report regularly to the Hon'ble Supreme Court.

National Heritage Site Commission

418. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has decided to set up National Heritage Sites Commission in the country;

(b) if so, whether the Government is considering to bring a legislation in this regard; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the time by which it is likely to be introduced?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) Yes, Sir. The Government proposes to set up a Heritage Sites Commission.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The functions of the proposed Heritage Sites Commission would include:

- tender advice to the Government on heritage matters.
- frame guidelines in the matter of conservation of heritage monuments and sites.
- study or cause to study important matter regarding conservation of heritage and submit reports to the Government.
- suggest appropriate amendments to the existing legislations.

No timeframe can be indicated to introduce the legislation in this regard.

[Translation]

Tourism in Rural Areas

419. SHRI J.M. AARON RASHID:
SHRI RASHEED MASOOD:

SHRI AVTAR SINGH BHADANA:
DR. RAJESH MISHRA:
SHRI SAJJAN KUMAR:

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the target fixed for various projects for promoting tourism in rural areas for the last three years alongwith the details of the success achieved so far;

(b) whether some of the projects are lagging far behind their target; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor and the steps being taken by the Government for achieving the target?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) Ministry of Tourism has been working towards development and promotion of identified rural sites having potential for tourism. The projects for tourism infrastructure development and capacity building are sanctioned based on the proposals received from the State Governments for such identified sites. The list of such projects taken up during 10th five year plan is given in the enclosed statement.

(b) and (c) The implementation of the projects sanctioned is the responsibility of the State Government concerned. However, the monitoring of the implementation of sanctioned projects is done regularly to ensure timely completion.

Statement

Central Financial Assistance for Development of each such Village during 10th five year plan

State	Sl. No.	Name of the Project	Infrastructure Components (Rs. in Lakh)			Capacity Building Components (Rs. in Lakh)		
			Year of Sanction	Amount Sanctioned	Amount Released	Year of Sanction	Amount Sanctioned	Amount Released
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1. Andhra Pradesh	1	Pochampalli, Nalgonda Distt.	2003-04	50.00	40.00	2004-05	20.00	16.00
	2	Konaseema Village, East Godavari Distt.	2003-04	50.00	50.00	—	—	—
	3	Puttaparthi, Ananthpur Distt.	2004-05	49.50	49.50	—	—	—

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
	4	Chinchinada, Each Godavari Distt.	2004-05	50.00	40.00	—	—	—
	5	Srikalahasti, Chittor Distt.	2004-05	50.00	40.00	2004-05	20.00	16.00
2. Arunachal Pradesh	6	Village Rango, Distt. East Siang	2005-06	49.62	39.69	—	—	—
	7	Ligu village, Distt. Upper Subansiri	2006-07	46.00	36.80	2006-07	20.00	16.00
	8	Village Ego- Nikte, Distt. West Siang	2006-07	46.50	37.20	2006-07	20.00	16.00
3. Assam	9	Durgapur, Distt. Golaghat	2002-03	46.83	14.04	2004-05	20.00	16.00
	10	Dehing- Patakai Kshetra, Distt. Tinsukia	2004-05	44.33	35.46	—	—	—
	11	Sualkuchi in Kamrup Distt.	2004-05	50.00	40.00	2004-05	19.95	15.96
	12	Village Asharikandi, Distt. Dhubri	2005-06	48.97	39.17	—	—	—
4. Bihar	13	Nepura Village, Distt. Nalanda	2003-04	50.00	40.00	2004-05	20.00	16.00
5. Chhattisgarh	14	Village Chitrakote, Distt. Bastar	2003-04	50.00	40.00	2004-05	20.00	16.00
	15	Village Chitrakote, Distt. Bastar	2003-04	50.00	40.00	—	—	—
	16	Champaran, Distt. Raipur	2003-04	50.00	15.00	—	—	—
	17	Nagamar, Distt. Bastar	2003-04	48.00	38.40	2004-05	20.00	16.00
	18	Kondagaon, Distt. Bastar	2005-06	50.00	40.00	—	—	—

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
	19	Mana-Tuta, Distt. Raipur	2006-07	50.00	40.00	2006-07	20.00	16.00
6. Delhi	20	Kotla Mubarakpur	2003-04	09.78	09.78	—	—	—
	21	Nangli, Razapur, Delhi	2003-04	36.30	36.30	—	—	—
7. Gujarat	22	Heritage village at Tera	2003-04	50.00	40.00	—	—	—
	23	Village Hodka, Distt. Kachchh	2003-04	50.00	40.00	2004-05	20.00	16.00
	24	Navagaon and Malegaon villages, Distt. Dang	2003-04	92.70	27.81	—	—	—
8. Haryana	25	Joytisar, Distt. Kurukshetra	2003-04	50.00	40.00	2004-05	20.00	16.00
9. Himachal Pradesh	26	Nagar, Distt. Kullu	2003-04	50.00	40.00	2004-05	20.00	16.00
	27	Paragpur, Distt. Kangra Valley	2003-04	50.00	40.00	—	—	—
10. Jammu & Kashmir	28	Village Drung, Distt. Baramula	2005-06	50.00	40.00	—	—	—
	29	Surinsar, Distt. Jammu	2005-06	50.00	40.00	2006-07	19.00	15.20
	30	Ganggir, Distt. Srinagar	2005-06	50.00	40.00	—	—	—
	31	Village Pahalgam, Distt. Anantnag	2005-06	50.00	40.00	—	—	—
	32	Village Jheri, Distt. Jammu	2005-06	50.00	40.00	—	—	—
11. Karnataka	33	Kokkare Bellur, Distt. Bellur	2002-03	50.00	15.00	—	—	—
	34	Attiveri Bird Sanctuary, Distt. Uttara Kannada	2003-04	60.00	18.00	—	—	—
	35	Banavasi Distt., Uttara Kannada	2003-04	50.00	40.00	2004-05	20.00	16.00
	36	Anegundi, Distt. Koppal	2003-04	50.00	40.00	2005-06	20.00	16.00
	37	Coorg, Distt. Kodagu	2003-04	50.00	40.00	—	—	—
12. Kerala	38	Kumbalangi, Distt. Ernakulam	2003-04	50.00	50.00	2004-05	20.00	16.00

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
	39	Amamula, Distt. Pathanmthitta	2003-04	500	40.00	2004-05	20.00	16.00
	40	Bairampur in Thiruvananthapuram Distt.	2004-05	50.00	40.00	-1	—	—
	41	Village Kalady, Distt. Emakulam for Spice Circuit	2006-07	47.20	37.76	2005-06	20.00	16.00
	42	Village Anakkara, Distt. Idukki for Spice Circuit	2006-07	50.00	40.00	2005-06	20.00	16.00
13. Madhya Pradesh	43	Hatwa village, Distt. Siddhi	2002-03	44.00	13.20	—	—	—
	44	Chaugan, Distt. Mandla	2003-04	50.00	40.00	2004-05	20.00	16.00
	45	Pranpur, Distt. Ashoknagar	2003-04	48.00	38.00	2004-05	20.00	16.00
	46	Orohha, Distt. Tikamgarh	2005-06	50.00	40.00	—	—	—
14. Maharashtra	47	Sulbhanjan-Khulabad Distt. Aurangabad	2003-04	50.00	40.00	2004-05	20.00	16.00
15. Nagaland	48	Mopunchupket, Distt. Mokokchung	2002-03	50.00	50.00	—	—	—
16. Orissa	49	Raghurajpur, Distt. Puri	2002-03	50.00	40.00	2004-05	20.00	17.60
	50	Pipli in Puri Distt.	2004-05	50.00	40.00	2004-05	20.00	16.00
	51	Khiching, Distt. Mayurbhanj	2005-06	50.00	40.00	—	—	—
	52	Barpali, Distt. Bargarh	2006-07	50.00	40.00	—	—	—
	53	Hirapur, Distt. Khurda	2006-07	50.00	40.00	—	—	—
	54	Padmanavpur, Distt. Ganjam	2006-07	50.00	40.00	—	—	—
	55	Deuljhari, Distt. Angul,	2006-07	50.00	40.00	—	—	—
17. Punjab	56	Boothgarh, Distt. Hoshiarpur	2006-07	50.00	40.00	—	—	—

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
	57	Rajasani, Distt. Amritsar	—	—	—	2004-05	20.00	16.00
18. Rajasthan	58	Neemrana, Distt. Alwar	2003-04	50.00	50.00	2004-05	20.00	16.00
	59	Samode Village, Distt. Jaipur	2003-04	50.00	40.00	2004-05	20.00	16.00
	60	Haldighati, Distt. Rajasamand,	2006-07	50.00	40.00	2004-05	19.32	15.45
19. Sikkim	61	Lachen in North Distt.	2004-05	50.00	40.00	2004-05	20.00	16.00
20. Tamil Nadu	62	Kazhugumalai Under rural tourism, Distt Thoothukudi	2003-04	48.66	38.94	2004-05	20.00	16.00
	63	Theerthamalai, Distt. Dharmapuri	2003-04	50.00	40.00	—	—	—
	64	Karalkudi, Chettinadu, Distt. Sivaganga	2003-04	50.00	40.00	2004-05	20.00	16.00
	65	Devipattinam Navbhashnam in Ramnathpuram Distt.	2005-06	50.00	40.00	—	—	—
	66	Thirukurungudi, Distt. Tirunelveli	2005-06	50.00	40.00	—	—	—
	67	Thirupudaimaathur, Distt. Tirunelveli, Tamil Nadu	2005-06	49.55	39.64	—	—	—
	68	Village Kombal, Distt. Theni, for Spice Circuit.	2006-07	50.00	40.00	2005-06	10.00	08.00
	69	Thadiyankudissai, Distt. Dindigul, for Spice Circuit	2006-07	50.00	40.00	2005-06	20.00	16.00
21. Tripura	70	Kamiasagar, Distt. West Tripura	2002-03	42.92	13.48	2004-05	20.00	16.00
	71	Jampul Hills, Distt. North Tripura	2003-04	50.00	15.00	—	—	—
	72	Village Joychandrapur, distt. South Tripura	2005-06	50.00	40.00	—	—	—

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
22. Uttaranchal	73	Jageshwar, Distt. Almora	2002-03	50.00	50.00	2005-06	20.00	16.00
	74	Agora Village (Dodital) Uttar Kashi Distt.	2005-06	48.50	38.80	—	—	—
	75	Mottad and its satellite station	2005-06	48.05	38.44	—	—	—
	76	Chekhoni Bora, Distt. Champawat.	2005-06	44.20	35.28	—	—	—
	77	Koti, Indroli	2005-06	47.10	37.68	—	—	—
	78	Mana, Distt. Chamoli	2005-06	50.00	40.00	2004-05	20.00	16.00
	79	Village Sari, Distt. Rudraprayag	2005-06	45.14	36.00	—	—	—
23. Uttar Pradesh	80	Bhitar Gram, Distt. Rae Bareilly	2005-06	49.52	39.62	—	—	—
	81	Mukhrai, Distt. Mathura	2005-06	45.89	36.00	—	—	—
	82	Bhaguwala, Distt. Saharanpur	—	—	—	2004-05	20.00	16.00
24. West Bengal	83	Ballabhpur Danga, Distt. Birbhum	2003-04	50.00	15.00	2004-05	20.00	16.00
	84	Sonada Village, Distt. Darjeeling	2004-05	50.00	40.00	—	—	—
	85	Mukutmonipur, Distt. Bankura	2006-07	50.00	40.00	2004-05	20.00	16.00
Total				4087.26	3094.99		788.27	632.21

Shuttle Train between Solapur and Pune

420. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways propose to introduce a new shuttle train between Solapur and Pune;

(b) if so, whether any proposal in this regard has also been received by the Railways; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Railways thereto?

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

(b) and (c) Introduction of a train between Solapur-Pune has been found neither operationally feasible nor commercially justified.

Price Hike of Petroleum Products

421. SHRI BRAJESH PATHAK: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of times prices of various petroleum products like petrol, diesel, LPG and kerosene have been

hiked during the last three years till date alongwith the amount of price increased each time of these products; and

(b) the present status of prices of petroleum products?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL): (a) There has been no increase in the basic price of PDS kerosene since March 2002 and domestic LPG since November 2004 despite huge increase in prices of these products in the international market. The Details of hike in retail selling prices of sensitive petroleum products at Delhi during the last three years are given as under:

Prices Revision effected from*	Petrol (Rs./Ltr.)	Diesel (Rs./Ltr.)	Domestic LPG (Rs./Cyl.)
16.4.03	(1.00)	(1.00)	—
27.4.03	(1.00)	(1.00)	—
16.5.03	(1.10)	(0.95)	—
1.6.03	(0.10)	(0.10)	—
1.9.03	2.10	1.25	—
16.10.03	(0.70)	(0.60)	—
16.12.03	1.00	1.00	—
1.1.04	1.00	1.00	—
16.6.04	2.00	1.00	20.00
1.8.04	1.10	1.42	—
5.11.04	2.19	2.12	20.00
16.11.04	(1.16)	—	—
21.6.05	2.50	2.00	—
7.9.05	3.00	2.00	—
6.6.06	4.00	2.00	—

Figures within brackets indicate reduction in prices.

*The price revision effected on account of VAT implementation/ revision in VAT rate, siding/shunting charges, local transportation charges, etc. have not been given in the above table.

(b) The current retail selling prices of sensitive petroleum products at Delhi are given as under:

Petrol	Rs. 46.85/Litre
Diesel	Rs. 32.25/Litre
Domestic LPG	Rs. 294.75/Cylinder
PDS kerosene	Rs. 9.09/Litre.

[English]

Scholarship to SCs and OBCs

422. SHRI BADIGA RAMAKRISHNA: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of Central assistance allocated and released under Pre and Post Matric Scholarship Schemes for the Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Other Backward Classes (OBCs) students during each of the last three years and the current year, State/Union Territory-wise;

(b) the amount of scholarship provided to them and the number of students benefited during the said period, State/UT-wise;

(c) the annual income limit to make SCs and OBCs eligible to get the scholarship;

(d) whether the Government has received any representations for increasing the income limit for award of scholarship under the schemes;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) and (b) Central assistance is not allocated State/Union Territory-wise. The break-up of Central assistance released and number of beneficiaries during the last three years is given in Annexure I.

(c) There is an income ceiling of Rs. One lakh for Scheduled Caste students under Post Matric Scholarship. For Other Backward Classes students, the income ceiling limit is Rs. 44,500 under the Post as well as Pre-matric

Scholarship Scheme. In the case of Pre-matric Scholarships for Children of those engaged in Unclear Occupations there is no income ceiling.

(d) to (f) One representation has been received in the month of October, 2006 for increasing the income limit for SC students only.

Statement

Central Assistance Released under Scheme of Post Matric Scholarship to SCs & OBCs

(Rs. in lakhs)

S.No.	Name of State/UT	2003-04		2004-05		2005-06		2006-07	
		SCs	OBCs	SCs	OBCs	SCs	OBCs	SCs	OBCs
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1.	Andhra Pradesh	5449.14	299.02	8434.74	299.02	9435.48	299.02	1814.24	384.73
2.	Assam	412.41	1.81	228.28	100.02	490.41		264.86	
3.	Bihar	0		1000		1100	6.56	1892.74	601.74
4.	Chhattisgarh	352.72		1567.79		528		0	
5.	Goa	0	3.26	1.93	5.96	3	13.9	3.45	
6.	Gujarat	1373.70	323.25	463.84	365.25	940.12	344.12	521.13	401.96
7.	Haryana	228.53		425.9	13.77	456		657.99	
8.	Himachal Pradesh	11.82		31.21	16.28	143.87		0	
9.	Jammu and Kashmir	95.99		28.8		136.31	224.24	111.71	
10.	Jharkhand	281.04		84.31		NII		NR	
11.	Karnataka	2481.94	187.25	2699.58	248.45	2652		3242.22	539.66
12.	Kerala	677.57		999.49		3771		453.14	
13.	Madhya Pradesh	1278.93		1366.60		3064.10		1327.98	
14.	Maharashtra	2765.58		4220.47	13.76	8490.95	56.56	1433.36	
15.	Manipur	82.77		84.13	108.51	126.43	203.34	11.57	100
16.	Meghalaya	15.55		4.67		8.33		1.62	
17.	Orissa	0	18.09	NR		NII		1739.68	
18.	Punjab	0		NR	109.53	NII	138.42	NR	
19.	Rajasthan	1207.70	326.72	1157.87		1508.34	235.24	1992.21	
20.	Sikkim	0		0	6.55	NII		4.48	
21.	Tamil Nadu	2184.45		2891.78	266.63	6982.18	290.25	1719.97	
22.	Tripura	174.24	240	195.84	98.83	222.39	111.13	80.61	
23.	Uttar Pradesh	5137.58	987.91	5937.7	742.09	11087	640.31	5098.37	671.56
24.	Uttaranchal	0	11.9	302.25	62.31	296.13	72.53	555.47	81.94

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
25.	West Bengal	2165.81		807.19		3279		3531.84	
26.	Daman and Diu	0		0.89		0.5		2.23	
27.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	0		NR		NIL		NR	
28.	Delhi	22.16		6.65		NIL	5	NR	
29.	Pondicherry	99.737		85.38	10	90		59.71	
Total		26499.36	2399.01	33027.29	2466.96	54809.52	2640.62	26520.58	2761.83

Note: NR = Not Received.

Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Pre-Matric Scholarship for OBCs/SCs
Central Assistance released during the last three years

(Rs. in lakhs)

Sl. No.	State	2003-04		2004-05		2005-06		2006-07 (Nov. 2006)	
		OBCs	SCs	OBCs	SCs	OBCs	SCs	OBCs	SCs
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1.	Andhra Pradesh	402.6	458.9	673.37	500.59	457.86	262.37	510	157.42
2.	Assam	26	10.0725		4.215		2.1		1.25
3.	Bihar		32.79		NIL		0		0
4.	Chhattisgarh	NIL	20.54	102	8.45	49.06		45.33	
5.	Delhi		0		NIL		0		
6.	Goa		0.329		0.3295		1.56		0.93
7.	Gujarat	260.3	345.571	335.3	103.67	456.65	354.03	346.12	590.23
8.	Haryana		0		NIL		0		0
9.	Himachal Pradesh	NIL	0		NIL	16.5	0		0
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	NIL	0		NIL	61.26	0		23.67
11.	Jharkhand		0		NIL		0		0
12.	Karnataka	26.57	0		NIL		0	122.34	0
13.	Kerala		0		NIL		0		0
14.	Madhya Pradesh		85.60383		126.56		10.5		6.3
15.	Manipur			75		50		65.32	
16.	Maharashtra		157.738		47.32		215.62		129.35
17.	Orissa		0		NIL		0		0
18.	pondicherry		8.457		5		10		10
19.	Punjab		18.513		5.55	100	0		29.26

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
20.	Rajasthan	194.24	124.5935		63.88		31.94	310	103.31
21.	Sikkim		0		Nil		0		0
22.	Tamil Nadu	Nil	91.041	242.55	27.31	400	86.47		174.15
23.	Tripura	175	6.638	120.67	5.98	121.03	7.57	139.74	9.35
24.	Uttar Pradesh	615.29	92.56225	325.17	88.325	296.11	44.16	225.6	129.49
25.	Uttaranchal		0	1.6	Nil	11.58	4.78	16.4	7.24
26.	West Bengal		6.81775		2.05		0		0
Total		1700	1480.17	1875.7	989.22	1970.99	1080	1735.52	1417.28

*Scheme of Pre Matric Scholarship for SCs/OBCs
Beneficiaries Covered during the Last Three Years*

S.No.	Name of State/UT	2003-04		2004-05		2005-06	
		SCs	OBCs	SCs	OBCs	SCs	OBCs
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Andhra Pradesh	24007	96545	27529	120000	28578	100229
2.	Assam	3089	16459	3148		NA	
3.	Bihar	2209		4583		3706	
4.	Chhattisgarh	11497		12854	46000	15153	
5.	Delhi	NA		NA		0	
6.	Goa	150		238		226	
7.	Gujarat	200055	46000	228725	58320	241837	91000
8.	Haryana	16592		19700		NA	
9.	Himachal Pradesh	3336		NA		NA	3500
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	NA		985		1301	35820
11.	Jharkhand	753		988		NA	
12.	Karnataka	0	159660	4711		NA	
13.	Kerala	470		597		1788	
14.	Madhya Pradesh	57517		57634		58594	
15.	Maharashtra	57204		70692		74225	
16.	Orissa	1641		NA		1763	
17.	Pondicherry	1615		1814		1011	
18.	Punjab	0		8472		9186	24360

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
19.	Rajasthan	16496	87497	22375		27557	
20.	Sikkim	NA		NA		NA	
21.	Tamil Nadu	42334		42257	48470	50334	60000
22.	Tripura	4486	39375	4208	54889	4563	55050
23.	Uttar Pradesh	56399	1150000	47641	900000	53665	901830
24.	Uttaranchal	1245		1352	38141	1253	32083
25.	West Bengal	1870		781		732	
26.	Manipur				20790	—	25000
Total		502964	1595736	561294	1287610	575472	1328872

Number of Students Benefited under Post Matric Scholarship for SCs & OBCs.

Sl.No.	State/UT	2003-04		2004-05		2005-06	
		SCs	OBCs	SCs	OBCs	SCs	OBCs
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Andhra Pradesh	276880	15454	346495	15454	399960	15454
2.	Assam	14007	858	23370	8580	21600	
3.	Bihar	29031		37187		37425	1
4.	Chhattisgarh	33523		65697		46356	
5.	Goa	92	400	94	285	104	460
6.	Gujarat	81766	13000	81656	20800	80141	13600
7.	Haryana	15930		15510	1	18812	
8.	Himachal Pradesh	5216		5295	2197	5593	
9.	Jammu and Kashmir	4581		5974		12834	
10.	Jharkhand	10950		12045		13740	
11.	Karnataka	87103	16525	154265	18439	169690	
12.	Kerala	73550		81234		88452	
13.	Madhya Pradesh	82554		81602		89495	
14.	Maharashtra	288182		318515	1	334441	1725
15.	Manipur	2744		3380	8840	3719	7840
16.	Meghalaya	1331		1464		1554	
17.	Orissa	45718	624	NA		NA	
18.	Punjab	5920		6930	8266	43370	22992

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
19.	Rajasthan	83948	18604	79985		120328	959
20.	Sikkim	194		NA	1028	NA	
21.	Tamil Nadu	234324		241718	25120	253803	2590
22.	Tripura	8491	23934	8640	6612	9040	8357
23.	Uttaranchal	25805	3669	27784	7458	30808	324
24.	Uttar Pradesh	391380	141321	481804	102762	511122	64248
25.	West Bengal	166415		180789		NA	
26.	Daman and Diu	62		79		NA	
27.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	NA		NA		NA	
28.	Delhi	10021		371		443	55
29.	Pondicherry	3578		2438	2137	2519	
Total		1983296	234389	2264321	227980	2498859	138905

*[Translation]***Agreement between Railways and Tanzania**

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

(a) whether the Railways have signed an agreement for plying trains in Tanzania;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the period for which the said agreement has been signed; and

(d) the expenditure likely to be incurred on the said project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (d) Ministry of Railways have not signed any agreement for plying trains in Tanzania. However, a consortium led by RITES Limited, a Public Sector Undertaking under the administrative control of Ministry of Railways with other Member as GPCO (A Mauritius based Company) and UTI Bank Ltd. have been notified for award of Tanzania Railway Corporation concession. The concession agreement is yet to be signed.

As per terms of concession, total infrastructure comprising of track, rolling stock etc. will be handed over to the Concessionaire for its rehabilitation, maintenance, operation and management for a period of 25 years from the date of its takeover. In turn, concessionaire will be generating revenues through providing services and will be paying fees to the Government of Tanzania (GOT) out of the income generated by it.

The total estimated capital cost of project is US\$ 305 million over the entire concession period. This will be met through equity capital of about US\$ 15 million, debt of US\$ 153 million and internal accruals of US\$ 137 million.

*[English]***Fake Railway Tickets Racket**

424. SHRI HEMMAL MURMU: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railway Vigilance Department has recently caught some persons indulged in fake railway tickets racket in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Railway Staff conniving in these illegal activities has been established; and

(d) if so, the action taken against the officials/persons found involved in such activities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) No country-wide racket of fake railway ticket has been detected recently. However, the following isolated cases of sale/circulation of fake tickets have been detected:

- (i) On 8.9.2006, a joint team of Railway Board Vigilance and Bihar Police raided the residence of one Shri Saroj Singh in Village Imadpur, Bihar Sharif and caught him red-handed selling railway tickets to a decoy at half the price.
- (ii) In 22nd June 2006, 125 Printed Card Ticket (PCTs) were found at the Booking Counter of Jamui railway station.
- (iii) On 7.6.06 at Katihar station, 04 persons were caught with 04 fake tickets ex-Forbesganj to Jammu Tawi.

(c) Enquiry against one railway official in Booking Office Jamuni, at whose counter the fake tickets were recovered, has been taken up by Central Bureau of Investigation/Anti Corruption Branch/Patna.

(d) The official/persons found involved in this illegal activity have been handed over to the local police/Central Bureau of Investigation for prosecution.

Rationalisation of Reservation

425. SHRI K.S. RAO:
SHRI L. RAJAGOPAL:

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

(a) whether the committee of Ministers on Dalit Affairs has submitted its report to the Government;

(b) if so, the salient features of the Recommendations made by the Committee and the follow-up action taken by the Government thereon;

(c) whether the Government proposes to rationalize the system of reservations for SCs, STs and OBCs not going beyond 50% ceiling while safeguarding the equality rights of other sections of the society; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) The system of reservation for the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Other Backward Classes under the Government of India is already rationalized to ensure that total reservation does not exceed the 50% ceiling.

Facilities to Retired Railway Employees

426. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the facilities provided by the Railways to its retired employees;

(b) whether there is any proposal to give free railway passes to the retired Railway employees to visit railway headquarters in connection with their after-retirement works; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Retired railway employees are entitled to Post Retirement complimentary Passes, free medical treatment, pension, retirement gratuity and encashment of unutilized leave provided they are so eligible under Rules on the subject.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Training to Pilots about CAT-III ILS

427. SHRI SURESH PRABHAKAR PRABHU:
SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether a small percentage of domestic pilots know, how to use the CAT-III. Instrument Landing System (ILS) which was installed at Delhi Airport three years ago;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has taken any action against the airlines which have failed to train those pilots about this system;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the other steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government for safe landing and takeoff of planes during the winter season?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) In the domestic sector, only Indian Airlines Ltd. have trained their pilots for CAT-III operations. Out of 683 Pilots (including trainees), Indian Airlines have approved 146 (21.37%) pilots for Cat-III Operations.

(c) and (d) It is for the respective Airline Operator to train their pilots for ILS CAT-II/III operations as per their requirements. However, Airline Operators are persuaded from time to time to train their pilots for ILS CAT-II/III operations. It is also insisted upon Airlines that Instructor/ Examiner should be CAT II/III approved so that they, in turn, can train maximum number of pilots for CAT-II/III operations.

(e) The Director-General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has issued guidelines for aircraft operations during low visibility conditions and has drawn up the schedule of airlines during the low visibility period taking into consideration the number of CAT-II/III trained pilots available with the airlines. The airport operator has introduced new taxiways, is commissioning additional parking stands, new generation 'follow-me' vehicles with high intensity flashing lights, R/ T sets for communication etc. to facilitate operations during low visibility conditions. Ministry of Civil Aviation has reviewed the preparedness of all airlines and Airport operator for low visibility operations on 9.11.2006.

Augmentation of Fleet in Indian Airlines

428. SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA:
SHRI RAGHUVeer SINGH KOSHAL:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the first A-319 Aircraft has been included in the passenger aircraft fleet of the Indian Airlines;

(b) if so, the cost and salient features thereof;

(c) the details of the air fleet augmentation plan of the Indian Airlines and the aircraft identified and the suppliers identified therefor; and

(d) the steps so far taken for procurement thereof?

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

(b) The A-319 aircraft is a 122-seater aircraft with 8 seats in Business (J) Class and 14 seats in Economy (Y) Class. It is fitted with two CFM engines with each engine having a thrust rating of 23,500 pounds. The aircraft is of latest design with fly by wire technology and is capable of ILS category III-B operation. The cost of the aircraft is about Rs. 190 crores.

(c) and (d) In February, 2006, Indian Airlines had placed an order with Airbus Industries for 43 Airbus aircraft—19 A-319, 4 A-320 and 20 A-321. One A-319 aircraft has already been delivered on 19.10.2006. The delivery schedule of the remaining aircraft is spread over the period June, 2007 to March, 2010. Besides, Indian Airlines have also plans for dry lease of 5 A-320 aircraft during January, 2007 – April, 2007 and 2 wide-bodied A-330-300 aircraft during June, 2007 and November, 2007.

Land under East Coast Railways

429. SHRI B. MAHTAB: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the total land under East Coast Railways as on date;

(b) whether any portion of the total land has been declared surplus;

(c) if so, how does the Railways propose to utilize the surplus land;

(d) whether any Railway land in part of the East Coast Zone has been encroached;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the action taken against the encroachers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) The total land under East Coast Railway as on date is about 12621 hectare.

(b) No, Sir. Railway do not have any surplus land. Railway has however, 1355 hectare of vacant land at

present which may be required by Railway for its operational use in future.

(c) Vacant land, till it is required by Railway for operational use, may be used for commercial development to raise revenues.

(d) and (e) Approximately 31 hectare of Railway land in East Cost Railway has been encroached.

(f) Railways are engaged in a continuous exercise to free their land of encroachments as per provisions of Public Premises (Eviction of Unauthorised Occupants, Act, 1971 and the Railways Act, 1989).

[Translation]

Revival of Oil Blocks Deal with Iran

430. SHRI KAILASH NATH SINGH YADAV: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is trying revival of oil blocks deal with Iran;

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

(c) the reaction of the Iranian authorities thereto; and

(d) the progress made so far in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL): (a) to (d) In a meeting between the Minister of Petroleum & Natural Gas, Government of India and the Minister of Petroleum, Islamic Republic of Iran, in Vienna in September, 2004, ONGC Videsh Ltd. (OVL) was offered the Jufeyr oil field in Iran and the offer was formalized by signing a MOU between National Iranian Oil Company (NIOC) and OVL in January, 2005. As per the MOU, OVL was offered 100% rights and obligations for the development of the field as operator and 20% rights and obligations for the development of Yadavaran Field as non-operator, under the buy back mechanism prevailing in Iran.

OVL submitted the initial draft of the Master Development Plan (MDP) for the Jufeyr field in April, 2005. Subsequent to further discussions between NIOC and OVL, certain modifications were suggested by NIOC

and the data in digital format was also supplied for processing and reinterpretation. As the outcome of the reinterpretation of this data was significantly different from the earlier version, OVL obtained the 3D data acquired and processed by NIOC for realistic assessment of the field. After this reassessment, OVL submitted the MDP for Jufeyr field to NIOC on 1.10.2006.

In a separate development, a side letter signed on 13.6.2005 along with the contract for supply of 5 MMT per annum of LNG. States that OVL has been given 100% rights and obligations against the 2.5 MMT of LNG per year for Jufeyr field as operator, and 10% rights and obligation have been assigned for development of Yadavaran field against the remaining 2.5 MMT of LNG per year. As per the letter, OVL would be given another 10% rights and obligations for the development of Yadavaran field, if the Indian entities sign another LNG contract for additional 2.5 MMT by March, 2006. After analyzing the data of the Yadavaran field and assessing its potential, OVL has expressed its interest to participate in the development of the field. OVL has reported that once the terms and conditions are agreed between NIOC and the Chinese operating company for the Yadavaran field, the NIOC is expected to send a "Letter of Offer" to OVL indicating the terms and conditions.

OVL has informed that Chinese company has also expressed interest in participating in the Jufeyr field and that the NIOC has agreed to their participation along with OVL, after completing the ongoing techno-commercial negotiations with OVL. OVL has conveyed its consent to NIOC indicating that the Chinese Company's participation should be subject to increase of OVL's share commensurately in the Yadavaran field.

The consortium of OVL (40%), IOC (40%) and OIL (20%) is already participating in Farsl offshore block in Iran.

[English]

Recommendation of Investment Commission on Airports

431. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI:
SHRI M. ANJAN KUMAR YADAV:

Will to the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Investment Commission has made any recommendation regarding creation of Special Purpose Vehicles for modernisation of some airports in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Commission has asked the Government to invite bids to set up Greenfield Airports in the select cities of the country;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (e) Information is being collected and will be laid the Table of the House.

Bilateral Agreements with Foreign Countries

432. SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the countries with whom Bilateral Air Services Agreement has been made by the Government during the last six months;

(b) whether any proposal regarding Bilateral Air Services Agreement with any country is presently under consideration of the Government;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) During the last six months, Bilateral Air Services arrangements have

been finalized with Finland, Maldives, Switzerland, Singapore, Kuwait, Bangladesh, UAE (Sharjah), Sri Lanka, Spain, Bhutan, Japan and Oman in the form of Memorandum of Understanding, Agreed Minutes, Exchange of Diplomatic Notes.

(b) to (d) Review of air services arrangement with different countries is an on-going process and these are finalised based on traffic demand, balance of benefit to our national economy and diplomatic/political considerations. Bilateral consultations are planned to be held with Sweden in November, 2006.

Regarding Survey on Population of Minorities

433. SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA: Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any survey has been conducted to find out the number of persons living below double the poverty line of different minority groups;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, in the absence of data, the manner in which the Government has formulated developmental schemes for the welfare of minority groups;

(d) whether there is any proposal to conduct the survey now; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI A. R. ANTULAY): (a) and (b) The Planning Commission has provided estimates regarding the proportion of persons belonging to different minority groups living below double the poverty line. The details are given in the enclosed statement-I & II

(c) to (e) Do not arise.

Statement I

Percentage of Population living below double the poverty line by household religion-wise

(Rural)

S.No.	States/U.Ts	household religion				
		Hinduism	Islam	Christianity	Sikhism	Others
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	Andhra Pradesh	76.00	77.48	84.57	0.00	91.90
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	64.79	88.35	76.32	54.95	72.30

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
3.	Assam	93.22	96.42	98.21	0.00	91.04
4.	Bihar	94.31	94.84	96.18	74.68	98.44
5.	Goa	47.35	4.81	23.66	0.00	0.00
6.	Gujarat	74.00	63.45	95.90	14.30	49.39
7.	Haryana	62.20	91.85	0.00	39.28	1.24
8.	Himachal Pradesh	70.05	50.25	0.00	63.51	59.52
9.	Jammu and Kashmir	72.99	67.33	76.90	49.73	40.79
10.	Karnataka	80.55	75.28	73.94	0.00	74.85
11.	Kerala	61.93	71.26	53.73	0.00	0.00
12.	Madhya Pradesh	90.26	90.50	76.39	63.40	81.84
13.	Maharashtra	79.30	79.84	93.50	100.00	82.49
14.	Manipur	87.11	81.82	84.49	100.00	86.30
15.	Meghalaya	89.61	88.18	85.68	74.30	91.07
16.	Mizoram	79.08	0.00	53.31	0.00	93.77
17.	Nagaland	43.64	66.62	26.69	100.00	0.00
18.	Orissa	92.43	75.20	92.63	0.00	97.77
19.	Punjab	65.15	81.82	68.99	57.47	55.90
20.	Rajasthan	79.31	85.53	59.14	58.83	77.47
21.	Sikkim	85.33	84.27	67.59	0.00	84.18
22.	Tamil Nadu	78.12	61.33	74.13	0.00	0.00
23.	Tripura	85.42	92.28	92.53	77.85	88.49
24.	Uttar Pradesh	86.18	88.83	88.60	32.12	90.41
25.	West Bengal	88.07	93.68	88.87	0.00	92.97
26.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	32.36	54.25	44.63	0.00	0.00
27.	Chandigarh	52.39	60.00	38.39	6.80	0.00
28.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	80.85	11.08	69.67	0.00	100.00
29.	Daman and Diu	27.72	28.61	0.00	0.00	0.00
30.	Delhi	29.82	9.17	0.00	0.00	0.00
31.	Lakshadweep	24.56	41.99	0.00	0.00	0.00
32.	Pondicherry	62.62	63.03	90.60	0.00	0.00
	All India	83.33	85.91	69.74	46.54	81.53

Statement II*Percentage of Population Living Below double the Poverty Line by Household Religion-wise**(Urban)*

States/U.Ts	household religion				
	Hinduism	Islam	Christianity	Sikhism	Others
1	2	3	4	5	6
Andhra Pradesh	70.89	88.59	64.79	100.00	59.34
Arunachal Pradesh	52.01	87.07	62.10	0.00	44.57
Assam	51.48	65.36	45.60	0.00	24.45
Bihar	76.56	90.63	85.95	32.86	66.20
Goa	60.15	71.77	52.79	0.00	0.00
Gujarat	67.76	80.30	41.20	16.50	23.12
Haryana	54.07	94.68	100.00	25.66	5.20
Himachal Pradesh	33.67	55.36	24.10	29.71	10.52
Jammu and Kashmir	39.56	55.48	59.50	19.13	61.42
Karnataka	65.89	87.34	27.02	64.20	73.68
Kerala	63.76	78.61	47.75	0.00	11.26
Madhya Pradesh	83.20	90.48	71.60	68.59	60.37
Maharashtra	68.81	85.34	41.52	22.50	73.93
Manipur	58.99	70.53	65.20	0.00	67.54
Meghalaya	14.79	33.88	23.14	49.48	17.10
Mizoram	11.78	16.32	20.18	0.00	4.93
Nagaland	9.23	12.30	9.45	0.00	0.00
Orissa	86.24	92.09	95.80	0.00	8.20
Punjab	53.45	69.27	59.55	49.40	0.29
Rajasthan	73.71	84.58	41.60	45.49	59.35
Sikkim	40.64	73.13	4.76	15.92	22.84
Tamil Nadu	68.00	78.62	64.21	78.10	40.07
Tripura	42.38	90.32	65.14	0.00	57.10
Uttar Pradesh	71.41	88.22	51.59	46.72	38.27
West Bengal	60.63	81.11	28.24	69.91	52.49
Andaman and Nicobar Islands	54.32	40.51	39.08	0.00	0.00
Chandigarh	28.89	40.53	0.01	14.75	36.18
Dadra and Nagar Haveli	48.19	38.90	0.00	0.00	0.00

1	2	3	4	5	6
Daman and Diu	77.95	59.48	46.88	0.00	0.00
Delhi	45.86	70.98	0.75	30.16	35.05
Lakshadweep	12.60	58.68	9.58	0.00	0.00
Pondicherry	71.41	87.18	76.70	0.00	0.00
All India	67.59	84.12	51.22	51.04	57.25

Production from Ageing Oilfields*[Translation]*

434. SHRI NAVEEN JINDAL : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) has been planning to increase production from ageing oilfields and searching gas in coal mines;

(b) if so, whether the Government has identified such areas; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the amount to be spent on this venture alongwith the additional oil and gas likely to be produced?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL): (a) In order to enhance oil production from its present level by optimizing the output from the existing fields, ONGC has undertaken implementation of Improved Oil Recovery (IOR) / Enhanced Oil Recovery (EOR) schemes. However, They have not done any work related to extraction extrications of gas from coal mines.

(b) ONGC has identified the following 15 fields and initiated 18 projects for the IOR/EOR schemes:

- (i) Western Offshore—Mumbai High North, Mumbai High South, Neelam, Heera.
- (ii) Gujarat State—Gandhar, Kalol, Sanand, Santhal, North Kadi, Jotana, Sobhasan, Balol.
- (iii) Assam State—Galeki, Lakwa, Rudrasagar.

(c) The approved cost of the 18 projects is Rs. 14,060.24 Crores and an expenditure of Rs. 10,733.23 Crores has been made up to March' 06. The expected gain in oil production is 111 MMT and natural gas is 26.28 BCM.

Development of Tourism in Forest and Coastal Areas

435. SHRI BAPU HARI CHAURE: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received any proposal from the Government of Maharashtra for development of tourism in forest and coastal areas of the State;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the funds released to the State Government for the purpose during the current financial year in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) to (c) Development of tourism in the country including the State of Maharashtra is a continuous process. Ministry of Tourism provides central financial assistance to the State Governments/UT Administrations on the basis of project proposal prioritised in consultation with them every year. Two proposals for destination development of Kunkeshwar and Integrated development of Travel Circuit, Kolhapur in Maharashtra have been prioritised which includes development of tourism in forest and coastal areas of the State. Project proposals that are complete in all respect, are examined as per guidelines and sanctioned, subject to inter-seniority and availability of funds under the respective head.

However, during the year 2006-07 Ministry of Tourism has sanctioned Rs. 580.38 lakh for development of tourism in the State of Maharashtra for the following projects:

- (1) Infrastructure and destination development of Mahabaleshwar (Phase II), District Satara

- (2) Celebration of Kalidas Festival
- (3) Celebration of Ellora-Aurangabad festival
- (4) Feasibility Study for Development of New Mahabaleshwar Hill Station
- (5) Celebration of Elephant festival
- (6) Celebration of Chikhaldare festival
- (7) Development of IT projects in Maharashtra.

[English]

**Development of Civil Aviation Sector in
J & K and Karnataka**

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

(a) whether a huge sum is proposed to be spent in the civil aviation sector in Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) region;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether such a proposal is also under consideration for Karnataka, which has a good potential for tourism;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) Yes, Sir. Various development works have been taken up for the civil enclaves at Srinagar, Jammu and Leh Airports in Jammu & Kashmir at an estimated cost of Rs. 227.50 crores.

(b) At Civil Enclave at Srinagar, Phase-I work relating to expansion and modification of terminal building for 950 passengers with two passenger boarding bridges and expansion of apron have been completed and balance work is likely to be completed by December, 2007. Works relating to expansion of apron and additional link taxiway in Phase-II have also been initiated at an estimated cost of Rs. 10 crores. Construction of new terminal building complex and expansion of apron at an estimated cost of Rs. 80 crores at civil enclave at Leh have been initiated.

At Jammu civil enclave, expansion of terminal building complex and apron including acquisition of land at an estimated cost of Rs. 60 crores have been planned.

(c) and (d) Various upgradation works have been either undertaken/planned for development of airports in Karnataka at an estimated cost of Rs. 293.64 crores. At Mangalore airport, construction of new runway and associated facilities have been completed and works relating to construction of a new integrated terminal complex for 800 passengers and construction of apron and link taxiways in front of new terminal building have been initiated.

At Bangalore airport, expansion and modification of domestic and international terminal building have been completed.

At Mysore airport, construction of new runway of 1700 meter length, terminal building for 100 passengers, car park, control tower *etc.* have been initiated.

State Government has been requested for acquisition of additional land transfer of the same to Airports Authority of India (AAI) free of cost and free from all encumbrances to upgrade the airport at Hubli and Belgaum for B-737 operation.

(e) Not applicable in view of the above.

Construction of Tourist Hostel in Bangalore

437. SHRI G. M. SIDDESWARA: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of Karnataka has submitted a project proposal to the Union Government regarding construction of tourist hostel at Indian Heritage Academy, Bangalore;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the estimated cost of the project;

(d) the share of Union and State Government in this project;

(e) the present status of the proposal;

(f) the main reasons for delay in according approval to the project; and

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

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) to (g) Yes, Sir. The State Government of Karnataka submitted a project proposal on 6.11.2004 for construction of Tourist Hostel at Indian Heritage Academy, Bangalore with Central Financial Assistance of Rs. 124.06 lakh.

Ministry of Tourism provides central financial assistance to the State Governments/UT Administrations on the basis of project proposals prioritised in consultation with them every year. Project proposals that are complete in all respect, are examined as per guidelines and sanctioned, subject to *inter-se* priority and availability of funds under the respective head.

The project for construction of Tourist Hostel at Indian Heritage Academy, Bangalore was not as per guidelines of the scheme and hence was not sanctioned.

Computerised Reservation Counters

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

(a) whether the Railways have given approval to set up new computerised railways reservation centres in the different areas of various States, particularly West-Bengal;

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

(c) the time by which these centres are likely to start functioning?

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

(b) Computerised Passenger Reservation Centers have been sanctioned at 123 locations as detailed below:

Andhra Pradesh (8), Arunachal Pradesh (14), Assam (5), Bihar (3), Chhattisgarh (2), Delhi (2), Gujarat (3), Haryana (4), Jammu & Kashmir (7), Jharkhand (2), Karnataka (3), Madhya Pradesh (3), Maharashtra (2), Manipur (8), Meghalaya (6), Mizoram (7), Nagaland (9), Orissa (7), Rajasthan (5), Sikkim (4), Tamil Nadu (2), Tripura (3), Union Territory (1), Uttar Pradesh (7), Uttaranchal (2) and West Bengal (4).

(c) As majority of the locations are non-railheads, computerized rail reservation centers will be commissioned as soon as Data Channel is available and provision of free-of-cost accommodation is made by State Governments.

Joint Venture Partner for IGRUA

439. SHRI L. RAJAGOPAL: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to invite global players/joint venture partner with equity participation to improve the infrastructure and other facilities for Indira Gandhi Rashtriya Uran Academy (IGRUA) as reported in the 'Times of India' dated October 2, 2006; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) The Governing Council of Indira Gandhi Rashtriya Uran Akademi (IGRUA) decided to bring in professionalisation of management through a Management Contract with experts and professional agencies in the field. An Empowered Committee comprising of officers of Ministry of Civil Aviation, Director General of Civil Aviation and Director, IGRUA has been set up for the purpose.

[Translation]

Agreement between India and Kazakhstan

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

(a) whether India and Kazakhstan have set up joint business council to explore and expand bilateral ties;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of the sectors on which Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas discussed with his counterpart; and

(d) the details of the progress made so far in each of such sectors?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL): (a) To explore and expand bilateral ties with Kazakhstan, Inter-Governmental Commission between India and Kazakhstan has been established. The 6th meeting of the India-Kazakhstan Inter-Governmental Commission on Trade, Economic, Scientific, Technological, Industrial & Cultural Cooperation was held in New Delhi on 12-13 October, 2006.

(b) to (d) During the meeting, discussions were held on Trade and Economic; Hydrocarbons; Mineral Resources; Information Technology; Military Technical Cooperation; Science & Technology; Consular Issues and Transportation Sectors. At the end of the meeting, it was decided to finalize the protocol through diplomatic channels.

[English]

Espionage Activities in Armed Forces

441. MS. INGRID MACLEOD:
DR. K. DHANARAJU:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the incidents of espionage in the Armed Forces have come to the notice of the Government;

(b) if so, the number of such cases reported during each of the last three years and current year, force-wise;

(c) the foreign countries/foreign outfits with which the espionage have been found to be linked;

(d) the number of persons arrested and punished during the said period; and

(e) the steps proposed to be taken to strengthen counter-intelligence machinery in the country in order to effectively bust the espionage rings?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY):

(a) and (b) A few cases of involvement of Armed Forces personnel in espionage activities have come to the notice of the Government. The number of such cases reported during last three years and current year in the Armed Forces are as under:

	2003	2004	2005	2006
Army	4	-	1	3
Navy	-	-	1	1
Air Force	-	-	-	1

(c) Pakistan Intelligence Operatives/Pakistan High Commission Staff has been found involved/linked with some of these cases.

(d) 23 Armed Forces personnel have been arrested for involvement in these cases. Of these 21 have been awarded stringent punishment.

(e) Comprehensive preventive measures based on *modus operandi* of hostile countries/organizations are being enforced and regular security review is carried out from time to time with a view to sensitize the environment for making security apparatus foolproof. In addition the existing Counter Intelligence set up in the Armed Forces is synergized on a regular basis to meet the new challenges. Stringent action is being undertaken against the accused persons and exemplary punishment is being awarded.

Infrastructure at Non-Metro Airports

442. SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI:
SHRIMATI JAYABEN B. THAKKAR:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether international passenger traffic has grown up by an average of 15% during the last one year;

(b) if so, whether the Government proposes to add small towns of the country in the international aviation map;

(c) if so, the number of non-metro airports included in the aviation map for international traffic and number of cities proposed to be added which would have direct national flight in the coming years;

(d) whether necessary infrastructure has been made available in these non-metro cities; and

(e) if so, the detailed strategy chalked out by the Government in this regard?

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

(b) At the request of State Governments and airline operators, action has already been initiated for improvement and upgradation of infrastructure at Cooch Bihar, Mysore and Akola airports to make them operational for scheduled flights.

(c) Besides Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai, Kolkata, Bangalore and Hyderabad, 18 other cities viz. Ahmedabad, Amritsar, Calicut, Cochin, Coimbatore, Gaya, Goa, Guwahati, Jaipur, Lucknow, Nagpur, Pune, Thiruvananthapuram, Trichy, Varanasi, Mangalore, Srinagar and Patna are linked to international destination. With

regard to development of other non-metro airports for international flights, Airports Authority of India initiates action depending upon demand from airline operators.

(d) and (e) Yes Sir. However, improvement and upgradation of infrastructure facility is an ongoing process and is taken up depending on demand/capacity basis. In this regard 35 non-metro cities/airports have been identified for upgradation, improvement and modernization of infrastructure facilities to meet the present and future demand. Airports Authority of India would develop the runway, taxiway, navigation, landing aids and CNS/ATM facilities at these airports.

Manufacturing of Helicopters by HAL

443. SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd. (HAL) proposes to manufacture about 130 helicopters in cooperation with US Major M/s BELL;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the arrangement have been made by the Indian Army to replace ageing Chetak; and

(d) if so, the number of helicopters the Army has planned to replace?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (RAO INDERJIT SINGH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) Procurement action has been initiated for replacement of Cheetah/Chetak helicopters of Indian Army in accordance with the extant procedure contained in Defence Procurement Procedure alongwith Transfer of Technology for M/s Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd. (HAL).

[Translation]

Modernisation of Railways Station

444. PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR:
SHRI SHISHUPAL PATLE:
SHRI VIKRAMBHAI ARJANBHAI MADAM:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is contemplating to approve the modernisation scheme of all Railways Stations in the capital and the NCR before commencement of Commonwealth Games in the capital;

(b) if so, whether this scheme is being formulated for all the stations;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor alongwith the names of the stations which are likely to be modernised;

(d) the State-wise names of the other railway stations which are likely to be modernised before the commencement of Commonwealth Games; and

(e) the station-wise details of the amount likely to be spent alongwith the facilities likely to be provided on these stations and the time by which the work is likely to be completed?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) There are a large number of stations in National Capital Region (NCR) including small way side stations carrying few passengers and it may not be feasible or necessary to modernize all these stations. However, major stations including Delhi, New Delhi and Hazrat Nizamuddin shall be modernized before commencement of Commonwealth Games. It is also proposed to convert New Delhi Station into a world class station, subject to availability of fund.

(d) and (e) Indian Railway has more than 8000 station on its system which are classified into various categories based on earnings, etc. Modernization of the stations is an ongoing process based on the category of the station, *inter-se* priorities, availability of funds etc. For stations outside National Capital Region (NCR), no specific targets have been laid down for modernization of stations in connection with Commonwealth Games. Funds to the tune of Rs. 350 Crore (approximately) have been allotted for this purpose during the current financial year i.e. 2006-07 and further funds will be allotted in the coming years as required.

[English]

Festival of India in Brussels

445. DR. M. JAGANNATH: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposed to hold 'Festival of India' in Brussels, the capital of Belgium;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reasons for reviving the festival after a gap of more than 15 years and reasons for choosing Brussels as the venue for the festival; and

(d) the details of the expenditure likely to be incurred and revenue generated through this event?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR), New Delhi in partnership with Ministry of Culture and Ministry of Tourism and in collaboration with the Center for Fine Arts (BOZAR), Brussels, is organizing 'Festival of India' in Brussels during October 2006 to January 2007. Various events are being organized during the Festival including performing art, exhibitions, seminars, lectures, fashion shows, food festivals, film festivals, talks by eminent writers/authors, souvenir shops and exhibition of some of the early images of iconic Indian art and painting. Ministry of Culture has organized a three months long exhibition on 1500 years of Indian Civilization entitled "Tejas".

(c) In the last 15 years India has emerged as an important player in a changed world. Through this event, the efforts are being made to link the glory of India's past with the present and to the potential of future. Brussels, being the capital of European Union provides an excellent location to showcase India's cultural diversity and civilization and also to further the objectives of an India-EU strategic partnership in areas such as business and technology.

(d) The expenditure on this event will be shared by various Indian Departments/Organizations responsible for putting up their components and by the Centre for Fine Arts (BOZAR) in Brussels. Ministry of Culture has provided an outlay of Rs. 3 crore for the exhibition while the share of Indian Council for Cultural Relations is approximately Rs. 5.00 crore. As a result of this event, India will gain various long-term benefits by exchanging its cultural image.

[Translation]

Brake Inspection in Passenger Trains

446. SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railway administration has extended the restriction limit in regard to the Brake inspection rules for passenger trains;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reasons for extending the restriction limit for brake inspection in passenger trains;

(d) whether frequent complaints have been received about tracks, brakes, wheels, axle etc. because of extension of restriction limit for brake inspection of passenger trains; and

(e) if so, the steps taken by the Railways to review will be conducted to maintain passenger Safety Rules?

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

(b) Brake Inspection of trains is carried out during Primary Maintenance at the base Depot and also during Secondary Maintenance at the other end. As a matter of policy, detailed Brake system examination has been dispensed with at the other end provided the round trip distance of the train does not exceed 2500 Kms. or 3500 Kms. (for a few identified trains). Therefore, this inspection is done at train Terminating points or after a round trip distance of upto 2500 or 3500 Kms. Moreover, whenever a locomotive is changed for any reason Brake Power continuity is tested before commencement of journey.

(c) Given the size of our country, certain long distance trains had already been running for distances upto 3500 Kms. before reaching their destination and being given a Brake Inspection. Therefore in the interest of better utilization of coaches, certain other trains are also being allowed to run for upto 2500/3500 Kms. in a round trip without secondary maintenance which includes brake inspection.

(d) No, Sir. No complaints of these types have been received arising out of the extension of interval for Brake Impaction. The guidelines and instructions in this regard have been issued after due consideration of requirements of safety.

(e) Does not arise.

[English]

Recommendations of Kaw Committee

447. SHRI E.G. SUGAVANAM: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether series of aircraft malfunctioning have been reported in the past few months;

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

(c) whether the Kaw Committee has recommended improvement in aviation safety;

(d) if so, whether the recommendations of the Committee have been implemented fully;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) to (f) Kaw Committee have made exhaustive study of Role, Functions and Structure of Directorate General of Civil Aviation and recommended streamlining of certain regulatory procedures for safety in aviation operation. These recommendations are being implemented through examination and consultations with other Ministries like Defence, communications, Finance, Law etc. However, Director General of Civil Aviation, so far have implemented 30 recommendations pertaining to aviation safety by way of issuance of Civil Aviation Requirements, Airworthiness Instructions, Air Transport Circular and similar guidelines.

Resumption of Flight on Kathmandu-Varanasi Sector

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

(a) whether the Indian Airlines (IA) had suspended its flight on the Kathmandu-Varanasi-Kathmandu sector;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the IA has now resumed this flight;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the steps proposed to be taken by the Government for resumption of this flight?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Due to severe equipment and crew constraints, Indian Airlines had to suspend its flight on the Kathmandu-Varanasi-Kathmandu sector from April, 2005.

(c) and (d) Indian Airlines has resumed daily operations between Varanasi and Kathmandu with A-320 aircraft w.e.f. 15th September, 2006.

(e) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Inclusion of Castes in Central List of OBCs

449. SHRI JASWANT SINGH BISHNOI: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of castes belonging to Rajasthan included in the Central List of Other Backward Classes (OBCs);

(b) the number of castes pending for inclusion in the Central List of OBCs as yet alongwith the reasons therefor; and

(c) the time by which the remaining castes are likely to be included in the Central List?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) 65 castes have been included in the Central List of Other Backward Classes (OBCs) for State of Rajasthan.

(b) No Case is pending.

(c) Does not arise.

Khajuraho Airport

450. SHRI VIJAY KUMAR KHANDELWAL: SHRI KRISHNA MURARI MOGHE:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the works relating to extended portion of runway at Khajuraho Airport has been completed by Airports Authority of India (AAI) ;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the time by which the said work is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) Yes, Sir. The main work has been completed. However, commissioning of the extended portion of the runway was held up initially due to diversion of road by the State Government. One hillock forming part of obstruction has been chopped off. Some other obstruction removal are also in progress.

(b) Various works like strengthening of existing runway, extension of runway, grading of the extended portion of the runway and construction of shoulders and associated works with an estimated cost of Rs. 22 crores have been undertaken.

(c) Commissioning of the extended portion of runway is expected by February, 2007 after removal of all the obstructions.

[English]

Loopholes in Railway Reservation System

451. SHRI HEMMAL MURMU: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been nexus between railway reservation officials and middlemen as reported in 'Jansatta' dated October 15, 2006;

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

(c) whether the Railways have identified the loopholes in the system due to which such nexus has been able to operate;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken by the Railways to bring transparency in railway reservation system and also to check such nexus?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) Sometimes extra accommodation arising out of additional coaches is fed into the system at the time of charting. These additional berths are released first to the waiting list passengers and the remaining berths are made available for booking at the current counters after charting. Even though the wait listed passengers get their reservation confirmed automatically, some touts/middlemen encash this confirmation, as they also collect the information about any last moment augmentation of coaches.

In the Passenger Reservation System (PRS) software, upgradation is done if the seats in the higher class are vacant and there is RAC (Reservation Against Cancellation) or waiting list in the lower class. The upgradation system works automatically and upgrades the passengers in a random way. Thus, there is no scope in the system for manual manipulation.

(c) and (d) No major loophole in the system has been identified. There is general lack of information amongst the passengers about the latest augmentation of additional coaches, if any.

(e) To keep the passengers well informed about the availability of vacant berths, availability boards are provided at important stations. Interactive Voice Response System (IVRS) is provided to get information on the PNR (Passenger Name Record) status and availability of berths/seats. Internet booking facility has also been provided to eliminate the role of middlemen.

[Translation]

Foreign Tourists

452. SHRI HARISINH CHAVDA:
SHRI BALASHOWRY VALLABHANENI:
SHRI GIRIDHARI YADAV:
SHRIMATI SANGEETA KUMARI SINGH DEO:
SHRI M.K. SUBBA:
SHRI BRAJESH PATHAK:

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the number of foreign tourists visited India during each of the last three years, State-wise;

(b) whether the Government proposes to prepare a special package to attract more foreign tourists;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the other concrete measures being taken to boost tourism in the country?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) The estimated number of foreign tourist visits of different States/UTs of India during the years 2003, 2004 and 2005 are given in the enclosed statement.

(b) and (c) Tourism is primarily a private sector activity with Government playing the role of a facilitator and catalyst. Special packages to attract more foreign tourists are offered normally by tour operators. However, Ministry of Tourism undertakes the following promotional activities to attract more foreign tourists to the country:

- Centralized Electronic Media and on-line Campaigns,
- Advertising in the Print Media,
- Participation in Fairs & Exhibitions,
- Organising Seminars, Workshops & Road Shows,

- Organising/Sponsoring India Evenings,
- Organising/participating in Buyer-Seller Meet,
- Organising Food & Cultural Festivals,
- Inviting media personalities, tour operators and opinion makers under the Department's Hospitality Programme.
- Printing and distributing Brochures and Collaterals,
- Brochure Support/Joint Advertising with Travel Agents/Tour Operators,

- Market Research and collection of market intelligence data, and
- Public relations.

(d) Apart from the promotional measures taken by the Government to boost tourism in the country, financial assistance is provided to the State/UT governments for projects to develop tourism infrastructure in tourist destinations and circuits. So far in the 10th Plan, 1008 projects have been approved and more than Rs. 1500 crore sanctioned under various plan schemes for tourism infrastructure development in the States/UTs.

Statement

State-wise Foreign Tourist Visits during the years 2003, 2004 and 2005

Sl. No.	State/U.T.	2003	2004	2005
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	479318	501019	560024
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	123	269	289
3.	Assam	6610	7285	10782
4.	Bihar	60820	38118	63321
5.	Goa	314357	363230	336803
6.	Gujarat	37534	21179	47107
7.	Haryana	84981	66153	59353
8.	Himachal Pradesh	167902	204344	207790
9.	Jammu and Kashmir	24330	40242	44345
10.	Karnataka	249908	530225	545225
11.	Kerala	294621	345546	346499
12.	Madhya Pradesh	92278	145335	160832
13.	Maharashtra*	986544	1218382	1448656
14.	Manipur	257	249	316
15.	Meghalaya	6304	12407	5099
16.	Mizoram	279	326	273
17.	Nagaland	743	1084	883
18.	Orissa	25020	28817	33310
19.	Punjab	4589	7312	4353
20.	Rajasthan	628560	971772	1131164

1	2	3	4	5
21.	Sikkim	11966	14648	16523
22.	Tamil Nadu	901504	1058012	1179316
23.	Tripura	3196	3171	2677
24.	Uttaranchal	55228	62885	75995
25.	Uttar Pradesh	817000	1037243	1174597
26.	Chattisgarh	1150	3000	912
27.	Jharkhand	3223	4375	6035
28.	West Bengal	705457	775694	895639
29.	Andaman and Nicobar	4142	4578	2147
30.	Chandigarh	17057	16137	23284
31.	Daman and Diu	3274	4111	6164
32.	Delhi*	693827	839574	1511893
33.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	136	168	1226
34.	Lakshadweep	682	1285	941
35.	Pondicherry	25559	32053	36009
Total*		6708479	8360226	9939782

*Figures are estimated

Source: State/U.T. Governments.

National Gas Advisory Body

453. SHRI BASU BEB ACHARIA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is considering setting up of National Gas Advisory Body to promote pipelines and city distributor networks as reported in Business Line on October 27, 2006;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has considered setting up regulatory body in respect of pricing etc. to protect the interests of consumers; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government proposes to lay down a policy for development of Natural Gas Pipelines and City/Local Natural Gas Distribution Networks

which, *inter alia*, envisages setting up of a National Gas Advisory Board (NGAB) by the Government to advise it on all matters relating to this Policy.

(c) and (d) Government has notified on April 3, 2006 the Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board Act, 2006. The Act envisages establishment of Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board to regulate the refining, processing, storage, transportation, distribution, marketing and sale of petroleum, petroleum products and natural gas, excluding production of crude oil and natural gas. The issue of regulation of gas pricing does not come under the purview of the Board, except for transportation tariff for non-dedicated pipelines and facilities.

[English]

Financial Assistance to States for Promoting Tourism

454. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government provides financial assistance to States for promoting tourism;

(b) if so, the details of schemes for which such assistance is provided and the amount allocated to various States to promote tourism during each of the last three years, State-wise;

(c) whether any special assistance is being provided for development of Sundarbans Tiger Reserve/National park in view of its tourism potentiality;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) and (b) Development of tourism is primarily the responsibility of the State/U.T. Governments. Ministry of Tourism provides Central Financial Assistance to States/U.Ts for development of tourism projects prioritized in consultation with them under the existing scheme of Product/Infrastructure Development for Destinations and Circuits. A Statement showing the amount released to various States to promote tourism during each of the last three-years, State-wise, is given in the enclosed statement.

(c) to (e) No proposal has been received for grant of financial assistance from the Government of West Bengal for development of Sundarbans Tiger Reserve/National Park.

Statement

State-wise Tourism Projects Sanctioned during the last three years of Tenth Five Year Plan

(Rs. in lakhs)

S.No.	State/UT	2004-05			2005-06			2006-07		
		No of Projects Sancd.	Amount Sancd.	Amount Released	No of Projects Sancd.	Amount Sancd.	Amount Released	No of Projects Sancd.	Amount Sancd.	Amount Released
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
1.	Andhra Pradesh	16	2827.19	2240.68	7	2,615.82	1,700.00	1	468.63	337.90
2.	Assam	8	986.03	766.22	10	2,140.00	1,698.45	1	454.28	363.42
3.	Arunachal	9	1325.50	927.96	10	2,240.16	1,655.21	4	760.90	608.73
4.	Bihar	7	1901.43	1527.71	3	1,212.23	722.49	0	0	0
5.	Chattisgarh	6	1117.94	897.93	7	1,775.59	1,436.54	7	876.38	701.10
6.	Goa	3	110.00	38.00	1	10.00	8.00	0	0	0
7.	Gujarat	2	138.93	111.14	5	2,011.58	1,169.04	5	347.73	278.18
8.	Haryana	6	693.55	513.64	7	639.71	515.77	3	25.00	20.00
9.	Himachal Pradesh	12	2680.00	2161.00	6	1,645.00	921.00	4	285.00	228.00
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	5	819.25	699.04	22	6,656.01	5,320.31	13	2826.32	1828.00
11.	Jharkhand	2	945.91	756.72	5	1,227.27	697.76	0	0	0
12.	Karnataka	12	2461.76	1937.37	8	1,706.52	1,001.21	1	226.88	204.20
13.	Kerala	10	2283.63	1820.33	13	4,858.88	3,889.90	5	416.39	333.11
14.	Madhya Pradesh	11	1595.19	942.21	12	3,047.39	2,419.54	3	903.10	722.40
15.	Maharashtra	10	1620.62	925.30	9	2,075.04	1,662.99	7	580.38	465.28
16.	Manipur	0	0.00	0.00	2	49.80	39.84	5	788.29	526.64
17.	Meghalaya	2	963.30	807.91	1	5.00	4.00	2	15.00	12.00

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
18.	Mizoram	6	1086.35	382.38	10	2,273.41	1,687.29	0	0	0
19.	Nagaland	7	2250.69	1413.40	9	2,528.97	1,873.17	5	468.94	375.17
20.	Orissa	8	1320.74	1059.38	10	2,309.61	1,586.44	8	477.12	381.70
21.	Punjab	7	724.68	581.47	5	1,437.67	1,150.13	5	814.45	651.56
22.	Rajasthan	13	2516.61	1375.07	7	2,591.87	2,086.40	8	653.39	522.70
23.	Sikkim	8	660.81	531.33	14	2,844.56	2,213.74	0	0	0
24.	Tamil Nadu	7	1308.92	705.83	19	4,264.62	3,007.68	6	625.63	503.26
25.	Tripura	1	20.00	16.00	3	716.26	569.43	1	4.15	3.32
26.	Uttaranchal	7	2199.98	1750.73	13	2,738.00	2,193.18	6	528.99	428.19
27.	Uttar Pradesh	9	1044.93	831.19	18	3,905.23	3,126.03	5	2441.90	1953.52
28.	West Bengal	10	513.04	407.03	5	989.35	792.48	4	952.36	717.38
29.	Andaman and Nicobar	0	0.00	0.00	1	6.25	5.00	0.	0	0
30.	Chandigarh	3	467.00	373.80	1	13.70	13.70	0	0	0
31.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	0	0.00	0.00	2	29.79	25.92	0	0	0
32.	Delhi	8	628.85	511.00	2	20.00	17.00	3	20.00	17.00
33.	Daman and Diu	0	0.00	0.00	4	262.28	208.61	0	0	0
34.	Lakshadweep	0	0.00	0.00	0	0	0	0	0	0
35.	Pondicherry	2	451.00	360.00	2	469.39	375.51	0	0	0
Total		217	37,663.83	27,371.97	253	61,316.96	45,793.76	112	15,961.21	12,182.76

Note: This includes the projects relating to Circuits, Destinations, Large Revenue Generating Projects, Rural Tourism (Software and Hardware) Projects, IT, Event, Fair & Festivals Projects.

[Translation]

Backlog of Reserved Posts in IOC

455. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is backlog of reserved posts in Indian Oil Corporation (IOC);

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

(c) whether any special drive is being launched to fill up the backlog posts;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the time by which the backlog is likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL): (a) and (b) Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOC) have reported a shortfall of 1 (one) ST vacancy in Group 'A' and 10 (ten) and 46 (fourty six) vacancies in Group 'D' under 'ST' and 'OBC' categories respectively.

(c) to (e) IOC have no plan to launch any special drive to fill up the vacant reserved posts, as the shortfall

is marginal. The shortfall of 1 ST vacancy in Group 'A' is likely to be wiped out after joining of the new officers for which offer of appointment have been issued. Generally, IOC do not make recruitment in Group 'D', except under Corporation's Rehabilitation Scheme for providing rehabilitation to dependent son/daughter of deceased employee.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: You do not want the House to function. House stands adjourned till 2 p.m.

11.18 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned till
Fourteen of the clock.*

14.00 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha re-assembled at Fourteen
of the Clock.*

[SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV *in the Chair*]

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: We shall now take up Papers to be laid on the Table.

... (*Interruptions*)

14.01 hrs.

*(At this stage Shri Shailendra Kumar and
some other hon. Members came and stood
on the floor near the Table)*

... (*Interruptions*)

14.02 hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

[English]

THE MINISTER OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI A. R. ANTULAY): I beg to lay on the Table—

- (1) A copy of the Forty third Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Commissioner Linguistic Minorities for the period from July 2004 to June 2005 under article 350(B)(2) of the Constitution.

- (2) A copy of the Explanatory Note (Hindi and English versions) of the Report mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT—4946/2006]

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T. R. BAALU): I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Memorandum of Understanding (Hindi and English versions) between the Ennore Port Limited and the Department of Shipping, Ministry of Shipping, Road Transport and Highways, for the year 2006-2007.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT—4947/2006]

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): On behalf of Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Report on the State of the Panchayats—A Mid-Term Review and Appraisal-2006 (Volumes I to III) (Hindi and English versions).

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT—4948/2006]

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): 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 619A of the Companies Act, 1956:
 - (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Ranchi Ashok Bihar Hotel Corporation Limited, Ranchi, for the year 2004-2005.
 - (ii) Annual Report of the Ranchi Ashok Bihar Hotel Corporation Limited, Ranchi, for the year 2004-2005, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the 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. LT—4949/2006]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI

SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): On behalf of Shri Dayanidhi Maran, I beg to lay on the Table an explanatory statement (Hindi and English versions) giving reasons for immediate legislation by the Indian Telegraph (Amendment) Ordinance, 2006, under rule 71(2) of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT—4950/2006]

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): 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 619A of the Companies Act, 1956:

- (a) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Bharat Electronics Limited, Bangalore, for the years 2005-2006.
- (ii) Annual Report of the Bharat Electronics Limited, Bangalore, for the year 2005-2006, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT. 4951/2006]

- (b) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Mishra Dhatu Nigam Limited, Hyderabad, for the year 2005-2006.
- (ii) Annual Report of the Mishra Dhatu Nigam Limited, Hyderabad, for the year 2005-2006, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT. 4952/2006)]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI B. K. HANDIQUE): I beg to lay on the Table a copy each of the following Ordinances (Hindi and English versions) under article 123(2)(a) of the Constitution:

- (i) The National Council for Teacher Education (Amendment and Validation) Ordinance, 2006 (No. 2 of 2006), promulgated by the President on the 11th September, 2006.

- (ii) The Indian Telegraph (Amendment) Ordinance, 2006 (No. 3 of 2006), promulgated by the President on the 30th October, 2006.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT—4953/2006]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K. H. MUNIYAPPA): I beg to lay on the Table—

- (1) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under section 10 of the National Highways Act, 1956:
- (i) S. O. 1346 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 23rd August, 2006 regarding acquisition of land for the purpose of building (widening six/eight laning) of Nation Highway No. 8, including improvement of Rajokari Junction in the National Capital Territory of Delhi.
- (ii) S. O. 1214 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 28th July, 2006 regarding acquisition of land for building, maintenance, management and operation of National Highway No. NE-II (Eastern Peripheral Expressway Baghpat Section) in the State of Uttar Pradesh.
- (iii) S. O. 1247 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 2nd August, 2006 regarding acquisition of land for building, maintenance, management and operation National Highway No. NE-II (Eastern Peripheral Expressway Ghaziabad Section) in the State of Uttar Pradesh.
- (iv) S. O. 1286 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 10th August, 2006, containing corrigendum to the Notification No. S. O. 734 (E) dated the 18th May, 2006 (in Hindi version only).
- (v) S.O. 1288 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 11th August, 2006 regarding acquisition of land for public purpose of construction of Gorakhpur Bypass, including Rapti Bridge (Lucknow-Gorakhpur Section) of National Highway No. 28 in the State of Uttar Pradesh.
- (vi) S. O. 1281 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 10th August, 2006 regarding acquisition of land for public purpose of building (four -laning) maintenance, management and

operation of National Highway No. 2 (Kanpur-Varanasi Section) in the State of Uttar Pradesh.

- (vii) S. O. 1307 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 14th August, 2006 regarding acquisition of land for public purpose of building, maintenance, management and operation of National Highway No. NE-II (Eastern Peripheral Expressway (Gautam Budh Nagar Section) in the State of Uttar Pradesh.

- (viii) S.O. 1468 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 11th September, 2006 regarding rates of fees to be recovered from the users of the Chandra Sekhar Azad Bridge on the Ganga river on National Highway No. 96 (Uttola-Faizabad-Allahabad Section) in the State of Uttar Pradesh.

- (ix) S. O. 1489 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 13th September, 2006 making certain amendments in the Notification No. S. O. 717(E) dated the 15th May, 2005.

- (x) S. O. 1502 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 14th September, 2006 making certain amendments in the Notification No. S. O. 911(E) dated the 15th June, 2006.

- (xi) S.O. 1307 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 14th August, 2006 regarding acquisition of land for public purpose of building, maintenance, management and operation of National Highway No. NE-II (Eastern Peripheral Expressway (Gautam Budh Nagar Section) in the State of Uttar Pradesh.

- (xii) S. O. 1593 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 25th September, 2006 regarding acquisition of land for public purpose of building (widening/four-laning etc.), maintenance, management and operation of National Highway Nos. 2 and 25 (Bhognipur-Bara Section) in the State of Uttar Pradesh.

- (xiii) S.O. 1598 (E) and S. O. 1599 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 25th September, 2006 regarding acquisition of land for building (widening/four-laning etc.), maintenance, management and operation of different stretches of National Highway No. 24 (Sitapur-Lucknow Section) in the State of Uttar Pradesh.

- (xiv) S. O. 1702 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 5th October, 2006 regarding acquisition of land for public purpose of building (four-laning) maintenance, management and operation of National Highway No. 2 (Kanpur-Varanasi Section) in the State of Uttar Pradesh.

- (xv) S. O. 1769 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 18th October, 2006 regarding omission of five kilometre stretch of the National Highway No. 222 (Bhiwandi by-pass junction to Durgadi Chowk in Kalyan City) in the State of Maharashtra.

- (xvi) S. O. 1246 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 2nd August, 2006 regarding acquisition of land for public purpose of building maintenance, management and operation of National Highway No. NE-II (Eastern Peripheral Expressway) (Faridabad section) in the State of Haryana.

- (xvii) S.O. 1503 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 14th September, 2006 regarding acquisition of land for building (widening/fourlaning etc.) maintenance, management and operation of National Highway No. 10 (Bahadurgarh-Rohtak section) in the State of Haryana.

- (xviii) S. O. 1380 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 30th August, 2006 regarding acquisition of land for building (widening/fourlaning etc.) maintenance, management and operation of National Highway No. 10 (Bahadurgarh-Rohtak section) in the State of Haryana.

- (xix) S. O. 1695 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 4th October, 2006 regarding acquisition of land for building (widening/six-laning, etc.,) maintenance, management and operation of National Highway No. 1 (Delhi-Ambala section) in the State of Haryana.

- (xx) S. O. 1588 (E) and S. O. 1589 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 22th September, 2006 regarding acquisition of land for building (widening/four-laning, etc.,) maintenance, management and operation of different stretches of National Highway No. 7 (Lakhnadon-Madhya Pradesh/Maharashtra Border section) in the State of Madhya Pradesh.

- (xxi) S.O 1754 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 12th October, 2006 regarding acquisition of land for building (widening), maintenance, management and operation of National Highway No. 26, including construction of bypasses (Jhansi-Lakhnadon section) in the State of Madhya Pradesh.
- (xxii) S. O. 1566 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 19th September, 2006 authorizing the Land Acquisition Officer, Public Works Department, Jalandhar, to acquire land for building (widening/ four-laning, etc.), maintenance, management and operation of National Highway No. 1A, in the State of Punjab.
- (xxiii) S. O. 1596 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 25th September, 2006, authorizing the S.D.M., Pathankot, to acquire land for building (widening/four-laning, etc.), maintenance, management and operation of National Highway No. 15, in the State of Punjab.
- (xxiv) S.O. 1709 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 5th October, 2006 authorizing the S.D.M., Amritsar, to acquire land for building (widening/ four-laning, etc.), maintenance, management and operation of National Highway No. 1, in the State of Punjab.
- (xxv) S.O. 1731 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 9th October, 2006, authorizing S.D.M., Dera-Bassi, to acquire land for building (widening/four-laning, etc.), maintenance, management and operation of National Highway No. 22, in the State of Punjab.
- (xxvi) S.O. 1766 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 16th October, 2006 fixing the rates of fees to be recovered from the users of Railway Over Bridge near Dera Bassi on Ambala-Kalka Section on National Highway No. 22, in the State of Punjab.
- (2) Five statements (Hindi and English Versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at item no. (I to v) of (1) above.
- [Placed in Library, *See* No. LT—4954/2006]
- (3) A copy of the Notification No. S. O. 1724 (E) (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India

dated the 6th October, 2006 entrusting stretches of the National Highway Nos. 226 and 227, mentioned therein, to the National Highway Authority of India, issued under section 11 of the National Highways Authority of India Act, 1988.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT—4955/2006]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF HEAVY INDUSTRY, MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH): I beg to lay on the Table—

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Automotive Testing and R and D Infrastructure Project, New Delhi, for the year 2005-2006, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Automotive Testing and R and D Infrastructure Project, New Delhi, for the year 2005-2006.
- [Placed in Library, *See* No. LT—4956/2006]
- (2) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under subsection (1) of section 619A of the Companies Act, 1965:
- (i) Statement regarding review by the Government of the working of the Scooters India Limited, Lucknow, for the year 2005-2006.
- (ii) Annual Report of the Scooters India Limited, Lucknow, for the year 2005-2006, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT—4957/2006].

14.03 hrs.

ASSENT TO BILLS

[*English*]

SECRETARY-GENERAL: Sir, I lay on the Table the following nine Bills passed by the Houses of Parliament during the Eighth Session of Fourteenth Lok Sabha and assented to by President since a report was last made to the House on the 25th August, 2006:

1. The Appropriation (No. 4) Bill, 2006;
2. The Appropriation (Railways) No. 4 Bill, 2006;
3. The Wild Life (Protection) Amendment Bill, 2006;
4. The Cantonments Bill, 2006;
5. The Central Silk Board (Amendment) Bill, 2006;
6. The Protection of Human Rights (Amendment) Bill, 2006;
7. The Pondicherry (Alteration of Name) Bill, 2006;
8. The Produce Cess Laws (Abolition) Bill, 2006; and
9. The Assam Rifles Bill, 2006.

I also lay on the Table copies, duly authenticated by the Secretary-General, Rajya Sabha, of the following six Bills passed by the Houses of Parliament and assented to by the President:

1. The Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Amendment Bill, 2006;
2. The Food Safety and Standards Bill, 2006;
3. The Actuaries Bill, 2006;
4. The Government Securities Bill, 2006;
5. The Salary, Allowances and Pension of Members of Parliament (Amendment) Bill, 2006; and
6. The Banking Companies (Acquisition and Transfer of Undertakings) and Financial Institutions Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2005.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please take your seats. I have to make a very important announcement.

...(Interruptions)

14.04 hrs.

RESIGNATION BY MEMBER

MR. CHAIRMAN: I have to inform the House that the hon. Speaker had received a letter 12th September,

2006 from Shri K. Chandra Sekhar Rao, an elected Member from Karimnagar Parliamentary Constituency of Andhra Pradesh resigning from the membership of Lok Sabha with immediate effect.

Hon. Speaker accepted his resignation with effect from 23rd September, 2006.

...(Interruptions)

14.04½ hrs.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON FOOD, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION

Fourteenth Report

[English]

SHRIMATI P. SATHEEDEVI (Badagara): I beg to present the Fourteenth Report* (Hindi and English version) of the Standing Committee on Food, Consumer Affairs and Public Distribution (2006-07) on "The Warehousing (Development and Regulation) Bill, 2005" pertaining to the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution (Department of Food and Public Distribution).

14.05 hrs.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON RAILWAYS

Twenty-second and Twenty-third Reports

[English]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura): I beg to present the following Reports (Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Committee on Railways:

- (1) 22nd Report on Action Taken by the Government on the recommendations/observations contained in the 14th Report (Fourteenth Lok Sabha) of the Committee on 'Indian Railway Catering & Tourism Corporation.'
- (2) 23rd Report on Action Taken by the Government on the recommendations/observations contained in the 11th report (Fourteenth Lok Sabha) of the Committee on 'X Five Year Plan of the Railways.'

*The Report was presented to the Hon'ble Speaker under Direction 71A of the Directions by the Speaker, Lok Sabha on 31st October, 2006.

14.05¹/₄ hrs.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT

One hundred seventy eighth to One hundred
eighty second Reports

[English]

DR. THOKCHOM MEINYA (Inner Manipur): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy each of the following Reports (Hindi and English versions) of Standing Committee on Human Resource Development:

- (1) One Hundred Seventy-eighth Report on "The National Institutes of Technology Bill, 2006";
- (2) One Hundred Seventy-ninth Report on "The Sikkim University Bill, 2006";
- (3) One Hundred Eightieth Report on "The Tripura University Bill, 2006";
- (4) One Hundred Eighty-first Report on "The Rajiv Gandhi University Bill, 2006"; and
- (5) One Hundred Eighty-second Report on "The Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Amendment Bill, 2006";

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Item No. 15—Shri Rajnarayan Budholiya—Not present.

(Interruptions)

14.05¹/₂ hrs.

JALLIANWALA BAGH NATIONAL MEMORIAL (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2006*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, the House shall take up Item No. 16 : Bill to be introduced—Shrimati Ambika Soni.

...(Interruptions)

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to amend the Jallianwala Bagh National Memorial Act, 1951.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is :

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to amend the Jallianwala Bagh National Memorial Act, 1951."

The motion was adopted.

SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

...(Interruptions)

14.06 hrs.

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377*

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Notices under Rule 377 are laid on the table of the House.

(I) **Need to provide reservation to SCs/STs in Private Sector**

[English]

SHRI L. RAJAGOPAL (Vijayawada): The NCMP of UPA committed to provide full equality of opportunity for SCs/STs. To fulfill this goal, Government is moving ahead to reserve jobs in private sector. As a part of this process, Government constituted a five-member Coordination Committee to suggest mechanism for affirmative action required to be implemented by private companies. I suggest, to ensure that required quota is filled in by private sector, it should be asked to set aside some portion 10% or 15% of their annual wage bill towards SC/STs, not some number of jobs. Further, companies providing reservation should be given incentives in the form of Income Tax, Sales Tax, Excise Duty, etc. Also, preference may be given in all Government contracts and purchases to companies which fulfill the required SC/ST quota. Finally, where Government licenses are mandatory, license issuing agencies should be instructed to include a mandatory clause of reservation as a basics requirement of their licenses.

By doing this, the socio-economic conditions in which SC/STs are surviving would definitely improve and certainly help to a great extent in bringing improvement in their social and economic status.

*Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II, Section-2 dated 23.11.2006.

*Treated as laid the Table.

(II) Need to make budgetary allocation for development of backward districts in the country

[Translation]

SHRI HARISINH CHAVDA (Banaskantha): Sir, several areas of the country are extremely backward and owing to the neglect of these backward areas the balanced growth of the country is not taking place. No facilities are being provided to these areas due to which many economic problems have cropped up including the one that of migration. My parliamentary constituency Banaskantha is the most backward area of Gujrat where special attention is required to be paid. The Government should make budgetary allocation for development of backward area.

Therefore, I urge upon the Government of backward areas and it should be regularly ensured if the balanced growth work is being properly carried out or not.

(III) Need for opening up of a sub divisional office of Employees Provident Fund Organisation at Erode in Tamil Nadu

[English]

SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN (Palani): Erode District in Tamil Nadu is an industrially developed district having many industries including textiles, oil mills, leather factories, beedi companies and other varieties of tiny industries. Within the radius of 20 kms from Erode SIPCOT is functioning and hundreds of industries are situated there. I am proud to say that more than 1 lakh. Employees are working in various industries and enjoying the benefits under the schemes of Provident Fund Organisations (EPFO) is functioning at Salem. Salem Town is 160 kms. away from terminal ends like Dharapuram on southern side, Thalavadi, Bannari, Bhavanisagar on North Western side, 120 kms. from Uthukuli, S. Periapalayam, Kangayam, Vellakoil, Chennimalai on western side and 65 kms. away from Erode. Under the situation, members have to travel all the way to Salem by losing their one day's salary and one day's time. Furthermore, most of the employees are provident fund members of my Erode District and are working in the unorganized sector earning much less income and they find it very difficult to go to Salem to get their grievances redressed. According to the guidelines of Ministry of Labour, for opening a Sub-Regional Office, the required population must be more than 5 lakhs whereas the Erode District is having a population of more

than 12 lakhs comprising of 11 Assembly segments. Three Parliamentary Constituencies viz., Gopichettipalayam, Thiruchengode and Palani are also come under the District.

In view of the above facts and also to render better service to the subscribers and to ensure immediate settlement of claims, sanction of advances and to immediate redressal of grievances, I urge upon the Hon'ble Minister to take necessary steps for opening up of a Sub-Divisional Office at Erode at the earliest.

(IV) Need to rehabilitate the farmers whose land was acquired for SEZ projects

SHRI LALIT MOHAN SUKLABAIDYA (Karimganj): Food Security in our country has become a significant issue today. While 70 per cent of Indian population depends on farming, the alarming rate of population rise has warranted importing food to maintain Food Security after nearly 30 years. In spite of Government's sincere and all possible efforts, 26% of Indian population live Below Poverty Line and suicides by the farmers in recent years have added a new dimension to this situation. In this scenario, Selected Economic Zone (SEZ) projects at various places are a very delicate issue. Due to its immediate benefit the debt burdened farmers may be tempted to sell their agricultural lands but the lump sum money that they may receive is not likely to last long—making them more susceptible to live under BPL. The mass of land remaining static, the SEZ projects with potential economic growth, will reduce the size of agricultural land affecting food production making us more dependent on food import in the long run. On top of it, farmers being workers in unorganized sector they can hardly transform themselves into skilled workers and work in factories or other establishments raised on the acquired land and earn. It would, therefore, be purposeful if the farmers whose plots of land are being acquired should be rehabilitated to ensure a livelihood for them otherwise there is possibility of unscrupulous activities around the cash compensation affecting farmers more severely.

(V) Need to repeal the Armed Forces Special Power Act, 1958 in North Eastern States and Jammu and Kashmir

DR. THOKCHOM MEINYA (Inner Manipur): The Government has constituted the Justice Jeevan Reddy Committee to review the Armed Forces Special Power Act, 1958, promulgated in the North Eastern States and

[Dr. Thokchom Meinya]

Jammu and Kashmir in order to repeal the Act or to providing a human face to the Act. It has been quite some time that this Committee had submitted its report to the Government. It is also understood that the Committee recommended the repeal of the Act. I have been requesting the Union Government for consideration of the repeal of this Act even since I joined this Parliament in 2004.

The people of Manipur are looking forward for the repeal of the Act immediately. This will go a long way towards solving the problem being faced by the peaceful state of Manipur. Hence, I once again strongly urge upon the Union Government to consider the immediate repeal of this Act.

(vi) Need to include Bhojpuri language in the Eighth Schedule to the Constitution

[Translation]

YOGI ADITYA NATH (Gorakhpur): Sir, the largest dialect of the world, Bhojpuri is spoken in approximately 70 thousand square kilometers of land inhabited by 16 crore people. It is widely spoken in UP, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh and Jharkhand. It has a stronghold even in 27 countries including foothills of Nepal, Mauritius, Fiji, Trinidad, Thailand, Holland, Malaysia and Singapore. The word 'Bhoj' finds reference in Rigveda by Maharishi Vishwamitra and Bhojpuri originated from this word. Various religious epics including Mahabharata, history of 'Bhoj' king of Malwa, Bhoj of Ujjain, Gujjar Pratihara Bhoj, Bhoj King of Kashi Ti Durgarao stand a testimony to popularity, grandeur and antiquity of the language.

Hundreds of thinkers and literary men like Chauranginath ji, Gorakhnathji, Bhartrihari, Kabirdas, Kamaldas, Paltudas, Bhakha Saheb disseminated Bhojpuri from one generation to another through their folk tales, songs, folklores and sayings. Writers like Mahapandit Rahul Sankrityayan Dr. Bhagwatsharan Upadhyaya and Chaturi Chacha gave prose literature new heights.

Sir, as everyone is aware that originally only 14 languages were included in the Eighth Schedule to the Indian Constitution. Subsequently Sindhi, Konkani, Nepali, Mainpuri, Maithili, Dogri, Santhali and Boda were also included through an amendment. With due respect to all these languages the people belonging to Bhojpuri culture would like to know the reason why these dialects were included in the Schedule and whether Bhojpuri is lacking in that criteria.

Sir, the Government is requested to include Bhojpuri language in the Eighth Schedule immediately respecting the sentiments of 16 crore people.

(vii) Need to protect the interests of tribals living in forests of Gujarat

SHRI MANSUKHBHAI D. VASAVA (Bharuch): The Adivasis are being displaced from forests in entire Gujarat by an order of the Central Government. These Adivasis have been inhabiting in these forests ever since the time of their forefathers and they feed their families on wild vegetations and other things available in the forest. Forest and Adivasis are synonyms of each other and the Adivasis inhabiting these forests are extremely poor, illiterate and belong to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled tribes category. What kind of welfare measures the Government wants to take by displacing them from the place of their development. These Adivasis do not destroy forests but inhabit them as they consider it their God.

Through the House, I would urge upon the Government that the forest land where these adivasis live and the fields that they sow should be allotted to them. If there is a need to bring an amendment or frame a law, for this purpose, it should be done with immediate effect.

(viii) Need to provide special financial package to Government of Rajasthan to tackle the flood situation in the State

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA (Jaipur): Sir, there were heavy floods in Rajasthan and life and livestock of lakhs of rupees was destroyed and the State Government has requested the Union Government several times to provide special assistance for flood relief. The study team which visited the state to take stock of the situation also gave assurances of Central assistance. Rainwater is still clogged in Barmer district of Rajasthan and there is *status quo*. I demand that a special financial package should be given to the Government of Rajasthan so that the State Government could tide over this problem.

(ix) Need to start work on Ahmedabad-Dandi National Highway with provision of adequate funds for its timely completion

[English]

SHRIMATI JAYABEN B. THAKKAR (Vadodara): The Union Government has declared Ahmedabad-Dandi route as National Highway No. 228 on 1.6.2006. I urge the

Government to start the scheme immediately in time bound planned manner to insure timely completion with adequate provision of funds for it.

- (x) Need to provide 50% royalty to the State Government on oil and gas produced from the State**

[Translation]

SHRI SRICHAND KRIPLANI (Chittorgarh): Western Rajasthan is a desert area; where basic infrastructure facilities are lacking, but it is rich in mineral resources. There is rich potential for petroleum, in particular, in this area. It is proved from the exploration of oil in Barmer-Sachar basin and gas in Jaisalmer district. Local residents get affected due to exploration and exploitation of petroleum and gas in the area. The Government of India is earning profit from these petroleum resources of the state. As petroleum reserves are located in the States, therefore the State Government should also get share in this earning for development and making essential facilities available to the local residents. Therefore, 50% of the profit on oil and gas produced from the State should be given to the State Government and 12th Finance Commission has also submitted its recommendation to the Government of India and the Rajasthan Government has made its claim in the block allotment nomination/joint venture/NELP partnership.

Therefore, I would like to urge upon the Union Government to ensure State Government's partnership by according approval to the 12th Finance Commission's recommendation for inclusion of Joint Venture blocks, nomination blocks.

- (xi) Need to provide funds for the upgradation of the Virology Institute at Alappuzha, Kerala**

[English]

SHRIMATI C.S. SUJATHA (Mavelikara): Number of people have died and thousand of people were hospitalized in the State of Kerala due to the lethal viral disease 'Chikungunia' during September-October 2006. The cases of Chikunguniya are still being reported from the State. The disease, which first appeared in Alappuzha district, spread to the neighbouring districts including Ernakulam. Alappuzha District accounted for most of the deaths and number of patients.

The Virology Institute at Alappuzha is the only authorized institute to conduct test to diagnose the

disease. But unfortunately, the excess number of samples the diagnosing process gets inordinately delayed causing severe constraints in facilities in the Alappuzha Institute. The Union Health Minister during his visit to the affected areas in Kerala assured of upgrading the existing facilities at the Alappuzha Virology Institute.

In view of the gravity of the situation, I urge upon the Government to take urgent measures to provide funds for the upgradation of the institute.

- (xii) Need to reconstruct Moldu, Moorad and Korapuzha bridges on National Highways -17 in Kerala**

SHRIMATI P. SATHEEDEVI (Badagara): There is an urgent need to reconstruct the Moidu, Moorand and Korapuzha Bridges on NH-17 in Kerala.

The Moidu Bridge at KM 172/100 was constructed in the year 1930. The Moorad Bridge at KM 203/440 and Korapuzha Bridge at KM 233/200 were constructed in the year 1940 and now are in a bad shape. Most of the parts of the bridges are eroded and are unsafe for heavy vehicle traffic. At present heavy loaded vehicles cannot move through these bridges. Hence, the reconstruction of these bridges is the need of the hour.

I, therefore, urge upon the Government to take immediate steps for the reconstruction of these bridges on priority basis.

- (xiii) Need to accord permission for undertaking Haj pilgrimage to 1,47,000 Haj pilgrims who had applied through Haj Committee.**

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN (Ferozabad): This year, 1 lakh 47 thousand people from all over country had applied for Haj pilgrimage through Haj Committee, but the Union Government are giving permission to only one lakh persons inspite of having quota of one lakh, fifty seven thousand. In such a situation, the Union Government should have ensured Haj pilgrimage for all those person who had applied upto 28 June, 2006. The matter in this regard was also raised in Lok Sabha on 18 August, simultaneously, the people from the entire country have been continuously demanding that more and more people should be sent for Haj pilgrimage through Haj Committee, but the Government have not respected public sentiments and first time in the history, around 37 thousand people

[Shri Ramji Lal Suman]

who have applied through the Haj Committee will remain deprived of Haj pilgrimage.

Therefore, I would like to request the Government that keeping in view of the sentiments of the Haj pilgrims, it should ensure Haj pilgrimage for those 1 lakh 47 thousand people who have applied through the Haj Committee.

- (xiv) **Need to review the Rules and Regulations framed for setting up of Special Economic Zone with a view to ensure balanced development in all the regions of the country**

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV (Patna): Sir, recently the Government have framed rules for setting up SEZ, Special Economic Zones and these proposals have been granted approval in hurry. It is hard to understand, why approval is being given in such hurried manner? There are many discrepancies in the rule. SEZs would be set up in a few states only. Other backward states shall continue to remain backward and their condition will go deteriorated. SEZs should be set up uniformly in all the states and these zones should not at all be set up at agricultural land.

Therefore, through the House, I would like to draw the attention of the hon'ble Prime Minister in this regard and would like to urge that there are many discrepancies in the rules for setting up for SEZs and until the subjects like setting up of SEZs in all the States, non-grant of permission for setting up SEZ in agricultural land, not to restore Zamindari System through SEZs are covered under the legislation and such comprehensive legislation is enacted, the work for setting of SEZs should be suspended in spite of the permission already granted in this regard. This will protect the rights of all States. It should be ensured that more and more SEZs should be set up particularly in poor and backward states.

- (xv) **Need to complete Hogenekal Integrated Drinking Water Project in Tirupattur parliamentary constituency, Tamil Nadu**

[English]

SHRI D. VENUGOPAL (Tirupattur): Tirupattur, Ambur, Vaniampadi and Natrampalli the towns in Vellore district that come under my Tirupattur Lok Sabha constituency and nearby towns like Ejudiatham, Peranampet, Pallikonda including Vellore do not have basic drinking water resources and the people living in those towns often face acute shortage of drinking water.

In all these years it was announced that these towns would get drinking water supply from Hogenekal Integrated Drinking Water Project. Along with the people of the drought prone districts like Krishnagiri, Dharmapuri and Vellore the people of my constituency who live in towns always get affected by the drought-conditions and are a greatly disappointed as this Integrated Water Project is not completed yet. The project that was sought to be completed with Japanese co-operation met a hurdle because of Japan's Economic Sanction. Later on, it was announced that this project will be taken up with the assistance of World Bank. But still the project is pending. Hence, I urge upon the Union Government to take steps to complete this Integrated Drinking Water Project enlisting the support of the administrations of the states and districts.

- (xvi) **Need to streamline the functioning of Passport Offices in the country with a view to solve the problems being faced by the applicants**

[Translation]

SHRI ILLYAS AZMI (Shahbad): Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the Government towards problems being faced by the people in obtaining the passport.

Mainly, the common people face problems in completing formalities before obtaining the passport. I would like to request the Government to streamline the process for obtaining passport and make it transparent so that applicants may not face unnecessary hurdles.

The officers and official of the concerned departments make enquiry regarding the credentials of the applicants and on the basis of their comments the passports are issued to the concerned applicants. But if their comments are found false which made the applicants unable to get passport, necessary action should be taken against such faulty officers so that they or other officials of the department may not make adverse remarks in future.

There are lakhs of passport holders who are having legal passports, but such an adverse remark on their passport has been feeded in the computer that when they intend to travel abroad by air or road after obtaining genuine visa, they are sent back by immigration officers from airport or borders.

Therefore, I would like to demand from the Government to take appropriate action in this regard and

should declare all passports valid which have been issued so far.

- (xvii) **Need to provide subsidy to Maharashtra State Co-operative Cotton Growers Marketing Federation Limited in the purchase of raw cotton**

[English]

SHRI SURESH PRABHAKAR PRABHU (Rajapur): The Union Government is giving subsidy to Cotton Corporation of India for maintaining Minimum Support Price of cotton. However, the Maharashtra State Cooperative Cotton Growers Marketing Federation Ltd. is not getting any subsidy by the Union Government though it purchases the raw cotton and help in maintaining Minimum Support Price of cotton. The State Government of Maharashtra therefore requested the Union Government for sanctioning the subsidy to Maharashtra State Cooperative Cotton Growers Marketing Federation Ltd. and also to notify MSCCGMFL as an agent for procurement of cotton.

This request of the State Government of Maharashtra is still pending with the Union Government. I, therefore, request the Union Government for early action in the matter.

- (xviii) **Need to upgrade the University College of Engineering at Burla, Orissa to the level of Indian Institute of Technology**

SHRI B. MAHTAB (Cuttack): The importance of quality education has assumed greater significance in developing province like Orissa as it is undergoing rapid industrialization. Private Enterprises are setting up Steel and Aluminum plants and around twelve Thermal Plants are also being established. They will bring investments to the tune of Rs. Four lakh crore to the state. Besides all the major IT companies are setting up their centre too.

The university College of Engineering at Burla has huge infrastructure with excellent academic and research facilities. The Anand Krishnan Committee has recommended five 'old and quality' engineering colleges to be upgraded to Indian institute of Engineering, Science and Technology.

I urge upon the Government to study the potential of University of Engineering at the earliest and upgrade it to the level of Indian Institute of Engineering, Science and Technology.

- (xix) **Need to speed up the work of laying railway lines between Koderma to Hazaribagh to Ranchi and Koderma to Girdih**

[Translation]

SHRI BHUVANESHWAR PRASAD MEHTA (Hazaribagh): Sir, Hazaribagh district of Jharkhand State, which is also a headquarter of Northern Chhota Nagpur division, has not been provided rail connectivity even after 57 years of independence. Around five years ago, work of laying rail line was started, but till now not even one fourth work has been completed, though this railway line was set to be completed in year 2006. The pace at which work of laying railway line is going on, the work of railway line from Koderma to Hazaribagh and Hazaribagh to Ranchi and Koderma to Girdih will not be completed in next ten years. The Union and State Government earn billions of rupees every month from Northern Chhota Nagpur Division and in particular Hazaribagh district, even then this area is being neglected.

Therefore, I demand from the Government to expedite the work of laying said railway lines.

- (xx) **Need to accord the status of classical language to Kannada**

[English]

SHRI M. SHIVANNA (Chamrajanagar): The agitation demanding classical language status to Kannada has entered its third year. Writers, Actors, politicians and people from all walks of life are demanding the Union Government to accord classical language status to Kannada Language. The Centre has not responded to this genuine demand of the State till today.

Now, Kannada people are celebrating Suvarna Kamataka (Golden Jubilee) and the agitation has been intensified and I am afraid it may take an ugly turn if the Centre do not respond properly.

Kannada Literature has been crowned with seven Gyanpeeth awards, the highest ins the country despite hurdles in translation and lack of back up in the capital of the country. It has more than 2000 year old history as far as scripts and other evidences are concerned. But, Mr. Speaker Sir, "I would like to bring to you and the hon. Members" notice that the word "Karnataka" appears in Ramayana and Mahabharatha, though it is spelt as "Karnata" and not "Karnataka". The word "Karnataka" is

[Shri M. Shivanna]

several thousand years old. A Sanskrit poet says that one that dances in your ears is Karnataka language and the place in Karnataka". Now, the former Vice Chancellor of Mysore University De. Javaregowda is on fast unto death. I have raised this issue on several occasions in this august House. Karnataka Government and the Chief Minister Mr. H.D. Kumaraswamy have requested the Centre repeatedly. Therefore, I strongly demand that the Union Government and the Hon. Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh to reciprocate the emotional feelings of the people of Karnataka by according the status of classical language to Kannada without any further delay.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN: I am not able to hear you.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: What do you want to say?

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: First of all, you please go back to your seat.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: All of you please take your seats.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mohan Singh Ji, please ask all of your hon. Members to take their seats. You will be given opportunity to speak but they should first take their seats. How can the business of the House be transacted in this manner?

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: First of all you should take your seats.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: The House cannot transact business if you cause interruptions. You should cooperate with the Chair.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please cooperate with the Chair in conducting the business of the House. Please take your seats. I am giving your leader an opportunity to speak. All of you please take your seats.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please speak one by one.

...(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Nothing is being recorded.

...(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Ram Kripal ji, now it is your turn to speak.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: What can I do? The hon. Members of your party are not cooperating in running the House.

...(Interruptions)

14.13 hrs.

[At this stage, Shri A.K.S. Vijayan and some other hon. Members came and stood on the floor near the Table]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please take your seats.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: You are not resuming your seats. You are disrupting the business of the House. Mohan Singh Ji, Please speak what you have to speak.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI MOHAN SINGH (Deoria): Our Chief Minister was to address a meeting in Maharashtra. The Maharashtra Government in Mumbai prohibited it. Our five thousand party workers are in jails ...*(Interruptions)*.

Our two MPs are behind the bars. They were beaten up with lathis and prevented from holding the meeting...*(Interruptions)** The Minister of Home Affairs should make a statement in the House...*(Interruptions)*.

*Not recorded.

MR. CHAIRMAN: A bad precedent is being created. You are standing in the well; this is not going to serve any purpose.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: You please take your seats. Why don't you resume your seats?

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: The proceedings of the House cannot be conducted in this manner.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: The House cannot run in this way.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: The House stands adjourned to meet tomorrow the 24th November, 2006 at 11.00 a.m.

14.14 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Friday, November 24, 2006/Agrahayana 3, 1928 (Saka).

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