

LOK SABHA DEBATES

(English Version)

Thirteenth Session
(Fourteenth Lok Sabha)



(Vol. XXXIV contains Nos. 21 to 28)

LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
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LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

Tuesday, April 29, 2008/Vaisakha 9, 1930 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock.

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

[Translation]

SHRI RAJESH VERMA (Sitapur): Mr. Speaker, yesterday during the Question Hour...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Allow the Leader to speak, please sit down.

SHRI RAJESH VERMA: Yesterday, the hon'ble Minister of Agriculture misled the House during Question Hour. The question-answer session was in regard to drought. The Hon'ble Minister of Agriculture said in the House that he did not receive any request in regard to famine relief from Uttar Pradesh, whereas the UP Government has written three letters to the Union Government. The Deputy Leader of the House has evidence of occasions when the House was misled and incorrect* information was given in the House...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: This word may be expunged from the proceedings.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BRAJESH PATHAK (Unnao): Mr. Speaker, ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Brajeshji, your leader is raising the issue.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BRAJESH PATHAK: Mr. Speaker, I asked a Supplementary Question during the Question Hour substantiating it with facts. I had requested for only one minute time, so, I would like to take only a minute. The hon'ble Minister of Agriculture is representative of the Government of India and he made those submissions on behalf of the Government. If he says something in order to mislead the House, and gives incorrect* information before the people of the country. I have proof. ...*(Interruptions)*

*Not recorded.

MR. SPEAKER: Please do not utter this word.

SHRI BRAJESH PATHAK: The Revenue Minister of Uttar Pradesh wrote the first letter on 6.12.2007...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: The Government is listening.

SHRI BRAJESH PATHAK: The Hon'ble Minister of Agriculture says that no letter was written which is far from truth. The letter was written on 6.12.2007 and received by an employee named Shri Krishna in the Office of the Ministry of Agriculture...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: If an hon'ble Minister has made an incorrect statement then there is a rule, a procedure, a provision under which one can give in writing.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BRAJESH PATHAK: The second letter was written by the Commissioner Relief on 1st January, 2008 that there was drought in Bundelkhand, Uttar Pradesh...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Do not talk about it right now. Let him reply right now.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BRAJESH PATHAK: The third letter was written by the hon'ble Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh Behan Km. Mayawati to the Union Minister of Agriculture and hon'ble Prime Minister. Even then no cognizance was taken and the House was misled, which is far from reality.

Thirdly, the package of Rs. 80 thousand crore being sought by the people of U.P. is not being given to them and the House is being misled...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: This is not the proper way. Whatever you wish to submit is all right.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please speak softly.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BRAJESH PATHAK: I demand that breach of privilege proceedings be initiated against the hon'ble Minister who has spoken something untrue in the House. ...*(Interruptions)*. I will give you notice for breach of privilege...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I cannot do it. Hon'ble Members, you know the provision under the Rules. Please see, what has to be done.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI BRAJESH PATHAK: Strict action should be taken against the hon'ble Minister for the breach of privilege.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you for your cooperation.

11.02 hrs.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

MR. SPEAKER: Q. 501—Shri Ramdas Athawale—
not present.

Q. 502—Shri Braja Kishore Tripathy.

Cement Plants

*502. SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY:
SHRI CHANDRA MANI TRIPATHI:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cement plants in each State that have been closed during 2007-08;

(b) the number of cement plants functioning in each State as on date;

(c) the details of the demand and supply of cement in the country as on date;

(d) the extent to which the existing cement plants have been able to meet the domestic demand of cement in the country; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government for revival of closed cement plants in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL POLICY AND PROMOTION, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR): (a) to (e) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) and (e) No cement plant has been closed in the year 2007-08.

(b) The details of the cement plants along with their capacity and production are given at Annexure.

(c) and (d) As per data maintained by the Cement Manufacturers' Association, the total production of cement was 168.31 million tonnes during 2007-08. The demand of cement appears to be in excess of the supply of cement.

Annexure

State/Plant	Capacity Installed	000' Tonnes Cement Prod.
1	2	3
Uttarakhand		
Ambuja Cmt-Roorkee G	1000.00	226.59
Haryana		
Charkhi Dadri	172.00	-
Jaypee-Panipat (G)	1000.00	47.29
Grasim-Panipat (G)	1300.00	2.32
Punjab		
Ambuja Cmt-Ropar (G)	2500.00	2788.21
Ambuja Cmt-Bhatinda (G)	500.00	608.52
Grasim-Bhatinda (G)	1750.00	1330.70
Rajasthan		
Lakheri	600.00	907.06
Birla & Chanderia	2000.00	2512.21
Mangalam Cement	400.00	511.30
Neershree Cement	600.00	995.79
Aditya Cement	1800.00	2126.70
Nimbahera & Mangrol	4050.00	3690.73
Lakshmi Cement	3400.00	3422.13
J.K. Udaipur Udyog	900.00	-
Ambuja Cmt-Rabriyawas	1800.00	1844.31

1	2	3
Shree Cement	9100.00	6337.10
Binani Cement	2200.00	2958.44
Shriram Cements	200.00	368.97
J.K. Gotan	100.00	75.13
Himachal Pradesh		
Gagal-I & II	4400.00	4162.60
Rajban	200.00	160.16
Ambuja Cmt-H.P.	1600.00	1231.59
Delhi		
Delhi (G)	500.00	-
Jammu and Kashmir		
Jammu and Kashmir Ltd.	200.00	155.30
Assam		
Bokajan	200.00	134.01
Meghalaya		
Mawmluh Cherra	200.00	84.34
Meghalaya Cmts. Ltd.	297.00	464.55
Cement Menu. Co. Ltd.	1056.00	725.20
Bihar		
Kalyanpur Cement	1000.00	538.70
Jharkhand		
Chaibasa	870.00	720.58
Sindri	600.00	874.00
Lafarge-Jojobera (G)	3000.00	2993.29
Lemos Cement	109.00	-
Sone Valley	254.00	-
Orissa		
Ultra Tech-JCW (G)	1000.00	880.49
OCL India Ltd.	1800.00	2000.00

1	2	3
Bargarh Cement Works	960.00	996.78
West Bengal		
Damodhar Cmt Works G.	525.00	503.25
Durgapur (G)	600.00	499.68
Ambuja Cmt-Sankrail G	1000.00	1206.34
Ultra Tech-WBCW (G)	1200.00	1059.86
Durga Hitech Cmt (G)	1000.00	110.47
Ambuja Cmt-Farakka G	1000.00	181.92
Chhattisgarh		
Jamul	1584.00	1242.51
Century Cement	2100.00	1906.74
Grasim Cement-Raipur	2500.00	2043.16
Akaltara	400.00	-
Mandhar	380.00	-
Arasmeta	1600.00	1508.71
Ultra Tech-HCW *	1900.00	1695.44
Ambuja Cmt-Bhatapara	1000.00	988.07
Lafarge-Sonadih	550.00	487.69
Andhra Pradesh		
Kesoram Cement	1200.00	1199.91
Orient Cement	2400.00	1485.39
Zuari Cement	2200.00	1957.10
Adilabad	400.00	-
Tandur	1000.00	615.00
Vijayawada (G)	240.00	-
Vizag (G)	500.00	382.50
Nadikude Durga Cmt	1000.00	738.11
Chilamkur Works	1450.00	1312.00
Visaka Cement	1120.00	1147.98

1	2	3
Yerraguntla	520.00	580.15
Raasi Cement	2300.00	2511.00
Sri Vishnu Cement	1200.00	1324.55
Jayantipuram	1600.00	1426.82
Ultra Tech-APCW	2000.00	2142.78
Kistna	214.00	-
K.C.P. Ltd.	660.00	737.04
Panyam Cements	531.00	471.11
Rain Comdt. Ltd. Un-I	1000.00	1072.51
Penna-Tadipatri I & II	1500.00	1667.33
Penna-Ganeshpahad	1000.00	1134.85
My Home Indus. Ltd.	2760.00	2509.44
Rain Comdt. Ltd. Un-II	500.00	543.25
Tamil Nadu		
Madukkarai	960.00	879.77
Grasim South	1400.00	1350.76
Sankarnagar	1800.00	1801.66
Sankaridurg	600.00	610.01
Dalavoi	1850.00	1271.65
Alangulam	400.00	139.20
Ariyalur	500.00	532.80
Ramasamyraja Nagar	750.00	1216.06
Alathiyur Works	3120.00	2948.71
Chettd-Karur & Karikk	1800.00	2905.89
Dalmia Cement	3500.00	3293.74
Ultra Tech-ARCW (G)	1100.00	973.02
Karnataka		
Wadi	2110.00	1593.97
Vasvadatta Cement	3650.00	3280.14

1	2	3
Rajashree-Malkhed	3200.00	2958.38
Mysore Cement	570.00	317.50
Kurkunta	200.00	-
Shahabad	476.00	-
Bagalkot Udyog Ltd.	330.00	-
Wadi-New	2600.00	2624.48
Kerala		
Malabar Cements	420.00	444.13
Malabar Cements (G)	200.00	124.83
Gujarat		
Shree Digvijay-Sikka	1075.00	805.35
Saurashtra Cement	1164.00	1405.29
Gujarat Sidhee Cmt.	1200.00	1267.51
Porbandar	198.00	-
Ultra Tech-Gujarat	5800.00	3626.15
Jafrabad	500.00	384.57
Magdalla (G)	700.00	549.17
Ambuja Cement	1500.00	1459.51
Gajamubja Cement	3000.00	3232.87
Sanghi Indus. Ltd.	2600.00	2520.12
Ambuja Cmt-Magdalla G	1000.00	144.43
Maharashtra		
Chanda	1000.00	1199.31
Manikgarh Cement	1900.00	1634.51
Rajashree-Hotgi (G)	1800.00	1800.00
Ultra Tech-ACW	3600.00	3383.56
Ratnagiri (G)	400.00	374.10
Indo Rama Cement (G)	1000.00	667.00
Orient Cmt-Jalgaon G	1000.00	926.61

1	2	3
Maratha Cement	2400.00	3374.85
Uttar Pradesh		
Tikaria (G)	2000.00	2445.87
Birla Cmt-Raebareli G	630.00	542.32
Diamond Cmt-Jhansi (G)	500.00	756.73
Churk	-	-
Dalla	432.00	-
Chunar (G)	1500.00	39.07
Jaypee-Sadva Khurd G	600.00	605.60
Jaypee Ayodhya (G)	1000.00	908.35
Grasim-Dadri (G)	1300.00	0.05
Madhya Pradesh		
Kymore	1700.00	1856.12
Birla Vikas & Satna	1550.00	1613.10
Maihar Cement	3800.00	3357.15
Vikram Cement	3000.00	3750.50
Diamond Cement	1025.00	1127.69
Neemuch	400.00	-
Jaypee Rewa	3000.00	3252.96
Jaypee Bela	2400.00	2336.91
Prism Cement	2510.00	2429.38
All India	188972.01	168310.91

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: Hon. Speaker Sir, the reply of the hon. Minister is very disappointing to us. The Government has no statistics about the production and the installed capacity. Anyway, they are referring to the Cement Manufacturers Association's Statement.

However, to me the requirement and the demand of the country for capacity augmentation are projected to the tune of 100 million tonnes during the Eleventh Five Year Plan period. The installed capacity of all the cement plants of the country as has been projected in the answer is about 188972.01 million tonnes.

MR. SPEAKER: What is your question?

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: The production is 168310.91 million tonnes of its capacity. It seems that the cement industry is not producing up to its full installed capacity and they are producing below their capacity. The demand is growing up and the prices are also soaring up.

MR. SPEAKER: Question please.

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: I would like to know whether the Government will do its needful work and ask the manufacturers of the cement industry to produce at least to reach their full capacity utilization of the industry and whether the Government is going to remove the bottlenecks in augmentation of the capacity of cement production with regard to environmental clearance, mining leases and development of infrastructure...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Please cooperate; you have put three or four questions.

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: The cement manufacturers are not producing to their full capacity...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: You are repeating the same thing.

SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR: I would like to inform the hon. House and the Member through you that with respect to the hon. Member's first question as to the capacity utilization, I am here to state that almost 96 per cent of the installed capacity is being utilized which by any standard is a very good capacity utilization. In fact, in certain plants, even a larger capacity utilization is taking place. Certain bottlenecks in terms of breakdown of plant and machinery at certain times does lead to temporary halt in the production of cement but by and large it is in the interest of the cement producers at this point of time to produce as much cement as they can because they can sell whatever they produce.

As far as the second question is concerned, namely removing of bottlenecks in augmenting the capacity of cement production, I am happy to state that three bottlenecks were identified which have been adverted to by the hon. Member which included delay in the grant of coal linkages, leases and environmental clearances. Our Ministry is coordinating with all the other concerned

Ministries to make sure that these bottlenecks are removed. It is in the national interest that these bottlenecks are removed.

I must also add here for the benefit of the hon. Member that in addition to all this, we do recognize the need to augment very significantly the cement production. In order to stabilize prices, we have therefore embarked upon importing of cement from Pakistan as well. We have already imported 10,000 tonnes; 36,000 tonnes is going to be imported in the coming two months. Therefore, on the whole, a mix of measures including encouraging and facilitating imports, banning the export of cement and augmenting of capacity is the three-fold mantra that we have adopted in order to stabilize cement prices and enhance the production.

MR. SPEAKER: Put your second Supplementary. You have already asked three questions!

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: The Government has taken some steps but that is not sufficient. It is because the cement price is rising and everybody is suffering. Even the common man is suffering; the construction sector is suffering; everybody is suffering from this price rise...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seat, Mr. Athawale.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: Sir, in January 2007 the price of cement was Rs. 165 per bag. Now in January 2008, it is Rs. 206. It is now much more in these two-three months...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Athawale, you were absent when I called your name.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Athawale ji, what is going on?

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: The Monopolies and Restrictive Trade Practices Commission (MRTPC) and the Director General of Investigation and Registration

(DGIR), they should also step up in their vigilance activities...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Braja Kishore Tripathy Ji, this is question hour.

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: I would like to know whether the Government will ask these two organizations. Although they are autonomous by nature but whether the Government will request these two organizations because in the past, these two organizations were quite helpful in reducing the price...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: No, please, the Minister has given an exhaustive reply.

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: They should ask the industry just to see how prices are stabilized. The Government should not remain silent...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: It is very unfortunate.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: So, I would like to know whether the Minister also will see and request both these organizations, the MRTPC and the DGIR, to work...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister, answer 'yes' or 'no' please.

SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR: I would like to inform the hon. Member, as I think he is fully aware, that it is true that MRTPC has passed a cease and desist order against two of the major cement producers but it is equally true that one of them has gone on appeal to the Supreme Court and the hon. Supreme Court has been pleased to stay that order. However, as far as attempts to prevent cartelization is concerned, our Ministry is fully seized of the matter. We have engaged repeatedly with the cement manufacturers and we have told them that while profit will not be denied to them but profiteering will be objected to and cartelization will be prevented at all.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Chandra Mani Tripathi—Not present.

Prof. Rasa Singh Rawat.

[*Translation*]

Please ask only your question in few words.

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT: Sir, it is a bitter truth that there is short supply of cement in the country and its production is also less than its requirement. It is a fact that the prices of cement are skyrocketing. A few days back MRTPL along with the Cement Manufacturing Association had suggested to set up a Cement Regulatory Authority of India on the lines of Authorities in Telecom and Insurance sectors to control the prices of cement and to regulate its production as per its requirements. So, I would like to know whether the Government is making efforts to set up such an Authority and whether the Government have received any representation in this regard? If so, then, what are its details and what is the reaction of the Government in this regard?

SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR: Sir, I would like to inform the hon'ble Member that the Government have received representation from one-two institutions and it is under the consideration of the Government. However, keeping in view the present situation, it appears that there is no requirement of constituting a cement regulatory authority, as there are other provisions as well to control its prices. MRTPL is doing its work and recently we have also set up a Competition Commission. However, if the need is felt that it is essential for controlling the prices, then, we will certainly ponder over this option.

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: Now, Shri N.S.V. Chitthan. Please put a short, brief and specific question.

SHRI N.S.V. CHITTHAN: Sir, the hon. Minister's reply says: "As per the data maintained by the Cement Manufacturers' Association..." Sir, I would like to know from you... (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: From me!

SHRI N.S.V. CHITTHAN: I would like to know from the hon. Minister, through you, Sir, why the Government is depending upon the data of the Cement Manufacturers' Association. Is the Government not having its own data?

There is a perennial demand for cement in our country. Cement production in our country is not sufficient. I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to what steps the Government is going to take for increasing the supply of cement.

SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR: Sir, as far as the second question is concerned, I have replied in detail that we are taking a series of measures to augment the supply of cement and the production of cement, which include imports, adding capacity and banning of exports.

As far as the source of the data is concerned, the Cement Manufacturers' Association is a recognized body which gives to the Government the data in terms of installed capacity, in terms of production figures, and also in terms of the excise. We do collect data from the various sources but we have so far recognized that by and large the data furnished to us is credible. But that is not to say that we do not cross-check it. We do cross-check it from other sources.

ADV. SURESH KURUP: Sir, the hon. Finance Minister has stated inside the House and also outside that the cement industry is working as a cartel and artificially hiking up the prices. Immediately, there was a contradictory statement from the Commerce Ministry. So, I would like to know as to what is the opinion of the Commerce Ministry regarding this. I would like to know whether they are working as a cartel, and if at all they are working as a cartel, what steps the Government is taking to break this cartel?

SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR: Sir, we have repeatedly stated that under no circumstances would price rigging or cartelization be tolerated. In fact, the Director-General of Investigations attached to the Monopolies and Restrictive Trade Commission launched an inquiry and passed 'Cease and Desist' Order against two companies finding a *prima facie* ground of price rigging. But one of them has gone on appeal, and the Supreme Court has issued a stay against that Order. The hon. Member would kindly appreciate that the fact of cartelization or otherwise eventually must depend upon a finding of the fact. We believe that a judicial or a quasi-judicial authority is the right authority which will return a definite appeal. But on our part, I would like to assure all the hon. Members and the House, through you, Sir, that this Government is conscious of the need to check cartelization and price rigging, and we shall not be found wanting in our efforts.

[Translation]

SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is such a issue on which many hon'ble Members want to speak...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You please sit down.

[English]

This is not the system. Why are you doing like this.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: If senior Members like you do this, it is very unfortunate.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record except the Supplementary of Shri Nand Kumar Sai.

...*(Interruptions)**

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: What is this, you are very senior members. All of you please sit down. The next question stands in the name of a member from your party.

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Sorry, this is not the way. If you are not satisfied with the answer and if you want further discussion, you may ask for Half-an-Hour discussion. You know very well that I have allowed Half-an-Hour discussion on various Questions so many times. I have allowed so many Half-an-Hour discussions during my tenure. Even then, you are disturbing the House. You know, there is a rule how to raise it. Kindly do it. I welcome all those initiatives.

SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR: Thank you, Sir.
...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Sir, allow me to raise my Question.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Athawale, if you stand up again, I will ask you to go out and take rest outside. You are forcing me, Mr. Athawale. You do not come in time.

*Not recorded.

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: I am requesting you, Sir.

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: There is a rule to make request as well. I will come back and call your name if all the Questions are exhausted before 12 noon. You please wait for the time being.

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Q. 503, Shri Sugrib Singh—Not present.

Shri Nand Kumar Sai.

Improvement of Science Education in Schools

*503. ⁺SHRI NAND KUMAR SAI:
SHRI SUGRIB SINGH:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has introduced the centrally sponsored scheme "Improvement of Science Education in Schools";

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

(c) the details of the proposals received from various States and the details of the proposals cleared during 2006-07 and 2007-08;

(d) whether the Government has any mechanism to check the performance in science education of those States getting assistance from the Union Government;

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

(f) the steps taken by the Government for improvement of science education in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.A.A. FATMI): (a) to (f) A statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Statement

(a) and (b) To Improve the Quality of Science Education and to promote a scientific temper as envisaged in the National Policy on Education-1986 as modified in 1992, a Centrally Sponsored Scheme for 'Improvement

of Science Education in Schools' was started from the year 1987-88. Under this scheme assistance was provided to the States/Union Territories for supply of science kits to upper primary Schools, setting up or upgradation of science laboratories, library facilities in Secondary and Sr. Secondary Schools and training of Science and Mathematics teachers. Financial assistance was also provided to voluntary agencies for conducting experimental and innovative programmes in the field of Science Education.

(c) The erstwhile scheme of "Improvement of Science Education in Schools" which was one of the components of a composite scheme "Quality Improvement in Schools", has been transferred to the State Sector w.e.f. 1.4.2006. Therefore, no proposals were processed in 2006-07 and 2007-08.

(d) to (f) In 1995, NCERT conducted an evaluation study to assess the impact of this scheme on the development of a scientific climate in schools and improvement of quality of teaching learning in science and mathematics. The report showed that the Scheme was extremely useful and had enormous potential to generate a scientific climate in the schools. During the X Plan the scheme was made part of a composite Scheme of "Quality Improvement in Schools", with enhanced outlays. The scheme is at present in the State Sector.

[Translation]

SHRI NAND KUMAR SAI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to know from the hon'ble Minister as to what percentage of GDP has been spent on science education and research work. Along with this my second question is...

MR. SPEAKER: Please ask your next question later. You please ask your question one by one.

SHRI NAND KUMAR SAI: It is related to this question.

MR. SPEAKER: There may be ten related questions.

SHRI NAND KUMAR SAI: There are only one or two institutes for research in the entire country. I would like to know whether they are sufficient for the country. Similarly, out of one lakh people only 110 people are engaged in science research work. I would like to know

whether it is sufficient and what is the view point of the Government in this regard?

SHRI M.A.A. FATMI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, this question is related to the school education.

MR. SPEAKER: All right, nobody listens to me

SHRI M.A.A. FATMI: It will be better if the hon'ble Member raises matters about the school education.

MR. SPEAKER: You please tell only what is covered under it.

SHRI M.A.A. FATMI: Under the National School Policy of Education 1986 a programme was launched in 1987 all over the country. In this programme the Government of India provided assistance to the State Governments. Under the improvement of science education, science kits were provided to upper primary schools. Thereafter, funds were provided to Secondary and Higher secondary schools for libraries and labs. Besides, funds were also provided to voluntary agencies so that they may do something for science education in the schools. Funds were provided to all the States and Union Territories, which requested for the same. Now these schemes are being revamped and a new scheme called Quality Improvement in schools has been launched in which some more components have also been added. In 2006 the new scheme has been launched after withdrawing the old scheme and the information in this regard has been given to all the States.

SHRI NAND KUMAR SAI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the central scheme, which was launched in 1987 has been closed and a new scheme is being launched. I would like to know from the hon'ble Minister whether the Government have till now reviewed its implementation and works carried out under the scheme.

The number of proposals from Chhattisgarh which have been received during the last three years, the number of proposals out of them which have been accepted and the time by which the rejected proposals are likely to be passed?

MR. SPEAKER: This is a separate issue. You have deviated to the State subject.

SHRI M.A.A. FATMI: N.C.E.R.T. has conducted countrywide survey during the year 1985. It was found that the scheme being run in the past was very useful.

It proved to be very beneficial for the students at the upper primary, Secondary and Higher secondary level. After that All India Education Survey was conducted again in the year 2002, wherein it was found that labs are available in 95.83 per cent of Higher secondary schools and 65 per cent Secondary schools. As I have said, this scheme has been upgraded to composite scheme, the name of this scheme has been changed and old scheme has been discontinued.

DR. KARAN SINGH YADAV: Mr. Speaker, Sir, Science education is very scant in the rural areas. The science stream is not available in 90 per cent of the Senior Secondary schools in rural areas and teachers and lecturers are not available in those 10% schools where science stream is offered. Even where teachers and lecturers are available, science laboratories are not available. I understand that children in the entire country, who want to study science do not have any facility to avail. This matter is related to the State Government, but the Union Government should also pay attention in this regard. I would like to give information about a village where the villagers have opened school for science education and have put in their own efforts for setting up of a committee, mobilizing resources and employing teachers. I would like to know from the hon'ble Minister as Secondary education is being covered under Sarva Shiksha Abhiyaan. Whether some special budgetary provisions for promoting science education in rural areas would be made?

SHRI M.A.A. FATMI: Sir, we receive various proposals from States and Union Territories. After examining them, we provide all possible assistance to the States. As far as making provisions for villages under Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan is concerned, we have made a provision of Rs. 50 lakh per district for computer education in the new budget. Rs. 4325 crore were allocated for Secondary education in the Tenth Plan, whereas Rs. 53560 crore have been allocated under 11th Plan. A big scheme named 'success' is being formulated for making improvement in science and computer education along with other things in the Secondary education.

[English]

SHRI ABDULLAKUTTY: Sir, at present, the main problem faced by our schools is lack of adequate laboratory facility for science education. Under the SSA scheme, in the name of 'Operation Blackboard' the Central Government has allotted Rs. 50,000 per school for development of science laboratory. For the education of modern science, this fund is very inadequate.

MR. SPEAKER: Put your question.

SHRI ABDULLAKUTTY: In Kerala, as plus 2 education is under the high school management, more importance is given to science in plus 2 and upper primary and high schools are neglected due to lack of fund. I would like to know, through you, whether there is any new scheme to allot more funds for the development of laboratories.

[Translation]

SHRI M.A.A. FATMI: Sir, as I have said a new scheme named quality improvement in school is being brought, under which

[English]

improvement of Science Education in the School, International Science Olympiad, Environmental Orientation to the School Education, National Population Education Project, Promotion of Yoga in the School,

[Translation]

The responsibility of running this composite scheme is being assigned to the States.

[English]

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE: Sir, the ex-President of our Hindustan, His Excellency, Dr. Abdul Kalam has said, "In every student, lives a scientist."

[Translation]

As hon'ble members Abdullah Kutty had asked the question.

But the hon'ble Minister didn't reply, the funds being provided for enhancing the laboratories should be provided for the entire country.

[English]

Is he going to enhance the grants to laboratories and purchase all equipments that are required? Teachers' training should be conducted so as to bring more awareness among them for using discovery methods.

MR. SPEAKER: Is it discovery or invention?

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE: Sir, I mean to say 'invention'.

More attention should be paid to the development of the libraries which will provide latest books written for education in science.

[Translation]

What kind of assistance the Government are going to provide for giving information in regard to the latest development in the world of science?

SHRI M.A.A. FATMI: Sir, I have already told that the provision of Rs. 53560 crore has been made in the 11th Five Year Plan against the provision of Rs. 4325 crore in the 10th Five Year Plan. All this is being done for the improvement of Secondary education. The arrangement for science education and other components mentioned by me would be covered under this.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Francis George. You should not put the same question.

SHRI K. FRANCIS GEORGE: Sir, from the answer given by the Minister, it is very clear that the Government has transferred the entire responsibility of improving science education in schools to the States. The National Knowledge Commission in its report to the nation in 2007 has made several significant recommendations for improving science education in the country.

MR. SPEAKER: That is all known.

SHRI K. FRANCIS GEORGE: The Commission says that a strong foundation in pure science will help India in building excellence in technology, propel economic growth and consequentially raise living standards of all. When the National Knowledge Commission makes a recommendation of this sort and the Central Government takes a directly opposite stand on a very important issue, I would like to know from the hon. Minister....

MR. SPEAKER: That is not fair. He said that it is for the State Governments to implement.

SHRI K. FRANCIS GEORGE: I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the Government of India, Ministry of Human Resource Development will reconsider its decision to transfer entirely the responsibility to the States and will definitely assist science education in the country.

MR. SPEAKER: I think, you are the only one who wants it to come from the State to the Centre.

[Translation]

SHRI M.A.A. FATMI: Sir, it has been decided that it would be looked after by the State Government and it is better because it is not very easy to do monitoring at the Union Government level.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Q. No. 504. Shri Adhir Chowdhury—
Not Present.

Shri S.K. Kharventhan.

[Translation]

Non Availability of NCERT Books

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*504. SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN:
SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the students are facing difficulties year after year owing to the late publication of NCERT books;

(b) if so, the reasons for the late printing of those books every year; and

(c) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to ensure timely availability of books for the students in the current academic session?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.A.A. FATMI): (a) to (c) A statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Statement

(a) and (b) Based on the new National Curriculum Framework (NCF), 2005 National Council of Educational Research & Training (NCERT) prepared new syllabi for all subjects of all classes and accordingly introduced new textbooks in a phased manner. New textbooks for Classes I, III, VI, IX and XI were introduced in the academic session 2006-07 followed by textbooks for classes II, IV,

VII, X and XII in the academic session 2007-08, and those for Classes V and VIII in the current academic session 2008-09. NCERT made available all original editions of new textbooks in the market as per schedule. Certain translated versions were not available at the beginning of the year due to the stringent requirement to maintain quality. A few supplementary readers were also published with some delay, as these were not required to be taught right at the beginning of the year. However, NCERT has hosted all its textbooks on its website www.ncert.nic.in with the facility of free downloading.

(c) NCERT has substantially increased the print orders of its textbooks since 2007-08. NCERT has also evolved a network of 341 wholesale agents for efficient distribution of its textbooks. During the current academic session all the reprint versions of textbooks and most of the titles of new textbooks for Classes V and VIII have already been made available for sale.

SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN: Sir, due to non-availability of NCERT books, the market is being flooded with duplicate text-books and the pirated books are available at a lesser price and can be acquired with ease. The *mafia* floats these books in the market and ignorant parents and students buy whatever is available. A large number of such cases were reported from various parts of the country in the past. Moreover, the pirated books seem to be identical to that of original text-books and it will be very difficult to differentiate between the two. I would like to know from the Minister, through you, whether the Government have taken any steps to prevent the circulation of duplicate NCERT books in the market and to ensure adequate availability of books for all classes of students in the country well before the start of the academic session every year.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: The only thing is that nobody reads the Answer. Supplementary questions are put without reading the Answer.

[Translation]

SHRI M.A.A. FATMI: Sir, under the new curriculum framework 2005, all N.C.E.R.T. books were to be prepared in three phases. New textbooks for Class-I, III, VI, IX

and XI were to be prepared under phase one in the year 2006-07.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: You have already stated it in the reply.

[Translation]

SHRI M.A.A. FATMI: The new textbooks for class-II, IV, VII, X and XII were to be prepared under phase II. The textbooks for class-V and VIII were to be prepared in the year 2008-09. We have around 219 title books, out of which 215 are available in the market. Only 4 books are left, out of which 2 are translated version and 2 are supplementary books. They would be available in the market by 15th May. As far as availability of books is concerned, the books are available in all schools affiliated with CBSE. There is no complaint from any corner. Indeed, many States have taken responsibility for the printing of N.C.E.R.T. books, but some problems are coming over there, because they are not printing the required number of books. I would like to tell the hon'ble Member that earlier N.C.E.R.T. was giving print order of 2.75 crore books, now it has been increased to 4.98 crore during 2007-08, which is a very big jump so that there may not be any shortage of books. It is due to many reasons, any the States do not fulfil the responsibility assigned to them, and do not print books as per the demand. Beside that, these books are used for many competitions though many people are not much aware of it. We have taken a big leap and we are printing more books and getting them available in the market. As far as availability of pirated books in the market is concerned, whenever we receive information in this regard, we take appropriate action.

MR. SPEAKER: You forgot to mention that these books are available on the website.

SHRI M.A.A. FATMI: The books are available on website also, which can be downloaded by anyone to meet one's needs.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: That is a good initiative.

SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN: As per the written answer submitted by the Minister, certain translated versions were not available at the beginning of the year due to the stringent requirement to maintain quality. Usually parents are purchasing the books at the time of admission. I want to know from the hon. Minister, through you, whether steps will be taken to release books some time earlier, before the admission stage.

[Translation]

SHRI M.A.A. FATMI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, original version of books is prepared in English and we get them translated in Hindi and Urdu at national level. The books are made available before time, but the reason for delay in printing or preparation of certain books in time, was that translation takes time. Only four books are left, they would be available in market by 15th May.

[English]

DR. K.S. MANOJ: Sir, hoarding and black-marketing is there not only of food grains; it is also there in the case of books. NCERT text-books and CBSE books are not usually available in the southern States, especially Kerala and Tamil Nadu. Also, hoarding is there. Book-sellers are creating artificial non-availability in the market. I would like to know from the hon. Minister what steps have been taken by the Ministry to prevent hoarding and black-marketing and make sure that these text-books are available in the market, especially in the southern States of Kerala and Tamil Nadu.

MR. SPEAKER: Does the Essential Commodities Act apply to books also?

[Translation]

SHRI M.A.A. FATMI: Some complaints were received a year or one and a half year back, but it has comprehensive distribution system. There are five distribution offices located at Ahmedabad, Kolkata, Bangalore, Delhi and Guwahati for this job. Besides, we have distributors placed throughout the country, who takes books and make them available in the market. As far the black-marketing of any book is concerned, I understand that once a while a complaint in regard to shortage of a particular book is received which is then made available by us in the market as early as possible.

Vocational Schools

*505. SHRI BAPU HARI CHAURE:
SHRI B. MAHTAB:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Government vocational schools at senior secondary level being run in the country including Maharashtra, State and UT-wise;

(b) the amount of grants provided to such schools by the Government during each of the last five years, State and UT-wise;

(c) whether the Government has any programme to promote enrollment of students in the age group of 15 to 25 in Vocational Education and Training during the Eleventh Plan period; and

(d) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to increase the number of vocational schools and promote enrollment of students in Vocational Education and Training in the country?

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.A.A. FATMI): (a) to (d) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) and (b) Under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Vocationalisation of Secondary Education, 9619 Vocational Schools and 20588 Vocational Sections have been sanctioned so far with an intake capacity of 10.03 lakh in the country. State/UT-wise details of schools sanctioned so far and grants released during the last 5 years including those for Maharashtra are enclosed as annexure.

(c) and (d) Under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Vocationalisation of Secondary Education, financial assistance is provided for introduction of vocational courses in Government and Government aided higher secondary schools at + 2 stage. A provision of Rs. 2000 crore has been made for the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Vocationalisation of Secondary Education in the 11th Plan for expansion of the scheme.

Annexure

(Rs. In lakh)

Sl.No.	Name of the States/UTs	No. of Vocational Schools Sanctioned	Grant released year-wise				
			2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1486	-	500.55	-	-	-
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	4	-	-	-	-	-
3.	Assam	510	-	-	-	-	-
4.	Bihar	752	-	-	-	-	-
5.	Chhattisgarh	20	-	-	-	-	-
6.	Goa	106	-	-	-	-	-
7.	Gujarat	77	-	-	-	-	-
8.	Haryana	116	27.90	67.23	24.52	-	-
9.	Himachal Pradesh	82	-	-	-	-	-
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	37	-	599.69	-	-	-
11.	Jharkhand	Nil	-	-	-	-	-
12.	Karnataka	563	-	-	-	-	-
13.	Kerala	475	247.20	1425.00	-	-	-
14.	Madhya Pradesh	1307	-	-	-	-	-
15.	Maharashtra	958	-	-	-	-	-
16.	Manipur	10	47.65	-	20.12	-	-
17.	Meghalaya	2	-	-	-	-	-
18.	Mizoram	106	8.79	150.00	538.00	-	-
19.	Nagaland	8	-	-	-	-	-
20.	Orissa	231	-	-	-	-	-
21.	Punjab	345	-	-	-	-	-
22.	Rajasthan	155	-	-	-	-	-
23.	Sikkim	40	-	-	454.05	250.00	-
24.	Tamil Nadu	800	-	-	-	-	-

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
25.	Tripura	17	-	66.68	-	-	-
26.	Uttar Pradesh	1010	375.00	-	-	-	-
27.	Uttarakhand	111	-	-	-	-	-
28.	West Bengal	39	-	-	-	-	-
29.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	3	-	-	-	-	-
30.	Chandigarh	20	-	-	7.00	-	-
31.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	2	-	-	-	-	-
32.	Daman and Diu	Nil	-	-	-	-	-
33.	Delhi	207	-	-	-	-	-
34.	Lakshadweep	Nil	-	-	-	-	-
35.	Pondicherry	20	-	-	50.00	15.53	-
Total		9619	706.54	2809.15	1093.69	265.53	-

[Translation]

SHRI BAPU HARI CHAURE: In the present scenario, the number of highly educated unemployed persons of the younger generation has increased immensely. The younger generation is quite concerned as owing to unemployment they go astray. The Government has launched a scheme with a view to provide vocational education in higher secondary schools i.e. in XI and XII classes. In reply to my question the details given by the hon'ble Minister in regard to the number of sanctioned vocational schools and grants released year wise show that grant has not been provided to schools in Maharashtra or in other States. I would like to know whether these schools are run on non-grant basis. Not even a single student is provided any grant. When these schools are run on the basis of capitation fee, can the children living below poverty line or belonging to middle class families get education? If education is to be imparted to the children living below poverty line, then grants should be provided to all these schools.

MR. SPEAKER: All right, he is asking whether you provide any grants.

SHRI BAPU HARI CHAURE: So, I would like to know whether the Government are formulating any scheme to

provide free education to children studying in such schools?

SHRI M.A.A. FATMI: Sir, we provide assistance in respect of 150 courses across all the States of the country upto Higher Secondary level after the Secondary level. As many as 9619 schools are covered under it in which 20588 educational courses are run and approximately ten lakh students are benefited by it. Vocational education is imparted in schools under the guidance of N.I.O.S. as well as C.B.S.E. However, during recent assessment, it was found out that there was a need to bring about a lot of improvement in it. Hence, now in the 11th Plan, the hon'ble Prime Minister has made an announcement in this regard. Earlier, an amount of Rs. 350 crore had been earmarked for it under the Tenth Plan. However, this amount has been increased to Rs. Two thousand crore under this head during the 11th Plan. The entire scheme is being revamped and assuming better shape. Since the courses which were being run till now, lacked vertical mobility and at the same time they did not have any proper linkage with the industries and were not socially accepted. There was lack of good teaching faculty to run these courses. Keeping all these points in mind, a new scheme is being formulated for which an amount of Rs. 2000 crore has been earmarked which is a commendable step taken by the UPA Government.

SHRI BAPU HARI CHAURE: Sir, I would like to ask whether the Government are contemplating to evolve a new scheme to set up vocational schools in order to promote vocational education in view of the requirements of multinational companies?

SHRI M.A.A. FATMI: Sir, as I have stated that we are analyzing its scope across the country and the world, keeping in mind the manner in which individual students will continue their education. Besides, we are also formulating a scheme on two years short term courses after 10+2 so that the student can find a job somewhere after finishing studies.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: It is a very important issue.

[Translation]

SHRI M.A.A. FATMI: The Government is paying full attention to it since through vocational education we will be able to utilize such a huge man power. So, the Government is fully attentive to it. We are evolving a composite scheme and revamping it and that is why an amount of Rs. 2000 crore has been provided under the 11th Plan.

[English]

SHRI B. MAHTAB: Sir, the Minister has been kind enough to explain the intent of the Government, and has been repeating that Rs. 2,000 crore has been provided in the Eleventh Five-Year Plan. I am reminded that on 15 August 2006, the Prime Minister had made an announcement of improving the vocational courses in the country and had also drawn the attention of the whole country to all that this Government is going to do, and already two years have passed.

At present, there are 9,619 Senior Secondary Schools for which the Central Government is in-charge. A National Skill Development Mission was also formed, and it has suggested to expand these institutions to 20,000 by the end of the Eleventh Plan. I would like to ask this from the Minister. Is Rs. 2,000 crore sufficient enough to meet the target of establishing 20,000 institutions in the country? When the Ministry has stated that 12.8 millions enter the Indian workforce per annum and out of them only 3.16 million are skilled, that means only 25 per cent of that manpower is skilled and rest 80 per cent is in need of vocational training. Does the Government think that this

allocation of Rs. 2,000 crore is sufficient and it would be able to establish 20,000 institutions within the Eleventh Plan period?

[Translation]

SHRI M.A.A. FATMI: Sir, we could not meet the target of the Tenth Plan which was to generate more skilled manpower but it did not materialize. So, the amount of funds have also been increased. Now, only after the new scheme is launched, we would be in a position to tell about the number of institutions likely to be run or set up with the help of these funds. With the progress of new scheme, we shall be able to know about the outcome. However, the entire scheme is under consideration of the Planning Commission and a final decision is yet to be taken in this regard. So, I would not be able to give you much information. Our intention is quite clear. We would like to provide vocational education to the youths on a large scale in the country so that we can generate more skilled manpower facilitating their employment opportunities within the country or abroad and they can work for the welfare of all.

[English]

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: Sir, since it is a fact that India is going to face an acute shortage of skilled manpower by 2011—even today this country is facing a crunch of skilled manpower—many IITs have been opened on private initiative. However, instead of being skilled manpower producing institutes, they have become centres of commerce and money-making concerns. All of a sudden it is found that many politicians are going to open these vocational institutions. Does the Government have any plan to have a regulatory authority in order to regulate such ITIs with regard to faculty, quality of education, infrastructure and fee structure?

[Translation]

SHRI M.A.A. FATMI: Sir, I would like to tell the hon'ble Member that the Department of Labour regulates the functioning of I.T.I.s and we monitor the functioning of vocational education after the school education. The Ministry of Labour keeps an eye on the working of I.T.I. Training centres. So, he will have to address this question separately in order to get the reply.

SHRI BANSAGOPAL CHOUDHURY: Sir, it has been stated in the reply tabled in the House that we have 10.03 lakh intake capacity vocational schools in the

country. It is stated that an amount of Rs. 2000 crore has been sanctioned for the purpose in the 11th Plan.

The existing syllabus is not upto the mark, so the syllabus of vocational education scheme should be changed. Have the Government taken any decision about it because some decision should be taken for the change according to need based curriculum. Through you, I would like to ask whether the Government have prepared this scheme or not?

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I compliment you for improvement of your Hindi.

[Translation]

SHRI M.A.A. FATMI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have told in the beginning that this scheme is being fully revamped keeping in view all these components. He mentioned about syllabus, that is also being taken care of? As I said, there should be vertical mobility also so that the students can study further as per their requirement. They should be able to pursue diploma course followed by degree in Engineering after completing their two years course. Such schemes and syllabi are being formulated so that it should be easy for the students to get further education.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Because of the importance of the matter, I would allow a few more supplementaries.

SHRI A. KRISHNASWAMY: At present, the demand for the skilled labour in India is not fulfilled by the IITs polytechnics. In addition to the vocationalisation of secondary education, skilled labour demand is not meted out because the former students are not getting any priority in job opportunities in ITIs and polytechnics. Further, former students of the vocational course are neither getting job opportunities nor getting admission in colleges.

MR. SPEAKER: This Question relates to vocational schools.

SHRI A. KRISHNASWAMY: They are facing difficulties in getting admission in engineering or polytechnics. I would like to know from the Minister, through you, Sir, whether the Ministry has conducted any study about those who have got through these courses and about their future.

What steps the Ministry has taken to modernize the courses and to make the future of those students who undergo vocational courses brighter?

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: You have to find jobs also.

SHRI M.A.A. FATMI: Mr. Speaker, Sir as I had told earlier that there was no market demand for the students passing out from here and there was no linkage with the industries and a number of other difficulties were there due to which these courses are being revamped so that they could be linked to the industries, market and their acceptability may be enhanced in the market.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Do not record one sentence.

*...(Interruptions)**

[Translation]

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, there are 9619 vocational Government schools in which 10.03 lakh students get admission. My question is whether there is any provision for reservation for the students of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes or not? My second question is that...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Don't ask second question.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: You are going to provide a sum of Rs. 2000 crore in the next plan, so, I would like to know how many schools are going to be recognized and my third question is that...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Do not reply to the third question, Mr. Minister. It is disallowed.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Do you grant permission like this even to the private institutes?

MR. SPEAKER: Third question is disallowed.

*Not recorded.

SHRI M.A.A. FATMI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is the State Government that prepare the admission policy. I think definitely there will be reservation in admission over there...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: It seems to me that the House has become an Assembly.

SHRI M.A.A. FATMI: We grant permission to both the Government and private institutes.

MR. SPEAKER: Please ask brief and specific questions quickly.

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to know from the hon'ble Minister of State in the Ministry of Human Resource Development whether, keeping in view the problem of unemployment due to which a large number of students are unemployed even after getting technical training, is there any provision to grant status of direct employment centres to these vocational institutes for making them job oriented so that direct employment could be provided to these students after they finish apprenticeship?

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: It is the same question and the same answer.

[Translation]

SHRI M.A.A. FATMI: Mr. Speaker, Sir in this regard I have already said in this House that this matter is being looked into and proper attention will be paid in this regard.

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: Mr. Speaker, Sir, as per State-wise details given by the hon'ble Minister in his reply, no central grant has been provided to run any vocational school during the year 2003 to 2008. Through you, I would like to know in this regard that there are 752 such schools in Bihar...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I will allow a proper discussion on this. Some notices have come.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: He has given the data in respect of the whole country; but I would like to know

whether these schools are running or lying closed? You want to revamp these schools in 11th five-year plan, so, keeping in view the necessity of vocational schools I would like to know the time frame by which this scheme is likely to be implemented so that education can be made job-oriented?

MR. SPEAKER: Say that it will be implemented in the 11th plan period.

SHRI M.A.A. FATMI: The old scheme that we have, is running. As far as the new skill scheme is concerned, we will implement it by preparing it is soon as possible.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Last but not the least, Shri Ratilal Kalidas Varma.

[Translation]

SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker, Sir.

MR. SPEAKER: We can do a lot with a little cooperation.

SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you I would like to tell the hon'ble Minister that the importance of vocational courses has increased alongwith education in the country. I have been associated with the education for the last 35 years. Today's youth do not want to have a degree like B.A., B.Sc. and B.Com and stand in the long queue of unemployed youths of the country. They want to get vocational training immediately. The number of industries are increasing in Gujarat, so there is heavy demand of vocational education over there; but there are only 77 such schools being run by the Government in Gujarat large number of vocational institutes have been set up in other States. I, therefore, want to know whether there is any proposal to increase the number of vocational training institutes in Gujarat so that the youth of the State could get employment.

SHRI M.A.A. FATMI: Under the scheme implemented earlier, States and Union territories applied to centre for it and they were given assistance. Now, the new scheme will be formulated under which State will implement it and after that required assistance will be provided to them.

*SHRIMATI PARAMJIT KAUR GULSHAN: Sir, there is an acute shortage of teachers in the Vocational Training Schools. No new recruitments are being made even when the teachers in these schools retire. As a result, many Vocational Training Schools have closed down.

I would like to know from the Hon. Minister whether the Government has any scheme to recruit teachers in the Vocational Training Schools to tide over this problem.

SHRI M.A.A. FATMI: It is a fact that there is shortage of qualified vocational teachers but States have to look into this problem and they have to arrange qualified teachers to run the schools.

MD. SALIM: Sir, we accept the importance of vocational training. We find that in Korea 76 per cent youth are vocationally trained whereas even after 60 years of independence less than 5 per cent of our youth are vocationally trained.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: That is why I wanted to have a proper discussion on this.

[Translation]

MD. SALIM: There is difficulty in reaching to them, therefore, through Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, Self Help Groups, awareness is created among them and new persons are coming in this field but Hon'ble Minister himself is telling that the Director General of Employment and Training is under Labour Department, further there is State Government and Central Government but development of the skill and skill formation is mainly the job of Human Resource Development Department. Therefore, I would like to know that when they have announced a provision of Rs. 1000 crore in this year's budget to establish Skill Development Institute to be established at a cost of Rs. 15 thousand crore, but the children under 15 years are studying in schools and for Human Resource Development, what scheme the Government propose to formulate to provide vocational training to these children in a planned manner so that at least 10-15 per cent children get Vocational Training.

*English translation of the speech originally delivered in Punjabi.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: You can say whether you will do it or the States will do it.

[Translation]

SHRI M.A.A. FATMI: We are formulating a scheme, it will be implemented soon. CBSE runs its own scheme, NIOS also runs a scheme. There are schemes of other Departments also but as far as Human Resource Development is concerned, we are formulating a plan to revamp the schemes already being implemented so that we can produce a skilled workforce, which can contribute in the economy of this country and could build their own future. This Rs. 2000 crore will be utilized in a proper way and a good scheme will be formulated considering the views of all Members of Parliament.

MR. SPEAKER: We are indulging in self propaganda. Three years back we had started a vocational school with 22 students, now the number of students has gone up to 206 and now there is no seat available there.

[English]

This is the demand in the market. Therefore, I am saying that all the hon. Members can make efforts.

[Translation]

Use MPLADS for these institutions instead of spending it elsewhere.

[English]

Grants to Federation of Film Societies of India

*506. SHRI REWATI RAMAN SINGH: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Federation of Film Societies of India (FFSI) has been receiving grant-in-aid every year;

(b) if so, the details during each of the last three years, till date;

(c) whether the grant-in-aid has been discontinued recently;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) if not, the amount released for the financial years 2007-08 and 2008-09?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) to (e) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) Yes, Sir. FFSI has been receiving grant-in-aid from Government of India since 1980.

(b) In the last three years, Grant-in-aid was as under:

(i) 2005-06	—	Rs. 4 lakhs
(ii) 2006-07	—	Rs. 4 lakhs
(iii) 2007-08	—	Rs. 3 lakhs

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Questions does not arise.

(e) An amount of Rs. 3 lakhs has been released during 2007-08. No amount has been released for 2008-09 till date.

[Translation]

SHRI REWATI RAMAN SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir this body is a very important body to encourage Arts. In his reply, hon'ble Minister had replied that the grant for the year 2007-08 has been decreased from Rs. 4 lakh to Rs. 3 lakh. I want to know through the Minister, what is the justification for decreasing it alongwith reasons therefor?

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: This question is related to Film Society and Film Federation of Society. Every year they send their proposal and Director of film festival after considering the proposal release the grant as per their requirements. This year the grant has been increased to Rupees Six lakh because we want to strengthen it.

SHRI REWATI RAMAN SINGH: Sir, every year we organize Film Festival. Hon'ble Minister has informed about this. He said that the grant has been increased to Rupees six lakh during this year. Does the Government of India accept the proposals in toto or consider them and then decide the amount to be released?

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, as far as demands are concerned, it is a continuous process. The Government first decides through Director of Film Festival as how much grant would be released under plan and non-plan demands. As far as this question is concerned, I would like to say that this year we are going to celebrate fifty years of Film Federation, which was started after Independence in Kolkata by Shri Satyajit Ray on 5th October. Therefore, in the year 1959, it was recognized by Government and Shri Satyajit Ray was the first founder President and Smt. Indira Gandhi herself was the Vice President and Shri I.K. Gujral was the treasurer. Our Government are planning to celebrate completion of fifty years of Film Federation on a large scale. In the meantime we are waiting and after receiving their proposal we will help them. Shri Shyam Benegal is its leader. I want to assure the House that we will celebrate completion of fifty years of Film federation on a large scale and will set an example before the world.

[English]

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: In our country, the Film Societies have significantly contributed to the production of great film makers of our country and also production of successful commercial films. May I know from the hon. Minister whether the National Film Policy has provided any constructive role for the film society in our country till today?

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, the film society movement, as I stated, is one of the leading movements in the whole of Asia and this society has been continuously promoting the concept of screening films, the concept of script writing, the concept of taking films to the people in various ways. Now this year which is the 50th year, they have added a new dimension to it which the Government is also appreciating. The National Film Policy includes film festival movement to generate in a bigger way. I can inform the House today that the film festival movement of India is being acknowledged not only within India and in our policy but in abroad also. Therefore, we are tying up with the embassies and I can tell you that the growth of film society is now 300 which began with only seven.

MR. SPEAKER: Shrimati Jayaprada, please be brief and specific as there is no time.

[*Translation*]

SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA: Sir, Children Film Festival is held for films about children and it is held abroad as well. I would like to ask hon'ble Minister whether he gives finance and grants State-wise for the Children Film Festival and if so, what are the details?

[*English*]

I wanted to know this.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: We are providing them support both in Plan and Non-Plan. A number of films had been produced last year and some of them won international awards in the whole world. This year, we are increasing the strength based on their proposal.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[*Translation*]

Firing and Shelling at Borders

*501. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of firings and shellings along the international borders of the country and the line of control particularly in Jammu and Kashmir during each of the last three years and in the current year as on date, State-wise;

(b) the details of loss of lives and property among security forces and civilians during the said period;

(c) the amount of compensation given to each affected family; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to check these activities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) According to available information, no incident of firing and shelling has been reported on International Borders

(IB) with China, Myanmar, Nepal and Bhutan. Since the ceasefire between India and Pakistan, in November, 2003 there have been no major incidents of violation along the Line of Control (LoC) in Jammu and Kashmir. Some minor incidents of trans-LoC firing have been reported as per details given below:-

Year	No. of minor incidents
2005	06
2006	03
2007	12
2008 (upto April 24)	Nil

There have been no incidents of firing and shelling along the International Border (IB) and Line of Actual Control (LAC) for which Army is responsible.

On the Indo-Bangladesh border, 161 incidents of firing have been reported since 2005 as per details given below:-

Year	State	Number of cases
2005	West Bengal	07
	Assam	09
2006	West Bengal	52
	Assam	16
	Tripura	02
2007	West Bengal	70
	Tripura	02
2008 (till April 24)	West Bengal	03

(b) One Army personnel has been killed due to Pakistani firing across the LoC in Jammu and Kashmir during the last three years. There has been no other loss of life of Army personnel in the last three years along other parts of the IB.

The details of loss of lives of BSF personnel and civilians on Indio-Bangladesh Border due to firing during the last three years are as under:

Year	No. of firing incident	Casualty	Injury	Property
2005	16	01 BSF personnel and one civilian	01 civilian	-
2006	70	02 civilians	02 civilians	One house in village Kinokhal (Assam) was damaged on 09.08.06
2007	72	-	-	-
2008 (till April 24)	03	01 civilian	01 civilian	-

(c) Casualties of army personnel are treated as 'Battle Casualties' and the Next-of-Kin (NoK) are given liberalized family pension and other benefits which include ex-gratia and gratuity depending upon the circumstances of each case.

All benefits are paid to the NoK of other Security Forces which include ex-gratia amounts given by the State/Central Governments, liberalized pension scheme and gratuity as admissible in each case.

Ex-gratia relief is paid to civilian victims by the respective State Governments and varies from State to State.

(d) Issues relating to violations and other aspect of Border Management along the Line of Control in Jammu and Kashmir, International Borders in the Western and Eastern Sectors and Line of Actual Control between India and China are addressed through institutional mechanisms by way of periodic high level official talks hot-line contacts between the counter-part authorities on both sides, besides flag meetings and meetings between the border personnel, to defuse the situation and maintain peace and tranquility along the borders.

[English]

Funds for Modernisation of Police Force

*507. SHRI SUKHDEV SINGH DHINDSA:
SARDAR SUKHDEV SINGH LIBRA:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether various State Governments, including Punjab have requested the Union Government to release their share of funds for modernization of the police force;

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

(c) the time by when the funds are likely to be released?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) to (c) The quantum of funds to be provided to the State Governments under the Scheme for Modernisation of State Police Forces (MPF) is based on the utilization of funds already provided to them earlier. Funds are released to the States without waiting for any formal request from the State Governments as per their approved plans. Based on the tentative allocation, the first instalment will be released to all the States within a week.

Data on Achievement of SEZs

*508. SHRI K.S. RAO: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the findings and conclusions drawn from the data collected on investment, employment and exports attributed to Special Economic Zones (SEZs) operationalised, till date;

(b) whether the Government proposes to create a separate data bank on performance, issues and achievements of SEZs for formulation of policy guidelines; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) Since the coming into force of Special Economic Zones (SEZs) Act, 2005 and SEZ Rules, 2006 in February, 2006, SEZs have provided

incremental employment to 1,76,668 persons and generated incremental investment of Rs. 71090.10 crore. Exports from SEZs have been constantly on the increase. Physical exports from SEZs in the year 2007-08 were of the order of Rs. 64,623 crore, registering a growth of 87% over the previous year's physical exports which were Rs. 34615 crore.

(b) and (c) The performance of Special Economic Zones is monitored regularly and data on employment provided, investment generated and exports effected are collected and compiled periodically. A dedicated website containing data and information relating to Special Economic Zones, namely, sezindia.nic.in is also put in place, which is updated from time to time.

Literacy Rate among the Children of Denotified Nomadic Tribes

*509. SHRI HARIBHAU RATHOD: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the percentage of literacy among Banjaras/Denotified Nomadic children below eighteen years in the country;

(b) the school dropout rate of Banjara/Denotified Nomadic Tribes children in primary, secondary and senior secondary level;

(c) the steps being taken by the Government to improve the literacy percentage thereof;

(d) whether the Government proposes to formulate a separate policy to increase the percentage of literacy thereof;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): (a) According to census 2001, literacy rates of Banjara and their cognate tribes (i.e. Sugali, Lambadi and Lambani), wherever notified by certain States as SCs or STs are enclosed as statement. The figures for denotified tribes are not collected in the census.

(b) No separate data in respect of dropout rates of children belonging to Banjaras/Denotified Nomadic Tribes is maintained.

(c) The steps being taken to improve the literacy percentage including that of Banjara/Denotified Nomadic Tribes are as follows:

- Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) is a comprehensive programme for universalizing quality elementary education for all children for 6 to 14 age group by 2010. It provides for, *inter alia*, opening of new primary and upper primary schools, construction of school buildings and additional classrooms, recruitment of teachers, context specific interventions for out of school children, special provision for girls, SC, ST children, alternative schooling facilities for migratory children.
- Reservation of seats for children belonging to SCs and STs is provided by Navodaya Vidyalaya Samiti in proportion to their population in the concerned district provided that no such reservation will be less than the national average of 22.5% (15% for SCs and 7.5% for STs) and subject to a maximum of 50% for both SCs and STs taken together.
- 15% and 7.5% seats are reserved for SCs and STs respectively in Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan in fresh admission. No tuition fee is charged from students up to class VIII from SC/ST students.
- National Literacy Mission aims to impart functional literacy to adult illiterates in the 15-35 age group. Financial assistance is provided in the ratio 4:1 for tribal districts as against 2:1 for other districts as central and state share respectively. Primers have been prepared in 92 tribal languages and local dialects to facilitate learning in the mother tongue.

(d) to (f) Universalisation of elementary education through Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan and Adult Literacy programmes of National Literacy Mission aims at improving the literacy rate in the country for all including the Banjaras/Denotified Nomadic Tribes.

Statement

State	Name of SC/ST	Literacy rate below 18 Years (excluding 0-6 population)
Scheduled Castes		
Himachal Pradesh	Banjara	96.5
Delhi	Banjara	82.7
Karnataka	Banjara, Lambani	68.3
Scheduled Tribes		
Bihar	Banjara	47.0
Jharkhand	Banjara	27.9
Andhra Pradesh	Sugalis, Lambadis	60.5
Orissa	Banjara, Banjari	70.5

Contribution of Manufacturing Sector to GDP

*510. SHRI JASUBHAI DHANABHAI BARAD: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the contribution of the manufacturing sector to the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) during the last three years, year-wise;

(b) the target fixed for the manufacturing sector for the current year; and

(c) the steps being taken by the Government to achieve the target?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) The contribution of the manufacturing sector to the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) was 15.9% in 2005-06, 16.3% in 2006-07 and 16.5 in 2007-08.

(b) No explicit target has been fixed for the manufacturing sector for the current year (2008-09). An indicative growth of 10% per annum on an average has been provided for industry in the Eleventh Five Year Plan (2007-2012).

(c) In a market driven economy, the growth of various industries is influenced by market-forces of supply and demand. However, the Government has put in place various policies to promote broad based industrial growth. This includes, *inter-alia*, delicensing of industrial capacity, liberalization of foreign trade regime to provide better access to inputs at competitive prices, rationalization and reduction in duty rates of customs and central excise, better infrastructure support, and liberal FDI regime, etc.

In addition, Government has also proposed reduction in excise duty across the board from 16% to 14% in the Budget 2008-09 to boost the domestic demand for the manufacturing industry. The Government has also proposed reduction in excise duty from 16% to 12% in the Budget 2008-09 for Small Cars, Motorcycles and Scooters etc. to give boost to the domestic consumer durable manufacturing industry.

Government has also introduced several relief measures for export oriented industries, which includes enhancement of the Duty Entitlement Pass Book (DEPB), reduction in Export Credit Guarantee Corporation (ECGC) premium by 10% enhancement of the rates of duty drawback, interest subvention of pre-shipment and post-shipment credit, refund of service tax, raising the revenue ceiling for Vishesh Krishi and Gram Udyog Yojana.

The Government has since approved a proposal to create Information Technology Investment Regions (ITIRs). These ITIRs would be endowed with excellent infrastructure and supported through investor-friendly policies. With a view to improve the competitiveness of Indian industries, particularly the micro, small and medium enterprises, the Government has also approved a proposal to set up Mini Tool rooms in the country under Public Private Partnership (PPP) Mode, in co-operation with State governments/industries/Associations/Companies/NGOs/Individuals.

Foreign Travel on Forged Documents

*511. SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of persons arrested while trying to travel abroad on the basis of fake travel documents during 2007-08 so far, airport-wise;

(b) whether various travel agents in the country are involved in such activities;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government has taken any action against such agents/persons during the said period;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the steps taken by the Government to check such activities in future in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) to (f) As per available information, the number of persons arrested at major international Airports while trying to travel abroad on the basis of fake travel documents during the year 2007-08 is as under:

Sl.No.	Name of the Airport	No. of Persons arrested With fake travel documents
1.	Delhi	610
2.	Mumbai	664
3.	Kolkata	43
4.	Chennai	195
5.	Amritsar	26
6.	Ahmedabad	19
7.	Bangalore	31
8.	Calicut	38
9.	Cochin	75
10.	Hyderabad	71
11.	Trivandrum	57

While data with regard to persons/groups, including travel agents, involved in such travel-related irregularities is not centrally maintained, prompt action is taken under the law by the agencies concerned as and when such cases are detected.

As per information maintained in respect of Recruiting Agents (RAs), the registration of 14 RAs has been cancelled and the registration of 20 RAs has been suspended during 2007-08. Prosecution has also been sanctioned against 26 unregistered agents during this period.

A number of steps have been taken by the Government to check travel by persons on forged/fake documents. These steps include:

- (i) Use of magnifying glass and Ultra Violet lamps at all International Airports for scrutinizing the features of the travel documents;
- (ii) Issuance of machine-readable passports with improved security features;
- (iii) Installation of Passport Reading Machines (PRMs) for verifying the genuineness of the passports;
- (iv) Installation of Questionable Document Examiner (QDX) machines for detection of sophisticated forgeries in travel documents;
- (v) Installation of Immigration Control System (ICS) software which verifies the passport details of passengers against Lost Passport data thereby preventing impersonation; and
- (vi) Imparting special training to Immigration Officers at Airports on a regular basis to detect forged/fake travel documents.

Further, in order to prevent the RAs from facilitating emigration of people on fake/forged documents, following steps have been taken:

- (i) Recruiting Agents are required to submit all the employment documents in original for obtaining emigration clearance; and
- (ii) Publicity campaigns have been undertaken to make prospective emigrants aware of the provisions of the Emigration Act and the rules made thereunder.

[Translation]

Opening of Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalayas

*512. SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA:
SHRI MAHAVIR BHAGORA:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalayas functioning in the dalit dominated districts alongwith the number of such Vidyalayas proposed to be opened there, State-wise; and

(b) the steps being taken by the Government to increase the number of students in the Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalayas and to improve the standard of education of those people?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): (a) Navodaya Vidyalaya Scheme envisages establishment of one Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya (JNV) in each district of the country for providing good quality modern education to talented children predominantly from rural areas. Barring Tamil Nadu, where the scheme is not operational, JNVs have been opened in all the eligible districts having 20 per cent and more Scheduled Caste population except for 4 districts.

(b) As per the Navodaya Vidyalaya Scheme, each Vidyalaya consists of classes VI to XII with strength of each class at 80. In the first year, students are taken in Class-VI and then one higher class is added in each subsequent year. To fill up seats falling vacant due to dropouts, admission of students is also made at the level of Class-IX and XI against the available seats. With a view to ensure optimum utilization of the available resources, the Samiti has decided to admit students at the level of Class-VII also from the current academic session. Reservation for SC students is provided in proportion to SC population in the district subject to a minimum of 15%.

The performance of the students of JNVs in Class X and Class XII examinations conducted by Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) has been constantly higher than the overall CBSE results. With a view to further improve the standard of education in these Vidyalayas, various steps have been taken including appointment of qualified teachers, regular in-service training programmes for teachers, provision of required infrastructure, introduction of Information and Communication Technology in all Vidyalayas, continuous and comprehensive evaluation of students and adoption of latest techniques to make teaching learning process more effective.

[English]

Financial Assistance for Films

*513. **SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE:** Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the details of films for which the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting provided financial assistance during each of the last three years, till date;

(b) the criteria for providing the said assistance; and

(c) the names of the persons who have received such assistance?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) to (c) The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting have not directly provided financial assistance for making films during the last three years. However, the Ministry have got a film made on "Shooting locations" of India through the National Film Development Corporation (NFDC), which is a Public Sector undertaking under this Ministry. Further, National Film Development Corporation (NFDC) have not provided financial assistance for producing films during the last three years. NFDC have only produced/co-produced films during this period.

Ministry of Information and Broadcasting have extended working capital loan of Rs. 19.77 crores to NFDC to meet its working capital requirement during the last three years. Out of this amount, NFDC have utilized Rs. 2.50 crores so far in co-production/production of six films. The details of these films are given in Statement I.

In NFDC, Script Committee evaluates the scripts based on which they are put up to the Board of Directors for consideration, who take decision regarding production/co-production to be undertaken by the Corporation.

Further, though Films Division and Children's Film Society, India (CFSI) have not provided financial assistance to any individual/organization for producing films during the last three years, the Ministry have provided grants-in-aid to the CFSI and Plan and Non-Plan budgetary support to the Films Division, part of which have been used towards production of films. These films are produced in-house or through outside executive producers. Details of film produced by CFSI and Films Division through outside producers are enclosed as statement II and II respectively. Outside executive producers are selected on examination of the scripts and after considering the budget, creativity, merit and suitability of a producer for the film.

Statement I

Sl.No.	Title of the Film with Language	Co-production/100% Production	Other Details
1.	Via Darjeeling (Hindi)	NFDC & M/s. Moxie Entertainment Pvt. Ltd.	Arindam Nandy (First time Director)
2.	Lucky Red Seeds (Malayalam)	NFDC, Mirchi Movies Ltd. & Little Films	Anjali Menon (First Time Director)
3.	Sanakar (Bengali)	NFDC's Own Production	Nabenda Chatterjee
4.	Maya Bazar (Bengali)	NFDC's Own Production	Joydeep Ghosh (First Time Director)
5.	Bioscope (Malayalam)	NFDC's Own Production	K.M. Medhusudhanan (First Time Director)
6.	The White Elephant (Hindi)	NFDC & NDTV Imagine Ltd	Aijaz Khan (First Time Director)

While the film at S.No. 1 is completed, the remaining films are under production.

Statement II

CFSI's Films produced through outside producers during the period 2005-06 to 2007-08

Sl.No.	Name of the Director/ Outside Producer	Name of the films completed	Amount (Rs. in lakhs)
1	2	3	4
2005-06			
1.	Sanjit Ghosh	Shriman Pinku (Video Film)	0.80
2.	Pankuj Parashar	Gilli Gilli Atta (Hindi-feature)	40.00
3.	Rajeev Mohan	Bandu Boxer (Hindi-feature)	27.82
4.	Jagannath Chattopadhyay	Gaja Utker Hatya Rahasya (Bengali-feature)	16.97
5.	Vinod Genatra	Luka Chhupi—Hide-n-Seek (Hindi-feature)	58.00
6.	Sankalp Meshram	Chutkan ki Mahabharat (Hndi-feature)	4.00
7.	Ramesh Asher	Ek Aadesh—Command for Choti—(Hindi-short)	11.08
8.	Charmi Chheda	Katputli (Hindi-short animation)	10.80
9.	Batul Muktiar	Lilkee (Hindi-feature)	33.00
10.	Vishal Chaturvedi	Surabhi (Hindi-feature)	28.00
11.	Ms. Dhvani Desai	Man Pasand—Perfect Match (Hindi-short animation)	5.75
12.	Meren Imchen	Nokpoklibe—Folk story from Nagaland (English-short animation)	4.44
13.	Naeem Sha	Tsunami 81 (Hindi-feature)	60.00
14.	Chetan Sharma	Ma-a-a-a-a (Hindi-Short animation)	7.50
15.	Gautam Benegal	Pataler Rajputro (English-animation-Feature)	26.00

1	2	3	4
16.	Virendra Saini	Foto (Hindi-Feature)	45.00
17.	Kranti Kanade	Mahek Mirza (Hindi-feature)	37.60
2006-07			
18.	Shaleen Sharma	Nandu ka raja (Hindi-feature)	35.00
19.	Akkineni Kutumba Rao	Amulyam—the Priceless Gift (Telugu-Feature)	30.00
2007-08			
20.	Milind Dastane	Aji Ajoba	20.93
21.	Tilakraj Shetty	Krish, Trish & Baltiboy	30.00
22.	Col. R.K. Kapoor	Xang Xang Ciang	40.00

Statement III

Films Division's Films Assigned to the Outside Producers during the Period from 2005-06 to 2007-08

Sl.No.	Name of the producer	Title of the film assigned/guage/length	Contracted amount
1	2	3	4
2005-06			
1.	Shri Rajeev Mohan, Mumbai	Helping Sr. Citizen Cross the Road/35MM/3 Minutes	Rs. 1.78 Lakhs
2.	Shri Braj Bhushan Chitrashram, Mumbai	Ekta Hi Bai Hai/35MM/5 Minutes	Rs. 3.95 Lakhs
3.	Shri Jai Kumar, Bangalore	The Birds Fly/Video/25-28 Minutes	Rs. 5.00 Lakhs
4.	Shri Rajarshi Roy, Kolkata	Sankaradeva—A Multifarious Genius/Video/25-28 Minutes	Rs. 4.50 Lakhs
2006-07			
5.	Shri Buddhadeb Dasgupta, Kolkata	Naushad Ali/35 MM	Rs. 18.25 Lakhs
6.	Shri Jagannath Guha, Kolkata	Mothers peacemakers/35 MM/20 Minutes	Rs. 10.66 Lakhs
7.	Shri Aribam Syam Sharma, Imphal	Rajashri Bhagyachandra of Manipur '35 MM/60 Minutes	Rs. 29.00 Lakhs
8.	Shri Satyen Wanchoo, New Delhi	Bio-Diversity in Jammu and Kashmir '16 MM/30 Minutes	Rs. 12.00 Lakhs
9.	Ms. Umi Chakraborty, Kolkata	Traditional Herbal Healers of Meghalaya/35 MM/20 Minutes	Rs. 10.50 Lakhs
10.	Dr. Jabbar Patel, Mumbai	Pandit Shiv Kumar Sharma/35 MM/60 Minutes	Rs. 22.27 Lakhs
11.	Ms. Shalini Shah, Mumbai	KVIC/35 MM/30 Minutes	Rs. 15.00 Lakhs
2007-08			
12.	Shri Swapan Das, Kolkata	Utam Kumar/35 MM/40 Minutes	Rs. 20.00 Lakhs
13.	Shri Sanjeet Narvekar, Mumbai	V. Shantaram/35 MM/30 Minutes	Rs. 16.00 Lakhs

1	2	3	4
14.	Shri Yash Pal Chowdary, Mumbai	Mrinal Sen/35 MM/30 Minutes	Rs. 18.00 Lakhs
15.	Shri Rajan, Mumbai	Train theatre/35 MM/40 Minutes	Rs. 25.00 Lakhs
16.	Shri P.P. Govindan, Chennai	Salvation of River Pamba' 35 MM/20 Minutes	Rs. 12.00 Lakhs
17.	Shri Bappa Ray, New Delhi	Buddhist Thang Kar in Ladakh/35 MM/20 Minutes	Rs. 12.00 Lakhs
18.	Shri Iswar Chakraborty	Three colors white/35 MM/40 Minutes	Rs. 20.00 Lakhs
19.	Shri Mohan Palival	Maqbool Sherwani/35 MM/20 Minutes	Rs. 10.00 Lakhs
20.	Shri R.S. Mhasumekar, Mumbai	Aalah/35 MM/30 Minutes	Rs. 18.00 Lakhs
21.	Shri R.K. Sorai, Mumbai	National Integration/35 MM/40 Minutes	Rs. 18.00 Lakhs
22.	Shri Ashoker Kumar, Thane	Rani Laxmi Bai/35 MM/ 50 Minutes	Rs. 26.00 Lakhs
23.	Shri K.S. Basao Raj, Bangalore	Ganga Kaveri/35MM/20 Minutes	Rs. 12.00 Lakhs

*[Translation]***Validity of Arms Licences**

*514. SHRI RASHEED MASOOD:
SHRI ASHOK ARGAL:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has issued any guidelines to the State Governments including the National Capital Territory of Delhi for extending the validity of arms licences throughout the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the guidelines are being complied within the country;

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

(e) the number of arms licences which have been validated by the Government throughout the country during the period from 4 July, 1989 to 31 December, 1995?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI V. RADHIKA SELVI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) As per guidelines issued in 1995, requests for extending the area validity of Non Prohibited Bore arms licences are considered by the State Governments concerned on merits based on the recommendations of the District Magistrates concerned, keeping in view the law and order situation obtaining in the district/State and other local factors. In respect of Prohibited Bore arms licences, requests for extending the validity to cover the whole country are considered by the Ministry of Home Affairs on merits, in consultation with the State Governments and the security agencies concerned.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. However, details of cases handled by the State Governments for grant of Non-Prohibited Bore licence or extension of area validity on all India basis are not compiled and maintained by the Central Government.

(e) The Central Government has issued 550 arms licences of All India validity under the existing policy of heirloom transfer, fresh licences, defence allottees and those recommended by State Governments for extension of area during the period under reference.

*[English]***Trade Missions to Gulf Countries**

*515. SHRI K.J.S.P. REDDY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to send trade missions to Gulf countries to bridge the gap in trade between India and Gulf countries;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the total quantity of fruits and vegetables exported to the Gulf countries during each of the last three years as on date, item-wise and country-wise;

(d) the total foreign exchange earned therefrom during the above period; and

(e) the further steps taken by the Government to boost the export of fruits and vegetables from the country?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) and (b) Analysis of India's trade relations with the six Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries of Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and UAE indicates that the balance of trade is in India's favour as far as commodity trade (excluding oil) is concerned. Indian exports to the GCC countries were of the value of US\$ 16334.96 million during 2006-07 and imports during this period amounted to US\$ 6187.53 million. However, the balance of trade tilts against India

if the imports of Petroleum Crude and its products are taken into account.

For providing impetus to exports from India and to explore new opportunities, funding under market development assistance and market access initiative schemes of the Government is being extended. There are also formal institutional mechanisms such as the Joint Trade Commission/Joint Trade Committee and Joint Business Council to strengthen business to business contacts, participation in Seminars/Conferences/Exhibitions/Fairs.

(c) Details are given in Statement I.

(d) Details are given in Statement II.

(e) Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority, the export promotion body in the agri-sector, has been providing financial assistance to exporters of fruits and vegetables for Infrastructure Development, Quality Development, Market Development, Research & Development and Transport Assistance. The EPCG Scheme of Ministry of Commerce and Industry also enables exporters to import capital equipment at nominal import duty for producing quality produce for the international market.

Statement I

Export of Fresh Fruits and Vegetables to Gulf Countries During 2004-05

(Quantity in Metric Tonnes)

Products	Bahrain	Kuwait	Oman	Qatar	S.Arabia	UAE
Grapes	109	0.47	102	1	163	5476
Mangoes	849	268	144	160	2301	10339
Walnuts	26	154	0	0.16	0	86
Other Fresh Fruits	1530	760	1852	689	4144	28950
Total	2514	3696	2098	850	6608	44851
Onion	21558	3456	2881	3019	8519	116188
Other Vegetables	3920	5420	1396	3269	11435	27519
Total	25498	8876	4277	6288	19954	143707

Export of Fresh Fruits and Vegetables to Gulf Countries during 2005-06

(Quantity in Metric Tonnes)

Products	Bahrain	Kuwait	Oman	Qatar	S.Arabia	UAE
Grapes	153	21	190	36	345	7046
Mangoes	621	105	227	41	1564	26534
Walnuts	59	142	0	7	7	13
Other Fresh Fruits	1816	1336	1534	852	4946	38696
Total	2649	1504	1951	936	6862	72489
Onion	14990	6792	1377	6327	5545	112174
Other Vegetables	3116	4643	1005	2655	6863	30741
Total	18106	11435	2382	8982	12408	142915

Export of Fresh Fruits and Vegetables to Gulf Countries During 2006-07

(Quantity in Metric Tonnes)

Products	Bahrain	Kuwait	Oman	Qatar	S.Arabia	UAE
Grapes	27	65	315	16	1115	8140
Mangoes	489	428	170	91	1324	22041
Walnuts	22	178	0	0	61	215
Other Fresh Fruits	1448	1518	1203	1252	8530	40555
Total	1986	2189	1688	1359	11030	70951
Onion	26155	9720	5334	8111	7690	235913
Other Vegetables	3732	6686	1503	5234	11133	69867
Total	29887	16406	6837	13345	18823	305580

Statement II*Export of Fresh Fruits and Vegetables to Gulf Countries During 2004-05*

(Values in Rs. Lakh)

Products	Bahrain	Kuwait	Oman	Qatar	S.Arabia	UAE
Fresh Grapes	1.08	0	1.53	0.01	1.92	62.13
Fresh Mangoes	4.77	3.35	0.95	1.08	16.67	64.71
Fresh Onions	34.14	5.61	4.92	5.04	13.19	169.44
Other Fresh fruits	4.83	3.25	5.80	3.47	19.63	83.00
Total Fruits	44.82	12.21	13.20	9.60	51.41	379.28
Other Fresh Vegetables	15.89	23.10	5.13	14.12	51.19	96.70
Total other fresh Vegetables	15.89	23.10	5.13	14.12	51.19	96.70

Export of Fresh Fruits and Vegetables to Gulf Countries during 2005-06

(Values in Rs. Lakh)

Products	Bahrain	Kuwait	Oman	Qatar	S.Arabia	UAE
Fresh Grapes	1.42	0.17	2.31	0.42	4.29	77.32
Fresh Mangoes	5.50	2.42	1.71	0.49	9.99	165.00
Fresh Onions	21.48	9.01	1.83	9.46	8.60	166.16
Other fresh fruits	8.24	6.86	7.72	4.75	25.95	136.41
Total Fruits	36.64	18.46	13.57	15.12	48.83	544.89
Other Fresh Vegetables	17.93	18.80	5.56	13.61	38.28	117.08
Total other fresh Vegetables	17.93	18.80	5.56	13.61	38.28	117.08

Export of Fresh Fruits and Vegetables to Gulf Countries During 2006-07

(Values in Rs. Lakh)

Products	Bahrain	Kuwait	Oman	Qatar	S.Arabia	UAE
Fresh Grapes	8.33	20.62	164.91	7.68	563.59	3667.91
Fresh Mangoes	171.76	244.89	118.65	45.88	422.32	6581.02
Fresh Onions	2304.95	973.56	673.90	762.05	818.85	20967.40
Other fresh fruits	343.66	315.97	299.29	317.24	2204.99	6588.80
Total Fresh Fruits	2828.70	1555.04	1256.75	1132.85	4009.75	37805.13
Other Fresh Vegetables	927.36	1356.87	328.28	1490.48	3426.68	9904.09
Total other fresh Vegetables	927.36	1356.87	328.28	1490.48	3426.68	9904.09

Source: DGC & IS.

*[Translation]***Standard of Primary Education**

*516. PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA:
SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of schemes formulated by the Government for improving the standard of primary education in the country;

(b) the extent to which the primary education has improved during 2006-07 and 2007-08, State and Union Territory-wise; and

(c) the percentage of children deprived of primary education at the end of 2006-07 and 2007-08, State-wise and gender-wise?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): (a) For improving over all standard of education under Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan 1,86,985 schools have been opened, 8.81 lakh teachers have been recruited throughout the country, 1,41,738 school buildings, 5,57,927 additional classrooms constructed, and 1,54,121 drinking water facilities, 1,97,633 toilets provided in schools.

(b) Statement showing increasing trend of Gross Enrolment Ratios at primary level from 2004-05 to 2005-06 is given in Statement I.

(c) As per State Reports, as on 31.03.2007 there were about 76 lakh out of school children in the 6-14 years age group, in the country. A statement showing details of out of school children State-wise and gender-wise as 31.3.2007 is given in statement II.

Statement I

Increasing trend of Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) at Primary Level

Sl.No.	State/UT	GER at Primary Level	
		2004-05	2005-06
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	96.71	94.87
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	123.12	132.16
3.	Assam	105.2	107.11
4.	Bihar	83.75	87.2
5.	Chhattisgarh	131.84	122.26
6.	Goa	110.13	107.74
7.	Gujarat	118.65	119.44
8.	Haryana	82.23	79.61
9.	Himachal Pradesh	108.9	108.89
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	83.72	100.49
11.	Jharkhand	94.8	105.19
12.	Karnataka	107.1	106.19
13.	Kerala	93.61	93.85
14.	Madhya Pradesh	132.16	143.67

1	2	3	4
15.	Maharashtra	110.37	112.34
16.	Manipur	151.69	157.92
17.	Meghalaya	147.62	162.37
18.	Mizoram	127.53	169.06
19.	Nagaland	87.94	88.82
20.	Orissa	129.69	118.15
21.	Punjab	77.2	77.46
22.	Rajasthan	121.24	121.69
23.	Sikkim	143.58	151.15
24.	Tamil Nadu	118.41	120.07
25.	Tripura	131.03	143.35
26.	Uttar Pradesh	107.54	110.57
27.	Uttarakhand	117.74	119.89
28.	West Bengal	112.11	104.91
29.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	108.85	101.62
30.	Chandigarh	74.01	79.31
31.	Dadara and Nagar Haveli	134.5	143.66
32.	Daman and Diu	136.01	135.03
33.	Delhi	94.42	115.13
34.	Lakshadweep	58.78	62.28
35.	Puducherry	131.64	134.26
	India	107.8	109.4

Statement II

Sl.No.	State/UT	Out of school children as on March 2007		
		Boys	Girls	Total
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	126732	137281	264013
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	14407	16158	30565
3.	Assam	184014	154820	338834

1	2	3	4	5
4.	Bihar	1055958	1063626	2119584
5.	Chhattisgarh	59579	64053	123632
6.	Goa	3784	3915	7699
7.	Gujarat	62339	72305	134644
8.	Haryana	113364	125483	238847
9.	Himachal Pradesh	2448	3176	5624
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	46698	61862	108560
11.	Jharkhand	98331	111331	209662
12.	Karnataka	88855	85679	174534
13.	Kerala	10540	10251	20791
14.	Madhya Pradesh	148894	148085	296979
15.	Maharashtra	68602	68290	136892
16.	Manipur	27233	27118	54351
17.	Meghalaya	20443	16791	37234
18.	Mizoram	2392	2521	4913
19.	Nagaland	17406	17929	35335
20.	Orissa	276200	261641	537841
21.	Punjab	119341	108304	227645
22.	Rajasthan	74727	69167	163894
23.	Sikkim	1764	1440	3204
24.	Tamil Nadu	51260	52001	103281
25.	Tripura	7618	7758	15376
26.	Uttar Pradesh	392475	393049	785524
27.	Uttarakhand	10681	11549	22230
28.	West Bengal	700721	656880	1357601
29.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	69	64	133
30.	Chandigarh	2713	2792	5505
31.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	453	1161	1614
32.	Daman and Diu	106	95	201

1	2	3	4	5
33.	Delhi	16501	13500	30001
34.	Lakshadweep	92	76	168
35.	Puducherry	180	146	326
	India	3806920	3790296	7597216

Absence of Children from Schools

*517. SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH "LALAN":
SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has conducted any survey of primary and middle schools in 286 districts in the country recently to ascertain the reasons for absence of children from schools;

(b) if so, the names of States wherein the attendance of students has been found below 60 percent indicating the figure of SC/ST minorities therein;

(c) the reasons behind the inability of parents to send their children to schools;

(d) whether the Government has decided to implement any new scheme for increasing the attendance of children in schools; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): (a) to (e) The Government of India conducted a study on Student Attendance in 20 states covering 286 districts during 2006-07. The overall average student attendance rate was 68.5% at primary and 75.7% at upper primary levels. The States of Bihar and Uttar Pradesh reported student attendance rates of 42.2% and 57.4% respectively, at primary level, wherein student attendance rates for SC children were 46.4% in Bihar and 59.6% in Uttar Pradesh and were 44.3% in Bihar and 56.1% in Uttar Pradesh for muslim children. Rajasthan had 57.8% student attendance for ST children.

At the upper primary level, Bihar had 36.8% student attendance wherein it was 42.2% and 40% for SC and muslim children.

In the study, the chief reasons cited by parents for low student attendance included, children not liking to go to school; lack of schooling facilities; and temporary migration.

The Government of India under the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, supports States/Union Territories to augment school infrastructure at the elementary level; set-up flexible educational facilities for children where necessary; invest in community mobilisation and improve the quality of elementary education.

[English]

Review of Vulnerability Map of Disaster Prone Areas

*518. SHRI ABU AYES MONDAL: Will the Minister of EARTH SCIENCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether experts have warned against earthquakes and called for review of vulnerability map of major disaster prone areas in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) and (b) No, Sir. The experts have not given any specific warning of Earthquakes. In fact there is no scientific method available for forecasting earthquakes. However, Himalayan region is known to be prone to earthquakes of large magnitude. It may be mentioned that several scientists across the globe and within the country have expressed possible threat perception due to future large earthquakes in the region.

The issue of review of vulnerability maps of the major disaster prone areas in the country is addressed by the Building Material and Technology Promotion Council (BMTPC) under the Ministry of Urban Development. Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) has constituted a committee to revise the Seismic Zonation map of India. The BIS committee deliberated the issue in its meeting held on 26th July 2007 and recommended no revision of existing zoning map of IS 1893 (Part 1): 2002.

(c) Recently the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) has issued comprehensive guidelines for management of earthquake disasters. As a measure of earthquake disaster mitigation, microzonation studies of Delhi, Guwahati and Jabalapur have been conducted for assessment of site dependent hazard. It is proposed to carry out seismic microzonation studies of other cities falling in seismic zone IV and V during XI Five Year plan.

Television Rating Points

*519. SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government proposes to examine the existing Television Rating Points (TRP) system;

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

(c) whether any suggestions have been received by the Government in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) to (e) Government has requested the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) to give its recommendations for formulation of Policy guidelines regarding Television Audience Measurement (TAM)/Television Rating Points (TRP) so as to widen the sample size and bring greater transparency into it. TRAI has floated a consultation paper on Policy Guidelines for TAM/TRP which is available on their website www.trai.gov.in. Meanwhile, Government has

also held a series of meetings with the various stakeholders. No other action is proposed without the receipt of TRAI's recommendations.

[Translation]

Modernisation of Security Forces

*520. SHRIMATI BHAVANA PUNDALIKRAO GAWALI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the total funds earmarked in the current budget for modernisation of the security forces and to create a sense of security amongst the people living in the border areas;

(b) whether the Government has any proposal for major changes in the modernisation of the security forces;

(c) if so, the details thereof alongwith the border areas of the country where it is likely to help in checking terrorist activities;

(d) whether the Government also has any proposal for modernisation of all the borders; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL):

(a) An amount of Rs. 583.468 crores have been earmarked in the current budget under the modernization plan of the Central Paramilitary Forces (CPMFs).

(b) The scheme is aimed at upgradation and modernization of the CPMFs in terms of weaponry, various types of equipment, mobility, etc., and is being implemented as approved. No major changes in the scheme are envisaged.

(c) to (e) In order to check infiltration, smuggling and other illegal activities from across the Borders, the Government have undertaken the construction of fencing, flood lighting and roads along the Indo-Pak and Indo-Bangladesh Borders. Action is also being taken to deploy various types of high tech surveillance equipment on the borders to act as force multiplier for effective border management. An expenditure of Rs. 144.42 crore has been incurred during the last two years (2006-07 and 2007-08) for procurement of such equipment.

Setting up of New Industries

4955. DR. DHIRENDRA AGARWAL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has formulated any guidelines to provide funds for setting up of new industries in the country including Jharkhand and Gujarat;

(b) if so, the details and the funds released during each of the last three years, State-wise;

(c) whether the Government has fixed any targets for setting up of major industries during the above period; and

(d) if so, the achievement during the above period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL POLICY AND PROMOTION, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR): (a) to (d) Under the liberalized economic environment, investment decisions are taken by entrepreneurs based on technoeconomic consideration which in turn depend on the initiative of the State Governments in creating conducive environment by way of providing infrastructure facilities and other incentives. Central Government supplements their efforts to the extent possible under its various schemes.

Weather Forecast Centre at Flying Academy

4956. SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR: Will the Minister of EARTH SCIENCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether any observatory and office has been set up for providing weather forecast for the upcoming Flying Academy at Gondia in Maharashtra;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) and (b) On request of Airports Authority of India (AAI) to provide Meteorological Services, an Automatic Digital Distance Indicating Wind Equipment (DIWE) has been installed in ATC of the Gondia airport on 21.01.2008. The Area forecasts are being provided by

Airport Meteorological Office (AMO) Nagpur, which is only 50kms away.

(c) Does not arise.

[English]

ACP to NDMC Employees

4957. SHRI PARSURAM MAJHI:
SHRI LALMANI PRASAD:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether all the employees of MCD and NDMC are not given ACP after completion of 12 years;

(b) if so, the reasons and the time by when these employees are likely to get ACP;

(c) whether there is any pre condition for giving ACP after 12 years; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI V. RADHIKA SELVI): (a) No, Sir. All the eligible employees of the Municipal Corporation of Delhi, who have completed 12 years of regular service, are granted benefit of the Assured Career Progression (ACP) Scheme. Similarly, in the New Delhi Municipal Council, ACP is given to all eligible employees, covered under the Fifth Central Pay Commission Scales.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. Benefit under the ACP Scheme as per DoP&T guidelines is given to such eligible employees, who have completed 12 years of regular service; against whom no regular departmental or criminal case is pending; where nothing adverse is noticed in the annual confidential reports for the preceding five years; and who is not under the currency of any punishment.

[Translation]

Disinvestment of Hindustan Zinc Limited

4958. SHRI RANEN BARMAN: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) the financial performance of the Hindustan Zinc Ltd. during each of the last three years, till date;

(b) whether the Government proposes to disinvest its remaining stakes in the company;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): (a) Financial performance of Hindustan Zinc Ltd. (HZL) for the last three years is given below:

	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08
Turnover (Rs. crore)	3890	8560	7878
Profit (before tax) (Rs. crore)	2229	6454	5985
Profit After Tax (Rs. crore)	1472	4442	4396

(b) As on date, there is no decision to disinvest remaining stake of Government of India in the HZL.

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

[English]

High Cost of Advanced Technology

4959. DR. BABU RAO MEDIYAM: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the cost of advanced technology has increased manifold in the country;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to bring down the cost of advanced technology?

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) No, Sir. Advanced technologies are not available off the shelf. They need to be developed by launching missions and funding projects within India. Successful outcomes reduce the cost of such

technologies. Generally, the cost of advanced systems developed in the country is very cost effective.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

Blacklisted Non-Governmental Organizations

4960. SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the NGOs registered under the Foreign Contribution Regulation Act, 1976 (FCRA) blacklisted alongwith the reasons during each of the last three years, till date, State-wise;

(b) the names of the NGOs applied for permission alongwith the letter of sanction received from the Foreign Funding Agency for collecting Foreign Funds under FCRA;

(c) the details of NGOs denied prior permission by the Government during the said period, State-wise;

(d) whether the activities of the Foreign Funding Agencies have been found to be against the national interest;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the action taken by the Government against foreign funding agencies working against the national interest and the steps taken by the Government to check these activities in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL):

(a) There is no black list of associations registered under Foreign Contribution Regulation Act (FCRA), 1976. However, as and when, complaints relating to the violation of provisions of FCRA against associations come to the notice of the Government, appropriate action is taken against such associations under the Act. Such actions may include (i) prohibiting the association from receiving foreign contribution, (ii) placing the association in the Prior Permission category, (iii) prosecuting the association in a court of law and (iv) freezing the bank accounts of the association. In case, associations are found to be indulging in serious violations such as misappropriation or diversion of foreign contribution for purposes other than the stated objectives of the association, the case is referred to Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) for a detailed investigation and prosecution, if necessary. Violations which are unintentional and not of a serious

nature are condoned under the provisions of Section 31 of the Act.

On the basis of complaints received and inquiries made, 45 associations have been prohibited from receiving foreign contribution, 26 associations have been placed in the Prior Permission category and bank accounts of 11 Associations have been frozen. A list of associations against whom action has been taken for violation of various provisions of the Act is available on the Ministry's website <http://www.mha.nic.in/fcra.htm>. Cases of 17 associations have been referred to CBI for detailed investigation.

(b) to (f) Associations seeking prior Permission for receiving foreign contribution from a foreign source are required to submit a commitment letter from the donor agency specifying the amount of the foreign contribution to be received and the purpose for which it is proposed to be utilized. Such permission is granted after carrying out a verification of the antecedents of the recipient organization. In case, the amount of foreign contribution proposed to be received is above a certain threshold limit, a detailed verification of the antecedents of the donor agency is also carried out. If after due verification, substantive inputs are received against a particular donor agency suggesting its involvement in activities prejudicial to the national interest or its funding NGOs indulging in anti-India propaganda/activities abroad, prior permission for receipt of foreign contribution from such donor agencies is denied. The State-wise list of NGOs granted prior permission under the FCRA is available on Ministry's website <http://www.mha.nic.in/fcra.htm>. However, the list of associations, which have been denied prior permission under the said Act, is not maintained.

Free-Trade Agreement with Sri Lanka

4961. SHRI E.G. SUGAVANAM: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has signed Free Trade Agreement (FTA) with Sri Lanka;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether several Sri Lankan businessmen expressed their interest to invest in Southern States particularly in hotel and tourism sector;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken to improve the bilateral relations between the two countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. India and Sri Lanka are the signatories of Free Trade Agreement (ISLFTA). This Agreement was signed in 1998 and became operational from 2000. The salient features of ISLFTA are as follows:

- Establishment of Free Trade Area (FTA) through complete or phased elimination of tariffs. India granted duty free access for 1351 items at 6 digit HS code upon entry into force of the Agreement and completed phased reductions on the balanced 2799 items by end of March, 2003. Sri Lanka on the other hand granted duty free access for 319 items of 6 digit HS Code upon entry into force of the Agreement and was required to provide 100% duty exemption on the remaining items by end of March, 2008.
- The FTA does not remove tariff on all goods and has negative list to protect national interest of both countries. India has 429 items in the negative list whereas Sri Lanka has 1180 in their negative list.
- Rules of Origin criteria has been laid down in the Agreement to ensure minimum local content. There is also adequate safety clauses to protect domestic and national interest of both countries.
- There is review and consultation mechanism to ensure the smooth operation of the Agreement.
- India has also provided TRQ on import of tea and garments on preferential basis from Sri Lanka to India.

(c) and (d) Recently, a business delegation led by Minister of State of Commerce had visited Sri Lanka to explore possibilities of investment. The business delegation included primarily members from textile and IT Sectors. During the business interactive session, Sri Lankan businessmen expressed their willingness to invest in Southern States of India but no final agreements were reached.

(e) The bilateral trade and investments are expected to get a boost after finalization of Comprehensive Partnership Agreement (CEPA) which will deepen and widen the ambit of FTA by including Trade in Services, investment and economic cooperation.

Unviable Public Sector Enterprises

4962. SHRI M. RAJA MOHAN REDDY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of unviable Public Sector Enterprises (PSEs) registered with the BIFR as on 31.12.2007, PSE-wise and location-wise; and

(b) the steps taken to revive them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL POLICY AND PROMOTION, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ASHWANI

KUMAR): (a) The details of Public Sector Enterprises (PSEs) registered with the Board for Industrial & Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) as on 31.12.2007, as per information furnished by the Department of Public Enterprises, are given in the statement.

(b) The Government constituted a Board for Reconstruction of Public Sector Enterprises (BRPSE) in December, 2004 for advising on matters relating to strengthening, modernizing, reviving and restructuring of sick and loss making Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs). On the recommendations of the BRPSE, the Government has approved 28 cases for revival and restructuring of CPSEs involving a cash assistance of Rs. 1962.51 crore and a non-cash assistance of Rs. 6446.80 crore.

Statement

PSE-wise and location-wise status of Public Sector Enterprises registered with BIFR as on 31.12.2007

Sl.No.	Case No. and year of reference	Name of PSE with Location	Date of Order (of BIFR)
1	2	3	4
1.	533/1992	Bengal Chemicals & Pharmaceuticals Ltd., Kolkata (West Bengal)	31.3.1995
2.	509/1993	Instrumentation Ltd., Kota (Rajasthan)	23.12.1998
3.	501/1996	Cement Corporation of India Ltd., New Delhi (Delhi)	21.3.2006
4.	507/1994	Hindustan Fluorocarbons Ltd., Hyderabad (Andhra Pradesh)	24.7.2003
5.	501/1998/501/2000	Eastern Coalfields Limited, Burdwan (West Bengal)	2.11.2004
6.	502/2000	Hindustan Salts Limited, Jaipur (Rajasthan)	22.8.2005
7.	504/1998	Praga Tools Ltd., Secunderabad (Andhra Pradesh)	29.3.2007
8.	502/1992/601/1998	Nagaland Pulp & Paper Co. Ltd., Mokokchung (Nagaland)	25.5.2007
9.	501/1997	Hindustan Antibiotics Limited, Pune (Maharashtra)	5.6.2007

1	2	3	4
B. Winding up Recommended			
10.	511/1992	Heavy Engineering Corpn. Ltd., Ranchi (Jharkhand)	6.7.2004
11.	506/1993	National Jute Manufactures Corporation Ltd., Kolkata (West Bengal)	8.7.2004
12.	503/1995	Hindustan Photofilms Mfg. Co. Ltd., Ootacamund (Tamilnadu)	30.1.2003
13.	502/1999	Hindustan Vegetable Oils Corpn. Ltd., New Delhi (Delhi)	7.12.2001
14.	507/1992	Triveni Structurals Ltd., Allahabad (Uttar Pradesh)	5.6.2003
15.	514/1992	Orissa Drugs & Chemicals Ltd., Bhubaneswar (Orissa)	8.4.2003
16.	501/1999	Birds Jute and Exports Ltd., Kolkata (West Bengal)	24.6.2004
17.	503/1999	Pyrites, Phosphates & Chemicals Ltd., Rohtash (Bihar)	20.11.2002
18.	515/1992	Fertilizers Corpn. of India Ltd., New Delhi (Delhi)	2.4.2004
CPSEs recommended for winding up and have been closed			
19.	526/1992	Bharat Brakes & Valves Ltd., Kolkata (West Bengal)	27.9.2002
20.	532/1992	Bharat Ophthalmic Glass Ltd., Durgapur (West Bengal)	19.6.2003
21.	520/1992	Cycle Corporation of India Limited, Kolkata (West Bengal)	22.7.1996
22.	508/1992	Cycle Corporation of India Limited, Kolkata (West Bengal)	10.7.2000
23.	510/1992	Mining and Allied Machinery Corporation Ltd., Durgapur (West Bengal)	29.6.2001
24.	513/1992	National Bicycle Corporation of India Ltd., Mumbai (Maharashtra)	20.12.1993
25.	506/1994	Rayrolle Burn Ltd., Kolkata (West Bengal)	13.7.2001

1	2	3	4
26.	506/1992	Tannery and Footwear Corporation of India Ltd., Kanpur (Uttar Pradesh)	14.2.1995
27.	524/1992	Weighbird India Limited, Kolkata (West Bengal)	17.2.1997
28.	504/1994	Southern Pesticides Corporation Limited, Hyderabad (Andhra Pradesh)	1.11.2001
29.	505/1992	Bharat Gold Mines Ltd., Kolar Gold Fields (Karnataka)	12.6.2000
30.	527/1992	Cawnpore Textiles Ltd., Kanpur (Uttar Pradesh)	19.1.1995
31.	538/1992	Bengal Immunity Limited, Kolkata (West Bengal)	25.2.2003
32.	502/1996	Maharashtra Antibiotics & Pharma. Ltd., Nagpur (Maharashtra)	4.7.2000
33.	529/1992	Smith Stanistreet & Pharmaceuticals Ltd., Kolkata (West Bengal)	3.12.2001
C. Dismissed as Non-maintainable			
34.	504/1997	Manipur State Drugs & Pharmaceuticals Ltd., Imphal (Manipur)	17.11.1997
35.	502/2002	Central Coalfields Ltd., Ranchi (Jharkhand)	29.11.2002
36.	517/1992 504/2002	Biecco Lawrie Limited, Kolkata (West Bengal)	27.3.2003
D. Draft Revival Scheme Circulated			
37.	501/2003	Andrew Yule and Company Ltd., Kolkata (West Bengal)	20.8.2007
38.	518/1992	The British India Corpn. Ltd., Kanpur (Uttar Pradesh)	29.11.2007
E. Draft Revival Scheme Received/Under process			
39.	531/1992	National Instruments Ltd., Calcutta (West Bengal)	1.10.2002

1	2	3	4
40.	501/2006	HMT Machine Tools Ltd., Bangalore (Karnataka)	2.11.2006
F. Draft Revival Scheme awaited			
41.	523/1992	Tyre Corporation of India Ltd., Calcutta (West Bengal)	20.2.1997
42.	502/1998	NEPA Ltd., Nepanagar (Madhya Pradesh)	29.5.2007
43.	588/1994	Burn Standards Co., Ltd., Calcutta (West Bengal)	16.4.2007
G. Under Examination/Process			
44.	501/2001	Bharat Wagon & Engg. Co. Ltd., Patna (Bihar)	11.2.2004
45.	504/1995 502/2001	Bharat Coking Coal Ltd., Dhanbad (Jharkhand)	11.2.2004
46.	503/505/2002	Hindustan Cables Ltd., Kolkata (West Bengal)	21.3.2002
47.	503/2004	Bharat Heavy Plates & Vessels Ltd., Visakhapatnam (Andhra Pradesh)	6.10.2005
48.	504/2004	ITI Limited, Bangalore (Karnataka)	3.10.2005
49.	505/2004	Tungabhadra Steel Products Limited, Tungabhadra Dam (Karnataka)	4.8.2005
50.	501/2005	Hindustan Organic Chemical Limited, Rasayani, Raigad (Maharashtra)	21.11.2005
51.	503/1992	Indian Drugs and Pharmaceuticals Limited, Gurgaon (Haryana)	28.3.2006
52.	501/2007	Madras Fertilizers Limited	
H. Declared no longer Sick			
53.	504/1992	Scooters India Ltd., Lucknow (Uttar Pradesh)	1.7.2002
54.	503/1997	North Eastern Regional Agri. Marktg. Corpn., Guwahati (Assam)	20.8.2001

1	2	3	4
55.	512/1992	Vignyan Industries Ltd., Tarkere (Karnataka)	27.5.2003
56.	528/1992	Braithwait & Co. Ltd., Calcutta (West Bengal)	29.6.2006
57.	521/1992	Projects and Development India Ltd., Dhanbad (Jharkhand)	19.4.2006
I. Dropped (Positive Networth)			
58.	502/1997/ 503/1998	Bharat Immunologicals & Biologicals Corporation Limited, Buland Sahar (Uttar Pradesh)	1.8.2002
59.	501/2002/ 502/2003	Maharashtra Elektrosnelt Ltd., Mumbai (Maharashtra)	27.6.2005
60.	502/2005	HMT Bearings Limited, Hyderabad (Andhra Pradesh)	13.2.2006
61.	501/1992	Bharat Pumps & Compressors Ltd., Allahabad (Uttar Pradesh)	6.2.2007
62.	501/2004	Hindustan Insecticides Ltd., New Delhi (Delhi)	18.9.2007
J. Remanded by Court			
63.	525/1992	Bharat Refractories Ltd., Bokaro Steel City (Jharkhand)	13.1.2004
K. Remanded by AAIFR			
64.	509/1992	Richardson & Crudass (1972) Ltd., Mumbai (Maharashtra)	24.9.2007
L. Change of Management			
65.	516/1992	Hindustan Fertilizers Corpn. Ltd., New Delhi (Delhi)	1.2.2007
M. Deregistered from BIFR			
66.	519/1992	The Elgin Mills Co. Ltd., Kanpur (Uttar Pradesh)	13.3.2007

Creation of New States

4963. SHRI HITEN BARMAN:
SHRI SUBRATA BOSE:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to
state:

(a) whether the Government has received requests
for the creation of new States including Telangana State;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) and (b) The Central Government has not received recommendation from any State Government for creation of new States. However, demands and representations have been received from time to time, from various sources for creation of new States like Telangana in Andhra Pradesh, Vidarbha in Maharashtra, Bundelkhand in Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh, Bhojpur in East Uttar Pradesh, Chhattisgarh and Bihar, Saurashtra in Gujarat, Coorg in Karnataka, Koshalanchal in Western Orissa, Gorkhaland in West Bengal, Mithilanchal in north Bihar, parts of Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal, Purvanchal, Harith Pradesh, Braj Pradesh and Awadh Pradesh comprising various regions of Uttar Pradesh.

(c) Government takes decision on the matter of formation of new States after taking into consideration all relevant factors. Action by the Government would depend on the felt need and general consensus.

[Translation]

Prostitution Racket

4964. SHRIMATI NEETA PATERIYA:
SHRIMATI KARUNA SHUKLA:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that around 200 girls rescued by a Non-Governmental Organisation from Prostitution have disappeared from a welfare home in Delhi;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken against the officials of the welfare home;

(c) whether the Government has conducted any inquiry in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI V. RADHIKA SELVI): (a) No such incident has come to the notice of Delhi Police and the Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi.

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

[English]

Setting up of National Technology Mission

4965. SHRI M.K. SUBBA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has any proposal to constitute a National Technology Mission;

(b) if so, the objectives and composition thereof; and

(c) the steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) This Ministry has no proposal to constitute a National Technology Mission.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Closure of Industries

4966. SHRI CHANDRA DEV PRASAD RAJBHAR: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of large and medium industrial units in the public sector and private sector which have been closed or are on the verge of closure as on date alongwith the reasons therefor, State-wise; and

(b) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to revive the said industrial units?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL POLICY AND PROMOTION, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR): (a) The data on closed industrial units in the country is compiled by Labour Bureau, Shimla under the Ministry of Labour and Employment. As per the information furnished by the Labour Bureau, the State-wise number of industrial units in the public sector and private sector closed in the years 2005, 2006 and 2007 is presented in the table in the statement. The Labour Bureau, while collecting the information has made no distinction between large and medium industrial units and collected no information for the industrial units which are on the verge of closure. Further, the Labour Bureau has not conducted any study on the reasons for closure of units. The

information is collected under the Industrial Disputes Act for permanent closures which are due to industrial disputes or financial stringency, shortage of raw material or power, coal, natural calamities, inter/intra union rivalries, indiscipline, violence, breakdown of machinery, etc. As per the Board of Industrial and Financial Reconstruction, the sick industrial companies attribute change in Government policies, managerial problems, production and technical problems, marketing problems, financial problems, lack of adequate infrastructure, delay in sanction and disbursement of Term Loan by financial institutions and banks and high cost of interest as the reasons for their sickness/closure.

(b) Besides providing a policy regime that facilitates and fosters growth and development of industries, steps taken for revival of sick industrial units, *inter-alia*, include setting up of Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) and issue of guidelines by Reserve Bank of India to banks for financial support and amalgamation of sick units with healthy units. Wherever feasible rehabilitation schemes are sanctioned for the revival of the units registered with the BIFR which, *inter alia*, include restructuring of the capital, induction of fresh funds by the promoters, Government assistance for public sector units, merger with other companies, relief and concessions in the form of rescheduling of dues by Financial Institutions, banks and Government and change of management.

Statement

State-wise list of industrial units closed

Sl.No.	State	2005		2006 (P)		2007 (P)	
		Public Sector	Private Sector	Public Sector	Private Sector	Public Sector	Private Sector
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	—	—	—	—	—	—
2.	Andhra Pradesh	—	1	—	—	—	—
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	—	—	—	—	—	—
4.	Assam	—	—	—	—	—	—
5.	Bihar	—	—	—	1	—	—
6.	Chhattisgarh	—	—	—	—	—	—
7.	Chandigarh	—	—	—	—	—	—
8.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	—	—	—	—	—	—
9.	Daman and Diu	—	—	—	—	—	—
10.	Goa	—	2	—	1	—	—
11.	Gujarat	—	7	—	4	—	2
12.	Haryana	—	2	—	3	—	3
13.	Himachal Pradesh	—	—	—	1	—	6
14.	Jammu and Kashmir	—	—	—	3	—	—
15.	Jharkhand	—	1	—	—	—	—
16.	Karnataka	—	8	—	5	—	1

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
17.	Kerala	—	3	—	5	1	2
18.	Lakshadweep	—	—	—	—	—	—
19.	Madhya Pradesh	—	—	—	—	—	—
20.	Maharashtra	—	—	—	—	—	—
21.	Manipur	—	—	—	—	—	—
22.	Meghalaya	—	—	—	—	—	—
23.	Mizoram	—	—	—	—	—	—
24.	Nagaland	—	—	—	—	—	—
25.	NCT of Delhi	—	—	—	—	—	—
26.	Orissa	—	—	—	—	—	1
27.	Puducherry	—	—	—	2	—	—
28.	Punjab	—	1	—	—	—	—
29.	Rajasthan	—	—	—	—	—	—
30.	Sikkim	—	—	—	—	—	1
31.	Tamil Nadu	—	—	—	—	—	—
32.	Tripura	2	45	—	127	—	53
33.	Uttar Pradesh	1	13	—	10	—	13
34.	Uttarakhand	—	—	—	1	—	2
35.	West Bengal	—	—	—	5	—	1
Total		3	83	—	168	—	85

*[English]***Uniform Format for Broadcasting in Doordarshan**

4967. SHRI NARAYAN CHANDRA BORKATAKY: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that many Doordarshan Kendras in the North East Region follow the D-9 format while the DDK, Guwahati and its regional news use DVC-PRO format;

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

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to upgrade the broadcast technology in all the Doordarshan Kendras of North East Region?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) and (b) For digitalization of Programme Production Centres (PPC), Doordarshan adopted two recording formats viz. DVC PRO and D9. Both these formats are professional broadcast formats and are being used by the broadcasters all over the world. D9 format was adopted for the Studio Centres in North Eastern States to facilitate easy exchange of programmes among the Kendras and to make contribution to the regional PPC at Guwahati. DDK

Guwahati (a major Studio centre) is using DVC PRO format.

(c) The 11th Plan proposals for digitalization of all DDKs in NE Region have not yet been approved.

Funds for Modernisation of Police Force

4968. SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether various State Governments including Orissa have requested the Union Government to grant more funds for modernization of Police Force in their respective States;

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

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Proposals were received from various State Governments, including Orissa, during 2007-08, seeking additional funds under the Scheme for modernization of State Police Forces (MPF). Based on the proposal for additional funds received from the States, utilization of funds pertaining to previous years and funds available at the Revised Estimate, 2007-08 stage, additional releases to various States including Orissa were made under the MPF Scheme. A statement showing additional funds sought by State Governments and released by the Ministry during 2007-08 is enclosed.

Statement

(Rupees in Crore)

Name of the State	Additional funds sought by State Government in 2007-08	Additional funds released
1	2	3
Andhra Pradesh	30.86	21.00
Bihar	40.00	15.00
Chhattisgarh	25.66	19.25
Gujarat	21.93	12.05

1	2	3
Haryana	39.47	13.75
Himachal Pradesh	8.00	2.26
Jammu and Kashmir	28.21	28.21
Jharkhand	18.00	13.50
Karnataka	26.40	18.71
Kerala	30.82	16.24
Madhya Pradesh	19.59	14.69
Maharashtra	19.38	7.16
Orissa	38.00	19.50
Punjab	10.78	16.98
Rajasthan	12.89	10.03
Tamil Nadu	33.00	24.75
Uttar Pradesh	40.01	28.14
West Bengal	17.23	11.45
Arunachal Pradesh	16.52	2.00
Assam	37.70	30.61
Manipur	11.00	11.00
Meghalaya	3.00	3.00
Nagaland	6.00	6.00
Sikkim	3.46	1.00
Grand Total	537.91	346.28

Export of East India Leather, Semi Finished Leather

4969. SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the names of companies which are engaged in the export of Semi-finished leather from the country;

(b) the total quantity, value and the names of countries to which the above products are exported and the foreign exchange earned therefrom during the last three years and in the current year, till date; and

(c) the total amount of export duty earned by the Government during the above period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) and (b) In the merchandise trade the products are identified as per Indian Tariff Code Harmonized System (ITC HS) classification and as such no ITC HS Code exists exclusively for semi finished leather. The detail of India's export of Leather including Finished Leather, Semi Finished Leather and East India Tanned Leather during last three years country-wise and value-wise is enclosed as statement.

(c) The total amounts of export duty & cess earned during last three years on export of all items including East India Leather, Semi Finished Leather are as under:

Year	Export duty & cess earned on export from country (Rs. in crore)
2004-05	165.00
2005-06	131.00
2006-07	95.00
2007-08	2195.00

Source: Receipt budget.

Statement

India's Export of Leather including Finished Leather, semi Finished Leather and East India Tanned Leather during last three years, country-wise and value-wise

(Value in million Rs.)

Country	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
1	2	3	4
Germany	1323.44	1530.15	1095.77
U.S.A.	571.57	542.10	436.38
U.K.	175.07	124.73	116.05
Italy	2994.07	3816.44	5227.07
France	738.92	579.41	520.39
Hong Kong	10743.13	10786.06	11866.44
Spain	1381.84	997.41	931.00
Russia	172.50	372.84	556.89
Netherlands	275.98	295.78	276.27
Australia	124.60	108.40	92.93
Newzealand	16.80	24.56	21.58
Denmark	7.43	4.95	21.21
Greece	36.70	36.96	28.74
Canada	76.56	58.95	53.21

1	2	3	4
Switzerland	2.02	2.68	1.91
Sweden	17.06	4.60	0.30
South Africa	485.60	497.18	733.16
Austria	52.11	72.04	27.28
Belgium	44.28	15.83	24.08
Japan	205.65	236.68	227.13
Portugal	525.56	502.14	356.92
China	1452.81	1543.39	1684.39
Ireland	5.44	1.21	0.58
U.A.E.	74.47	93.33	106.19
Indonesia	368.59	468.08	399.63
Korea Rep.	1348.32	1483.98	1500.52
Finland	9.30	7.59	21.09
Saudi Arabia	18.53	23.27	9.01
Others	4077.90	3969.20	4995.84
Total	27306.25	28170.04	31133.96

Source: DGCI&S.

Export of Indian Films

4970. SHRI NAVEEN JINDAL: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Indian films exported and the foreign exchange earned therefrom during each of the last three years till date, country-wise; and

(b) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to export more number of Indian films?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) The information in this respect is being collected.

(b) The Ministry of I&B has existing Plan Schemes which are aimed at promotion of Indian cinemas in India

and abroad. The scheme called 'Export Promotion through films festivals in India and Abroad' is implemented through the Directorate of Film Festivals. The scheme covers the organizations of the International Film Festival of India, Participation in various film festivals in India and abroad and conduction of film festivals. Films are sent to various Indian embassies for conduct of festivals also. Films are a medium of cultural export. The conduct of film festivals abroad not only promotes our culture but also facilitates in export of Indian films. In the XI Plan, this scheme additionally provides for grants-in-aid to Federation of Film Societies of India and support to NGOs/State Government organizations in holding film festivals. In the X Plan a sum of Rs. 989.42 lakhs was utilized under this scheme. The provision of the XI Plan is Rs. 2069 lakhs.

The existing Main Secretariat Scheme of the Ministry of I&B called 'Participation in Film Markets' envisages providing support, facilitation and promotion of the export

potential of the Indian film industry. The scheme intends to cover not only specific institutionalized international markets such as Cannes Film Market/Berlin Film Festival/American Film Market/MIPCOM, Cannes among others (participation to be decided yearly) but also the Film Bazaar which is held along side the International Film Festival of India each year. In the X Plan a sum of Rs. 442.85 lakhs was utilized for the purpose. The provision for the XI Plan is for Rs. 1100 lakhs.

The Core Group on 'Export of films and related issues' furnished its report in 2007 recommending *inter-alia* the formation of an Export Promotion Council. The Ministry is actively pursuing with the industry for setting up of an Export Promotion Council. The Core Group also recommended that existing Plan scheme of the Ministry may be encouraged and strengthened.

[*Translation*]

Fee Structure of Educational Institutions

4971. SHRI RAGHUVeer SINGH KOSHAL: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has no control over the fee structure of high-level educational institutions like IITs, IIMs, AIEEE and Medical;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government has made any arrangement for providing free education to the children of Below Poverty Line (BPL) category in such institutions;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) and (b) The Institutes of Technology Act, 1961, empowers the Council of Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs), headed by Minister of Human Resource Development, to decide matters common to all the IITs including revision of fee structure. The Boards of Governors of the Indian Institutes of Management (IIMs), who are empowered to fix the fees under their respective Memoranda of Association, have

decided to increase the fees for the Post-Graduate Programme (PGP) from the academic years of 2008-10. However, the IIM Review Committee, under the Chairmanship of Shri R.C. Bhargava, have submitted an Interim Report on 4th April, 2008 to the Government to ask all the Institutes to defer any increase in fee and keep it at the level of December, 2007 till such time as the Committee submits its Final Report. The Ministry of Health & Family Welfare have informed that the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India, with a view to check capitation fee and profiteering in medical institutions, had given directions to the State Governments to constitute Fee Structuring Committees as per the scheme evolved by the Hon'ble Court. The fees so fixed by such Committees are to be charged from the students by the colleges for the period as may be fixed by the Committees from time to time. AIEEE, *i.e.*, All India Engineering/Architecture Entrance Examination, is not an Institution.

(c) to (e) The Institutes provide merit-cum-means/need-based scholarships, endowment scholarships, etc. to the students. Also, bank loans are arranged for the needy students.

[*English*]

Industrial Units Set up with Central Assistance

4972. SHRI DALPAT SINGH PARSTE: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of industrial units set up with the help of centrally sponsored scheme in the country particularly in the State of Madhya Pradesh during each of the last three years, State-wise and Union Territory-wise; and

(b) the details of investment made in these units during the above period, State-wise and Union Territory-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL POLICY AND PROMOTION, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR): (a) and (b) Under the liberalized Industrial Policy, the decision to set up an industry is based on the techno economic considerations of the entrepreneurs, which in turn depend on the initiatives of the State Governments, in creating conducive environment by way of providing infrastructure facilities and other incentives. Central Government supplements their efforts to the extent

possible. Department of Industrial Policy & Promotion is implementing a Centrally Sponsored Scheme i.e. Package for Special Category States, in the States of (i) Jammu and Kashmir, (w.e.f. 14.6.2002) (ii) Himachal Pradesh and (iii) Uttarakhand (w.e.f. 7.1.2003). Under this scheme, Capital Investment Subsidy, Interest Subsidy, Comprehensive Insurance and Transport Subsidy are provided to industrial Units. The Department of Industrial Policy & Promotion does not implement such a scheme for Madhya Pradesh. The details of plan funds released

to the three States in the last three years is provided in Statement I. The details of Industrial units set up and investment made in the three States is provided in the statement II.

The Department of Industrial Policy & Promotion is also implementing a Centrally Sponsored Scheme i.e. North East Industrial and Investment Promotion Policy (NEIIPP) in the States of North East including Sikkim w.e.f. April 2007.

Statement I

The amount released during 2005-06, 2006-07 and 2007-08 under "Package for Special Category States" (Plan)-Expenditure details

(Rupees in crores)

Sl.No.	Nodal Agencies/State	Scheme	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	Jammu and Kashmir Development Finance Corporation Ltd. (JKDFC)/Jammu and Kashmir	(i) Central Capital Investment subsidy Scheme	Nil	Nil	4.00	4.00
		(ii) Central Interest Subsidy Scheme	Nil	Nil	Nil	175
		(iii) Comprehensive Insurance Scheme	0.90	Nil	Nil	0.90
		(iv) Growth Centre	Nil	Nil	Nil	10.00
		(v) Transport Subsidy Scheme	Nil	Nil	Nil	4.50
		(vi) Organizing of Seminar, etc.	Nil	Nil	Nil	0.04
		(vii) Setting up of Jammu and Kashmir Development Finance Corporation	Nil	Nil	Nil	50.00
		(viii) Jammu and Kashmir Entrepreneurship Development Institute	4.60	Nil	Nil	4.60
Total			5.50	Nil	4.00	9.50

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
2.	Himachal Pradesh Industrial Development Corporation Ltd. (HPSIDC)/HP	(i) Central Capital Investment Subsidy Scheme	7.00	12.00	20.00	39.00
		(ii) Transport Subsidy Scheme	4.50	Nil	Nil	4.50
		(iii) Growth Centre	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
		(iv) Organizing of Seminars, etc.	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
	Total		11.50	12.00	20.00	43.50
3.	State Industrial Development Corporation of Uttarakhand Ltd. (SIDCUL)/Uttarakhand	(i) Central Capital Investment Subsidy Scheme	7.00	9.00	5.00	21.00
		(ii) Growth Centre	1.00	0.93	Nil	1.93
		(iii) Transport Subsidy Scheme	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
	Total		8.00	9.93	5.00	22.93
	Grand Total		25.00	21.93	29.00	75.93

Statement II*The Details of Industrial Units Set up and Investment made in the Special Category States*

State	Number of Units set up	Investment (Rs. Crore)
Jammu and Kashmir (upto 03/2007)	5952	1364
Himachal Pradesh (upto 12/2007)	3900	3288
Uttarakhand (upto 09/2007)	12403	7119

AEZ for Coffee in Karnataka

4973. SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received a proposal for establishment of Agri Export Zone for Coffee in Karnataka;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the above proposal has been cleared;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor;

(e) the present status of the above proposal; and

(f) the time by when the proposal is likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) The Government is not aware of any such proposal.

(b) to (f) Do not arise.

Rates for Advertisements

4974. DR. RAJESH MISHRA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has formulated any new guidelines on Advertisements by the Private Satellite Channels disproportionately without considering the Television Rating Point (TRP);

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the rates fixed for advertisements for each companies are lower/equal to the rates fixed by the Directorate of Advertising and Visual Publicity (DAVP);

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

(e) if not, the reasons for fixing higher rates than the DAVP rates; and

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

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) to (c) Government does not formulate any guidelines for fixation of rates of advertisements telecast by private channels. It only fixes rates for Government advertisements released by the Directorate of Advertising and Visual Publicity (DAVP) to all empanelled Channels.

These rates are fixed on an objective formula based on prevailing market conditions taking into account two years' Cost per Rating Point (CPRP).

(d) to (f) Does not arise.

Ban on Lottery

4975. SHRI P.C. THOMAS: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether lottery is banned in India;

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

(c) if not, the protection being given in this regard especially for Inter-State Lotteries;

(d) whether some States have recommended for banning of such lotteries; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) and (b) No Sir, though Government of India does not organize any lottery of its own, many States organize lottery in their States. The Government of India has promulgated Lottery (Regulation) Act, 1998 in this regard.

(c) The lotteries organized by the State Governments, beside the other provisions of the said Act, are subject to the provisions of section 5 of Lotteries (Regulation) Act, 1998 for conduct of inter-state lotteries. Under section 5 of the said Act, a State Government may, within the State, prohibit the sale of tickets of a lottery organized, conducted or promoted by every other State. However, Hon'ble Supreme Court in the case of M/s B.R. Enterprises Vs. State of U.P. & Ors. has held that under Section 5 of the Lotteries (Regulation) Act, 1998, the State Government can prohibit the sale of tickets of the lotteries organized by other State only if it decides not to have any lottery within its territory including its own lottery.

(d) There are some States who have recommended for banning such lotteries. The matter is sub-judice before the Hon'ble Supreme Court.

(e) The State-wise details of such cases are as under:

1. Nagaland

Original Suit No. 3 of 2003—State of Nagaland Vs. Union of India.

Government of Nagaland has filed Writ Petition challenging Section 5 of the Act which is about prohibiting the sale of tickets of other State in their own State.

2. Arunachal Pradesh

Writ Petition (Civil) No. 474 of 2003—State of Arunachal Pradesh & Ors. Vs. State of Punjab & Ors.

Government of Arunachal Pradesh has filed the Writ Petition against the State of Punjab and Ors.

3. Meghalaya

Special Leave Petition (Civil) No. 9132 of 2004—State of Meghalaya Vs. Union of India & Ors.

Government of Meghalaya has filed petition and challenged the validity of various rules of Kerala State Lotteries & Online Lotteries (Regulation) Rules 2003.

4. Kerala

- (i) State of Kerala Vs. T. John Rose & Others. Special Leave to appeal (c) No. 24325-24326.

Reg. refusal to permit Arunachal Pradesh selling of Lottery Tickets of the State of Arunachal Pradesh in the State of Kerala through T. John Rose.

- (ii) State of Kerala Vs. T. John Rose (Proprietor) & others. SLP (Civil) Nos. 14278/2007, 15222/2007 and 15291/2007.

Reg. Allegation of violation of Lotteries (Regulation) Act, 1998 and refusal to accept tax under the Kerala Tax on Paper Lotteries Act, 2005.

[Translation]

Involvement of Officials in Encroachment on Roads

4976. CH. MUNAWAR HASSAN: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the encroachment on roads are increasing in the NDMC area of New Delhi including Gole Market in connivance with Delhi Police and NDMC officials;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the total number of such cases reported, area-wise;

(c) the action taken against the accused officials of Delhi Police and NDMC, rankwise; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to check such activities in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI V. RADHIKA SELVI): (a) No, Sir. If any temporary encroachment is noticed, the same is immediately removed by the field staff of the New Delhi Municipal Council.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

(d) Field staff are regularly deployed to prevent and remove encroachment as and when noticed.

[English]

Computer Education in Schools

4977. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of NCT of Delhi has stopped imparting computer education to students for the last 5 to 6 months in its schools situated in Delhi particularly trans-Yamuna area;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the total number of schools imparting computer education;

(d) the quantum of funds incurred on setting up of computer labs during each of the last three years;

(e) the amount incurred on the maintenance of computer labs during each of the last three years; and

(f) the measures taken to resume computer education in schools particularly in trans-Yamuna area?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.A.A. FATMI): (a) and (b) The Government of NCT of Delhi has informed that implementation of computer education in 61 schools of trans-Yamuna area was suspended by the implementing agency following a dispute.

(c) Presently, computer education is being imparted by Government of NCT of Delhi in 638 Government and Government-aided schools.

(d) and (e) An amount of Rs. 50.37 crore was spent during the last three years on the programme. Maintenance of computer labs is part of the contract with the implementing agency, as such, no separate expenditure is incurred.

(f) Computer education is being imparted at present in several schools in the trans-Yamuna area. In respect of 61 schools where the implementation has been suspended, the matter has been referred to the arbitrator to settle the dispute.

[Translation]

Letters of MPs to NDMC

4978. SHRI JIVABHAI A. PATEL:
SHRI V.K. THUMMAR:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that the office of NDMC are not responding or acknowledging the receipt of letters received from Hon'ble Ministers and Members of Parliament;

(b) if so, whether the Government has taken any action against the officials of NDMC in this regard, cadre-wise;

(c) the number of letters out of the total letters received pertaining to corruption alongwith the nature of corruption; and

(d) the reasons for not responding to such letters pertaining to corruption as per the rules?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI V. RADHIKA SELVI): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[English]

Regularisation of Private Universities

4979. SHRI VIJOY KRISHNA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has constituted any Committee under the control of UGC for regularisation of the fees and seats in private Universities;

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

(c) the time by when the said Committees is likely to submit their report?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (c) The University Grants Commission (UGC) has, on 9th August 2007, constituted a Committee under the Chairmanship of Professor B.S. Sonde to formulate regulations for admission and fee for aided and unaided institutions in consultation with universities. The terms of reference are as under:

(i) To formulate regulations with regard to admission and fee for self-financing, private, professional institutions including 'deemed-to-be universities.'

(ii) To formulate regulations for admission and fee for self-financing courses in aided Universities/ Colleges.

(iii) To formulate regulations for admission and fee for aided courses in aided Universities and Colleges.

No time limit has been fixed for the Committee to submit their report.

[Translation]

World Bank Report on Education System

4980. SHRI MANSUKHBHAI D. VASAVA:
SHRI TUKARAM GANPAT RAO RENGE
PATIL:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the World Bank has recently released any report on comprehensive education system in India;

(b) if so, the number of reports released during the last two years alongwith the salient features of each report;

(c) the changes brought in our educational system on the basis of the said report; and

(d) the details of improvements made in our educational system as a consequence thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Review of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan

4981. SHRIMATI SANGEETA KUMARI SINGH DEO: SHRI HARISINH CHAVDA:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government conducts any review of works done in States under the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan;

(b) if so, the name of the agency which has conducted the said review alongwith the outcome thereof;

(c) whether the funds released under the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan are being misused by the State Officials on facilities for themselves;

(d) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto alongwith the details of amount of funds misused by officials on facilities for themselves;

(e) the percentage of the amount of funds misused by the officials on facilities for themselves out of the allocation to each State/Union Territory, State-wise and Union Territory-wise; and

(f) the provisions made by the Government to check the extravagance under the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.A.A. FATMI): (a) to (f) A rigorous system of monitoring of the

Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) has been put in place which includes, *inter alia*, monthly and quarterly progress reports and review meetings, furnishing of computerized annual elementary school statistics, field level monitoring by 41 independent monitoring institutions and six monthly independent reviews by experts and external funding agencies, on the progress of the programme. In addition, statutory & independent annual financial audits and concurrent financial reviews are conducted under SSA.

Cases of financial irregularities or misuse of funds have sometimes come to light through financial reviews and audits, which are immediately taken up with States for redressal. So far Rs. 32.38 crore have been recovered/recouped from State Governments, in compliance of such objections.

[English]

Submission of Fake Documents in US Consulate, Chennai for Visa

4982. SHRIMATI JHANSI LAKSHMI BOTCHA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether 50 per cent of the documents submitted in support of the visa applications at U.S. consulate in Chennai are fake;

(b) if so, whether most of the fraudulent documents originate from Hyderabad based consultancies and agents;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether several visa agents wanted in cases booked by the U.S. consulate in Chennai are from Hyderabad; and

(e) if so, the deterrent action the Ministry is contemplating against such visa agents?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) to (e) The Government of Tamil Nadu has intimated that the office of the United States (US) Consulate General, Chennai has given a report to the Commissioner of Police, Chennai on 11.3.2008 alleging that one Christal Jayaraj Palies has committed fraud by assisting at least three persons in applying illegally for US visas and attempting to smuggle one Sasikumar Kaniyan of Kerala into US for illegal purpose. After preliminary enquiries, a case has been registered by Chennai Police and detailed

investigation has been taken up. The US Consulate has furnished only the names of the applicants who had applied for visas and the consulate has been requested to furnish copies of the visa applications for further probe. The said Christal Jayaraj Palies is absconding and a special Police team has been formed to trace him. The extent of involvement of Hyderabad based visa agents in the case is not known at this stage.

[Translation]

Import of Medicines

4983. SHRI KIREN RIJJU:
DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether medicines are being imported in large quantity from China;

(b) whether the import of cheaper medicines from China has created a serious problem for the indigenous pharmaceutical companies;

(c) if so, the names of the medicines being imported from China at cheaper prices; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to protect the interest of indigenous pharmaceutical industries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) Imports of medicinal and pharmaceutical products from China (as per DGCI&S) is as follows:-

Year	Value (Rs. Lakhs)
2004-05	90856.83
2005-06	157866.42
2006-07	212443.54
April 2007-October 2007 (Provisional)	181340.70

(b) to (d) Whenever complaints are received regarding 'dumped' imports, and consequential injury to the domestic industry, the Directorate General of Anti Dumping (DGAD) initiates investigations/action as per anti dumping rules.

Job Against Fake Certificates

4984. SHRI TUKARAM GANPAT RAO RENG
PATIL:
SHRI HARIKEWAL PRASAD:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether many persons have got job in the offices under his Ministry on the basis of fake certificates of SC, ST and OBC;

(b) if so, the details thereof as on date;

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

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the time by when this inquiry is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) No cases of securing job on the basis of fake certificates in the category of SC and OBC has been found. Only 11 cases have been identified in the category of ST candidates who have got the job on the basis of fake certificates.

(b) Out of these 11 cases identified, 8 cases are from DG: Doordarshan and one each in DG: AIR, PIB and S&DD.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. Necessary Administrative and Legal action have been initiated against the defaulting persons. In few cases after completion of the inquiry, the persons concerned have been dismissed.

(e) No specific time frame for completion of inquiry can be given at this stage.

[English]

Monitoring of Functioning of AICTE

4985. SHRI V.K. THUMMAR:
SHRI HARISINH CHAVDA:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is monitoring the functioning of "AICTE";

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the recommendations of the committee constituted to look into the functioning of "AICTE";

(d) the action initiated based on those recommendations;

(e) whether there is any contingency plan to ensure planned growth in technical institutions; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (d) A Review Committee has been constituted on 28th February, 2008, under the chairmanship of Prof. Yashpal, former Chairman, University Grants Commission to review the functioning of the AICTE.

(e) and (f) The XI Five Year Plan envisages several steps for improvement of quality technical education, including setting up more institutions like IITs and IIMs, and improvement in curricula, pedagogy, accreditation and evaluation system, and faculty development programme.

[Translation]

Foreign Companies

4986. SHRI THAWARCHAND GEHLOT: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the foreign companies granted permission by the Government to set up industries in the country since 2003 till date, location-wise;

(b) the number of MOU signed by the Government to set up industries in the country since 2003, till date;

(c) whether domestic industries are lagging behind due to special facilities enjoyed by the foreign companies;

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

(e) the details of the policies being run by the Government to safeguard the domestic industries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL POLICY AND PROMOTION, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR): (a) State-wise list of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) approvals granted since April 2003 till February, 2008 is in the statement I.

(b) State-wise list on Industrial Entrepreneurial Memoranda (IEMs) filed for setting up industries since April 2003 till February, 2008 is in the statement II.

(c) to (e) No special facilities are being provided to foreign companies. The value of FDI approvals granted during April, 2003 to February, 2008 is much lesser than the value of domestic IEMs filed during the same period. FDI basically complements and supplements domestic investment and helps in improving the competitiveness of domestic industry. FDI has a role towards achieving a higher level of economic development by providing opportunities for technological upgradation, access to global managerial skills and practices, optimal utilisation of human and natural resources, making Indian industry internationally competitive, opening up export markets and providing backward and forward linkages, as well as access to international quality goods and services.

Statement I

State-wise and Year-wise FDI Approved From April 2003 to February 2008

(Amount in million)

Sl.No.	State	2003-04 Apr-Mar		2004-05 Apr-Mar		2005-06 Apr-Mar		2006-07 Apr-Mar		2007-08 Apr-Feb		Cumulative Total (from April 2003 to February 2008)	
		FIN. Nos.	FDI in US\$	FIN. Nos.	FDI in US\$	FIN. Nos.	FDI in US\$	FIN. Nos.	FDI in US\$	FIN. Nos.	FDI in US\$	FIN. Nos.	FDI in US\$
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
1.	Andhra Pradesh	107	114.49	78	149.99	25	83.09	8	109.58	15	1,006.41	233	1,463.56
2.	Assam	0	0.00	1	0.09	1	0.12	0	0.00	1	8.58	3	8.79

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
3.	Bihar	1	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	1	0.00
4.	Gujarat	52	32.18	35	375.15	9	33.85	4	14.72	8	92.01	108	547.71
5.	Haryana	26	53.98	16	7.70	12	12.95	5	1.23	7	31.92	66	107.78
6.	Himachal Pradesh	1	0.02	2	11.44	1	2.07	0	0.00	0	0.00	4	13.53
7.	Jammu and Kashmir	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	1	0.00	0	0.00	1	0.00
8.	Karnataka	257	97.70	191	240.19	39	204.62	20	1,057.59	13	49.23	520	1,649.33
9.	Kerala	31	4.61	11	50.10	6	17.40	2	0.02	1	0.00	51	72.13
10.	Madhya Pradesh	7	0.09	1	0.01	2	1.35	1	0.00	1	0.00	12	1.45
11.	Maharashtra	361	332.03	302	344.12	111	885.93	64	2,903.11	79	1,368.71	917	5,833.90
12.	Manipur	1	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	1	0.00
13.	Orissa	2	0.02	2	1.41	1	0.08	1	41.74	0	0.00	6	43.25
14.	Punjab	9	101.20	10	151.14	3	4.37	1	0.38	3	867.52	26	1,124.61
15.	Rajasthan	15	6.09	4	0.90	2	0.04	1	0.00	4	55.37	26	82.40
16.	Tamil Nadu	223	177.21	109	77.88	39	59.85	19	179.64	23	339.97	413	834.35
17.	Tripura	2	0.52	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	2	0.52
18.	Uttar Pradesh	25	22.24	15	4.03	9	18.61	4	1.16	5	26.63	58	72.67
19.	West Bengal	36	65.97	29	62.91	9	25.76	7	3.88	3	1.94	84	160.46
20.	Chhattisgarh	0	0.00	3	45.57	0	0.00	1	369.66	0	0.00	4	415.23
21.	Jharkhand	1	0.04	1	0.43	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	2	0.47
22.	Uttaranchal	1	0.00	0	0.00	3	6.50	0	0.00	0	0.00	4	6.50
23.	Chandigarh	10	1.25	9	27.82	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	19	29.07
24.	Delhi	328	252.90	213	234.22	71	165.44	37	724.40	49	127.90	698	1,504.86
25.	Goa	39	4.16	39	1.97	3	9.04	0	0.00	1	0.01	82	15.18
26.	Pondicherry	8	9.26	2	0.03	0	0.00	1	1.11	0	0.00	11	10.40
27.	Daman and Diu	3	0.05	2	1.20	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	5	1.25
28.	State Not Indicated	82	76.90	84	126.69	79	394.87	29	622.63	27	210.94	301	1,432.03
Grand Total		1628	1352.91	1159	1914.79	425	1925.74	208	6,030.85	240	4,187.14	3658	15,411.43

Statement II**Financial Year-wise and State-wise Industrial Entrepreneurs Memoranda Filed for the Years 2003-04 Onwards**

Sl.No.	Name of the State	2003-04		2004-05		2005-06		2006-07		2007-08	
		Numbers	Prop.Inv (Rs. Cr)	Numbers	Prop.Inv (Rs. Cr)	Numbers	Prop.Inv (Rs. Cr)	Numbers	Prop.Inv (Rs. Cr)	Numbers	Prop.Inv (Rs. Cr)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
1.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	0	0	0	0	1	30	0	0	0	0
2.	Andhra Pradesh	245	16256	410	15819	464	17311	571	47828	313	52237
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	7	68	6	51	7	41	4	111	1	37
4.	Assam	39	163	73	430	70	807	47	2044	19	1230
5.	Bihar	5	27	12	314	37	3913	52	4850	24	6414
6.	Chandigarh	0	0	2	1	0	0	5	234	2	40
7.	Chhattisgarh	211	16154	451	47600	240	39901	207	118737	240	228415
8.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	221	3986	94	831	7	2373	93	2794	64	2974
9.	Daman and Diu	88	386	53	413	71	779	45	1559	49	1210
10.	Delhi	9	14	7	20	5	20	9	218	11	105
11.	Goa	33	325	28	171	36	296	24	316	25	728
12.	Gujarat	434	32043	606	29648	745	82793	473	72093	333	119591
13.	Haryana	179	8345	193	2685	230	5577	210	18095	136	7121
14.	Himachal Pradesh	63	1126	107	3384	114	1763	88	1906	37	3399
15.	Jammu and Kashmir	54	764	126	2719	134	2056	80	2306	45	1846
16.	Jharkhand	62	1851	87	10535	202	54069	81	35257	93	165482
17.	Karnataka	177	14071	215	10904	257	15066	277	71844	212	154782
18.	Kerala	18	199	23	290	46	600	27	1141	16	248
19.	Lakshadweep	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
20.	Madhya Pradesh	67	1607	139	8538	173	18778	201	12530	144	30268
21.	Maharashtra	670	6909	701	10675	818	24480	751	60864	584	83196
22.	Manipur	0	0	1	0	1	7	1	10	0	0
23.	Meghalaya	31	99	32	215	32	632	12	1280	18	4786
24.	Mizoram	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
25.	Nagaland	5	16034	1	2	0	0	0	0	2	81

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
26.	Orissa	155	17718	248	45585	167	38255	126	98869	140	198694
27.	Puducherry	50	249	34	263	48	411	41	753	15	911
28.	Punjab	91	1747	154	3894	169	6340	172	9507	99	8787
29.	Rajasthan	170	1096	156	2162	186	5077	156	10034	89	16791
30.	Sikkim	2	18	5	243	7	548	11	882	20	580
31.	Tamil Nadu	222	2622	397	54107	597	11365	672	19850	397	42287
32.	Tripura	2	2	7	251	0	0	0	0	2	150
33.	Uttarakhand	142	1334	174	2441	391	5703	395	14883	117	8031
34.	West Bengal	446	7569	445	13994	377	12028	286	51830	221	46920
35.	Location in More than One State	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total		4130	154931	5548	289782	6341	382743	5591	692364	3654	1202617

*[English]***Effects of Climate Change and Global Warming**

4987. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI: Will the Minister of EARTH SCIENCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware about the study conducted by the Organisation for Economic Cooperation Development on the effects of global warming and climate change along the Indian coastline;

(b) if so, the details of the study report thereof; and

(c) the concrete steps and measures the Government proposes to take to meet the challenge of climate change and global warming?

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

A study has been conducted by the Organisation for Economic Cooperation Development on the effect of Global Warming and Climate Change along the coastline for different countries which also mentions two Indian cities namely Kolkata and Mumbai. The study indicates that these coastal cities will be exposed to coastal flooding

caused by storm surge and damage from high winds. However, such impact studies are open to several uncertainties, due to regional model approximations.

(c) Recently, the Government has set up a Prime Minister's Council on Climate Change to coordinate national action for assessment, adaptation and mitigation of climate change. The Ministry of Environment and Forests have also constituted an Expert Committee on Climate Change impacts, which is headed by the Principal Scientific Advisor to the Cabinet. The range of policies and programs are being considered to mitigate climate change which include improving energy efficiency and conservation as well as setting up of Bureau of Energy Efficiency, power sector reforms, promoting hydro and renewable energy, promotion of nuclear energy, promotion of clean coal technology, coal washing and efficient utilization of coal, afforestation and conservation of forests and reduction of gas flaring, use of cleaner and lesser carbon intensive fuel for transport and encouraging Mass Rapid Transport systems.

Notice to Publications

4988. SHRI SURESH PRABHAKAR PRABHU: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government issued notices to any publications in India or abroad for any items published by them;

(b) if so, the details thereof during each of the last three years till date; and

(c) the present status thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Suspension of Export Subsidy on Steel

4989. DR. K. DHANARAJU: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the export subsidy under the Duty Entitlement Pass Book (DEPB) scheme on steel has been suspended;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether there is a shortage in the supply of steel against the domestic demand; and

(d) if so, the steps taken to boost the domestic supply of steel?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) and (b) Yes Sir, DEPB benefits on primary steel items have been suspended w.e.f. 27.3.2008 vide Public Notice No. 130 dated 27.3.2008 and dated 5.4.2008, to help in curbing domestic price increase.

(c) and (d) The steel demand in the country is met both through domestic production and imports. Therefore, any demand over the domestic supply is met through imports. However, keeping in view the rising steel demand in the country, Government has taken a number of steps, both in short term as well as long term to increase steel availability in the country. These are:

(i) Customs duty on steel items is kept at 5%;

(ii) Customs duty on raw materials such as coking coal and steel melting Scrap is Nil and customs duty on metcoke is 5%;

(iii) An Inter-Ministerial Group (IMG) has been constituted under the chairmanship of Secretary (Steel) to monitor and coordinate issues concerning major steel investments in the country;

(iv) Export incentives on export of primary steel items have been suspended.

[Translation]

Mahila Samakhya Programme

4990. SHRI CHANDRABHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the criteria for selection of States for Mahila Samakhya Programme;

(b) whether Mahila Samakhya Programme is in operation in Madhya Pradesh;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.A.A. FATMI): (a) The Mahila Samakhya programme is a central sector scheme, implemented in those States that are willing to participate in the programme.

(b) to (d) Mahila Samakhya Society has been set up in Madhya Pradesh. 5 districts have also been selected under the programme.

Constitution of Human Resource Directorate

4991. SHRI RAJNARAYAN BUDHOLIA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to constitute Human Resource Directorate; and

(b) if so, the details and objectives behind constituting the Human Resource Directorate?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) and (b) So far as the Ministry of

Human Resource Development is concerned, there is no proposal to constitute Human Resource Directorate in this Ministry.

[English]

Liberalisation of Trade

4992. SHRI M. SREENIVASULU REDDY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state the measures being taken by the Government in the liberalisation of trade in services and investments?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): India has been a demandeur and an active participant in the services negotiations at the World Trade Organization. Under these negotiations India has taken commitments in various services sectors during the Uruguay Round. Further, in the ongoing services negotiations under the Doha Round India has offered deeper and broader sectoral and modal coverage in its Revised Offer. This is in line with the policy of liberalization of various services sectors within the country.

India's services exports were US\$ 76.18 billion in the year 2006-07 with a growth of 24% compared to the earlier year. This has been possible due to various measures taken by the government in the liberalization of services especially in the financial, telecommunication, tourism and transport sectors. Further, in order to enhance services exports the government has recently set up a Services Export Promotion Council.

India has entered into a Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement (CECA) with Singapore covering Trade in Services and Investments. India is also negotiating comprehensive trade agreements with a number of countries, in line with its policy of increasing trade in services and investments.

Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) policy covers investment in the manufacturing and services sector. In order to attract FDI in India a liberal and transparent policy has been put in place according to which FDI in most sectors/activities is permitted up to 100% under the automatic route and only in some sectors there are FDI caps of less than 100%. These measures have yielded positive results and FDI in the year 2006-07 amounted to US\$ 15.7 billion.

Spread of Naxalism

4993. SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA:
SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Intelligence agencies have submitted their report to the Union Government that Naxalism has spread in more States including Punjab and Uttar Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) and (b) It may not be feasible or appropriate for Ministry of Home Affairs to comment on the inputs provided from time to time by the Central and State Intelligence agencies.

No incident of naxalite violence or casualty of civilians or security personnel was reported from Punjab during the last three years. 11 incidents of naxalite violence and 5 casualties were reported from Uttar Pradesh in 2006, 9 incidents and 3 casualties in 2007 and 1 incident and no casualty in 2008 (upto March), which were less than 1% of the total number of incidents and casualties reported from all affected States.

(c) 'Police' and 'public order' being State subjects, the responsibility for maintenance of law and order, including dealing with naxalite activities, lies primarily in the domain of the concerned State Governments. The Central Government also maintains a close watch on the situation and supplements the efforts and resources of the State Governments by various means, which include deployment of Central Paramilitary forces to assist the State Police, sanctioning of India Reserve battalions to augment the strength and capabilities of the State Police, modernization and upgradation of the State Police and Intelligence agencies through the Scheme for Modernization of State Police Forces, re-imbursement of security-related expenditure, assistance in training of the State Police, sharing of Intelligence, facilitating inter-state coordination and assistance in development works through a wide range of schemes of different Ministries.

*[Translation]***Anti-Religious Conversion Bills**

4994. SHRI NIHAL CHAND:
SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has received any Anti-Religious Conversion Bill from the Government of Rajasthan and Himachal Pradesh for approval;

(b) if so, whether the Government has approved the said Bills;

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

(d) the time by when the said Bills are likely to be approved?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI V. RADHIKA SELVI): (a) A copy of the 'Rajasthan Dharma Swatantrya Bill, 2006' has been received from the Office of the Governor of Rajasthan in May, 2006. No Anti-Religious Conversion Bill has been received from Government of Himachal Pradesh.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) State Legislations are examined from three angles viz. (i) repugnancy with Central Laws (ii) deviation from National or Central Policy and (iii) legal and constitutional validity. In the case of Rajasthan Dharma Swatantrya Bill, 2006, there are policy issues, which need to be sorted out and therefore, no time-frame can be fixed.

*[English]***Export Growth Centres**

4995. PROF. M. RAMADASS:
SHRI MADAN LAL SHARMA:
PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has identified export growth centres in the country;

(b) if so, the details of the locations and their working alongwith the sectors identified for exports;

(c) whether the Government is considering to give financial assistance to cater to the needs of small scale exporters;

(d) if so, whether any consultative mechanism for interface between banks and SSIs is being envisaged; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) and (b) Department of Commerce has not identified any export growth centres. However, under the Foreign Trade Policy, which encourages exports from all over India, Towns of Export Excellence are notified. The selected towns producing goods of Rs. 1000 crore or more will be notified as Towns of Export Excellence on the basis of potential for growth in exports, while for Towns of Export Excellence in Handloom, Handicraft, Agriculture and Fisheries sector, the threshold limit would be Rs. 250 crore. Common service providers in the Towns of Export Excellence are entitled for the facility of the EPCG scheme. The recognized associations of units in the Towns of Export Excellence are able to access the funds under the Market Access Initiative scheme for creating focused technological services. Further such areas will receive priority for assistance for rectifying identified critical infrastructure gaps from the ASIDE scheme. A list of Towns of Export Excellence is enclosed as statement.

(c) to (e) In the Foreign Trade Policy, there is no specific proposal to consider grant of financial assistance to cater to the needs of small scale exporters and there is no proposal to set up a consultative mechanism for interface between the banks and SSIs, under the Foreign Trade Policy. However, interest subvention which was allowed to SMEs during 2007-08 has been extended for the year 2008-09 also.

Statement*List of Towns of Export Excellence*

Sl.No.	Town of Export Excellence	State	Product Category
1.	Tirupur	Tamil Nadu	Hosiery
2.	Ludhiana	Punjab	Woollen Knitwear
3.	Panipat	Haryana	Woollen Blanket
4.	Kanoor	Kerala	Handlooms
5.	Karur	Tamil Nadu	Handlooms
6.	Madurai	Tamil Nadu	Handlooms
7.	AEKK (Aror, Ezhupunna, Kodanthuruthu & Kuthiathodu)	Kerala	Seafood
8.	Jodhpur	Rajasthan	Handicraft
9.	Kekhra	Uttar Pradesh	Handlooms
10.	Dewas	Madhya Pradesh	Pharmaceuticals
11.	Alleppey	Kerala	Coir Products
12.	Kollam (Quilon)	Kerala	Cashew Products

*[Translation]***Seizure of Arms From Naxal Hideouts**

4996. SHRI HEMMAL MURMU: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether arms and ammunitions including detonators and cartridges have been seized from naxalite hideouts and opium crop worth crores of rupees has been destroyed recently in the country particularly in Bihar and Jharkhand;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to check the illegal activities of naxalites in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) and (b) As per information available, during 2008, so far, the police have recovered 1170 weapons. In 2007, the police had recovered 352 weapons.

(c) The responsibility for maintenance of law and order, including dealing with naxalite activities, lies primarily in the domain of the concerned State Governments

Registration, investigation and prosecution of crime are undertaken by the concerned State Governments.

The Central Government also maintains a close watch on the situation and supplements the efforts and resources of the State Governments by various means, which include deployment of Central Paramilitary forces to assist the State Police, sanctioning of India Reserve battalions to augment the strength and capabilities of the State Police, modernization and upgradation of the State Police and Intelligence agencies through the Scheme for Modernization of State Police Forces, re-imbursement of security-related expenditure, assistance in training of the State Police, sharing of Intelligence, facilitating inter-State coordination and assistance in development works through a wide range of schemes of different Ministries.

*[English]***Security to Vital Installations**

4997. SHRI PRABODH PANDA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the present strength of CISF and police force is sufficient to facilitate foolproof security and ward off terror threats to vital installations; and

(b) if not, the measures likely to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) Yes, Sir. The deployment of Security Forces for the Vital installations, wherever needed, is done taking into account the threat perceptions of the installations. Strength of CISF is reviewed from time to time depending upon the requirement for deployment at important and vital installations. Augmentation in manpower and equipment is done as per assessed need.

(b) Does not arise.

[*Translation*]

Minimum Export Price for Basmati and Non-Basmati Rice

4998. DR. CHINTA MOHAN:
SHRI SURAJ SINGH:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether in October, 2007 the Government had announced a system of declaring minimum export price for the export of basmati and non-basmati rice;

(b) if so, the details alongwith the basis on which the price was fixed thereof;

(c) whether the price fixed was lesser than the prevailing price of rice in the international market; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) and (b) With a view to ensure domestic availability of rice for the masses, export of non-basmati rice was allowed with a minimum export price (MEP) of US\$ 425 PMT vide DGFT's Notification No. 45 dated 31.10.2007. This was later revised to US\$ 1000 or Rs. 40000 PMT before finally banning export of non-basmati rice vide Notification

No. 93 dated 01.04.2008. Similarly, MEP for export of basmati rice was fixed to US\$ 900 vide Notification No. 82 dated 05.03.2008, which has been finally revised to US\$ 1200 or Rs. 48000 PMT vide Notification No. 93 dated 01.04.2008.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. As regards basmati rice, the international prices are governed by Indian prices, since out of India and Pakistan, the only two producers & suppliers of this commodity, India has major share in production and exports. Whereas, the range of international prices for non-basmati rice during December 2007 to February 2008 is indicated below:

Month	Price Range US\$ PMT FOB
December 2007	321 to 618
January 2008	349 to 660
February 2008	425 to 748

(Source: Rice India—Journal of All India Rice Exporters' Association).

[*English*]

National Design Policy

4999. SHRI DUSHYANT SINGH:
SHRI DEVIDAS PINGLE:
SHRI SHISHUPAL N. PATLE:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether a National Design Policy has been announced by the Government;

(b) if so, the salient features thereof;

(c) the total number of professional designers working at present in the country;

(d) the number of youths who got employment in this sector every year;

(e) whether the Government has any proposal to promote design industries; and

(f) if so, the steps taken thereon during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL POLICY AND PROMOTION, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR): (a) and (b) A National Design Policy was approved by the Government on 8th February 2007. The salient features of the Policy include:

- Concept of a “design enabled Indian Industry” which could impact both the national economy and the quality of life in a positive manner.
- Preparation of a platform for creative design development.
- Design promotion and partnerships across many sectors, states and regions for integrating design with traditional and technological resources.
- Raising Indian design education to global standards of excellence.
- Creation of awareness among manufacturers and service providers about the competitive advantage of original designs.
- Attracting investments, including foreign direct investments, in design services and design related R&D.
- Involving industry and professional designers in the collaborative development of the design profession.

(c) As per information made available by the National Institute of Design, Ahmedabad, the total number of professional designers working at present in the country is approximately 3000.

(d) The information has not been centrally maintained.

(e) and (f) Various measures taken by the Government for promotion of industries also *inter-alia* include design industries.

Some of the measures taken are:

Design Promotion measures during last 3 years

- The 1st National Design Policy was announced by the Union Cabinet on 8th February 2007. Which emphasis design for industry, competitiveness, design for quality of life, design for exports, design promotion through “designed

in India made for the World” awareness and quality upgradation programmes and setting up design centres and Innovation hubs, global leadership in design Education through new Design education campuses.

- The 1st of its kind National Design Business Incubator was set up at NID with the assistance of DIPP and DST in the year 2004.
- The 1st of its kind Design Research & Development Centre was set up at Bangalore with the support of DIPP & DST in 2006.
- Post Graduate Diploma in Design programmes in sector specific disciplines were introduced by NID from the year 2002. The new sector specific research intensive PGDPD programmes commenced during the last 3 years include (i) PGDPD in Automobile & Transportation Design, (ii) PGDPD in Retail Design and (iii) PGDPD in Digital Experience.
- NID is represented in the world design apex body ICSID and Director NID is a Board Member of ICSID. NID is represented in all the Executive Board and General Assembly meetings of the ICSID.
- NID has set up an International Centre for Indian Crafts with the assistance of DCH and the centre is regularly imparting training to craft-persons, and artisans etc. regularly.
- NID has set up an IPR Cell for documenting and design registration of various innovations. So far we have filed design registration for about 50 innovations.
- Other design promotion measures (year-wise) include:

2005-06

International Conference on “Design Education Tradition & Modernity” (DETM)—2nd to 4th March 2005.

- Participated in the Singapore Design Festival held in November 2005.
- Conducted Geo-Visualisation Seminar for use in Spatial Design on 15/16 Nov. 2005.

- Business world-NID Design Excellence Awards function held on 03.12.2005.
- 5th CII-NID Design Summit held on 8th/9th December 2005.
- North-East Design Conclave by DIPP-CILL-NID held on 12th and 13th Nov. 2005 in Shillong.
- Seminar on "Indian Crafts the future in a globalizing world" held on 25th & 26th Nov. 2005, in preparation to setting up of an international Centre for Indian Crafts Centre at NID sponsored by DC(H).
- HT Luxury Conference partnered by FICCI & NID was held on 13th/14th Jan., 2006 in which the new PG programme was also launched.

2006-07

- A 2 day National Seminar on Industrial Design & Intellectual Property Rights was held on 25-26 April 2006.
- Instituted Design Excellence Award in collaboration with Business world since 2003 and 4th Award function held at New Delhi on 20th Jan. 2007.
- India Design week celebrated from 30th Nov. to 7th Dec. 2006 with NID's 27th Convocation.
- The NDBI at NID organized first Design Idea Fair in the India Habitat Centre at New Delhi on 2nd/3rd Dec. 2006 in which around 35 ideas were developed and 300 visitors turned for the fair.
- Organised 6th CII-NID Design Summit at Delhi 4-5th Dec. 06.
- Collaborated with FICCI and Pune Design Foundation for Pune Design Festival on 17th Nov. 2006.

2007-08

- "Chitrakatha 2007" an International Student Animation Festival 2007 held at NID during 25-27th Oct. 2007.
- A 3-day National Conference on Geo-Visualisation (GCDRP-2007 jointly organized by NRDMS (DST) and NID held at NID on 28-30 November 2007.

- Design Week held during 7-14 Dec. 2007.
- Design Idea Fair 2007 held during 12-13 Dec. 2007 at Bangalore.
- 7th NID-CIL Design summit held during 11-12 Dec. 2007 at Bangalore.

Ban on Export of Rice and Other Foodgrains

5000. SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has decided to restrict or ban the export of rice and other foodgrains recently;

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

(c) whether any particular variety of food items including rice has been excluded from the restriction; and

(d) if so, the details thereof, item-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. With a view to ensure availability of basic foodgrains in the country, ban on export of non-basmati rice has been imposed vide DGFT's Notification No. 93 dated 01.04.2008. Ban on export of pulses has been extended upto 31.03.2009 vide Notification No. 91 dated 01.04.2008, whereas export of wheat & wheat products including wheat flour has been prohibited vide Notification No. 33 dated 08.10.2007 till further orders.

(c) and (d) Yes Sir. Basmati rice with a minimum export price (MEP) of US\$ 1200 or Rs. 48000 PMT has been exempted from the ban on export of rice vide Notification No. 93 dated 01.04.2008, whereas Dollar Gram (Kabuli Chana) is exempted from ban on export of pulses as per Notification No. 48 dated 20.02.2007.

Rural Public Schools

5001. SHRI L. RAJAGOPAL: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has received any proposals from State Governments including Andhra Pradesh to start Rural Public Schools at par with private schools to provide quality education particularly to SC/ST and OBC students;

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

(c) whether any request has been received to provide 25 per cent of non-recurring cost for setting up of the above schools; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.A.A. FATMI): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. A proposal has been received from Government of Andhra Pradesh for setting up of 300 residential, co-educational English medium schools having classes 6 to 12 through Public-Private Partnership with at least one school in each of the Assembly Constituencies in the State. As per the proposal, land for establishing the schools is to be provided by the State Government free of cost, whereas the capital cost is to be met by the private provider and the recurring cost is to be shared between the State Government and the private provider.

There is no scheme in this Ministry at present under which this proposal for assistance towards part of non-recurring cost of the school building can be met by the Central Government. Besides, Central Government has also decided to implement a centrally sponsored scheme for setting up of 6000 new high quality model schools, at the rate one school for each block, throughout the country during the 11th Five Year Plan subject to requisite approval.

Export of Fish

5002. SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the total quantity of fish and other marine products exported from various States particularly the Union Territory of Andaman and Nicobar Islands and revenue earned therefrom during the last three years and in the current year till date, year-wise and State-wise; and

(b) the steps contemplated to protect the prawn export industry from the adverse effect of the import policy of western countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND

INDUSTRY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) The total quantity of fish and other marine products exported from various States and revenue earned therefrom during the last three years and in the current year till Feb, 2008, year-wise and State-wise is enclosed as statement.

(b) To protect the prawn export industry from the adverse effect of the import policy of western countries MPEDA has taken several steps including:

- upgradation of processing plants to meet the requirements of EU & USA.
- grant of financial assistance and interest subsidy for the upgradation of captive and independent pre-processing centres and for the setting up of mini laboratories.
- organization of training programmes on implementation of Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Programme (HACCP) for seafood technologists/QC personnel.
- scrutinization of HACCP manuals of the processors.
- issuance of scrutiny and compliance certificates.
- notification of limits for certain contaminants.
- prohibition of the use of certain banned items at par with EU and US regulations.
- launching of National Residue Control Programme through monitoring of antibiotics & pesticide residues and chemical elements in Aquaculture production.
- arrangement of sector wise training programmes for technologists, processors, pre-processors, fish handlers, fishermen, boat crew and other persons handling fishery products for maintenance of hygiene in processing plants, landing centres, fishing crafts and personnel working in these areas.

In addition, to tackle the challenge posed by the antidumping duty and customs bond requirements imposed by on Indian Shrimps, the Government has extended financial assistance to the Seafood Exporters Association of India who have suits against the anti dumping Order of the US Government, and enhanced Customs Bond requirement. MPEDA has extended necessary assistance

to the seafood exporters for filling proper responses in administrative reviews with the intention of either getting a total withdrawal of anti dumping duty imposed on Indian

shrimp exported to US or to get a reduced anti dumping duty.

Statement

State-wise exports of fish and other marine products during the last three years

Q: Quantity in ton, V: Value in Rs. Lakh, \$: USD (Million)

State		2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08 (Apr 07-Feb 08)
1		2	3	4	5
Kerala	Q	87378	97311	108617	87564
	V	115807.23	125764.81	152411.59	125141.13
	\$	257.42	285.78	339.91	310.95
Maharashtra	Q	112179	123716	140046	95034
	V	103772.31	124220.93	134701.72	109495.03
	\$	231.41	281.21	298.52	272.62
Gujarat	Q	119951	136485	188166	131602
	V	70458.58	93488.02	126459.68	99237.38
	\$	157.36	210.87	281.30	247.69
West Bengal	Q	18605	18368	23461	24399
	V	52530.43	53972.16	65604.37	63583.36
	\$	116.57	122.58	144.36	158.45
Andhra Pradesh	Q	32028	37121	36594	31555
	V	102906.51	111530.00	126474.92	91683.35
	\$	228.58	253.07	278.88	227.99
Karnataka	Q	10349	15965	26723	22072
	V	7692.39	10326.79	14949.39	13763.26
	\$	17.15	23.49	33.05	34.34
Orissa	Q	0	60	0	0
	V	0.00	98.18	0.00	0.00
	\$	0.00	0.23	0.00	0.00

1		2	3	4	5
Goa	Q	10030	10719	16152	17466
	V	4695.85	5555.81	8944.92	9132.57
	\$	10.42	12.59	19.70	22.79
Tamil Nadu	Q	70809	72418	72883	65508
	V	206805.51	199573.01	206806.04	165016.42
	\$	459.57	454.40	457.22	409.81
*Andaman and Nicobar Islands	Q	36	42	21	0
	V	98.32	85.01	24.00	0
	\$	0.22	0.77	0.05	0

*The exports are as made by M/s Andaman Fisheries Ltd., Port Blair.

Credit Cards Racket

5003. SHRI UDAY SINGH: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Crime Branch of Delhi Police has recently busted a racket in cloned Credit Cards and arrested several persons;

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

(c) whether the Government has conducted any inquiry regarding the involvement of some terrorist group in the racket; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and outcome of the inquiry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI V. RADHIKA SELVI): (a) and (b) Delhi Police has recently busted a gang running a fake credit cards racket, who used to swipe these cards in connivance with shopkeepers to collect money fraudulently. A case was registered and six persons were arrested. 21 fake credit cards were recovered from the accused persons.

(c) and (d) Investigations of the case have not revealed the involvement of any terrorists group in the racket.

[Translation]

Projects under Micro and Medium Enterprises

5004. SHRI AJIT JOGI: Will the Minister of MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to start new projects for the development of micro and medium enterprises for generating employment in this sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the targets set for the Eleventh Plan, year-wise; and

(c) the allocation of funds in this regard during the said period, year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD): (a) to (c) The promotion and development of micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) is primarily the function of the respective State Government/Union Territory (UT) Administrations. The Central Government supplements the efforts of the States/UTs by providing supportive measures through schemes/initiatives to enhance the competitiveness of the micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) and enable them to grow and generate more and more

employment. The measures include ongoing schemes as well as new schemes under the Package for Promotion of Micro and Small Enterprises announced in Lok Sabha on 27 February 2007. Some of the new initiatives are listed hereunder:

- (1) Scheme for financial assistance to select management/business schools and technical institutes to conduct tailor made courses.
- (2) Scheme for financial assistance to five select universities/colleges to run 1200 entrepreneurial clubs.
- (3) Rajiv Gandhi Udyami Mitra Yojana to assist potential 1.5 lakh first-generation entrepreneurs in completion of various formalities and tasks necessary for setting up of their enterprises and to facilitate them in completing the required formalities during the course of Eleventh Five Year Plan.
- (4) Scheme for Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP) by merger of existing REGP and PMRY Schemes. (proposed)
- (5) Package for developing infrastructure for Khadi Institutions including nursing fund for weak institutions. (proposed)
- (6) Workshed Scheme for Khadi Artisans.
- (7) Scheme for enhancing productivity and competitiveness of Khadi industries and artisans. (proposed)
- (8) Scheme for rejuvenation, modernization and technological upgradation of coir industry.

Moreover, 10-point initiatives under the National Manufacturing Competitiveness Programme (NMCP) have been announced to be implemented during Eleventh Plan period in MSME clusters in the Public Private Partnership (PPP) mode.

The projection of persons employed in the MSMEs for the Eleventh Five Year Plan through implementation of these new and ongoing initiatives is as under:

Sl.No.	Year	Employment projection for 11th Five Year Plan (No. in lakhs)
1.	2007-08	322.28
2.	2008-09	338.39
3.	2009-10	355.31
4.	2010-11	373.08
5.	2011-12	391.73

The overall budgetary provision during the Eleventh Five Year Plan for ongoing/new schemes of the Ministry of MSME is Rs. 11,500 crore.

[English]

Budgetary Allocation for Education

5005. ADV. SURESH KURUP: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has fulfilled its commitment of increasing the budgetary allocations for the education sector for the year 2008-09 as compared to last year;

(b) if so, the details thereof indicating the allocations made to this sector during each of the last three years;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the break-up of actual spending out of the Gross Domestic Product on primary and secondary education, alongwith the extent of budgetary support provided for the implementation of the SSA?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (d) The budgetary allocation of Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD) has increased from Rs. 24116.49 crore in the year 2006-07 to Rs. 32354.22 crore during 2007-08, showing an increase of 34.16%. In the year 2008-09, the allocation has been further increased to Rs. 38709.37 crore which works out to an increase of 19.6% over the allocation of 2007-08. The allocation for the Ministry of Human Resource Development and actual spending on Elementary Education (including SSA) and Secondary

Education during last three years alongwith the Gross

Domestic Product (GDP) figures are as follows:-

(Rs. in crore)

Year	Gross Domestic Product	Total Allocation (Plan + Non Plan)	Actual expenditure on	
			Elementary Education	Secondary Education
2005-06	3275670	18338.53	11751.22	1750.27
2006-07	3790063 (Quick Estimates)	24116.49	16734.91	1923.72
2007-08	4283040 (Advance Estimates)	32354.22	17769.56	2525.48

For Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) the budgetary support has been Rs. 11000 crore in 2006-07, Rs. 10671 crore in 2007-08 which has gone up to Rs. 13100 crore in 2008-09.

[Translation]

Foreign Exchange from Films

5006. SHRIMATI KIRAN MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the capacity of the film industry to earn foreign exchange has been increasing during recent years in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has evolved any scheme for development and expansion of the film industry;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the time by when the said scheme is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI):

(a) and (b) Yes, Sir. As per the FICCI Pricewaterhouse Coopers Report of 2007, the growth of overseas market of Indian films was positive. From Rs. 5000 million in 2004 and Rs. 5650 million in 2005, the overseas market was projected to grow to Rs. 7000 million in 2006 and Rs. 8500 million in 2007. The trend of increase in box office receipts would indicate higher export of films from India and potentially an increase in foreign exchange earnings.

(c) to (e) The Ministry of I&B has existing Plan Schemes which are aimed at promotion of Indian cinemas in India and abroad. The scheme called 'Export Promotion through film festivals in India and Abroad' is implemented through the Directorate of Film Festivals. The scheme covers the organizations of the International Film Festival of India, Participation in various film festivals in India and abroad and conduction of film festivals. Films are sent to various Indian embassies for conduct of festivals also. Films are a medium of cultural export. The conduct of film festivals abroad not only promotes our culture but also facilitates in export of Indian films. In the XI Plan, this scheme additionally provides for grants-in-aid to Federation of Film Societies of India and support to NGOs/ State Government organizations in holding film festivals. In the X Plan a sum of Rs. 989.42 lakhs was utilized under this scheme. The provision of the XI Plan is Rs. 2069 lakhs.

The existing Main Secretariat Scheme of the Ministry of I&B called 'Participation in Film Markets' envisages providing support, facilitation and promotion of the export potential of the Indian film industry. The scheme intends to cover not only specific institutionalized international markets such as Cannes Film Market/Berlin Film Festival/ American Film Market/MIPCOM, Cannes among other (participation to be decided yearly) but also the Film Bazaar which is held along side the International Film Festival of India each year. In the X Plan a sum of Rs. 442.85 lakhs was utilized for the purpose. The provision for the XI Plan is for Rs. 1100 lakhs.

Improvement in Educational Standard

5007. SHRIMATI KALPANA RAMESH NARHIRE: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has held discussion recently with the State Governments for improving the standard of education;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the decision taken in this regard;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken by the Union Government for strengthening the education sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) A meeting was held with Chief Secretaries of the States on 22.04.2008 to discuss various issues involved in the implementation of new initiatives in education envisaged in the Eleventh plan.

(d) In the XI Plan as approved by National Development Council, Plan allocation for the Ministry of Human Resource Development has been raised to Rs. 269873 crores as compared to the actual expenditure of about Rs. 58817 crores during X Plan which is about 4.6 times increase over the X Plan. The XI Plan among other things envisages the following new initiatives:-

- (i) A centrally sponsored scheme for Universalisation of access to and improvement of quality of education at secondary stage (SUCCESS) with the objectives to make secondary education of good quality available, accessible and affordable to all young persons by providing a secondary school within five kilometres of every habitation;
- (ii) Rapid upgradation of 15,000 Upper Primary Schools to Secondary Schools and expansion of intake capacity in 44,000 existing Secondary Schools;
- (iii) Establishment of 6000 high quality model schools at block level to serve as benchmark for excellence in secondary schooling. About 3500 of these will be public-funded schools while 2500 would be through public-private partnership;
- (iv) Provision for laboratories/libraries and also strengthening of the existing facilities available;

(v) Continuous teacher training;

(vi) Provision for hostels and residential schools for girls; and

(vii) A more liberal approach on the part of State Government on allowing private schools to be set up to meet the large unmet demand for quality education.

Other initiatives for modernizing Higher Education include—

- (i) 30 new Central Universities (CUs)—16 CUs one each in uncovered States and 14 CUs aiming at World-class Standards;
- (ii) Establishment of 370 new degree colleges in districts with Gross Enrolment Ratio less than the national average;
- (iii) Strengthening of 6000 colleges and 150 Universities not receiving UGC grant at present;
- (iv) Setting up of Indra Gandhi National Tribal University with main campus at Amarkantak in Madhya Pradesh;
- (v) 8 New IITs, 20 New IIITs in PPP mode and 10 New NITs;
- (vi) 3 New IISERs at Mohali (Punjab), Pune and Kolkata—have become functional and two more at Tiruvananthapuram, and Bhopal—will commence their session in August 2008;
- (vii) 7 New IIMs including one IIM at Shillong, Meghalaya which has been established;
- (viii) 2 New Schools of Planning and Architecture (SPAs) at Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh and Vijayawada, Andhra Pradesh;
- (ix) Setting up of 1000 (300 in Government Sector, 300 in Public Private Partnership (PPP) mode and 400 in Private Sector) new Polytechnics.

[English]

FDI in Gold and Diamond Mining

5008. SHRI S. AJAYA KUMAR:
SHRI NAVEEN JINDAL:

Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to invite Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in the mining exploration of gold and diamonds in the country as reported in the *Indian Express* dated 24th March, 2008;

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

(c) the total foreign exchange likely to be earned alongwith the details of the countries which have shown their interest in mining of these products?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): (a) to (c) The Government has recently enunciated the new National Mineral Policy, 2008, in order to attract investment, including FDI, into the mining sector in India. However, 100% foreign direct investment is already allowed on automatic route for exploration and mining of gold and diamond in the country since the year 2006. As per available information, the mining sector in India had received \$506.05 million, between April, 2000 and February, 2008. Major contribution has come from Indian subsidiaries of important mining companies based in Australia, South Africa and Canada.

[Translation]

Manufacturing Industries in SEZs

5009. SHRI DANVE RAOSAHEB PATIL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the norms fixed by the Government for boosting manufacturing industries or considering them in suitable special economic zones in any State;

(b) the details of all the manufacturing units set up in the special economic zones of various States particularly, Maharashtra during each of the last three years and in the current year till date, State-wise;

(c) whether the Government has launched any new facilities or schemes for this sector during the current year; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) 453 Formal

approvals for setting up of Special Economic Zones (SEZs) have been granted under the SEZ Act, 2005, out of which 210 SEZs have been notified. These include multiproduct and sector specific SEZs for manufacturing industries in areas such as textiles and apparels, leather & footwear, Gems and jewellery, Engineering, Agro and Food processing industry, Pharmaceuticals, Chemicals etc.

(b) In Maharashtra 88 formal approvals have been granted under the SEZ Act, 2005, out of which 25 SEZs have been notified. In SEEPZ Special Economic Zone which was set up by the Central Government, Letter of permissions have been granted to 333 units, whereas in the newly notified SEZs, 28 units have been granted Letter of permissions and are in various stages of implementation/operation.

(c) and (d) Facilities available to SEZ Developers/units are governed by the provisions of the Special Economic Zone Act, 2005 and Special Economic Zones Rules, 2006.

[English]

Extension of Target under Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan

5010. SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI:
SHRI KASHIRAM RANA:
SHRI TUKARAM GANPAT RAO RENGE
PATIL:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the flagship programme for providing universal elementary education in the country is running far behind the stipulated schedule;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government has extended the target by the year of 2011-12;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) the strategy chalked out and efforts being made by the Government to achieve the target by 2011-12;

(f) the number of children covered under Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan till date, State-wise and Union Territory-wise; and

(g) the steps taken by the Union Government to ensure proper utilization of the funds released under Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.A.A. FATMI): (a) to (g) The Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) programme is being implemented in all districts of the country to achieve the goal of universalisation of elementary education (UEE) in a time bound manner, in mission mode. Consequently, the number of out of school children, which was 320 lakh in 2001-02, has come down to 75.97 lakh in 2007-08, as per State reports. A statement showing number of out of school children as reported by States upto March 2007 is enclosed as statement.

A rigorous system of monitoring of the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan has been put in place which includes, *inter alia*, monthly and quarterly progress reports and review meetings, furnishing of annual elementary school statistics, field monitoring by 41 independent monitoring institutions and six monthly independent reviews by experts on the progress of the programme. In addition rigorous financial audits and concurrent financial reviews are done in the State SSA programmes.

Statement

Extension of Target under Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan

Sl.No.	State/UT	Out of school children as on March 2007
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	264013
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	30565
3.	Assam	338834
4.	Bihar	2119584
5.	Chhattisgarh	123632
6.	Goa	7699
7.	Gujarat	134643
8.	Haryana	238847
9.	Himachal Pradesh	5624
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	108560

1	2	3
11.	Jharkhand	209662
12.	Karnataka	174533
13.	Kerala	20790
14.	Madhya Pradesh	296979
15.	Maharashtra	136892
16.	Manipur	54351
17.	Meghalaya	37234
18.	Mizoram	4913
19.	Nagaland	35335
20.	Orissa	537841
21.	Punjab	227645
22.	Rajasthan	163894
23.	Sikkim	3204
24.	Tamil Nadu	103261
25.	Tripura	15376
26.	Uttar Pradesh	785524
27.	Uttarakhand	22230
28.	West Bengal	1357601
29.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	133
30.	Chandigarh	5505
31.	Dadara and Nagar Haveli	1614
32.	Daman and Diu	201
33.	Delhi	30001
34.	Lakshadweep	168
35.	Puducherry	326
India		7597214

[Translation]

Vacant Posts in Official Language Department

5011. SHRI BHUVANESHWAR PRASAD MEHTA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether some posts for various categories in the Official Language Department are lying vacant;

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

(c) the steps taken by the Government to fill up all the vacant posts?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) and (b) Occurrence of vacancies and getting them filled up in various categories of Central Secretariat Official Language Service (CSOLS), administered by the Department of Official Language, Ministry of Home Affairs is a dynamic process. As on date the vacancy position in various categories of CSOLS, including temporary vacancies, is as under:-

(i) Director	3
(ii) Joint Director	6
(iii) Deputy Director	Nil
(iv) Assistant Director	4
(v) Sr. Hindi Translator	3
(vi) Jr. Hindi Translator	87

(c) The policy of the Government is to fill up the vacant posts at the earliest and steps have already been initiated for the purpose.

[English]

Shifting of Headquarters of Assam Rifles

5012. SHRI VANLAL ZAWMA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has any proposal to shift the Headquarters of Assam Rifles from Aizawl City to Zokhawsang area;

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

(c) the total funds likely to be provided by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) and (b) At the request of the State Government, it has been decided to shift the headquarters of a battalion of Assam Rifles located in Aizawl to the Zokhawsang area.

(c) To provide infrastructure at the new location, an amount of Rs. 145,17,30,000/-has been sanctioned.

[Translation]

Complaints against Traffic Police

5013. SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received complaints against the Delhi Traffic Police from many residential colonies of the NCT of Delhi;

(b) if so, the total number of complaints received against the traffic police officials during each of the last three years, till date;

(c) the details of complaints received; and

(d) the action taken by the Government against the erring police officials and to redress the complaints of the residents of Delhi?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI V. RADHIKA SELVI): (a) to (d) The details of the complaints received by Delhi Police against Delhi Traffic Police from residential colonies during 2005, 2006, 2007 and upto 24th April, 2008 is enclosed as statement.

The complaint substantiated was submitted by the residents of a colony regarding parking of vehicles by a Tour and Travels agency thereby causing disturbance to the residents. The Tour and Travels agency has stopped parking vehicles in the colony after the action taken by Delhi Police and the grievance of residents of the colony was redressed. The action in respect of erring Police officials is taken as per the relevant provisions of the rules.

Statement***Detail of Complaints Received from Residents Welfare Association/Colonies Against Traffic Police During the Year 2005, 2006, 2007 & 2008 (Till Date)***

Sl.No.	Name of complaint	Gist of complaint	Name of traffic policemen	Substantiated/ Not substantiated
1	2	3	4	5
2005				
1.	Residents of Digamber Jain Mandir area Chandni Chowk-Delhi.	Misbehaviour by TIKotwall Circle with the public	Insp. Ramphal	Not substantiated
2.	Azadpur Transport Nagar Welfare Association.	Harassment by ASI Ramesh Kumar of Model Town Circle.	ASI Ramesh Kumar	Not substantiated
3.	General Secy. Senior Citizen Welfare Association, Saket, Delhi	Misbehaviour by the traffic staff at pre-paid booth Saket	It is a general complaint against the local traffic field staff of Hauz Khas Circle	Not substantiated
4.	Resident of Motia Khan Area Delhi.	Misbehaviour by the T/Paharganj Circle with the public.	Insp. Ram Pal	Not substantiated
5.	Residents Welfare Association BSS Colony Rajokari, Delhi.	RTV are plying on wrong route with the connivance of traffic staff	It is a general complaint against the local traffic field staff of South-West District	Not substantiated
6.	Residents of Gole Market, Delhi	ZO & ASI took bribe from The truck drivers of buffalows.	ZO ASI Lalit Mohan	Not substantiated
2006				
1.	Residents Welfare, Harsh Vihar, Delhi	There was large unauthorized encroachment on the road in the area of Harsh Vihar causing traffic jam but no action is taken by traffic police.	It is a general complaint against the local traffic field staff of Seema Puri Circle.	Not substantiated
2.	Ring Road Owners & RAW Lajpat Nagar, Ring Road Lajpat Nagar-IV, New Delhi	There was large traffic jam on service road at entry & exit point at Amar Colony crossing & Dayanand Colony but Traffic police did not taken any action.	It is a general complaint against the local traffic of Lajpat Nagar Circle.	Not substantiated
3.	Prof. B.S. Tahwar, President, Vaishali RWA, Community Center Vaishali, Pitampura Delhi-88	There was problem of traffic jam, unauthorized parking, red light jumping etc. by motor vehicles, rickshaws etc. in and around Pitampura residents colony but no efforts were made by traffic police	It is a general complaint against the local traffic field staff of Ashok Vihar Circle.	Not substantiated
4.	Shri G.L. Gupta, Vice President, RAW, Green Park, New Delhi.	Regarding demanding of bribe from School Vans for not Challenging and not impounding the vehicles.	SI Mohd. Khan	Not substantiated
5.	Shri Raj Singh, Jt. Secy., Jangpura (Bhogal) Residents Welfare Association, Jangpura Lane, New Delhi.	There was heavy traffic jam in Sumon Bazar area outside Jain Mandir by illegal tempo stand due to which primary school children are facing problem	It is a general complaint against the local traffic field staff of Lajpat Nagar circle	Not substantiated

1	2	3	4	5
6.	Residents of Village Hastal, Uttam Nagar, Delhi.	About 50 unauthorized RTVs plying from Uttam Nagar area and traffic police taking money from them which caused problem to the people	It is a general complaint against the local traffic field Staff of Tilak Nagar Circle.	Not substantiated
7.	News clipping in Satya Prakash Times dated 8.9.06	Traffic police KI Laperwahi see Mangolpur S-Block per Yatayat Ast-Vyst.	It is a general complaint against the local traffic staff of Punjabi Bagh Circle.	Not substantiated
2007				
1.	Shri Mansoor Ahmed, Matia Mahal Residence Welfare Association (Regd.) Turkman Gate, Delhi-110006	Traffic staff of Kotwali Circle harassing, demanding illegal gratification & Challenging wrongly to the Residents of the area.	It is a general complaint against the local traffic field staff of Central district.	Not substantiated
2.	Residence of Zakir Nagar, Delhi.	There was large unauthorized Parking & Illegal parking at Zakir Nagar area by taxi Stand with connivance of Traffic police and local police.	It is a general complaint against the local traffic field staff of Lajpat Nagar Circle.	Not substantiated
3.	Shri Arun Kumar resident of Tank Road, Rameshwari Nehru Nagar, Delhi.	There were large Unauthorized parking in the area of Tank Road behind Govt. Sr. Sec. School, Dev Nagar in connivance of Traffic police and no action is Taken by traffic police despite complaints.	It is a general complaint against the local traffic field staff of Karol Bagh Circle.	Not substantiated
4.	Prahant Kumar r/o B-454, Gokulpuri, Delhi.	The traffic staff of Darya Ganj Circle has threatened Him and demanded money from him.	SI S.L. Meena	Not substantiated
5.	Resident of Navjwan Vihar.	Disturbance caused by Private Cars because of commercial use.	TI & ZO	Substantiated
2008				
Nil				

*[English]***Doordarshan Kendras**

5014. SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is considering to enhance the power of some Doordarshan Kendras so that the programmes reaches to larger viewers; and

(b) If so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI):

(a) and (b) Following projects for upgradation of Doordarshan transmitters have been approved:

- (i) Upgradation of interim High Power Transmitters (HPT) to permanent HPTs (with new towers) at 8 places viz. Barmer, Cannanore, Kumbakonam, Kharagpur, Kokrajhar, Saharsa, Amritsar and Vadodara.

- (ii) Upgradation of Low Power Transmitters (LPT) to HPTs at 3 places viz. Bilaspur, Chhattarpur and Mehboobnagar.

Approval of Mining Project

5015. SHRI NARAHARI MAHATO:
SHRI RANEN BARMAN:

Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has sanctioned any projects of mining leases in West Bengal and Andhra Pradesh during each of the last three years;

(b) if so, the complete details alongwith the present status of each project, thereof, State-wise; and

(c) the details of parameters followed while sanctioning such projects alongwith the present mining policy in the States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): (a) and (b) State Governments are the owners of minerals and grant mining leases. Prior approval of Central Government is required only in case of grant of mining leases for minerals listed in First Schedule of the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957 (MMDR Act). During last three years i.e. since 1.4.2005 till 23.04.2008, Central Government has conveyed prior approval for grant of mining lease in 59 proposals received from the State Government of Andhra Pradesh. No proposal for grant of mining lease was received from State Government of West Bengal and no prior approval for grant of mining lease in West Bengal has been conveyed by Central Government during this period. Details of mineral concession proposals, including mining leases, on which prior approval has been conveyed by Ministry of Mines are available on the website of Ministry of Mines i.e. <http://www.mines.nic.in>.

(c) Ministry of Mines has been conveying prior approval for grant of mineral concessions, including mining leases, to the State Governments in terms of the provisions of Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957 and the Rules framed thereunder. The details of the mining policy in the States is not centrally maintained.

Modification in Civil Defence Responsibilities

5016. SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has any proposal to change the character of civil defence by giving its volunteers the responsibility of tackling disasters;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the State Governments have been consulted in this regard;

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

(e) the time by when this change is likely to be made?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI V. RADHIKA SELVI): (a) and (b) The Government have decided to involve the Civil Defence volunteers in disaster management in addition to their traditional roles. In this regard, Government have issued necessary Instructions to the State Governments/UT-Administrations that the services of Civil Defence Volunteers can be utilized by the State Government in tackling the disaster crises also.

(c) and (d) A Committee under Member, National Disaster Management Authority was set up to suggest measures to involve Civil Defence in disaster management.

The Report of the Committee was shared with the State Governments, who have agreed with the key recommendation of involving Civil Defence volunteers in disaster management.

(e) Based on the recommendations of the K.M. Singh Committee Report, a scheme for involving Civil Defence volunteers has been drawn up for implementation during the Eleventh Plan commencing implementation from 2008-09.

Modernisation of Coir Industry

5017. DR. M. JAGANNATH: Will the Minister of MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has announced a scheme "Rejuvenation, Modernization and Technology Upgradation of the Coir Industry";

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of coir units provided financial assistance under the scheme, State and Union Territory-wise; and

(d) the amount allocated and utilized under the Scheme, State and Union Territory-wise?

THE MINISTER OF MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD): (a) and (b) The Government of India, Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) has launched a new Central Sector Scheme of 'Rejuvenation, Modernization & Technology Upgradation of the Coir Industry' during March, 2008 for implementation during XI Plan with a total outlay of Rs. 243 crore involving a government grant of Rs. 99 crore, beneficiary contribution of Rs. 12 crore and a term loan of Rs. 132 crore from Banks. Under the Scheme, financial assistance is provided @ 40% of the project cost subject to a maximum of Rs. 80,000/- per spinning unit and a maximum of Rs. Two lakh per tiny/household unit.

(c) and (d) During 2007-08 (3rd week of March, 2008), Government released an amount of Rs. 9 crore to the Coir Board, a statutory body under the Ministry of MSME for implementation of the Scheme. State-wise details of funds released by the Coir Board to various banks, for providing subsidy to the eligible coir units under the Scheme, are given below:

State	No. of Spinning Units	No. of Tiny/Household Units	Grant (Rs. Crore)
Kerala	190	160	4.72
Tamil Nadu	140	130	3.72
Karnataka	20	10	0.36
Total	350	300	8.80

Expenditure Incurred by Officers of AIR, DD In the NAM Conference

5018. SHRI P.S. GADHAVI: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether a delegation of officers from All India Radio, Doordarshan and Prasar Bharati have attended the NAM Conference held in USA during April, 2008;

(b) if so, the name and designation of such officers alongwith the expenditure incurred thereon;

(c) whether correspondents of Doordarshan and All India Radio have not accompanied the delegation to cover the event;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the details of foreign tours undertaken by the officers of Prasar Bharati, AIR and Doordarshan since 1st January, 2007 alongwith the name of officers, expenditure incurred and purpose of such visits abroad?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Shri B.S. Lalli, Chief Executive Officer, Prasar Bharati and Shri A.K. Bhatnagar Chief Engineer, All India Radio have attended the NAB (National Association of Broadcasters) Conference and not NAM Conference held in USA during April, 2008.

Prasar Bharati have informed that the amount of total expenditure incurred was Rs. 7.00 lakh approximately.

(c) and (d) NAB 2008 was a conference-cum-exhibition which exhibited latest innovation in Broadcast Technology and equipments. News correspondents did not accompany, as normally AIR and Doordarshan do not cover such International shows.

(e) The details of foreign tours/deputations undertaken by the officers of Prasar Bharati, AIR and Doordarshan since 1st January, 2007 is enclosed as statement.

Statement***Expenditure on Foreign Travel—Year 2007-08 of DD News Officials***

Sl.No.	Name & Designation	Duration	Country	Approximate Expenditure
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Ms Geetam Mishra, Reporter, Sh. K.K. Ashok Kumar, C/Man	11th to 15th Jan, 2007	Pakistan DDN-6(73)/2008	External Affairs Minister's Visit to Islamabad. Rs. 2,14,600/-
2.	Accompanying team:- Sh. Sharat Chandra, News Editor, Shr B.K. Murjal, C/Man, Advance Team:- Sh. Sundhanshu Rajan, Correspondent, Sh. Jagpal Singh, C/Man	13th to 15th Jan, 2007 11th to 16th Jan, 2007	Philippines DDN-6 (72)/2008/G	ASEAN and East Asia Summits. Rs. 2,16,491/-
3.	Team I 1. Neeraj Sharma, Reporter. 2. Praveen Johar, Cameraman Team II 1. Sambuddha Mustafi, Reporter 2. Mohan Krishna, Cameraman	13th March to 2nd April, 2007 2nd to 14th April, 2007	Bangladesh, Bhutan, Nepal and Pakistan DD-6(75)/2008-G	SAARC Car Rally Rs. 89,032/-
4.	(1) Shri Shishu Pal Sharma Shantel, Correspondent (2) Shri Omprakash Jamloki, Cameraman	4th to 10th April, 2008	Turkmenistan and Kazakhstan DDN-6(102)/2008-G	Vice President visit to Turkmenistan and Kazakhstan Rs. 83,750/-
5.	(1) Shri Bishwajeet Bhattacharya, Correspondent (2) Shri V. Genesekhran, Cameraman	12th to 25th of April, 2008.	Liebon, Brazil, Mexico, Chile, Capetown DDN-6 (103)/2008-G	President visit. Rs. 1,75,625/-
6.	(1) Shri Dharmendra Tiwary, Correspondent (2) Shri B Kumar, Cameraman	6th to 10th April 2008	Beijing and Shanghai DDN/Asag/March 20(3)/2008	Sponsored Media Delegation accompanying Minister of Tourism and Culture on a Tour to Beijing and Shanghai. (Rs. 11,302)
7.	Sh. Madhu Nag, Director (N/R)	21st to 22nd May, 2007	Singapore DDN-6(78)/07-G	36th ABU Meeting (Sponsored trip) The entire expenditure borne by ABU
8.	Sh. Rudranath Sanyal, Reporter, Smt. Indu Dang	24th to 27th April 2007	Strasbourg (France), & Greece (DDN-6 (79)/07-G)	President visit (Payment made by the Embassy as there was not enough time for Making the payment to the staff and we have not yet received any payment)

1	2	3	4	5
9.	Sh. Anil Thomas, Reporter	16-17 April 2007	Kuwait (DDN-6(80)/07-G)	Gen. Assembly of the Olympic Council. Rs. 17,708/-
10.	I. Accompanying Team 1. Sh. Bishwajit Bhattacharya, Reporter. 2. Sh. B. Kumar, C/Man. II. Advance Team 1. Ms. Prakriti Krishnan, Reporter. 2. Sh. Anil Khanna, Cameraman	6th June to 9th June, 2007 4th to 10th June 2007	Germany G-8 Summit, (DDN-6(81)/07-G)	PM Visit to Germany for G 8 Summit Rs. 4,33,150/-
11.	1. Sh. Parijal Kaul, Copy Editor 2. Sh. V. Gunasehakaran, C/Man 1. Shri Sharat Chandra, DDN	13th to 15th July, 2007 23rd to 28th Feb. 2008	New York DDN-6(82)/07-G Brussels DDN-6(83)/07-G	World Hindi Meet Rs. 1,71,503/- Visit of Indian Journalist to Brussels and Berlin. (Sponsored trip)
12.	1. Ms. Songamphy Vashum, Correspondent 2. Sh. R.N.S. Reddy, Cameraman	7th to 9th June, 2007	Yorkshire (UK) DDN-6(84)/07-G	IIFA Awards (Sponsored trip)
13.	1. Sh. Ishan Russell, Reporter	23rd to 26th July, 2007	USA DDN-6(86)/07-G	Air India New Plane Visit to USA (Sponsored trip)
14.	1. Sh. Raj Kumar, NE (A) 2. Sh. Rajesh Bhatia, C/Man	21st to 25th August, 2007	South Africa DDN-6(88)/07-G	UPA Chairperson Smt. Sonia Gandhi Visit Rs. 4,89,386/-
15.	1. Ms. Pragya Paliwal, Correspondent 2. Shri Pradeep Kumar, Cameraman 3. Shri Surendra Kumar Varma, Asstt. Engineer	29th Sept. to 4th October, 2007	New York DDN-6(90)/2007-G	UPA Chairperson visit to New York from 29th Sept, to 4th October, 2007 Rs. 2,24,607/-
16.	1. Shri K.G. Sharma, DDN	23rd to 27th October, 2007	Media Delegation with the Delhi Chief Minister to Osaka Japan DDN-Oct-07/Delhi/CM-Jap.	Media Delegation of Delhi CM to Japan Rs. 12,928/-
17.	I. Accompanying Team 1. Shri Emani Krishna Rao, Correspondent 2. Smt. Jayashree Puri, Camrman II. Advance Team to Nigeria 1. Shri Sanjay Pratap Singh, Correspondent 2. Shri Gurmit Singh, Cameraman III. Advance Team to Johannesburg 1. Shri Sudhakar Das, Reporter 2. Shri B. Lokeshiah, Cameraman	14th to 18th October, 2007	South Africa and Uganda DDN-6(91)/2007-G	PM Visit to South Africa and Uganda from 14th to 18th October, 2007 Rs. 4,63,039/-

1	2	3	4	5
18.	I. Accompanying Team 1. Shri Sanjit Khajuria, Correspondent. 2. Shri A.M.G. Surendra, Cameraman Advance Team 1. Shri Ravi Prakash Rola, Cameraman 2. Shri Ajay Kumar Mishra, Reporter Advance Team 1. Shri Snehasis Sur, Reporter 2. Shri Inderjit Singh, Cameraman	20th to 25th November, 2007 19th to 22nd Nov., 2008 19th to 26th Nov., 2007	Uganda and Singapore for CHOGAM Summit DDN-6 (92)/2007-G	Prime Minister's Visit to Singapore from 20th to 25th Nov; 2007 Rs. 3,48,915/-
19.	1. Shri Dhiraj Lal Mohan Kakadia, Correspondent 2. Shri Manickam Raja, Cameraman	26th to 30th Oct, 2007	Beijing (China) DDN-6(93)/2007-G	UPA Chairperson's visit to Beijing from 26th to 29th October, 2007 Rs. 1,77,800/-
20.	I. Accompanying Team 1. Shri C. Senthil Rajan, Correspondent 2. Shri Hemanth Kumar, Cameraman II. Advance Team 1. Ms. Rakhee Bakshee, Correspondent 2. Shri Prit Pal Singh, Cameraman	11th to 13th Nov. 2007 10th to 14th Nov. 2007	Prime Minister Visit to Moscow DDN-6(94)/2007-G	Prime Minister's Visit to Russia From 11th to 14th November, 2007 Rs. 1,70,152/-
21.	1. Shri P Doungle, Director (News)	10th to 11th December, 2007	ABU Climate Change DDN-6(95)/07-G	Indonesia, Bali (sponsored trip)
22.	Accompanying Team 1. Ms. Arvind Manjit Singh, ADG (N&CA) (Head of News) 2. Shri K K Ashok Kumar, Cameraman Advance Team 1. Shri Ashok Shrivastava, Reporter 2. Shri Manoj Arora, Cameraman	13th to 15th Jan. 2008 11th to 17th Jan., 2008	PM Visit to China DDN/6(96)/2007-G	Prime Minister Visit to China From 13th to 16th Jan, 2008 Rs. 2,66,200/-
23.	Shri Emani Krishna Rao, TV Correspondent, RNU Hyderabad	23rd to 25th Jan., 2008	CBA Awards DDN-6(97)/08-G	Hyderabad for Participation in CBA Awards Ceremony on 24th January, 2008 at Nassau, Bahamas. (Payment made by the DG Doordarshan wing)

1	2	3	4	5
24.	Shri Ajay Aggarwal, News Editor	8.2.08 to 11.02.08.	Launch of Non-Stop DDN-6(98)/07-G	Coverage of the Launch of Non-stop flight by Air India to New York from 8.02.08 to 11.02.08 (Sponsored trip)
25.	Shri Vishal Dhaliya, Reporter and Shri Praveen Jauhar, Cameraman	29th Feb., to 10th March, 2008.	MEW tour to African countries in connection with India-Africa Summit	All the cost was borne by the MEA

List of Doordarshan Officers Proceeded Abroad on Training/Deputation During 1st January, 2007 to 31st March, 2008

Sl.No.	Name and Designation	Place/Purpose of visit	Period of deputation	Total Expenditure
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Ms. Deepa Chandra, Director, DDK, Delhi	To attend Broadcaster Conference at Amsterdam	28.02.07 to 01.03.2007	All expenditure borne by OWST/TVE
2.	Sh. Sharat Chander, News Editor, DD-News	To visit of Indian Journalist in Brussels	25-28 Feb, 2007	The entire expenditure borne by European Commission.
3.	Smt. Tahamina Begum, Production Asstt., DDK, Kolkata	To participate in 4th ABU Children Drama Co-Production meeting & Workshop at Tokyo, Japan	5-8 March, 2007	Rs. 2,50,000/-
4.	Sh. D. Rey, CE, DG: DD	To participate in NAB-2007, Las Vegas, USA	14-17 April, 2007	Rs. 2,45,300/-
5.	Sh. J.K. Chandira, SE, DDK, Jaipur	As an expert for the ABU (TAS) Mission Male, Maldives	23rd April to 2nd May, 2007	The entire expenditure borne by ABU
6.	Ms. Prema Sharma, Production Asstt., DDK, Delhi Sh. Raj Kumar Rabindro, Production Asstt, DDK, Imphal	To attend media Festival Conference on Global Media Strategies for HIV/AIDS to Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia	27-31 May, 2007	The entire expenditure borne by AIBC
7.	Smt. Tahamina Begum, Production Asstt., DDK, Guwahati	To participate in 4th ABU Children's Drama Co-Production meeting & Workshop, Tokyo, Japan	22-29 July, 2007	Rs. 2,50,000/-
8.	Sh. P.K. Mattoo, PEX, DDK, Delhi	To attend the Eight World Hindi Conference (WHC) to New York, USA	13-15 July, 2007	Rs. 81,575/-

1	2	3	4	5
9.	Ms. Ananya Banerjee, Sr. Director (Prog.)	To participate as member of Jury for 2007 ABU Prize Competition at Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia	13-16 August, 2007	Rs. 81,450/-
10.	Ms. Prema Sharma, Production Asstt., DDK, Delhi	To attend Producers' Conference in connection With 1st Asia Youth Art Festival at Schenzen, China	23rd August, 2007	Entire expenditure was borne by the Organization.
11.	Sh. Anand Sanyal, DDP Sh. Ravi Prakash, PEX, DDK, Mumbai	To attend Robocon 2007, Hanoi, Vietnam	24-28 August, 2007	Rs. 97,875/-
12.	Ms. Aparna Vaish, DDG	To be on the Judge Panel of Robocon 2007 Hanoi, Vietnam	24-29 August, 2007	Rs. 2,903/-
13.	Ms. Archana Gupta, SE Sh. S.A.Tripathi, DDE Sh. Sudip Choudhary, SE Sh. Amit Sharma, DDE Sh. S. Natarajan, DDE	Training course on 2x20 KW VHF Antenna. USA	20-24 August, 2007	Rs. 14,11,250/-
14.	Sh. Ajay Agarwal, NE, DD News Sh. Sh. Ajay Kumar Dohare, SE	To attend Asia Vision News Coordination Meeting at Penang, Malaysia	3-4 September, 2007	The entire expenditure borne by ABU
15.	Sh. Gauri Shankar Raina, PEX, Delhi	To attend the VIP coverage in connection with the Internal Day at Non-violence at New York/USA	29 Sept. to 5 Oct., 2007	Rs. 1,18,450/-
16.	Smt. Kamalini Dutt, Director (Archives) Smt. Sailaja Suman	To attend FIA/IFTA World Conference Lisbon, Portugal	12-15 October, 2007	Rs. 1,52,900/-
17.	Ms. Savita Rani Devi, Production Asstt., DDK, Guwahati	For attending Regional Workshop on "Violence on the screen and Children's right", Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia	29 Oct., to 2 Nov., 2007	The entire expenditure borne by AIBD
18.	Ms. Prema Sharma, Production Asstt., DDK, Delhi	AIBD's GMAI/AMAI Regional Workshop on HIV/AIDS, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia	2007	The entire expenditure borne by AIBD
19.	Sh. N. Ragvan Director, DDK, Thirur	To attend World Agricultural Information Conference at Zambia	11-16 November, 2007	Cornell University New York

1	2	3	4	5
20.	Sh. R.R. Prasad, CE	To attend world Radio Communication Conference WRC 07 Geneva, Switzerland	12-16 November, 2007	Rs. 85,000/-
21.	Sh. J.K. Chandria, SE, DDK, Jaipur	To conduct training Course on Archive Process at Hanoi, Vietnam	29 Oct.-3 Nov., 2007	The entire expenditure borne by Vietnam
22.	Sh. A.K. Jha, SE, DDK, Delhi	Training course on Maintenance of CTRs & Camera as expert for ABU (TAS) to Suva, Fiji	25 Nov. to 4 December, 2007	The entire expenditure borne by Fiji TV
23.	Sh. P. Dzungul, Director (News)	To attend ABU Climate Change workshop at Bali, Indonesia.	10-11 December, 2007	The entire expenditure borne by ABU
24.	Sh. I.V. Sharma, Chief Engineer	To attend ABU Digital Symposium 2008 Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia	10-13 March, 2008	The entire expenditure borne by ABU
25.	Sh. U.C. Jain, ADE Mrs. Geeta Bakshi, PEX	To attend training course on Current & Future Educational Broadcasting to Tokyo, Japan.	24-29 March, 2008	The entire expenditure borne by JTEC

News Services Division: All India Radio

Sl.No.	Name of officers	Country Visited	Date of Foreign Tour	Exptr. Incurred	Purpose of foreign visit
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Padma Angmo Dy. Director (N)	Germany (Bonn)	24.5.07 to 17.6.07	121901/-	To attend workshop
2.	Sh. J.K. Srivastava, Asst. Director (N)	Singapore	18.6.07 to 23.6.07	33900/-	To attend Workshop
3.	Rajinder Upadhyay, Asst. Director (N)	New York	11.7.07. to 16.7.07	100975/-	To attend the Vishwa Hindi Sammelan
4.	A.K. Handoo, Director	Philippines	13.1.2007 to 15.1.2007	Nil.	Coverage of PM visit abroad
5.	Sh. K.K. Lal, Corr. AIR, Patna	-do-	-do-	Nil.	Coverage of PM visit abroad
6.	Sh. D.K. Ghosh, NE	Strasbourg/Greece	24.4.2007 to 28.4.2007	Nil	Coverage of President visit abroad
7.	Sh. V.R. Tiwari, Corr. AIR, Gangtok	-do-	-do-	Nil.	Coverage of President visit abroad
8.	Sh. V.K. Raina, NE	Nigeria/South Africa	14.10.2007 to 18.10.07	Nil.	Coverage of PM visit abroad

1	2	3	4	5	6
9.	Sh. Beshir. Malik, Corr, Jammu and Kashmir	Nigeria/South Africa	14.10.2007 to 18.10.2007	Nil.	Coverage of PM visit abroad
10.	Sh. Sunil Shukla, AIR, Allahabad	Singapore/Uganda	20.11.2007 to 25.11.2007	Nil.	Commonwealth Summit 2007
11.	Ms. Alpina Pant Sharma, Director, AIR, Mumbai	-do-	-do-	Nil.	Commonwealth Summit 2007
12.	Sh. S.N. Choudhary, Dy. Director (N)	Russia	11.11.2007 to 12.11.2007	Nil.	Coverage of PM visit abroad
13.	Sh. Mohd. Naseem, Asst. Director (N)	-do-	-do-	Nil.	Coverage of PM visit abroad
14.	Sh. S.N. Choudhary, Dy. Director (N)	China	13.1.2008 to 16.1.2008	Nil.	Coverage of PM visit abroad
15.	Sh. A.K. Joshi, PEX	-do-	-do-	Nil.	Coverage of PM visit abroad
16.	Shri V.K. Raina, NE	Turkmenistan/Kazakhstan	4.4.2008 to 10.4.2008	Nil.	Vice President Visit abroad
17.	Sh. S.N. Choudhary, Dy. Director (N)	Brazil/Mexico/Chile	12.4.2008 to 24.4.2008	Nil.	President Visit abroad
18.	Ms. Sarita Brara, NE	-do-	-do-	Nil.	President Visit abroad
19.	Shri M.K. Thakur, Asst. Director (N)	Bhutan	27.7.07 to 29.7.07	Nil.	External Affairs Minister Visit abroad
20.	Shri S.N. Choudhary, Dy. Director (N)	Uganda, Zambia, Senegal	1.3.08. to 15.3.08	Nil.	Pre Indo Africa summit visit
21.	Ms. Sadhna Rout, Addl. DG	Dhaka, Bangkok	8.12.07 to 14.12.07 15.1.08 to 19.1.2008	Nil.	Programme UNAIDS
22.	Ms. Vineetha Menon, NRT	Japan	2.12.07 to 8.12.07	Nil.	Asia Pacific Water Summit.

Programme Wing: All India Radio

Sl.No.	Name and Designation	Place/Country	Period of deputation	Purpose of visit	Expenditure (Approximate)
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Sh. Brijeshwar Singh DG; AIR	Nairobi (Kenya)	Feb. 18-21, 2007.	To participate in the CBA's Regional Conference (Africa)	Rs. 30,000/-
2.	Sh. Brijeshwar Singh DG;AIR	Johannesburg (South Africa)	Feb. 22-23, 2007	To participate in the Commonwealth Diversity Forum	Nil.
3.	Mrs. Grace Kujur Dy. DG;AIR	Mashhad, Iran	May 12-18, 2007	To participate in the 8th International Radio Festival of Islamic Republic of Iran Broadcasting as a guest invitee	Rs. 18,506

1	2	3	4	5	6
4.	1. Ms. Meenu Khare, Programme Executive, AIR, Lucknow 2. Sh. P.L. Des Programme Executive, AIR, Sambalpur. 3. Sh. Ashok Kumar Mishra Sr. Announcer, AIR, Jaipore	Masahad, Iran	May 15-18, 2007	To participate in the 8th International Radio Festival of Islamic Republic of Iran Broadcasting as guest producers of the shortlisted programmes.	Rs. 1,83,748/-
5.	Sh. M.L. Arya Station Director, AIR Udaipur	New York	July 13-15 2007	For the coverage of 8th World Hindi Conference 2007 held in New York	Rs. 81,575/-
6.	Sh. Padmalochan Das, Programme Executive, AIR, Sambalpur.	Bonn, Germany	Sept. 16-21, 2007	To participate in the DW- International Radio Workshop On 'Social Security'.	Rs. 6,120/-
7.	Dr. Anita M. Kumar, Programme Executive, Radio Kashmir, Srinagar	Bonn, Germany	Sept. 7-30, 2007	To participate in the Deutsche Welle-AIR Co-production on "Gender Equality".	Rs. 18,500/-
8.	Sh. Padmalochan Das, Programme Executive, AIR, Sambalpur.	Nassau, Bahamas	Jan. 24-26, 2008	To receive CBA Awards 2008	Rs. 12,000/-
9.	Mrs. Medha Kulkarni, Programme Executive, CBS, AIR, Mumbai.	Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia	Mar, 10-12 2008,	To participate in the AIBD/RCI Regional Workshop on Radio Co- Production on Cultural Diversity & Migration.	Rs. 9000/-

Engineering Wing: All India Radio

Sl.No.	Name and Designation of the officers	Country visited	Duration	Expenditure incurred	Purpose of visit	Remarks, if any
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	Sh. S.C. Pachauri Asstt. Director (E)	Malaysia (Kuala Lumpur)	22-26 January 2007	Rs. 64,479/-	To attend ABU-HFC Coordination Meeting	-
2.	Sh. S. Muthusami Dy. Director (E)	Philippines (Manila)	26 March-4 April 2007	Nil	To carry out ABU TAS Mission for Philippines Broadcasting Corporation	Funded by Asia- Pacific Broadcasting Union Kuala Lumpur
3.	Sh. D.P. Singh Director (E)	Mauritius	14-25 May 2007	Nil	To conduct training courses on Programme Production for MBC staff	Funded by Mauritius Broadcasting Organisation (MBC)
4.	Sh. S. Muthusami Dy. Director (E)					
5.	Sh. P.K. Pati Dy. Director (E)					

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
6.	Sh. K.K. Maurya Dy. Director (E)	Italy (Milano)	16-25 May 2007	Rs. 2,22,850/-	To carry out pre-dispatch inspection of FM Antennas	IEBR-Plan Expenditure
7.	Sh. R.K. Singh Chief Engineer	Switzerland (Geneva)	22 Oct-2 Nov. 2007	Rs. 2,25,534/-	To attend ITU's conference WRC 2007	-
8.	Sh. H.R. Singh E-in-C	Switzerland (Geneva)	5-16 Nov. 2007	Rs. 2,25,534/-	-Do-	-
9.	Sh. Mukul Tyagi Director (E)	Australia (Kilsyth)	10-15 January 2008	Rs. 4,53,296/-	To carry out pre-dispatch inspection of Combiners	Plan Expenditure
10.	Sh. K.K. Sharma Asstt. Director (E)					
11.	Sh. M.C. Aggarwal Chief Engineer	Malaysia (Kuala Lumpur)	10-13 March 2008	Rs. 1000/-	To attend ABU-Digital Radio Symposium	Remaining expenditure funded By Asia-Pacific Broadcasting Union Kuala Lumpur

Sports Cell: All India Radio

Sl.No.	Name of Officers	Country visit	Date of foreign tour	Expenditure incurred	Purpose of foreign visit
1.	(a) K.S. Kang, PEX, Mktg. Div. Delhi	England	21st Aug. 2007 to 8th Sep. 2007	Rs. 2,63,624/-	Coverage of ODI Series (India Vs England)
	(b) J.B. Roy, AE, AIR Delhi	-do-	-do-	Rs. 2,63,624/-	
2.	(a) M. Rama Rao, PEX AIR Warangal	Australia	29.1.2008 16.2.2008	Rs. 3,32,873/-	Coverage of Commonwealth Bank ODI Triseries (India, Australia & Sri Lanka)
	(b) M.B.N. Rao SEA, AIR Bhopal	-do-	-do-	Rs. 3,32,873/-	
3.	(a) Sh. Nayan K. PEX AIR Guwahati	Australia	14th Feb. 2008 t. 8th March 2008	Rs. 4,27,436/-	Coverage of Commonwealth Bank ODI Tri Series (India, Australia & Sri Lanka)
	(b) Sh. Devender Kumar, AE, AIR, Jalandhar	-do-	-do-	Rs. 4,27,436/-	

Foreign Deputation of Shri B.S. Lalli, CEO Prasar Bharati from 1.1.2007

Sl.No.	Period	Country	Purpose	Expenditure
1.	14th to 17th April, 2007	USA	To attend NAB 2007	Rs. 6,73,521/-
2.	29th to 31st May, 2007	Malaysia	Asia Media Summit-2007, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia	Rs. 1,63,378/-
3.	13th to 15th August, 2007	USA	Attend India Splendour Programme	Rs. 16,118/-
4.	28th to 29th September, 2007	China	Attend 2nd World Broadcasters meet	Rs. 25,823/-
5.	7th to 9th December, 2007	Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia	Attend ITU/ABU meet of CEOs and WEMF-3	Rs. 21,155/-

Export of Pharmaceuticals

5019. SHRI SUBRATA BOSE: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the total export of pharmaceuticals to foreign countries alongwith its value during the last three years, country-wise;

(b) the names of the first ten pharma companies who have achieved maximum export orders of pharmaceuticals; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to boost the export of pharmaceuticals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) The value of exports of Pharmaceuticals to foreign countries along with its value during the last three years is as under:-

(Rs. In Crores)

2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	April, 2007 to Oct, 07
17857.80	22115.72	24942.08	14751.28

Source: DGCI & S.

The top 25 destinations are:-

U.S.A., Germany, Russia, U.K., Brazil, China, Nigeria, Canada, Israel, Ukraine, Italy, Spain, Turkey, South Africa, Netherland, Mexico, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Vietnam, Iran, U Arab Emirates, Bangladesh, Japan, Kenya and Thailand.

(b) The name of the first ten pharma companies who have achieved maximum export orders are as under:-

Ranbaxy, Cipla, Dr. Reddys, Lupin, Orchid Chemicals, IPCA Labs Ltd., Biocon Ltd, Wockhardt Ltd., Nicholas Piramal and Cadila Healthcare.

(c) With a view to boost the export and earn foreign exchange, duty free import of raw materials required for production is allowed alongwith neutralization of taxes and duties as per provision of Foreign Trade Policy. Besides under Market Access Initiative (MAI) and Marketing Development Assistance (MDA) scheme financial assistance is given to exporters for promotion of exports.

Export of Tender Coconut Water

5020. SHRI M. SHIVANNA:
SHRIMATI MANORAMA MADHAVRAJ:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has made any effort to export tender coconut water from various States particularly Karnataka and Kerala;

(b) if not, the details thereof during each of the last three years and in the current year till date, State-wise;

(c) whether the Government will make efforts to boost the export of tender coconut water; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) The Coconut Development Board is making efforts to boost the export of Tender Coconut Water (TCW). To this end it.

(i) has developed technology for packing and preservation of TCW in pouches which can be preserved for a minimum period of six months under refrigeration. The product has got a potential demand both in domestic and international markets.

(ii) is promoting the Minimally Processed tender coconut. The product has 24 days shelf life under cold storage and has immense potential for export.

The Board is also extending financial assistance under Technology Mission on Coconut to the units which undertake the projects for TCW mentioned above and also for market promotional activities taken up by such units. It is also organizing/participating in international trade fairs to promote the use of TCW.

*[Translation]***Export of Minerals**

5021. SHRI PUNNU LAL MOHALE: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of minerals procured for the purpose of export from various States of the country particularly Chhattisgarh during the last three years to till date, State-wise;

(b) the total quantity of minerals exported during the said period, mineral-wise and State-wise; and

(c) whether the export capacity of all States including Chhattisgarh has been completely assessed and exploited, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) and (b) Details of minerals procured by MMTC Limited for exports from different States including Chhattisgarh during the years 2004-05, 2005-06, 2006-07 & 2007-08 (Apr-Oct, 07) are as under:-

(Qty: Lakh tones)

Mineral/State	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08 (Prov) (Apr-Oct.07)
Iron Ore				
Chhattisgarh	47.61	47.11	26.56	15.93
Karnataka/Goa	59.18	45.77	48.13	27.41
Orissa/Jharkhand	12.42	7.92	8.74	3.91
Total	119.21	100.80	81.43	47.25
Manganese Ore				
Karnataka	1.47	1.13	1.06	0.52
Andhra Pradesh	0.97	0.44	0.34	0.55
Jharkhand	0.61	0.18	0.30	0.10
Orissa	0.28	0.60	-	-
Total	3.33	2.35	1.70	1.17
Chrome Ore				
Orissa	4.40	4.60	3.95	1.55
Total	4.40	4.60	3.95	1.55

Details of iron ore procured by STC Ltd., STCL Ltd. and PEC Ltd. are as under:

(Qty: Lakh tones)

	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08 (Prov) (Apr-Oct.07)
STC	N.A.	3.98	2.17	1.97
STCL	0.08	0.35	5.57	2.27
PEC	8.89	6.57	3.21	0.68

*Source of procurement for STC, STCL and PEC are Jharkhand, Orissa, Goa and Karnataka.

(c) It is not feasible to work out the export capacity of any State as minerals are used in various parts of the country based on commercial factors.

[English]

International Cooperation in Education

5022. SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL:
SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO:
SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the names of countries with whom bilateral agreements were signed by the Union Government to strengthen international cooperation in the field of education during the Tenth Five Year Plan;

(b) whether the existing schemes for strengthening of international cooperation in the field of education are likely to be continued during the Eleventh Five Year Plan;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the progress achieved so far in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) This Ministry has signed exclusive exchange programmes in the form of Educational Exchange Programme (EEP) or Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the following twenty four countries to strengthen international cooperation in the field of education during the Tenth Five Year Plan (2002-2007):

1. Mongolia
2. Armenia
3. Tanzania
4. Guyana
5. Israel
6. Australia
7. Myanmar
8. Hungary
9. Syria

10. Uzbekistan
11. New Zealand
12. Thailand
13. Sri Lanka
14. Mexico
15. Brazil
16. Afghanistan
17. Croatia
18. Ecuador
19. Rwanda
20. South Africa
21. Saudi Arabia
22. China
23. Portugal
24. France

(b) to (d) Yes, Sir. During the Eleventh Five Year Plan, Educational Exchange Programmes (EEPs/MOUs) with 3 countries, i.e., with Ethiopia, Vietnam and Oman have been signed. During the Eleventh Five Year Plan, the meetings of the Joint Working Groups (JWG) constituted under EEPs/MOUs signed during the Tenth Five Year Plan in case of Brazil, France, New Zealand, Thailand, Sri Lanka have taken place. A Plan Scheme for Strengthening of External Academic Relations is operated by the Ministry with the objective of furthering the mutual exchange of visits and strengthen educational bilateral relations with important countries.

Implementation of OBC Quota

5023. SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO:
DR. K.S. MANOJ:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has issued instructions to all institutions to implement the 27 per cent quota for Other Backward Classes (OBCs) particularly in Central Educational Institutions from the current year in view of the Supreme Court judgement;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by when the said quota for OBCs is likely to be implemented in all Central Educational Institutions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir, the Government have issued directions to Central Educational Institutions to implement reservation in admissions from the forthcoming academic session, as per the provisions of Central Educational Institutions (Reservation in Admission) Act, 2006 and in accordance with the directions of Supreme Court of India in this regard.

(c) The reservation in admissions for the socially and educationally backward classes (SEBCs)/Other Backward Classes (OBCs) has to be implemented from the forthcoming academic session in a phased manner.

Two Shifts in Kendriya Vidyalayas

5024. SHRI VIKRAMBHAI ARJANBHAI MADAM: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Kendriya Vidyalayas functioning in the country having two shifts at present, State and UT-wise;

(b) whether the Government is planning to start two shifts in all the Kendriya Vidyalayas;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons alongwith the alternative arrangement made by the Government to accommodate more students in the Kendriya Vidyalayas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.A.A. FATMI): (a) Out of 972 functional Kendriya Vidyalayas (KVs) in the country, 42 KVs are having two shifts. State and UT-wise list is enclosed as Statement.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) The mandate for Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan is to provide quality education primarily to the wards of transferable Central Government employees including Defence and Para-Military forces. If in a particular school the number of applicants of these categories increases in a particular year, additional sections are sanctioned to accommodate the extra strength subject to availability of infrastructure.

Statement

State/UT-wise List of Kendriya Vidyalayas Where Second Shift has been Made Functional

Sl.No.	Name of State/UT	Number of KVs , with Second Shift
1.	Bihar	04
2.	Chandigarh	01
3.	Chhattisgarh	02
4.	Delhi	15
5.	Gujarat	01
6.	Haryana	01
7.	Jharkhand	01
8.	Kerala	03
9.	Madhya Pradesh	04
10.	Maharashtra	02
11.	Orissa	01
12.	Rajasthan	01
13.	Uttar Pradesh	04
14.	Uttarakhand	02
Total		42

[Translation]

Universalisation of Secondary Education

5025. SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is formulating a scheme for universalisation of Secondary Education;

(b) if so, the time by when the scheme is likely to be formulated; and

(c) the funding pattern of the scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.A.A FATMI): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Central Government has decided to implement a centrally sponsored scheme for universalisation of access to and improvement of quality of education at secondary stage during the 11th Five Year Plan. Components of the proposed scheme include (i) new schools buildings, (ii) additional classrooms, laboratories, computer rooms, library rooms, toilet etc., (iii) teaching-learning aids, (iv) School grant, (v) teachers' in service training, (vi) additional teachers, (vii) research and innovation, (viii) curricular reforms and (ix) Examinations reforms etc. The proposed scheme envisages sharing of costs between Central Government and State/UT Governments. There is a budget provision for the scheme during 2008-09.

[English]

Monopoly Ownership in Science and Technology

5026. DR. BABU RAO MEDIYAM: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is encouraging cooperative communities to arrest monopoly in science and technology sector;

(b) if so, whether monopoly can be arrested through copy rights or patents;

(c) if so, whether the Government has formulated any programme to encourage cooperative communities; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) and (b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) Does not arise.

Minority Educational Institutions

5027. SHRI K.S. RAO: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of misuse of fund and mal-administration practised by minority educational institutions;

(b) the mechanism to ensure standards of quality education and excellence in such institutions;

(c) whether the Government proposes to empower the Minority Commission to rationalize and regulate administration of minority institutes to keep a check on the abuse of constitutional provisions by the errant minority educational bodies; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) Ministry of Human Resource Development has no specific information regarding misuse of funds and mal-administration in Minority Education Institutions.

(b) Monitoring of education standards is an on going process. Ministry of Human Resource Development has put in place following mechanisms to ensure standards of quality education and excellence in all educational institutions including Minority Educational Institutions.

1. All India Council of Technical Education prescribes norms and standards of education for various technical courses.
2. National Board of Accreditation ranks technical institution including Minority Institution in the country according to the levels of excellence these institutions have achieved.
3. University Grants Commission lays down academic standards in colleges and universities including those established by Minority Communities under Article 30(1) of the Constitution.

4. National Assessment and Accreditation Council grades various universities and colleges according to the level of excellence these institutions have achieved.

(c) and (d) National Commission for Minority Educational Institutions (NCMEI) has powers to regulate the administration of the Minority Educational Institutions. The National Commission for Minority Educational Institutions Act, 2004 has been amended to amplify the powers of NCMEI enabling it to keep a check on the abuse of constitutional provisions by Minority Educational Institutions.

[Translation]

Khadi and Village Industries Training Centres

5028. SHRI MAHAVIR BHAGORA: Will the Minister of MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of Khadi and Village Industries Training Centres alongwith their capacity, State/Union Territory-wise;

(b) the criteria adopted for getting training in such centres;

(c) whether the Government proposes to set up new training centres; and

(d) if so, the time by when these are likely to be set up indicating the number thereof?

THE MINISTER OF MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD): (a) The State/Union Territory-wise total number of khadi and village Industry Training Centres under the purview of Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) and their capacity are given in the enclosed statement.

(b) Any unemployed youth interested to undergo training in khadi or village industry activities can apply directly to the concerned training centres on a simple application form. The criteria adopted for providing training at these training centres are as under:

- (i) Age limit: The age limit for stipendiary courses is 18-45 years. Age relaxation to certain categories of candidates is extended as per rules. For fee based (non stipendiary) courses, the age limit is 18-50 years whereas there is no age restriction for admission to EDP training programmes (3 days) organized for REGP beneficiaries.
- (ii) Qualification: The minimum educational qualifications for admitting the candidates to undergo training under KVI sector are given below under the three broad categories:

Sl.No.	Category	Qualification
1.	Artisan level courses	V standard
2.	For the personnel working in KVI institutions	S.S.C./Matriculation
3.	EDP training for REGP entrepreneurs	S.S.C./Matriculation

(c) and (d) Government (in the Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises), on its own, has not formulated any new proposal to set up new khadi and village industry training centres. However, Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) had forwarded a proposal

to the Ministry on modernization of existing training centres and establishment of new training centres. This Ministry examined the proposal and offered some suggestions to the KVIC with the advice to prepare a fresh proposal and resubmit it for the consideration of the Government.

Statement

State/Union Territory (UT)-wise total number of khadi and village Industry Training Centres under the purview of Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) and their capacity

Sl.No.	State/UT	Departmental Training Centres		Non-departmental/ Institutional training centres	Total	Location of the centre	Existing capacity (Number of candidates)
		KVIC	KVIB				
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Andhra Pradesh	0	1	0	1	Hyderabad	860
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	0	0	1	1	Doimukh	249
3.	Assam	0	1	1	2	Roha	1427
						Kumarikata	140
4.	Bihar	1	0	0	1	Patna	825
5.	Delhi	1	0	0	1	Delhi	295
6.	Jharkhand	0	0	1	1	Gumla	350
7.	Karnataka	2	0	1	3	Bangalore	700
						Hubli	277
						Khanapur	65
8.	Kerala	1	0	2	3	Nanthiatu Kunnam	1475
						Mallapally	870
						Nadathara	415
9.	Madhya Pradesh	0	1	1	2	Chitrakoot	415
						Indore	310
10.	Maharashtra	4	1	3	8	KMKGV, Pune	665
						Nashik	605
						CBRTI, Pune	370
						Dahanu	340
						Borivali, Mumbai	270
						HMPI, Pune	125
						Wardha	138

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
11.	Mizoram	0	1	0	1	Zemabawk	560
12.	Nagaland	0	1	0	1	Dimapur	445
13.	Orissa	1	0	1	2	Bhubaneswar	350
						Tainsar	350
14.	Rajasthan	0	0	1	1	Shivdaspora	150
15.	Tamilnadu	1	0	2	3	T. Kallupatti	650
						Veerapandi	355
						Chennai	255
16.	Uttar Pradesh	1	0	3	4	Panjokhera	525
						Ballia	320
						Sevapuri	210
						Patranga	190
17.	Uttarakhand	2	0	0	2	Dehradun	805
						Haldwani	745
18.	West Bengal	1	0	1	2	Birati	280
						Kimahar	145
Total		15	6	18	39		17611

*[English]***Setting up of SEZ**

5029. SHRI M.K. SUBBA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of Special Economic Zones (SEZs) set up by the end of the 10th Five Year Plan and proposed to be set up during the 11th Five Year Plan, location-wise and State-wise;

(b) the progress so far made in setting up SEZs;

(c) whether the Government has decided to fix an upper limit on the number of SEZs to be set up in the country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) and (b) The Special Economic Zones (SEZs) Act, 2005 came into force with the notification of the Special Economic Zones Rules, 2006 on 10th February, 2006. 19 Special Economic Zones were established/notified prior to the enactment of the SEZ Act, 2005, which included 7 Zones set up by the Central Government. Under the SEZ Act, 2005, formal approvals have been granted for setting up 453 SEZs, out of which 210 SEZs have been notified and are in various stages of operation/implementation. State-wise details of the formally approved and notified SEZs is enclosed as statement.

(c) and (d) No, Sir.

Statement

State	Formal approvals	Notified SEZs
Andhra Pradesh	72	54
Chandigarh	2	2
Chhattisgarh	1	
Delhi	2	
Dadra and Nagar Haveli	4	
Goa	7	3
Gujarat	39	18
Haryana	38	16
Himachal Pradesh		
Jharkhand	1	1
Karnataka	41	20
Kerala	12	8
Madhya Pradesh	13	3
Maharashtra	88	25
Nagaland	2	
Orissa	9	4
Pondicherry	1	
Punjab	7	2
Rajasthan	8	4
Tamil Nadu	59	35
Uttar Pradesh	23	8
Uttaranchal	3	1
West Bengal	21	6
Total	453	210

Deployment of Camel Troops in Border Patrolling

5030. SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Camel Troops are deployed in border patrolling in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is proposed to send Camel Troops for overseas patrolling also;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken to meet the shortfall of Camel Troops in the country in the event of deployment abroad?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) and (b) Camels are deployed by the Border Security Force (BSF) on the International borders in the deserts of Rajasthan and Rann of Gujarat for border patrolling.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e) Do not arise.

FTA Between India and Turkey

5031. SHRI NAVEEN JINDAL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Turkey has shown interest in signing Free Trade Agreement (FTA) with India for increasing bilateral trade, as reported in *The Indian Express* dated 24th March, 2008;

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government to this proposal; and

(c) the benefits which are likely to accrue to the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) No decision has been taken by the Government on the proposal by Turkey to initiate negotiations for a bilateral Free Trade Agreement.

Concessions to Handicapped Students

5032. SHRI JASUBHAI DHANABHAI BARAD: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Board of Secondary Education has given concessions to physically handicapped students appeared in 10th and 12th examinations this year;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether such concessions are being given to the visually-challenged students throughout the country; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.A.A. FATMI): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The Central Board of Secondary Education has provided the following concessions to physically handicapped students:-

- (i) Option of studying one compulsory language as against two for general candidates and option to offer other subjects in lieu of Mathematics or Science.
- (ii) Facility of a writer in the examination, if requested for.
- (iii) Additional time ranging from 30 minutes to sixty minutes provided to answer the question paper.
- (iv) Separate question papers in enlarged print for visually impaired candidates.
- (v) Alternative questions provided for the visually impaired candidates, in lieu of questions having visual inputs in Social Science and English Communicative for class X, and in History, Geography and Economics for class XII.
- (vi) Special seating arrangement for the conduct of the examination on the ground floor as far as possible.
- (vii) Physio-therapy exercises are considered as equivalent to physical education and health education course.
- (viii) Answer Books of such candidates are evaluated separately.

The above concessions are being extended to the candidates of all CBSE affiliated schools throughout the country.

(d) Does not arise.

Education to Poor and Marginalised Classes

5033. SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the University Grants Commission has any scheme to ensure dissemination of education among the poor and marginalized classes, to meet the rising necessities of economy and to encourage human rights;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by when a final decision is likely to be taken to formulate such scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (c) The University Grants Commission (UGC) has schemes for the students belonging to Scheduled Castes (SC), Scheduled Tribes (ST) and minority communities. The schemes include scholarships and fellowships for SC/ST students, establishment of SC and ST Cells in universities, remedial coaching classes at under-graduate and post-graduate level for SCs and STs in universities and colleges, coaching classes for SC/ST students for entry in services, establishment of centres in universities for study of social exclusion and inclusive policy, coaching classes for the weaker sections among educationally backward minority communities in universities and colleges. In order to encourage human rights, UGC has schemes of epoch making social thinkers of India (Special studies) and human rights and values in education.

Challenges In Five Core Areas

5034. SHRI K.J.S.P. REDDY: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has asked the scientists to come out with specific suggestions to face the challenges in five core areas;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the scientists thereto?

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) to (c) Yes Sir. The Hon'ble Prime Minister in his address to the scientific community during the 95th

Session of the Indian Science Congress on 3rd January, 2008 has identified the following five major scientific challenges:

- Food production and utilization and conservation of our scarce water resources;
- Energy generation and utilization;
- Manufacturing technologies;
- Mass transportation systems;
- Building and construction technology.

The scientific community has welcomed these suggestions.

[Translation]

Reservation to SC/ST Students

5035. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has taken any steps for providing the facility of reservations to SC and ST students in private colleges from the next academic session; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Branches of Publication Department

5036. SHRIMATI BHAVANA PUNDALIKRAO GAWALI:
SHRI SANJAY DHOTRE:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the number of branches of Publication Department in the country at present, State-wise and Union Territory-wise;

(b) the details of new branches set up during each of the last three years, till date, State and Union Territory-wise; and

(c) the steps taken to improve the functioning of all the branches in the country?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) Publications Division has a total of 19 Sales Emporiums and Yojana offices located in various parts of the country. It also has one office each of Employment News, Journals Unit and Kurukshetra (Hindi and English) at Delhi and one feeder store office at Faridabad, Haryana. The State-wise and Union Territory-wise position is enclosed as statement.

(b) No new office has been set up during the last three years.

(c) A number of initiatives have been taken to improve the functioning of the Division at its Headquarters and its offices. During the Annual Plan 2007-08, two Sales Emporium i.e., one each at Delhi and Hyderabad and seven Yojana offices have been modernized and computerized. All other remaining offices will be modernized and computerized during the 11th Plan Period. Besides, past issues of Yojana (English, Hindi and Urdu) and Kurukshetra (Hindi and English) have been digitized.

Steps have been taken to improve the functioning of the Division in the areas of production, editorial and marketing of its publications. A book committee has been constituted to analyse and select the best manuscripts. The layout, design and paper quality of the publications has been improved substantially. Home Library Scheme has been launched in February, 2008 to improve the marketing mechanism.

Employment News has launched an interactive career oriented website under the domain www.employmentnews.gov.in. The website has a page hit of more than 3 lakh per day. The website offers online career counselling, advance information about job vacancies in the Government sector and availability of information direct to the e-mail of the readers.

Statement

Sl.No.	Name of State/ Union Territory	Number of Sales Emporium/ Yojana office
1	2	3
1.	Delhi	7
2.	Tamilnadu	2

1	2	3
3.	Andhra Pradesh	2
4.	West Bengal	2
5.	Uttar Pradesh	1
6.	Maharashtra	2
7.	Bihar	1
8.	Kerala	2
9.	Karnataka	1
10.	Gujarat	1
11.	Assam	1
12.	Haryana	1 (Feeder Store)
Total		23

[English]

Flow of River Ganga.

5037. SHRI VIJOY KRISHNA: Will the Minister of EARTH SCIENCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether due to the worsening environmental conditions on the Gangotri glacier the flow of River Ganga has gone far away from the main source "Gaumukh";

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any survey has been conducted in this regard;

(d) if so, the details and the outcome thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) and (b) Gaumukh is the ice cave of the Gangotri glacier through which the river Bhagirathi emerges from the glacier. Therefore the question of Ganga going far away from the main source does not arise.

(c) The Geological Survey of India under Ministry of Mines is the Nodal Agency for glacier monitoring which

has carried out studies on recession of Gangotri Glacier between 1935 and 1996.

(d) As per the data available with GSI between 1935 and 1996 Gangotri Glacier on an average has receded at the rate of 18.80 m per year. However, further studies by other institutions have shown the yearly recession rate dropping to 17.5 m during 1971 to 2004 and further to 12.10 m in 2004-05.

(e) Since the river Ganga (Bhagirathi) is still emanating from the ice cave (Gaumukh) of Gangotri Glacier, no steps are required to be taken at present for bringing back the flow of river Ganga. As far as the recession of the glacier is concerned it is a part of natural phenomena and cannot be stopped by using short term artificial measures.

Insurance Scheme for Journalists

5038. SHRIMATI JHANSI LAKSHMI BOTCHA:
SHRI G.M. SIDDESWARA:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to provide insurance scheme for journalists;

(b) If so, the details thereof;

(c) If not, the reasons therefor; and

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

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) to (d) Efforts were made to frame a Group Insurance Scheme for Journalists. However, due to lack of response from the intended beneficiaries, the scheme could not materialise. Hence, there is no proposal to provide insurance scheme for journalists.

Regulation of Placement Agencies

5039. SHRI REWATI RAMAN SINGH: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether employing of domestic help/maid servants provided by placement agencies in the country is resulting in more crimes such as thefts, murders etc.;

(b) if so, whether some placement agencies often vanished after providing such services or gave wrong addresses in the agreements;

(c) if so, whether the Government is considering any proposal to strengthen the regulation of such activities; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) to (d) The National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) does not maintain data on crimes committed by domestic help/maid servants provided by placement agencies. The Union Government has no verifiable report to indicate any correlation between increase in crime and employment of such domestic help/maid servants. The Ministry of Labour & Employment has intimated that there is no proposal under consideration for strengthening the regulation of placement agencies.

Effect of Global Warming on Konark Temple

5040. SHRI SUGRIB SINGH: Will the Minister of EARTH SCIENCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether a recent Green Peace report has stated that the temperature in Puri Jagannath temple and Konark Sun temple will adversely be affected due to global warming as reported in 'Times of India' dated March 30, 2008;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the report also suggested that there may be heavy tidal surge along the coast stretches in Orissa;

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

(e) the remedial measures taken by the Government to deal with the problem?

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) to (d) No, Sir. The Green Peace report does not make any specific mention of Puri Jagannath temple or the Konark Sun temple. It only gives a general

projection of sea-level rise over India and adjoining coastal area and associated vulnerability. These projections are however based on some assumptions and hence are uncertain in nature.

(e) The Government has initiated several steps to address the problem of climate change. Recently, the Government has set up a Prime Minister's Council on Climate Change to coordinate national action for assessment, adaptation and mitigation of climate change. The Ministry of Environment and Forests have also constituted an Expert Committee on Climate Change impacts, which is headed by the Principal Scientific Advisor to the Cabinet.

The Ministry of Earth Sciences has proposed to create a high-priority Programme to address issues of Global and Regional Climate Change. The sea-level in the coastal areas are being constantly monitored through a network of tide-gauge stations. The programme will establish research networks of leading National research groups and research centres involved in allied areas by supporting collaborative research on important issues of national relevance including impacts on coastal zone.

[Translation]

Quantum of Tea Production

5041. SHRIMATI NEETA PATERIYA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the varieties of tea and quantum thereof produced in India during each of the last three years and in the current year, till date, State-wise;

(b) the total consumption of tea in the country; and

(c) the quantum of tea imported and exported from/to various countries during the said period, country-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) Details of varieties of tea and quantum produced in India during last three years is given below:

(Figures in million Kgs)

Varieties of tea	North India			South India			All India		
	2005	2006 (E)	2007 (E)	2005	2006 (E)	2007 (E)	2005	2006 (E)	2007 (E)
CTC	667.21	678.44	665.69	182.38	189.61	184.99	849.59	868.05	850.68
Orthodox Black	32.34	30.61	39.00	43.29	34.88	33.50	75.63	65.49	72.50
Darjeeling	11.31	11.73	11.00	—	—		11.31	11.73	11.00
Green Tea	7.56	8.84	9.00	1.88	1.80	1.50	9.44	10.64	10.50
Total	718.42	729.62	724.69	227.55	226.29	219.99	945.97	955.91	944.68

(E)—Estimated and subject to revision.

State-wise Production for the last three years

State/Districts	2005	2006 (E)	2007 (E)	2008 (E) (Jan-Feb)
Assam	487.49	483.65	479.92	5.31
West Bengal	217.55	233.29	231.44	4.04
Tripura	7.52	7.18	7.31	0.10
Arunachal Pradesh	2.62	2.20	2.52	
Manipur	0.11	0.11	0.12	
Sikkim	0.16	0.15	0.16	
Nagaland	0.19	0.17	0.19	
Meghalaya	0.10	0.10	0.12	
Mizoram	0.07	0.07	0.08	
Other North Indian States (includes Bihar, Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh and Orissa)	2.61	2.70	2.83	
Total North India	718.42	729.62	724.69	9.45
Tamil Nadu	158.84	152.27	153.13	19.61
Kerala	63.34	68.76	61.83	9.61
Karnataka	5.37	5.26	5.03	0.72
Total South India	227.55	226.29	219.99	29.94
All total	945.97	955.91	944.68	39.39

(E)—Estimated and subject to revision

(b) The total estimated consumption of tea in India during last three years is given below:

Year	Domestic Consumption (M.Kgs.)
2005	757
2006	771
2007	786

(c) The quantum of tea imported from various countries during last three years is given below:

(Figures in million Kgs.)

Origin	2007(E)	2006	2005
1	2	3	4
Argentina	0.70	0.75	0.83
Bangladesh	0.01	0.01	-
Brazil	-	-	0.04
China	0.51	2.00	1.08
Germany	0.01	0.01	0.02
Indonesia	2.13	1.59	2.26
Iran	-	0.68	0.08
Japan	-	0.01	-
Kenya	2.94	2.46	3.18
Malawi	0.56	0.33	0.64
Malaysia	-	0.00	-
Nepal	7.42	3.37	3.91
Papua New Guinea	0.44	0.45	0.58
South Africa	0.00	-	0.04
South Korea	-	0.00	-
Sri Lanka	0.38	0.18	0.31
Switzerland	0.00	0.00	-
Tanzania	0.03	-	-
Turkey	-	0.02	0.39

1	2	3	4
U.A.E.	0.00	-	-
United Kingdom	0.15	0.14	0.16
USA	-	-	0.01
Vietnam	0.69	11.81	3.23
Zimbabwe	0.02	-	-
Total	15.99	23.81	16.76

(E)—Estimated and subject to revision.

The import of tea into India during January to February 2008

Period	Quantity (M.Kgs.)	CIF Value (Rs. Crores)	Unit Price (Rs./Kg.)
2008 (Jan to Feb) Estimated	1.89	12.92	68.42
2007 (Jan to Feb)	1.75	12.19	69.56
(+) or (-) over last year	(+) 0.14	(+) 0.73	(-) 1.14

The quantum of tea exported from India to various countries during last three years

Name of the Countries	Jan. to Dec. 2007 (Estimated)	Jan. to Dec. 2006 (Actual)	Jan. to Dec. 2005 (Actual)
1	2	3	4
Russian Fed	34.41	37	35.89
Kazakhstan	8.09	10.39	10.93
Ukraine	1.19	0.85	0.89
Uzbekistan	0.03	0.41	0.08
Other CIS	0.23	0.46	0.34
Total CIS	43.95	49.11	48.13
United Kingdom	13.88	23.21	21.36
Netherlands	2.32	2.93	2.90
Germany	5.3	4.36	4.85
Ireland	2.04	2.42	2.21
Poland	3.76	3.67	4.12

1	2	3	4
U.S.A.	7.66	8.54	9.08
Canada	0.74	1.13	1.61
U.A.E.	24.12	21.88	26.54
Iran	11.28	8.67	6.62
Iraq	2.49	41.33	35.82
Saudi Arabia	1.31	1.06	1.15
Sri Lanka	0.38	0.18	0.31
Switzerland	0.00	0.00	-
Tanzania	0.03	-	-
Turkey	-	0.02	0.39
U.A.E.	0.00	-	-
United Kingdom	0.15	0.14	0.16
USA	-	-	0.01
Vietnam	0.69	11.81	3.23
Zimbabwe	0.02	-	-
Total	15.99	23.81	16.76

(E)—Estimated and subject to revision.

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(+) or (-) over last year	(+) 0.14	(+) 0.73	(-) 1.14

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Name of the Countries	Jan. to Dec. 2007 (Estimated)	Jan. to Dec. 2006 (Actual)	Jan. to Dec. 2005 (Actual)
1	2	3	4
Russian Fed	34.41	37	35.89
Kazakhstan	8.09	10.39	10.93
Ukraine	1.19	0.85	0.89

1	2	3	4
Uzbekistan	0.03	0.41	0.08
Other CIS	0.23	0.46	0.34
Total CIS	43.95	49.11	48.13
United Kingdom	13.88	23.21	21.36
Netherlands	2.32	2.93	2.90
Germany	5.3	4.36	4.85
Ireland	2.04	2.42	2.21
Poland	3.76	3.67	4.12
U.S.A.	7.66	8.54	9.08
Canada	0.74	1.13	1.61
U.A.E.	24.12	21.88	26.54
Iran	11.28	8.67	6.62
Iraq	2.49	41.33	35.82
Saudi Arabia	1.31	1.06	1.15
Sri Lanka	0.38	0.18	0.31
Switzerland	0.00	0.00	-
Tanzania	0.03	-	-
Turkey	-	0.02	0.39
U.A.E.	0.00	-	-
United Kingdom	0.15	0.14	0.16
USA	-	-	0.01
Vietnam	0.69	11.81	3.23
Zimbabwe	0.02	-	-
Total	15.99	23.81	16.76

[English]

**Financial Assistance to Punjab for
Development of Border Towns**

5042. SHRI SUKHDEV SINGH DHINDSA:
SARDAR SUKHDEV SINGH LIBRA:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to
state:

(a) whether the Government of Punjab has requested
the Union Government to grant Central assistance for
the development of some border towns;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by when Central assistance is likely to
be provided?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF
HOME AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI V. RADHIKA SELVI):

(a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Chief Minister of Punjab has requested for sanction of funds to the tune of Rs. 92.86 crore to take up water supply and sewerage projects in

the following border towns of Punjab under the Border Area Development Programme (BADP):

Name of the town	Estimated project cost (Rs. In crore)		
	Water supply	Sewerage	Total
Ramdass	0.66	2.40	3.06
Ajnala	1.53	4.83	6.36
Khemkaran	0.81	5.29	6.10
Fazilka	1.77	3.18	4.95
Ferozepur city and Ferozepur Cantt. (with army authorities)	9.23	26.91	36.14
Guruharsahal	0.22	2.43	2.65
Jalalabad	0.72	6.03	6.75
Dera Baba Nanak	1.22	7.10	8.32
Dina Nagar	0.95	4.22	5.17
Gurdaspur	5.07	8.29	13.36
Total	22.18	70.68	92.86

(c) The Border Area Development Programme (BADP) is a 100% centrally funded programme, implemented in 362 identified border blocks of 17 States which include Punjab also. The budgetary allocation under the BADP, as fixed by the Planning Commission, is proportionately allocated to the border States. An amount of Rs. 635 crore has been allocated in the budget of 2008-09 under the BADP. The share of Punjab under BADP, as per the criterion in vogue, would come to approximately Rs. 20 crore and the extent of funds required for implementing the proposal can not be met from the normal allocation under BADP.

[Translation]

Involvement of Police Personnel In Illegal Activities and Crimes

5043. SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH "LALAN":
SHRIMATI NEETA PATERIYA:
DR. CHINTA MOHAN:
DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the involvement of Police Personnel in illegal activities and crimes are increasing in the country as reported in 'Rashtriya Sahara' dated January 21, 2008;

(b) if so, the total number of such cases registered by the Government during each of the last three years, till-date, State-wise and Crime-wise including illegal liquor trade;

(c) the action taken by the Government against each of the accused officials; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to check such activities in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI V. RADHIKA SELVI): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Small Regional Newspapers

5044. SHRI ABU AYES MONDAL: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has made any budget provision for the small regional newspapers in the current year;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the measures taken to boost the small newspapers of the country?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) and (b) There is no separate budget provision for small regional newspapers.

(c) and (d) To extend support to small and regional newspapers the following changes have been made in Directorate of Advertising and Visual Publicity (DAVP)'s Press Advertisement Policy effective from 2nd October, 2007.

- (i) In money terms advertisement share has been increased from 10% to 15% for small newspapers and 30% to 35% for the newspapers published in regional and other languages.
- (ii) Minimum publication period, required for empanelment, has been reduced from 12 months to 6 months for regional language newspapers in Bodo, Dogri, Garhwali, Khasi, Kashmiri, Konkani, Maithili, Manipuri, Mizo, Nepali, Rajasthani, Sanskrit, Santhali Sindhi, Urdu and Tribal languages. Whereas, in the case of all regional and other languages small and medium newspapers, the period has been reduced to 18 months from 36 months.
- (iii) All newspapers published from backward, border, hilly and remote areas or in tribal languages or those published in Jammu and Kashmir, Andaman and Nicobar Islands and North Eastern States, need to have substantiated minimum paid circulation of 500 copies per publishing day as against 2000 copies for others.
- (iv) Newspapers upto 25,000 circulation will not be subject to circulation checks.

[English]

Boarding and Hostel Facilities

5045. SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of educational institutions functioning in the country including Andhra Pradesh which have received grants during each of the last three years under the Centrally sponsored scheme for boarding and hostel facilities, State-wise and Union Territory-wise;

(b) the details of the grants released to the State Governments during the said period, State and Union Territory-wise;

(c) the number of applications pending with the Union Government for release of grant during the said period, State and Union Territory-wise;

(d) the reasons for delay in release of grant; and

(e) the time by when the pending grants are likely to be released?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.A.A. FATMI): (a) to (e) Under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme for 'Strengthening of Boarding and Hostel facilities for Girl Students of Secondary and Higher Secondary Schools', financial assistance was provided to voluntary organizations for running girls' hostel up to 2004-05. While the scheme was operational upto 2004-05, reimbursement grant under the scheme has been provided up to 2007-08. The amount released under this scheme during the last 3 years is as under:

2005-06	-	Rs. 3.90 Crore
2006-07	-	Rs. 2.99 Crore
2007	-	Rs. 0.48 Crore

Under this scheme, assistance was provided to the voluntary organizations directly and there was no State/UT-wise allocation. All the viable proposals for the period upto 2004-05 were processed, and no application for the subsequent period is being entertained, as the scheme in the present form has been discontinued.

Export of Iron Ore

5046. SHRI PRABODH PANDA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has imposed a ban on iron ore export recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) and (b) No, Sir.

(c) Production of iron ore is in excess of current domestic demand. The surplus iron ore fines, produced during mining as well as sizing and calibrating of lumpy ore is being evacuated through exports as there is less demand for it from the domestic steel industry.

[Translation]

Prices of Iron Ore

5047. DR. CHINTA MOHAN:
SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN:
SHRI JUAL ORAM:

Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) the annual domestic consumption of iron ore in the country and the total quantity of iron ore exported during each of the last three years, country-wise;

(b) the total production of iron ore and its domestic sales during the said period;

(c) the details of prices of iron ore during the April 2004 to 2008; and

(d) the details of various taxes and the rates at which they are being levied by the Union and State Governments on iron ore during the said period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): (a) and (b) As per available information, production and domestic consumption of iron-ore during 2004-05 to 2006-07 is given below:

(In million tones)		
Year	Production	Consumption
2004-05	145.94	57.84
2005-06 (provisional)	165.23	63.43
2006-07 (provisional)	180.91	72.00

Details of country-wise iron-ore export in the last three years are given below:-

(Quantity: in million metric ones)

Country	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07 (Provisional)
China	59.40	74.13	80.16
Japan	11.13	10.33	8.63
South Korea	2.18	1.32	1.91
Taiwan	0.61	0.14	-
Europe	2.89	2.10	2.07
Other countries	1.93	1.25	1.02
Total	78.14	89.27	93.79

(c) The information is being collected and shall be laid on the Table of the House.

(d) As per available information, an export duty of Rs. 300 per tonnes is levied on all iron ore, except for iron ore fines with less than 62% Fe content, for which

export duty is levied at Rs. 50 per tonne. State Governments collect royalty at rates ranging from Rs. 4.00 to Rs. 27.00 per tonne, dead rent at the rate of Rs. 100.00 per hectare per annum for first two years of idle holding of lease and Rs. 400.00 per hectare per annum for third year. In addition, the State Governments levy cess/taxes in their respective areas.

Action Plan to Check Terrorism

5048. SHRI RAJNARAYAN BUDHOLIA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has formulated any action plan to check the increase in terrorist activities in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the progress made in this regard so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) to (c) It is not a fact that terrorism has increased in the country. Although violence and militancy has continued in some parts of the country, the overall situation has remained largely in control.

The Government pursues a comprehensive policy to deal with terrorist by way of enhanced intelligence sharing, strengthening of border management, augmenting the capabilities of police and security forces by providing advanced/sophisticated weapons, communication systems and training. As a result, a large number of terrorist modules have been busted and possible major terrorist incidents averted. Institutional arrangements have also been put in place so that sharing and analysis of information can be done on a continuing basis in a systematic and coordinated manner. The Government has also established bilateral and multilateral mechanisms to address the external imperatives of terrorism.

[English]

Import-Export Policy on Food Items

5049. SHRI L. RAJAGOPAL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the present import-export policy on food items;

(b) whether the Indian farmers are not getting remunerative price for their produce due to excessive import of food items; and

(c) if so, the steps taken/proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) to (c) The detailed item-wise policy for import and export is available in the ITC (HS) Classification of Export and Import Items, 2004-09.

Imports are regulated through adjustments in Customs Tariff within the bound rates. This mechanism has been effectively used in case of edible oil, coconut, tea, coffee, pepper, skimmed milk powder, poultry products etc. In cases of prices falling below the specified levels, the Government undertakes procurement operations, to ensure that farmers' interests are protected. Imports are also regulated through the provisions of the Food Adulteration Act, 1954, Meat Food Product Order, Packaging requirements, Sanitary and Phyto-Sanitary (SPS) measures etc. The import of 300 sensitive items including major food items is being monitored on a regular basis by the Government for checking any surge in imports.

[Translation]

Grants to Private Colleges

5050. SHRI JIVABHAI A. PATEL:
SHRI TUKARAM GANPAT RAO RENGE
PATIL:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of colleges as on date in the country alongwith the break up of Government and private colleges, State-wise;

(b) the number of private colleges getting grant from the UGC;

(c) the criterion for giving grant to the private colleges;

(d) whether these grants are being misutilised;

(e) if so, the details thereof alongwith the success achieved to promote quality education; and

(f) the steps taken by the Government for promoting quality education in these private and Government colleges?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) According to the University Grants Commission (UGC), out of around 20,676 colleges in the

country, 6773 colleges are recognized by the Commission for release of financial assistance from the UGC. A list of these colleges, State-wise, is enclosed as statement.

(b) As on 31.3.2008, 3870 private colleges received grants from the UGC.

(c) Private Colleges that are permanently affiliated to State Universities and which get maintenance grants

(under Salary head) from the State Government concerned are eligible for grants from the UGC.

(d) and (e) The Government has no information.

(f) The UGC provides development grants to eligible colleges. Besides, the Commission gives grants to eligible colleges for improvement of quality of education under the UGC's scheme of 'Colleges with Potential for Excellence'.

Statement

No. of Colleges Government/Non Government State-wise under Section 2 (f) & 12 (B) of the UGC Act, 1956

Sl.No.	State/Union Territory	No. of Colleges			Total
		Government	Non-Government		
			Aided	Unaided	
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andhra Pradesh	185	226	31	442
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	06	—	—	06
3.	Assam	27	162	28	217
4.	Bihar	205	91	30	326
5.	Chhattisgarh	112	29	02	143
6.	Goa	08	15	03	26
7.	Gujarat	39	323	12	374
8.	Haryana	47	98	02	147
9.	Himachal Pradesh	39	10	—	49
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	41	08	49	98
11.	Jharkhand	61	25	10	96
12.	Karnataka	152	382	45	579
13.	Kerala	54	161	09	224
14.	Madhya Pradesh	295	124	20	439
15.	Maharashtra	75	694	123	892
16.	Manipur	36	12	06	54
17.	Meghalaya	2	22	07	31
18.	Mizoram	10	10	01	21

1	2	3	4	5	6
19.	Nagaland	04	07	03	14
20.	Orissa	117	200	47	364
21.	Punjab	48	162	06	216
22.	Rajasthan	129	90	20	239
23.	Sikkim	03	—	—	03
24.	Tamilnadu	80	203	51	334
25.	Tripura	13	03	—	16
26.	Uttar Pradesh	96	410	371	877
27.	Uttaranchal	30	12	03	45
28.	West Bengal	45	339	04	388
29.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	02	—	—	02
30.	Chandigarh	11	07	—	18
31.	Dadara and Nagar Haveli	—	—	—	—
32.	Daman and Diu	01	—	—	01
33.	Delhi	36	40	04	80
34.	Lakshadweep	—	—	—	—
35.	Pondicherry	10	01	—	11
Total		2016	3870	887	6773

*[English]***Shortage of Staff in DD and AIR**

5051. SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that Doordarshan Kendras and Akashvani Kendras in the Union Territory of Andaman and Nicobar Islands are not able to function properly due to acute shortage of Staff;

(b) if so, the details of shortage there; and

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

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) Existing staff is managing Doordarshan Kendra and Akashvani Kendra in the Union Territory of Andaman and Nicobar Islands, in spite of shortage of staff at these Kendras.

(b) At present 65 posts in Akashvani Kendra and 19 posts in Doordarshan Kendra are vacant.

(c) A proposal is being put up for consideration of the GOM constituted for matters relating to Prasar Bharati.

Unmarked Graves in Jammu and Kashmir

5052. SHRI UDAY SINGH: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of unmarked graves have been found in border villages near Uri as reported in the 'Hindustan Times' dated March 29, 2008;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Union Government proposes to investigate the matter;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) to (e) The Government does not consider it necessary or appropriate to comment on the newspaper report. However, as per information made available by the State Government, there are some cases where terrorists, who died close to the borders in the Uri area, in exchange of fire with the security forces, and could not be identified, have been buried as un-identified terrorist with the help and assistance of the local people of the area. The State Government has also informed that all cases of burial are well recorded at the respective Police Stations, and unless there is any specific complaint with regard to any particular person, no probe/investigation is required or contemplated.

FDI in Retail

5053. SHRI RANEN BARMAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to carve out retailing into separate categories and allow FDI into the sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has asked the Corporate Affairs Department to prepare a detailed note on organized retail sector;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL POLICY AND PROMOTION, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR): (a) and (b) As per extant policy, no Foreign

Direct Investment (FDI) is permitted in retail trading, except Single Brand Retail trading.

(c) to (e) No, Sir. However, the Government has instituted a study to assess the impact of organized retailing on unorganized retail trade through Indian Council for Research on International Economic Relations (ICRIER). Government has also commissioned a study to the National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER) on Growth linkages of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in India which would focus on the impact of FDI on rural economy. The final reports are yet to be submitted by these organizations.

Training Camps Run by SIMI

5054. SHRI DALPAT SINGH PARSTE:

SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR:

SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Student Islamic Movement of India (SIMI) is running training camps in the forests of the country, particularly in the State of Madhya Pradesh and Karnataka;

(b) if so, the total number of activists arrested from the said places alongwith the details of documents and items seized;

(c) whether active women SIMI activists indulge in motivating children to join the organization;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps proposed by the Government to check the nefarious designs of SIMI activists across the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) No, Sir. However, one training camp has been reported to have been organized at Aroda in Khargone district of Madhya Pradesh.

(b) As per available information, during 2008, no SIMI activists have been arrested from the forest area of Karnataka; however, 7 SIMI activists are reported to have been arrested from other places in the State of Karnataka. The items seized include gelatin sticks, detonators, nand grenade, stolen motor cycles, etc. In Madhya Pradesh,

54 SIMI activists have been arrested at different places in the State. Objectionable literature and documents, arms and ammunitions, gelatin sticks, mobiles, cash, computers, etc. have been reportedly seized.

(c) No such reports have been received.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) The activities of all such organizations having an adverse bearing on peace, communal harmony and security of the country are under constant watch of the law enforcement agencies and requisite action is taken on a continuing basis to prevent and check such activities, including ban under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967, as amended in 2004.

Allocation for Elementary Education

5055. ADV. SURESH KURUP:
PROF. CHANDER KUMAR:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether allocations for elementary education has fallen from 67 per cent in 2001 to 35 per cent in 2007-08;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether as per the norms of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan every school should have at least two rooms and two teachers; and

(d) if so, the details of schools in each State and Union Territory which has single room and single teacher, separately?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.A.A. FATMI): (a) and (b) No, Sir. The allocation of elementary education in the total allocation for education was 64.19 per cent in the year 2001-02 which has gone up to 64.96 percent in the year 2007-08.

(c) The Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan provides one teacher for every 40 children in primary and upper primary school and at least two teachers in a new primary school and one teacher for every class in a new upper primary school, a room for every teacher or for every grade/

class, whichever is lower in primary & upper primary school, with the provision that there would be two class rooms with verandah in every primary school with at least two teachers. A room for Head-Master in upper primary school/section.

(d) State/UT wise details of schools with single teacher and single class room are given in the statement.

Statement

Sl.No.	States/UTs	Number of single Room Government schools	Number of Government schools having single teacher
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	24691	7350
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	594	1650
3.	Assam	29966	17919
4.	Bihar	4653	2762
5.	Chhattisgarh	2396	6277
6.	Goa	237	355
7.	Gujarat	1421	1628
8.	Haryana	472	1348
9.	Himachal Pradesh	690	1180
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	2153	980
11.	Jharkhand	1670	6862
12.	Karnataka	5083	6127
13.	Kerala	38	32
14.	Madhya Pradesh	11286	26849
15.	Maharashtra	5675	4355
16.	Manipur	67	444
17.	Meghalaya	830	435
18.	Mizoram	37	63
19.	Nagaland	3	58
20.	Orissa	1640	5865
21.	Punjab	649	2194

1	2	3	4
22.	Rajasthan	3160	23575
23.	Sikkim	18	5
24.	Tamil Nadu	0	952
25.	Tripura	234	36
26.	Uttar Pradesh	987	7686
27.	Uttarakhand	364	2822
28.	West Bengal	6837	1780
29.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	10	9
30.	Chandigarh	0	0
31.	Dadara and Nagar Haveli	30	75
32.	Daman and Diu	2	1
33.	Delhi	9	9
34.	Lakshadweep	0	0
35.	Pondicherry	9	8
	India	105911	131691

Source: District Information System of Education (DISE) data for 2006-07 brought out by the National University of Educational Planning and Administration.

Private Universities

5056. SHRIMATI SANGEETA KUMARI SINGH DEO:
SHRI HARISINH CHAVDA:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the University Grants Commission to stop the mushrooming private universities in the country;

(b) the names of the private universities approved by the U.G.C. during the last three years;

(c) the number of cases pending with the U.G.C. for approval of private universities as on date; and

(d) the time by when these are likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) Private Universities are established by Act of Parliament or an Act of State Legislature. These private universities are regulated by the University Grants Commission (Establishment of and Maintenance of Standards in Private Universities) Regulations, 2003. Further, for the purpose of ascertaining the standards of teaching, examination and research of a University, the University Grants Commission (UGC) causes inspection of any department or departments. Finally, to assess the quality of University/Colleges, the UGC has established National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) under Section 12 (ccc) of the UGC Act, 1956.

(b) to (d) According to the University Grants Commission (UGC), the list of Private Universities approved by the Commission under Section 2(f) of the UGC Act, 1956 during the last three years is enclosed as statement. There are five proposals of private universities pending approval with the Commission. However, there is no definite time-frame fixed for clearance of such proposals.

Statement

List of Private Universities as on date

Sl.No.	Name of Private Universities	Years of Establishment
1	2	3
1.	Dr. C.V. Raman University, Kargi Road, Bilaspur (Chhattisgarh)	2006
2.	MATS University, Arang Kharora Highway, Distt. Raipur (Chhattisgarh)	2006
3.	Ganpat University, Ganpat Vidyanagar, Mehsana (Gujarat)	2006

1	2	3
4.	Martin Luther Christian University, KIPA Conference Centre, Shillong (Meghalaya)	2005
5.	The Institute of Chartered Financial Analysts of India University, Chaitlang, Aizawl (Mizoram)	2006
6.	The Global Open University, Wokha (Nagaland)	2006
7.	Lovely Professional University, G.T. Road, Near Chehru Railway Bridge, Distt. Kapurthala (Punjab)	2006
8.	Jaipur National University, Jagatpura, Jaipur (Rajasthan)	2007
9.	Eastern Institute for integrated Learning in Management University, Jorethang (Sikkim)	2006
10.	Institute of Chartered Financial Analysts of India (ICFAI), Agartala (Tripura)	2006
11.	Amity University, Noida (Uttar Pradesh)	2005
12.	Mohammad Ali Jauhar University, Rampur (Uttar Pradesh)	2006
13.	Mangalayatan University, Aligarh (Uttar Pradesh)	2006
14.	Institute of Chartered Financial Analysts of India (ICFAI), Dehradun (Uttarakhand)	2005
15.	University of Patanjali, Patanjali Yogpeeth, Haridwar (Uttarakhand)	2006

Leaving of Jobs by IPS Officers*[Translation]*

5057. SHRI SURESH PRABHAKAR PRABHU: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of Indian Police Service (IPS) officers who left the service during each of the last three years, till date;

(b) the reasons therefor; and

(c) the action taken by the Government to check such cases in future?

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

Complaints Against Police Personnel

5058. SHRI MANSUKHBHAI D. VASAVA:
SHRI HARISINH CHAVDA:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the police personnel are often found involved in misbehaving with the general public;

(b) if so, the number of complaints of such cases received by the Government during the last three years, State-wise;

(c) the action taken by the Government against such erring police officials during the above period, State-wise; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to improve the functioning of police for ensuring the dignity of the citizens?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI V. RADHIKA SELVI): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

**Resentment of Small Shopkeepers
against FDI in Retail**

5059. SHRI V.K. THUMMAR:
SHRI HARIKEWAL PRASAD:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is resentment among the small shopkeepers on the entry of MNCs and foreign investment in retail markets and shopping malls in the country;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government has received a number of representations from the small shopkeepers during the last three years in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the action taken by the Government in this regard alongwith the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL POLICY AND PROMOTION, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR): (a) to (d) Government has received a number of representations against permitting Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in retail trade from various industry associations, including small scale industry and retail traders. List of representations is enclosed as statement.

(e) As per extant policy, no Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) is permitted in retail trading, except Single Brand Retail trading. Government has instituted a study to assess the impact of organized retailing on unorganized retail trade through Indian Council for Research on International Economic Relations (ICRIER). Government has also commissioned a study to the National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER) on Growth linkages of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in India which would focus on the impact of FDI on rural economy. The final reports are yet to be submitted by these organizations.

Statement

List of Representations Against FDI in Retail Trade

Sl.No.	Association	Main Issue in the representation
1	2	3
1.	Federation of Associations of Maharashtra (Representations being received since 2000)	<p>Wholesale/retail traders form the backbone of the middle class population and their business ethos will be disturbed by induction of foreign players in this area.</p> <p>Retail/wholesale trading does not involve any specific technology and does not require large scale investment. Hence FDI should not be permitted.</p> <p>Report of Mckinsey & Co. on "India—The Growth Imperative" also covers the experience of Thailand. The Thai experience has resulted in the Retailers fighting for their survival forcing the Government of Thailand to consider a law for controlling large MNCs in the retail sector.</p>

1	2	3
2.	Bombay Small Scale Industries Association (Representations being received since 2000)	Support drawn from the Planning Commission Reports submitted by a Group headed by Dr. S.P. Gupta on targeting 10 million employment opportunities; and that submitted by Shri N.K. Singh against FDI in retail.
3.	Madhya Pradesh Laghu Udyog Sangh	Entry of multinational retailers like M/s Marks & Spencer would hurt the small traders and industries.
4.	Mahakoshal Chamber of Commerce & Industry	Action should be taken to prevent proliferation of multinational trading companies in the retail sector—specific reference made to Marks & Spencer.
5.	Federation of Retail Traders Welfare Association	Retail trade sector in India is based on the family concept. WTO agreement does not make it mandatory to allow FDI in retail trading. Therefore FDI should not be allowed in this sector.
6.	Consumer Welfare High Power Committee	Allowing FDI in retail will kill lakhs of small scale suppliers.
7.	All India Organisation of Chemists & Druggists	Decision to allow FDI in retail may be deferred to a more appropriate time to provide a breathing time to our members to prepare themselves to face the competition with foreign investors.
8.	Federation of Associations of Small Industries in India	Impact of entry of MNCs like Marks & Spencer on the local retailers.
9.	Wadhwan Industries Association	Entry of MNCs in the retail sector will adversely affect the small scale manufacturers as the sourcing would no longer be made locally.
10.	Ambattur Industrial Estate Manufacturers Association	Safeguards may be put in place to protect the Indian Small Scale Industry which is providing employment to lakhs of people.
11.	Zilla Adhikari District Udyog Vyapar Mandal, Lalitpur, Shri Rajini Kant Srivastava and Shri Nimarjit	Representation to the President regarding FDI in Retail Trade.
12.	Shri Rajesh Jaiswal, Delhi	FDI in Retail Trade.
13.	Bhartiya Janata Party Vyapar Prakoshat, Uttar Pradesh	Against the entry of Walmart in India.
14.	Nag-Vidarbha Chamber of Commerce, Nagpur	Protest against entry of FDI & Big corporate houses in retail trade.

1	2	3
15.	The Madras General Merchants Association, Chennai	Foreign Investment in retail trade.
16.	Tamilnadu Chamber of Commerce and Industry.	Permitting FDI in retail trade and entry of domestic corporate heavy weights in grocery, fruits and vegetables retail trade—opposed.
17.	M/S. Acom through PMO	Impact of allowing FDI in retail trade.
18.	M/s. GADAG District Chamber of Commerce & Industry.	FDI in retail trade.
19.	M/s Federation of Associations of Maharashtra, Mumbai	FDI in retail trade Walmart—Bharti for Cash & Carry Wholesale circumvents all regulations.
20.	Federation of Traders' Organisations of West Bengal	Change of Retail Trade scenario.
21.	Shri C.B. Aggarwal, Gondia	Retail Trade.
22.	M/s. Purasai Merchants Association, Chennai through PMO	Foreign Investment in Retail Trade.
23.	M/s. Tamilnadu Thangam, Velli, Vyrn, Nagal Vyaparigal Sammelanam, Chennai through PMO	Foreign Investment in Retail Trade.
24.	Eastern Bihar Chamber of Commerce & Industries, Patna.	FDI in Retail Trade.
25.	Vyapari Ekta Samiti, Bharatpur	FDI in Retail Trade.
26.	Shri Raelk Lal Mardia, Ahmedabad.	Not to allow Reliance Fresh or Reliance Group of Industries by any name entry into Agriculture (Farm Product) Retails Business.
27.	Shri Jethmal Lakhani, Bikaner	Retailers agitated due to Reliance shops selling goods cheaper.
28.	The Southern Gujarat Chamber of Commerce & Industry, Suran	Assistance to retail traders and other industries.
29.	Federation of Rajasthan Trade and Industry, Jaipur	Licence to Retail Trade.
30.	Bihar Rajya Khadyanna Vyavasai Sangh, Patna.	FDI in Retail Trade.

1	2	3
31.	The Retail & Dispensing Chemists' Association (Mumbai)	To enter the retail sector in the form of FDI.
32.	Raniganj Chamber of Commerce, Burdwan (W.B.)	FDI in retail trade.
33.	Association of Community Organisations for Reform Now, Louisiana	FDI in retail trade.
34.	Federation of Madras Merchants & Manufacturers Associations, Chennai.	FDI in retail trade.
35.	Bihar Rajya Khadyanna Vyavasay Sangh, Patna.	FDI in retail trade.
36.	Rashtriya Vyapar Mandal, New Delhi.	FDI in retail trade.
37.	Retailers Association of India, Mumbai	To intervene in the proposed ban on entry of the modern retailers by the Government of Kerala.
38.	Hardware Dealers Association, Itwari, Nagpur	FDI in retail trade.
39.	Bhartiya Udyog Vyapar Mandal, Delhi.	FDI in retail trade.
40.	Federation of Mumbai Retail Cloth Dealers Associations, Mumbai	FDI in retail trade.
41.	Kerala Vyapari Vyavasayi Ekopana Samithi, Trivandrum.	FDI in retail trade.
42.	Shri Ghanshyam Das Garg, Muzaffarnagar, Uttar Pradesh.	FDI in retail trade.
43.	Madrasa Sirajul Uloom, Saharanpur.	FDI in retail trade.
44.	All India Retailers Federation (Regd.) Jaipur	FDI in retail trade.
45.	U.P. Udyog Vyapar Pratinidhi Mandal, Ghatika Associations, Shahjhanpur.	FDI in retail trade.
46.	Distt. Udyog Vyapar Mandal, Lalitpur.	FDI in retail trade.
47.	All India Forward Bloc, Delhi State Committee, Delhi.	FDI in retail trade.
48.	Divisional Insurance Employees Association, Jalpaiguri, West Bengal.	FDI in retail trade.

*[English]***Mineral Resources for Export**

5060. SHRI HITEN BARMAN: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether any task force appointed by the Planning Commission has recommended for the opening of our mineral resources for exports;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it would have any effect on the industrialization of the country;

(d) if so, whether the Government proposes to reconsider the National Mineral Policy;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the reaction of the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): (a) to (f) As per available information, the Planning Commission has not appointed any task force for opening of mineral resources of the country for exports. However, the Government has recently enunciated new National Mineral Policy, 2008 which includes policy measures like assured right to next stage mineral concession, transferability of mineral concessions and transparency in allotment of concessions, in order to reduce delays which are seen as impediments to investment and technology flow in the mining sector in India. The new National Mineral Policy has been tabled in the Parliament and is available on the website of the Ministry of Mines (<http://mines.nic.in>).

Reimbursement of State Levies to Exporters

5061. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to devise a mechanism in which State Governments could reimburse State level levies to exporters;

(b) if so, whether State level input duties paid by exporters, octroi, mandi tax, sales tax on petroleum products, electricity tax, municipal cess, etc. are likely to be refunded; and

(c) if so, the extent to which the Ministry of Commerce and Industry has agreed to refund State levies to exporters?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) to (c) Government is committed to the fact that goods and services are exported and not the levies and taxes. Hoda Committee constituted for suggesting an alternative to DEPB scheme and formulation of a new scheme for reimbursement of State level indirect taxes/levies etc., submitted its report in 2007. No final decision has so far been taken in the matter.

*[Translation]***Fake Certificates**

5062. SHRI TUKARAM GANPAT RAO RENGE PATIL:
SHRI HARIKEWAL PRASAD:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether several people have managed to get jobs in offices under his Ministry on the basis of fake SC and ST and Other Backward Class certificates;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has constituted any inquiry in this matter;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the time by when the findings of this inquiry is likely to be received; and

(f) the steps taken by the Government to check such incidents in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (f) Yes, Sir. Eight cases have been detected so far, where concerned persons have got job on the basis of fake ST certificates under this Ministry. This Ministry has already taken necessary action as per the relevant rules. The instructions of Government of India issued from time to time in this regard are being followed scrupulously.

*[English]***Misuse of Anticipatory Bail**

5063. SHRI P.S. GADHAVI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the provision of anticipatory bail under the criminal procedure code is being misused by the criminals; and

(b) if so, the action proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI V. RADHIKA SELVI): (a) and (b) In the case of Balchand Jain Vs State of Madhya Pradesh AIR 1977 SC 366, the Supreme Court of India has laid down that the power under section 438 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973 is of an extraordinary character and must be exercised sparingly and in exceptional cases only. However, this matter falls exclusively within the purview of the judiciary.

Gold Reserves

5064. SHRI SUBRATA BOSE: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is adequate gold reserves in the country;

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

(c) whether the Geological Survey of India has been asked to find out the reserves available in the country; and

(d) if so, the progress made in this regard, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): (a) No, Sir. As per Indian Bureau of Mines year book (2006) total gold reserve of the country as on 1.4.2005 is 85.12 tonnes.

(b) The State-wise details of the reserve of gold is as follows:

State	Reserve (In tones)
Andhra Pradesh	6.02
Jharkhand	0.83
Karnataka	78.27

(c) Yes, Sir. Geological Survey of India (GSI) has been carrying out regional exploration for gold in the country.

(d) The State-wise progress of investigations made in this regard by GSI is given as per Statement.

Statement

*Progress of investigations for Gold carried out by GSI during the last five years
(Field Season 2002-03 to Field Season 2006-07)*

State	Area of Investigation	No. of Investigations
1	2	3
Andhra Pradesh	Anantapur, Cuddapah, Chittoor, Nellore and Kurnool districts	10
Karnataka	Haveri, Raichur, Tumkur, Chitradurga, Chikmagalur, Gadag, Bellary, Devangere, Dharwar, Belgam, North Kannara districts	38
Tamil Nadu	Nilgiri and Krishnagiri districts	3
Rajasthan	Banswara, Ajmer, Bhilwara, Udaipur, Jaipur districts	20
Jharkhand	Ranchi and West Singhbhum, Saraikela and Kharsawan Districts	16

1	2	3
Madhya Pradesh	Sidhi, Katni, Jabalpur and Balaghat districts	6
Chhattisgarh	Kanker, Mahasamund and Raipur districts	9
Kerala	Palakkad, Malappuram and Waynad districts	5
West Bengal	Bankura district	1
Uttar Pradesh	Sonbhadra and Jhansi districts	9
Maharashtra	Bhandara and Nagpur districts	4
Gujarat	Jamnagar district	2
Bihar	Jamui district	1

Non-Tariff Barriers between India and SAARC

5065. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the types of non-tariff barriers existing between India and SAARC countries;

(b) the extent of approximate loss due to such barriers; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to remove such barriers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) and (b) During the meeting of SAFTA Committee of Experts (COE), the member countries had constituted a Sub-Group on Non-Tariff Measures to look into Non-Tariff Measures (NTMs) and Para-Tariff Measures (PTMs) applied by one member country against the other. This Sub-Group was mandated to look into the NTMs and PTMs which are trade restrictive and hinder in the way of providing market access to other member countries. The Sub-Group is yet to submit its recommendations to SAFTA COE.

(c) India has constituted an Inter-Ministerial Task Force under the Department of Commerce, Ministry of Commerce and Industry to look into the issues of non-tariff barriers adopted by India as alleged by other countries. This Task Force has categorized these NTMs and PTMs into custom cooperation, trade facilitation and infrastructure, sanitary, phyto-sanitary issues and technical barriers to trade. The Task force is expected to make its recommendations when its deliberations are completed.

Procurement of Honey by KVIC

5066. SHRI NAND KUMAR SAI:
SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY:

Will the Minister of MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Honey producers in the country are being exploited by the multinational companies;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Khadi and Village Industries Commission has any proposal to procure honey from the farmers;

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

(e) the steps taken by KVIC to improve the infrastructure for procurement of honey from farmers in various parts of the country?

THE MINISTER OF MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD): (a) No, Sir. No such complaint or report regarding exploitation of the honey producers by the multinational companies has been received by the Government (in the Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises).

(b) Does not arise.

(c) to (e) Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) is primarily playing a catalytic role in production and marketing of honey by encouraging the institutions to create infrastructure at local level.

KVIC also has three departmental honey trading units located at New Delhi, Pune (Maharashtra) and Tripunithurai (Kerala), which are purchasing honey from the nearby directly aided institutions/beekeepers. Also, under a United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)—KVIC Joint Project, modern equipment, i.e., Honey Processing Plant, Bottling unit, Laboratory, comb foundation, etc., have been given to 12 directly aided institutions across the country, which procure honey from local beekeepers.

Ranking of Schools by CBSE

5067. SHRI NAND KUMAR SAI:
SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether CBSE proposes to rank various affiliated schools in the country on the basis of performance in Maths and Science as reported in the "Times of India" dated April 14, 2008;

(b) if so, the facts of the matter reported therein;

(c) whether any modalities have been worked out for selection of schools for such ranking;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the extent to which standard of Maths and Science is likely to be improved in the country after such ranking?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.A.A. FATMI): (a) and (b) Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) has informed that it is considering to introduce an assessment system for its affiliated schools in the subjects of Mathematics and Science in a phased manner so as to highlight the gaps in learning system among the schools as well as among various regions, and for appropriate invention.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) The above is only at the stage of conceptualization.

Meeting Between BSF and Pakistani Rangers

5068. SHRI M.K. SUBBA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a bi-annual meeting between BSF and Pakistani Rangers was held at Jodhpur recently;

(b) if so, the issues discussed and the outcome thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI V. RADHIKA SELVI): (a) to (c) No such Bi-Annual meeting between BSF and Pakistan Rangers was held at Jodhpur recently. However, such a Bi-annual meeting was recently held between BSF and Pakistan Rangers in Chandigarh from 26th to 29th March, 2008.

During the meeting, the issues discussed, broadly, were repatriation of inadvertent crossers, release of persons, construction of OP Towers, Posts, bunker and bund along international border, smuggling of narcotics, fake Indian currency notes (FICN), arms and ammunition.

Appropriate follow up action is taken in this regard. Further, the decisions taken in the meeting have also been brought to the notice of the concerned agencies/units for taking suitable follow up action, in consultation with the respective diplomatic channel, wherever required.

Right to Education

5069. SHRI K.S. RAO: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of comments received from State Governments regarding the Right to Education Bill, 2005, State-wise and Union Territory-wise;

(b) the details of financial implications involved for implementing Right to Education to achieve the target fixed for literacy;

(c) whether the Government proposes to provide incentive/Central assistance to State Governments to ensure Right to Education to every child between the age of 6 to 14 years, share expenditure on Education with the States, set up Central Universities and Institutions

for higher Education and National Vocational Mission to upgrade the quality of skill formation in the country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.A.A. FATMI): (a) Various States/UTs (Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Mizoram, Orissa, Pondicherry, Sikkim, Tamil Nadu, Tripura, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal) had given comments in response to the draft Central legislation on Right to Education circulated in August, 2005. The detailed State-wise comments are available on the Ministry's website <http://education.nic.in>.

(b) The financial estimates prepared by National University of Educational Planning and Administration (NUEPA) for implementation of the Right to Education Bill, 2005, drafted earlier, to put in to effect the right to free and compulsory education to all children in the age group of six to fourteen years, has since been revised to Rs. 2,28,674 crores over a seven year period from 2008-09 to 2014-15. The 11th Plan allocation for the Programmes of the National Literacy Mission is Rs. 6000 crores.

(c) and (d) While preparing draft Right to Education Bill, 2008, which is currently under consideration, comments of the States/UTs on the earlier draft Right to Education Bill, 2005 have been considered. In the present version of the Bill, it is proposed to provide that the financial estimates under Right to Education will be shared between Centre and States in accordance with such formula as the Central Government may determine from time to time in consultation with State Governments. The 11th Five Year Plan, endorsed by the Nation Development Council envisages, establishment of 7 Indian Institutes of Management (IIMs), 16 Central Universities in uncovered States, 14 world class Universities and 370 new degree colleges in districts having Gross Enrollment Ratio in higher education lower than the national level. It is also proposed to set up 8 new Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) 20 Indian Institutes of Information Technology (IIITs) and 2 Indian Institutes of Science Education & Research (IISERs). A Centrally sponsored Scheme of Vocationalisation of Secondary Education is being implemented under which financial assistance is provided to States/UTs for introduction of Vocational Courses in the Higher Secondary Schools.

Special Assistance for Tea Research Association

5070. SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Tea Research Association (TRA) has sought special assistance from the Union Government to upgrade research activities;

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

(c) whether there is also a proposal to nationalize the TRA; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Government has announced a special Centenary Grant of Rs. 20 crore to TRA. Tea Board is in the process of finalizing the proposal in consultation with TRA.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

MPEDA Recommendations to Expand Deep Sea Fishing Fleet

5071. SHRI JASUBHAI DHANABHAI BARAD: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Marine Products Export Development Authority has made any recommendations to expand the Indian deep sea fishing fleet;

(b) if so, the details thereof during the last three years and in the current year till date;

(c) the number of deep sea fishing vessels required in this regard;

(d) whether the Marine Products Export Development Authority proposes to provide funds for the purchase of such boats; and

(e) if so, the details thereof alongwith the number of boats likely to be purchased?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) to (e) MPEDA is facilitating expansion of the fishing fleet for sustainable exploitation of deep sea under exploited, commercially important resources such as Oceanic Tuna. During the XI Plan period, MPEDA has proposed conversion of 900 existing vessels for tuna fishing and introduction of 44 new vessels for tuna fishing under its financial assistance schemes. This conversion/introduction is targeted within 5 years and will cover mechanized fishing vessels & deep sea fishing vessels. In 2007-08 110 vessels were upgraded to tune longliners with MPEDA assistance. Details of the relevant schemes of assistance are as follows:

- For vessels of size above 20 M. Overall Length (OAL), the quantum of subsidy is 50 of the cost of conversion limited to Rs. 15 lakh.
- In the case of vessels of size 13-20 M OAL the subsidy is 50% of the cost of conversion limited to a maximum of Rs. 7.5 lakh.
- In addition to above, vessels of size less than 20 M OAL are given subsidy for construction of insulated fish hold, refrigerated fish hold, ice generator, Refrigerated sea water system onboard for preservation of the catch. The quantum of assistance is 30% of the cost of construction of these facilities limited to a maximum of Rs. 5 lakh.
- Interest subsidy of 5% for construction of mechanized vessels subject to a maximum of Rs. 10 lakh. For deep sea fishing vessels the interest is 5% limited to a maximum of Rs. 15 lakh.

Agro Industries in Rural Areas

5072. SHRI NAVEEN JINDAL: Will the Minister of MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to launch a pilot project to promote agro industries, particularly in the rural areas in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether matching marketing facilities are likely to be provided as part of the project;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the time by when the project is likely to be started?

THE MINISTER OF MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD): (a) No, Sir. However, the Government (in the Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises) has proposed to introduce a new scheme titled "Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme" (PMEGP), by merging the existing credit-linked subsidy scheme of Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana (PMRY) with another credit-linked subsidy scheme titled Rural Employment Generation Programme (REGP). People from rural as well as urban areas of the country are proposed to be benefited under this proposed scheme. Under this scheme, financial assistance in the form of subsidy/margin money is to be provided for setting up of units costing up to Rs. 25 lakh with increased levels of subsidy for smaller value projects and those taken up by beneficiaries belonging to marginalized sections of society. The scheme has been proposed to be implemented through Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC), State/Union Territory Khadi and Village Industries Boards (KVIBs) and District Industries Centres (DICs) to State Government.

(b) to (e) Do not arise.

[Translation]

Enrollment of students in Universities

5073. SHRI MAHAVIR BHAGORA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the percentage of students enrolled in various universities of the country, State-wise and Union Territory-wise;

(b) whether any survey has been carried out regarding enrollment/gender-wise and reserved category-wise;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to increase the percentage of enrollment?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (c) Based on available

information, a Statement indicating the State-wise estimated enrollment in higher education of all categories of students, as also SC and ST students (gender-wise) within the age group of 18-24 years, during 2005-06, is given in the statement.

(d) In order to achieve the targeted GER increase of 5% by the end of XI Plan, a substantial increase in Plan allocation has been made in the XI Plan for the expansion of higher education, for setting up of institutions such as Central Universities in uncovered States, establishment

of World Class Universities, Indian Institutes of Technology, Indian Institutes of Management, Indian Institutes of Science Education and Research, Indian Institutes of Information Technology, and Schools for Planning and Architecture. Expansion of capacity of the existing institutions, incentivising State Government for increasing State outlays on higher education, setting up of new colleges in low GER districts through partnership with State Governments are also some of proposed steps for achieving higher GER.

Statement

Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER)-2005-06 in Higher Education (18-24 Years)

Sl.No.	States/UTs	I-All Categories of Students			II-SC Students			III-ST Students		
		Boys	Girls	Total	Boys	Girls	Total	Boys	Girls	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
1.	Andhra Pradesh	17.85	10.79	14.35	15.73	7.34	11.51	13.19	4.70	8.55
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	8.54	5.72	7.19	-	-	-	11.15	7.07	9.05
3.	Assam	8.95	4.60	6.80	7.21	4.11	5.74	7.91	3.98	5.89
4.	Bihar	9.17	2.22	5.86	8.32	0.93	4.63	7.61	2.67	5.20
5.	Chhattisgarh	9.81	7.53	8.69	13.64	10.25	11.99	5.47	2.74	4.07
6.	Goa	11.35	14.99	13.05	9.95	9.05	9.50	-	-	-
7.	Gujarat	13.33	11.11	12.29	14.37	10.40	12.55	9.39	5.75	7.57
8.	Haryana	11.27	11.12	11.21	6.13	4.28	5.33	-	-	-
9.	Himachal Pradesh	14.92	13.45	14.21	7.67	5.89	6.81	20.03	16.66	18.34
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	8.28	7.25	7.80	6.99	6.93	6.97	8.09	7.83	7.97
11.	Jharkhand	10.24	6.15	8.27	4.08	1.59	2.87	2.02	1.02	1.51
12.	Karnataka	15.76	11.73	13.84	10.98	8.03	9.55	6.58	4.01	5.36
13.	Kerala	10.91	12.20	11.57	8.17	12.73	10.54	9.97	13.34	11.78
14.	Madhya Pradesh	17.42	9.54	13.77	15.10	11.64	13.52	11.35	6.32	8.81
15.	Maharashtra	15.76	11.72	13.93	16.06	13.37	14.81	9.94	6.66	8.31
16.	Manipur	14.38	10.93	12.64	16.10	12.83	14.46	12.16	10.67	11.41
17.	Meghalaya	14.63	13.30	13.96	26.00	24.80	25.40	10.68	10.94	10.81
18.	Mizoram	13.83	9.39	11.66	-	-	-	7.40	6.90	7.15

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
19.	Nagaland	12.26	6.72	9.63	-	-	-	6.99	3.71	5.43
20.	Orissa	15.06	3.49	9.34	4.60	1.66	3.16	3.16	0.32	1.69
21.	Punjab	11.99	12.09	12.03	4.63	5.26	4.87	-	-	-
22.	Rajasthan	9.29	5.25	7.41	7.00	2.74	5.06	8.53	2.72	5.70
23.	Sikkim	14.07	10.92	12.60	32.70	34.20	33.45	2.83	2.26	2.54
24.	Tamil Nadu	19.04	13.68	16.36	9.82	6.98	8.28	5.91	3.10	4.40
25.	Tripura	7.54	5.48	6.50	7.57	4.91	6.24	4.60	2.23	3.35
26.	Uttar Pradesh	10.56	7.77	9.29	10.52	6.50	8.71	99.93	22.12	61.03
27.	Uttarakhand	16.14	15.31	15.74	9.66	7.50	8.73	19.63	14.86	17.36
28.	West Bengal	10.35	5.98	8.21	6.85	3.14	5.02	4.83	2.40	3.55
29.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	5.84	7.83	6.74	-	-	-	4.45	4.45	4.45
30.	Chandigarh	35.87	49.51	41.41	15.95	14.86	15.47	-	-	-
31.	Dadara and Nagar Haveli	0.00	0.00	0.00	-	-	-	0.00	0.00	0.00
32.	Daman and Diu	3.77	4.44	3.96	-	-	-	4.90	2.70	3.80
33.	Delhi	43.90	49.83	46.39	15.82	13.01	14.60	-	-	-
34.	Lakshadweep	0.00	0.00	0.00	-	-	-	0.00	0.00	0.00
35.	Puducherry	26.22	21.78	23.96	24.45	17.70	21.58	-	-	-
	India	13.63	9.37	11.61	10.16	6.42	8.39	8.59	4.69	6.61

Source: Abstract of Selected Educational Statistics-2005-06.

[English]

Projection of India As Business Friendly Place

5074. SHRI K.J.S.P. REDDY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received suggestions/complaints from investors to improve the image of India as a business-friendly place;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL POLICY AND PROMOTION, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR): (a) to (c) India's efforts at improving its image as a business-friendly-place are an ongoing and continuous exercise. Regulatory framework is periodically reviewed and steps taken to rationalize and simplify business procedures. Various measures undertaken by the Government to improve business environment in the country include steps for improving industrial infrastructure, introduction of Value Added Tax from April 2005, E-Governance Initiatives like MCA-21, Investment Policy liberalization, Single Window Systems by State Governments, single window for payment of income tax and corporate tax, ICE-Gate for online filing of custom and excise documents, Right to Information Act 2005 and

Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises Act, 2006. In addition, the Government organizes investment promotion events in India and abroad. Further, the Government of India has been sorting out the investment problems of Foreign investors from time to time through Foreign Investment Implementation Authority (FIIA). Various international agencies rank countries on the parameter of attractiveness of investment. India has been ranked as the second most attractive destination for FDI in the "World Investment Report 2007" by UNCTAD and by AT Kearney in FDI Confidence Index Survey 2007.

[Translation]

Death of Prisoners in Jail

5075. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of prisoners died in various jails during each of the last three years, till date, jail-wise, gender-wise and State-wise;

(b) whether the Government has conducted/proposed to conduct any inquiry on the said deaths in the jails; and

(c) if so, the details and outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) The information relating to death of prisoners is not maintained jail-wise. However, as per the data compiled by the National Crime Record Bureau (NCRB), the total number

of prisoners who died in various jails in the country during 2004 to 2006 are as under:

Year	Male prisoner	Female prisoner	Total
2004	1144	25	1169
2005	1341	46	1387
2006	1369	55	1424

The details of information State-wise, gender-wise and year-wise may be seen at Statement I, II and III.

(b) and (c) "Prisons" is a State subject under List II of the Seventh Schedule to the Constitution and Prison Administration is the responsibility of the respective State Governments.

However the Model Prison Manual circulated to all State Governments prescribes various measures such as keeping the prisoners under safe and humane conditions, providing medical facilities etc. In case of death of any prisoner, the postmortem is required to be conducted immediately. A full report on the circumstances of death of prisoner is required to be submitted and suitable action against the guilty officials is to be taken as per law.

The National Human Rights Commission have also issued an advisory to all the State Governments directing that the concerned District Magistrates and Superintendent of Police should be instructed to report to the Secretary General of the Commission about such incidents within twenty four hours of the occurrence or of these officers having come to know about such incidents. Failure to report promptly would give rise to the presumption that there was an attempt to suppress the incident.

Statement I

State/UT-wise and Gender-wise Incidence of Deaths of Inmates Due to Various Causes in Prisons During 2004

Sl.No.	Name of State	Natural Death		Unnatural deaths such as Suicide, execution, murder by inmates etc.		Total	
		M	F	M	F	M	F
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Andhra Pradesh	110	4	6	0	116	4
2.	Arunachal Pradesh						
3.	Assam	21	0	1	0	22	0

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
4.	Bihar	83	2	13	0	96	2
5.	Chhattisgarh	27	1	2	0	29	1
6.	Goa	0	0	1	0	1	0
7.	Gujarat	23	1	4	0	27	1
8.	Himanchal Pradesh	5	0	1	0	6	0
9.	Haryana	23	2	4	3	27	5
10.	Jharkhand	46	0	6	0	52	0
11.	Jammu and Kashmir	4	0	2	0	6	0
12.	Karnataka	49	0	3	0	52	0
13.	Kerala	45	0	3	0	48	0
14.	Madhya Pradesh	75	0	0	0	75	0
15.	Maharashtra	144	6	3	0	147	6
16.	Manipur	0	0	0	0	0	0
17.	Meghalaya	2	0	1	0	3	0
18.	Mizoram	2	0	0	0	2	0
19.	Nagaland	0	0	0	0	0	0
20.	Orissa	42	1	1	0	43	1
21.	Punjab	32	0	21	0	53	0
22.	Rajasthan	45	0	6	0	51	0
23.	Sikkim	0	0	0	0	0	0
24.	Tamilnadu	95	1	8	0	103	1
25.	Tripura	2	0	0	0	2	0
26.	Uttar Pradesh	68	1	27	0	95	1
27.	Uttaranchal	5	0	0	0	5	0
28.	West Bengal	38	0	8	0	46	0
29.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	1	0	0	0	1	0
30.	Chandigarh	2	1	0	0	2	1
31.	Dadara and Nagar Haveli	0	0	0	0	0	0
32.	Daman and Diu	0	0	0	0	0	0

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
33.	Delhi	27	2	7	0	34	2
34.	Lakshadweep	0	0	0	0	0	0
35.	Pondicherry	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total		1016	22	128	3	1144	25

Statement II

*State/UT-wise and Gender-wise incidence of Deaths of Inmates Due to
Various Causes in Prisons During 2005*

Sl.No.	Name of State	Natural Death		Unnatural deaths such as suicide, Execution, murder by inmates etc.		Total	
		M	F	M	F	M	F
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Andhra Pradesh	127	0	2	0	129	0
2.	Arunachal Pradesh						
3.	Assam	21	0	4	1	25	1
4.	Bihar	188	9	1	0	189	9
5.	Chhattisgarh	60	1	0	0	60	1
6.	Goa	1	0	3	0	4	0
7.	Gujarat	25	2	5	0	30	2
8.	Himachal Pradesh	5	0	1	0	6	0
9.	Haryana	14	1	0	0	14	1
10.	Jharkhand	60	1	2	0	62	1
11.	Jammu and Kashmir	3	0	0	0	3	0
12.	Karnataka	57	2	2	0	59	2
13.	Kerala	34	0	3	1	37	1
14.	Madhya Pradesh	96	0	5	0	101	0
15.	Maharashtra	104	7	4	1	108	8
16.	Manipur	0	0	0	0	0	0
17.	Meghalaya	1	0	1	0	2	0
18.	Mizoram	0	0	0	0	0	0

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
19.	Nagaland	2	1	1	0	3	1
20.	Orissa	35	2	1	0	36	2
21.	Punjab	80	0	5	0	85	0
22.	Rajasthan	44	1	0	0	44	1
23.	Sikkim	0	0	0	0	0	0
24.	Tamilnadu	88	9	7	0	93	9
25.	Tripura	5	0	0	0	5	0
26.	Uttar Pradesh	157	3	11	0	168	3
27.	Uttaranchal	6	0	1	0	7	0
28.	West Bengal	39	1	1	0	40	1
29.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	2	0	0	0	2	0
30.	Chandigarh	3	0	0	0	3	0
31.	Dadara and Nagar Haveli	0	0	0	0	0	0
32.	Daman and Diu	0	0	0	0	0	0
33.	Delhi	22	3	1	0	23	3
34.	Lakshadweep	0	0	0	0	0	0
35.	Pondicherry	0	0	3	0	3	0
Total		1277	43	64	3	1341	1387

Statement III

State/UT-wise and Gender-wise Incidence of Deaths of Inmates Due to Various Causes in Prisons During 2006

Sl.No.	Name of State	Natural Death		Unnatural deaths such as suicide, Execution, murder by inmates etc.		Total	
		M	F	M	F	M	F
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Andhra Pradesh	117	0	3	0	120	0
2.	Arunachal Pradesh						
3.	Assam	25	0	1	1	26	1
4.	Bihar	157	7	9	0	166	7
5.	Chhattisgarh	42	1	4	0	46	1

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
6.	Goa	0	0	0	0	0	0
7.	Gujarat	47	0	0	1	47	1
8.	Himachal Pradesh	1	0	1	0	2	0
9.	Haryana	41	4	1	1	42	5
10.	Jharkhand	47	2	3	0	50	2
11.	Jammu and Kashmir	3	0	0	0	3	0
12.	Karnataka	67	1	2	0	69	1
13.	Kerala	34	2	3	0	37	2
14.	Madhya Pradesh	75	1	0	0	75	1
15.	Maharashtra	100	9	5	1	105	10
16.	Manipur	0	0	1	0	1	0
17.	Meghalaya	0	0	0	0	0	0
18.	Mizoram	0	0	1	0	1	0
19.	Nagaland	3	0	1	0	3	1
20.	Orissa	45	1	3	0	48	1
21.	Punjab	67	0	5	0	72	0
22.	Rajasthan	53	1	2	1	55	2
23.	Sikkim	0	0	0	0	0	0
24.	Tamilnadu	97	5	12	0	109	5
25.	Tripura	5	0	0	0	5	0
26.	Uttar Pradesh	175	5	11	0	180	11
27.	Uttaranchal	7	4	2	0	9	4
28.	West Bengal	63	5	5	0	68	5
29.	Andaman and Niobar Islands	0	0	0	0	0	0
30.	Chandigarh	3	0	0	0	3	0
31.	Dadara and Nagar Haveli	0	0	0	0	0	0
32.	Daman and Diu	0	0	0	0	0	0
33.	Delhi	19	2	1	0	20	2
34.	Lakshadweep	0	0	0	0	0	0
35.	Pondicherry	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total		1293	50	76	5	1369	55

*[English]***Language Teachers**

5076. SHRI SUGRIB SINGH:
SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL:
SHRI NAND KUMAR SAI:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of language teachers appointed under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme in various States and Union Territories during each of the last three years, State and Union Territory-wise;

(b) the details of the initiatives taken for promotion and development of all the languages listed in Schedule VIII of the Constitution;

(c) the details of the allocation for Centrally Sponsored Schemes during each of the last three years for promotion of various languages;

(d) the details of funds allocated and utilized under the Area Intensive and Madarsa Modernization Programme

during the said period, State-wise and Union Territory-wise; and

(e) the number of Madarsa benefited during the said period, State-wise and Union Territory-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) and (b) There is only one Centrally Sponsored Scheme for promotion of various languages viz. 'Scheme of Financial Assistance for Appintment of Language Teachers'. The details of numbers of Language Teachers assisted along with grants released to various States/UTs during the last three years are given in the Statement I.

(c) The details are given in the Statement II.

(d) and (e) The funds allocated to various States/UTs under the Madrasas Modernisation Programme during the last three years is given in the statement III. Information regarding Madrasa-wise utilization of funds is not maintained centrally since funds under the programme are released to the States/UTs who, in turn, release it to individual Madrasas and subsequently Utilisation Certificate is given by the respective State/UT Government.

Statement I

(Rs. In Lakhs)

Sl.No.	Name of the State	2005-06		2006-07		2007-08	
		No. of Teachers	Grant released	No. of Teachers	Grant released	No. of Teachers	Grant released
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Nagaland	-	-	200-H	143.00		
2.	Mizoram	991-H	484.00	991-H	1292.38	687-H	244.00
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	200-H	204.00	200-H	204.00		
4.	Karnataka	500-H	665.60	325-H	313.21		
5.	Andhra Pradesh	500-H	125.48	500-H 78-U	317.87 54.34	1400-U	175.00
6.	Madhya Pradesh	229-U	27.48				
7.	Uttarakhand	263-U	31.58				

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
8.	Himachal Pradesh					100-Pb	83.20
						100-U	
9.	Chhattisgarh					426-U	106.00
	Total	2191-H	1538.12	2216-H	2324.80	1826-U	608.20
		492-U		78-U		687—	
						100-Pb	

Grand Total

Number of Teachers: 4977

Grant Released: Rs. 44,71,12,000/- (Rupees forty four crore seventy one lakh and twelve thousand only)

Abbreviations used: H for Hindi
U for Urdu
Pb for Punjabi.

Statement II

The following schemes are being run all over the country for the development of languages:

1. **Central Hindi Directorate (CHD)**, is a subordinate office responsible to promote and propagate Hindi and to develop it as a link language throughout India in pursuance of Article 351 of the Constitution of India. The Directorate implements the schemes of publication of bilingual/trilingual dictionaries, correspondence courses, awards to Hindi writers, extension services and programmes, Hindi through cassettes etc.
2. **Commission for Scientific and Technical Terminology (CSTT)**, is a subordinate office established as per the recommendation of a Committee constituted under the provisions of Clause (4) of Article 344 of the Constitution. The Commission is engaged in the task of evolving technical terms in Hindi and Indian languages, producing of University level books, definitional dictionaries and various reference literatures.
3. **Kendriya Hindi Sansthan (KHS)**, a fully funded autonomous organization responsible for the propagation and expansion of the use of Hindi and its teaching in non-Hindi States through training of in-service Hindi teachers.
4. **National Council for Promotion of Urdu Language (NCPUL)**, a fully funded autonomous organizations to promote Urdu Language.
5. **National Council for Promotion of Sindhi Language (NCPSL)**, to develop promote and propagate the Sindhi language.
6. **Central Institute of Indian Languages (CILL)**, a subordinate office to help evolve/implement the Language Policy of Government of India and coordinate the development of Indian languages by conducting research in the areas of language analysis, language pedagogy, language technique and language use in society.
7. **Rashtriya Sanskrit Sansthan (RSKS)**, a Deemed University (with 10 Campuses) with the objectives of preserving, propagating and modernizing traditional learning and research in Sanskrit.
8. **Maharishi Sandipani Rashtriya Ved Vidya Pratishthan (MSRVVP)**, Ujjain, an autonomous organization established for the preservation, conservation and development of Vedic Studies through establishing and supporting Ved Pathshalas.
9. The Scheme of "Appointment of Language Teachers" provides 100% grant to State Governments for three distinct components i.e.

- (a) Salaries for Hindi Teachers in schools in non-Hindi speaking States.
- (b) Salaries of Urdu Teachers in State Government schools in those blocks/districts that have a significant educationally backward minority/population.
- (c) Under the Modern Indian Language component, salaries are born for any teacher of any of the languages listed in the 8th schedule of the Constitution (other than the mother tongue/official language/first language of the State) that is taught as the third language.

This is a demand driven scheme and funds are released on the basis of requirements projected by the State Governments.

10. Development of Classical Tamil Language.
The scheme includes the following components.

- (a) Certificate of honour to distinguished scholars of Classical Tamil Language.
- (b) Tamil Language Promotion Board.
- (c) Centre of Excellence for Development of Classical Tamil Language at Central Institute of Indian Languages, Mysore.
- (d) Fellowships for study of Tamil as a Classical Language.

Statement III

(Amount Rs. in Lakhs)

Name of State/UTs	2005-06		2006-07		2007-08	
	Amount	No. of Madrasahs	Amount	No. of Madrasahs	Amount	No. of Madrasahs
Andhra Pradesh	35.20	60	48.60	135	48.60	81
Bihar	79.92	111	-	-	79.92	111
Jammu and Kashmir	-	-	12.60	20	-	-
Orissa	168.96	116	189.84	145	104.40	145
Madhya Pradesh	384.00	446	287.69	457	75.11	889
Maharashtra	3.16	4	-	-	-	-
Kerala	59.04	84	338.91	429	-	-
Tripura	45.72	127	45.72	127	45.72	127
Uttar Pradesh	235.25	683	2481.96	3380	3010.54	4170
Tamil Nadu	-	-	-	-	-	-
Chhattisgarh	-	-	242.92	208	-	-
Chandigarh	-	-	0.72	1	-	-
Karnataka	-	-	77.41	72	-	-
Uttarakhand	-	-	109.03	143	-	-
Total	1011.25	1631	3835.40	5118	3364.29	5523

Federation of Film Societies of India

5077. SHRI REWATI RAMAN SINGH: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Federation of Film Societies of India (FFSI) proposes to celebrate Golden Jubilee year in 2008-09;

(b) if so, whether the Government has any proposal to release special grant to the FFSI for this purpose;

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

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) Yes, Sir. FFSI has informed that they have drawn a plan to celebrate the 50th Year of FFSI in December, 2008.

(b) to (d) This Ministry is not in receipt of any such proposal for release of special grant from FFSI.

D.Ed. Courses

5078. SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of technical educational institutions in Andhra Pradesh which have submitted application to the South Regional Committee, NCTE and approved for starting D.Ed. course in the last year separately;

(b) the number of Teachers Training Institutes in Andhra Pradesh in particular and other Southern States in general set up in the last year; and

(c) the number of technical educational institutions granted recognition by the Ministry for Starting D. Ed. Course for the same period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.A.A. FATMI): (a) 72 applications from the State of Andhra Pradesh were received by Southern Regional Committee NCTE during the period 01.04.2007 to 31.03.2008 for D. Ed. Course, out of which 8 were granted recognition.

(b) Teacher Training Institutes are recognized by NCTE for running different courses in teacher education. Details of recognition granted in the Southern States by the Southern Regional Committee of NCTE during 01.04.2007 to 31.03.2008 are as under:-

Andhra Pradesh	326
Karnataka	379
Kerala	47
Tamil Nadu	434
Pondicherry	10

(c) Total Number of D. Ed. Courses which were granted recognition by the NCTE during 2007-08 is 1063.

[Translation]

Briefing of Media by Police Officers

5079. SHRI JIVABHAI A. PATEL:
SHRI HARIKEWAL PRASAD:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the police officers are given directions to brief the media on certain offences;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the effects of such briefings and interviews given by the police officials on the legal system; and

(d) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) to (d) 'Police' and 'Public order' are State subjects under the Seventh Schedule of the Constitution of India and therefore, the State Governments are primarily responsible for standardizing the system by which media can have access to the information they desire, subject to the consideration of legitimate public interest.

[English]

Investment by PIOs in Aviation Sector

5080. SHRI RANEN BARMAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received some representations for non-implementation of policy decision allowing Persons of Indian Origin (PIOs) and Non-Resident Indians (NRIs) to invest upto 100 percent in the domestic aviation sector; and

(b) if so, the steps being taken to issue directives to the concerned Ministries/Departments and State Governments clarifying the Government's stand on FDI by PIOs in aviation sector under FEMA?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL POLICY AND PROMOTION, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR): (a) No, Sir.

(b) As per extant policy, Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) up to 49% is permitted in Scheduled Air Transport Service/Domestic Scheduled Passenger Airlines. Investment by Non-Resident Indians (NRI) in this activity is permitted up to 100%. Section 2(w) of the Foreign Exchange Management Act refers to both NRI and Persons of Indian Origin (PIOs) as 'persons resident outside India'. Normally, the PDI policy extends similar dispensation to investment by NRI and PIO. However, in the Civil Aviation Sector, the policy has allowed a special dispensation only to NRI. Also, the Aircraft Rules 1937 stipulate that a Scheduled or Non-Scheduled air transport Operator's Permit can be granted only to a citizen of India or a company/body corporate, provided, *inter-alia* that its substantial ownership and effective control is vested in Indian nationals.

Involvement of Foreigners in Acts of Terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir

5081. SHRIMATI SANGEETA KUMARI SINGH DEO:
SHRI KASHIRAM RANA:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has found evidence of involvement of foreign nationals in terrorist activities in the State of Jammu and Kashmir;

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

(c) the number of terrorists including foreign nationals active in the State of Jammu and Kashmir; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The State of Jammu and Kashmir is facing cross border terrorism for the last two decades. In this regard, the apprehended militants had disclosed the foreign nationalities of fellow militants. Apart from this the foreign nationality of militants is confirmed by the possession of Identity cards marking on shoes, clothes, cigarettes and other items on killed militants.

(c) Available reports indicate that there are an estimated 1200 terrorists including foreign terrorists who are active in the State of Jammu and Kashmir.

(d) The Central Government in tandem with the State Government has adopted a multi-round approach to contain cross-border terrorism/infiltration in Jammu and Kashmir. This includes strengthening of border management and multi-tiered & multi-modal establishment along the border/Line of Control, construction of border fencing, continuous upgradation of the State Police and central forces through Improved weaponry, surveillance and communication equipments, use of technology, sharing of intelligence and operational cooperation between the various agencies involved in counter terrorism operations in the State. The situation is being closely and periodically reviewed both at the level of the Central Government and the State Government through the Unified Headquarters set up under the Chairmanship of the Chief Minister of Jammu and Kashmir.

Recognition of Colleges

5082. SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of colleges in the country that have applied to the UGC for recognition and financial assistance, State-wise;

(b) the number of cases out of the above pending for over a year as on 1st January, 2008; and

(c) the time by when these are likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D.

PURANDESWARI): (a) According to the University Grants Commission (UGC), 417 Colleges applied the Commission in 2007 for recognition and financial assistance. A State-wise list of such colleges is as per Statement.

(b) and (c) Out of 417 applications received from

colleges seeking recognition and financial assistance from the UGC, 165 applications are pending with the Commission for want of information/documents from the applicant colleges. As the UGC recognition is contingent upon receipt of requisite documents, no definite time frame can be given.

Statement

Number of Proposals received in the UGC for the year of 2007 under Section 2(f) of the UGC Act, 1956

Sl.No.	State	Number of proposals received in the UGC	Number of proposals pending in the UGC	Number of proposals cleared in the UGC under Section 2(f)/2 (f) & 12(B) of the UGC Act
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	18	04	14
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	—	—	—
3.	Assam	18	11	07
4.	Bihar	18	08	10
5.	Chhattisgarh	—	—	—
6.	Goa	—	—	—
7.	Gujarat	12	7	5
8.	Haryana	1	—	1
9.	Himachal Pradesh	—	—	—
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	13	10	3
11.	Jharkhand	7	1	6
12.	Karnataka	19	16	3
13.	Kerala	3	2	1
14.	Madhya Pradesh	13	10	3
15.	Maharashtra	68	38	30
16.	Manipur	1	—	1
17.	Meghalaya	1	—	1
18.	Mizoram	4	1	3
19.	Nagaland	—	—	—
20.	Orissa	26	6	20

1	2	3	4	5
21.	Punjab	1	—	1
22.	Rajasthan	10	5	5
23.	Sikkim	—	—	—
24.	Tamilnadu	15	10	5
25.	Tripura	—	—	—
26.	Uttar Pradesh	161	33	128
27.	Uttaranchal	—	—	—
28.	West Bengal	7	2	5
29.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	—	—	—
30.	Chandigarh	—	—	—
31.	Dadara and Nagar Haveli	—	—	—
32.	Daman and Diu	—	—	—
33.	Delhi	1	1	—
34.	Lakshadweep	—	—	—
35.	Pondicherry	—	—	—
Total		417	165	252

Termination of Services of IPS Officers*[Translation]*

5083. SHRI SURESH PRABHAKAR PRABHU: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of IPS officers under suspension and terminated during the last five years, till date, separately; and

(b) the total number of such officials convicted?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL):

(a) and (b) According to the available information, including the reports received from the State Governments/Union Territories, during the last five years 47 IPS officers were placed under suspension. Out of this, one officer has been dismissed from service and one officer has been convicted.

India's Share in World Herbal Trade

5084. SHRI MANSUKHBHAI D. VASAVA:
SHRI HARISINH CHAVDA:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether inspite of cultivation and availability of many herbs in the country, India is having very low share in the world trade of herbs;

(b) if so, the share of India in the international trade of herbs during the last three years, year-wise;

(c) the reasons identified by the Government for low share in the world trade; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government for increasing India's share in the world trade of herbs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The share of India in the international trade of herbs during the last three years is as under:-

Year	Quantity	Value
2005-06	49157.87 MT	315.70 Crs.
2006-07	44577.98 MT	364.52 Crs.
2007-08	50056.89 MT	430.08 Crs.

(c) India's low share in the world trade can be attributed to several reasons. Some of them are: resistance in developed markets to traditional systems of medicines, lack of standards and good management practices relating to cultivation of herbs and manufacturing of medicines from them, sourcing of herbs from unregulated forest area in unorganized sectors through traditional non-scientific methods, presence of heavy metals and some toxic substances in some herbal products etc.

(d) Following steps have been taken to increase production/increase of herbal medicines.

- (i) Mandatory testing of metals in all purely herbal ASU medicines for exports w.e.f. 01.01.2006.
- (ii) Testing facilities for ASU drugs in the country have been strengthened by upgradation of State Drug Testing Laboratories and accreditation of private drug testing laboratories.
- (iii) State Drug Licensing Authorities have been directed to ensure full compliance by all ASU drug manufacturers of the provision of Rule 161(1) and (2) relating to displaying on the label of the container or in a leaflet to be insterted in the package of an ASU drugs, the true list of all the ingredients used in the manufacture of the preparation together with the quantity of each of the ingredients incorporated therein. The relaxation in labelling provision has been made for the export of Ayurveda, Siddha and Unani medicines.

(iv) A research project has been sanctioned to various laboratories to Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) under the Golden Triangle physiochemical characteristics of 8 most widely used Bhasmas and to carry out their toxicity studies. Good manufacturing practices have been made mandatory for all Ayurveda, Siddha and Unani drug manufacturing units in the country.

(v) Government of India has initiated awareness programmes for educating the industry through its Export Promotion Council, Pharmexcil. Besides, Government has introduced testing facilities for ASU drugs in the country have been strengthened by upgradation of State Drug Testing Laboratories.

[English]

Regional Language Centres

5085. SHRI VIJOY KRISHNA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Regional Language Centres (RLCs) set up for the development of recognized languages in the country, State-wise;

(b) whether the Government is considering to set up more Regional Language Centres; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) Central Institute of Indian Languages (CIIL), Mysore, a subordinate office under this Ministry, has established seven Regional Languages Centres (RLCs) for the development of languages in the country. These RLCs are located at Mysore (Karnataka), Bhubaneshwar (Orissa), Patiala (Punjab), Pune (Maharashtra), Solan (Himachal Pradesh), Lucknow (Uttar Pradesh) and Guwahati (Assam).

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Inclusion of Disaster Management Subject in Management Courses

5086. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the University Grants Commission has directed universities to include disaster management as a subject in the syllabus of the management courses;

(b) if so, whether the Government has accepted the recommendations of the commission; and

(c) if so, the time by when the subject is likely to be included in the syllabus?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (c) The recommendation of the Administrative Reforms Commission that Disaster Management as a body of knowledge should be introduced as a subject in Management and Public Administration, has been circulated by the University Grants Commission to all the Universities for compliance in appropriate courses.

[English]

Scheme to Establish Sea-bed Boundary

5087. SHRI P.S. GADHAVI: Will the Minister of EARTH SCIENCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has formulated any scheme to establish its sea-bed boundary to stake claim of some additional sea-bed areas beyond its existing exclusive economic zone;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by when this scheme is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government has a scheme to delineate outer limits of continental shelf extending beyond the Exclusive Economic Zone being Implemented by Ministry of Earth Sciences. The outer limits of the continental shelf have to be established by acquisition of geophysical data through bathymetry and through seismic reflection and refraction. The scheme involves acquisition, processing and interpretation of geophysical data for determination of the water depth, foot of slope and sedimentary rock thickness followed by the preparation of India's submission to the United Nations with necessary documentations. The acquisition, processing and interpretation of geophysical data has been completed and the documentation for the submission is in the advanced stage of completion.

(c) The deadline for India's submission for outer limits of continental shelf to the United Nations is May, 2009.

Revenue from Cricket Match

5088. SHRIMATI BHAVANA PUNDALIKRAO GAWALI: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the total revenue earned by the Doordarshan and Akashwani from the Broadcast/Telecast of cricket matches between India and other countries recently, match-wise;

(b) whether the Doordarshan and Akashwani have given any share amount to any other organization;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government for increasing the revenue of both Doordarshan and Akashwani?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) to (c) Prasar Bharati (Doordarshan) have informed that in terms of the Sports Broadcasting Signals (Mandatory Sharing with Prasar Bharati) Act, 2007 the rights holder has to share the live signal with Prasar Bharati and revenue earned is to be shared in the ratio of 75% to the Rights Holder and 25% to Prasar Bharati. The details are given below:

Sl.No.	Event & Date	Rights Holder Share 75%	Prasar Bharati's share (25%)/ Revenue earned
1.	India-Bangladesh Cricket Series 10th May to 29th May, 2007	Nimbus Rs.4,59,00,000/-	Rs. 1,53,00,000/-
2.	India-Ireland Cricket Series 23rd June to 3rd July, 2007	Nimbus Rs. 7,65,00,000/-	Rs. 2,55,00,000/-
3.	India-England Cricket Series 19th July, to 8th September, 2007	ESPN Rs. 10,35,00,000/-	Rs. 3,45,00,000/-
4.	India-Australia Cricket Series 29th September to 17th October, 2007	Nimbus 26,47,50,000/-	Rs. 8,82,50,000/-
5.	India-Australia Twenty Twenty Cricket match 20th October, 2007	Nimbus Rs. 2,32,50,000/-	Rs. 77,50,000/-
6.	India-Pakistan Cricket Series 5th November to 12th December, 2007	Nimbus Rs. 60,93,75,000/-	Rs. 20,31,25,000/-
7.	India-Australia Cricket Series 26th December, 2007 to 7th March, 2008	ESPN Rs. 24,00,00,000/-	Rs. 8,00,00,000/-

All India Radio has earned revenue of Rs. 3,88,53,012/- from cricket matches viz., India Vs Australia Cricket Series 2007 and Commonwealth Bank Series (India-Australia-Sri Lanka) from 26.12.2007 to 7.3.2008 as entire package. All India Radio has not given any share amount to any organization from the revenue earned.

(d) Prasar Bharati have informed that All India Radio has initiated various steps to increase the commercial revenue which include:

- * Changing the Fixed Point Chart to include more popular programmes so as to attract more advertisements/commercials;
- * Broadcasting interactive programmes to increase direct participation of the listeners through phone-in devices and field recordings;
- * All the Stations of AIR of late have enhanced dedicated time-slots for their specific target audiences viz. Women and Children, the Youth, Rural Community, Music Lovers, Industrial Workers and the Farmers; •

- * All India Radio has introduced its New Rate Card w.e.f. 1.4.2008, wherein various package rates for State Hook-up as well as National Hook up etc. have been devised for the first time to attract more advertisers/clients towards All India Radio.

Doordarshan has initiated various steps with a view to increase revenues. These include:

- Increased in-house marketing of programme/ event.
- Setting up of additional marketing units in various Zones/States of the country.
- Starting of Self Finance Commissioning Scheme in which prime time serials are marketed in-house by Doordarshan, and
- In house marketing of feature films and other prime time programmes.

Fire Fighting Arrangements**Statement**

5089. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is no proper fire fighting arrangements in Delhi's Walled City areas and fire-tenders are find it difficult to reach those areas in case of fire;

(b) the corrective measures taken in this regard in congested areas like Sadar Bazar, Chandni Chowk and Chawri Bazar, etc.;

(c) the reasons for Delhi Fire Service not implementing the recommendations made in this regard by various Committees; and

(d) the details of buildings which are not following fire fighting norms and the action taken against all such buildings by Delhi Fire Service?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI V. RADHIKA SELVI): (a) Most of the residential and commercial buildings in walled city area are low-rise and these do not come under the purview of Fire Prevention and Fire Safety Act, 1986. Hindrances to the fire tenders in reaching the fire incident sites in these areas, *interalia*, include slow moving traffic.

(b) The measures taken include Fire Station at Paiwalan made operational, water ring main provided for Sadar Bazar area and fire fighting resources e.g. fire tenders and equipments augmented in the fire stations within the vicinity i.e. Rani Jhansi Road, S.P. Mukherjee Marg and Teliwara.

(c) Most of the recommendations contained in the report of Inquiry Committee for major fire on 16.04.1990 at Gandhi Market, Sadar Bazar, Delhi have been implemented.

(d) The details of 48 high rise buildings in the walled city area falling within the purview of Delhi Fire Prevention and Fire Safety Act, 1986 and not following the fire safety norms have been given in the enclosed statement. Orders have been issued for disconnection of electric and water supply to these premises as per the directions of the Hon'ble Court.

High Rise Buildings (15 MTS & Above) Identified Under Fire Prevention & Fire Safety Act, 1986 in the Walled City Area

1. 237, Fatehpuri, Chandni Chowk, Delhi.
2. 484, Katra Ashirfi, Chandni Chowk, Delhi.
3. 600, Katra Ashirfi, Chandni Chowk, Delhi
4. 1326, Chandni Chowk, Delhi
5. 4560, Deputy Ganj, Sadar Bazar, Delhi.
6. 2904-05, Rai Mandi, Sadar Bazar, Delhi.
7. 5093, Rai Mandi, Sadar Bazar, Delhi.
8. 4899, Paras Nath Road, Sadar Bazar, Delhi.
9. 4888-92, Paras Nath Marg, Sadar Bazar, Delhi.
10. 4946, Kunear House, Bara Tooti, Sadar Bazar, Delhi.
11. 4855, Bara Tooti Chowk, Sadar Bazar, Delhi.
12. 1130, Bartan Market, Sadar Bazar, Delhi.
13. 1274, Sadar Nata Road, Sadar Bazar, Delhi.
14. 1276, Sadar Nata Road, Sadar Bazar, Delhi
15. 1074, Sadar Nata Road, Sadar Bazar, Delhi
16. 1058, Pan Mandi, Sadar Bazar, Delhi.
17. 1059, Pan Mandi, Sadar Bazar, Delhi
18. 5808, Main Bazar, Sadar Bazar, Delhi.
19. 1098, Maliwara, Chandani Chowk, Delhi.
20. 1096-97, Maliwara, Chandani Chowk, Delhi.
21. 11, Tiraha Bazar, Maliwara, Chandani Chowk, Delhi.
22. 12, Maliwara, Chandani Chowk, Delhi.
23. 13, Maliwara, Chandani Chowk, Delhi.
24. 2074, Maliwara, Chandani Chowk, Delhi.
25. 2075, Maliwara, Chandani Chowk, Delhi.
26. 4141, Naya Bazar, Delhi.

27. 4140, Naya Bazar, Delhi.
28. 4138-39, Naya Bazar, Delhi.
29. 4137, Naya Bazar, Delhi.
30. 4130, Naya Bazar, Delhi.
31. 4128, Naya Bazar, Delhi.
32. 4122, Naya Bazar, Delhi.
33. 4119, Naya Bazar, Delhi.
34. 4117, Naya Bazar, Delhi.
35. 4116, Naya Bazar, Delhi.
36. 4105, Naya Bazar, Delhi.
37. 4099, Naya Bazar, Delhi.
38. 3973-74, Naya Bazar, Delhi.
39. 4064, Naya Bazar, Delhi.
40. 3957-58, Naya Bazar, Delhi.
41. 2405, Gali Pahiya Wali, Telewara, Sadar Bazar, Delhi.
42. 2354-57, Telewara, Sadar Bazar, Delhi.
43. Sri Ram Palace, 2481-83, Telewara, Sadar Bazar, Delhi.
44. 2486-89, 2503-04-06, Telewara, Sadar Bazar, Delhi.
45. 2492-93, Telewara, Sadar Bazar, Delhi.
46. Jain Estate, 2851-57, Pratap Market, Sadar Bazar, Delhi.
47. Mathotra Building, 2858, Pratap Market, Sadar Bazar, Delhi.
48. Abidul Islam, 4503, Pratap Market, Sadar Bazar, Delhi.

[Translation]

Deployment of Women Battalion on Borders

5090. SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has any proposal to depute women battalion of Paramilitary Forces (PMF) on Nepal and Bhutan borders;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has also any proposal to give special training to such women personnel;

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

(e) the extent to which illegal activities are likely to be checked by deputing such women battalion?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) to (e) The Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB) is in the process of raising 07 Mahila (women) Companies, to be trained according to the norms of SSB, for deployment on the borders with Nepal and Bhutan. It is expected to check illegal activities where women are suspected to be involved.

[English]

Transport Subsidy Scheme

5091. SHRI M.K. SUBBA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has implemented any transport subsidy scheme to promote industrialization in the North-Eastern region;

(b) if so, the details of the schemes;

(c) the total funds allocated for the scheme during 2007-08 and in the current financial year; and

(d) the subsidy released during the above period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL POLICY AND PROMOTION, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government had introduced the Transport Subsidy Scheme on 23.7.1971 for promoting industrialization in the remote, hilly and inaccessible areas of the country. The Scheme is applicable to fourteen States/UTs, including eight States of the North Eastern Region (including Sikkim). The Scheme is applicable to all industrial units engaged in manufacturing activity (barring plantations, refineries and

power generation sets) and is admissible for a maximum period of five years. Under the scheme, subsidy is provided ranging between 50% to 90% of the transport cost on raw material and finished goods to and from the location of the industrial unit and the designated rail-head.

(c) Rs. 610 crore were allocated under the Scheme during 2007-08. In the current financial year, an amount of Rs. 1 crore only has been provided under the Scheme, pending evaluation of the Scheme by the Planning Commission.

(d) An amount of Rs. 619.29 crore has been released under the Scheme in the financial year 2007-08. Out of this, an amount of Rs. 595.63 crore was released for the North Eastern Region. No release has been made so far in the current financial year under the Scheme.

Performance of NALCO

5092. SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of profit earned by National Aluminium Company Limited (NALCO) during each of the last three years, till date;

(b) whether NALCO is moving towards conferment of Navratna status;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to improve the performance of NALCO?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHR B.K. HANDIQUE): (a) The details of net profit earned by National Aluminium Company Limited (NALCO) during the last three years, till date is as follows:-

Year	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08 (Till December, 07)*
Rs. in crores	1235	1562	2381	1215.83

*Provisional figures.

(b) and (c) The Apex Committee in its meeting held on 13.2.2007 has recommended grant of Navratna status to NALCO subject to the pre-condition that requisite number of non-official part time (Independent) Directors are appointed on the Board of the Company. Eight non-official Directors have been appointed on the Board of NALCO vide this Ministry's orders dated 27.9.2007 and 24.4.2008. Matter has been referred to Department of Public Enterprises (DPE) for taking further necessary action in the matter.

(d) The Ministry closely monitors the performance of the Company and undertakes regular reviews on quarterly basis to ensure optimal performance for furthering the growth of the Company.

Special Assistance to Groundnut Industry

5093. SHRI JASUBHAI DHANARHAI BARAD: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has decided to give special assistance for the development of groundnut industry in the country, especially in Gujarat;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the time-frame fixed for the purpose;

(c) whether the industry would also be required to contribute its own share for the purpose in addition to the Government's assistance; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[Translation]

Fire Incidents in Slums

5094. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether incidents of fire in Jhuggi clusters in the National Capital Territory of Delhi have become common occurrence;

(b) If so, the number of fire incidents in the Jhuggi clusters alongwith loss of life and property during each of the last three years, till date, separately;

(c) the main reasons for the fire incidents;

(d) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to provide relief and rehabilitation to the victims of the fire incidents;

(e) whether every fire incident has been investigated upon by the Government;

(f) If so, the steps taken by the Government on the basis of the outcome of the inquiry report; and

(g) the further steps taken by the Government to check such incidents in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI V. RADHIKA SELVI): (a) and (b) The Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi has reported that the incidents of fire in Jhuggi cluster in National Capital Territory of Delhi are not common. However, the details of fire incidents in Jhuggi clusters during the last three years is as Under:

Year	No. of fire incidents	No. of lives lost	Loss of Jhuggies (approximately)
2006	7	5	1885
2007	15	19	2091
2008	08	5	461

(c) The main reasons for outbreak of fire include explosion of gas cylinder, short circuit in electric wire, drop light and carelessness.

(d) Rs. 1 Lakh per persons is paid for death of an adult and Rs. 50,000/- in case of death of minor due to fire incident. In case of Jhuggies gutted in fire, ex-gratia relief of Rs. 2000/- is paid to every jhuggi dweller.

(e) Investigation is carried out by Delhi Police in major fire incidents.

(f) and (g) Steps taken by Delhi Fire Service, Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi include organizing public awareness programmes through lectures/

demonstrations, distributing fire safety leaflets, creating awareness through print and electronic media.

[English]

Geo-Scientific Programme

5095. SHRI SUGRIB SINGH:

SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL:

SHRI NAND KUMAR SAI:

Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Geological Survey of India (GSI) has undertaken offshore geo-scientific programmes in the country;

(b) If so, the details thereof during each of the last three years, till date;

(c) whether GSI has hired small-mechanised boats for the said purpose;

(d) If so, the number of boats hired during each of the last three years till date;

(e) the details of the programmes undertaken by such vessels during the said period; and

(f) the expenditure incurred on hiring of such boats alongwith the income earned by GSI from sponsored work by various agencies during the said period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Geological Survey of India has one deep sea research vessel R.V. Samudra Manthan and two coastal vessels R.V. Samudra Kaustubh and R.V. Samudra Shaudhikama to undertake offshore geoscientific programmes. The details of work done by these 3 vessels are given in the enclosed statement.

(c) to (e) Yes, Sir. Six mechanized boats were hired during Field Season [F.S.] 2004-05, five mechanized boats were hired during F.S. 2005-06 and three mechanized boats were hired during F.S. 2006-07. The details of programmes undertaken by hired boats are as under:

Field Season 2004-05	Field Season 2005-06	Field Season 2006-07
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Studies of sediment dynamics, coastal process and shoreline changes off Dhanushkodi, Tamil Nadu (T.N.). • Close spaced bathymetric survey and geo environmental evaluation of the area between Kachuberia and Silver Tree point and Geoarchaeological studies in Baheril and Geonkhali, West Bengal (W.B.). • Seabed survey for construction sand in inner shelf of Andaman Sea. • Near shore/coastal study off Karaikal and Nagapattinam (T.N.). • Part of the programme of monitoring of coastal process and shoreline changes off Godavari Delta, Andhra Pradesh (A.P.). • Part of the programme of geotechnical surveys off Jaigarh, Maharashtra. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Close-spaced bathymetric survey and geoenvironmental evaluation of the area between Kachuberia and Silver Tree point and Geoarchaeological studies in Baheril and Geonkhali. • Study of creeks in Sunderbans. W.B. • Mapping of islands/islets and study of near-shore areas in Arabian Sea off Kaup and Hangarkatta, Kamataka. • Part of the programme of monitoring of coastal processes and shoreline changes off Godavari Delta, A. P. • Part of the programme of geotechnical investigation off Hangarkatta, Kamataka. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Study of creeks in Sunderbans, W.B. • Bathymetric survey and geoenvironmental study of Hatalia-Doania River (between Muri Ganga and Saptamukhi River). • Part of the programme of monitoring of coastal processes and shoreline changes off Godavari Delta, A.P.

(f) The expenditure for hiring of mechanized boats by GSI from sponsored work is given below: including fuel and crew charges and the total income earned

	Field season 2004-05	Field season 2005-06	Field season 2006-07
Total Expenditure Incurred	Rs. 1,46,233	Rs. 1,13,600	Rs. 1,14,000
Total Income Earned	Rs. 3,90,52,750	Rs. 3,79,41,525	Nil

Statement

The details of offshore geoscientific programmes undertaken by GSI during the last three years

Field Season 2004-05	Field Season 2005-06	Field Season 2006-07
1	2	3

Onboard Research Vessel Samudra Manthan

- | | | |
|--|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Geo-chemical scan for Hydrocarbon in Western offshore basin and Krishna Godavari [KG] basin • Study of possible changes in bathymetric/magnetic signatures along Andaman Arc— | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Geo chemical scan for Hydrocarbon in Western offshore basin and KG basin. • Study and monitoring of Barren and Narcondam Island volcano. • Bathymetric survey off Puducheri. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Studies of Geomorphological and tectonic set up Comorin Ridge off Kanyakumari. • Bathymetric and magnetic survey off Kakinada-Vishakhapatnam, Ongole, A.P. and Puducheri-Nagapattinam, T.N. |
|--|--|--|

1	2	3
<p>Trench Gap in the aftermath of Sumatra Earthquake [2004].</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High Resolution Study [HRS] of Late Quaternary Planktonic Foraminifera from Northern part of 90° E Ridge in Bay of Bengal with special reference to Last Glacial Maxima, Holocene/Pleistocene Boundary and Palaeo-oceanography 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HRS of Late Quaternary Planktonic Foraminifera from Northern part of 90° E Ridge in Bay of Bengal with special reference to Last Glacial Maxima, Holocene/Pleistocene Boundary and Palaeo-oceanography. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitoring of changes around Barren and Narcondam Islands and parametric studies for OTEC in the east and south east of Car Nicobar Islands in the Andaman Sea. • Taphonomic significance of benthonic foraminifers, ostracodes, pelecypods, gastropods and bryozoa in the shelf areas of Bay of Bengal and Arabian Sea during the Holocene period. • Study on the effect of salinity-temperature on recent planktonic foraminifera along a north-south transect in Bay of Bengal. • Study of sediments from central Andaman Trough/Spreading Centre.
Onboard Research Vessel Samudra Kaustubh		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seabed Mapping within Territorial Waters [T.W.] and parametric studies in the shelf area off Orissa coast. • Placer mineral resource evaluation and parametric studies in the T.W. off Orissa between Sonapurapeta and Gopalpur. • Placer mineral resource evaluation in the T.W. of A.P. • Geotechnical investigation of the seabed in the northern part off Devi river estuary and parametric studies of the shelf. • Monitoring of coastal processes and shoreline changes off Godavari Delta, A.P. • Mapping of seabed within T.W. off A.P. and T.N. coasts. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Geotechnical appraisal off A.P. coast between Maruvada and Kalingapatnam and Parametric studies of the shelf • Seabed Mapping within T.W. and parametric studies in the shelf area off Orissa coast. • Geotechnical investigation of the seabed off Jatadharmohan river and parametric studies of the shelf. • Monitoring of coastal processes and shoreline changes off Godavari Delta, A.P. • Mapping of the seabed within T.W. off A.P. and T.N. Coast. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Study of the seabed morphology and depositional environment off Ganga Delta. • Geotechnical appraisal of the inner shelf off Nagavalli River mouth, north A.P. and Parametric studies of the continental shelf. • Placer mineral resource evaluation in the T.W. off Iduvanipalem-Ikakalappalem, A.P., • Geotechnical investigation off Mahanadi River and Parametric studies off Mahanadi-Dhamra River mouths. • Monitoring of coastal processes and shoreline changes off Godavari Delta, A.P. • Mapping of seabed within T.W. off T.N.
Onboard Research Vessel Samudra Shaudhkama		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mapping of the seabed within T.W. off Maharashtra coast-Satpati to Vasai. • Mapping of the seabed within T.W. off Kachchh, Gujarat and Shallow seismic survey off Saurashtra coast. • Geotechnical surveys off Jaigarh, Maharashtra. • Parametric studies within T.W. off Kasaragod to Mt. Dilli, Kerala coast. • Geotechnical investigation off Bhatkal, Karnataka. • Parametric studies within T.W. off Kerala coast – Kannur to Azhikode. • Evaluation of sand bodies in deeper water off Kerala coast. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mapping of the seabed within T.W. off Maharashtra coast-Virar to Santa Cruz, Mumbai. • Mapping of the seabed within T.W. off Kachchh, Gujarat. • Geotechnical investigation off Malvan, Maharashtra. • Parametric studies within T.W. off Kasaragod to Mt. Dilli, Kerala coast. • Geotechnical investigation off Hangarkatta, Karnataka. • Parametric studies within T.W. off Kerala Coast-Kannur to Azhikode. • Preliminary evaluation of relict sands beyond T.W. in mid-outer continental shelf off Calicut-Ponnani, Kerala. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Geotechnical investigation off Vengurla, Maharashtra. • Mapping of the seabed within T.W. off Maharashtra coast, Virar to Santa Cruz, Mumbai. • Parametric studies within T.W. off Kerala Coast between Azhikod and Ambalapuzha. • Geotechnical investigation off Badagara, Kerala • Parametric studies within T.W. off Kerala Coast between Azhikod and Ambalapuzha. • Preliminary evaluation of relict sands beyond T.W. off Kerala Coast between Beypore and Kannur.

Enrolment of Muslim Students

5096. SHRI K.J.S.P. REDDY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of Muslim enrolment in primary and upper primary level separately in each State and Union Territory including Andhra Pradesh during 2006-07 and 2007-08;

(b) the details of Muslims belonging to SC/ST and OBC in each State and Union Territories; and

(c) the corrective steps taken by the Government to increase the enrolment of Muslim students?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) and (b) While information on students enrolled at different levels in various educational institutions in the country based on religion is not maintained centrally, according to the National University of Education Planning and Administration's (NUPEA) District Information System for Education (DISE), the elementary education percentage enrolment of Muslim children in the 6-14 years age group compared to the communities' share in the population, shows a national coverage of 9.39% at primary and 7.62% at upper primary level for the year 2006-07. In the case of Andhra Pradesh it is 10.00% and 9.11% and in Uttar Pradesh it is 9.24% and 7.18%, in Bihar 8.95% and 6.60%, in West Bengal 27.9% and 19.63%, while in Kerala it is 10.13% and 9.59%, respectively. Data collected on muslim children under DISE system for elementary education, was done for the first time in September, 2006. The data sets stabilize in a few years.

(c) In order to encourage enrolment of children of muslim community, Government of India has launched a Centrally Sponsored Scheme of pre/post matric scholarship for students of class I to X belonging to the minority community.

Job to Widows of PMF

5097. SHRI SURESH PRABHAKAR PRABHU: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of claims filed by the relatives/widows of the personnel of Para Military Forces (PMF) died on duty still pending with the Government during the last five years, till-date, force-wise;

(b) the total number of jobs provided by the Government to the widows/relatives of the personnel of PMF on compassionate ground during the same period; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to provide jobs to such persons and to clear all the pending cases?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) The information is as under:

Force	Claims
AR	0
BSF	350
CISF	448
CRPF	555
ITBP	25
SSB	0

(b) 2075 jobs.

(c) There is 5% reservation in group 'C' and 'D' posts on compassionate grounds. Each candidate gets three chances for consideration for compassionate appointment depending upon the availability of vacancy. Recruitment on compassionate ground is an on-going process subject to condition on production of certificates of succession, educational qualification, qualifying service in the written test etc.

Scheme to Promote Science and Technology in States

5098. SHRI P.S. GADHAVI: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the achievements made under the Central scheme to promote Science and Technology in each State particularly, Gujarat during the last three years; and

(b) the funds allocated by the Central Government for the purpose during the said period, State wise, including Gujarat, year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES (SHRI KAPIL

SIBAL): (a) Under the Central scheme to promote Science and Technology in States entitled "State Science and Technology Programme" a number of activities related to location specific need based research and development; pilot scale science and technology demonstration projects; studies/surveys on specific topics of relevance to States' needs have been supported during the last three years apart from annual core grant to each State including the State of Gujarat. The specific achievements include setting up of hospital waste disposal systems, water purification systems, decentralized energy generation systems and surface engineering systems in various States. In the State of Gujarat plasma nitriding system, reverse osmosis water desalination system, hospital waste disposal system has been supported during the last three years in addition to annual core support to Gujarat State Council for Science and Technology.

(b) The funds allocated by the Central Government for the purpose during the years 2005-06, 2006-07 and 2007-08 was Rs. 10 crores, 11 crores and 14 crores respectively for all the States including the State of Gujarat. The Central Government does not allocate funds State-wise.

National Education Policy

5099. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the recommendations of State Council of Higher Education in regard to the National Policy on Education 1986 is yet to be materialized in Assam;

(b) if so, the reasons for delay in implementation of these recommendations; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Action in this regard is required to be taken by the State of Assam as per the guidelines of the University Grants Commission (UGC) on the setting up of State Council of Higher Education.

Modernisation Programmes under CSIR

5100. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the equipments purchased by the laboratories/institutions of CSIR under modernization programme are mismanaged; and

(b) if so, the measures being taken to monitor the implementation of the modernization programme efficiently?

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) No Sir. The equipments purchased by laboratories/institutions of CSIR under modernization programme are not mismanaged. CSIR implemented programme for modernization of 39 laboratories at a total cost of Rs. 262.38 crore during IX Five Year Plan period. All equipments proposed under modernization plan have been procured, installed and are being utilized for R&D. However, in a few cases delays have taken place in installation and repair of installed equipment.

(b) Modernization programme has already been completed.

Winding up of FBI in India

5101. SHRI SWADESH CHAKRABORTY: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the FBI is going to wind up their organization in India;

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

(c) the benefits the Government got from them to contain terrorism in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) to (c) The Government of India had accorded approval for opening the FBI legal attaché office in the US Embassy in New Delhi on the basis of reciprocity in February, 2000. The activities of the office are limited to liaison with Indian law enforcement agencies, and do not include any independent investigation or any other activity outside the liaison function. Such legal attaché offices, which also exist in many other countries are foreign liaison posts of FBI and meant to facilitate cooperation with counter part agencies in host countries on cases of mutual interest with a view to solving crimes that may have been committed and preventing crimes by sharing of real time information. There is no proposal to wind up this office.

*[Translation]***Uniform Fee Structure In Universities**

5102. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of monthly fees and other charges being recovered from students by colleges under Delhi University;

(b) whether the guidelines issued by the UGC in this regard are applicable to these colleges;

(c) if so, the reasons for disparity in the fee structure prevalent in these colleges;

(d) whether the Government proposes to enforce uniform fee structure for all colleges of all universities; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (e) According to the information provided by the University of Delhi, following annual fees structure is common to all its affiliated colleges:

Fee/Charges	Annually
University Enrolment fee	Rs. 100/-
Admission fee	Rs. 5/-
Tuition fee	Rs. 180/- (Under-graduate courses)
University Development fee	Rs. 100/-
University Athletics fee	Rs. 50/-
University Culture Council fee	Rs. 5/-
WUS Health Centre membership fee	Rs. 120/-
NSS fund	Rs. 20/-
Identity card fee	Rs. 5/-

However, other charges like library fee, magazine fee, laboratory fee, electricity & water charges, students union fee, common room fee, cultural society, dramatics

club, games/sports fee, laboratory development fund, library development fund, ground maintenance fund, student aid fund, etc. differ from college to college. Besides, college security, library security, etc. are also charged. There is disparity in the fee structure because of infrastructural facilities and other additional provisions available in the Colleges.

At present there are no guidelines issued by the University Grants Commission (UGC). However, the Commission has constituted a committee under the Chairmanship of Professor B.S. Sonde to formulate regulations for admission and fee for aided and unaided institutions with the following terms of reference:

- (i) To formulate regulations with regard to admission and fee for self-financing, private, professional institutions including 'deemed-to-be-universities.'
- (ii) To formulate regulations for admission and fee for self-financing courses in aided Universities/ Colleges.
- (iii) To formulate regulations for admission and fee for aided courses in aided Universities and Colleges.

*[English]***UNDP Assistance in National Leather Development Programme**

5103. SHRI SUGRIB SINGH:
SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has implemented the UNDP assisted National Leather Development Programme in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of small scale entrepreneurs in the leather sector benefited under the said programme; and

(d) the details of funds allocated for strengthening the technology, skill upgradation and marketing support during the last three years, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL POLICY AND PROMOTION, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR): (a) to (c) The Central Government had implemented a programme under the UNDP assisted Programme, "Small Industries Development & Employment Programme in Leather Sector" (SIDE-NLDP) from the year 1992 to 2003. The objective of the programme was to increase the competitiveness of the footwear and leather product sector. An amount of US\$ 25.50 million was allocated under SIDE-NLDP as financial assistance and a number of small scale entrepreneurs benefited from the programme.

(d) The UNDP assisted Programme "Small Industries Development & Employment Programme in Leather Sector" (SIDE-NLDP) was implemented till June, 2003 and hence no funds were released under the programme during the years 2005-06, 2006-07 and 2007-08. However, the Central Government implemented a plan scheme, titled, Indian Leather Development Programme (ILDP) during the 10th Five Year Plan and first year of the 11th Five Year Plan period for modernization and technology upgradation of leather units, infrastructure and capacity building. The ILDP Scheme comprises of two components, Integrated Development of Leather Sector (IDLS) and Infrastructure Strengthening of Leather Sector. A Statement giving State-wise expenditure of the Central Government for strengthening the technology, skill upgradation and marketing support for the Leather Sector during the last three years is enclosed.

Statement

Sl.No.	States/Union Territories	Total Amount (Rs. in lakhs)
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	59.21
2.	Dadar and Nagar Haveli	16.89
3.	Delhi	874.74
4.	Gujarat	21.45
5.	Haryana	361.67
6.	Himachal Pradesh	10.00
7.	Jammu and Kashmir	12.51
8.	Karnataka	110.72

1	2	3
9.	Kerala	115.04
10.	Madhya Pradesh	58.84
11.	Maharashtra	176.75
12.	Manipur	1.06
13.	Punjab	244.34
14.	Rajasthan	467.22
15.	Tamil Nadu	8294.37
16.	Uttar Pradesh	3826.03
17.	West Bengal	1935.57
Total		16586.41

Promotion of Khadi

5104. SHRI JASUBHAI DHANABHAI BARAD:
SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY:

Will the Minister of MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has taken any fresh initiative to promote and encourage the use of Khadi products among the people in urban areas of the country;

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

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD): (a) and (b) To promote the use of khadi products throughout the country, including urban areas, the Government, through the Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC), has taken several initiatives, such as:

(i) Organising exhibitions at National/Zonal/District levels and providing financial assistance for organising such exhibitions;

(ii) Rebate scheme for providing rebate on sales of khadi to consumers;

(iii) Providing financial assistance under Products Development, Design Intervention and Packaging (PRODIP) Scheme for improved designs and packaging of khadi products;

(iv) Launching 'Mission Khadi' to convert the Khadi fabric into ready-made garments with modern designs, thereby adding value to khadi products and modifying the present trend of direct sale of khadi in cloth form;

(v) Launching brand name 'Khadi India' for khadi products;

(vi) Conducting Public awareness programmes throughout the country to increase the awareness and knowledge among the public, especially the young generation;

(vii) Modernisation and renovation of Khadi Gramodyog Bhavans/Sales outlets in a phased manner. As a first step in this regard, 2 bhavans located in Delhi, have been renovated/modernized.

(c) Does not arise.

Influx of Foreigners

5105. SHRI SURESH PRABHAKAR PRABHU: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of foreigners illegally staying in the country, country-wise;

(b) whether the Government has noticed influx of people from a particular country;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) to (c) As per available information, 22,467 foreigners were found to be overstaying as on 31.12.2007. The country-wise break-up is given in the enclosed statement.

(d) Powers have been delegated under Section 3(2) of the Foreigners Act, 1946 to the State Governments/ Union Territories to detect and deport foreign nationals staying in the country unauthorizedly.

Statement

Country-wise Statistics of overstaying foreigners in India as on 31.12.2007.

Country	No. of Foreigners overstaying
1	2
Afghanistan	11852
Algeria	1
Angola	12
Argentina	3
Armenia	10
Australia	164
Austria	24
Azerbaijan	1
Bahrain	7
Bangladesh	1083
Belarus	4
Belgium	14
Belize	1
Bolivia	1
Botswana	1
Brazil	27
British Overseas City	0
British Protectorate	1
British Sub & Colo	1
Brunei	2
Bulgaria	4
Burundi	8
Cambodia	7
Cameroon	8
Canada	330

1	2
Chad	0
Chile	3
China	657
China (Taiwan)	13
Colombia	14
Comoros	2
Congo	17
Croatia	1
Cuba	1
Czech Republic	4
Denmark	23
Djibouti	6
Dominican Republic	2
Egypt	27
Eritrea	2
Estonia	1
Ethiopia	40
Fiji	161
Finland	25
France	283
Germany	177
Ghana	7
Grenada	1
Gautemala	2
Guinea	3
Guyana	8
Hong Kong	4
Hungary	2
Iceland	1

1	2
Indonesia	65
Iran	214
Iraq	106
Ireland	16
Israel	67
Italy	86
Ivory Coast	2
Japan	95
Jordan	4
Kazakhstan	5
Kenya	152
Korea (North) DPR	3
Korea South	263
Kyrgyzstan	5
Laos	1
Latvia	3
Lebanon	8
Lesotho	1
Liberia	2
Libya	7
Lithuania	1
Malagasy (Madagaskar)	1
Malawi	7
Malaysia	248
Maldives	7
Mauritania	1
Mauritius	192
Mexico	5
Morocco	5

1	2
Moldova	1
Monaco	1
Mongolian	26
Mozambique	9
Myanmar	278
Namibia	7
Nauru	0
Netherlands	58
New Zealand	32
Nicaragua	1
Nigeria	854
Norway	12
Oman	123
Pakistan	0
Palestine	5
Panama	3
Paraguay	0
Peru	2
Philippines	72
Poland	19
Portugal	15
Qatar	10
Romania	4
Russia	133
Rwanda	12
Saudi Arabia	71
Senegal	1
Seychelles	12
Sierra Leone	3
Singapore	152

1	2
Slovak Republic	2
Slovenia	1
Somalia	9
South Africa	98
Spain	47
Sri Lanka	1050
St. Lucia	0
Stateless	19
Stateless-Tibet	172
Stateless-Malaysia	6
Stateless-Singapore	0
Stateless-Tanzania	0
Sudan	148
Swaziland	1
Sweden	35
Switzerland	49
Syria	41
Tajikistan	3
Tanzania	194
Thailand	67
Tonga (Togo)	0
Trinidad & Tobago	1
Tunisia	0
Turkey	22
Turkmenistan	0
U.S.A.	880
Uganda	42
Ukraine	36
United Arab Emirates	54

1	2
United Kingdom	671
Uzbekistan	8
Vanatu	0
Venezuela	7
Vietnam	37
Yemen	112
Yugoslavia	4
Zaire	0
Zambia	1
Zimbabwe	4
Others	5
Total	22467

Regulatory Authority for Higher Education

5106. SHRI VIJOY KRISHNA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Knowledge Commission has submitted a proposal to set up an Independent Regulatory Authority for Higher Education with an appellate body for redressal of academic grievances;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the present higher education system in the country is regulated by 13 councils;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to set up an Independent Regulatory Authority for higher education?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) and (b) In its Report to the Nation (2006), the National Knowledge Commission (NKC) has recommended establishment of an Independent Regulatory Authority for Higher Education and re-defining the role of regulatory bodies such as University Grants Commission (UGC), All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE),

Medical Council of India (MCI) and Bar Council of India (BCI).

(c) and (d) According to available information, there are 14 professional councils, apart from the State Councils of Higher Education.

(e) There is no consensus on the recommendation of the NKC. However, a 'Review Committee' has been constituted by Government to review the functioning of the UGC and AICTE.

[Translation]

Import and Export Between India and Russia

5107. SHRI GANESH SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the status of import and export between India and Russia alongwith its value during each of the last three years and in the current year till date, item-wise;

(b) whether the Government proposes to increase import and export (trade) with Russia; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) The country-wise details of commodities exported and imported alongwith their value are available on the website of the Department of Commerce at www.commerce.gov.in.

(b) and (c) A Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation between the Ministry of Commerce and Industry and the Ministry of Economic Development and Trade of the Russian Federation was signed on 6th February 2006. The India-Russia Joint Study Group (JSG) set up in pursuance of the MoU has finalized its report in July 2007. The report covers various aspects of trade between India and Russia in Goods and Services as well as investment cooperation and makes relevant recommendations to enhance bilateral trade and economic cooperation to US\$ 10 billion by 2010. A Joint Communique between Ministry of Commerce and Industry of the Government of India and Ministry of Economic

Development and Trade of the Russian Federation for setting up the India-Russia Joint Task Force to monitor the implementation of recommendations of India-Russia Joint Study Group and to further consider the possibility of signing a Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement (CECA) has been issued on 13.2.2008.

[English]

Assessment Method on Unit Area System

5108. MS. INGRID MCLEOD: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether DMC (Amendment) Act, 2003 grants options to the tax payers for getting their properties which were not assessed prior to the date of operation of the said Act, assessed either on Unit Area (UA) rates or old rates;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether certain tax payers in Rohini Zone, Delhi whose properties were assessed after 1.8.2003 and who have opted for assessment on U.A. rate system have been refused;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) the details of cases settled and refused on Unit Area Method between the transitory period from 1.8.2003 to 31.3.2004;

(f) whether any inquiry is likely to be conducted into this violation of the provision of the said Act to fix responsibility; and

(g) if so, the time by when this inquiry is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI V. RADHIKA SELVI): (a) and (b) As per sub-section (1) of section 116 G of the Delhi Municipal Corporation Act, 1957, a tax on vacant land or covered space of building or both, levied under this Act immediately before the date of coming into force of the Delhi Municipal Corporation (Amendment) Act, 2003, be deemed to be the tax on such vacant land or covered space of building or both, levied under this Act as amended by the Delhi Municipal Corporation (Amendment) Act, 2003, and shall continue to be in force until such tax is revised in accordance with the provisions of this

Act, as amended by the Delhi Municipal Corporation (Amendment) Act, 2003. Further, sub-section (2) of Section 116 G of the Delhi Municipal Corporation Act provides that notwithstanding anything contained in sub-section (1), where assessment has not been finalized in respect of a vacant land or covered space of a building or both, on the date of the commencement of the Delhi Municipal Corporation (Amendment) Act, 2003, the assessee may have such land or building or both, as the case may be, assessed on the basis of the annual value.

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

[Translation]

Price Rise

5109. SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN:
SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH "LALAN":
DR. CHINTA MOHAN:
SHRI RAGHUVVEER SINGH KOSHAL:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the consumer price index (CPI) is continuously rising in view of the increasing index of wholesale price (WPI) during the year 2008 in comparison to 2007;

(b) if so, the details of percentage along with the criteria to calculate the indices separately;

(c) the details of items included for calculation the said indices;

(d) the contribution of food, manufacturing and service sector to this increase;

(e) whether there is any possibility of price decrease in the food sector after the new crops in April 2008 in the country;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) the steps taken by the Government to check the rising trend in consumer price?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL POLICY AND PROMOTION, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR): (a) and (b) Presumably, the Hon'ble Member,

in part (a) of the question, is referring to the Consumer Price Index for Industrial Workers (CPI-IW). For the year 2008, the CPI-IW is available, so far, only upto February 2008. The CPI-IW for the months from January 2007 to

February 2008, changes in index over previous months and rate of inflation (CPI) on a point to point basis in comparison with similar information based on wholesale Price Index (WPI) are given below:

Months	CPI-IW			WPI		
	Index	Change Over Previous Month (%)	Rate of Inflation on a point to point basis (%)*	Index	Change over previous Month (%)	Rate of Inflation on a point to point basis (%)*
January-07	127	0.00	6.72	208.8	0.19	6.37
February-07	128	0.79	7.56	208.9	0.05	6.36
March-07	127	-0.78	6.72	209.8	0.43	6.61
April-07	128	0.79	6.67	211.5	0.81	6.28
May-07	129	0.78	6.61	212.3	0.38	5.46
June-07	130	0.78	5.69	212.3	0.00	4.53
July-07	132	1.54	6.45	213.6	0.61	4.71
August-07	133	0.76	7.26	213.8	0.09	4.14
September-07	133	0.00	6.40	215.1	0.61	3.51
October-07	134	0.75	5.51	215.2	0.05	3.11
November-07	134	0.00	5.51	215.9	0.33	3.25
December-07	134	0.00	5.51	216.4	0.23	3.84
January-08	134	0.00	5.51	218.1	0.79	4.45
February-08	135	0.75	5.47	218.4	0.14	4.55
March-08				223.2	2.20	6.39

Note: The Wholesale Price Indices for the Months of February & March 2008 are Provisional and the Consumer Price Indices for the Months of January 2008 and February 2008 are Provisional.

*Rate of inflation represents percent change in index in the current period compared to the index for the corresponding month of the previous year.

The difference in the changes in indices and in the inflation rates between WPI and CPI-IW reflect differences in the base year, commodity basket and weights for the commodities in the respective indices.

(c) The CPI-IW are compiled on the basis of group specific consumer expenditures, which include expenditure on:

- I-Food,
- II-Pan, Supari, Tobacco & Intoxicants,
- III-Fuel & Light,
- IV-Housing,
- V-Clothing, Bedding and Footwear, and
- VI-Miscellaneous such as Medical care, Education, Recreation & Amusement, Transport & Communications, Personal Care & Effects and Others.

The Wholesale Price Index is an economy-wide index with weights based on value of quantities of commodities traded in the domestic market. It is a more comprehensive measure of economy-wide inflation available with high frequency.

(d) Within the above framework, the CPI-IW is based on a much larger weight of 46.20% food compared with the weight of 15.40% in WPI.

(e) and (f) Market forces of demand and supply, among others, are major factors having significant impact on prices. With the prospects for new crops in April 2008 being bright, the resultant domestic supply position of agricultural commodities is expected to dampen the domestic prices.

(g) The price situation in the economy is closely monitored by the Government and suitable measures are taken, as and when necessary, to maintain price stability in the economy. The measures, *inter-alia*, include:

- (1) Various Fiscal and Administrative measures relating to imports and exports of edible oils, wheat, rice, pulses, cement and steel;
- (2) The RBI, as part of demand management measures has increased Cash Reserve Ratio (CRR) from 7.5% to 8.0%.

[English]

Thermal Energy from Ocean

5110. SHRI JUAL ORAM: Will the Minister of EARTH SCIENCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is vast scope to generate thermal energy from the oceans;

(b) if so, the details of the possibilities explored by the National Institute of Ocean Technology (NIOT) during Tenth Plan till date; and

(c) the future plan of the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Energy can be generated utilizing the temperature difference between the surface of the sea and deep sea waters. National Institute of Ocean Technology (NIOT), an autonomous institute under the Ministry undertook a pilot project of 1 MW floating Ocean Thermal Energy Conversion (OTEC) Plant under "Jai Vigyan" Mission. The plant was set up on a barge named 'Sagar Shakti', for deployment in open sea having a depth of over 1000 meters off Tuticorin. The 1 Mega Watt (MW) Ocean Thermal Energy Conversion (OTEC) Technology Demonstration project was initially approved as one of the Mission Project of National Institute of Ocean Technology (NIOT) in Sept. 1998 at the total cost of Rs. 35.25 crore for a period of two years from 1998-99. However, due to rough weather and inadequate technical support during the deployment of 1 meter diameter and 100 meter length of pipe, the same could not be supported and resulted in its loss. The Ministry further approved Revised Cost Estimates (RCE) of Rs. 61.13 crores and Extension of the project up to 31st December 2002 on 22.02.02. There was once again loss of the intake pipe. An expert committee was appointed for failure analysis. Based on its report, a revised project proposal was prepared for completion of the project. The proposal was referred to Ministry of Finance for their approval. Ministry of Finance recommended for winding up of the project and the project was accordingly discontinued. Considering the unavailability of required water depth near the Indian coast, the OTEC plants would have to be located 30 to 40 kilometers away from the coast, and therefore, would not be economical. Hence, the Ministry has no plan to take up this project.

Impact of Chinese Imports

5111. SHRI SARVEY SATYANARAYANA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has made any assessment on the impact of domestic industries due to import from China during each of the last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has fixed any target for such imports/export from/to China and other countries till 2010;

(d) if so, the details thereof, country-wise; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to curb expensive import from China and other countries to safeguard the interest of the domestic industry and to face competition in the international market?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) and (b) No specific study has been carried out to assess the impact of imports from China on the domestic industry. However, imports from China during the last three years, are as follows:

Year	Value (Rs. in Lakhs)
2004-05	3189230
2005-06	4811665
2006-07	7900861
April 2007-December 2007 (Provisional)	8020652

Source: DGCIS.

(c) and (d) In August 2004 at the time of announcement of Foreign Trade Policy 2004-09, a target of doubling our percentage share of global merchandise trade within the next 5 years was set. Our total merchandise trade in 2007-08 is USD 390 billion (approx) which accounts for nearly 1.5% of world trade. Export target for 2008-09 has been fixed at USD 200 billion. However, no separate country-wise export targets have been fixed.

(e) No specific measures have been taken to curb expensive imports from China & other countries to protect the domestic industry. Whenever complaints are received regarding 'dumped' imports, and consequential injury to the domestic industry, the Directorate General of Anti Dumping (DGAD) initiates investigations/action as per anti dumping rules.

Hi-Tech Radar System for Cyclone Prediction

5112. SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY: Will the Minister of EARTH SCIENCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has decided to set up high tech radar systems in the coastal belt of Orissa to monitor cyclone and other national disasters;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the locations at which such system is likely to be set up;

(d) the total funds earmarked/released for the said purpose; and

(e) the time by when the system is likely to be made functional?

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) to (c) India Meteorological Department (IMD) presently operates a network of 10 Cyclone Detection Radars and 29 Storm Detection Radars. One Cyclone Detection Radar is located at Paradip and one Storm Detection Radar at Bhubaneswar. Under modernization of observations and forecasting facilities of IMD (Phase I), 12 nos. of Doppler Weather Radars (DWR) used in forecast of severe weather events are being procured for installation at various places of the country. With these, complete coastal belt of India including Orissa would be covered. One of the 12 Doppler Weather Radars is planned to be set up at Paradip in place of existing Cyclone Detection Radar.

(d) A total amount of Rs. 920 crore has been approved by the Cabinet for the modernization phase I of IMD that includes commissioning of the 12 Doppler weather radars.

(e) The target date for commissioning of the Paradip radar is December 2009.

Disparity in Assessment of Property Tax

5113. MS. INGRID MCLEOD: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Delhi Municipal Corporation Act grants option to the property tax payer for settlement of their cases, which were not settled prior to the date of coming

into force of the DMC (Amendment) Act, 2003 but settled before the Unit Area rates were notified from 1.8.2003 to 31.3.2004 on Unit Areas rates or old rates;

(b) if so, whether this provision of option to some of the tax payers by refusing them the option to get their properties assessed on U.A. rates while allowing this option to others as thereby creating disparity among the tax payers;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the action taken by the Government to redress the grievances of property tax payer?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI V. RADHIKA SELVI): (a) Under the provisions of Section 116G of the Delhi Municipal Corporation Act, 1957, where assessment has not been finalized in respect of vacant land or covered space of a building or both on the date of commencement of the Delhi Municipal Corporation (Amendment) Act, 2003, the assessee may have such land or building or both, as the case may be, assessed on the basis of Annual Value. This provision is not applicable in settled cases.

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

Survey of Cities Vulnerable to Climate Change

5114. SHRI DUSHYANT SINGH: Will the Minister of EARTH SCIENCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has identified the cities/towns in various States which are vulnerable to climate change;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken to counter the adverse impact of climate change in those cities and towns?

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) and (b) No, Sir. However, climate parameters over the entire country are being constantly monitored by the India Meteorological Department. The National Communication on Climate Change prepared by the Government addresses vulnerability of various regions of the country.

(c) The Government has initiated several steps to address the problem of climate change. Recently, the Government has set up a Prime Minister's Council on Climate Change to coordinate national action for assessment, adaptation and mitigation of climate change. The Ministry of Environment and Forests have also constituted an Expert Committee on Climate Change impacts, which is headed by the Principal Scientific Advisor to the Cabinet.

The Ministry of Earth Sciences has proposed to create a high-priority programme to address the Science issues of Global and Regional Climate Change with a well equipped state-of-the-art Centre of excellence at Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology, Pune for interdisciplinary research & training in the area of science of climate change.

[Translation]

Contribution of Small and Medium Industries

5115. SHRI BAPU HARI CHAURE: Will the Minister of MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Small and Medium Scale industries plays an important role in the economic development of the country; and

(b) if so, the average contribution of these industries to the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) alongwith the percentage of workers out of the total workers, working in the country in comparison to America, Japan, France, China and other countries?

THE MINISTER OF MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The micro and small enterprises (MSEs) constitute an important segment of the Indian economy, providing employment to an estimated 312.52 lakh people in the rural and urban areas of the country. The contribution of MSEs to the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of the country is estimated at 5.94 per cent for the year 2006-07 (latest available). The data in respect of medium enterprises is not available presently. Further, in view of the varying definition of micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) in different countries, no comparative data on share of employment provided by the MSEs in the total employment is available.

*[English]***Impact of Globalisation on Small Scale Industries**

5116. SHRI B. MAHTAB: Will the Minister of MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether globalization has an impact on the small and medium enterprises in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the production of these industries is being affected due to import of cheap goods from various countries into the Indian market; and

(d) if so, the efforts made by the Government to remove the problems of these industries?

THE MINISTER OF MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD): (a) to (c) Government is conscious about the inherent challenges including, *inter alia*, greater competition, posed on micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) as a result of globalization and also opportunities bestowed on them in the form of increased access to modern technology, availability of a variety of raw materials & components at a lower price as a result of imports, wider market segments, impetus to quality, efficiency & opportunity to restructure and diversify.

(d) The Government has put in place several measures to help MSMEs become globally competitive which, *inter alia*, include assistance for technological upgradation, accessing markets, improved infrastructure, better availability of credit, facilities for training and capacity building of entrepreneurs, etc.

Production of Coffee

5117. SHRI M. SHIVANNA:

SHRIMATI MANORAMA MADHAVRAJ:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the total quantity of coffee produced in the country, particularly in Karnataka for the last five years, State-wise;

(b) whether the coffee growers, particularly small farmers are not getting proper prices for their produce;

(c) whether the Government proposes to provide minimum support price to the coffee growers; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) The State-wise coffee production during the last five years is as below:-

(Quantity in metric tons)

State	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08*
Karnataka	1,85,550	1,98,600	1,96,275	2,06,025	1,91,575
Kerala	63,850	54,300	56,825	59,475	49,000
Tamil Nadu	17,750	18,300	18,825	18,225	18,100
Non-Traditional Area (mainly Andhra Pradesh and Orissa)	3,050	4,000	1,825	4,085	3,175
North Eastern Region	300	300	250	190	150
Total	2,70,500	2,75,500	2,74,000	2,88,000	2,62,000

*Post monsoon estimates.

(b) Present prices of coffee are quite remunerative and even small growers are getting advantage of it.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Duty Cuts In Essential Commodities

5118. SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI: •
SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the commodities on which rebate has been given on the import duty by the Government keeping in view the rising prices alongwith the names of the commodities export of which has been banned completely alongwith the details thereof; and

(b) the extent to which inflation would be checked as a result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) Details of commodities alongwith reduction in the customs duty (date of notification-wise) are as under:

20.3.2008 (w.e.f 21.3.2008):

- (a) Crude palm oil including crude palmolein from 45% to 20%.
- (b) Refined palm oil including RBD palmolein from 52.5% to 27.5%.
- (c) Crude Mustard/rapeseed/colza/canola oils from 75% to 20%.
- (d) Refined Mustard/ rapeseed/colza/canola oils from 75% to 27.5%.
- (e) Crude sunflower oil from 40% to 20%.
- (f) Refined sunflower oil from 50% to 27.5%; and
- (g) Semi-milled and wholly milled rice from 70% to nil for imports made on or before 1.3.2009.

1.4.2008:

- (a) Soya bean oil (crude) from 40% to Nil and on soya bean oil (refined) from 40% to 7.5%;

(b) Crude Palm oil (including crude palmolein) from 20% to Nil and on RBD palm oil (including RBD palmolein) from 27.5% to 7.5%.

(c) All other miscellaneous edible oils (crude) such as coconut oil, ground nut, etc. to Nil;

(d) All other miscellaneous edible oils (refined) such as coconut oil, ground nut, etc. to 7.5%;

(e) Partly or wholly hydrogenated vegetable fats and oils commonly known as vanaspati, margarine etc.-to 7.5%.

(f) In-quota tariff rate for Maize under TRQ of 5 lakh MT-to Nil.

As regards ban on commodities, export of wheat & wheat products including wheat flour has been banned vide Notification No. 33 dated 08.10.2007 till further orders. Export of non basmati rice has been banned w.e.f. 01.04.2008. Ban on export of pulses except Dollar Gram (Kabuli Chana), has been extended upto 31.03.2009 vide Notification No. 91 dated 01.04.2008. The export of edible oil except coconut oil through Kochi post has been banned.

(b) It is expected that the inflation would come down due to restrictions/ban on exports and lowering of custom duties.

Displacement of People Due to Rise in Sea Level

5119. SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: Will the Minister of EARTH SCIENCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news regarding 'warming will trigger huge exodus' reported in the *Times of India* dated March 27, 2008;

(b) whether the Government has made any study about the number of people displaced due to rise in sea level in various coasts/cities of the country;

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

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

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

(b) and (c) No, Sir. However, a broad assessment of vulnerabilities of the coastal zone of India has been made in the National Communication of climate change. These results shows that the impacts of rise in sea level may result in land loss and population displacement.

(d) The Government has initiated several steps to address the problem of climate change. Recently, the Government has set up a Prime Minister's Council on Climate Change to coordinate national action for assessment, adaptation and mitigation of climate change. The Ministry of Environment and Forests have also constituted an Expert Committee on Climate Change impacts, which is headed by the Principal Scientific Advisor to the Cabinet.

The Ministry of Earth Sciences has proposed to create a high-priority Programme to address issues of Global and Regional Climate change. The programme will establish research networks of leading National research groups and research centres involved in allied areas by supporting collaborative research on important issues of national relevance including impacts on coastal zone.

[Translation]

Export Agreements

5120. SHRI MAHAVIR BHAGORA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) India's rank in the field of export in the world;

(b) the total export from India during the last three years;

(c) the names of the countries with which export agreements have been signed during the last three years;

(d) the achievements made therefrom during the above period so far; and

(e) the measures being taken by the Government to increase the export?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) As per the latest WTO figures available, India ranked 26th position in the world merchandise exports in 2007.

(b) India's total merchandise exports during the last three years are given below:

Year	Total Exports (US \$ Billion)
2005-06	103.1
2006-07	126.3
2007-08*	138.7*

*April-February, 2007-08: Provisional figures.

(c) During the last three years (i.e 2005-06, 2006-07 & 2007-08) India has signed two new Free Trade Agreements i.e. Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement (CECA) with Singapore on 29th June, 2005 and Preferential Trade Agreement with Chile on 8th March, 2006. Besides, the Free Trade Agreements already in place with Bhutan and Nepal were renewed on 29th July, 2006 and 6th March, 2007 respectively.

(d) India's merchandise exports to these countries during the last three years are given below:

Country	(Value: US \$ Million)		
	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08*
Singapore	5,425.3	6,016.4	5133.6
Chile	152.2	374.9	179.1
Bhutan	99.2	58.6	62.7
Nepal	860.0	930.7	913.7

*April-December, 2007-08: Provisional figures.

(e) With a view to increase India's merchandise exports, the Government has taken several initiatives in accordance with the Foreign Trade Policy (FTP) 2004-09 and its Annual Supplements. These initiatives include bringing into force the SEZ Act, 2005 and the implementation of Focus Product Scheme, Focus Market Scheme, Vishesh Krishi and Gram Udyog Yojana, Duty Entitlement Passbook Scheme, Export Promotion Capital Goods Scheme, Refund of Service Tax, Relief to Sectors affected by Rupee Appreciation, Promotion of High Value Added Manufactured Products etc. Substantive measures have also been taken to facilitate exports viz. reduction of transaction cost and time, simplification of procedure for exporters etc.

*(English)***Agreement with China In Energy and Defence**

5121. SHRI M.K. SUBBA: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether during the last visit of the Minister of Science and Technology to China, any agreement or Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was signed, including the areas relating to energy security and defence;

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

(c) the details of achievements made therefrom so far; and

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

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) to (d) Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on Science and Technology cooperation with China was signed on 7th September, 2006 during the visit of Minister of Science and Technology and Earth Sciences to China. The MOU does not cover the areas of Energy Security and Defence.

Production and Export of Tobacco

5122. SHRI K.J.S.P. REDDY:
SHRI L. RAJAGOPAL:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the present status of tobacco growers in the country;

(b) the production of tobacco in Andhra Pradesh as compared to other States, State-wise;

(c) whether the Government is taking any action against the concerned exporters who are patronizing some people;

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

(e) the steps taken by the Government to export tobacco to China and other countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) The present status of tobacco growers in the country is:

Name of the State	No. of growers regd. During 2007-08 crop season
Andhra Pradesh	46118 (As on 31.03.2008)
Karnataka	40740

(b) The production of tobacco in Andhra Pradesh as compared to other States, State-wise is as follows:

Name of the State	Production (M.Kgs.)	
	2006-07	2007-08
Andhra Pradesh	171.95	167.32*
Karnataka	96.98	87.66

(*) Estimated production.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. No such complaint has been received.

(e) To boost export of tobacco to China, the Government of India has signed a protocol of phytosanitary requirements for the export of tobacco leaves from India to China on 14th January 2008. The Government is taking following export promotion measures to increase exports of tobacco and tobacco products:

- * Reorientation of the production of tobacco to meet changing international demands and also enhancing the quality and productivity of tobacco grown in India by implementing several extension and developmental programmes, such as modal project areas, integrated pest management etc.
- * Participation in international trade, fairs and exhibitions.
- * Organising the delegations of tobacco trader and exporters to various countries and inviting trade delegations from important markets.
- * Undertaking an extensive advertisement campaign in the international media to promote Indian tobacco.

12.00 hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI SIS RAM OLA):
Sir I beg to lay on the Table a copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions):-

- (1) Memorandum of Understanding between the National Aluminium Company Limited and the Ministry of Mines, for the year 2008-09.

[Places in Library, See No. LT 8686/08]

- (2) Memorandum of Understanding between the Hindustan Copper Limited and the Ministry of Mines, for the year 2008-09.

[Places in Library, See No. LT 8687/08]

- (3) Memorandum of Understanding between the Mineral Exploration Corporation Limited and the Ministry of Mines, for the year 2008-09.

[Places in Library, See No. LT 8688/08]

[English]

THE MINISTER OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV):
Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Mid Year Review (Hindi and English versions) of the Central Public Sector Enterprises for the year 2007-08 (April-September).

[Places in Library, See No. LT 8689/08]

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI): Sir,
I beg to lay on the Table-

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Film and Television Institute of India, Pune, for the year 2006-07, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Film and Television Institute of India, Pune, for the year 2006-07.

- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Places in Library, See No. LT 8690/08]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Registration of Foreigners (Amendment) Rules, 2008 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R 237 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 28th March, 2008 under sub-section (3) of section 3 of the Registration of Foreigners Act, 1939.

[Places in Library, See No. LT 8691/08]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.A.A. FATMI): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table-

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Council of Educational Research and Training, New Delhi, for the year 2006-07.
 - (ii) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the National Council of Educational Research and Training, New Delhi, for the year 2006-07, together with Audit Report thereon.
 - (iii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Council of Educational Research and Training, New Delhi, for the year 2006-07.
 - (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.
- [Placed in Library, See No. LT 8692/08]
- (3) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Council for Teacher Education, New Delhi, for the year 2005-06.
 - (ii) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the National Council for Teacher Education, New Delhi, for the year 2005-06, together with Audit Report thereon.

(iii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Council for Teacher Education, New Delhi, for the year 2005-06.

(4) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (3) above.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 8693/08]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL POLICY AND PROMOTION, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Newsprint Control (Amendment) Order, 2008 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. S.O. 892 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 17th of April, 2008 issued under section 18G of the Industries (Development and Regulation) Act, 1951.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 8694/08]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table:-

(1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Indian Council of Arbitration, New Delhi, for the year 2006-07, along with Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Indian Council of Arbitration, New Delhi, for the year 2006-07.

(2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 8695/08]

(3) A copy of the Memorandum of Understanding (Hindi and English versions) between the MMTC Limited and the Department of Commerce, Ministry of Commerce and Industry, for the year 2008-09.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 8696/08]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table-

(1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Indian Institute of Technology, Bombay, for the year 2006-07.

(ii) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Indian Institute of Technology, Bombay, for the year 2006-07, together with Audit Report thereon.

(iii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Indian Institute of Technology, Bombay, for the year 2006-07.

(2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 8697/08]

(3) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Indian Institute of Technology, Guwahati, for the year 2006-07.

(ii) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Indian Institute of Technology, Guwahati, for the year 2006-07, together with Audit Report thereon.

(iii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Indian Institute of Technology, Guwahati, for the year 2006-07.

(4) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (3) above.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 8698/08]

(5) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Atal Bihari Vajpayee Indian Institute of Information Technology and Management, Gwalior, for the year 2006-07.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Atal Bihari Vajpayee Indian Institute of Information Technology and Management, Gwalior, for the year 2006-07.

- (6) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (5) above.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 8699/08]

- (7) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Indian Institute of Information Technology, Allahabad, for the year 2006-07.

- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Indian Institute of Information Technology, Allahabad, for the year 2006-07.

- (8) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (7) above.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 8700/08]

- (9) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Board of Apprenticeship Training (Northern Region), Kanpur, for the year 2006-07 alongwith Audited Accounts.

- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Board of Apprenticeship Training (Northern Region), Kanpur, for the year 2006-2007.

- (10) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (9) above.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 8701/08]

- (11) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Institute of Technology Karnataka, Surathkal, for the year 2006-07 alongwith Audited Accounts.

- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Institute of Technology Karnataka, Surathkal, for the year 2006-07.

- (12) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (11) above.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 8702/08]

12.02 hrs.

COMMITTEE ON ESTIMATES

Statement

[English]

SHRI C. KUPPUSAMI (Madras North): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table the statement (Hindi and English versions) of action taken by Government on the recommendations contained in Chapter I and final replies in respect of recommendations contained in Chapter V of the Fifteenth Report of Estimates Committee on 'Insurance Schemes for weaker sections of the society' relating to the Ministry of Finance (Department of Economic Affairs—Insurance Division).

12.02¹/₂ hrs.

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE

72nd to 74th Reports

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Prof. Vijay Kumar Malhotra—Absent.

Shri Khagen Das.

Shri Das, Shall I do it on your behalf?

SHRI KHAGEN DAS (Tripura-West): Sir, I beg to present the following Reports (Hindi and English versions) of the Public Accounts Committee:

- (1) Seventy-second Report on "Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY)";
- (2) Seventy-third Report on "Management of Foodgrains"; and
- (3) Seventy-fourth Report on Action Taken on 33rd Report of PAC on "Injudicious Waiver of Demurrage Charges".

MR. SPEAKER: You have done very well.

12.03 hrs.

COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC UNDERTAKINGS

26th, 29th and 30th Reports

[English]

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL (Hooghly): Sir, I beg to present the following Reports (Hindi and English versions) of the Committee on Public Undertakings:-

- (1) Twenty-sixth Report on Steel Authority of India Limited—A comprehensive examination;
- (2) Twenty-ninth Report on Airports Authority of India—Safety and Security Aspects; and
- (3) Thirtieth Report on Indian Railways Catering and Tourism Corporation Limited.

12.03½ hrs.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

Statements

[English]

SHRI K.V. THANGKABALU (Salem): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table the following Statements (Hindi and English versions) of the Committee on Information Technology (2007-08):

- (1) Statement showing action taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in Chapter I and final action taken replies contained in Chapter V of the Forty-second Action Taken Report (Thirteenth Lok Sabha) on Demands for Grants (2002-03) (Ministry of Communications and Information Technology—Department of Telecommunications).
- (2) Statement showing action taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in Chapter I and final action taken replies contained in Chapter V of the Forty-third Action Taken Report (Thirteenth Lok Sabha) on Demands for Grants (2002-03) (Ministry of Information and Broadcasting).
- (3) Statement showing action taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in Chapter I of the Sixty-first Action Taken Report (Thirteenth Lok Sabha) on Entry of Foreign Print Media and Foreign Direct Investment in Print Media (Ministry of Information and Broadcasting).
- (4) Statement showing action taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in Chapter I of the Tenth Action Taken Report (Fourteenth Lok Sabha) on Implementation of Software Technology Park (STP) Scheme (Ministry of Communications and Information Technology—Department of Information Technology).
- (5) Statement showing action taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in Chapter I of the Thirty-third Action Taken Report (Fourteenth Lok Sabha) on Functioning and Expansion of Postal Network (Ministry of Communications and Information Technology—Department of Posts).
- (6) Statement showing action taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in Chapter I and final action taken replies contained in Chapter V of the Thirty-sixth Action Taken Report (Fourteenth Lok Sabha) on Spectrum Management (Ministry of Communications and Information Technology—Department of Telecommunications).
- (7) Statement showing action taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in Chapter I of the Thirty-eighth Action Taken Report (Fourteenth Lok Sabha) on Working of Prasar Bharati (Ministry of Information and Broadcasting).
- (8) Statement showing action taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in Chapter I and final action taken replies contained in Chapter V of the Thirty-ninth Action Taken Report (Fourteenth Lok Sabha) on Demands for Grants (2006-07) (Ministry of Communications and Information Technology—Department of Posts).
- (9) Statement showing action taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in Chapter I and final action taken replies contained in Chapter V of the Fortieth Action Taken Report (Fourteenth Lok Sabha) on Demands for Grants (2006-07) (Ministry of Communications and Information Technology—Department of Telecommunications).
- (10) Statement showing action taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in Chapter I and final action taken replies contained in Chapter V of the Forty-first Action Taken Report (Fourteenth Lok Sabha) on Demands for Grants (2006-07) Ministry of Communications and Information Technology—Department of Information Technology).
- (11) Statement showing action taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in Chapter I and final action taken replies contained in Chapter V of the Forty-second

[Shri K.V. Thangabalu]

Action Taken Report (Fourteenth Lok Sabha) on Demands for Grants (2006-07) (Ministry of Information and Broadcasting).

12.04 hrs.

COMMITTEE ON EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN

16th Report

[English]

SHRIMATI KRISHNA TIRATH (Karol Bagh): Sir, I beg to present the Sixteenth Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Committee on Empowerment of Women (2007-08) on 'Medical Facilities for Women at All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), Hospitals and Primary Health Centres.

12.04½ hrs.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON INDUSTRY

204th to 210th Reports

[Translation]

SHRI SWADESH CHAKRABORTY (Howrah): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table the following Reports (Hindi and English versions) of the Committee on Industry:-

- (1) Two hundred fourth Report on Action Taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in Committee's 201st Report on Demands for Grants (2007-08) pertaining to the Ministry of Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises (Department of Heavy Industries).
- (2) Two hundred fifth Report on Action Taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in 202nd Report of the Committee on Demands for Grants (2007-08) of the Ministry of Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises (Department of Public Enterprises).
- (3) Two hundred sixth Report on Action Taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in 200th Report of the Committee on Demands for Grants (2007-08) of the Ministry of Small Scale Industries.

- (4) Two hundred seventh Report on Action Taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in 199th Report of the Committee on Demands for Grants (2007-08) pertaining to Ministry of Agro and Rural Industries.
- (5) Two hundred eighth Report on Demands for Grants (2008-09) pertaining to the Ministry of Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises (Department of Heavy Industries).
- (6) Two hundred ninth Report on Demands for Grants (2008-09) pertaining to the Ministry of Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises (Department of Public Enterprises).
- (7) Two hundred tenth Report on Demands for Grants (2008-09) pertaining to the Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME).

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I believe you spoke in Hindi!

12.05 hrs.

COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS

185th to 191st Reports

[English]

DR. SUJAN CHAKRABORTY (Jadavpur): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table the following Reports (Hindi and English versions) of the Committee on Science and Technology, Environment and Forests:-

- (1) One Hundred and Eighty-fifth Report on Demands for Grants (2008-09) of the Department of Science and Technology;
- (2) One Hundred and Eighty-sixth Report on Demands for Grants (2008-09) of the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research;
- (3) One Hundred and Eighty-seventh Report on Demands for Grants (2008-09) of the Ministry of Earth Sciences;
- (4) One Hundred and Eighty-eighth Report on Demands for Grants (2008-09) of the Ministry of Environment and Forests;

- (5) One Hundred and Eighty-ninth Report on Demands for Grants (2008-09) of the Department of Space;
- (6) One Hundred and Ninetieth Report on Demands for Grants (2008-09) of the Department of Biotechnology; and
- (7) One Hundred and Ninety-first Report on Demands for Grants (2008-09) of the Department of Atomic Energy.

12.05½ hrs.

COMMITTEE ON PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES, LAW AND JUSTICE

25th to 27th Reports

[Translation]

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR (Chall): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table the following Reports (Hindi and English versions) of the Committee on Personnel, Public Grievances, Law and Justice:

- (1) 25th Report on Demands for Grants (2008-09) of the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions;
- (2) 26th Report on Demands for Grants (2008-09) of the Ministry of Law and Justice; and
- (3) 27th Report on Action Taken Replies on Law's Delays: Arrears in Courts.

12.06 hrs.

OBSERVATION BY THE SPEAKER

Business Transacted during the Last Week

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, for your information, I want to briefly recapitulate the main items of business transacted by the House during the last week.

During Question Hour, out of the 99 starred questions which were listed, only 25 could be answered orally. The replies to the remaining Starred Questions along with the replies to 999 Unstarred Questions for the same period were laid on the Table.

As regards, Financial and Legislative Business, the House discussed the Demands for Grants relating to the Ministries of Home Affairs, Defence, Rural Development and Information and Broadcasting, for about 6 hours and 28 minutes, 5 hours and 36 minutes, 8 hours and 26 minutes and 3 hours and 55 minutes respectively and the demands relating to these Ministries were voted in full.

The Outstanding Demands for Grants (General) 2008-09 of the remaining Ministries were submitted for vote of the House and were voted in full on 24 April, 2008 and the related Appropriation Bill was passed.

The House also discussed the Finance Bill, 2008 for about 2 hours and 37 minutes and the Bill remained part-discussed.

One Calling Attention regarding subsidence of land in entire coal belt in Asansol, Jharia and Raniganj and action taken by the Government in this regard was raised by Shri Basudeb Acharia. The Minister of State for Coal made a Statement and replied to the clarifications.

As regards the Private Members' Business, 23 Bills were introduced. One Private Member's Bill, viz. the Electoral Reforms Commission Bill, 2006 moved by Shri C.K. Chandrapan was further discussed for over 2 hours and 30 minutes and remained part discussed.

Five Statements were made by the Ministers on important subjects in the House.

During the last week, Members raised as many as 57 matters of urgent public importance. Also, 43 matters were raised under Rule 377.

The Departmentally Related Standing Committees presented ten Reports during the week.

We lost 9 hours and 9 minutes due to interruptions and adjournments last week. The House sat late for 1 hour and 49 minutes to compensate very partially the lost time.

Though we have lost some valuable time of the House, yet I take this opportunity to convey my sincere thanks to the Hon. Members for the co-operation and support generally extended to the Chair in smooth conduct of the proceedings.

12.07 hrs.

STATEMENTS BY MINISTERS

- (I) Status of implementation of recommendations contained in 51st Report of the Standing Committee on Information Technology on Demands for Grants (2007-08), pertaining to the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting*

[English]

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI): Sir, I beg to lay the Statement on the status of implementation of Recommendations/Observations contained in the Fifty First Report of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Information Technology relating to Demands for Grants (2007-08) concerning the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting in pursuance of direction 73A of Speaker, Lok Sabha issued vide Lok Sabha Bulletin Part-II, dated 1st September, 2004. This 51st Report was considered and adopted by the Standing Committee at their sitting held on 30th November, 2007 and was laid in Lok Sabha on 4th December, 2007.

The said 51st Report was prepared by the Standing Committee after considering the Action Taken Notes of the Government on the Recommendations/observations contained in their 43rd Report. These Action Taken Notes on the 43rd Report were laid on the Table of the House on 27th April, 2007.

The above mentioned 51st Report of the Committee contains five Recommendations/Observations in Chapter-I, on which the Committee desired to have Action Taken Notes and six Paras in Chapter-V, which the Committee considered as of interim nature and on which the Committee desired to have Final Action Taken Notes. The requisite Action Taken Notes and Final Action Taken Notes have since been furnished by the Government to the Standing Committee on 21st April, 2008. Through the said Action Taken Notes and Final Action Taken Notes, the Committee has been apprised of the status of implementation of the Recommendations/Observations.

A Statement of the aforementioned Action Taken Notes and Final Action Taken Notes on the specific Recommendations/Observations as contained in the 51st Report of Standing Committee on Information Technology

*Laid on the Table and also Placed in Library, See No. LT 8703/08.

in respect of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting is now laid on the Table of the House.

12.08 hrs.

- (II) Inclusion of Bhojpuri and Rajasthani languages in the Eighth Schedule to the Constitution

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): Sir, the Government has been receiving demands for inclusion of various languages in the Eighth Schedule to the Constitution over the last several years. At present, the Eighth Schedule consists of 22 languages. These are (1) Assamese, (2) Bengali, (3) Bodo, (4) Dogri, (5) Gujarati, (6) Hindi, (7) Kannada, (8) Kashmiri, (9) Konkani, (10) Maithili, (11) Malayalam, (12) Manipuri, (13) Marathi, (14) Nepali, (15) Oriya, (16) Punjabi, (17) Sanskrit, (18) Santhali, (19) Sindhi, (20) Tamil, (21) Telugu and (22) Urdu.

In response to a Calling Attention Motion tabled by Shri Prabhunath Singh, MP, for 18th December, 2006 in the Lok Sabha regarding the need to include Bhojpuri language in the Eighth Schedule to the Constitution, a statement was made stating that action had been initiated to consider inclusion of Bhojpuri and Rajasthani languages in the Eighth Schedule to the Constitution.

It was observed during inter-ministerial consultations in the matter that presently, candidates appearing in the Civil Services (Main) Examination conducted by the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) are allowed to take the examination in any of the languages included in the Eighth Schedule to the Constitution. UPSC has requested that the present link between the Eighth Schedule languages may be delinked from the Commission's scheme of examination keeping in view the problems faced by the Commission in conducting the examination in all the Eighth Schedule languages. In view of this, the Department of Personnel and Training has informed that the matter of inclusion of Bhojpuri and Rajasthani languages in the Eighth Schedule to the Constitution may be deferred till a decision is taken by the Government on the languages issue with reference to the UPSC examinations.

The matter of inclusion of Bhojpuri and Rajasthani languages in the Eighth Schedule is, therefore, still under

consideration of the Government and a decision will be taken after the issue of the language policy for the UPSC examinations is decided.

(Placed in Library, See No. LT 8704/08)

12.10 hrs.

- (iii) **Status of Implementation of recommendations contained in 32nd to 34th Reports of Standing Committee on Railways pertaining to the Ministry of Railways***

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): Sir, I beg to lay the Statement on the status of implementation of the recommendations contained in the 32nd, 33rd and 34th Reports of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Railways in pursuance of the Directive 73A of the hon. Speaker, Lok Sabha issued vide Bulletin Part II, dated 1st September, 2004.

The 32nd Report of the Committee on 'Performance of New Railway Zones' presented to the Lok Sabha on 14.9.2007 contained 15 recommendations and Action Taken Notes thereon were furnished to the Committee on 9.4.2008 in English version and on 16.4.2008 in Hindi version.

The 33rd Report of the Committee on 'Industrial Relations and Staff Welfare in Railways' presented to the Lok Sabha on 14.9.2007 contained 17 recommendations and Action Taken Notes thereon were furnished to the Committee on 31.12.2007 in English version and on 3.1.2008 in Hindi version.

The 34th Report of the Committee on 'Suburban and Metro Railways' presented to the Lok Sabha on 19.11.2007 contained 10 recommendations and Action Taken Notes thereon were submitted to the Committee on 10.3.2008 in English version and on 17.3.2008 in Hindi version.

The statements showing details of all the recommendations contained in the above three Reports

*Laid on the Table and also Placed in Library, See No. LT-8705/08.

and implementation status thereof are laid on the Table of the House. Since the statements are voluminous, I request that the same may be taken as read.

12.11 hrs.

- (iv) **Status of Implementation of recommendations contained in 74th Report of Standing Committee on Commerce on Cess Law (Repealing and Amending) Bill, 2005, pertaining to the Ministry of Commerce and Industry (Department of Commerce)**

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): Sir, the Department Related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Commerce in its 74th Report had made recommendation that "the Committee considered the Bill clause-by-clause at its sitting held on 24th November, 2005 and approved the Bill and recommended that the Bill be passed". Subsequently, the Bill had been enacted and notified in the Gazette of India on 2nd June, 2006. A copy of 'The Cess Laws (Repealing and Amending) Act, 2006 is laid on the Table of the House.

(Placed in Library, See No. LT 8706/08)

12.12 hrs.

SUPREME COURT (NUMBER OF JUDGES) AMENDMENT BILL, 2008*

[English]

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Supreme Court (Number of Judges) Act, 1956.

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Supreme Court (Number of Judges) Act, 1956.

The motion was adopted.

*Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary Part II, Section-2, dated 29.04.08.

SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ: ** Introduce the Bill.

MR. SPEAKER: I hope it will be with an assurance of early disposal of cases!

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Now, I will allow five hon. Members to speak. Rest of the hon. Members will be covered at the end of the day.

[Translation]

SHRI MUNSHI RAM (Bijnor): Sir, I may kindly be permitted to explain at length the condition of the sugarcane growers.

MR. SPEAKER: It should not be in detail.

SHRI MUNSHI RAM: In that case, Sir, it will be of no use.

MR. SPEAKER: Then I can't give you permission for that.

SHRI MUNSHI RAM: Sir, please give me permission to explain the condition of the sugarcane growers in detail.

MR. SPEAKER: O.K. you may start your speech.

[English]

If it is unduly long, I will stop it.

[Translation]

SHRI MUNSHI RAM: Sir, during the last two years, the production of sugar has exceeded its requirement. It's been so not only in our country but in the International arena also. We should not forget that we had to import sugar from Pakistan four years back. In India which is an agricultural country, it is very unfortunate if we have to import the food items. We have been unsuccessful in providing the required facilities to the farmers. Government has not formulated any concrete policy for the farmers so that they could increase production. In spite of sugar buffer stock in the country, there was great panic among the industrialists associated with this industry. During the last two years when sugar was selling at rates between 22-25 Rs. per kg. sugar mill owners earned profit of

more than Rs. 200 crore per year. That profit reduced after the rates of sugar decreased in the market. Due to decline in profit, there was panic among the industrialists. Sugar Mill owners formed an organisation at All India level and the chairman of the organisation sent a letter to the hon'ble MPs on 28 March 2007, a copy of which has been received by me. Chairman of the Association has himself accepted through this letter that 25 crore of families, farmers and workers are associated with this industry through works like transportation etc. If the farmers producing sugarcane on this land will stop the production, what will happen to them and how will they manage their families...*(Interruptions)* Sir, please permit me to speak in detail on this matter.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Sorry, this is not the time.

[Translation]

I have given you the opportunity since you had asked me to.

SHRI MUNSHI RAM: Sir, I will just conclude my speech.

Sir, the industrialists do their business worth Rs. 40,000 crores through it and create revenues of Rs. 2500 crore for the Government, but contribution of the sugarcane growers has been the foremost who put in hard labour that results in the production of sugar. About 475 sugar factories churn out production of sugar in the country but if the sugarcane growers, stop cultivating sugarcane itself, how would the sugar factories be able to produce sugar? How will business go on? The Chairman of the association has written the letter to the hon'ble Prime Minister on 20th April 2007. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I am very sorry.

[Translation]

SHRI MUNSHI RAM: Sir, the details given by them regarding losses being incurred by them @ Rs. 530 per quintal are far from being true. Even after reducing the previously fixed price to Rs. 125, the Uttar Pradesh Government did not pursue the matter either in the High Court or in the Supreme Court, nor did the Government of India. The farmers are paid lower than the minimum fixed price. It is an injustice. Today, we hardly get fuel

**Introduced with the recommendation of the President.

wood at Rs. 125/- but sugarcane is being purchased at that rate. Now the sugar factories are not ready to pay the dues of sugarcane growers. The owners of sugar factories should make their payment within 15 days. But, far from it they are not even paying their arrears, even after two years nor they are ready to pay the interests thereon. I will seek permission to finish my speech.

MR. SPEAKER: You should give notice for discussion on the subject, you will then have the full opportunity because it is not a correct method. The finance bill is to be discussed right now.

SHRI MUNSHI RAM: The farmer incur losses.

MR. SPEAKER: Consuming so much time will hamper the proceeding.

SHRI MUNSHI RAM: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am making my point. Last year the sugarcane growers in U.P. got the price @Rs. 125.

MR. SPEAKER: You have raised an excellent issue but it is not proper to raise the issue at this time.

SHRI MUNSHI RAM: Mr. Speaker, Sir, if this matter is not brought before the House, how it will be resolved. So, I demand that the Government of India should pursue the matter under consideration of the hon'ble High Court which is related to lower price fixation of sugarcane by the State Government and the farmers should be paid the price of sugarcane at least at the rate of Rs. 150 per quintal. The Government have fixed the prices of sugarcane at Rs. 81.18 per quintal as minimum support price. I want to know the percentage of rise in Prices in the last thirty years vis-a-vis the minimum support price for the sugarcane growers. The hon'ble Agriculture Minister himself is present in the House. I want to ask him to urgently pay heed toward the gross atrocities being committed against the sugarcane growers.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you very much. You have raised an important issue, but at the wrong time. Rules also need to be followed somewhat.

Shri Gurudas Dasgupta. He is very keen on this issue.

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA (Panskura): Sir, today, I am raising a different matter. I am raising a matter on cricket. It is about 20-20 matches that are now being played.

Sir, I have a deep apprehension that the great game of cricket, played by Sir Don Bradman, is being reduced to a game of gamble in many parts of the world and now today in India. Earlier, it used to be five-days' match and then it became one-day match. Now, there is a tabloid version of cricket and it is 20-20 played for only three hours a day...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: A lot of people are going to see those matches.

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: Yes, Sir. That is the tragedy. The question is that it is all being done for money. They are borrowing ideas mainly from the United States of America...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Cricket! It is not from the United States of America.

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: No, they are thinking of it...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Some recreation is necessary. Shri Swain, please listen.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: I may inform my hon. friends that there is a talk going on in the United States...*(Interruptions)* There is a talk going on. Therefore, I am saying that they are borrowing ideas from America, England and from Australia. This game is being played, but see how it is being played. I compliment Shri Sharad Pawar because earlier he opposed it, but now he has retreated. He has retreated and he has agreed to hold the IPL Tournament in India.

Sir, eight teams have been franchised...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: This cannot be done like this. You raise the issue. There cannot be a discussion. I cannot allow it.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: Eight teams have been franchised and players are being purchased like in a cattle market and the highest price fixed is Rs. 5 crore...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: We all know that.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Mohan Rawale does not object to it.

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: According to our information, a sum of Rs. 4,000 crore is being spent on the game.

Sir, my question is this. The cricket is being taken over not by the players, but being taken over by the industrial houses, by wine merchants and by private airline magnates. Open gambling and open betting is taking place.

Sir, I have three questions. I am concluding.
...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: You want to raise three questions. This is not 'Question Hour'.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: I would like to know whether the Government will find out the source of funds, wherefrom the money is coming. In a poor country like India, we are spending Rs. 4,000 crore on cricket.

Secondly, should the game of cricket be allowed to lose its nobility?

MR. SPEAKER: You support cricket.

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: My third question is: "Should gambling and betting be allowed openly in the market, in the street and also in the playground." I appeal to you that this is not the Indian tradition. We are falling a victim to consumerism, to a tabloid form of cricket which has nothing to do with sports.

MR. SPEAKER: At least, afraid of you, the Finance Minister might have fled.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Those members who are either in favour or against it may give their names.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN (Bhagalpur): You have made no mention about the cheer girls... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Leave them, these poor girls too have come here to earn something.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I am sure the hon. Finance Minister will be suitably informed about your strong opposition to cricket. Now, Shri Hannan Mollah.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I should have said, the money part of the cricket.

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: I am a cricket lover. I used to play cricket. I used to go to the ground.

MR. SPEAKER: Why did you not continue? Now, Shri Hannan Mollah.

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH (Uluberia): I would like to draw the attention of the Government to the miserable plight of the tsunami victims of Andaman and Nicobar. I also visited that place yesterday. After five years, even 30 per cent of the rehabilitation and construction work has not been completed there. Andaman Trunk Road, that is the only life line, is damaged severely. Some bridges are required over creeks. That is also not taken over. Ninety three per cent of the land is under the Forest Department. They are not allowed to do any rehabilitation work, road work and developmental work. If the hon. Prime Minister does not intervene, I do not know whether the Forest Ministry will agree to this. There is another problem. Some relaxation is needed. Seventeen per cent of the people are taken from Ranchi tribals, but they are not getting the tribal status there. They are in great trouble there. In the name of encroachment removal, they are being attacked. Drinking water projects are also not being taken up and no project for rain water harvesting. This is a serious problem. For construction work, they need ships for carrying material, but there are no ships. The Shipping Ministry is not giving ships for carrying materials.

MR. SPEAKER: This is not a full debate here.

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH: So, these are certain problems I want to highlight. Because of bureaucracy, it is not being done. The Government promised to give them an Assembly and an elected Government. Even for a population of four lakh in another area in Puducherry,

an assembly is there. Shri Basu Deb Acharia brought forward a Private Member's Bill and the Government promised that Andaman will get an Assembly and an elected Government. If an elected Government is there, these things will be solved. So, I demand the Government to keep their promises and tackle all the difficulties and help the tsunami affected people of Andaman.

[Translation]

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE (Ratnagiri): Sir, I feel obliged that you have given permission to raise a serious matter. Mr. Speaker, Sir, M.V. Razzaque is a Cargo-Vessel company in Panama. Its ship Bartin Limani set out for Turkey from Russian port on 17th February but after crossing 90 miles the ship reportedly became untraceable. There were 25 Indian crew members on board and its captain too was an Indian. A question was raised in Rajya Sabha in this regard.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Please do not refer to that.

[Translation]

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE: All right Sir, I won't refer the matter here. But, there is involvement of a big international racket in it and it is not related to the Transport Ministry only, but the matter is related to the Ministries of External Affairs and Ministry of Home Affairs as well. When the ship set out from the Russian Port, the Port authority informed them about the inclement weather. They asked them not to sail the ship due to bad weather but they turned a deaf ear towards them and sailed the ship off the shores of Russia.

MR. SPEAKER: You need not go in so much details, you just make your point.

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE: Sir, I am giving information. After traversing a distance of 90 kilometers the ship became untraceable. Now, there is no information whether the ship is missing or has drowned. If the ship is drowned there is no such information about its drowning. The owner of the ship belongs to Panama and he has got the ship insured through an insurance company of London. The ship is about 25 years old. When the ship had set out for journey there were as many as 38 faults in it. Out of them 35 faults were rectified but remaining three faults were not attended to.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, there is an international racket behind it to claim insured money from the insurance companies. The family members of 25 crew members on board have written to the Ministry of Surface Transport that there is no information about the drowning of the ship, perhaps it has been hijacked or has become untraceable. It is possible that they may be alive and so we need assistance from Interpol. Both the Ministries of External Affairs and Home Affairs should pay heed to it. There is a need to save the lives of these 25 crew members. It is a fact because another such ship has gone missing 9 months ago. Even the information about that ship is not available. The company that had sent these crew members, is not registered in our country so, both Surface Transport and the Home Ministry need to pay heed to it. This is the need of the hour to save the lives of those 25 crew members who are entrapped, therein. It seems to me that the ship might have been drowned to claim the insurance money.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: All efforts should be made.

[Translation]

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE: These 25 employees may be murdered to claim the insurance money. I urge the Government to take assistance of Interpol to save their lives.

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE (Mumbai South Central): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to associate myself with the matter raised by Shri Geete.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Those Members who want to associate themselves with this matter may send slips to the Table.

SHRI K. FRANCIS GEORGE (Idukki): Mr. Speaker, Sir, this is a very serious matter...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: No Mr. George, this is not the way. I will not permit such things. Nothing is to be recorded.

...*(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER: You are speaking without my permission. This hour is being misused.

*Not recorded.

SHRI SANTASRI CHATTERJEE (Serampore): Mr. Speaker, Sir, you are aware as also the entire House that 1st May is the day of the international working class. Its history is drenched with blood and sweat of the tolling people of the world. Since 1890, this day is observed as the day of the international working class throughout the country. It is a day of fraternity, peace and amity and to fight against the exploitation of the capitalist system. Unfortunately, in our country this day is not declared as a National Holiday.

MR. SPEAKER: But we have declared a holiday not only on 1st May but also on 2nd May.

SHRI SANTASRI CHATTERJEE: Sir, only a few States in India like West Bengal, Tripura, Kerala, Tamil Nadu and some other States have declared it as a holiday under the NI Act. I would request the Government of India to declare this historic May Day as a National Holiday and I hope the entire House will join me in this demand.

MR. SPEAKER: I join you, but let there be some more working days.

SHRI A. KRISHNASWAMY (Sriperumbudur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to associate with this matter...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: All right. The names of Shri A. Krishnaswamy, Shri C. Kuppu and Shri A.K.S. Vijayan will be associated with this matter.

[Translation]

SHRI GIRIDHARI LAL BHARGAVA (Jaipur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, toll tax is being charged at five points from Delhi to Jaipur and the policy of charging toll tax is also wrong. Charging of toll tax at various places hampers the traffic flow causing hardship to the passengers. My request is that toll tax should be charged but there should be a rational policy in this regard. It is sheer injustice to charge Rs. 75 for a small vehicle. The contractors should be instructed to charge different tax for different vehicles. There should be separate lanes for car, truck and bus etc. at toll tax check posts. It will facilitate easy flow of traffic and passengers will get rid of traffic jams and their time will also be saved.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: All other matters to be taken up at the end of the day.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI CHANDRA PAL SINGH YADAV (Jhansi): Mr. Speaker, Sir, time was given to speak about cricket but why time is not being given to speak on the issue of drinking water...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down. You will get time to speak in the evening.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI CHANDRA PAL SINGH YADAV: Mr. Speaker, Sir, people are not getting drinking water in our area...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: You will get time to speak in the evening at the end of the day.

12.30 hrs.

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Matters under Rule 377, listed for today, may be treated as laid on the Table of the House.

(I) Need to review the concessions extended to low cost passenger and private aircraft used by private companies

SHRI L. RAJAGOPAL (Vijayawada): With a view to encourage aviation activities in the country, the Government of India, in 2004, extended concessions in navigation, landing & watch extension charges to low-cost aircrafts in the country and since then the low-cost airlines have been taking advantage of these concessions.

In view of the free economy and globalization, there has been a huge and enormous growth in the industrial operations in the country and most of the mega ventures are controlled by the corporate giants, multinational

*Treated as laid on the Table.

companies, etc. This sudden spurt in industrial activity in the country warranted mass utilization of small aircrafts. There are many private companies and corporate giants which are undertaking various mega projects in the country. They are using fixed wing aircraft for their movement and transportation of men and material by availing the services of small airports situated near the place of their operation. These private small aircrafts are making frequent trips to small airports when compared to limited trips by low-cost passenger aircraft and enjoying the concessions given by Government of India which, in real terms, is not meant for private aircrafts.

In view of this, I request the Government of India to limit the above concessions to low-cost passenger aircraft and stop extending concessions to private aircraft, and jets used by corporate and private companies. I also request to review the charges for various services offered at these airports on commercial terms to private aircraft and jets.

(II) Need to give financial package for relief and reconstruction works in the flood affected regions of Karnataka

SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI (Gulbarga): The Karnataka Government has submitted a memorandum seeking central assistance for relief and emergent works due to heavy rain/flood havoc in Karnataka during March 2008.

Due to heavy rains during March 2008, in the State, there are 26 human deaths. Gratuitous relief has been paid to the family members of the deceased persons as per CRF norms. 2631 cattle deaths are reported which includes 52 big animals and 2579 small animals like sheep/goat. 15,479 hours have been damaged for which Rs. 252.92 lakhs has been paid.

Due to heavy rains in the State the following structures has been damaged:-

- 2498.85 kms. of Roads worth Rs. 6285.40 lakhs
- 1075 nos. of Bridges/Culverts worth Rs. 2633.50 lakhs
- 115 nos. of Minor Irrigation Tanks worth Rs. 333.70 lakhs
- 70 nos. of Minor lift Irrigation worth Rs. 995.05 lakhs

- 478 nos. of Water Supply/Sanitation worth Rs. 513.05 lakhs
- 615 nos. of Electrical Damages worth Rs. 155.39 lakhs
- 3020 nos. of Private Building worth Rs. 119.17 lakhs

In the memorandum, assistance of Rs. 54,185.14 lakhs from the Government of India has been sought towards rescue, relief and emergent works.

I earnestly appeal to the Centre to kindly consider and sanction the required relief at the earliest to help and assist the flood affected people of Karnataka.

(III) Need to check human trafficking in the country

SHRI J.M. AARON RASHID (Periyakulam): Human trafficking continues to be a serious blot on India's economy, which has registered approx. 9% growth rate in recent times. The magnitude of human trafficking is a clear indication that all important issues of poverty alleviation remains largely unaddressed even today. As per recent estimates 2-3 million people are trafficked within and out of India every year in this nefarious illegal business, which has assumed alarming proportion and is considered third biggest trade after drugs and arms smuggling.

In the southern part of India too, human trafficking has attained sinister dimension over the years. While poverty, lack of employment avenues, illiteracy etc. are the main contributory factors to this scourge, natural calamities, ethnic unrest and cross-border infiltration have compounded the situation in Southern India.

Women and children happen to be the most vulnerable sections in this dubious trade, who are often lured out of this region with better job prospects, but generally end up as victims in the sex racket. Many of our villages present a grim picture of neglect and apathy, which lack even the basic amenities. It is also apparent that many poverty alleviation schemes are not giving desired results, mostly due to lacunae in implementation.

In view of growing dimension of human trafficking, I urge upon the Government, NGOs and other social activists to embark upon urgent and pragmatic measure to check this menace and restore dignity of this great Nation in the world.

(iv) Need to construct Jetties at Hirakot, Sutrapara and Dhamlej sea-coasts in Gujarat

[Translation]

SHRI JASUBHAI DHANABHAI BARAD (Junagarh): There is about 250 to 300 kilometers long oceanic area between Porbander, Junagarh and Bhavnagar districts in Gujarat. In these sea-coast areas fishing is the major profession of about 3 to 4 lakh families and fishermen of Porbander, Veraval and Mangrol coastal area have about 20 thousand boats with them whereas the facility to keep a total of only about 16 to 18 thousand boats available on these three sea-coasts. Apart from that, the fishermen of Hirakot, Sutrapara and Dhamlej sea coast have to face many difficulties in taking their boats into water and bring them back to the coast because there are no jetties on these coasts. It also causes damage to the boats. Keeping this fact in view the Government of Gujarat has sent proposals to the Central Government for the construction of jetties at Hirakot, Sutrapara and Dhamlej sea coasts. As per my information the survey work for the construction of jetties in all these three areas has been completed and jetties can be constructed there.

The Government of India has not taken any steps so far on the proposals sent by the Gujarat Government.

I have already submitted this proposal through Matters Under Rule 377 on 16.03.2005, but I have not received any information about the progress made so far on this proposal.

I request the Government to issue necessary guidelines to the concerned Ministry and Department regarding this proposal so that speedy action is taken.

(v) Need to ban the export of Iron-ore

[English]

SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO (Guntur): I would like to bring to the attention of the Hon'ble Minister of Mines an important matter concerning iron ore. As is well known, export of minerals in India is guided by the EXIM policy, which regulates and promotes judicious use of iron ore for domestic purpose and export of surplus quantity. It is also reported that we have ample resources of iron ore in India. There is also a general belief that export of iron ore benefits mining sector, tertiary sector activities like shipping and road transport, and at the same time, it generates employment. There is no denying of these facts.

But a couple of months back, fear has been expressed about the fast depletion of iron ore due to rapid increase in exports. One school of thought is of the opinion that levy on iron ore export would conserve iron ore for local use, while the other opined that price of steel for infrastructure would go up. It is reported that exports of iron ore have risen by about 100 per cent because of its demand in the international market. If this trend is continued, it would be difficult to meet the domestic requirements.

Under the circumstances, I would urge upon the Government to completely ban the iron ore exports forthwith keeping in view the domestic industry.

(vi) Need to honour the freedom fighters of First War of Independence

[Translation]

SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR (Chandrapur): Sir, we are celebrating the 150th anniversary of Indian freedom struggle, several freedom fighters took part in the country wide struggle for independence but history of this freedom struggle is not available in its totality even today. Many valient men and women of freedom struggle sacrificed their lives for the independence. They must be remembered by the next generations of the country. There is a need to make entire information about the heroes and heroines available throughout the country who fought for independence by authenticating the necessary documents available. In this era of advertisement there is a need to prepare an action plan by the Government so as to keep the memories of the struggle of 1857 intact by using T.V., Internet and other media so that the new generation takes inspiration from it. Vir Baburao Shedmake sacrificed his life in the armed revolution against the British. His golden history is remembered even today by the children and the old. A fair is held at the place of his martyrdom. Such Adiwas, Tribal and other freedom fighters are being forgotten today. Through you I would like to demand that a commemorative postal stamp should be issued to make the present generation familiar with the history of such forgotten, known and unknown freedom fighters. The Department of Posts should issue commemorative postal stamp of all the freedom fighters by preparing programme running throughout the year. Today Railways is publishing advertisements on tickets and trains. If information along with pictures of valient man and women who took part in the freedom struggle of 1857 is published along with these advertisements,

then it will be possible for the present generation to get information about them and also get inspiration from their inspiring personality. I demand that the Government should take cognisance of it and act accordingly. The Government should take this action to keep the memory of these valient men and women intact and also pay tribute to them who fought for the independence during the freedom struggle of 1857 in different areas of the country.

(vii) Need to restore the quota of wheat for APL category in Rajasthan

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer): Sir, the people belonging to general category are considered under APL category. For the financial year 2007-08, the Government of India have allocated 16,959 metric tonnes of wheat for the APL families of Rajasthan State and no rice has been allocated. The number of ration cards under this scheme till June, 2005 is 1,07,96,720. Under the targeted public distribution system for APL families there is a provision of providing 35 kilograms of wheat per family at the rate of rupees 6.30 per kg. Out of the total APL families of the State only 5 per cent families are being provided foodgrains, the rest 95 per cent families have been facing the problem of foodgrains.

1,57,682 metric tonnes of wheat were being allocated per month for the APL families by the Central Government, but this allocation has been substantially reduced to only 16959 metric tonnes of wheat per month from June, 2006, which is quite insufficient considering the number of APL families and the State has repeatedly been requesting the Central Government to increase this allocation. Besides, under T.P.D.S., the State has been provided imported wheat of red hue and small size by the F.C.I for many months through various schemes. The consumers and representatives of people in various districts have resented against the distribution of this wheat and demanded to provide good quality wheat.

During first quarter of the month of March this year extensive damage was caused to the Rabi crop due to hailstorm and heavy storm and all categories of farmers have tremendously been in most of the districts of the State. At present, it is very urgent to provide relief by making available the foodgrains to the maximum number of people through public distribution system.

The Government of India is, therefore, requested that keeping in view the unprecedented natural calamity and rising prices of wheat, the APL families in the State of Rajasthan, should be provided 157682 metric tonnes of good quality and edible wheat per month as it was being provided before June, 2008.

(viii) Need to give a share of revenue collected from rural areas to panchayats for development of the villages

SHRI AVINASH RAI KHANNA (Hoshiarpur): Before independence, Indian leaders had a dream that since India lives in villages and if villages develop, India will develop. From the religious point of view also religious leaders said that if you want to search God you have to go to the villages, but after independence, it seems, that all of us have forgotten the idea of developing the villages. Several schemes with the expenditure of crores of rupees failed to improve the infrastructure of the villages. The rate of migration from villages to cities has increased and the reason of which is the problems like lack of employment, insufficient educational and health facilities, electricity and water problems prevalent even today in the villages. If the villages are strengthened economically and if sources of income exists in the villages, the villages will become self-reliant on their own. For example, a certain percentage of the total revenue collected from a village should be given to that village and village panchayat will keep the information of the revenue to be collected in a year, for example, the revenue in the form of electricity, telephone bills, market fees is collected in a village and the amount of money goes to the State or the Centre. If, the entire amount of revenue collected goes first to the government, and then it is allocated back to the village, in this process, there is a possibility of huge leakage of money. If certain percentage of that amount is allocated to the village at the initial stage itself, the village will have a definite source of income. Then, that village will not always have to look to the government for its development. In the same manner a certain percentage of tax collected from the newly open brick kilns, petrol pump, wine shops or any other industries established, should be given back to that village. This way the village will be strong economically. This will lead to development and the creation of employment opportunities and the Panchayati Raj System will get strengthened. It is hoped that the Government will work out a plan on this subject keeping in view my view points.

(ix) Need for a Central Legislation for providing social security to weavers besides reinstating the retrenched workers of 'Maharashtra Rajya Bunker Maha Mandal'

SHRI SHISHUPAL N. PATLE (Bhandara): Sir, we have weavers in large numbers in the country, especially in Maharashtra they are weaving clothes by hand for the

[Shri Shishupal N. Patle]

last 80 years and they possess good weaving skill. The Government of Maharashtra constituted the Maharashtra State Weavers Federation to purchase clothes prepared by these weavers and supply the clothes in all the government offices of the State and thus more than one lakh weavers were dependent on this industry in the State. But recently the Government of Maharashtra disbanded them and rendered them without work by giving a payment of Rs. 25000. That is why these weavers in Maharashtra are on the verge of starvation.

I urge the Government that these workers should be reinstated. Those who have been disbanded by making meagre payment of Rs. 25000 should be given an increased amount to the tune of rupees one lakh. Those who want to work their PF should be deducted. Workers Law (for safety) should be enacted for the weavers. Such facilities like scholarships, health care-housing scheme and pension should be implemented.

(x) Need to ban the film shows of 'Jodha Akbar'

SHRI SRICHAND KRIPLANI (Chittorgarh): Sir, recently released Hindi Film "Jodha-Akbar" was mired in controversy. The main reason of dispute was Jodhabai and the character of Jodhabai has been wrongly projected, the historians are also of the same view. The role of Jodhabai Portrayed in the film caused much resentment among the Rajputs of the country and particularly the Rajputs of Rajasthan raised their voice against it and due to this release the film was banned in many States.

The role of Jodhabai in this film has not been portrayed properly. Due to controversy in this film, the whole Rajput community of the country requested the Information and Broadcasting Minister to ban the screening of this film.

So, Speaker, Sir, I would like to request you that this House should at once interfere in this matter and the Central Government should stop the screening of the film to pacify their resentment and mental agony of Rajput community.

(xi) Need to give clearance for the renovation of Malampuzha Dam site and Garden project in Kerala

[English]

SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS (Palghat): Malampuzha Dam site and the garden is the most attractive tourist

point in Kerala. It has been constructed 53 years ago. Now it is out dated due to the new tourism trends. So the Tourism Department of Kerala have prepared a most modern project for the total renovation of this important tourist point. For financial assistance that project has been submitted before the tourism ministry of the Union Government. But still it is awaiting the clearance from the Union Government. So, I urge upon the Government to give clearance to this important project at the earliest.

(xii) Need to construct an over-bridge near Salempur railway station and on the southern side of Bilthara road in Salempur Parliamentary Constituency, Uttar Pradesh

[Translation]

SHRI HARIKEWAL PRASAD (Salempur): A demand for the construction of an overbridge near Salempur railway station between Bhatni-Varanasi railway section in my Salempur Parliamentary Constituency is being made for the last several years. Survey has since been conducted in this regard and essential norms for the construction of an overbridge i.e., plying of one lac vehicles is also fulfilled as the plying of one and half lac vehicles has been recorded on this road. Letters have also been written in this regard. The issue was raised in the House but the Department of Railways did not make any provision for this in the budget. As a result of it, people of my constituency are agitating and demonstrating. The construction of an overbridge at the southern side of Bilthara road in the same constituency is pending. The work is not in progress at this site. Traffic jam for hours is a common sight due to absence of overbridges on these roads and this road connects several districts of Bihar.

Through this House, I request the Government that order be issued for the construction of overbridges at Salempur Railway station and at the Southern side of Bilthara road.

(xiii) Need to ensure construction of roads as per specified norms under Rashtriya Sam Vikas Yojana in Banka Parliamentary Constituency, Bihar

SHRI GIRIDHARI YADAV (Banka): Sir, genuine material is not being used in the on going construction work of Sultanganj-Amarpur-Banka-Katoria road, Sultanganj-Deoghar road and Bhagalpur-Hasidaha road and estimates for these roads have been made at very high

rates. As a result, poor quality roads will be constructed which will not last more than six-seven months and the expenditure being incurred thereon by the Government will prove useless. An enquiry is needed in this regard and strict action taken so that the people's money is utilized properly and the personnel working in accordance with rules may be encouraged.

Through this House, the Government is requested that an immediate enquiry be conducted into this case and the guilty punished.

(xiv) Need to include the Bheel Community of Orissa in the list of Scheduled Tribe

[English]

SHRI PRASANNA ACHARYA (Sambalpur): The Bheel Community in Orissa is economically backward and socially downtrodden. This community is found, particularly, in Bargarh, Barpali, Bijepur, Bhatli, Attabira and Bhedan Block of Bargarh distt. They also reside in other parts of the State. The Bheel Community enjoys all the facilities extended to SC/ST in other States but so far they are deprived of the same in Orissa because this community has not been enlisted in the List of Tribals. The Orissa State Tribal Advisory Council has in the meantime endorsed the demand of the Bheel Community to be recognized as a tribal community and accordingly, the State Government vide its letter No. 33302 dated 24th August, 2007 has recommended to the Ministry of Tribal Affairs, Government of India to give recognition to the Bheel Community of Orissa as a Tribe. But the matter is still pending with the Ministry of Tribal Affairs thereby depriving the Bheel Community of Orissa of all the benefits they ought to get. I would therefore, urge upon the Ministry of Tribal Affairs to expeditiously consider the matter and enlist the Bheel Community of Orissa as a Scheduled Tribe.

(xv) Need to construct approach roads and safety grills on both sides of N.H. 60 between Kharagpur and Dantan in West Bengal

SHRI PRABODH PANDA (Midnapore): It is a matter of concern that frequent accidents take place at the NH-60 particularly from Kharagpur to Dantan. During last one year Bakhrabad and Manaharpur bus stand have witnessed deplorable incidents. The local administration and different organizations have made some valuable suggestions for taking necessary measures in this regard. The proposals are as such, construction of approach roads

at both sides of the main road, setting up grills for protection purpose and so forth. A large number of school students have no other way but to cross express high way for going to their school. Small markets are developed there. So these places are highly risky in the context of safety and security. I earnestly urge upon the Union Government to take the necessary measures at the earliest. It is to be noted that this is a part of Golden Quadrilateral.

(xvi) Need to clear the arrears of wages of retired employees of the Heavy Engineering Corporation Limited, Dhurwa, Jharkhand

[Translation]

SHRI MUNSHI RAM (Bijnor): Sir, in 1962-63, 15000 employees were working in the HECL, the largest public undertaking of Asia located at Dhurwa, Ranchi. They have been demanding their wage arrears of 1992-96 from the management for the last 15 years. The management worked out a formula in the year 2006 for giving wage arrears and made payment to 6000 employees without giving any interest and the remaining 8000 employees were told that their arrears will be paid to them out of the package which was coming soon from the Government of Jharkhand, but the management has not made any payment to them till date. This is a very serious matter involving the future and livelihood of the families of about 15000 employees and it needs to be resolved by the Government of India by giving a special package.

Through this House, I demand from the Government of India that payment with interest be made to the retired employees of H.E.C.L., Ranchi, Jharkhand at the earliest as it is affecting the lives of about 15000 families.

(xvii) Need to take action against the persons involved in desecration of the statue of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar in Mehboobnagar district of Andhra Pradesh

[English]

DR. M. JAGANNATH (Nagar Kurnool): Dr. B.R. Ambedkar was the Head of the Constitution Drafting Committee and has been treated as the Father of the Constitution.

In recent past Statements has been made against Dr. B.R. Ambedkar which shows the intolerance for the

[Dr. M. Jagannath]

National Integrity and for the development of Scheduled Castes and weaker sections of the society.

Even the statues of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar have been damaged and desecrated all over the country time and again. But as no punishment is given to the offender, these incidents are happening repeatedly.

Recently at a village called Sreerangapor Pebbar Mandal of Mahaboobnagar District of Andhra Pradesh on 8.3.2008 a full length statue of Dr. Baba Saheb Ambedkar is damaged. The head and hand of the statue of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar were chopped off by unscrupulous persons at 2.30 AM. There was large scale resentment among the Dalits and that led to Dharnas and road blockades. Even the local Dr. B.R. Ambedkar youth association had filed complaint with the local police giving the names of the suspects.

Instead of arresting the real culprits and punishing them the local police is trying to dilute the case and punish the innocent persons. I request through your good-self the Government of India to direct the Government of Andhra Pradesh to arrest the real culprits and punish them and take necessary steps to curb such incidents in near future and throughout the country. I also request the Government of India to come out with a legislation awarding stringent punishment or life imprisonment to those who commit such types of heinous crimes.

(xviii) Need to provide funds to the Government of Assam for the provincialisation of Bodo medium Venture schools

SHRI SANSUMA KHUNGGUR BWISWMUTHIARY (Kokrajhar): I would like to draw the kind attention of the present Government at the Centre to a long pending matter that pertains to the urgent need of the Centre's intervention in the matter of helping the State Government of Assam and Bodoland administration in provincialising all the venture schools of Bodo medium in elementary and secondary stage of education.

Since 1996 onward, a good number of primary, upper primary, Middle English-up to class VII and High Schools of Bodo medium in different districts of Assam have been suffering from untold troubles and difficulties of beyond description for not having been taken over under provincialisation system of schools by the State Government due to the paucity of funds. Although, this long pending issue has been raised by me time and again in the august House of Parliament, even then, nothing tangible has been done so far in this regard.

I, humbly appeal the Union Government of India, to take prompt proactive and the danger of extinction positive action plan to rescue the dying Bodo medium school education in Assam from by rushing all kinds of required central assistance at the earliest possible as genuinely deserved and as highly solicited.

12.32 hrs.

FINANCE BILL, 2008—contd.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Now, the House shall take up Item No. 24, Finance Bill 2008. The hon. Members who wish to lay their speeches may do so. Now, the hon. Minister!

*SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO (Guntur): Sir, at the very outset, I would like to congratulate the Congress President, Madam Sonia Gandhi ji, the hon. Prime Minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh and the hon. Finance Minister, Shri P. Chidambaram for announcing the Debt Waiver and Relief Scheme to the tune of Rs. 60,000 crore. It is an historic announcement with no parallels. No Government in the past had announced loan waiver of this magnitude. It will not be an exaggeration if I say that the UPA Government is working in the interests of the farmers. This Government wants to see the farmers lead an honourable and respectable life. It is an extraordinary effort of this Government to come to the rescue of the farmers who are in distress.

Now, I turn to my State, Andhra Pradesh, where about 78 lakhs small and marginal farmers would reap the benefit of Rs. 13,000 crore. Hence, I call Andhra Pradesh would be the biggest beneficiary of this landmark scheme of loan waiver. The loan waiver has come at the right time and in a sense it can be called a boon to the small and marginal farmers. This scheme would enable the small and marginal farmers to wipe off their debts and to revive their economic activity with enthusiasm and to start the life afresh.

As is well aware, agricultural activity is dependant on the vagaries of nature. In one sense, it can be called a gambling. In spite of vast development in our scientific sphere, we could not predict the weather conditions and guide the farmers about the impending natural calamities. Untimely rains in Guntur and Prakasam districts in Andhra

*Speech was laid on the Table.

Pradesh this month has caused havoc to the chilli standing crop, which resulted in distress to the farmers.

Now, let me turn to some of the shortcomings of the debt waiver scheme. Let me emphasize that the scheme benefits only the small and marginal farmers and not the tenant farmers. To quote a specific example, the tenant farmers, who are called *Kowlu Rythulu* in Andhra Pradesh mostly hail from SCs, STs and Backward Classes. They live in penury. Hence, they deserve all the sympathy of the Government. Hence, I would like to suggest that the debt waiver scheme should be suitably modified with a view to extend the benefits to the tenant farmers also, as they are the ones who toil in the farm.

Same is the case with the Tobacco farmers. They do not get benefits under the loan waiver scheme. This is attributed to the system of paying price to the tobacco farmers. As is the practice, it is mandatory to sell tobacco at the Tobacco Board sponsored auction platforms and the price is paid to the Tobacco farmers by cheque through the Tobacco Board, which ensures that the dues to the banks from the Tobacco farmers are paid at the time of issuing cheques. There cannot be any default on the part of Tobacco farmers as the repayment is compulsive and are made from the sale proceeds.

The other important segment is those farmers who pay their outstandings to the bank promptly. They are not eligible for the benefit under the debt waiver scheme as no amount is left unpaid against their names at the cut off date. It is nothing but punishing those farmers who have promptly discharged their bank debts. Hon. Minister would agree with me that this would undoubtedly send a wrong signal to the farmers who repay their bank debts promptly. As is popularly said, we are putting a premium on default. This should not be the case. Hope the Government would consider this aspect with all seriousness it deserves.

Hence, I would like to suggest that the farmers, in general, and tobacco farmers, in particular, who have promptly repaid their bank loans should be brought within the ambit of the debt waiver scheme so that they are also allowed to reap the benefits of this scheme.

Now, I come to the crop insurance scheme. Crop insurance scheme is primarily to protect the farmers at the time of natural calamities and pests create havoc. Farmers are in favour of insurance scheme but it should be made uniformly. At present, all the crops are not

coming under the domain of the insurance scheme. I would most fervently suggest that insurance scheme should be extended not only to cover all the crops but also to ensure that village is considered as a 'unit' for the purpose of assessing crop damage.

I am of the firm conviction that the above suggestions, if implemented, would go a long way in bringing smile on the faces of the farmers. Farmers have welcomed the debt waiver scheme wholeheartedly. They are showering praises on the UPA Government. They are overwhelmed with this act of the Government. Under the able guidance of Congress President, Sonia Gandhi ji, hon. Prime Minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh ji, the UPA Government would make great strides in touching new heights in good governance and resolving the genuine problems of the farming community and general public and by bringing about all round development in the country.

Additional points

Sir, I would also request the Finance Minister to ensure that Minimum Guarantee Price (MGP) is fixed for chilly, tobacco and cotton. Not only that, the UPA Government should give the chilly, tobacco and cotton growers subsidy and when the prices of these important crops fall drastically, subsidy should be given as per the MGP. I would request the Government to ensure that considerable funds should be allocated for this purpose.

I would also like to urge the hon. Finance Minister to extend workers' insurance to all the sections of people. I hope the progressive UPA Government would find an innovative method to stop the pathetic situation of farmers taking loans from moneylenders and commission agents at exorbitant prices. When they are unable to pay the principal and high interest, they were forced to commit suicide. Most of the time, their interest component exceeds the principal. If farmers get loans from banks without any hassle, farmers would not knock at the doors of moneylenders at exorbitant rate of interests. Hence, I would request the Government to issue fresh instructions or directions to the banks not to refuse loans on one pretext or another. Banks should extend every possible help to the farmers when they approach them for loan. Otherwise, they go to moneylenders, which is the cause for the whole problem. This trend should be changed forthwith. Banks should come forward to extend fresh crop loans to the farming community.

[Shri Rayapati Sambasiva Rao]

Andhra Pradesh faces the problems of floods and drought almost every year. Central Government should come to the rescue of the Government of Andhra Pradesh by extending every possible financial assistance to tide over the recurring problem every year. Without the helping hand of the Central Government in the form of financial grants, State Government single-handedly could not tackle the problems of flood and droughts every year.

[Translation]

*SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR (Chail): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to give some suggestions in regard to the Finance Bill, 2008. MPLAD Fund should either be increased from Rs. 2 crore to Rs. 5 crore, it should be scrapped. The entire country is facing the problem of drinking water. In order to solve the said problem. India mark II hand pumps should be installed in every parliamentary constituency through all the 500 MPs. The Government should give package from tourism and economic point of view alongwith a package for drinking water and irrigation besides providing stoppage of trains in backward districts like Pratapgarh, Fatehpur and Kaushambi of Uttar Pradesh. In view of the prevailing drought situation Package of Rs. 100 crore should be given for Bundelkhand, Uttar Pradesh. The Union Government should give special relief package.

[English]

*SHRI P.C. THOMAS (Muvattupuzha): Sir, I would like to raise the following points:

- (1) The farmers in difficulty are forgotten when customs duty on palm oil is drastically cut. Mainly coconut and other oil seed farmers. To address price rise some other way out has to be found. Decrease in duty (import) of palm oil never reduces the price of edible oil in the open market, as traders and producers in Malaysia increase the price at the time of each reduction in customs duty of palm oil.
- (2) In Kuttanad in Kerala the farmers producing paddy are in great distress due to summer rains. Their ripe paddy has been drastically destroyed. Some urgent steps to help them must be taken.
- (3) Agricultural loans should be delivered to farmers by banks at 4%.

*Speech was laid on the Table.

- (4) The steps to waive loans of small and marginal farmers should be expedited and directions should go to paid amounts towards interest should not be denied benefit of waiver just because banks are doing book work to make their loans appear as new loans.
- (5) Tax return forms and modalities for payment of tax should be simplified, further.
- (6) Citizens should be given more education on the need to pay tax. Self help groups should be used on a large scale to disseminate such conscientisation. These groups may also be used for tax collection.
- (7) Further steps should be taken to arrest price-rise. Encouragement given to private payers to use FDI godowns, and to take part in P.D.S. should be reviewed.
- (8) Genuine charitable institutions should be given tax exemptions and access to modern equipments should be without duty if it is for the real charity undertaken.

*DR. PRASANNA KUMAR PATASANI (Bhubaneswar): This year's Union Budget brought two bonanzas for two different sections of India. The Finance Minister offered to waive agricultural loans to the extent of 60 thousand crore rupees, benefiting about 4 crore cultivators. And, he offered unexpectedly deep cuts in the income tax rates, hugely benefiting about 3 crore tax-payers belonging largely to the urban middle classes. A smaller section of this latter class, comprising about 45 lakh employees of the central government and another about 1.5 crore employees of the state governments, were also promised an additional bonanza in the form of substantially enhanced pay-packets to be offered according to the recommendations of the sixth pay commission.

While the agriculturists are going to get a one-time waiver of about Rs. 15,000 on the average; every income tax payer gets a regular annual benefit of at least Rs. 4,000, those earning higher salaries get to save much more on this account, an upper middle class salary earner, getting about 5 lakhs per annum, benefits to the extent of Rs. 4,000 per month if not more. The details of the pay-packet bonanza have now been announced, and it seems all government employees can happily expect a

*Speech was laid on the Table.

raise of at least 40 per cent in their current incomes. The total annual cost to the exchequer on account of the income tax foregone because of the new rates, and the enhanced salary payments, are likely to be of the same order as that of the one-time waiver offered to the agriculturists.

It is our response to these two kinds of bonanzas offered to two distinctly different sections of Indian people that gives an idea of the place of agriculture in our economic order. Because of the compulsions of an election year for all players in the election game, the criticism of the agricultural loan waiver has been muted. But most analysts are convinced that it is a regressive measure that at the best shall fail to benefit the really deserving, and at the worst shall weaken the moral fibre of our peasants, making them believe that loans raised do not have to be always repaid. The income tax and pay packet bonanza, on the other hand, have been seen as positive signals that shall boost consumption and give a fillip to the economy. Many commentators have even pointed out that the great raise in the pay packets of the higher government officers still keeps them several notches below the managers in the private sector. The salaries being paid in the private sector to a small section of fresh managers and information technologists have already greatly distorted the awards system in our economy. Those going into managerial and software-related professions get disproportionately more than those at the corresponding levels in other sectors of the economy. Consequently, hard-core engineering and science disciplines that are essential to a healthy national economy have got greatly de-emphasised. This distortion of the award system is fast becoming a problem of the same intensity as the distortion in the relative place of agriculture and other sectors of the economy that has long persisted in India. But, for the present let us focus on the latter distortion, that between agriculture and others, alone.

Agriculture and cultivators have had a peculiar place in Indian polity since Independence. Given their large numbers, they have been politically important; and, with the passage of time, their political clout has only been rising. Economically, however, agriculture has been considered more or less as an unwelcome necessity. We have to grow food, at least the bare minimum required to keep the people fed without having to undertake heavy imports; and we have to keep the large numbers dependent on agriculture occupied, at least until we can

find better employment for them in the industry and services sectors. That sense of an unattractive but necessary activity, to be transcended as soon as possible, seems to have informed our economic thinking and planning about agriculture since Independence.

Consequently, all our efforts in agriculture, even the highly over-rated so-called 'Green Revolution', have been aimed at assuring production of no more than 200 kg per capita of food-grains per year. That figure of 200 kg per capita per year is derived from a late nineteenth century report of the famine commission, which had determined that you need to ensure the availability of at least that much of food-grains in a region to forestall the calamity of famine-deaths. We have taken that figure of famine rations to be our national limit of food production. We produce just about 200 kg per capita per year of food-grains; the actual supply is somewhat less than that figure because a certain percentage has necessarily to be taken out for seed and waste, etc. In the world, average supply of about 300 kg per capita per annum of food-grains is taken to be essential; most functioning economies produce above 600 kg per capita.

Our level of production of food-grains implies two things. One, since our average supply of food-grains equals the bare minimum required for human survival, large numbers who fall on the lower side of the average remain malnourished; all data on the health status of Indian people point to the prevalence of large-scale hunger and malnourishment, even more so among women and children. Two, since the total amount of food-grains we produce is less than sufficient for human needs, there is little left for animals. This has led to almost the complete exclusion of animals from agriculture, especially in those parts of India where agriculture is doing relatively well. In India, we used to have a pair of bullocks for every couple of hectares of cultivation. Today, one can see this number of cattle only in some tribal areas of the country where animals still remain an important part of life and economy of the people.

Our economic policies have de-emphasised agriculture, and within agriculture, our policies have de-emphasised both food-grains and animals. Agriculture economist and scientists have been convinced that cultivation of food-grains is lower form of agriculture and it should be replaced by commercial crops as soon as a certain amount of prosperity is achieved in a region; if possible even in the poorer areas, as has been done in

[Shri Prasanna Kumar Patasani]

regions like Vidarbha, where such shift invariably proves to be a sure recipe for disaster. Of the many causes of suicide deaths in Vidarbha, one of the most important is the shift from cultivation of Jowar to that of cotton and soybean. The agricultural economists and scientists have been equally convinced that cattle, especially indigenous Indian cattle, are an economic burden that needs to be lessened drastically. Once again, the experience of the Vidarbha cultivator is the exact opposite; he knows that the one who has a cow or a pair of bullocks in his homestead is hardly ever driven to suicide.

The Indian insistence on declaring self-sufficiency in food-grains production at the ridiculously low level of 200 kg per capita per annum, promoting diversification away from food-grains at this level of production, and recommending agriculture without animals is an international joke among both leaders and experts who know something about agriculture. This is indeed sad. Because, India's classical literature teaches a great deal about the core importance of an abundance of food in a well-functioning society. This literature also teaches with great insistence that production of food and rearing of animals are the core economic activities in any society. These have to be promoted and preserved in all possible ways, at all costs.

The issue of agricultural loan-waiver should be looked at in this perspective. Agriculture, like any other productive activity, requires running capital; that often has to be provided in the form of crop loans. When the cultivators fail to repay the loans, the banking system gets stuck, further loaning stops. This drives the cultivators to informal and often usurious channels. It therefore becomes essential to unclog the banking system, and re-establish the flow.

Let me recount another story from Vidarbha. The data shows that in that unfortunate region, the cultivators have been shifting from cotton to soybean over the last several years. This was surprising to me; because, soybean yields in the region are also not particularly good. I asked several farmers why they were shifting to soybean. They wouldn't reply. Finally, a marginally better off cultivator, a police patel of his small village, said that he would tell me the reason. He said that the previous year when the time came to sow cotton, he had no money to buy the seed; the local cooperative wouldn't advance any seed because he had not repaid his loans. So, he said, he went to the market, bought a few kilograms of soybean

and broadcast in his field, hoping that at least something would grow. That is what the clogging of formal loan-channels does to agriculture. It makes cultivators forego cultivation.

Loan waiver, of course, is not a remedy for our skewed economic priorities. Remedying the situation would require rethinking almost all our priorities, rethinking what kind of nation we want to build for ourselves, and how we want to go about this urgent task. But, an occasional waiver of loans in agriculture does help in tiding over the immediate crisis and help the cultivators continue on the land for a while longer. And, it gives us time to look at the condition of India and especially of our agriculture today, perhaps learn from what our classical literature teaches, and recover our priorities and our anchorage in the fundamental economic activity of mankind.

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am grateful to the hon. Member, Shri K. Swain, who initiated the debate and the number of hon. Members who have participated in the discussion on the Finance Bill, which, of course, is the last stage of the Budget exercise.

Many hon. Members have covered partly the same ground that they did when the Budget was being debated and in reply to that discussion I had dealt with the broad approach of the Government on matters relating to economic policy, fiscal policy and the various measures that we have taken not only to promote growth but to make that growth more inclusive.

At this stage we are concerned with the Finance Bill. In a sense I am deeply gratified because to the best of my knowledge I find that there are no amendments moved by the hon. Members, though there are some official amendments.

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: We never wanted a mid-term poll.

MR. SPEAKER: You are showing your lack of confidence in yourself.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: It is not because of lack of confidence, but we do not want the country to be plunged into the mid-term poll.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Sir, I am talking about amendments to the Finance Bill and the hon. Member is referring to something entirely different.

The Finance Bill is intended to amend the Income Tax Act and some other fiscal laws, but the fact is that while some Members have raised some questions about the provisions that we have made in the Finance Bill, none has found it necessary to move an actual amendment to the Finance Bill.

Of course, I have responded to the concerns expressed post-Budget. I have also responded, as you will find, presently, to some of the concerns expressed on the floor of this House and I am moving some official amendments which would satisfy the concerns raised by hon. Members. But the fact that there are no private amendments means that we have reached a stage where, broadly, fiscal policy has broad support among all the sections of this House.

MR. SPEAKER: There were no cut motions either, probably only one cut motion was there.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: I was referring only to the amendments, cut motions are different matter. Cut motions are really to make another point, not the point regarding the content of the Finance Bill but to make a political point.

MR. SPEAKER: That is right.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: There are none of that either.

Sir, broadly, I wish to say that our Government is committed to what the CMP says on fiscal matters. I wish to quote the CMP:

"The UPA Government will initiate measures to increase the tax GDP ratio by undertaking major tax reforms that expand the base of taxpayers' increased tax compliance and make the tax administration more efficient. Tax rates will be stable and conducive to growth compliance and investment."

Sir, let us measure the achievements of this Government against these goals. The tax GDP ratio that we inherited was 9.2 per cent in 2003-04.

At the end of 2007-08, it is 12.5 per cent. At the end of 2008-09, it will be 13 per cent. We have achieved

a higher tax-GDP ratio despite cutting customs duties, excise duties and, in this Budget, personal income tax to every taxpayer in this country. Has the base of taxpayers increased? The answer is 'Yes'. The number of assesseees has increased from 3,01,78,000 in 2003-04 to 3,25,00,000 in 2007-08 despite increasing the threshold from time to time and allowing a large number of erstwhile assesseees to go out of the tax net. Has compliance increased? The answer is a resounding 'yes'. I am grateful to the hon. Members who complimented the Department of Revenue for improved tax administration.

Look at the rates of growth of gross tax revenue. In the four years of the UPA Government, gross tax revenues have increased by 19.9 per cent in the first year, 20.1 per cent in the second year, 29.3 per cent in the third year and provisionally by 25 per cent in the fourth year 2007-08. The tax administration has indeed become more efficient. The cost of tax collection on the direct taxes side is only 53 paise per Rs. 100, the lowest of any country in the world. On the indirect taxes side, it is 65 paise per Rs. 100. As has been acknowledged by many hon. Members, the cost of collection is perhaps among the lowest in the world. What has this given us? This has given us an opportunity to make growth more inclusive. I will deal with the inclusive growth presently but the fact that we have such large tax revenue means, among many things, two things. Firstly, more money has been given to the States. I will presently show the fiscal health of the States and the remarkable improvement that has come about thanks to the Central Government giving them far more money than they would have even budgeted for or anticipated. Secondly, it has given the Central Government the headroom to vastly increase the outlays. Have I starved any Department of money? I can say with confidence that no Department has been starved of money. In fact, through the final Supplementary, we give them far more money than what was even originally budgeted at the beginning of the year. I have given some of these numbers earlier. But since this is a good occasion to highlight some of these numbers, please permit me to give these numbers once again.

Take Education. In 2003-04, the Central Government's outlay for Education was Rs. 7024 crore; in the current year it is Rs. 34,400 crore. Let me take Health. In 2003-04, it was Rs. 6983 crore; in the current year it is Rs. 16,534 crore.

Now I take something which is very close to my heart...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please do not interrupt; this is not right.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: It will reach 6 per cent but the point is this. Have we made dramatic progress towards that goal? The answer is 'Yes'. Will it reach 6 per cent? The answer is 'Yes'. Has it reached 6 per cent? Not yet, but it will reach 6 per cent if we continue to grow at the same rate.

Now I take something which is close to all our hearts, namely, our children must remain in school. Only a couple of days ago, I had an opportunity to deliver a convocation address and I found to my great distress that 76 lakh children even today are out of school. The attrition rate is very high. We want children to remain in school, and one of the instruments was the Mid-Day Meals Scheme originally authored by the late Shri Kamaraj in Tamil Nadu using the State's own money without a pie from the Central Government. Then the Supreme Court intervened and said the Mid-Day Meals Scheme must be universalized and be made applicable to all children. In 2003-04, the allocation to the Mid-Day Meals Scheme was Rs. 1175 crore for all the children of this country. This year, the outlay is Rs. 8000 crore.

We are expanding the Mid Day Meal Scheme beyond the primary classes to upper primary classes. Therefore, Sir, the goal is inclusive growth. The starting point is a set of sound, fiscal, monetary and financial policies that will promote growth. While growth takes place, while we savour the moment of growth, we should be focused on making that growth inclusive, and towards that, in the latter part of my intervention today, I shall deal with how we are making this growth inclusive.

Sir, I have taken note of the number of suggestions that have been received from various quarters post-Budget. In fact, it is a tribute to our democracy that a large number of people participate in the debate on the Budget. Thanks to technology, people are able to send it by e-mail, people are able to send it by fax, and the Members have spoken on their concerns. I have responded to many of these concerns. On some matters, I think, the concerns have arisen because of a misunderstanding of the provision or a lack of information, and I shall deal with them presently.

Sir, since the presentation of the Budget on the 29th February, I have received a number of suggestions from the hon. Members of Parliament, various Associations,

and Trade and Industry on the proposals in the Finance Bill. I have also taken note of the valuable suggestions made by the hon. Members of Parliament during the debate in this House. In general, I am grateful, the Members have welcomed the relief in various tax rates but seem to have some reservations on some proposals.

I have just now presented to you, Sir, how tax administration has improved and how tax revenues have increased. There is, of course, another point of view that the Government must impose a higher tax burden on the rich. The marginal rate of tax on an individual or a corporate, including education cess, is 33.99 per cent. Besides, it is the corporate sector, trade and industry which pay the bulk of customs duties and excise duties. My endeavour has been to increase the effective rate of corporate tax paid by corporations but I confess my efforts are not entirely successful because of demands for continuing exemptions or introducing new exemptions. I think, I would not be revealing any secret if I say that every request for exemption has the support of one or more Members of this House, irrespective of political affiliations. In my view, and I submit this for the consideration of this House, the way forward is not to increase tax rates but to remove the exemptions. In the last four years, I have succeeded to some extent in removing the exemptions or imposing sunset clauses but I cannot say that I am fully satisfied. The work on this regard would have to continue. Eventually, we will have to move towards a system of taxation where the exemptions are few, each exemption is reviewed periodically, and each exemption comes to an end after a reasonable period of time. I am confident that the new income-tax code that will be placed in the public domain shortly for discussion will reflect my philosophy in this regard, and I hope that in due course, the new income-tax code will, after debate and deliberations, become law.

Sir, let me now deal with the changes in the Finance Bill which are being introduced through official amendments.

Clause 3 of the Finance Bill seeks to amend the definition of "charitable purpose". It has been broadly welcomed although some concerns have been raised. The intent is to exclude any activity, which is purely in the nature of trade, commerce or business, or any activity of rendering any service in relation to any trade, commerce or business for a cess or fee any other consideration, irrespective of the nature of use or application, or retention, of the income from such activity.

Sir, the Income-tax Act, not in India but the world over, taxes incomes. And what is 'an income' is defined in each Act.

So, as long as an entity carries on activity, which is purely trade, commerce or business, simply because it wears the mask of a charity, it should not escape the Income Tax law. That I believe, is generally accepted by all sections of the House as I listened to the debate yesterday.

The intention—let me repeat—is to limit the benefit to entities, which are engaged in activities, such as (1) relief of the poor; (2) education; (3) medical relief, which are already in the Section and which we are not touching; and any other genuine charitable purpose and to deny the exemption to purely commercial and business entities, which wear the mask of a charity. A number of hon. Members have written to me expressing their concern on the possible impact of the proposal on Agricultural Produce Marketing Committees or State Agricultural Marketing Boards. Since there is no intention to tax APMCs or SAMBs and in order to remove any doubts, I propose to insert a new clause 26 AAB in Section 10 of the Income Tax Act to specifically provide exemption to any income of an APMC or an SAMB constituted under any law for the time being in force, with the purpose of regulating the marketing agricultural products. ...(*Interruptions*) It was done even a few days ago but I did not want to deprive you of the pleasure of raising the point yesterday.

I once again assure the House that genuine charitable organisations will not, in any way, be affected. The CBDT will—following the usual practice, on the day the Finance Bill receives the assent of the President—issue an explanatory circular containing guidelines for determining whether an entity is carrying on any activity in the nature of trade, commerce or business, or any activity of rendering any service in relation to any trade, commerce or business. Whether the purpose is a charitable purpose will depend on the totality of the facts of the case. Ordinarily, Chambers of Commerce and similar organisations rendering services to their own Members, will not be affected by the Amendment and their activities would continue to be regarded as advancement of any other object of general public utility.

Sir, I propose to extend the exemption to the Coir Board. I gave it prospective effect. But there has been a demand that it should be implemented retrospectively. Since, we can only go back to assessment year 2002-

03, I propose to extend the exemption to the Coir Board with effect from 1st of April, 2002.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN (Balasore): Sir, what about the *guptdaan*, anonymous donation. I shall be grateful if you say about it.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: That is not in this Finance Bill; that has in the Finance Bill of 2006. Two years have passed since that Finance Bill was passed by this House. Anyway, I will deal with it again.

The Sunset Clauses under Sections 10A and 10B of the Income Tax Act—one applies to STPI and the other applies to EOUs—stipulate 31.03.2009 as the date, on which exemptions will come to an end. The Kelkar Task Force on Direct Taxes recommended elimination of tax exemption under Sections 10A and 10B and in the case of the computer software, recommended elimination of exemption with certain transitory arrangements pending entering into a totalisation agreement with trading partners. The Kelkar Task Force, on implementing the FRBM Act, also recommended that Sections 10A and 10B should be grandfathered or should be phased out in two years beginning 2004. The Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister has also endorsed the view that the tax exemptions under Sections 10A and 10B should not be extended beyond 31.03.2009. In the face of these recommendations, I was faced with a dilemma when I presented the Budget. I deliberately reserved judgement on that so that we could reflect on it more calmly after the Budget.

We have since applied our minds to the fact that the Sunset Clause will end on 31.03.2009. My own view is, broadly in accord with the recommendations of the Kelkar Task Force and the EAC.

The most appropriate occasion to announce a decision in this regard would have been Budget 2009-10. However, as things stand, the Budget for 2009-10 may not be presented in February, 2009 but only after the General Elections. Thus we are faced with a peculiar situation. The Sunset Clause falls on 31.03.2009 while the Budget is not likely to be presented in February, 2009.

Therefore, in order to avoid any uncertainty as we draw close to 31.3.2009, it has been decided that the two Sections, 10A and 10B, will be amended. The

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exemptions will continue until 31.3.2010 in order to give the Government sufficient flexibility to take a well-considered decision and announce it at the appropriate time. So, this will be extended to 31.3.2010.

Sir, there was some concern about Section 40 (a) of the Income-Tax Act, which disallows expenditure in case TDS is not deducted and paid at the right time. Here, I wish to explain what TDS is. TDS is voluntary tax compliance. It is pre-assessment. That is the way income tax system all over the world work. In fact, we must move towards a situation when nearly 100 per cent of taxes are collected voluntarily through TDS and through advance taxes. In fact, post-assessment tax collection must be reduced to the smallest percentage possible. That is the way all modern tax systems work. But TDS is important. It is important that people deduct TDS, deduct tax at source, remit it at the appropriate time and not keep the money to themselves because that is the money which legitimately belongs to the Exchequer.

The law was amended by the Finance Act, 2004, and it was provided that if a person liable to deduct TDS at source on specified expenditure fails to do so or fails to pay the tax within the time allowed to him, the expenditure will be disallowed, besides subjecting any delayed payment to interest and penalty. Since the law was introduced in the Finance Bill, 2004, the first assessment year was 2005-06. Several representations have been received from hon. Members as well as from trade pointing out the hardship that arose in the first assessment year after the amendment, namely, assessment year 2005-06. Apparently, mistakes were made in complying with the amended Section 40(a) (ia), particularly in respect of deductions that ought to have been made in respect of payments made in the month of March. So, for March, there was a shorter time limit because if you deduct in April of the year, you had a whole year to deposit. In March, you had a shorter time limit. Apparently, some people made mistakes.*

With a view to mitigating the hardship, I propose to insert a New Clause 8 in Finance Bill, 2008 to provide that no disallowance under Section 40(a) (ia) of the Income-Tax Act shall be made in the case of a deductor in respect of the expenditure incurred in the month of March, if the tax deducted at source on such expenditure had been paid before the due of filing of the return. The tax payers will now get a time period of six months for depositing such TDS relating to payments in the month of March to escape the disallowance of the expense under

this Section. Naturally, the proposed amendment has to be given retrospective effect from assessment year 2005-06. This will take care of most hardship cases where some genuine mistake was committed.

Clause 15 of the Finance Bill, 2008 seeks to insert a new proviso in sub-section 9 of Section 80IB so as to provide that no deduction shall be allowed to an Undertaking engaged in refining mineral oil, if it begins refining on or after 1st April, 2009. This is a sunset Clause deliberately put in there, like the sunset in the telecommunication exemption. We are now sun-setting the refinery exemption. Refinery margins are very high, thanks to the windfall profits that are reaped by oil companies today and thanks to crude oil now touching 120 dollars a barrel this morning. There is no justification to give a tax exemption to pure refineries. Therefore, a conscious decision has been taken to sunset this Clause on the 1st April, 2009.

However, it has been brought to my notice that consequent to this proposal, three Public Sector Refineries under construction—some of them in an advanced stage of construction—Paradip, Bina and Bhatinda, may not qualify for the tax benefits since their commissioning may not be completed before 1st April, 2009. That is a genuine concern. With a view to ensuring that the benefits to these three refineries is not denied on account of their inability to adhere to this deadline, it is proposed to amend the proposal to provide that such refineries will be eligible to avail of the benefit if they begin refining not later than 31st March, 2012.

I am told that the three refineries will be completed by 2012. Some concerns have been expressed regarding the scope of section 80IB(9) of the Income Tax Act. Sir, let me make it clear that we have made no amendment to section 80IB(9) except to put the sunset clause; otherwise the section remains as it was. We are not making any amendment. As the hon. Members are aware, this sub-section allows 100 per cent tax exemption in respect of an undertaking which begins commercial production or refining of mineral oil for a period of seven consecutive assessment years.

Now, what is the scope of this section? It is disputed. The Department has taken a view; the assesseees have taken another view. The disputes go back to assessment year 2001-02. The disputes are under adjudication before different tax authorities. In my view, it is not correct to resolve these disputes by debate in Parliament. We should

allow the disputes to be resolved in the normal course by the tax tribunals and the courts. Nevertheless, some doubts have arisen because of the notes on clauses attached to the Finance Bill. I wish to clarify these doubts. The statement in the notes on clauses is a mere restatement of the Income Tax Department's known position before the tribunals and the courts which are adjudicating the matter. Nothing new has been stated. It is simply a restatement of the Department's position which has already been placed before the tribunals and the courts. Besides, it is a well settled proposition of law that notes on clauses have no legal effect and are not binding on the courts. I may assure potential bidders for oil exploration blocks that the benefit of section 80IB (9), as finally interpreted by the courts, will be applicable to all exploration and production contracts, whether obtained through nomination or bidding. I am confident that the tribunals and courts will resolve these disputes perhaps in about six months to one year.

Sir, other amendments to the Finance Bill are purely consequential in nature and therefore, I need not explain them. On *guptdaan*, I would say that this was introduced two years ago and I have replied to the debate in 2006 as well as last year. What we are trying to discourage is "anonymous" donations. Anonymous donations to religious institutions are not being taxed at all. It is anonymous donations to charitable institutions which are being brought under tax, if either the donor or the donee does not reveal who the donor is. When you are donating to a school or a hospital, why should it be an anonymous donation? We are not saying, make it public, but at least your books must show who the donor is. Otherwise, the inference is, it is based on experience, that this donation is largely donation of unaccounted money. I am not trying to tax the intent to donate; I am taxing the money that is donated because the presumption is that this money is not accounted money.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: If it is not a donation for a school or a medical institution and is for an orphanage...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: They can keep a book or they can maintain a book...(*Interruptions*) All I am saying is that the intent to donate is honourable and laudable. I salute the donor. All I am saying is let the donor give his name to the donee. Let the donee simply maintain a record of who gave it to him. I do not say that publish

it in the newspaper; keep the record. That is all we are asking. We are not saying that publish it in the newspaper; just keep a record of who gave the money. I think, this is a wholesome provision, this is a provision to plug the source of black money.

Sir, let me quickly run through one or two questions. Many of them I can answer separately. Shri Swain asked how many banks have 18 per cent agricultural credit. Twenty-two banks have achieved it this year and there were 11 banks last year. Next year I will ensure that all the public sector banks achieve it. The figure of 11 has become 22. It is a good number.

Sir, there was some question about package software and customised software. Customised software is sold as a service and package software is sold as a product.

13.00 hrs.

Now, both must be treated equally. There is no reason why one should be treated differently from the other. Therefore, we have imposed a 12 per cent excise duty on packaged softwares sold as goods, and 12 per cent service tax on customised software sold as a service.

There was some question about how much refunds have been given in the last year. In fact, the refunds that have been given in 2007-08 have been the largest. In 2003-04, the total refund was Rs. 25,737 crore, and in 2007-08 we have issued 45.14 lakh cheques and refunded Rs. 40,742 crore. In fact, the refund position has improved sharply after the 'Refund Banker' Scheme has been introduced in select metropolitan cities where the refund is directly credited to the income tax account of the assessee. It does not go through any human hand at all as it is electronically credited to the bank, and the bank pays it in advance if it is covered under the 'Refund Banker' Scheme.

SHRI HARIN PATHAK (Ahmedabad): It is pending for this year.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: I have refunded Rs. 40,000 crore in 2007-08.

SHRI HARIN PATHAK: It is pending for 2008-09.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: It will be issued now, and the figures for 2008-09 will be more than the figures for 2007-08. If the collections are more, then the refunds also will be more.

SHRI HARIN PATHAK: I have not received it.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: There was a question on computerization. I have a long note on computerization of the two Departments, and I will send that long note to the hon. Member. Computerization has made remarkable progress. In fact, the Customs Department is, more or less, completely computerized now. I will send the note to the hon. Member who wanted to know about computerization.

There was a mention that Budget and off-Budget subsidies are rising. It is true that subsidies are rising, but that is a decision that all of us have to take collectively. I believe that in a developing country some subsidies are unavoidable. In fact, some subsidies are welfare promoting subsidies. Food subsidies are necessary; fertilizer subsidies are necessary; and fuel has to be subsidized thanks to the relentless rise in fuel prices. There are other subsidies for power, irrigation, etc.

The subsidy bill is large. In fact, the subsidy bill of all subsidies taken together is reaching a point where it may become unsustainable. The current Budget cannot bear the entire burden of all subsidies, and some of this burden has to be deferred. This is not the first time that we are deferring the current expenditure. In fact, off-Budget expenditure has been a practice for many years. If you take it to the Budget, it does make the fiscal deficit ratio and the revenue deficit ratio worse than what it appears on the Budget. Nevertheless, let me say that the record of this Government in containing fiscal deficit and revenue deficit is exceptional.

I can read both figures, that is, without the off-Budget expenditure and including the off-Budget expenditure. In 2007-08, without the off-Budget expenditure, the revenue deficit came down to 1.4 per cent and the fiscal deficit to 3.1 per cent. Please remember that we inherited a revenue deficit of 3.6 per cent, and we have reduced it to 1.4 per cent. We inherited a fiscal deficit of 4.5 per cent, and we have reduced it to 3.1 per cent. This year, we will reduce the revenue deficit to 1 per cent, and the fiscal deficit to 2.5 per cent.

If we account for the off-Budget expenditure, in 2003-04, the then Government did give off-Budget expenditure and incur off-Budget expenditure and I can give the numbers. In 2003-04, including the off-Budget expenditure the revenue deficit was 3.7 per cent, and in 2007-08, it was reduced to 2 per cent. Likewise, the fiscal deficit in 2003-04 was 4.5 per cent, and in 2007-08, it was reduced to 3.3 per cent.

So, I do not think we should present an alarming picture. Even including off-Budget expenditure we have been fiscally prudent; we have reduced the fiscal deficit; we have reduced the revenue deficit. Of course, it is worse than what the Budget papers disclose, but we must collectively compliment ourselves that with sound fiscal management and fiscal prudence we have been able to reduce the fiscal deficit and the revenue deficit.

This off-Budget expenditure would, of course, have to be met in succeeding years. We are issuing bonds. These bonds are to be redeemed by us, by our children. Therefore, at some point of time we would have to take a view of how much subsidies we can bear and how the subsidy should be prioritised. I agree there are merit subsidies and there are non-merit subsidies. Merit subsidies would have to be continued. As economic situation changes, some subsidies which are non-merit may become merit and some subsidies which are merit subsidies may become non-merit subsidies. But there is only a certain burden that the Budget can bear. That is why many of these expenditures are supported by bonds. This was so in previous Governments also. This is not a new practice of this Government. But that is something which is inevitable given the fact that many expenditures have risen sharply and the Budget cannot bear the expenditure today. Therefore, bonds have to be issued.

I think I have dealt with most of the issues that arose out of the Finance Bill on the Direct Taxes side. On Indirect Taxes side some concerns were raised.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: Sir, in Sikkim only four hundred families have been brought under the Indian Income Tax law whereas everybody else is exempted.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Sir, on Sikkim, this is an issue which has been in discussion between the Government of Sikkim and the Central Government since the late 1980s. As you will recall, the Income Tax Act was sought to be extended to Sikkim. The Government of Sikkim, the people of Sikkim protested. It is after nearly 18 years of discussion that we have reached an agreement with the Government of Sikkim. After reaching an agreement with the Government of Sikkim we are extending the Income Tax Act to Sikkim but we are exempting Sikkim subjects who are on the Subjects Register.

I think it is not proper to unravel the package that has been agreed after 18 years of intensive discussion

through five different Governments. What we are now doing is, under the Bill we will exempt from income tax income of a Sikkimese individual which accrues or arises to him from any source in the State of Sikkim or by way of dividend or interest on securities. The tax exemption is proposed to take effect retrospectively from first day of April 1990. The definition of the term Sikkimese for this purpose is based on the Register of Sikkim Subjects maintained under the Sikkim Subjects Regulation, 1961, read with Sikkim Subjects Rules, 1961, and subsequent Government Orders issued in this regard. The Government of Sikkim also follows the same Register and Government Orders while issuing certificates of identification to the residents of Sikkim which enables the holders of these certificates to purchase land and seek employment in Government service in Sikkim. The package approved by the Government also provides that the cases of non-Sikkimese individuals shall not be reopened under the Income Tax Act, 1961 for earlier years. CBDT will issue a circular.

There is a Sikkim Subjects Register. That Register is operated for purchase of land and employment in Government service in Sikkim. The same register is being operated for exempting Sikkimese citizens from the Income Tax Act. All others are deemed to be non-Sikkimese. I am extending a concession. I am not going to reopen their past assessments. This will apply only prospectively. If somebody has been clever enough to avoid his income tax liability for past years, so be it! Let the evil lie where it lies! We will apply it only prospectively. This is the best I can do. We should not unravel this package and create another conflict with a sensitive State. We have reached an agreement.

Let us live by this agreement. Income-tax revenue from Sikkim is going to be so very small, I do not think it is necessary to unravel this package.

Now, I take up indirect-taxes. In order to encourage Value Addition in exports, I have proposed reduction in customs duty on some of the inputs of gem and jewellery industry in this year's Budget. I, now, propose to extend full exemption from basic customs duty to two more inputs, namely, cut and polish coloured gem stones, and rough synthetic gem stones. The duty would be reduced from five per cent to zero.

Newspaper have represented that the international prices on news print have been rising alarmingly. I propose to reduce the basic customs duty on newsprint

from five per cent to three per cent with the hope that they would be kind to me.

MR. SPEAKER: And to parliamentary deliberations.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Tapioca starch is manufactured primarily by a large number of small, unorganised units. Owing to a hefty increase in the volume of imports, the Government had imposed a safeguard duty on this item in 2005-06 for a period of three years. This levy expires on 1st of May, 2008. And the Director-General of Safeguards says that he would not be able to take a decision before that date. In the meanwhile, flood of imports continue. In order to allow some additional flexibility to this industry to adjust, I propose to increase the basic customs duty on this item from 30 per cent to 50 per cent with effect from 1st May, 2008 coinciding with the expiry of the safeguard duty. Thus, same level of protection would be available to the domestic industry.

Anti-dumping duty is not levied on imports by one hundred per cent export-oriented units. However, these units often use imported inputs for the manufacture of goods that are sold domestically. They are also permitted to sell a portion of imported inputs into the domestic market. With a view to provide a level playing field to domestic units, it has now been prescribed in the Foreign Trade Policy that EoUs would be liable to pay anti-dumping duty on imported inputs, either sold directly or contained in finished products that are sold in the domestic market. Notification is being issued to reflect the change in the FTP.

On the excise side, packaged cement at the price of about Rs. 250 per bag is currently chargeable to a specific rate of duty of Rs. 600 per MT. This results in a regressive duty structure and does not sufficiently discourage increase in price beyond the threshold of Rs. 250 per bag. Since all other duties are *ad valorem*, I propose to correct this by changing the mode of levy on packaged cement in this price bracket also to an *ad valorem* rate of 12 per cent of retail sale price.

In recognition of the fact that electric vehicles are emission-free and environmental-friendly, the Government has fully exempted electric cars from excise duty in this year's Budget. I propose to extend this exemption to all electric vehicles, including electric two-wheelers and electric three-wheelers.

[Shri P. Chidambaram]

Ensuring availability of clean potable drinking water is a very high priority of this Government. The House may recall that water filters, functioning without electricity and pressurised tap water were fully exempted from excise duty in the Budget of 2007-08. The manufacturers of such filters have been representing that replaceable kits used in such water filters attract a peak rate of 14 per cent excise duty and this is inhibiting the rapid growth in their use. I propose to fully exempt replaceable kits used in the water filters from excise duty.

Full exemption from excise duty/CVD available to shutter-less looms was withdrawn from this year's Budget as domestic capacity for their manufacture has increased appreciably in recent years. However, I am informed that there is still no production of projectile type of shutter-less looms. I propose to restore the excise duty/CVD exemption on projectile type of shutter-less looms.

Sir, the concerns this year have been limited. Therefore, the redressal of the concerns have also been very limited. There are not too many concerns.

Now, I wish to briefly deal with some measures that we are taking as part of inflation management. During discussions in the House in recent weeks, I have conveyed the Government's concerns over the recent rise in prices and its resolve to take every possible measure to stem the rise in inflation. The House is aware, that of the various fiscal and other initiatives, particularly reduction in customs duties and excise duties done during the Budget and the reduction in customs duties taken after the Budget. To recapitulate the import duty on semi-milled, and wholly-milled rice was reduced from 70 per cent to nil. Customs duty on crude edible oils was reduced to nil.

On refined edible oil, it has reduced to 7.5 per cent. Customs duty on margarine and vanaspati was also reduced to 7.5 per cent. Customs duty on maize imported under a Tariff Rate Quota of 5 lakh MT was reduced from 15 per cent to nil.

Despite these changes, some sectors of industry such as steel continue to exhibit a sharp increase in prices. Sir, steel plays an important part in the economy. Currently, steel and steel products contribute about 21.3 per cent of the current inflation. We have looked at measures to augment the domestic availability of steel products as well as soften prices. Accordingly, I propose to take the following measures:

1. Reduce the basic customs duty on pig iron and mild steel products; namely, sponge iron granules and powders, ingots, billets, semi-finished products, HR coils, CR coils, coated coil/sheets, bars and rods, angle shapes and sections and wires from five per cent to nil.
2. TMT bars and structurals are commonly used for construction of houses. In order to rein in the price, I propose to fully exempt the import of this item from CVD. Currently, the CVD is 14 per cent, which will now be zero.
3. I propose to reduce basic customs duty on three critical inputs for manufacture of steel; namely, metallurgical coke, ferro alloys and Zinc from five per cent to nil.
4. The objective of containing domestic prices will not be achieved unless we augment the domestic supply and availability of intermediates and finished products. Despite a slow down during 2007-08 the value of exports of steel items was as high as Rs. 26,000 crore in that year. In this background, there is a case for disincentivising the export of steel. It is proposed to impose export duty on steel items at the following three different rates:
 - 15 per cent on specified primary forms and semi-finished products and hot rolled coils and sheets.
 - 10 per cent on specified roll products including cold-rolled coils and sheets and pipes and tubes.
 - Five per cent on galvanised steel in coil and sheet form.

For this purpose a uniform statutory rate of 20 per cent is being incorporated in the Export Schedule and the aforesaid rates; 15, 10 and 5 will be operated through a Notification.
5. In order to ensure adequate availability of milk in lean summer months, it is proposed to reduce basic customs duty on skimmed milk powder from 15 per cent to 5 per cent for a Tariff Rate Quota of 10,000 MT per annum.
6. Similarly, on butter oil, which is used for reconstituting liquid milk, reduction in duty is proposed from 40 per cent to 30 per cent.
7. A minimum export price of 1200 dollars per MT is applicable to basmati rice. The margins of

exporters of this item have been rising as a result of buoyancy in international prices. I propose to impose an export duty of Rs. 8,000 per tonne on this item along with a commensurate reduction in its minimum export price. Hence, the MEP will be re-fixed at 1000 dollars per MT and Rs. 8000 per MT will be taken as an export duty.

While changes in import duty rates will be effective today, changes in export duty will come into effect on the date when the Finance Bill 2008, receives the assent of the President.

Sir, finally, I wish to make a brief statement on the food situation...(*Interruptions*)

DR. SUJAN CHAKRABORTY (Jadavpur): Medicines are also imported...(*Interruptions*) It should be made to four per cent...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: That has been reduced from 16 per cent to 8 per cent. There are import duties. There is a MODVAT credit. If you look at the import duty and the MODVAT credit you will find that the excise duty paid on the final product is virtually a very-very small amount. If I do not put an eight per cent excise duty you cannot operate the MODVAT credit system.

Sir, as part of inflation management, we have taken a number of measures to improve the supply side of foodgrains. I am happy to inform you that the food situation has improved significantly in the last few weeks, thanks to a bumper harvest and thanks to an extraordinary effort made in procurement of wheat and rice.

According to third advance estimates released by the Department of Agriculture and Cooperation, the estimated production of foodgrains in 2007-08 is as follows. Rice will be 95.68 million tonnes and wheat will be 76.78 million tonnes and both I believe are all time records. Therefore, I want to tell the people of India that the food situation is improving every day and there is no reason to assume that we will face any food shortages as is faced in some countries or there will be a food crisis. We have enough food.

MR. SPEAKER: We should congratulate the farmers.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: This means that the production of rice and wheat is more than the consumption needs and there is no cause for concern

on the availability of foodgrains in the system. Domestic procurement of wheat as on 28th April, 2008, yesterday, was 134 lakh tonnes as against only 76.32 lakh tonnes last year. The total wheat procurement last year was 111 lakh tonnes and we have crossed that. As of yesterday, we have procured 134 lakh tonnes. The target is 150 lakh tonnes and I am confident that we will far exceed that target. I wish to compliment the farmers of this country, especially the farmers of Haryana and Punjab. I think it is quite appropriate if we place on record our appreciation for the tremendous cooperation shown by the Government of Haryana and the Government of Punjab on this behalf.

Rice procurement in KMS 2007-08 as on 28.4.2008 is 229 lakh tonnes as against 209 lakh tonnes last year. The rice procurement this year will be 270 lakh tonnes. Here I wish to place on record our appreciation for the efforts made by the Government of Andhra Pradesh which has procured more than what it originally promised to procure and has now come and said that they will procure an additional six lakh tonnes. I also wish to compliment the State of Orissa and the State of Chhattisgarh for cooperating in rice procurement. If all the States continue to show the level of cooperation that they have extended this year, I have no doubt in my mind that our farmers will produce more, we can give them good procurement price, we can procure enough food stocks, we can augment the supply to the PDS and by improving the administration of the PDS, we can take care of the poor of this country. But this must be a cooperative effort and I appeal to all State Governments to cooperate in this effort.

Sir, wheat prices in the wheat futures in Chicago BOT are showing a decline. Global rice prices, of course, still continue to be sticky. Edible oil price in the open market is under check. The Government has decided to release 10 lakh tonnes of edible oil in 2008-09 through PDS. The public sector companies are importing edible oil. It will be distributed to the State Governments through the PDS at a subsidy of 15 per kilogram. Meetings have been held with State Governments. Their demands for distribution have been obtained. A scheme will roll out in end-May or early-June.

The Government has taken a number of steps to check the rise in prices. The Minister of Agriculture has dealt with it. I though I will take this opportunity to share with the Members of this House that there is enough food in this country. There is enough food to meet everybody's requirement.

MD. SALIM (Calcutta-North East): What about import duty on iron ore?

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: We will deal with that. Everything need not be dealt within the Finance Bill. Some matters can be dealt with outside the Finance Bill. We will deal with that.

Sir, I just thought that I will share with you the fiscal position of the States and how it has improved substantially, thanks to the devolution of funds to the States. The fiscal position of the States has never been better than today. In fact, collectively all the States have now reached a level where their revenue deficit is close to zero and their fiscal deficit is two per cent. There are only two or three States which are facing fiscal distress. They have got ways and means requirement, but otherwise States are in a very healthy fiscal situation. In fact, their cash position, if you look at the 14-day bills and auction bills as on 26th April, 2008, it was Rs. 73,868 crore. Twenty-five States are in revenue surplus. As per Revised Estimates in 2007-08 the revenue surplus of all States is Rs. 14,143 crore. Only three States have a revenue deficit. Barring two States all others have passed the FRBM Act. Twenty-one States have availed of the debt waiver. The total waiver is Rs. 13,285 crore. For the first time, the capital expenditure at State level¹ exceeded the fiscal deficit indicating that the revenue surplus is being used to augment capital expenditure. The aggregate States debt to GDP ratio is 13.2 per cent. The fiscal health of the States has never been better and States must, therefore, come forward to assume greater responsibility for the programmes that we are implementing.

Just look at the numbers. The States' share of taxes and duties in 2003-04 was Rs. 65,784 crore. Thanks to our tax administration, this year, as against Rs. 65,784 crore we will give to the States a sum of Rs. 1,78,765 crore. It is three times the amount of devolution. In terms of grants alone, in 2003-04 the Central Government gave to the States a sum of Rs. 47,320 crore. This year we will give Rs. 1,24,745 crore...(Interruptions)

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA (Panskura): This is not generosity. This is part of federal obligation.

MR. SPEAKER: Nobody refused.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: I did not use words like 'generosity' or 'charity'. You may please go through the

records. All I said was thanks to our policies, thanks to growth in tax revenue, thanks to tax administration. I said this half an hour ago also, we are giving far more to the States than the States even would have anticipated or budgeted for...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Those States who do not want need not take it.

...(Interruptions)

MD. SALIM: Wealth is generated in the States...(Interruptions)

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Who says no? Wealth is generated by people who live in the States and that wealth is being judiciously taxed and constitutionally shared with the States...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Without the States there will be no Centre.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing will be recorded.

...(Interruptions)*

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Sir, the States' share of taxes is decided by the Finance Commission. That is a constitutional body. We are adhering to the Finance Commission. The grant is from the share of the Centre, the grants to the States are from the Centre's share of States taxes. Now 25 per cent of the revenue accruing to the Centre in its account is being given as grants and that is because we have to bear the expenditure of Defence; we have to bear the expenditure of a number of issues which the States do not share. Twenty-five per cent on the revenue accruing to the Centre is being given as grant to the States.

Therefore, our fiscal policies, our monetary policies and tax administration have benefited not only the schemes of the Centre but has vastly benefited the States also. The fiscal position of the States today is extremely good...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Anything said sitting in the seat and without the permission of the Chair is not to be recorded.

...(Interruptions)*

*Not recorded.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: I do not wish to take the time of the House on other matters...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: My trouble begins now as there are many amendments to the Bill.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: We have the fewest amendments in the last several years...(Interruptions)

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: What about the grievances regarding the Sixth Pay Commission?

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: I have already answered it in a Question. A Committee chaired by the Cabinet Secretary and consisting of a number of Secretaries representing different Departments has been constituted to look into the representations received after the Report of the Sixth Pay Commission was submitted. That Committee will report to the Government and then the Government will take an appropriate decision. ... (Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura): There is a demand from the employees that there should be a meeting in this regard as it was done in the case of the Fifth Pay Commission...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: That is a matter which will be decided by somebody. This is Finance Bill and not a discussion on the Pay Commission.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: He has said that a Committee is looking into it. Send your recommendations to it.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: We will bear in mind the experience, both good and no so good, of the Fifth Pay Commission and take an appropriate decision on the Sixth Pay Commission's Report...(Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Sir, he has not replied to the point regarding the reduction of tax on petroleum products...(Interruptions) It is a direct impact of prices.

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: There is increase in the prices of petroleum products because of inflation...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: It is over. He has already replied on this point.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: This is unfair. Do not record anything.

...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You have heard about the international price. Please take your seat. This is not fair. I would not allow you. This is not the way to raise issues.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing is being recorded. Why are you saying it?

...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I will not allow this type of disturbances in the House. Please sit down. You have made your submissions. How will Parliament survive if you do like this? You made your points and at that time, he did not disturb you. He has to give a reply to the discussion and he has replied. Just because you do not like some of his replies, you keep on disturbing the proceedings. No, I will not allow this.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Sir, I think, I have answered all the issues. Thank you very much.

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That the Bill to give effect to the financial proposals of the Central Government for the financial year 2008-09, be taken into consideration".

The motion was adopted.

MR. SPEAKER: The House will now take up clause by clause consideration of the Bill.

Clauses 2 and 3

Income Tax Amendment of Section 2

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That clauses 2 and 3 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clauses 2 and 3 were added to the Bill.

[Mr. Speaker]

Clause 4**Amendment of Section 10***Amendment made:*

Page 6, for lines 5 and 6, Substitute-

'(aa) after clause (26AAA) as so inserted, the following clause shall be inserted with effect from the 1st day of April, 2009, namely:-

"(26AAB) any income of an agricultural produce market committee or board constituted under any law for the time being in force for the purpose of regulating the marketing of agricultural produce;"

(b) in clause (29A), after sub-clause (g), the following sub-clause shall be inserted and shall be deemed to have been inserted with effect from the 1st day of April, 2002, namely:- (1)

(Shri P. Chidambaram)

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That clause 4, as amended, stand part of the Bill".

The motion was adopted.

Clause 4, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Motion Re: Suspension of Rule 80 (I)

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: I beg to move:

"That this House do suspend clause (i) of rule 80 of Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha in so far as it requires that an amendment shall be within the scope of the Bill and relevant to the subject matter of the clause to which it relates, in its application to the Government amendment No. 2 to the Finance Bill, 2008 and that this amendment may be allowed to be moved".

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That this House do suspend clause (i) of rule 80 of Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha in so far as it requires that an amendment shall be within the scope of the Bill and relevant to the subject matter of the clause to which it relates, in its application to the Government amendment No. 2 to the Finance Bill, 2008 and that this amendment may be allowed to be moved".

The motion was adopted.

New Clause 4A**Amendment of Section 10A***Amendment made:*

Page 6, after line 10, insert-

'4B. In section 10A of the Income-tax Act, in sub-section (1), in the fourth provision, for the figures "2010", the figures "2011" shall be substituted. (2)

(Shri P. Chidambaram)

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That new clause 4A be added to the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

New Clause 4A was added to the Bill.

Motion Re: Suspension of Rule 80 (I)

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: I beg to move:

"That this House do suspend clause (i) of rule 80 of Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha in so far as it requires that an amendment shall be within the scope of the Bill and relevant to the subject matter of the clause to which it relates, in its application to the Government amendment No. 3 to the Finance Bill, 2008 and that this amendment may be allowed to be moved."

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That this House do suspend clause (i) of rule 80 of Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha in so far as it requires that an amendment shall be within the scope of the Bill and relevant to the subject matter of the clause to which it relates, in its application to the Government amendment No. 3 to the Finance Bill, 2008 and that this amendment may be allowed to be moved".

The motion was adopted.

New Clause 4B**Amendment of Section 10B***Amendment made:*

Page 6, after line 10, insert-

'4B. In section 10B of the Income-tax Act, in sub-section (1), in the fourth proviso, for the figures

"2010", the figures "2011" shall be substituted. (3)

(Shri P. Chidambaram)

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That new clause 4B be added to the Bill".

The motion was adopted.

New Clause 4B was added to the Bill.

Clauses 5 to 7 were added to the Bill.

Clause 8

Amendment of Section 40

Amendment made:

Page 7, for lines 1 and 2, substitute—

'8. In section 40 of the Income-tax Act, in clause (a),—

(a) in sub-clause (ia), with effect from the 1st day of April, 2005,—

(i) for the words, brackets and figures "has not been paid during the previous year, or in the subsequent year before the expiry of the time prescribed under sub-section (1) of section 200", the following words, brackets and figures shall be substituted and shall be deemed to have been *substituted*, namely:—

"has not been paid,—

(A) in a case where the tax was deductible and was so deducted during the last month of the previous year, on or before the due date specified in sub-section (1) of section 139; or

(B) in any other case, on or before the last day of the previous year"; (ii) for the proviso, the following proviso shall be substituted and shall be deemed to have been *substituted*, namely:

"Provided that where in respect of any such sum, tax has been deducted in any subsequent year, or has been deducted—

(A) during the last month of the previous year but paid after the said due date; or

(B) during any other month of the previous year but paid after the end of the said previous year,

such sum shall be allowed as a deduction in computing the income of the previous year in which such tax has been paid.";

(b) sub-clause (ib) shall be omitted with effect from the 1st day of April, 2009.'. (4)

(Shri P. Chidambaram)

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That clause 8, as amended, stand part of the Bill".

The motion was adopted.

Clause 8, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Clauses 9 and 10 were added to the Bill.

Motion Re: Suspension of Rule 80 (I)

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: I beg to move:

"That this House do suspend clause (i) of rule 80 of Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha in so far as it requires that an amendment shall be within the scope of the Bill and relevant to the subject matter of the clause to which it relates, in its application to the Government amendment No. 5 to the Finance Bill, 2008 and that this amendment may be allowed to be moved."

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That this House do suspend clause (i) of rule 80 of Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha in so far as it requires that an amendment shall be within the scope of the Bill and relevant to the subject matter of the clause to which it relates, in its application to the Government amendment No. 5 to the Finance Bill, 2008 and that this amendment may be allowed to be moved".

The motion was adopted.

New Clause 10A

Amendment of Section 44AB

Amendment made:

Page 7, after line 35 insert—

10A. In section 44AB of the Income-tax Act, in the Explanation, in clause (ii), for the figures, letters and words "31st day of October", the figures, letters and words "30th day of September" shall be *substituted*. (5)

(Shri P. Chidambaram)

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That new clause 10A be added to the Bill".

The motion was adopted.

New Clause 10A was added to the Bill.

Clause 11 to 14 were added to the Bill.

[Mr. Speaker]

Clause 15

Amendment of Section 80-I B

Amendment made:

Page 8, for lines 46 and 47, substitute-

"Provided also that where such undertaking begins refining of mineral oil on or after the 1st day of April, 2009, no deduction under this section shall be allowed in respect of such undertaking unless such undertaking fulfils all the following conditions, namely:-

- (i) It is wholly owned by a public sector company or any other company in which a public sector company or companies hold at least forty-nine per cent, of the voting rights;
- (ii) It is notified by the Central Government in this behalf on or before the 31st day of May 2009; and
- (iii) It begins refining not later than the 31st day of March, 2012." (6)

(Shri P. Chidambaram)

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That clause 15, as amended, stand part of the Bill".

*The motion was adopted.**Clause 15, as amended, was added to the Bill.**Clauses 16 to 19 were added to the Bill.***Clause 20**

Amendment of Section 115-JB

Amendment made:

Page 10, after line 44, insert-

'(aa) in Explanation 1 as numbered, after clause (vii), the following clause shall be inserted and shall be deemed to have been inserted with effect from the 1st day of April, 2001, namely:-

"(viii) the amount of deferred tax, if any such amount is credited to the profit and loss account."'. (7)

(Shri P. Chidambaram)

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That clause 20, as amended, stand part of the Bill".

*The motion was adopted.**Clause 20, as amended, was added to the Bill.**Clauses 21 to 24 were added to the Bill.***Clause 25**

Amendment of Section 115-WE

Amendments made:

Page 11, for lines 38 and 39, substituted—

"25. In section 115WE of the Income-tax Act,—

(A) for sub-section (1), the following sub-section shall be substituted, namely:—". (8)

Page 12, after line 32, insert—

'(B) in sub-section (2), in the proviso, for the words "twelve months from the end of the month", the words "six months from the end of the financial year" shall be substituted.'. (9)

(Shri P. Chidambaram)

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That clause 25, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

*The motion was adopted.**Clause 25, as amended, was added to the Bill.**Clauses 26 to 28 were added to the Bill.***Clause 29**

Amendment of Section 143

Amendment made:

Page 13, line 26, for reduced, substitute "adjusted" (10)

(Shri P. Chidambaram)

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That clause 29, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

*The motion was adopted.**Clause 29, as amended, was added to the Bill.**Clauses 30 and 31 were added to the Bill.***Clause 32**

Amendment of Section 153

Amendment made:

Page 14, for lines 24 and 25, substitute-

(b) in Explanation I,-

- (i) in the proviso, for the brackets, figures, word and letter "(2) and (2A)"; the brackets, figures, letter and word "(2), (2A) and (4)" shall be substituted and shall be deemed to have been substituted with effect from the 1st day of June, 2003;

- (ii) after the proviso, the following proviso shall be inserted and shall be deemed to have been inserted with effect from the 1st day of June, 2007, namely:- (11)

(Shri P. Chidambaram)

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That clause 32, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 32, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Clauses 33 to 35 were added to the Bill.

Clause 36

Amendment of Section 153D

Amendment made:

Page 15, line 15, for "2003", substitute "2007" (12)

(Shri P. Chidambaram)

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That clause 36, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 36, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Clauses 37 to 39 were added to the Bill.

Clause 40

Amendment of Section 194 C

Amendment made:

Page 15, for lines 37 to 39, substitute-

'40. In section 194 C of the Income-tax Act, in sub-section (1), in clause (k), after the words "Hindu undivided family", the words "or an association of persons or a body of individuals, whether incorporated or not, other than those falling under any of the preceding clauses" shall be inserted with effect from the 1st day of June, 2008; (13)

(Shri P. Chidambaram)

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That clause 40, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 40, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Clauses 41 to 45 were added to the Bill.

Motion Re: Suspension of Rule 80 (i)

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Sir, I beg to move:

"That this House do suspend clause (i) of rule 80 of Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha in so far as it requires that an amendment shall be within the scope of the Bill and relevant to the subject matter of the clause to which it relates, in its application to the Government amendment No. 14 to the Finance Bill, 2008 and that this amendment may be allowed to be moved."

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That this House do suspend clause (i) of rule 80 of Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha in so far as it requires that an amendment shall be within the scope of the Bill and relevant to the subject matter of the clause to which it relates, in its application to the Government amendment No. 14 to the Finance Bill, 2008 and that this amendment may be allowed to be moved."

The motion was adopted.

New Clause 45A

Amendment of Section 251

Amendment made:

Page 16, after line 27, insert-

'45A. In section 251 of the Income-tax Act, in sub-section (1), after clause (a), the following clause shall be inserted, namely:-

"(aa) in an appeal against the order of assessment in respect of which the proceeding before the Settlement Commission abates under section 245HA, he may, after taking into consideration all the material

[Mr. Speaker]

and other information produced by the assessee before, or the results of the inquiry held or evidence recorded by, the Settlement Commission, in the course of the proceeding before it and such other material as may be brought on his record, confirm, reduce, enhance or annual the assessment;". (14)

(Shri P. Chidambaram)

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That new clause 45A be added to the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

New clause 45A was added to the Bill.

Clauses 46 and 47 were added to the Bill.

Clause 48

Amendment of Section 271

Amendments made:

Page 17, line 9, for "sub-section (1)" substitute "Clause (c) of sub-section (1)". (15)

Page 17, line 11, for "sub section (1)", substitute "The said clause (c)". (16)

(Shri P. Chidambaram)

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That clause 48, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 48, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Clauses 49 to 51 were added to the Bill.

Clause 52

Insertion of new section 292 BB
Notice deemed to be valid in
Certain circumstances

Amendment made:

Page 18, after line 13, insert-

"Provided that nothing contained in this section shall apply where the assessee has raised such objection before the completion of such assessment or reassessment". (17)

(Shri P. Chidambaram)

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That clause 52, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 52, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Clauses 53 to 57 were added to the Bill.

Clause 58

Amendment of Section 18

Amendments made:

Page 18, line 57, for "sub-section (1)", substitute "clause (c) of sub-section (1)". (18)

Page 18, line 59, for "sub-section (1)", substitute "the said clause (c)". (19)

(Shri P. Chidambaram)

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That clause 58, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 58, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Clause 59 was added to the Bill.

Motion Re; Suspension of Rule 80 (I)

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Sir, I beg to move:

"That this House do suspend clause (i) of rule 80 of Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha in so far as it requires that an amendment shall be within the scope of the Bill and relevant to the subject matter of the clause to which it relates, in its application to the Government amendment No. 20 to the Finance Bill, 2008 and that this amendment may be allowed to be moved."

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That this House do suspend clause (i) of rule 80 of Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha in so far as it requires that an amendment shall be within the scope of the Bill and relevant to

the subject matter of the clause to which it relates, in its application to the Government amendment No. 20 to the Finance Bill, 2008 and that this amendment may be allowed to be moved."

The motion was adopted.

New Clause 59A

Amendment of Section 23A

Amendment made:

Page 19, after line 20, insert-

59A. In section 23A of the Wealth-tax Act, after sub-section (9), the following sub-section shall be inserted, namely:-

"(9A) In disposing of an appeal against the order of assessment in respect of which the proceeding before the Settlement Commission abates under section 22HA, he may, after taking into consideration all the material and other information produced by the assessee before, or the results of the inquiry held or evidence recorded by, the Settlement Commission, in the course of the proceedings before it and such other material as may be brought on his record, confirm, reduce, enhance or annul the assessment."

(20)

(Shri P. Chidambaram)

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That new clause 59A be added to the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

New clause 59A was added to the Bill.

Clause 60 was added to the Bill.

Clause 61

Insertion of new Section 42: Notice
Deemed to be valid in Certain
Circumstances

Amendment made:

Page 19, after line 52, insert-

"Provided the nothing contained in this section shall apply where the assessee has raised such objection before the completion of such assessment or reassessment".

(21)

(Shri P. Chidambaram)

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That clause 61, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 61, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Clauses 62 to 71 were added to the Bill.

Clause 72

Amendment of Act 51 of 1975

Amendment made:

Page 21, for lines 22 and 23, substitute,-

(i) in section 9A, for sub-section (2A), the following sub-section shall be substituted, namely:-

(2A) Notwithstanding anything contained in sub-section (1) and sub-section (2), a notification issued under sub-section (1) or any anti-dumping duty imposed under sub-section (2), shall not apply to articles imported by a hundred per cent Export-oriented undertaking unless—

- (i) specifically made applicable in such notifications or such impositions, as the case may be; or
- (ii) the article imported is either cleared as such into the domestic tariff area or used in the manufacture of any goods that are cleared into the domestic tariff area, and in such cases anti-dumping duty shall be levied on that portion of the article so cleared or so used as was leviable when it was imported into India.

Explanation—For the purposes of this sub-section, the expression "hundred per cent export-oriented undertaking" shall have the meaning assigned to it in Explanation 2 to sub-section (1) of section 3 of the Central Excise Act, 1944; 1944

- (ii) the First Schedule shall be amended in the manner specified in the Second Schedule;
- (iii) the Second Schedule shall be amended in the manner specified in the Third Schedule;

(22)

(Shri P. Chidambaram)

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

The motion was adopted.

"That clause 72, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The First Schedule, as amended, was added to the Bill.

The motion was adopted.

Clause 72, as amended, was added to the Bill.

The Second Schedule was added to the Bill.

Clauses 73 to 120 were added to the Bill.

Third Schedule

First Schedule

Amendment Made:

Amendment made:

Page 42, in line 6, in column (2), for "3,00,000", substitute "2,25,000".

(23)

(Shri P. Chidambaram)

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That the First Schedule, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

Page 47, for lines 3 and 4, the following shall be substituted, namely:- The Third Schedule

'In the Second Schedule to the Customs Tariff Act,-

(i) against heading No. 12, for the entry in column (3), the entry "Rs. 3000 per tonne" shall be substituted;

(ii) after heading No. 26 and the entries relating thereto, the following shall be inserted, namely:-

Heading No.	Description of article	Rate of duty
1	2	3
27.	Pig iron and spiegeleisen in pigs, blocks or other primary forms	20%
28.	Ferrous products obtained by direct reduction of iron ore and other spongy ferrous products, in lumps, pellets or similar forms; iron having minimum purity by weight of 99.94% in lumps, pellets or similar forms	20%
29.	Ferrous waste and scrap, remelting scrap ingots of iron or steel	20%
30.	Granules and powers, of pig iron, spiegeleisen, iron or steel	20%
31.	Iron and non-alloy steel in ingots or other primary forms	20%
32.	Semi-finished products of iron or non-alloy steel	20%
33.	Flat rolled products of iron or non-alloy steel, hot rolled, not clad, plated or coated	20%
34.	Flat rolled products of iron or non-alloy steel, cold rolled (cold-reduced) not clad, plated or coated	20%
35.	Flat rolled products of iron or non-alloy steel, plated or coated with zinc	20%
36.	Bars and rods, hot-rolled, in irregularly wound coils, of iron or non-alloy steel	20%
37.	Other bars and rods of iron or non-alloy steel, not further worked than forged, hot-rolled, hot-drawn or hot-extruded, but including those twisted after rolling	20%

1	2	3
38.	Other bars and rods of iron or non-alloy steel	20%
39.	Angles, shapes and sections of iron or non-alloy-steel	20%
40.	Wire of iron or non-alloy steel	20%
41.	Tubes and pipes, of iron or steel	20%
42.	Basmati rice	Rs. 12000 per tonne"

(24)

(Shri P. Chidambaram)

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That the Third Schedule, as amended, stand part of the Bill".

The motion was adopted.

*The Third Schedule, as amended,
was added to the Bill.*

*The Fourth, the Fifth and the Sixth Schedules
were added to the Bill.*

Seventh Schedule

Amendment made:

Page 51, for line 7, insert-

'(2) in Chapter 25,

- (i) in tariff item 2523 10 000, for the entry in column (4), the entry "Rs. 450 per tonne" shall be substituted;
- (ii) in tariff items 2523 29 10, 2523 29 30, 2523 29 40 and 2523 29 90, for the entry in column (4), the entry "Rs. 900 per tonne" shall be substituted against each of them'. (25)

(Shri P. Chidambaram)

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That the Seventh Schedule, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

*The Seventh Schedule, as amended,
was added to the Bill.*

*The Eighth and the Ninth Schedules
were added to the Bill.*

*Clause 1, the Enacting Formula and the Long Title
were added to the Bill.*

...(Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Finance Minister has not responded and agreed to our demand for reduction of taxes and cess on petroleum products and banning of forward and futures trading. It has its direct impact on the prices of essential commodities. So, in protest we are walking out...(Interruptions)

13.51 hrs.

At this stage, Shri Basu Deb Acharia and some other hon. Members left the House.

MR. SPEAKER: The Minister may now move that the Bill, as amended, be passed.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Sir, I beg to move:

"That the Bill, as amended, be passed."

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That the Bill, as amended, be passed."

The motion was adopted.

13.52 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned for Lunch till Forty-Five Minutes past Fourteen of the Clock.

14.50 hrs

The Lok Sabha re-assembled after Lunch at Fifty Minutes past Fourteen of the Clock.

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

STATUTORY RESOLUTION RE: APPROVAL OF CONTINUANCE OF PROCLAMATION BY PRESIDENT IN RELATION TO THE STATE OF KARNATAKA

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now we will take up item No. 25; Shri Shivraj V. Patil.

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I beg to move the following Resolution:

"That this House approves the continuance in force of the Proclamation, dated the 20th November, 2007 in respect of the State of Karnataka, issued under article 356 of the Constitution by the President, for a further period of six months with effect from the 20th May, 2008."

As the House is aware, the President issued a Proclamation imposing President's Rule under article 356 of the Constitution in the State of Karnataka on 20th November, 2007, keeping the Legislative Assembly under suspended animation. The Resolutions, seeking approval to the Proclamation were approved by the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha on 26th November, 2007. Subsequently, when it became clear that no party or combination of parties was in a position to form a Government and the only option left was to seek fresh mandate of the people, the Legislative Assembly of the State was dissolved on 28th November, 2007.

As the Hon. Members are aware, under clause (4) of article 356 of the Constitution, a Proclamation issued by the President and duly approved by the Parliament shall, unless revoked, cease to operate on the expiration of a period of six months from the date of issue of the

Proclamation unless a Resolution approving the continuance in force of such a Proclamation is passed by both the Houses in which case the Proclamation shall continue for a further period of six months. Accordingly, the Proclamation in relation to the State of Karnataka shall cease to operate on 19th May, 2008, unless we in this House decide to extend it for a further period of six months. We must, therefore, either have an elected Government in place by the 19th May, 2008 or extend the duration of President's Rule.

Here, I would like to clarify, in terms of the first proviso of the clause (4) of article 356 of the Constitution, President's Rule in a State can be extended for a period of six months only. However, the Proclamation can be revoked at any time before the expiration of the six months period, if so required.

The Election Commission of India has issued the Schedule for general elections to the Legislative Assembly of Karnataka in three phases i.e. 10.5.2008 for 89 Assembly constituencies, 16.5.2008 for 66 Assembly constituencies and 22.5.2008 for 69 Assembly constituencies. The counting of all places will be on 25.5.2008 and the election shall be completed by 28.5.2008.

It is evident from the above that it would be necessary to extend the President's Rule in Karnataka beyond 19th May, 2008, as the General Elections to constitute the new Legislative Assembly cannot be completed before 19th May, 2008.

In view of the above, it is proposed that President's Rule in Karnataka may be continued for a further period of six months with effect from 20th May, 2008.

I seek the approval of this august House to the Resolutions moved by me.

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I want that it should be adopted as it is. There is no problem because elections will be held.

[English]

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY (Puri): This happens because the Government had not taken any action. The Government should have taken proper action to conduct the election in due time. The Election

Commission has announced the schedule because Karnataka is under the Governor's Rule. It is the fault of the Union Government, which could not achieve the target for election preparation...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

"That this House approves the continuance in force of the Proclamation, dated the 20th November, 2007 in respect of the State of Karnataka, issued under article 356 of the Constitution by the President, for a further period of six months with effect from the 20th May, 2008".

The motion was adopted.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN (Chirayinkil): Sir, this is not a proper course. This extension is not due to our fault. ...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now, that item is over. You have missed the bus. Please sit down.

14.55 hrs.

JAWAHARLAL INSTITUTE OF POST-GRADUATE MEDICAL EDUCATION AND RESEARCH, PUDUCHERRY BILL, 2008

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now, we take item no. 26—Shri Anbumani Ramadoss.

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS): Sir, the Jawaharlal Institute of Post-Graduate Medical Education and Research (JIPMER) was established in 1964 along with institutions like AIIMS, PGI and MER with the primary objective of developing pattern of teaching in under-graduate and post-graduate medical education and to establish and demonstrate high standards in education. However, due to constraints in the process of manpower selection, lack of academic autonomy, and lack of flexibility in administrative and financial matters, JIPMER could not grow. Even at the time of establishing JIPMER, there was a demand for establishing the same through an Act of Parliament. During the last three years, number of new projects like establishment of super-speciality blocks,

trauma care centres, dedicated oncology blocks, nursing college, etc. have been sanctioned.

The Government is also in the process of sanctioning of expansion projects like the MCH block, expansion of super speciality block, etc. Without the required technical manpower, the actual benefit of the upgradation of the Institute will not be available to the common man.

The Jawaharlal Institute of Post-Graduate Medical Education and Research, Puducherry Bill, 2008, which was passed by the Rajya Sabha on the 23rd of April, 2008 will empower the Institute with academic autonomy, develop its own curriculum, set new trends in medical education, and to award its own degrees and also research purposes. It will also provide the Institute the required flexibility in manpower selection, particularly the faculty members who are now recruited through the Union Public Service Commission, as a part of the Central Health Service.

I beg to move."

"That the Bill to declare the Institution known as the Jawaharlal Institute of Post-Graduate Medical Education and Research, Puducherry, to be an institution of national importance and to provide for its incorporation and matters connected therewith, as passed by Rajya Sabha, be taken into consideration."

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Motion moved:

"That the Bill to declare the Institution known as the Jawaharlal Institute of Post-Graduate Medical Education and Research, Puducherry, to be an institution of national importance and to provide for its incorporation and matters connected therewith, as passed by Rajya Sabha, be taken into consideration."

SHRI KIREN RIJU (Arunachal West): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I rise to take part in a very important Bill—Jawaharlal Institute of Post-Graduate Medical Education and Research, Puducherry Bill, 2008.

Before I speak on the Bill, I would like to recall that JIPMER, Puducherry is a very important Institute for the people of my Region, North-East because a lot of brilliant doctors had been passed out from this Institute. I keep this Institution in very high esteem, and today, on this occasion, I would like to submit a few points.

"Moved with the recommendation of the President.

[Shri Kiren Rijiju]

Sir, JIPMER began as Friends Medical Hospital which was known for quality medicine and with the *de jure* transfer of Puducherry to India, the Institute came directly under the administration of the Director-General of Health Services, Government of India. Now, we are looking towards the autonomy of the Institution so that the administrative problems and the problems of the staff of JIPMER, which they are facing for a long time, can be resolved. I believe, the hon. Minister is doing something in this direction, and this Bill will go a long way in solving the problems.

JIPMER, AIIMS and PGI, Chandigarh were established together. But if you see the budgetary allocation, last year JIPMER got the annual budget of Rs. 56 crore whereas AIIMS got the annual budget of Rs. 300 crore.

15.00 hrs.

The AIIMS is a very important institution, all know it. But at the same time, the Jawaharlal Institute of Postgraduate Medical Education and Research (JIPMER) is a symbol of an institution in the South India, which should be treated at par with the AIIMS, if not more; and the focus should be given equally for all the institutions. Today, with the objective of making it as an institution of national importance, I believe the financial allocations from now onwards for JIPMER would be in lines with the category of the AIIMS.

Sir, one of the important things, which we come to know, is that the infrastructure of JIPMER, the hardware, is not up to the mark. The entire infrastructure, which we see in JIPMER, is very old. Introduction of new equipment, new laboratories, new classrooms, strengthening of the medical students, etc., require modern infrastructural facilities for JIPMER, which is not visible today. I hope that with the intervention of the Central Government, definitely, something concrete would come up and this institution would continue serving the people of the country in a better way.

I have also interacted with some of the passed out students, who are doctors now as well as the present students. The ward orderly and the nursing staff, I believe, are to be recruited on a contractual basis on the lines of the AIIMS. The main problem is being faced by the interns. Some of the interns have to push the trolleys themselves; they have to carry the blood samples from laboratories, classrooms and all around. The behaviour of the ward orderly is very casual.

SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY (Dhenkanal): Yes, it is the practical problem being faced by the interns. It is the interns, who do it.

SHRI KIREN RIJJU: So, the encouragement, which should be coming from the Government, is to give more autonomy. The institute should be given the powers to decide themselves in hiring the people on contractual basis so that the performance of the staff could be assessed properly. They should be allowed to decide as to who should be working, who should be brought under contractual service, and who should be discharged on the basis of the failure to their duties. All these things are possible only if a true and genuine autonomy is granted to the institution. Otherwise, it is a very long time taking process. Even for appointment of a clerk, you have to take permission from the Director-General, Health Services, and the Government of India, which takes a long time. When we are working on granting of giving autonomy to all the major institutions in the country, it should be considered to give greater autonomy to JIPMER also.

Now, taking opportunity of this occasion—I think, we have requested the hon. Minister many a time before—I am coming to our traditional medicine system. One of the important and long pending demands is the recognition of Sawa Rigpa Chikitsa Paddati, which is also known as Amchi system under the Indian System of Medicines. Now, you have recognized AYUSH—Ayurveda, Yoga, Unani, Siddha and Homeopathy. My suggestion is that within the AYUSH, we may add one more S for Sawa Rigpa, just below S meant for Siddha. I feel that the recognition of Sawa Rigpa is very necessary because it spread in the entire region of Himalaya and it goes right up to far Eastern countries. The origin of this system of medicine is India, but it is not being recognized in this country whereas it is being widely recognized elsewhere! China is even patenting this system of medicine. Now, people believe that it is their system of medicine, whereas the fact is that it belongs to India. It is our property.

It satisfies all the conditions for recognition. The system has its own fundamental principles of health and diseases and a very comprehensive health care system. If you go by the literature also, it satisfies all the conditions you have stipulated. It has its literature on the concept and diagnosis management of the diseases. It is an indigenous system with unique base of modalities. This system is today also used and practised as health care system in remote areas of Himalayan region as

amchi system from Ladakh to my State, Arunachal Pradesh. Today we see that the western world is also looking towards this traditional system because modern allopathy system has lot of side effects. This *sawarikpa* system, *amchi* system has its own richness and that is a good reason why the western people are reposing more faith in this system of medicine. The only thing is that it requires recognition from our own Government, the Government of India. It is not coming forward. I feel that the Health Minister is a very knowledgeable person of this field and is seized of the matter. Hon. Speaker also appreciated the hon. Minister on many occasions as a very knowledgeable Health Minister, but I cannot appreciate it as long as he is not fulfilling my demand or concern of the members. My compliment will come, but it depends on how the Minister acts on my request.

We do not have a medical university in my State, Arunachal Pradesh. We have one homeopathy institute in Arunachal Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh Homeopathy Institute which has been included under Rajiv Gandhi Central University, but they are not issuing permanent registration because this Institute is not included in the Second Schedule of Central Council of Homeopathy Act, 1973. I think, the matter is on the table of the hon. Minister. I am going to meet him, but since I have got this opportunity to speak today, I would request the hon. Minister to kindly see that those students who have passed during the last two years, are recognised as doctors. They have all the requisite qualifications, but they are not called doctors for want of inclusion of this Institute in the Second Schedule of Central Council of Homeopathy Act, 1973. If he issues an order immediately or makes an immediate intervention, this problem can be solved.

Since the hon. Minister comes from South India and I come from the far North-East, we have to have proper coordination. I had raised one matter last month regarding the NEIGRIHMS, Shillong. When NEIGRIHMS was contemplated by hon. former Prime Minister, late Rajiv Gandhi, the objective was that it should be a premier medical institute in the North-East at par with AIIMS. It got delayed due to various reasons, but during the NDA time, it was realised and now it has been established. There were some controversies which I will not go into. The hon. Minister knows about it and I had also raised this matter. I am getting a lot of memoranda and lot of complaints from the people in that area, but I have not played politics on that line. I could have raised it on many platforms, but I do not want to do politics on that

very important institute. I believe, the Health Minister will understand the whole affair. I am not against any kind of linkage with any institute in South India, but we must see that the poor patients of North-East are not required to travel to South India. Travelling to South India does not mean anything, but it is a very costly affair. That is the problem which we can solve where the intervention of the hon. Minister is required so that the people of North-East can be treated in the North-East itself.

I know that South India is very advanced in medical system. So, the expertise in, and advancement of, the Institute in South India can definitely come to our rescue. The hon. Minister himself hailing from the South India will definitely give a big boost to this effort, without undermining my sentiment and the sentiments of the people. There is something on the line of outsourcing. NEIGRIHMS has been outsourced from South India. This kind of misconception that has crept into the mind should not really come forward.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I had some more points to mention, but I believe that I should not take much time. Therefore, I thank you for allowing me to speak on this very important topic.

SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN (Palani): Thank you, Sir. First of all, I want to congratulate and appreciate our hon. Health Minister, Dr. Anbumani Ramadoss, for bringing this landmark Bill to upgrade the Jawaharlal Institute of Post-graduate Medical Education and Research (JIPMER) into a National-level institute like AIIMS.

I want to congratulate our hon. Minister for introducing reservation in All-India Common Medical Entrance Examination before I discuss about the provisions in the Bill. He has taken a step after 14 years, and given reservation for SC & ST students. He has also given a very good scheme to this country under the guidance of our hon. Prime Minister, namely, the National Rural Health Mission. In the same manner, he has brought this Bill before this august House.

First of all, I want to mention about the Jawaharlal Institute of Post-graduate Medical Education and Research (JIPMER), Pondicherry. This is one of the premier medical college and hospital in India. The origin of the Jawaharlal Institute of Post-graduate Medical Education and Research (JIPMER) can be traced to 1823 when a medical school called 'Ecole de Medicine de Pondicherry' was established by the French Government. After Pondicherry's transfer

[Shri S.K. Kharventhan]

to India, the Government of India took over the medical college in the year 1956.

The medical college was upgraded as a Regional Centre on 13 July 1964, and it was christened as the Jawaharlal Institute of Post-graduate Medical Education and Research (JIPMER). The hospital is under the direct administrative control of Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS), Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India. The institute is affiliated to Pondicherry University, and they conduct a number of medical and paramedical courses. The Jawaharlal Institute of Post-graduate Medical Education and Research (JIPMER) is having Under Graduate, Post Graduate as well as Ph. D. courses.

Recently, a survey was conducted by NDTV, during the year 2007, and they have given the ranking of medical colleges throughout the country. The first place is occupied by AIIMS, New Delhi, which is under the Government of India. second place is occupied by Christian Medical College (CMC), Vellore—which is a private institution run by Christian Missionary; and the third place is occupied by the Jawaharlal Institute of Post-graduate Medical Education and Research (JIPMER), Pondicherry, and it is also with the Government. A large number people—not only from India, but from all the Asian countries—come to these hospitals, particularly, the CMC hospital and the Jawaharlal Institute of Post-graduate Medical Education and Research (JIPMER).

I want to mention about the medical education in this country before mentioning about certain provisions of this Bill. As compared to the medical education throughout the world, the Indian medical education attracts a number of countries and students. We are also getting a large number of NRIs coming to join and educate themselves in one of the best medical colleges in India, namely, the Jawaharlal Institute of Post-graduate Medical Education and Research (JIPMER).

Medical education in India is also given important consideration from international point of view. The Medical Council of India controls medical education in India. The universities and colleges in all the States—that give medical education—are monitored and timely inspected by the Medical Council of India every year. They allow colleges and universities to grant MBBS, MS, MD, BDS or any graduate or post-graduate degree or diploma provided those colleges are strictly adhering to the standards set by the Medical Council of India.

There is a provision in this Bill itself that after upgrading this institute they are going to start a medical college, nursing college, dental college and also Rural health Centres. I think that it is clearly mentioned in its provisions.

Institutions like AIIMS and JIPMER starting new medical colleges is a welcome move. However, with the permission of the Medical Council of India, private medical colleges are coming up everywhere in the country. It is not possible for a poor student to get admission in any of those colleges. If a poor student gets a good rank in the entrance examination, he can get admission into these colleges without having to pay any capitation fee. Otherwise, only children of rich people can afford to go to these medical colleges. There is one medical college in Tamil Nadu which is offering a seat for MBBS plus MD course and MBBS plus MS course, on payment of Rs. 1 crore. On payment of Rs. 1 crore, a student can study both the courses in seven years. So, medical education has become a saleable product in the market. Some private medical colleges involved in this kind business have been set up even without having any infrastructure facilities, without any proper laboratories, without sufficient faculty members, without proper library and other facilities.

A large number of girls from Kerala and Tamil Nadu go to the Gulf countries and the European countries after coming out of the nursing colleges. What is the position of the nursing colleges in the country? In my village Dharapuram there is a nursing college. There are no infrastructure facilities there. There is no teacher. Nothing is there. After this Bill is passed, JIPMER would be starting a medical college and nursing college. It is a welcome step taken by our Government and the hon. Minister.

Further, I want to mention certain points with regard to the Bill.

SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPPA (Trichur): Sir, the hon. Member is raising a very important issue that these institutions are being approved without any infrastructure.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Without even the teachers.

SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPPA: There are medical institutions working in our country without any infrastructure.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: It is happening not only Kerala but in other parts of the country also.

SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPAN: I think the Minister will give an answer to this point. How do they work? It is happening all over the country. It is a state of anarchy.

SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN: All medical colleges are controlled by the Medical Council of India. All nursing colleges are controlled by the Nursing Council. Dental colleges are monitored by Dental Council. Each Council has its Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Members. They have their own inspection teams. The Nursing Council sends a team to inspect a college before extending the approval of affiliation. The team gives a negative report and says that that institution should not be approved. However, the approval is still given. If this is the situation, what is the purpose of having that Council?

Our girls are going abroad and working. They expect a very good service from Malayalee and Tamil Nadu girls in the European countries. How can this kind of a mushroom growth of institutions provide good education? This is a pathetic situation in the country. To avoid all these things, I humbly request the hon. Minister that instead of starting a medical college by this Institute, JIPMER, instead of starting a nursing college, instead of starting a dental college, a number of medical colleges, a number of dental colleges, a number of nursing colleges should be started by this Institute. This is my humble request.

Clause 5(1) of the Bill deals with the composition of the Institute. Clause 5(1) (k) says that three Members of Parliament of whom two shall be elected from among themselves by the Members of the House of People and one from among themselves by the Members of the Council of States. There is another provision under Clause 8 which says that the President and other Members shall receive such allowance from the Institute as may be prescribed.

We are aware of the problem of office of profit that has come up in the last couple of years. I would like to know whether a Member of either Rajya Sabha or Lok Sabha who is nominated as a member of this Institute and draw allowances from this Institute will attract the provisions of the office of profit law. That provision has to be clarified.

Another important thing is the provision of Clause 6(b), which is dealing about the out-going Member—an out-going member shall be eligible for re-nomination or re-election. The period of this Committee is five years. Each member serves for a period of five years. If a Member is renominated for five years and then again for five years, it would spoil the institution. If a Member sits there for 10 years or 15 years, it would yield a good result. For example, in all the universities, syndicate member is nominated for a maximum of two term. Even I was a syndicate member in Ambedkar Law Institute only for two terms. I was not eligible for the third term. Whether he is an ex-officio member or elected member of nominated member, this provision has to be changed. For how many terms an out-going member shall be eligible for re-nomination or re-election? Whether it is for two terms or three terms or 10 years or 15 years? This has to be clarified. Otherwise, we must make a provision that a member can continue for 15 years or 20 years.

Another important thing is the objects of the institute—it is clause 12. The object is to develop patterns of teaching in undergraduate and postgraduate medical education in all its branches so as to demonstrate a high standard of medical education. As earlier mentioned by me, this Institute is going to give a very good medical education for the students. While doing so, the Government has to take steps to appoint necessary teaching faculty who are of international standards. Not only satisfying the local norms, we have to develop our youth. For example, if you go anywhere in the USA, our Orthopaedic Surgeons are welcomed by the foreigners and giving importance to our young doctors. So, we have to develop our youth in such a fashion. Faculty members and others who are appointed should have good qualification.

In the same manner, clause 13 deals about the medical college, nursing college and dental colleges, about which I submitted earlier, and I reiterate that a number of institutes have to be opened. Very important step taken through this Bill is welcome, which is clause 13(f)(v)—about rural and urban health organisations. Our Minister is very much interested in the National Rural Health Mission. After the introduction of the National Rural Health Mission, huge allocation has been made. Even in the constituency of each Member of Parliament, three hospitals are selected. They are also conducting Mega Health Care, inviting all people and providing very good and valuable service. Likewise, under JIPMER, it would render very valuable service to the rural people in the medical field.

[Shri S.K. Kharventhan

Furthermore, clause 13(g) deals with training the teachers from different medical colleges in India. It is a very good step. At present, there is no such facility exclusively to teach the teachers. For example, after the assumption of office by the UPA Government, a National Judicial Academy at Bhopal was constituted, which is a unique institute in this country. We are calling the subordinate Judiciary; we are making all arrangements, including accommodation; they are staying for a week; and judicial officers are given very good training. Likewise, a separate block should be opened in the JIPMER and all facilities should be provided; doctors and teachers from various fields should be invited; and training should be given. This is a very good proposal brought by the Government.

Another clause 13 (m) deals with reservation, at least 20 seats out of every 75 seats in undergraduate courses in the Institute for local applications. Previously, there was no such facility in JIPMER. It is a new proposal. It is a welcome step. For each 75 students, they are going to select 20 students, which would help the local people, the Puducherry people. Poor people and downtrodden would get admission in the Institute. As per this sub-clause, at least 20 seats out of every 70 seats are reserved.

If the number of seats is increased from 75 to 150, automatically the seats under reservation have to be increased from 20 to 40. If number of seats is increased, the seats under reservation accordingly should be increased. This is my humble submission.

With respect to the fee structure, I would say this. The national level institutes like IIMs and IITs are getting huge fees. JIPMER is getting very meagre amount as fees. After developing this as a national Institute, the fee structure should not be changed. Normal fee has to be collected. Then only we can give good service for the sake of education to the people from poor and downtrodden classes.

One or two persons every day are coming to us and getting letters for admission into JIPMER for treatment because it is giving the best treatment and free treatment. People from all parts, not only from South India, but also from the North and the East like Kolkata and Assam, are coming to JIPMER for treatment, as they go to Vellore Medical College and others, particularly for heart surgery and kidney transplantation. It gives very good treatment and cheap treatment. So, the medical expenses should

not be increased even after making it as a national Institute. They are going to start medical colleges, dental colleges and nursing colleges. They also should be run at reasonable rates. It should not be increased; then only it will help the poor people of this country.

With respect to C & D employees, I would say this. Previously this Bill was taken up in the Rajya Sabha a few months back and members discussed about the C & D employees; the local people agitated; and they are protected under 28 (1); and so, the C & D employees rights are protected under that.

Considering all these things, it is a very welcome step taken by our Government and particularly by Dr. Anbumani Ramadoss; he, being a doctor himself, is doing a lot of social service and he knows the mood of the people of this country. He has brought forward a very valuable Bill before the august House. I fully support and welcome this Bill.

DR. RAM CHANDRA DOME (Birbhum): Thank you. I rise to support this Bill, namely, the Jawaharlal Institute of Post-Graduate Medical Education and Research, Puducherry Bill, 2008.

At the outset, I must congratulate the Minister, Dr. Anbumani Ramadoss, my good friend, for bringing such a good legislation to make the pioneer Institute in the South, an autonomous Institute, for the overall improvement of teaching, training, research and medical services there.

Being a member of the Standing Committee on Health and Family Welfare, we have examined this Bill thoroughly and we have visited that place also. We have taken evidence of all the stakeholders. At that time, there was a storm, out of some genuine apprehensions among the section of doctors, faculty members, paramedics, staff and local people; and there was a great agitation against awarding of autonomous status to this Institute. But we, the members of the Standing Committee, unanimously have taken evidence of all stakeholders. We appreciated the ground realities there, with proper understanding of the problems. The Standing Committee unanimously recommended proper amendments to this Bill, taking into consideration all those representations.

Sir, I am happy that the hon. Minister and the Government ultimately have accepted all the major amendments and have incorporated them in the revised

Bill. Altogether, 34 amendments have been accepted by the Government. That is a welcome decision. I believe, with these amendments the Bill has been enriched and has become very purposeful. Definitely, these amendments have improved the very objective of this Bill.

Sir, giving autonomy to the institute is a very noble mission because it has been suffering from a number of constraints like funds, lack of faculty and a number of other constraints. Without proper autonomy and decision making authority, the main objective of giving training, research and medi-care services to the people was hampered a lot. I believe with this legislation majority of those constraints will be removed and this institute will become a pioneer institute and also become an equivalent institute to the other autonomous Central institutes of our country.

Sir, apprehensions of the people were genuine so far as medi-care services were concerned. Poor people were getting these services free of cost or at a very affordable price. Their apprehension was that they will miss this opportunity once the institute would get autonomy. Local faculty members are also very much apprehensive of their career prospects. Other paramedical staff also has some apprehension with regard to their transfer, posting and promotion. But all these things have been taken care of in this amendment Bill. This Bill has been unanimously passed by the Rajya Sabha after incorporating a number of amendments.

A provisions has been made with regard to local students getting admission in the undergraduate courses. Against an intake of 75 students, 20 seats have been reserved for them. I am very happy about it. Our Standing Committee had also made recommendations on this issue. I would like to request that this should be extended to the postgraduate course also. The service conditions of local staff, particularly their pension should be taken care of. They should be given protection in this regard so that they are not deprived of any opportunity so far as their promotion or gradation is concerned.

Nowadays, adequate autonomy for such institutes is very much required but awarding autonomy alone is not enough. Financial support in terms of budgetary allocation should also be taken care of because that is much more important and the institute also deserves so. That is why, I propose much more financial allocation should be provided for this in the current Budget.

In our Committee, when we examined the status of faculty position, we found that it was in a very bad condition. In the farthest end of our country, quality faculty members are not interested to go and many of the faculty positions are remaining vacant for a long time, thereby hampering teaching, research and training of the Institute. This part should be taken care of. These vacant posts of faculty members should be filled immediately for serving the interest of teaching, training and research.

Similarly, in other grades like nursing staff and para-medical staff etc. also there are many vacant posts for a long time thereby causing difficulties in rendering services to people. This part should be taken care of immediately and vacant posts should be filled up.

The students were very much apprehensive that after getting autonomous status, the fee structure may go up, thereby depriving the poor students of getting quality education. We recommended from our Committee on this point that the fee structure should not be such that poor students cannot afford studies. That part has been taken care of by this Bill. I am really happy on this issue.

While speaking on this Bill, I must point out some other ills which are prevailing in our pioneer Central Government institutes in our country like All India Institute of Medical Sciences, Post Graduate Institute of Medical Education and Research, Chandigarh and other central institutes. Our recent experiences are not very good particularly in regard to the pioneer institute like AIIMS situated in our national capital. In all respects this is a prestigious and noble Institute and at the same time this Institute is enjoying much more patronisation from the Central Government. But even then, there are so many ills in this Institute in respect of teaching, training, treatment rendered to the poor patients and moreover in research works. These are not satisfactory at all. Is it what we expected after investing so much budgetary allocation in this Institute? Even after that, ills are there. My suggestion to the Minister is to take particular care of this so that the prestige of this Institute could be maintained.

The upgradation programme of some medical colleges of our country up to the level of AIIMS is proposed by the Department. Though this programme has been taken up for the last few years yet the progress of work is not at all satisfactory.

[Shri Ram Chandra Dome]

The Budget allocation is not adequate. That is why the Government should take urgent steps to fulfil this commitment.

Sir, my next point is about opening of new medical colleges. Many of my colleagues here have mentioned about this point and it is a fact that it is a difficult task. These days, particularly at the backdrop of privatisation, liberalisation and globalisation, the poor people have become a victim of this era. The State Governments are very much constrained to open new medical colleges on their own, but if the Government would deny its responsibility to open new medical colleges, then who else will open? Is it the corporate sector? Rampant corporatisation of the education and health sector has disastrous consequences all over the country. There is no social control. These are very sensitive and vital sectors. The corporate sector is benefiting out of these two sectors. They only have a profit motive. Quality of both education and health services are not maintained. There is no one look after this aspect. A definite social control should be brought about in these matters by way of legislation to contain mushrooming of private medical colleges. On the contrary, the Government should take the responsibility of opening new medical colleges. The Central Government should help the State Governments. There is uneven development. It is a big country. The poorer States are unable to open medical colleges. The private sector is not willing to go to the remote areas to open medical colleges. This cannot be allowed to go on. There should be a rational policy and the Government cannot deny their responsibility in these vital sectors. Therefore, I would like to urge upon the Government to re-assess their policy so that these anomalies and issues of uneven development are redressed without any further loss of time.

Sir, my next point is about vaccination. Children are vaccinated as a preventive measure from diseases. The Government talks about universal immunisation. But vaccines are produced in other countries. There are three very eminent vaccine producing laboratories in our country. One is the Pasteur Institute, the other one is at Kanur in Kerala; another in Kasauli in Himachal Pradesh. But recently the Government has ordered to suspend their production. We do not know the reason. It is very unfortunate. I urge upon the Government for restoration of the activities of these institutes by reversing their order.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You have two more Members to speak from your Party. You may conclude now.

DR. RAM CHANDRA DOME: Sir, with these words, I conclude my speech. I support the Bill.

[Translation]

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR (Chail): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I rise to speak on Jawaharlal Institute of Post Graduate Institute of Medical Education and Research, Puducherry Bill, 2008. While supporting this Bill I would like to raise certain points. As everyone knows that it is enshrined in our Constitution that education, health and employment should be provided to all. I remember the slogan given by Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia ji that food and clothing should be cheaper and medicines and education free. This slogan was followed in letter and spirit in the State of Uttar Pradesh under the Government of Shri Mulayam Singhji. This Bill has been presented in the House which seeks to provide for opening of an Institute on the lines of AIIMS, New Delhi. An Institute of national importance is about to be set up.

15.46 hrs.

[SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV *in the Chair*]

I have read in the Bill that hon. Minister of Health, Government of India will be its Chairman; the Secretary to the Government of India will be its *ex-officio* Member, hon. Vice Chancellor of the University of Puducherry will be its *ex-officio* Member and the Chief Secretary of the State will also be its *ex-officio* member. Besides, two hon. Members from Lok Sabha and one hon. Member from Rajya Sabha are likely to be elected to the Governing body. It is very good. All these office bearers or Members of Board of Directors will provide enough support to this Institute.

Mr. Chairman Sir, I would like to tell you that there is Sanjay Gandhi Institute of Medical Education in Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh set up on these lines which has a very good team of doctors and experts and is fully equipped with modern equipments. At times we are compelled to think whether these institutes which are opened with an aim of providing treatment to very poor people who are suffering from serious diseases and who have no money for their treatment can at least get treatment in reputed and high level institutes to serve their purpose.

The Government of India has launched many health schemes for the poor. I will not go into the details in this regard. Several times the hon. Members from either side have raised their points, however, our objective should be to facilitate best medicines and treatment to every individual who is poor. I would like to draw your attention

to such major Institutes, particularly, AIIMS. Today, if a poor patient from our parliamentary constituency, suffering from a serious disease who first visited a local doctor, or a good doctor at district or State level and is referred to the Medical Institute, New Delhi, faces a lot of inconvenience in getting medical treatment here. We have to recommend their cases. At times, we have to call the Director or write a letter. Only then he is able to get the treatment. Mostly, here are such patients who are suffering from serious diseases which require a specialist's intervention, after which the investigations begin. These investigations are so time consuming that at times the patient dies during the course of investigation. And at times it happens that a particular machine is out of order and as a result operation gets delayed and the patient is asked to come at a subsequent date which could be after a week, ten days or a fortnight whereas the patient suffers from some very serious disease which requires immediate medical intervention. We should pay special attention to the alternate arrangement of essential equipments which are very urgently required. Immediate treatment facilities should be provided by operating a substitute equipment in case an equipment is out of order.

Just now, an hon. Member averred that at times not even the recommendation of an MP works. Be it AIIMS or any other State level Medical education Institute that you are going to open, the doctors will have to accord priority to the cases recommended by an hon. Member of Parliament or Member of Legislature on telephone or through a letter because we do not receive all kinds of patients. Usually, only a poor, helpless person in a pitiable condition calls upon us and we have to recommend for them. They should ensure this facility.

Facilities should be provided for a time bound treatment. After consulting the doctor, the investigations related the disease, at times, take such a long period that the patient dies during the course of investigations. Investigations should be done immediately and treatment should also given on time. Only then our objective would be achieved.

In Uttar Pradesh people come from far flung areas at Sanjay Gandhi Medical Institute for getting medical treatment. They come from a distance of 200, 300 kms. If they come with the family then the patient somehow gets admitted to the hospital, however, there is no provision for the lodging of the family in the campus. If a Medical Institute is being opened in Puducherry then sufficient arrangement should be made for lodging of at

least family members of the patient. The family Members of the patient in Sanjay Gandhi Medical Institute, Lucknow reside in hotels and more expenditure is incurred on commuting and lodging of family members than that incurred on the treatment. It should also be looked into.

In regard to the medicines, I would like to say that sometimes medicines prescribed by the doctors are asked to be purchased from the market. At times medicines are either available outside at double, triple rates or are not available at all. Essential drugs for serious diseases should be made available within the hospital complex. Only then the object of the Bill would be achieved.

Just now all the hon. Members referred to the doctors. Many doctors are leaving their jobs at the medical institute and are opening their private nursing homes and giving out best medical treatment and also minting money. Do you know the scenario of a nursing home. It means when a patient gets admitted there he gets, his treatment done either by taking loans or after mortgaging his wife's jewellery. The nursing homes charge arbitrarily. So, we should provide good salaries, accommodation and education facilities to the children of the doctors of Medical Institutes there only. I am very glad that a Central school has been opened for the education of children of the doctors of the Sanjay Gandhi Medical Institute. They have a big campus there. If the doctors would not stay there within the institute complex or will not get facilities then no one will be there to look after the patients. So, this also needs to be looked into.

I will conclude by raising one point. Through you, I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister that the erstwhile Government of hon. Mulayam Singh ji in Uttar Pradesh had sent proposal of setting up five medical colleges in the State to the Union Government which are still pending for approval. I raised questions in regard to it during the question hour and also raised it during the discussion. The proposal should be sanctioned since Uttar Pradesh is the biggest State of the country. The development of the country is not possible in the absence of the development of Uttar Pradesh. With these words while supporting the Bill, I conclude.

SHRI SHANKHLAL MAJHI (Akbarpur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I also associate myself with the hon. Member.

MR. CHAIRMAN: All right, you can associate yourself.

[English]

SHRI A. KRISHNASWAMY (Sriperumbudur): Sir, I rise to support the Jawaharlal Institute of Post Graduate Medical Education and Research, Puducherry Bill, 2008.

Sir, this is one of the famous and prestigious institution of this country which produced a lot of doctors and Post-Graduate doctors in this educational Institute.

Sir, today, the medical courses are highly expensive, but when compared to other institutes, those who study in the JIPMER, without spending a lot of money have come out as very good doctors from this Institute.

Sir, I congratulate the hon. Minister for bringing forward such a very good legislation. This Institute was started in 1964 to give high standards of education in this country and to have an excellent patient care. These two things have been done very nicely. But in today's scenario, it is going a little bit down day-by-day. So, to develop this Institute, the hon. Minister has brought this Bill as a national importance institution as like AIIMS and other hospitals and the Medical Research Centre in Chandigarh.

Sir, I want to register one of my points regarding the Members. It is mentioned in the Bill that the Institute shall consist of following Members. In this I felt very happy to see that Members of Parliament would be nominated. It is a very welcome suggestion. But two Members from Puducherry and one Member from Lok Sabha and the other Member from Rajya Sabha have been identified for selection. This Institute is in Puducherry and most of the people from Tamil Nadu are taking treatment there. So, why can you not post one of the MPs from Tamil Nadu there? ...*(Interruptions)* It is clearly stated in the Bill that two Members of Parliament from the Union Territory of Puducherry, one from the Lok Sabha to be nominated by the hon. Speaker of Lok Sabha and the other one to be nominated by the Chairman of Rajya Sabha will be there in the Institute. So, you are putting a total of four Members there...*(Interruptions)*

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS: That is old one. This is a new one...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI A. KRISHNASWAMY: I am very sorry. But most of the people from Tamil Nadu are taking treatment there. So, you should post one of the Members from Tamil Nadu there. A total of 39 Members of Parliament from

Tamil Nadu are supporting this Bill. So, the hon. Minister should consider this request.

Now, I come to the other aspect of terms of office. It is mentioned that they are posted for five years. It should be reduced to three years. If you post them for five years, it will lead to monopoly and corruption. I would request the hon. Minister to reduce it to three years. I hope the hon. Minister would consider this small request.

15.59 hrs.

[SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN *in the Chair*]

Lastly, I would like to say something about my constituency. Last week, the measles vaccine killed three children of my constituency. The State Government has suspended the officers and doctors. The vaccine comes from the Government of India and in my constituency there are accusing the Central Government. So, I would request the hon. Minister to take serious note about the supply of medicines. Three children dieing is not an ordinary issue. I visited their homes in my constituency last Sunday. One old lady of 45 years caught hold of my hand and cried that after 25 years of her marriage, she got one baby. She was complaining that her stomach is a dried stomach. She will not get a baby in future and after the delivery of her baby, they removed her uterus so that in future she would not get a child.

16.00 hrs.

Her entire family was upset. Even our hon. Chief Minister had given Rs. 3 lakh for her family. But she said this money will not support me. Only my baby can support me in future. She was crying that she would not get a baby in future. So, the Minister should take some serious steps about supplying this vaccine. In 2004-05, the Minister told us that one of the AIIMS will be opened in Tiruchi or Salem. I request the hon. Minister that from JIPMER, you can give diplomas in dental surgery and nursing. My demand is to have an institute in my constituency in Gumidipoondi in Thiruvalluvar district. Our MOS, Health, also goes by that road very frequently. So, I request you if you could bring one hospital to this road, I shall be grateful because Gumidipoondi is very backward area. Nellore people can also come there because it is very near to that place. This is one of the important Bills having national importance. I support the Bill and I congratulate the hon. Minister for bringing such a wonderful Bill. I support it on behalf of the DMK Party.

SHRIMATI ARCHANA NAYAK (Kendrapara): Thank you for giving me an opportunity to participate in the discussion on the Jawaharlal Institute of Post Graduate Medical Education and Research, Puducherry Bill, 2008. The JIPMER Bill had drawn the attention of the whole nation in December, 2007 as the Government suffered a major embarrassment in Rajya Sabha when Opposition and the Left Parties teamed up to force the Government to withdraw the Bill. The then Parliamentary Affairs Minister, Shri P.R. Dasmunsi, said that this was the first time that a Bill after being scrutinized by the Standing Committee and the Cabinet was being taken back to the Cabinet. "It is very unfortunate and an embarrassing situation. We will take it back to the Cabinet". He said.

The JIPMER Bill seeks for conversion of the Centrally-administered premier health institute into an autonomous institution. The move is opposed by several people in the Union Territory of Puducherry. Members of the JIPMER Anti-Autonomy People's Action Committee met in New Delhi on 18th April, 2008. They insisted that the MPs should ensure that when the autonomy Bill is introduced in Parliament, four main features should be incorporated in it. They have threatened to organize agitations including *bands* in Puducherry. One of the four demands of the Committee is for continuing the reservation in medical seats for residents of Puducherry. At present, 20 seats of the total 75 were reserved for the residents of Puducherry. The present Bill in its amended form has taken care of the demand in sub clause (m) of clause 20 of the Bill.

The other demand of the Action Committee is that the existing free treatment for the public to continue. Sub clause (n) of the clause 25 of the new Bill has taken care of the demand. Another demand of the Action Committee was that the existing fee structure for medical education should be retained and in no case should it be raised to more than what is prescribed in the medical college directly run by the Central Government. The Bill has taken care of this demand also.

Sub-clause (n) of Clause 25 of the Bill stipulates that free treatment shall be provided to the poor patients in the same manner as are being provided in the medical institute of the Central Government.

Sir, ample provisions should be made in the JIPMER Bill so as to ensure that the institute is run smoothly and efficiently to render service to the humanity.

On this occasion, I would like to request the hon. Health Minister that he should take steps for the immediate completion of AIIMS at Bhubaneswar, Orissa.

With these words, I conclude my speech and I support the Bill.

[Translation]

*SHRI M. APPADURAI (Tenkasi): I thank the chair for giving me an opportunity to speak on the bill moved by our Hon. Union Health Minister to grant autonomous status to the Jawaharlal Institute of Post-graduate Medical Education and Research, Puducherry. I welcome this move. Now, it is like calm after storm. The moment this announcement came regarding the granting of autonomous status to JIPMER, there was hue and cry. Both public and the employees were agitated that the facilities they were getting from the Government institute may not continue at the hands of an autonomous body. Public feared that they may not get free medical treatment. Parents feared that fees for medical studies may be increased. Employees apprehended that pension and other benefit may not continue. Hence there was an opposition to this move. So the Bill has been reintroduced with necessary amendments. The priority in admission given to the residents of Puducherry must continue. This Bill provides for 20 out of 75 seats to the students from Puducherry. Apart from continuing free medical facility to the poorer sections of the society the interests of employees must be protected.

Under 20(1) of the Bill it is provided that the pensionary benefits for the employees of the institute shall continue. It is a welcome change from the earlier version of the Bill. While assuming power, this Government promised that AIIMS like higher institutes for Medical Education and Research would be established in many other parts of the country. I am pained to note that no such Institute has come up so far. I would like to ask of you as to whether you would be establishing at least one before the expiry of the tenure of this Government. I urge upon this Government to pursue further to fulfil its promise. This Bill is a move in that direction.

With the autonomous state more funds and more foreign collaboration will flow. With this the new autonomous institute can enhance its quality of service and standard of Education and Research. Such a higher

*English translation of the speech originally delivered in Tamil.

[Shri M. Appadurai]

grade institute must be set up in the pattern of AIIMS in the south of Tamil Nadu either in Madurai or Tirunelveli. Even after 62 years of independence Medical Education continues to remain a proposition beyond the reach of the poor. Hospitals in the private sector are thriving but the Government hospitals remain undernourished. It is the ground reality that there is always scarcity in Government hospitals either for doctors or for medicines. In my Tenkasi constituency, instead of 60 doctors the total strength there, only 16 doctors have been posted. At the same time more and more of our medical graduates are going away and out of the country seeking better pastures in foreign countries like USA, England and Japan. Even to-day we have just one doctor for 25 thousand people. So naturally the poor and the needy could not get medical facilities. Just because the Government are not filling vacant posts our medical graduates go out of the country. This brain drain gives rise to inadequate medical care in the public sector that alone can benefit the poor. Rise in private hospitals have given rise to Private Medical Colleges also. In Puducherry a small Union Territory, more than 5 Private Medical Colleges are there. In that small territory there is one Government institute with so many Medical Institutions in the private sector that do not have enough of trained faculty and adequate infrastructure facilities. But they collect lakhs and lakhs of rupees. Hence there must be proper monitoring to plug the loopholes. Recently more than five children have died in Tamil Nadu and one child died in my constituency due to vaccines. Only poor meet with this kind of tragic ends. Our planning and execution fail to address the needs of the poor. That is why I ask of you as to whom do we aim at. Whom do we serve? Whose false is this? Is it fate? I do not believe in God but I believe that doctors who save life are like Gods. Reiterating the views of the rationalist Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu who tread the path of Periyar let me tell you that I do not leave it to fate. Hence there must be attempts to bring out more qualified doctors and nurses from this institution to serve the poor and the needy with better medical care. Expressing my support to this Bill, let me conclude.

SHRI VIRCHANDRA PASWAN (Nawada): Sir, I rise to speak in favour of the Jawaharlal Institute of Post-Graduate Medical Education and Research, Puducherry Bill, 2008. The Government of India has taken a very commendable step and I understand that this kind of effort should be made in medical sector whenever this is needed in the country. Whenever the need for setting up

of such institutes is brought to the notice of the House and the Government, these should definitely be set up at other places also. Like arrangement has been made for medical education and research in Puducherry, there is a need to make similar arrangements for other States also.

Since, this institute is going to be set up, there is no scope for any criticism or mentioning its functioning. It will be thoroughly discussed when it comes into existence. When it comes into existence, I would like to express what has emerged out of the Bill that has been presented here. I would like to say something about the setting up of the Institute. The hon'ble Minister of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India will be the Chairman of this Institute. The Bill mentions about the members of this Institute. The Secretary, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India will be the ex-officio Secretary, the Vice-chancellor of the Puducherry University will be the ex-officio Member and similarly the Chief Secretary of the State will be the ex-officio member. Besides this, it has been mentioned that the Institute shall also consist of a number of other Members.

[English]

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS: Hon. Member, we have got a new copy today as passed by the Rajya Sabha.

SHRI VIRCHANDRA PASWAN: Oh! it is old copy.

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS: I think, you are referring to the old copy. You go to the new copy; there you can see all the changes which we have initiated. We have removed a large number of clauses; 34 amendments have been made in the new copy which is available here.

SHRI VIRCHANDRA PASWAN: Thank you hon. Minister for giving this information.

[Translation]

Sir, the representation of Parliament has been mentioned in it. In the old copy, the inclusion of one Lok Sabha Member and one Rajya Sabha Member was mentioned. I would like to thank the hon'ble Minister for giving me updated copy of the bill as passed by the Rajya Sabha. As mentioned in the Bill there will be two Lok Sabha Members and one Rajya Sabha Member in it. There should be more and more representation of people's Representatives in such institutes. Therefore, four Members from Lok Sabha and two members from Rajya Sabha belonging to Puducherry and considered to

be suitable for this job by the House or by the hon'ble Speaker or hon'ble Chairman should be nominated.

Similarly, the State Assembly is there. I have not gone through it, and the hon'ble Minister will apprise me. In the earlier bill, there is no representation from the Legislative Assembly. I feel that there should be representation from the People's representatives elected for Legislative Assemblies in the same way as hon'ble Legislators are nominated to other universities and educational institutes. The hon'ble Minister is present here. Since there is Legislative Assembly in Puducherry, I would like to request the Government to provide for maximum representation from the Legislative Assembly so that it may be made useful to people. I do not want to discuss it in detail. I have already mentioned that other States also have such requirements. I hail from Bihar. There is an urgent need of medical centres and health services in Bihar. Bihar is not having a single institute of higher education, like the one set up in the name of an important person in Puducherry. Similarly, there is a need to set up high level educational institutes in medical sector in the name of great personalities like Lok Nayak Karpuri Thakur ji, social leader of Dalits, Shri Bhola Paswan Shastri the three time Chief Minister of Bihar and Lok Nayak Jai Prakash Narain. I would like the Government to take note of all these things seriously. I feel that such institutes should be opened not only in Bihar, but in other parts of the country as well because medical education is an important part of life without which we cannot imagine best human resources. If we want to develop our country and want our country to stand parallel to other countries, human resources should be in best condition. Health services are essential for staying healthy and medical education is necessary for providing health services. The efforts made in Puducherry State should also be made for other States. I would like to give stress on two-three points that representatives of people should be given maximum representation in such educational institutes and the educational institutes should be set up in the name of great leaders of the country who have worked for the welfare of the society, the country, the States and backward and dalit people.

With these words, I support this Bill.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, I would request Prof. Ramadass to speak. You are the real beneficiary of this Bill. So, you can speak about the Bill and give your

practical experience. You are directly benefited by Shri Anbumani's favour.

PROF. M. RAMADASS (Pondicherry): Sir, perhaps you are the first Chairman in the last four years who has given me flexibility of time, and I must be grateful to you for that at the first instance.

Sir, on behalf of Pattali Makkal Katchi and its founder President and our beloved leader, Dr. Ayya, I welcome and support this Jawaharlal Institute of Post-Graduate Medical Education and Research, Puducherry Bill, 2008.

Sir, before I go into the merits of this Bill, I would like to inform this House that as the lone Lok Sabha Member of Puducherry, it is a day of joy and jubilation for me, it is a moment of pride that Puducherry today is going to be bestowed with an institution of national importance.

Sir, as you have rightly said, we are the beneficiaries, and the people of Puducherry should be celebrating this as an occasion of a great moment, after this august House passes this Bill.

Some of the Members who had spoken to me, earlier especially Dr. Ramachandra Yadav said that there were some storms in Puducherry, and some agitations in Puducherry against this Bill. I should tell, as a Member of that Territory, that those agitations were all motivated, those agitations were carried out without reading out the provisions of the Bill, without understanding the nuances of the Bill, and without understanding the implications of the Bill. How can one comment on a Bill without even seeing the provisions of the Bill? That was the situation. It was like groping in the dark. One who is afraid of his own shadow. It was only that type of people who were creating some problems.

Politically, I should tell you that there are four major political parties in Puducherry—the Congress, the ruling party; the Dravida Munetra Kazhagam, the alliance partner; Pattali Makal Kachi; and the Communist Party of India. All these four parties unanimously supported this Bill in its draft form itself even before it could be amended.

There are 30 Members in the Puducherry Legislative Assembly and 27 members irrespective of political affiliation supported this Bill. In fact, the people of Puducherry were craving for this occasion as to when this Institute will be upgraded into an institution of national

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importance so that the local people would get the best healthcare, would get quality medical education which would enable them to go higher and higher in the societal ladder. Therefore, it is not correct to say that there were big agitations. But still, as a democrat, our hon. Health Minister took into account all those apprehensions and tried to convince them by saying that our intentions, the intentions of the UPA Government are not to defraud or defray anybody.

Therefore, we feel that it is a moment of joy because after hither and thither, stumbling here and there, we are now able to see the dawn of the day today after passing this Bill.

The second thing, which I would like to say is that I should compliment the hon. Minister not only for piloting this Bill but also for doing many great things in the interest of the Institute even before it could be converted into an institution of national importance. I belong to Puducherry; I have seen this Institution from 1966 itself when I went to JIPMER as a candidate for admission. The Institution was established in 1964. After completing my PUC, I sought admission in that college in 1965. Therefore, from my student days to the stage of a professor in the Central university, I have observed the working of JIPMER. In the last 50 years, no Central Health Minister visited this Institution although it is a Central Institution affiliated to the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. It was only this Health Minister who visited as many times as possible, went through the Institute, studied the facilities available, identified the deficiencies, pointed out the mistakes and tried to rectify all those deficiencies within the last four years.

Today, in the last four years, there has been a sea change in the composition of this Institute. There has been a tremendous improvement in the healthcare; and there has been a greater awakening about this Institute in the last four years. Thanks to the large number of initiatives that our hon. Minister has taken; even before it could be converted into an Institution of national importance.

Sir, the CT scan, which was there in the Institute, was not working. It was made operational. We got a world class MRI machine there. We have got an emergency block constructed in the last four years. We have got a state-of-the-art lab there where people from all over the country come and take treatment with the dedicated cardiologists there. We have super speciality

block created there. We have filled up 65 and above faculty positions in the college or in the Institute, which were lying vacant for many years because of the hurdles. We have established a nursing college there. We have constructed an auditorium. We have established a Regional Centre for Cancer.

Sir, an hon. Member from the CPI was asking about the National Rural Health Mission. He was saying: "What is this? The National Rural Health Mission is not percolating down the common man." He must have asked me how this is working. It is only on 12th April that under this National Rural Health Mission, we conducted a mega event, a mega health camp in a place called Manadipet, which is the remotest village, a village afflicted by poverty, a village afflicted by illiteracy, with the people who had not seen the facility of modern medicines. We took the medical service to the doorsteps of these common people there. We organised a mega health campaign in which about 5,000 people participated.

They have been taken up for the follow up action in the future also. Therefore, I should compliment the Minister for all the hard work that he has rendered to enhance the image of JIPMER, Puducherry.

If one has to appreciate this Bill, one must also understand the background in which this Bill has been brought. The Union Territory of Puducherry has got a population of 10 lakhs spread over four regions—Mahe, Karaikal, Yanam and Puducherry. This institute was closely associated with the history of Puducherry itself. You know, Sir, as not only an old learned lawyer but also as a historian and a man who is connected with Mahe and therefore the Union Territory of Puducherry, that the Union Territory of Puducherry was an erstwhile French colony. It was under French rule for more than 138 years. It was liberated from the yoke of French rule in 1954. Jawaharlal Nehru, the architect of modern India, the first Prime Minister of this country, adopted Puducherry as his pet child. He said 'we will give you whatever you want; we will create whatever infrastructure you want; you are an infant now and we will create everything for you.' So, on the eve of the merger of Union Territory of Puducherry with the Indian Union, Jawaharlal Nehru gave us a gift and that gift was Dhanwantri Hospital. It was the first institution.

MR. CHAIRMAN: What about Mahe? It is also a part of Puducherry.

PROF. M. RAMADASS: Sir, as you told me, I have half an hour to speak. I am coming to this. I am only at history stage of it. I will come back to you. Mahe will definitely benefit...*(Interruptions)* Therefore, the merger of Union Territory of Puducherry with the Union of India signalled the establishment of Dhanwantri Hospital in 1954 itself. After merger, it remained as a direct Union Territory. It was not brought under the Union Territories Act. In 1963 when the first Union Territories Act was passed, the Union Territory of Puducherry also came under the ambit of the Union Territories Act, 1963. Immediately after that when the status of Puducherry was elevated, the status of Dhanwantri Medical College was also elevated by Pandit Jawaharal Nehru. At that time, it was upgraded into Jawaharal Institute of Post-Graduate Medical Education and Research in 1964 after it became a Union Territory.

It was established by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare at that point of time and it appointed a committee under the chairmanship of Shri K.L. Rao in which Dr. A.L. Boliyar was also a member. This Committee, after going into various aspects of JIPMER, recommended that this JIPMER should be upgraded into an institute of national importance in 1965 itself, along with All India Institute of Medical Sciences and on the lines of PGIMS, but unfortunately, the Ministry of Health did not take that suggestion into account. Had it been done, JIPMER would have become an All India Institute of Medical Sciences at that point of time itself.

I think, the destiny would have it. It was destined to this Health Minister that what could not be done in the last 44 years, we are doing it today because the destiny feels that it is this Health Minister who must make it an institute of national importance. Perhaps nobody in his position today in the Ministry of Health would have done this even in 2008. Therefore, after 44 years, today this institution is being upgraded as an institute of national importance because of the untiring and ceaseless efforts of the Minister and the democratic way in which he has done this. Therefore, I wish to say to this august House that this institution should have been upgraded as an institute of national importance in the year 1965 itself as per the direction or suggestion of the K.L. Rao Committee.

In the last many years, during its existence JIPMER has proved to be a pioneer institution in the country. It must be admitted and acknowledged that the Jawaharal Institute of Post-graduate Medical Education and Research (JIPMER) had proved to be one of the best institutions

in South India. The admission procedures are *pukka*, and there is no element of favouritism for anybody. We have selected the best talented students in the Jawaharal Institute of Post-graduate Medical Education and Research (JIPMER) who have proved to be outstanding surgeons, medical practitioners not only in India, but elsewhere in the world also. Therefore, the Jawaharal Institute of Post-graduate Medical Education and Research (JIPMER) has got credibility of producing great men and women in the medical field.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I am giving you extra time to speak on this issue.

SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPPAN (Trichur): You are being specially favoured.

PROF. M. RAMADASS: Yes, Sir. Let not my thought process be shattered.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I am giving you extra time as you represent this place.

...*(Interruptions)*

PROF. M. RAMADASS: It is but natural. I know that you are a man of social justice...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Bill is sponsored by Dr. Anbumani Ramadoss, and you are speaking. Both are correct.

...*(Interruptions)*

PROF. M. RAMADASS: Therefore, this institution is reputed to have produced great men and women in the field of medical sciences.

This institute was established at a time when the Government of Pondicherry did not have healthcare facilities in its hospitals, and everybody from Pondicherry, Karaikal, Mahe, Yanam and also adjoining areas of Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka flocked to the Jawaharal Institute of Post-graduate Medical Education and Research (JIPMER) for getting the best facilities. We had the best Principals, best Directors there, who could meet this challenge by providing qualitative medical service there. Therefore, we should acknowledge all these things. But in spite of all these accomplishments, the people of Pondicherry were feeling that the Jawaharal Institute of Post-graduate Medical Education and Research (JIPMER) was deteriorating in its quality and deteriorating in

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providing the best services both to the students as well as to the patients. It is because the institution was working under a restrictive regime under the control of the Central Government Health Services (CGHS). Even today, as the BJP Member who initiated the discussion said, the institution does not have academic autonomy to design its own courses. It is affiliated to the Pondicherry University. It is a very paradoxical situation. The Pondicherry University itself does not have a Department of Medicine and Department of Specialised Medical Courses, but you are annexing or affiliating the Jawaharal Institute of Post-graduate Medical Education and Research (JIPMER) to the Pondicherry University. One can imagine the kind of quality that can be ensured in the teaching curriculum to the students of the Jawaharal Institute of Post-graduate Medical Education and Research (JIPMER). Therefore, it was felt that this affiliation with the Pondicherry University has to be severed, and the Jawaharal Institute of Post-graduate Medical Education and Research (JIPMER) should emerge as an autonomous educational academic institute. This is one reason.

The second reason is that the institute somehow was able to get financial resources from the CGHS, but it was not able to get faculty positions filled-up for many years. In many of the Departments there were positions that were lying vacant for many years because the selection process of the Jawaharal Institute of Post-graduate Medical Education and Research (JIPMER) was a peculiar process. One has to advertise the positions and wait for the UPSC clearance, and people agree to come when UPSC conducts interviews. But after coming and seeing Pondicherry, they will remain there for six months and leave the positions. They also have to work under the CGHS orders, and many faculty members—who are eminent surgeons and other practician—did not like the restrictive regime and left the institute. As a result, the institute was starved of faculty members, and no qualitative education was imparted to students. Therefore, in many of the Departments, the positions were remaining idle.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude your speech as the names are coming to me one after the other.

PROF. M. RAMADASS: I will take another 10 minutes...*(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI M.S.K. BHAVANI RAJENTHIRAN (Ramanathapuram): Let him take his own time to speak...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: There are a number of speakers who wish to speak on this Bill. You have already been given the time of four speakers to speak on this issue.

PROF. M. RAMADASS: I do not want to argue with you...*(Interruptions)* The third and the greatest malady afflicting the Jawaharal Institute of Post-graduate Medical Education and Research (JIPMER) was that the decision-making powers of the institute were vested with the DGHS and the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and not with the Director in Pondicherry. Therefore, for every activity the Director will have to send the file to Delhi; it will go to the Deputy Director, DGHS; it will go to the Director, DGHS; it will go to Joint Secretary, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare; it will go to the Secretary; and then it will go to the hon. Minister; and if necessary it will go to Planning Commission; it will go to Finance Committee; and then AFC, TFC, FFC and all kinds of FFCs will come. Once a file is sent, the Director will have to forget about the file and carry on his activity without doing anything. As a result, a number of improvements could not be done because the decision-making power was centralised at Delhi. Even to replace a bulb, the Director will have to send a file direct from Puducherry to Delhi and nobody knows when it will come. This was also afflicting the institution and its functioning to a very great extent.

An expanding institution cannot thrive in the absence of finances. As the BJP Member rightly said, the budget for the last year was only Rs. 56 crore for this institute which is providing as many courses as are provided in the AIIMS. However, while AIIMS is having a separate budget for Rs. 300 crore, JIPMER was having only Rs. 56 crore. Therefore, the institution was haunted by dearth of finance, paucity of funds. That also made the institution to be sick.

The restrictive regime in terms of academic restrictions, in terms of decision-making restrictions, in terms financial restrictions, all these restrictions crippled the functioning of the institute. As a result the medical health care in JIPMER deteriorated to the greatest extent. What was ironical was that the General Hospital in Puducherry was providing better facilities than a Central institute JIPMER. It has come down to such a level. It is under that circumstance that the hon. Minister took over as the Minister of Health and Family Welfare. The general public also felt that why such an institution of excellence has come down to the nadir of destruction and that it should be improved. People are feeling that way.

Fortunately or otherwise, I also became Member of the Parliament during that point of time and I represented this case to the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude. Let us hear others also. You have covered all the points.

PROF. M. RAMADASS: I have some more things to say, Sir.

The institution in its functioning today requires the removal of restrictions. Just as the economy has been liberated from the restrictive Raj, liberated from the control Raj, the JIPMER had to be relieved from this restrictive Raj. This is what is being done by the present Bill. We are not only upgrading it into a national institute, but we are conferring this institute with all kinds of powers so that they can develop into a premier institution in the country.

Many people think that we are converting this into an autonomous institution. But many of the people who can read the Bill can easily see that nowhere in the Bill there is the word autonomy. All agitations and apprehensions founded on the ground that it is becoming an autonomous institution. What is being done is that we are upgrading an ordinary institute into an institute of national importance.

When the whole country is asking for setting up of national institutes and when AIIMS like institutions are coming up at different places, you are bestowing Puducherry with one of the institutes of national importance. It is again a tribute not only to the people of Puducherry but we are paying a tribute to Jawaharlal Nehru in whose name this institute has been established. We are paying great tribute to that architect of modern India who wanted medical education to be spread. On this day if Jawaharlal Nehru had been alive, he would have felt very happy to congratulate our hon. Minister for this pioneering effort that he is making.

I would take only five more minutes. This, I am saying seriously.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude.

PROF. M. RAMADASS: I am speaking on the Bill; I am not speaking anything other than that. The Bill spread over 32 clauses, provides for an Institute Committee with 22 Members' a Governing Body, many Standing

Committees and ad-hoc Committees. All these Committees would take decisions there itself with regard to academic matters, with regard to financial matters and all other matters incidental thereto. Therefore, the Institute will get complete decision-making powers. They need not come to Delhi for anything. Therefore, all decisions will be quickened, expedited and constructive work can be done in a better way.

Secondly, there have been 15 functions or objectives of Bill for doing many things, about which I want to explain, but you are not giving me time.

Another important advantage is mentioned in section 15 of this Bill, which says that the JIPMER would have a separate budget.

MR. CHAIRMAN: If you are not concluding, you will not get this Bill passed today. If you want to get this Bill passed today, please conclude.

PROF. M. RAMADASS: No, Sir, please do not take such a serious stand.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You please conclude. I want to see that the Bill is passed. If you take further time, it will not be passed today. You must realize that. Do you not want clause-by-clause consideration today?

PROF. M. RAMADASS: I want, Sir.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Then, you conclude your speech.

PROF. M. RAMADASS: I also want to allay the fears of the employees that the conditions of the employees would not be altered in any way or would be detrimental to them. They would be governed by the Pension Rules of the Government of India. They would be governed by the institutional rules which would be framed by the Government of India. Therefore, all apprehensions are not correct. Everyone now is in favour of this Bill.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Do not worry. Dr. Anbumani Ramadoss would look into all those matters. Why do you worry?

PROF. M. RAMADASS: I am concluding, Sir.

Common man would get better services; and people were saying about fee structure, etc. I would say that the JIPMER would collect the lowest fee structure in India for students.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude.

PROF. M. RAMADASS: And the 26 per cent reservation that exist for Puducherry students would continue...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Minister would look into all those things. He has already taken a decision to give the status of 'All-India Institute'.

PROF. M. RAMADASS: I am concluding, Sir. In view of the intrinsic merits of this Bill, and its ability to spread qualitative, relevant and excellent medical education as well as excellent medical care to the people of Puducherry and to the citizens of India, I wholeheartedly welcome this Bill. I congratulate the hon. Minister of Health for piloting this Bill and making the people of Puducherry joyous. Thank you, Sir.

SHRI TAPIR GAO (Arunachal East): Hon. Chairman, Sir, I rise here to support this Bill and I personally, on behalf of the people of this country, really appreciate our hon. Minister of Health, who has got the vision and has got the dream to wipe out the disease from this country and from the world. Disease is such a thing where it has got no regards for the VIPs; nor it has any pity on the poor. So, heritage institutions like JIPMER, which is 185 years old, from the days of France rule till today. I have got this opportunity to join and congratulate the people of this country, and especially the brothers and sisters of Puducherry.

For upgrading an institution to the level of national importance and giving autonomy to an institution but if we do not give more funds to such institutions means not doing anything.

In India, we have got lots of institutions where they have been upgraded; and autonomy as well has been given to those institutions, which are not only in the field of medicine, but in other fields also. But they are mostly defunct because of non-availability of funds. Therefore, I would like to request the hon. Minister of Health to give more funds to such institutions so that they come up to world class.

JIPMER is mostly known among the people of North East because a lot of patients go to this Institution and more students from this region are coming out of this Institution. So, the people of North East are very familiar to this Institute. So, more funds should be given to this Institution so that the faculty, equipment and technology can be upgraded by which the poorer people can get services from JIPMER.

Here, I would like to say that in European countries nowadays, people prefer Ayurvedic and Homoeopathic medicines. So, these subjects may kindly be included in this Institution.

Employment welfare—the hon. Member, who spoke prior to me, said that there was a lot of agitation against this Bill due to some misapprehension, by the local people of Puducherry. Here I would like to request that while we are giving national importance to this Institute, the cases that have been registered against those people may be withdrawn so that these people can also join the mainstream with the upgradation of this Institute.

I would like to request you that your vision is very important for this country. But you are missing one instrument and one weapon whereby the country could salute your service and by which it will remember you in future. The previous Government has proposed to establish six AIIMS-like Institutions all over the country. Had the same kind of input that you put into this Bill of JIPMER, been put into establishing six AIIMS-like institutions, people of this country could have got the services.

Second point is that in all the Central institutions, the staff shortage is there all over the country. So, our institutions are unable to provide more services to the poor people. I request you to kindly look into the problem of shortage in the staff of Central Medical institutions so that the facilities could be extended to these people.

In future, when JIPMER comes up as an established Institute, if the seats are increased from the existing ones, then they may look into the proportionate increase in the seats of reserved quota in the future so that SC/ST/OBCs can get the benefit in proportion to the increase in the number of seats.

I have some of my own experience of this morning. Social, human and psychology subject should be given more importance in medical colleges. This morning, I had been to Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital with a dehydrated patient at about 6 a.m.

In front of the patient one of the doctors there scolded me like anything. Instead of being patient-friendly our respected doctors are very rude nowadays. I told the doctor that I am a Member of Parliament who is pushing the patient into the emergency room and in spite of attending him you are scolding me. How will you treat

the common poor patients in your emergency ward? This is just to give you an example. We need patient-friendly behaviour from our doctors. Therefore, I would request you to give more importance to subjects like Psychology in JIPMER. It is because of your vision and leadership that institute is going to come up as a world-class institute. We need good doctors, nurses and other staff coming out of that institute. Therefore, in that institute subjects like Sociology and Psychology may be given more importance.

With these words I conclude my speech. Thank you, Sir.

SHRI FRANCIS FANTHOME (Nominated): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to commend the hon. Minister for bringing this piece of legislation to re-model and to re-engineer the Jawaharlal Institute of Post-graduate Medical Education and Research at Puducherry. It is indeed a remarkable piece of thinking that has gone into the structure that has been planned at Puducherry. The Minister and his colleagues have obviously taken a lot of effort and pain. I would like to mention this in particular because some of the constraints that have been observed in the national institutes of medical science and research have now come to force in terms of our appreciation and care has been taken that the future and the growth of medical education and research at Puducherry and at this particular institute is not constrained. The vision, therefore, is an integrative vision where there is a provision that there will be two or more medical colleges associated with the institute. There would be at least one or more hospitals associated with the institute and there would be at least one nursing college and several centres that will augment and enhance the auxiliary services that are required to support the medical services. The vision that is being indicated from this Bill is extremely forward looking and I would, therefore, like to commend the Minister for having brought this Bill for discussion.

I would also like to mention that the need to liberate and the need to remove restraints that operate at the national centres of research, particularly in the sphere of medical research as has been envisioned in this Bill, needs to be dovetailed into all other national institutes of medical research and training. The kind of supportive instruments that have been included here need to be exhibited there as well. As the representative from Puducherry was mentioning, there seemingly is a kind of liberation of the restrictive elements that were operating in JIPMER which now seems to be finding a broader

canvas of addressal. I would like to think that such restraints whether they are at JIPMER—and now re-engineered into a national institute of importance—or any other national institute, our vision, understanding and our approach to solutions should be on the same lines. I am sure the Minister would take this forward.

17.00 hrs.

I would also like to take this opportunity to congratulate the people of Puducherry of this extremely important Institute that is coming to the Union Territory there. This Institute, as has been shown in the Bill, has an integrated certifying and accrediting authority that has been enshrined within the powers of the structure that the Institute shall have. This again is a forward looking instrument and will definitely go a long way to seeing that this Institute finds shape in its understandings as an Institute of national importance.

I would like to conclude by mentioning—I know the hon. Minister would have this in mind—that there are vistas of medical sciences and research now emerging. Be it in the sphere of molecular biology or nano-technology, be it in the sphere of research, in the sphere of oncology or stem cell research or whatever it be, these forward domains need to be reflected in our national Institutes and attract the best doctors in their specialised fields put up at this Institute so that they reflect not only a desire to excel in the sphere of medical sciences but also practice a realism to realise what is important in the sphere of medical sciences.

Sir, I thank you for allowing me to speak on the Bill. I would like to commend and support the Bill.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Francis George, please be brief. After all, it is for establishing a medical Institute. I do not find any dispute about it. It is not a political topic.

SHRI K. FRANCIS GEORGE (Idduki): Sir, please allow me to speak.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You can speak a few words and sit down.

SHRI K. FRANCIS GEORGE: Sir, the Jawaharlal Institute of Post-Graduate Medical Education and Research is being elevated to the position of Institute of national importance. In fact, before coming to the House, I was under the impression that this is going to be a university

[Shri K. Francis George]

or a deemed university or an autonomous institution. Now, after going through the Bill I find that it is none of them. It is just an elevation to the status of an Institute of national importance. Even then it is a very laudable step that has been taken by the hon. Minister considering the fact that this Institute is one of the oldest institutes of its kind in our country.

If I understand correctly, it was started back in 1823 by the French as an ordinary medical school. In 1956, the Government of India took over after the transfer of power and after that this Institution has been serving not only the people of Puducherry but also the people of adjacent areas of Tamil Nadu, Kamataka and even people from Kerala. If I understand correctly, people go there for specialized treatment. It is said that any day about 4000 out patients are treated in that hospital and also various specialized treatments are being offered in that hospital. But at the same time it is very astonishing to note that there are 600 vacancies to be filled as of now and also a lot of infrastructure development which is required is yet to take place in this very oldest of Institutes of our country. It is only very pertinent and natural that we take a decision to alleviate this to one of the institutes of national importance in our country, which means, raising it to the status of AIIMS, Delhi, or PGI, Chandigarh. I understand that the Bill had a long and tortuous journey from the Rajya Sabha to the Lok Sabha. There had been difference of opinion on whether the issues like protection of employees, reservation policy and free treatment that are being provided in that institute would continue once this institution gets an elevated status. The hon. Minister had to again go back and get the Bill revised and now I understand that all these apprehensions have been taken care of and all are out to support this Bill.

After according elevation, the idea is to have better fund mobilisation and also better development of infrastructure of the institute. I would like to know, how better fund management and development of infrastructure is being proposed by the hon. Minister? Now, if there are not changes in the existing structure of administration and also from what are being allocated by the Centre, how are funds going to be generated? If the hon. Minister proposes to develop this institute into an institute of excellence we need funds for which the Government of India will have to be very liberal and go out of its way to help this institute. It is then only that we can, in real sense, elevate this institute into a national institute of importance and excellence.

Sir, I would like to make a suggestion here. Since this institute is being elevated to the status of a national institute, the hon. Minister can think of starting a project on a disease called Alzheimer. I would not say that this is the newest disease ever heard of, but the number of patients suffering from this ailment has gone up substantially. A large number of people are getting affected by this dreaded disease. It is a disease that looks innocuous and simple but I would say that this is one of the most dreaded ailments that a human being can suffer from. So, it would be very good if the hon. Minister can take the initiative and start a research project on this particular ailment in this institute.

Sir, the National Knowledge Commission has come out with a Report relating to the various fields including the field of medical education. I would like to quote from the Report. It says:

"The quality and quantity distribution and availability of human resources for the health sector in India at present needs to be improved substantially to deliver traditional, rural-oriented and equitable health services. Over the years, health related institutions and training has become more urban oriented, doctor-centric and technology driven. Medical education should be both nationally sensitive and globally competitive to realize this objective. Our medical education system needs radical reforms."

There are several recommendations of this Commission. I hope, the hon. Minister will take particular care to implement those recommendations in this particular institute to start with and then at the national level.

17.09 hrs.

[SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN *in the Chair*]

Madam, I would like to know about a promise made by the previous Government and also by this Government about starting various medical institutions in various parts of the country that would have the status of an All India Institute of Medical Sciences. One such institute was promised to be raised was the Trivandrum Medical College. But nothing has happened so far. It is good to learn that work is going on. I would like to ask the hon. Minister if he is going to elevate it to the status of AIIMS.

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS): If the State Government wants, then they can do it. It is a State Government Institute.

SHRI K. FRANCIS GEORGE: The State Government has never said no to that. I do not know. All State institutes are to be elevated to the status of AIIMS with the help of the Central Government. That is what I understand. That is what was mentioned in the Budget. It is good that a model institution is coming up in the Southern part of country. Along with that other such institutes in other parts of the country should also be considered by the hon. Minister. I would once again like to congratulate the hon. Minister for taking this initiative so that the Southern part of the country also gets an institute of an elevated status of a national institute.

DR. BABU RAO MEDIYAM (Bhadrachalam): Madam, I thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak on this Bill.

At the outset, I want to congratulate the hon. Minister, Dr. Anbumani Ramadoss for his new and innovative measures in the field of health. He has specially paved the way for social justice in allowing the reservation for SCs and STs in the all-India Medical Examination. There are many other steps which he has taken in respect of AIIMS and other institutions. I congratulate him for all these measures.

As regards this Bill, it is a very welcome step. JIPMER, Puducherry is being elevated to an Institute of national importance. I read the old Bill where I saw relevant provisions. I found that only two Members of Parliament were mentioned. But when I saw 'the Bill as passed by Rajya Sabha', I felt that the sentence has been put correctly mentioning three elected Members from both the Houses, that is, two from Lok Sabha and one from Rajya Sabha. Hence, I support the Bill.

Regarding the functions of the Institute, one function is mentioned at page 5(g), that is, train teachers from different medical colleges in India. This is a very important step that is provided in this Bill because today, medical education has become a very commercial one. Common people are not able to enter into medical studies because day-by-day, it is becoming costly. Now the trend is towards private medical colleges. Medical education and medical training are being treated as very costly affairs in our country. Hence, I request the hon. Minister to enlighten on this point.

We are having the MCI, the Ministry for Health and the State Government Departments. It has become so easy now to put up a medical college. No norms are

being observed. I remember to see a cartoon in a popular Telugu daily. One gentleman is putting up a Medical College board in front of his house. His neighbour is asking as to why he is putting up that board and whether he is starting a medical college. Then the first man responded that he is going to start a medical college from the next day. The neighbour asked him whether he has gone mad. Then, he added that he went to the State capital to get a medical seat for his son but the Minister concerned sanctioned him a medical college. This is the situation. The MCI and the Ministry are having some guidelines for it but they are not at all observing them. Without any infrastructure, they are just starting a medical college. I want to know as to how is it possible to do it. I request the hon. Minister to enlighten us as to how private medical colleges are cropping up.

I am interested to know about training in medical profession. Today, the medical profession needs a committed faculty. For example, in the faculty of Anatomy, there is no sufficient Anatomy faculty in our country but the number of colleges and the seats are being increased. Anatomy is a basic subject and a medical student is expected to gain structural knowledge of the human body. But training is not sufficient. Hence if JIPMER takes up such a training programme for all the medical faculties, it will be a very welcome step. Hence, I support this Bill.

As regards disputes mentioned in clause 26 page 7, it is said that when disputes arise between the Institute and the Central Government, the decision of the Central Government is final. In the case of AIIMS, we witnessed many things and they were tackled by the hon. Minister very effectively by bringing in a legislation. The decision of the Central Government shall be final in cases of disputes. Though autonomy is given to such institutes, when a dispute arises between the Central Government and the Institutes—the provision given here is a very good—the decision of the Central Government is final and binding.

I welcome this. There are certain all India level medical institutes in our country, like the AIIMS, the JIPMER and the Post-Graduate Institute of Medical Education and Research at Chandigarh. My suggestion is that we should have a common Bill for all these institutions for controlling and coordinating both medical services and their administrative affairs. If we have common norms and common guidelines for all these institutions, then it would be easy for us to monitor them. Otherwise, for each institute, we are bringing a separate

[Shri Babu Rao Mediyam]

Bill. This is time consuming. Hence, I would request the hon. Minister to bring a common Bill before the Parliament.

With these suggestions, I once again congratulate the hon. Minister for bringing in this Bill. I support the Bill.

DR. KARAN SINGH YADAV (Alwar): Madam Chairman, I rise to support this very nice piece of legislation which our hon. Minister has brought in today, which aims to give national status to JIPMER in Puducherry. It was long awaited. I must compliment the hon. Minister for the hard work he has put in this regard. The aspirations of the people of Puducherry and the neighbouring districts of Tamil Nadu from where most of the patients go for the treatment to this Institute is being fulfilled today. I can see the joy on Dr. Ramadoss's face, who is an economist and also the Member of Parliament from that area. When he returns home, he carries a great package of health for his voters. I wish I will also be in the same position some time. As a Member of the Standing Committee on Medical and Health, I have visited that institution. As a doctor, I heard a lot about that Institution. It is a Central Government Institution. The medical education, the graduate and the post-graduate education, provided in that Institution is of great standard. Graduates and post-graduates of that Institution are teaching in various medical colleges in our country and abroad. As it is being run by the Central Government, from a far off place, that is Delhi, the logistics are not in favour of that Institution. There are a lot of hurdles regarding recruitment of faculty, regarding the development of new courses, and for starting new super specialities. Every time they have to run to Medical Council of India which we have known in the past years has tarnished the image of medical education in this country.

I think it is a very well thought out legislation which will make this Institution on par with the Post-Graduate Institute of Medical Education and Research, Chandigarh and with All India Institute of Medical Sciences. Now, a lot more research activity and academic activity would come into existence in that particular Institution.

I must compliment the Minister, who has brought laurels to his Ministry by not only creating the National Rural Health Mission but also by bringing in legislation on anti-smoking, and some other Bills which are in the pipeline, like the Drugs and Cosmetics Bill, Paramedical and Physiotherapy Bill. His pursuance to see that medical

education in this country gains reputation and status by making the Medical Council of India an instrument deserves to be complimented.

I am sure, we, as medical men, expect a lot from our hon. Minister of Health. I hope that in the next Session he would bring the Medical Council of India (Amendment) Bill because medical education has become very expensive. Privatisation has taken too much of place in this country. We want that more medical colleges should come up in the Government sector. We want the reservation policies to be implemented in the Government sector as well as in the private sector.

Madam, here I would like to congratulate our hon. Minister of Health who has been responsible for asking the Medical Institute as well as the PGI to start 27 per cent reservation for OBC in the very first go, not the staggered reservation, as it is being done in other institutes. It will be done because of his commitment.

Madam, for the last 50 years in the pre-PG Central Entrance Test, there was no reservation for Scheduled Castes or Scheduled Tribes. It was after his taking over as a Chair, he saw to it that the reservation is implemented for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in Post-Graduate courses. Here, I would like to request the hon. Minister of Health one thing. Now the reservation for OBCs is also being made possible in these Central institutes as well as in the Central PG and UG Entrance Examinations.

We have met a lot of people in Puducherry. All the faculty members of that institute have with one voice said that this should be raised to that institution. All the students who came were in support of the Bill. It was only a few politically motivated employees who thought that after this Bill is enacted, they will be called as an institute's servant and not a Central Government servant. What a kind of logic is this? They find that being an employee of a Central Government; they have a higher status than being an employee of an institute. Those kinds of notions were there.

There were certain apprehensions about the reservation which was being given to the local Puducherry students in medical colleges. There were certain apprehensions that once it becomes an institute, it will become costlier. I have seen the Bill and everything has been taken care of. The reservation continues for the local residents of Puducherry. The fee structure remains the same and the extra funding which will now go to the

Institute and the autonomy that Institute would now get, the Director and the President will have, I am sure the time is not far off when Puducherry Institute will be as high as the PGI Chandigarh or the All India Institute of Medical Sciences.

Madam, with these few words, I once again congratulate the hon. Minister of Health and I commend this Bill and support this Bill.

[Translation]

SHRI RAGHURAJ SINGH SHAKYA (Etawah): Madam Chairman, I would like to thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak on the Jawahar Institute of Post-Graduate Medical Education and Research, Puducherry Bill, 2008 and would like to congratulate the hon'ble Minister of Health for bringing this Bill. This Institute was set up in 1964 but it is now being accorded the status of an institute of national importance. Our country has a vast population. If one goes to the All India Institute of Medical Sciences in New Delhi, one would find huge rush of patients there. Unfortunately, there are only two such institutes in the entire country, one in Chandigarh and the other in Delhi. Now, the hon'ble Minister has accorded this institution in Puducherry the status of national importance and also has provided it with full authorities. He deserves to be congratulated for this. There is a need to open such an institution not only in Puducherry, but also in all the States of the country because whenever any serious problem occurs in Delhi, the patients rush to the All India Institute of Medical Sciences. There is always heavy rush of patients there. People face a number of difficulties and then they return from there. The people with limited resources have only one hope, they rush to Delhi for treatment. An institution of this status has been opened in Puducherry. Through you, I would like to request the hon'ble Minister to open such institutions in every State of the country.

There is an urgent need for this because the way new diseases are occurring and the prices soaring; the people are not able to afford treatment in private institutions. I would like to say that this institution should have representation of four Members from Lok Sabha. I have got an old copy of the Bill, which mentions only two Members. The hon'ble Minister has just stated that probably three Members have been included in it. I would like to say that there is a need to include more Members and representatives of people in it. Whether they are members of Panchayats, District Panchayats or Assembly

in the State. It is because representatives of people are well aware of the problems being faced by the people of their area. I would also like to say that there is a need to empower them with more right because hon'ble Mulayam Singh Yadav ji has got a rural mini P.G.I. set up in my constituency, Etawah. He has done a commendable job. In Uttar Pradesh, mini PGIs have been opened in various places. Thousands of patients visit the O.P.D. there, everyday. Around three to four thousand patients come from a small district. I am a member there but I have not been given any powers. If we say anything, we are not heard because there is monopoly of Director and other officers. I am saying this because I would like that rights be given to the representatives of people also. The hon'ble Minister is doing a fine job. The representative of people whether of big stature or small one is more aware of the problems of people, and he has the sentiments to serve the people upto a maximum level. Therefore, the hon'ble Minister should empower him to do all this. Whether the representatives from Panchayats, districts or whether they are MLAs, they all should be included in it. I would again like to request you that such institutions should be opened in every State, then only the problems of this country and the new serious diseases occurring in the country, can be tackled in a proper way.

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV (Patna): Madam Chairman, I thank you for providing me an opportunity to speak. I rise to support the Jawaharlal Institute of Post Graduate Medical Education and Research, Puducherry Bill, 2008. At the outset, I express my gratitude to the hon'ble Minister who has taken a major step for the upliftment of medical education, in particular. He has taken a welcome step in view of the sentiments of the common people of the area which has suffered neglect for years. Provision of Medical Education in every corner of the country is the need of the hour. Whereas, given the present scenario, only four Medical Institutes of this standard including this one have been opened across the country. I feel its insufficient. Today, given the plethora of diseases and the mounting needs of the people and in particular, the growing dependence on the Government Institutions, since the private medical service has become very costly, I feel such institutes should be promoted. There is a need to open a large number of Institutes across the country on the lines of the ones in Delhi, Chandigarh and the proposed Institute in Puducherry, since the number of such institutes is essentially less.

[Shri Ram Kripal Yadav]

Through you, I would like to draw the attention of the hon'ble Minister towards the recent decision of the Government that six institutes on the lines of AIIMS would be set up in various States across the country. Funds have also been provided for this purpose. However, these funds are meagre. An AIIMS is also proposed for my parliamentary constituency. Some work has already begun there. However, it will take time to complete the work given the pace of work there. When the N.D.A. Government laid its foundation stone it was assured that this Medical Hospital would be fully ready by the year 2009. At that time, it was stated that it would reduce the workload on such other Medical Hospitals which are being opened in the five States. Today, a large number of patients come from Bihar to Delhi for treatment. I am their elected representative. A large number of patients from Bihar are continuously crowding the city because there are no standard medical institutes in Bihar. There is no proper medical facility, so they have to come here for treatment. There are long queues of those patients here. Madam, you would also be visiting patients from your constituency in the hospital, you might have experienced that 60 percent patients are from Bihar. I feel the hon'ble Minister should pay attention to it. No funds were allocated prior to his decision for the setting up of Institutes on the lines of AIIMS, so I would express my gratitude to the UPA Government and him for taking special interest and getting the funds sanctioned in a proper way. However, the funds are very meagre. From that fund only four walls and nothing else could be constructed. The intentions of the Government have been to provide medical facilities even in States so as to reduce the burgeoning number of patients in Delhi and their botheration.

Madam, there are several such people, who cannot even spare the fares to travel to Delhi for treatment. So, I have to provide them fare and even make arrangement for their stay. Madam, even you would be facing similar problems in your constituency and perhaps an AIIMS is also proposed for your State, however, no action has been taken thereon. The Hon. Minister is requested to take concrete action on it. He has taken a lot of measures to provide medical facilities to the common man, by sanctioning funds to several hospitals under the Rajiv Gandhi Health Mission, making arrangements for running 24 hrs. Hospitals, P.H.Cs. and by providing excellent doctors, making medicines available etc. However, I feel unless standard Hospitals are constructed in the States, as pointed out by all the hon'ble Members, the objectives will not be achieved upto the desired level. If medical

facilities are proposed to be provided to the people, then there is a need to ponder over these points. A few years back IGMS hospital, in the name of late Smt. Indira Gandhi was opened in Lucknow and Patna. It was envisaged that treatment on the lines of AIIMS would be given there. However, it is in critical condition, since the State Government does not have enough funds and sufficient grant is not provided by the Union Government. Due to this reason they are not working properly.

Madam, through you, I would like to bring to the notice of the hon'ble Minister that the IGMS hospital constructed in Patna, Shekhpura is not upto the mark. I had requested for funds in the past to make this hospital upto the mark...(Interruptions) This question concerns the people. There are lots of problems in Bihar. It is requested that the hon'ble Minister should take measures to obviate the problems of the people. The IGMS hospital should be upgraded. There is Patna Medical College which was an acclaimed hospital countrywide, however, today it is in a pitiable state. He has provided there some funds and there has been some upgradation. There is too much workload on the Patna Medical College and the IGMS hospital since people from remote areas in Bihar visit either of the hospitals for treatment in absence of any other standard hospital. There is lack of good doctors, proper medical facilities and equipments. People have to go to other places for MRI. Since there is no MRI machine, it causes a lot of trouble to the common man since Rs. four-five thousand are required for an MRI.

Madam, how would a poor person living below the poverty line be able to afford his treatment. He does not have so much money, so it really takes the life out of him.

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Please conclude now. Please write a letter to the hon'ble Minister in this regard. The hon'ble Minister will see to it.

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: Madam, I have been writing letters to him. I am raising this issue to draw the attention of the hon'ble Minister. I am concluding now.

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Please conclude now.

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: Madam, I am concluding.

I appreciate the Bill introduced for Jawaharlal Institute for Post Graduate Medical Education and Research. At the same time I would request that if excellent medical

facilities are provided even in the I.G.M.S. and the P.M.C.H. and the Patna Medical College by way of introducing a Bill, then, I would be grateful.

It is requested that similar institutions should be opened there as well. I would like to draw your attention towards the P.M.C.H. The doctors required to teach over there are not qualified upto the desired level. All the senior doctors have retired. The Institute does not have sufficient funds, so senior level qualified doctors are not being appointed who could impart high quality medical education. I feel that the people of Bihar would be highly obliged if qualified doctors could be appointed. There is much degradation in the Institute. The affiliation of P.M.C.H. is running out. Conditions are being imposed every other day. Through you, I would like to draw the attention of the hon'ble Minister to expedite the setting up of AIIMS so that high quality Medical facilities could be provided very soon.

Madam, I understand that the hon'ble Minister will definitely think over the matter that I have stated because my demand is very genuine for a backward and poor State like Bihar. He will consider providing a financial package for the upgradation of these colleges and, thus, oblige the people by enabling AIIMS to be operational over there. I again support this Bill and extend my thanks to you, I conclude.

[English]

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY (Puri): Madam, we are discussing the Jawaharlal Institute of Post-Graduate Medical Education and Research, Puducherry Bill, 2008. This Bill intends to make the institute a statutory body corporate and to declare it as an institution of national importance. This Bill also empowers the institute with academic autonomy.

Madam, I support this Bill to give autonomy to enable JIPMER to create an environment conducive to high standard of medical education. When we are discussing this Bill, India faces an acute shortage of manpower in health sector. According to the Planning Commission's report, India is short of six lakh doctors, ten lakh nurses and two lakh dental surgeons. Indian doctors who have migrated to developed countries form nearly five per cent of their medical work force. That means around 60,000 Physicians are estimated to be working in countries like

the US, the UK, Canada and Australia alone. This is when India, on the other hand, has a dismal patient-doctor ratio.

According to this report of the Planning Commission, for every 10,000 Indians, there is only one doctor. In contrast, Australia has 249 doctors, Canada has 209 doctors, the UK has 166 doctors and the US has 548 doctors for every 10,000 people. India has also an acute shortage of dental surgeons. At present, the number of dental surgeons registered in India stands at just about 73,000 against the requirement of three lakhs. Similarly, the Health Ministry estimates that there needs to be one nurse for every 500 people. According to this India requires 21 lakh trained nurses in 2007, but only 11 lakh nurses are now available.

This has made the Planning Commission to suggest that medical sector should be opened up completely. I do not know what the Government is doing in this regard. The report says, the shortage of human resources is a distressing feature of India's health care services. This staff shortage is also there in other aspects of medical infrastructure in the categories of health care professionals like radiologists, laboratory technicians, dental hygienists, physiotherapists and medical rehabilitation workers.

So, in all the spheres of the medical sector, we have shortage of manpower. When this is the state of affairs, when the NDA Government has decided to open six AIIMS-like institutes in the country including Orissa for the last four years, I do not know why this Government, for political reasons, is not doing anything to develop and establish the AIIMS-like institutes that has been decided by the earlier Government. So, I would rather request that the Government should come forward. The Health Minister is from the doctors fraternity. I hope, he must have better knowledge than we have. He should take care how to develop the infrastructure in medical sector. Only doctors, staff and work force are not enough. We have also shortage of all the medical instruments. Doctors are good. Those Indian doctors who are working abroad, they are not only highly educated but also they are quite appreciated. They have gone there from the Indian soil, from our own institutes; they are good doctors in all aspect. But we have lack of infrastructure here. We do not have the modern machinery that is required in the hospitals. We do not have other things. We do not have hospitals, buildings etc. We are lacking all these things. When you are just upgrading this Institute, it is a quite welcome step. We support it. The other thing is

[Shri Braja Kishore Tripathy]

that in other States, in other sectors, in other areas, where there is also requirement, the Government should also come forward to help and do the needful. Thank you, Madam Chairman.

SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPPAN (Trichur): Madam, I am very happy that the hon. Minister Dr. Ramadoss has initiated a Bill that is very good and I support it. I share the joy and happiness expressed by the other Ramadass who is a member from Puducherry. We are all happy. My point is that Pondicherry is a State with a difference. It is unlike any other Indian State. It is spread over in the country. There is Mahe, there is Yanam and there is Karaikal, far apart. How the people in those regions will get benefit? That also, we have to think about. Personally, I feel emotionally attached to Mahe because I was elected to this Parliament from Tellicherry just bordering Mahe. From Puducherry, we used to get a lot of representation on their various problems. So, Sir, if there is any possibility, my suggestion is that—I do not know; it is a post-graduate institute and all that; I understand the complications—if the university centres could be established in Yanam, Mahe and Karaikal, that would be really good because the whole State will get benefited by it. So, I would request you to give a serious look into this problem. I do not suggest anything because I am not a doctor to know how these kinds of institutions are working. Mostly doctors spoke about it. But I hope the Minister will look into it considering the peculiar character of Puducherry State. This is one thing. I support the Bill.

Secondly, Mr. Kharventhan has raised a serious issue. That is not related particularly to this Institute but it is a serious problem which the country is facing today. Just now, my friend has mentioned how seriously we are lacking in India the trained medical personnel, from doctor to nurses to medical workers. This is an area where special attention has to be provided so that we create enough people. Even if we are not coming to the level of European States or America, at least, we must have a respectable situation.

Now, Sir, the very fact is that we have a very big demand for these personnel, and it made this area as an area of big commercialisation. Medical Institutes, Medical Colleges, Nurses Institutes, and all these associated things which are coming up all over the country and especially the self-financing colleges are scandalous. I do not want to go into the details.

Legally, paying or accepting capitation fee is not permissible. Now, who can prove it? But the fact is well known. Just now he mentioned that there is a package published by one University in Tamil Nadu. You pay one crore of rupees. How do you pay that amount of Rs. One crore? It is a capitation fee. That package says: "You pay Rs. One crore, you can become a doctor and you can become a specialist". So, what I suggest here is—Shri Anbumani Ramadoss will be remembered through history if he is doing that—that a Central legislation regulating the creation of medical institutes is brought forward. Admission, appointments, and everything should be properly regulated. I am not against the private sector entering this field. They can. Probably the Government may not have money to shell out. But when the private sector comes and makes a joint venture or start a self-financing institution, it should be under the scrutiny of the State. Scrutiny of the State is not to create any problems for them but to safeguard the interests of the people. So, I would like to support Shri Kharventhan's point of view. My desire is that a Central legislation is the only remedy. I hope, the hon. Minister will consider that.

Madam, the last point that I would like to make is about setting up of AIIMS like Institute in Kerala, which everybody has been demanding. At the time of the NDA regime, this decision had been taken. When my friend, Shri Francis George raised this issue, the Minister intervened, and I am glad that he intervened and said: "Do not worry. In Trivandrum, the work has started". I do not know the details. But what I understood from the Press is that the amount allotted to create an Institute like AIIMS is not enough. Certain amount is allotted and certain work is taking place there. I am happy that it is happening. But the promise given was that these Institutes in different States would be like the All India Institute of Medical Sciences. It conveys a certain meaning. So, to that extent, I would like to know whether that Institute will be developed. I hope, the Minister, while replying to this debate, may make that clear.

With these few words, I fully support the Bill, and I am very happy and fully join in the joy and rejoice of the people of Puducherry.

DR. K.S. MANOJ (Alleppey): Madam Chairman, I rise to support the Jawaharlal Institute of Post-Graduate Medical Education and Research, Puducherry Bill, 2008.

Madam, JIPMER, Pudherry is a prestigious institution, which is catering the need of medical education and research in the country. By an Act, this Institute has been given the status of an institute of national importance.

Madam, in the country, for medical education and research there are many research institutes and medical institutes.

Madam, only very less researches are taking place. But the sad thing is that whenever the medical teams, be it the medical inspection team of the Medical Council of India or be it the National Board of Examinations, visit various medical colleges and institutions in the country, they find that the number of research papers, doing research in various medical colleges is very, very less. Only the thesis paper which is mandatory in postgraduate medical courses, which is mostly there in most of the medical colleges.

Madam, in the JIPMER, Puducherry, already various researches are taking place. While I was working as a medical college teacher in Kerala, there used to be research in the case of medical education. They have developed a particular course to train the medical teachers. That is there in JIPMER, Puducherry. My suggestion is that it should be developed a little bit more, and various teachers and faculty members in various medical colleges should be trained in JIPMER, Puducherry also.

Another important point, which I would like to make, is that there is a declining trend of medical ethics in the medical profession. But nowhere in the country are medical ethics being taught. Only in forensic medicine, which is deal with post-mortem and autopsies, medical ethics are taught. My suggestion would that in the JIPMER, Puducherry, medical ethics as well as communication skills should be taught to doctors. Communication skills for the doctors are very essential. All the quarrels with the patients that are taking place in the Casualty are just due to the lack of communication skills of doctors. My view is that the communication skills should be developed and evolved as a special subject. Similarly, medical ethics should be taught to the medical students.

Madam, nowhere in the Bill, there is a mention about the autonomous nature or deemed to be university nature of the Institution. But the Institution has got the capacity

go give degrees including the postgraduate degrees, paramedical degrees and other certificates to the students.

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Now, please conclude.

DR. K.S. MANOJ: I am concluding, Madam.

My suggestion is that autonomy should be given to the Institute. In the Bill itself, this Act oversees the Indian Medical Council, the Nursing Council and other regulatory bodies in the country.

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Please conclude, now. Your Party has already taken so much time.

DR. K.S. MANOJ: I am making very important points. Just allow me to make two-three more points.

MADAM CHAIRMAN: You have to conclude within a minute.

DR. K.S. MANOJ: Madam, the age limit for the President of the Institute is not mentioned here whereas the same for the Director is mentioned. When in the case of AIIMS and other Bills, we are bringing in some amendments. Here also, some age limit should be prescribed for the President of the Institute...(*Interruptions*)

Similarly, in the JIPMER, Puducherry, there is no mention of Post Doctoral Course, DM Courses and Ph.D. Degrees to be awarded from the university. All these things should be taken care of.

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Please conclude now.

DR. K.S. MANOJ: Madam, I am on my last point.

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Your party has taken more than enough time.

DR. K.S. MANOJ: I am just concluding. My last point is about reservation. There is a mention about 20 per cent seats out of total 75 seats should be reserved for the local applicants. But I doubt whether it holds good before the Judiciary; whether this clause stands before the court of law, I doubt. It is because nowhere in the country that reservation is given. There are so many institutions in our country. I would be very happy if some reservation is given to the local applicant in an institution at my place.

[Dr. K.S. Manoj]

But we should see the thing in such a good manner in an institution of national level and national importance. I do not know whether it will stand good or not.

With these few suggestions, I conclude.

SHRI SURESH PRABHAKAR PRABHU (Rajapur): Madam, medical education, and generally for that matter, all the health care system in India needs a total revamp. Therefore, any institution that you try to create to address this problem is always a welcome measure.

The Minister has been running a campaign against lot of ills in the society. He is trying to run a campaign against tobacco and against stars appearing to support for it. Mr. Minister, I would request you to also run a campaign for improving medical education in India. That is something which we really need. Therefore, if you are trying to create an institution of national importance under Entry 64 of List I of the Seventh Schedule to the Constitution by declaring this Jawaharlal Institute of Post-Graduate Medical Education and Research in Puducherry, it is a welcome thing.

My request is that the number of trained doctors that we need in India is increasing rapidly. We need specialization in several fields because there are new types of diseases which are coming up, the diseases which were not known to us some years ago. We are developing new medicines to address that. It is because we are developing new formulations, in fact, more complex diseases are now getting manifested because the human genes are developing some sort of a resistance to those medicines and therefore, new diseases are coming up. So, what we really need is that we fresh research of various types to address this problem. We need research at the pharmaceutical companies level so that they can develop new molecules and new drug delivery system so that this problem can be addressed. But that is one hand of application of medicine.

On the other hand, we need people who can diagnose the problem, who can then treat a disease, and to do that, we need now huge number of medical practitioners, doctors and specialized doctors in the field. Unfortunately, the number of doctors that we need is far, far greater than the Education delivery system can produce those doctors. So, my request to the Minister is this. Why should we confine and bring a law in the Parliament to declare one institution as an institution of national importance? Why do you not create one for each

State? I would say why not create 10 to 20 institutions like this, as many as possible, so that each State would have at least one but more, maybe one for each district? Just imagine there are 600 districts. I am sure you know it better because you are a medical doctor, and I am not. Probably, we have more than 600 diseases which need specialized attention. So, why do you not think about a model in which we create at least one specialized institution per district of a great importance?

Second point is that when we call it an institute of national importance, what does it really mean? It is because I remember some time ago about the Civil Aviation Minister declaring in the Parliament that now we will call this airport as international airport. So, it is like that there is Ram Bharose Hindu Restaurant in many places. Now, we call it as a Five Star Hotel from tomorrow. Does it really become Five Star Hotel just because we declare it? Just because we call an airport as an international airport, does it really become international?

Therefore, when we declare an institution of national importance, how do we define it? What is the criteria? How do we have benchmark? Look at the All-India Institute of Medical Sciences, one of the finest institutions. In fact, when we go there, now-a-days we see many patients occupying every inch of space that is available there. That means, there is a need for it. But at the same time, because we call it as an institution of national importance, we spoil it to the level of an institution of national squatting. People are squatting all over. So, why not really try to create an institution which can be measured in terms of national standard.

My request to the Minister would be, do not call it as an institution of national importance alone. Why not benchmark it against the best international practices that are prevailing in the medical field? So, each of these specialized institutions will not only conform to national standard but also to international standard, and that would be the lasting contribution.

We have some other problems on medical health care system. One is, of course, the delivery system. The other one is the formulation system, and the third one is this. Actually speaking, how do you make sure, not the specialized institution in India, availability of people who are working at the lower level for which there is a huge shortage?

MADAM CHAIRMAN: One minute please.

Now, I think the Bill is also to be passed. If the House agrees, we will extend the time up to 6.30 p.m. or so.

SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR (Bareilly): We can extend the time till we pass the Bill.

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: Let us extend the time till the passing of the Bill.

MADAM CHAIRMAN: So, the House is extended till the passing of this Bill.

18.00 hrs.

SHRI SURESH PRABHAKAR PRABHU: Madam, on the one hand, we certainly need the specialized institutions of this kind and I welcome this, as I said. On the other hand, we need specialized medical delivery system institutes. At the same time, we have also huge shortage of people working at the lower level of this medical delivery system. We need mid-wives and various other people. We also need people working as technicians who are not available. I think, that needs a huge attention.

Hon. Minister has launched a very ambitious project—Rural Health Delivery Programme. In fact, I am looking forward to it becoming a successful programme because this is a very ambitious type of programme which he has launched. But in that also, one of the key components is going to be the type of people that will be required to man these institutions. In fact, I am aware that he was trying to tell doctors that they should spend one more year in rural areas and the type of protest that came up. So, how do you find people who will be able to go to the villages, the people who could be trained in the villages? Can we think about not just institutions of national importance like the one we are creating but also institutions at lower level—village level and sub-district level—which can produce the type of people that we require on the lower level? That is also something which needs your attention. I would request him to think about it.

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE (Pandharpur): Madam Chairman, the Bill passed by Rajya Sabha is 'Jawaharlal Institute of Post Graduate Medical Education and Research, Puducherry Bill, 2008' which has now been

introduced in this House by the Minister of Health and Family Welfare and the fund of Rs. 104 crore has been sanctioned for this institute. This is a very good thing. Puducherry had suffered a huge loss due to Tsunami, so there is a need to provide training to more and more doctors over there. In the name of this institute, the word 'Jawaharlal' has been added. My suggestion is that the word 'Nehru' should be added to the word 'Jawaharlal'. My second suggestion is that the Private medical institutes prepare doctors by taking donation of Rs. 25-50 lakh or one crore in the name of education fees and then the people talk about their merit. This institute is a Government organization, so they should not demand more money for admission and the students of SCs/STs should be given admission at minimum fees. The person speaking on this Bill is Ramadas who belongs to Puducherry. The person replying to this Bill is also Ramados and I am also Ramdas and belonging to Mumbai. We should make our collective efforts to strengthen this medical institute. My suggestion is that there is a need to impart training with regard to duties in rural areas to all the students who are admitted to this institute and to all the doctors doing post graduation courses there. It has been a normal practice that those who become doctors prefer to settle in cities. They are not willing to serve in rural areas. My request is that there is a need to send the doctors in rural areas. You do work in villages. While going to Puducherry, I have seen your village three-four times. Among these doctors, training should be given more to those who are willing to give their services in villages.

I support this Bill on behalf of my party. There is a need to make this institute operational at the earliest.

18.04 hrs.

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the chair*]

[*English*]

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS: Sir, firstly I would like to thank all the hon. Members of Parliament in this august House for supporting this Bill and giving their valuable comments on Jawaharlal Institute of Post-Graduate Medical Education and Research, JIPMER, Puducherry.

Sir, it was a long standing demand not only from the people of Pondicherry, but also from the people of Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Kerala and Karnataka from where patients used to come to this institute. As I have already

[Dr. Ambumani Ramadoss]

said in my initial statement that this institute was given its name in 1964, and this institute was there before that also. At that time, AIIMS and PGIMER, Chandigarh were started along with this institute. Hence, all the three institutes were started together in a space of a few years. The two institutes, namely, AIIMS and PGIMER, Chandigarh were started as institutes of excellence by a statute of Parliament, but unfortunately, JIPMER was not at that point of time. At that point of time itself there were so many Committee recommendations that JIPMER should be made a National institute and should be given a statute by the Parliament so that it can enact its own policies and priorities. Unfortunately, it was not to be for all these years. The hon. Member of Lok Sabha from Pondicherry, Prof. M. Ramadass, has rightly said that the institute did not progress to the extent it was supposed to because of the logistics and the distance from Delhi to Pondicherry. This is the only Central Government multi-speciality institute in South India, and it was started in Pondicherry.

I have been, as an individual, going into the history of that institute as well as the functioning of it for the last 25 years. I, as a medical doctor, have known this institute for the last 25 years, namely, about its progress; how it was going; and where it was going. Unfortunately, midway, it was not going as it was supposed to with regard to the research works. Further, there were so many vacancies available and infrastructure was not there. In fact, when I took over as the Minister nearly 4 years ago, CT Scan facility was not functioning; there was no Neurologist in the Neurology Department; and road accident victims were shifted to the Pondicherry Government Medical College, Government Hospital or were shifted to Chennai. This was supposed to be a Central Government institute, but this was its status.

I have taken a series of meetings since then. I have already said that a lot of patients not only from Pondicherry, but Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh used to come and rightly so, since they had faith in that institute. Since the last four years we had taken a number of steps to improve it by putting up more infrastructure for it. But the problem persists with regard to the faculty and manpower. The problem of recruitment, today, is that it is done through the UPSC. The problem that we are facing through UPSC is that they take nearly two years to call for advertisements, and when they call the doctors—who are selected for JIPMER, Pondicherry—they do not join or they join and

then after one month or six months they leave it. Hence, there is huge vacancy, which we could not fill up at our level nor the institute could do justice to them. Therefore, we had to go through a lot of discussions to bring it to an institute of National importance, and give it a statute by an Act of Parliament so that it has its own autonomy in academic functioning. Further, it will have its own Academic Committees, Governing Body, Institute Body, its own Finance Bodies, etc., so that it could take care of itself and give its own degrees. It could do what it wants to do in the institute so that it could come out from all these slumbers that have been there for the last few years.

Coming to this Bill, it was passed in the Rajya Sabha. I would like to inform that we had to go through some steps, and some corrections were made in it. I had to take this Bill back to the Cabinet, so that a lot of concerns of the Members of Rajya Sabha were also taken into consideration. Now, we have a comprehensive Bill before us in the Lok Sabha to be decided today by the hon. Members.

The hon. Member of Pondicherry, Prof. M. Ramadass, has said about concerns of the employees, etc. In fact during the course of the last two years myself, at my level; at the Members of Parliament level; at the officers level; at the Secretary level; at the Joint Secretary level had taken a series of discussions with the employees, faculty, students, etc., so that the importance of the Bill was addressed and they had the knowledge about the Bill.

We have a comprehensive Bill today where concerns of the employees, students, the reservation policy, etc., have been taken into consideration so that we get a good institute.

Some of the Members asked why only Puducherry and why not others also? As I said, this is a longstanding demand. In fact, that is a very wonderful institute. I would like the hon. Members to visit that institute and see the importance and the bigness of that institute, and the research and the faculty. Alumni from there have been going all over the world.

Coming to the responses to individual questions, my good friend hon. Member Kiren Rijiju talked about the budget. The budget will definitely be increased. Today people are comparing the budgets of AIIMS and the PGI with that of JIPMER and saying that Rs. 56 crore to Rs. 60 crore is nothing. However, even that has not

been able to be spent by the JIPMER because of the logistics. For everything they have to come to Delhi, and then there were a lot of issues involved in that, unlike the AIIMS and the PGI. Once we give them this statute today, it will be easier for them to function and they could take care of their problems.

With regard to infrastructure, in the last two years we have put in about Rs. 180 crore investment into JIPMER, Puducherry for having speciality, super speciality block, nursing college, cancer block, etc. We have been trying to give more infrastructure. But then, again as I said, the problem is of the faculty and the manpower which we are trying to address today.

Hon. Member RijiJu was enquiring about the *Aamchi* system of medicine. I think I am digressing a little bit from JIPMER Puducherry, but then the hon. Member was enquiring about this system called *Aamchi* which is followed in the Himalayan regions. It is a proud system I was fortunate enough to visit Leh-Ladakh where they follow that system. I had visited that exhibition in that institute and I found to my surprise and amazement that it is a very rich system. I have asked my officers from the Department of Indian Systems of Medicine to take up that issue and see whether we could recognise the system or not. We are considering taking it up. After going through the various scientific fora, I have asked the Indian Council of Medical Research as well as the Department of Indian Systems of Medicine much earlier to take up that issue as well.

With regard to the point on homoeopathy institute, let me find out what is the issue and then take that up.

With regard to NEIGRIMS, in fact, we have a good institute for the North-East in Shillong called NEIGRIMS. The issue which the hon. Member raised is that it is as though we are outsourcing those. The problem is that in the North-East we do not get faculty. We have a beautiful institute. It is one of the best institutes in the country. We have spent nearly Rs. 230 crore on that institute. But it has a long history starting from 1984. Finally now we are completing that and the hospital is functional. However, unfortunately, specialists are not there. Nobody wants to come and join there. They were not available. So, we were trying to have a series of recruitment drives but our efforts failed. Nobody wants to join and anybody joining also comes out. Then we had to turn to other institutes which are doing service-oriented work, institutes like Sankar Netralaya, institutes like CMC Vellore, institutes

like Tata Memorial. I do not know why the hon. Member was saying that the Minister is focusing only on South India. There we have these big enlisted institutes doing social service rather than being some commercial entities.

SHRI KIREN RIJJU: I am not saying that South India is taking the benefit. South India has a rich tradition of medical institutions. Let us in the North-East benefit out of your rich expertise in that field.

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS: That is precisely what we want to do. We want to empower that institute with all faculty and full equipment. The UPA Government's policy is that not one patient from the North-East should go out of the North-East for treatment. That is the policy of the UPA Government and that is precisely what we are trying to do. We are trying to have that infrastructure there. I am sure you will acknowledge what the Ministry of Health has done in the North-East in the last four years. All the Chief Ministers from the North-East have acknowledged that. There has been a series of upgradation plans of institutes, building new institutes and all that. I am visiting RIMS, Imphal in the middle of May with regard to its upgradation. A lot of things are happening in that.

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV (Jhunjharpur): Also maintain social justice.

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS: My good friend, Shri Kharventhan mentioned about medical education. A lot of other Members also raised important issues. One is medical education and the other is health human resource which is about lack of faculty. Not many Members have raised about six AIIMS-like institutions, about which I would mention. On the office of profit, I would say that as a Member of Parliament, in this Institute of Puducherry, nobody would be coming under the office of profit issue.

Coming to the medical education broadly—I want a little time—even though this is about JIPMER, Puducherry, I digress little bit and go a little bit into medical education because I need a lot of time to tell as to what our Government is doing in medical education, as to how we are planning for the health human resources for the next 40 years, and as to how we intend to do. One example, I would give is the 11th Five Year Plan. In fact, in the 10th Five Year Plan, the budgetary allocation for the Health Ministry was about Rs. 42,000 crore and in the 11th Five Year Plan, my Prime Minister has earmarked a sum of Rs. 1,36,000 crore, out of which Rs. 40,000 crore go for infrastructure.

[Dr. Ambumani Ramadoss]

Regarding infrastructure, Shri Suresh Prabhu was telling about as to why not start one in each district. I do not think we could start a centre of national importance in each district. But district-wise we are going to start nursing colleges, Auxiliary Nurse Mid-Wife colleges (ANM); GNM colleges and schools. For all this, fortunately we are providing a lot of support. Today, as I have already mentioned, we do not even have one B.Sc. nursing college in a State like Bihar, which has a population of about 11 crore. This is the sorry state of affairs. In fact most of the North Indian States have. Exactly for this purpose, we have started the National Rural Health Mission, under which all these things like infrastructure is being upgraded. We are trying to do all these things. We are also providing health human resources about which I could go on and explain but I need two or three hours.

Coming to the AIIMS-like institutions, my predecessor, Shrimati Sushma Swaraj, when she was the Minister, she had launched a scheme called Pradhan Mantri Swasth Suraksha Yojana, under which they wanted to build six new AIIMS-like institutions and upgrade seven existing institutions to a certain level. Then, after that, our Government took over. At that time, since elections were there, they could not proceed further and the UPA Government took over. It is not like that with the change in Government, the policy would change. Shri Tripathy was mentioning about the political interference and all that, which I would definitely counter that. It is a continuity. Government comes and Government goes but it is a continuity. Definitely, we are following the programme. I would like to commend my predecessor, Shrimati Sushma Swaraj for bringing out that very innovative concept. I have already thanked and commended her for this. Definitely, we are going through this. Again, I would like to say that there has been a delay. I acknowledge the delay; I regret for the same. I could explain the delay, etc. In fact, the Standing Committee on Health has gone in depth into this and they were also upset. I am more upset than the Standing Committee. There has been some delay due to non-response to the tenders, etc. Work has started in Rajasthan; work would be starting in one or two months in Bhubaneswar, in Bhopal, in Patna, etc. This is how the work is distributed and it would take little more for me.

Even though the previous Government had plans of building six new and improving seven institutions, we are now improving nearly 13 institutions—from seven we are improving 13. Kerala was not in the list of the last

Government. After the UPA Government came into power, we included Trivandrum Medical College in Kerala for upgradation and allocated Rs. 120 crore. Throughout the country, we have just one slab of Rs. 120 crore—Rs. 20 crore from the local Government and Rs. 100 crore from the Central Government. We try to do that. I would like to assure my friend, Shri Tripathy and others that definitely we are trying to work out the modalities. We had split between the housing and the hospital, etc. to quicken the pace of work. Again, I would like to categorically assure the House that we are definitely into the projects, Sir.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN (Balasore): Mr. Minister, are we to take it as an assurance from you that in Bhubaneswar, the work will start within the next two months?

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS: Within the next three months, it will start in Bhubaneswar.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: Okay, three months' time is all right.

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS: In three months' time, the work will start in Bhubaneswar.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: Thank you.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: Hon'ble Minister said that it was going to be started in Patna also.

[English]

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS: My priority is Bihar.

I definitely acknowledge the concern of the hon. Member. Bihar, Uttar Pradesh and Orissa are the three States which are in the lowest slab in the health indices. We are giving a lot of priorities and more than this, we will definitely be giving. Definitely we will do that.

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: Thank you very much.

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS: Mr. Dome raised some issues about which I have already said.

Research is something which the hon. Members have raised. They said more focus should be given on research, rightly so. JIPMER, Puducherry will start that; it was

supposed to start early, but mid-way, it has lost itself somewhere. But now, since it will become a national Institute, after the hon. Members pass this. So, a lot of priorities will be given on research; a lot of allocation will be given on research. Shri Suresh Prabhu was saying about it, from lab to the bed-side; it could be done on those lines. Mr. Francis was telling about nano-technology, stem cell research, molecular biology research, etc. Definitely we will be taking them about.

There were issues about reservation which I have already talked about. Members have talked about the student fees. There was a concern about the student fees. I would like to say that in JIPMER, the fee of the first year student is about Rs. 250. We are highly subsidizing the fees. In AIIMS also, the fee is about Rs. 250-300 for the first year, unlike the IITs and IIMs where you have Rs. 4-5 lakh as fees. We are highly subsidizing the fees and this is for the benefit of the poor students. We are taking them into consideration.

About the poor patients, already a commitment had been given and they will be taken care of. I am not aware of the five medical colleges that Mr. Shailendra Kumar was mentioning. If he could bring it to my notice, I would do. What are the five medical colleges? The medical colleges are State issues; he could bring it to my knowledge.

[Translation]

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR: That is in Etawah. A letter was also written to you in the regard.

[English]

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS: I do not know. It goes through a process; if that goes through the proper process, then we approve it; that is all we do. We do not anything else more than approving those colleges. You can bring to my notice.

[Translation]

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR: Proposal was received.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You can meet the hon. Minister later on.

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS: That will be appropriate, Sir.

Mr. Gao said that the Indian system of medicine should be improved. It is a suggestion well taken. He has again raised a very pertinent issue about the human, social psychology and patient-friendly and patient-safety measures. It is a very good suggestion; definitely we will be taking them up.

Mr. Manoj said about medical ethics. All these issues will be taken into account; this is the heart of the Institute—whether the doctor or the nurse or a paramedic, or anybody involved in the hospital, should keep this on the forefront—the ethics and the patient-friendly attitude should be there. They should work with these. All the steps will be taken on these issues as well.

I can give suggestions to the Institute to take up research, etc. Training of teachers is an important one. Definitely we will be taking that into account.

With these words, I request my friends, the hon. Members, through you, Sir, to pass this Bill. Thank you...(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: A good reply has been given.

The question is:

"That the Bill to declare the Institution known as the Jawaharlal Institute of Post-Graduate Medical Education and Research, Puducherry, to be an institution of national importance and to provide for its incorporation and matters connected therewith, as passed by Rajya Sabha, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The House shall now take up clause-by-clause consideration of the Bill.

The question is:

"That clauses 2 to 32 stand part of the Bill".

The motion was adopted.

Clauses 2 to 32 were added to the Bill.

Clause 1, the Enacting Formula and the Long Title were added to the Bill.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The Minister may now move that the Bill be passed.

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS: Sir, I beg to move:

"That the Bill be passed".

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

"That the Bill be passed".

The motion was adopted.

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The time of the House was extended till the passage of the Bill. If you want zero hour, each Member will get only two minutes.

SEVERAL HON'BLE MEMBERS: It is the sense of the House.

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: Sir, Zero hour is listed.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Only two minutes will be given to every hon. Member. Not more than two minutes will be given to the Members to speak.

So, the time of the House is extended till we complete the Special Mentions.

SHRI LONAPPAN NAMBADAN (Mukundapuram): The construction work of NH 47 and 17 in Kerala has to be expedited. Steps may be taken to complete the land acquisition. Those who lost the land and their dwellings may be adequately compensated and they may be rehabilitated. So far the land owners, who handed over their lands after negotiations, are not given the value for their lands by Government. So, they are in a pitiable condition. Their problems may be solved.

I would also request that the proposal of the Government of India to introduce six lane roads may be omitted in Kerala taking into consideration the non-availability of land, cost of land and the population in Kerala. In fact, there is no land available, even two cents for the poor people in Kerala to have homesteads.

I would request that more national waterways and Railways may be facilitated to solve the transport problems in Kerala.

SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN (Palani): Sir, I may be allowed to speak from here.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You are allowed to speak from there.

SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN: Thank you, Sir. Factamfos (20:20) is a popular brand of complex fertilizer in South India and 800 tonnes and 200 tonnes respectively—in total 1000 tonnes daily—of the same is produced by Kochi Division of FACT and Udyogamandal Division Eloor.

However, the daily requirement for southern India is more than 2,500 tonnes. The farmers of Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and Kerala are the major users of Factamfos (20:20).

In my Palani Parliamentary Constituency, in Oddanchatram, Dharapuram, Dindigul and Palani Taluks, the farmers are producing all kinds of vegetables and through the Oddanchatram vegetable market, they are transporting the same throughout the country. Now, this is the season for growing various kinds of vegetables. The farmers are badly in need of Factamfos (20:20). The agencies dealing with the above fertilizer in Dindigul, Oddanchatram and Dharapuram areas are getting only lesser quantity from the above factory and even that lesser quantity is diverted to the black market. The farmers are forced to purchase the same from the market at a much higher price.

Hence, I urge upon the Union Government, Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers to direct the FACT, Kochi to augment the production of Factamfos (20:20), to regulate its supply and to ensure adequate availability of the same to the farmers at a reasonable price so as to enable them to save the crops.

SHRI T.K. HAMZA (Manjeri): Sir, I would like to raise a point regarding the casual workers in the Indian Airlines. The casual workers in Indian Airlines are working as casual workers for a long time and in Calicut Airport for more than 16 years. The nature of work being performed by them is very significant and indispensable for the upkeep and maintenance of the aircraft. They are getting only Rs. 145 per day and 120 days work in a year. They do not have any other benefits like leave, ESI, legitimate wages, etc. M/s. Indian are engaging workers through contractors. It is another matter. They are in a very miserable condition. They have represented their problems

before the hon. Minister several times. So, I would request that the casual workers may be regularized and the problems of the workers may be solved as early as possible.

[Translation]

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, through you, I want to raise a very important matter in the House. This is the matter of urgent public importance. Today the heat wave and the scorching heat are blowing all over the country. There was a news report yesterday on television that about 44°C temperature was recorded in Kanpur and Allahabad. Students of Primary, Nursery and Junior High schools leave their schools around 12 noon or 1.00 p.m. When they return to their homes, there is scorching heat wave and due to exposure to heat wave they fall ill...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: This is the State matter. This is nothing to do with the Centre.

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to bring this matter to the notice of the Government because this is the problem for the whole of country. I want to say that the school time table should be changed where there is such a scorching heat...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Gentleman, that is a State matter. What will the Centre do?

[Translation]

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, my request is that holiday should be declared in schools during those days when there is scorching heat.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, of course, this is a State matter, even then you can point out and suggest them...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. P.C. Thomas, you can raise only one matter.

SHRI P.C. THOMAS (Muvattupuzha): Sir, in the history of Christianity or rather in the AD, namely, for the

past 2000 years, no Indian has been declared as Saint by the Catholic Church. But for the first time, a woman from India is going to be declared as Saint in Vatican on 12th October. It is a great honour. It is a great thing as far as Christianity is concerned and as far as Catholics are concerned.

Mother Teresa was declared as Blessed and after that only a person can be declared as a Saint. Sister Alphonsa was also declared as Blessed some years back. When Mother Teresa was declared as a Blessed, the then Government had sent a Delegation from India just like all the Governments from various parts of the world had sent Delegations.

So, I would request that to honour this occasion and also to see that the Christians are also getting a real benefit out of that, I would submit that an official Delegation to represent the Government may be sent there. As many people would like to go there, some subsidized air tickets may also be considered. A stamp was released when this lady was declared as a Blessed. So, I would submit that a coin may be released when a lady from India is, for the first time, would be declared as a Saint.

[Translation]

SHRI RAGHURAJ SINGH SHAKYA (Itawah): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I want to draw the attention of the House towards a very serious issue. At this time, this is an issue for whole of the country. Summer has just started while on the other hand, incidents of fire in villages have also started occurring all over the country...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: This point has been raised by Shri Shaileendra Kumar.

[Translation]

SHRI RAGHURAJ SINGH SHAKYA: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the incidents of fire are taking place in many villages of the country. We are the elected representatives of the people. When we visit villages the people expect that since MP has come so he will offer some help, however, we are not able to do so...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: It is a State subject.

SHRI RAGHURAJ SINGH SHAKYA: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, there is no provision with the State Governments to help them. The existing provisions are obsolete and as per these provisions only Rs. 1000 or Rs. 2000 can be provided as assistance, which is a meagre amount keeping in view the present inflation. All the MPs are facing this problem. The houses of people get burnt in the event of fire. People do not have anything to eat. They do not have fodder for their catties. Houses get collapsed. So, my only request is that a provision should be made to enable Members to use their MP fund for providing assistance to such people. We are people's representatives and the people have elected us. They expect from us that we will help them in the event of crisis. If it is not possible then a special fund should be set up so that MPs may help them out of the said fund. A system should be evolved so that some economic assistance may be provided on behalf of MPs for their houses, food and for their catties.

SHRI BHANU PRATAP SINGH VERMA (Jalaun): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to draw the attention of the Central Government towards the situation prevailing in Bundelkhand, Uttar Pradesh. The rivers in and around Bundelkhand, whether it is Betwa or Pahu or Yamuna have dried up. It is on account of this that the water level at all the places be it Kanpur Dehat or Jalaun Bandh or Hamirpur has drastically gone down. All the hand pumps in the villages have dried up. There are hardly one or two hand pumps in the village that supply water to the entire village. It is on account of fall in underground water level that the people of that area are facing acute shortage of drinking water. Catties are dying due to lack of water. So, keeping in view the above situation, I would like to request the Central Government to provide drinking water for people and the catties immediately. The month of May and June are yet to come. The water crisis will deepen further. So, I request the Central Government that it should provide assistance to Bundelkhand to instal hand pumps there to tackle the water crisis...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Your point has been covered. Now you please sit down.

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRIMATI JAYABEN B. THAKKAR (Vadodara): Sir, thank you for permitting me to raise a very important issue of my State. The State Government of Gujarat had written six letters to the Government of India dated 27th July, 2003, 19th September, 2003, 22nd July, 2004, 2nd October, 2004, 19th July, 2007 and 5th February, 2008 for setting up of an Internet Exchange at Ahmedabad and Gandhinagar. I would like to urge upon the Government to take a speedy action in the matter.

SHRI S. AJAYA KUMAR (Ottapalam): Sir, a lot of people are employed in the Gulf countries. They visit their homeland during the summer vacations and people from Kerala also undertake visits to Gulf countries when the schools are closed during the summer vacations. But the airlines which operate between the Gulf from Cochin and Thiruvananthapuram and *vice versa* are over-charging the passengers during this summer season. They charge Rs. 5000/- more per passenger than they charged before the summer vacations. There is no difference in case of Air India as well. This airline was introduced for the service of the common man who cannot fly at higher fares. Due to this steep increase in air fare, people are not able to take their long cherished journeys to their destinations. I am unable to understand when the air fare for all other sectors have come down so heavily, why is the fare for this sector is having a steep increase in fare? Is it a fact that the losses being incurred by reduced fares in other sectors are being compensated by the increase in the airfare of this sector?

I would also like to inform you that many Airlines are not even issuing economy class tickets and they are insisting the passengers to buy only business class tickets to earn extra income.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Nothing should be recorded.

...*(Interruptions)**

[Translation]

SHRI PUNNU LAL MOHALE (Bilaspur): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, electricity is to be provided to all the houses in rural areas of Chhattisgarh State by the end of the year 2009 under the Rajiv Gandhi Gramin Vidyutikaran Yojana. Rural Electrification Corporation has been authorized to work as nodal agency for this scheme.

*Not recorded.

Under this scheme all the works from preparation of detailed project report to the execution of the project have been assigned to NHPC, NTPC and P.G.C.I.L., Public sector undertakings of the Union Government. Under this scheme 90 per cent of the total cost of this project will be borne by the Central Government as grant and 10 per cent amount will be borne by the State Government as a loan from financial institutions.

Recently, all of a sudden the Central Government has decided that only those settlements which have a population of 100 or more will be covered under Rajiv Gandhi Rural Electrification Scheme. It will be pertinent to clarify in this context that Chhattisgarh State is predominately inhabited by tribal population and most of the families are living below poverty line.

The major parts of Chhattisgarh State are covered with forest. Settlements there have population of less than 1000. Thus, it will not be possible to cover nearly 50 per cent residential area under the Rajiv Gandhi Rural Electrification Scheme and thus the scheme will have no relevance for this State.

Keeping in view the above situation it is essential to review the said decision of the Central Government. So, I would like to request the Central Government that it should amend the scheme in such a way that all the people of the State may be benefited by this scheme. Along with this, the detailed project report regarding the 11 districts namely Rajnandgaon, Mahasamund, Kanker, Raipur, Dhamtari, Jashpur, Raigarh, Korea, Sarguja, Bastar and Dantewada submitted to Rural Electrification Corporation, New Delhi should be approved and the scheme should be implemented in the State at the earliest. This scheme is under consideration with the Central Government. Bilaspur district should be included in it. 12 hamlets have been clubbed with the settlements having population of more than 100, however, there are 12 such hamlets which are located in forest areas and have small size population. Their population is less than 50. 12 such hamlets should also be included in this scheme so that 50 percent population living below poverty line is also benefited by this electrification scheme. The villages having less than 50 per cent population should also be included in this scheme to extend its benefit to them.

[English]

SHRI P. KARUNAKARAN (Kasargod): Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the Government regarding inclusion of some minority languages, especially Tulu language, in the Eighth Schedule of our Constitution.

Tulu language has got a glorious history. There are about one crore people speaking it in Karnataka, Kerala and some other places. There are eminent writers and artists who are well known in Tulu language. The Governments of Kerala and Karnataka have already formed Tulu Academy in order to protect this language.

In this connection, I would request the Government to include the Tulu language in the Eighth Schedule of our Constitution and give protection to this language.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Dr. Shafiqur Rahman Barq, the matter which you want to raise is a State matter. So, please sit down.

[Translation]

DR. SHAFIQR RAHMAN BARQ: It is not a State matter...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I have seen the notice that you have given.

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I have read your statement and I find that it is a State matter. Nothing should go on record.

...*(Interruptions)**

SHRIMATI JHANSI LAKSHMI BOTCHA (Bobbili): Mr. Deputy-Speaker Sir, I may be permitted to speak from this seat.

Sir, I thank you for giving me an opportunity to raise the following matter of urgent public importance.

It has been observed for quite sometime that the Air India flights from Vizag to Delhi and from Delhi to Vizag are being cancelled. It has become a regular phenomenon. This is putting air passengers to great inconvenience disturbing their plans and engagements. Air India is informing passengers regarding cancellation of flights at the eleventh hour. As a result, passengers are not able to book their air tickets by some other airlines. This is denting the image of Air India. If this situation persists, passengers patronizing Air India would be compelled to fly by other airlines. I do not know why Air India is cancelling their flights when private airlines are able to operate their flights on time regularly.

*Not recorded.

[Shrimati Jhansi Lakshmi Botcha]

Since Air India is the only public sector carrier, people's representatives, the Government officials and others give first priority to it. Its flights always operate with full capacity. If the flights are cancelled due to some technical reasons, then Air India should provide alternative flights and ensure hassle-free journey to passengers.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, through you, I would request the Minister of Civil Aviation to look into the matter favourably. Thank you.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Dr. Barq, I have read your notice. It is about a State matter. It is regarding the police. What can I do?

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I will see later on.

SHRIMATI C.S. SUJATHA (Mavelikara): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, please allow me to speak from this seat.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Yes.

SHRIMATI C.S. SUJATHA: Sir, the State of Kerala has been facing serious constraints in the power sector and the State is unable to meet the increasing demand of power. There is an increase of about 150 megawatt in demand over the previous year. The Government of India has reduced the allocation of power to the State of Kerala from the unallocated share from the Central generation stations from 320 megawatt to 130 megawatt from April, 2007 onwards. The State has since requested the Centre to restore the reduced share of allocation. But so far this request has not been conceded. The State is already facing acute power shortage and hence the Government should restore the 320 megawatt allocation of power from the unallocated share from the Central generating stations.

I urge upon the Central Government to take urgent steps to restore the allocation of power to the State.

DR. KARAN SINGH YADAV (Alwar): Hon. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I raise a matter of human rights. Dr. Binayak Sen of Raipur, a well-known physician and a paediatrician and an officer in People's Union for Civil Liberties has been imprisoned in Raipur for nearly a year without trial as a result of an allegation that he has violated State terrorism law. Dr. Binayak Sen denies committing this crime. One of the prestigious world health organisations called the Global Health Council has awarded Dr. Binayak

Sen the prestigious Jonathan Mann Award for Global Health. Dr. Sen has been working in this poor Chhattisgarh State. He has spent his life time educating people about health practices and civil liberties. By providing information, he saved the lives and improved the conditions of thousands of people. Such a dedicated doctor trained from Vellore has been imprisoned for one year without any trial. He has been internationally acknowledged and recognised.

Now, a lot of people from all over the world have been requesting the Government of India to get him released from the jail and make him available in order to enable him to receive this prestigious Award on 29th May, 2008 at the Annual Conference of Global Health in Washington DC.

DR. R. SENTHIL (Dharmapuri): Sir, I want to associate with what Dr. Karan Singh Yadav says...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Those who want to associate may give their names.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN (Balasore): Sir, I very strongly object to this. Why can he not get bail from the court? ...(Interruptions)

DR. KARAN SINGH YADAV: Do you know he has spent his lifetime serving poor people and tribals? He should be allowed at least to go and receive this prestigious international Award. He is a doctor trained in Vellore. He is highly qualified...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Dr. Yadav, your point has come on record. Please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

DR. KARAN SINGH YADAV: Without any trial you have put somebody in the jail. I would request the Government of India to use its office to get him released...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record.

...(Interruptions)*

*Not recorded.

[*Translation*]

SHRI MAHAVIR BHAGORA (Salumber): Sir, through you, I would like to draw the attention of the hon'ble Minister of Human Resource towards the funds released by the Central Government for State Governments under Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan for the purchase of educational material and equipments in Upper Primary schools. Funds have also been released by the Central Government to Rajasthan...(*Interruptions*). A fair was organized by regional officers in connivance with traders in Udaipur division, Banswada, Dungarpur, without inviting tenders. A process was adopted to purchase material in the fair. In each new primary school Rs. 5000 and in old schools. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: What do you want to say?

SHRI MAHAVIR BHAGORA: I would like to submit that lakhs of rupees were embezzled in the purchase of material. The material amounting to Rs. 1 crore 30 lakh was purchased in Udaipur district in connivance with the traders without inviting tender. I would like to request the Central Government that a special team should be constituted and sent there to investigate the matter and action should be taken against the guilty officers.

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV (Patna): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to draw the attention of the hon'ble Minister of Railways towards a very serious problem. Danapur Railway Division in East Central Railway falls in my Parliamentary Constituency where major chunk of land of the farmers was acquired few days back on large scale on which a railway yard has been set up. It was assured that the affected farmers would be provided with the jobs along with the compensation. Farmers have been fighting for last 15 years, however, till now no attention has been paid neither their grievances are being addressed. Similarly, earlier also railway yard was developed by acquiring land in Fathua of Patna district and jobs were provided to the farmers besides compensation. I feel that justice has not been done to the farmers of my Parliamentary constituency Danapur. There is anguish at large among people. All the farmers whose land was acquired have not been provided with jobs despite assurance given to them.

Through you, I would like to draw the attention of the hon'ble Minister of Railways that he should pay attention to provide jobs to the people of Danapur at the

earliest so that they may tackle the problem of their livelihood and solve this problem.

[*English*]

PROF. K.M. KADER MOHIDEEN (Vellore): Sir, thank you very much for giving me this opportunity. I would like to raise a very important issue.

The Madrasas in Tamil Nadu like Jamia Anwarul Uloom, Tiruchirapally; Madrasa in Kashiful Huda, Chennai; Madrasa Sirajul Muneer, Pudukkottai and others in the State of Tamil Nadu have been receiving LPG cylinders so far. Now, the Indian Oil Corporation has issued an order that they should be given cylinders only at the commercial rate. Till now they have been given LPG cylinders at the domestic rate and now they have raised it to the commercial rate.

The Madrasas like the Veda *pathshalas* and Christian seminaries are religious institutions which give free food, free lodging and free clothing to the students. The students come from the poorest of the poor families. They are run by charitable institutions and by public donations. Actually, these institutions are doing the character building work.

Therefore, I would like to urge upon the Government to ask the Indian Oil Corporation Limited to continue supply of LPG cylinders, as it was done earlier because these religious institutions are not commercial centres. Therefore, I would ask the Government to continue the LPG cylinder supply, as has been done earlier.

DR. K.S. MANOJ (Alleppey): Sir, I would like to raise a very important matter...(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Are you speaking from your own seat.

[*English*]

DR. K.S. MANOJ: Can I speak from here?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Have you taken the permission? First, you go to your seat.

DR. K.S. MANOJ: I would like to raise a very important matter regarding the security threat in various airports in the country arising out of the recruitment of

[Dr. K.S. Manoj]

contract labourers by private agencies in areas like ground handling. In the various airports in the country, this ground handling work is done by casual employees who are employed either by Air India or Airports Authority of India. These casual employees, as mentioned earlier, are paid very meagre wages and they are not regularized. In order to push them out of employment on the airports, now the Airports Authority has given this job to private contractors and these contractors employ workers by paying only meagre amounts and also this creates security threat in various airports also. While employing them in the airports, they are trying to take away jobs of the casual labourers who are working there for the last 10-12 years. This is not recognized by the Director-General of Civil Aviation Security also. I would urge upon the Government to regularise the casual workers employed in the various airports and avoid recruiting contract employees in the airports.

[Translation]

SHRI HARIKEWAL PRASAD (Salempur): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, under Rule 377, I had made a demand in this House for establishing a branch of Allahabad Bank in Deoria district of my parliamentary constituency and it was approved. The hon'ble Minister, in his reply, had stated that there is no bank at village level where there is market at four places but instead of those four places, the branch of Allahabad Bank will be established in Bankata Bazar. Two years have passed since then, however, branch of Allahabad Bank has not been established there till date.

Secondly, there is a big settlement of minority communities at Mehrona ghat. There is no bank in 15 kg. radius of that place. I have been continuously corresponding with the hon'ble Minister in this regard. I have also met him in this connection and have raised this issue here as well. Despite that Mehrona is deprived of bank. Through you I would like to submit to the hon'ble Minister that I had raised the issue under Rule 377 in the House regarding the setting up of branch of Allahabad Bank in Bankata Bazar and despite written order the said branch has not been set up till today. I would like to demand that action should be taken on the setting up of branch of the said bank. Secondly, Mehrona Ghat which has a market of minority community is also deprived of bank. A commercial bank should be set up there as well.

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, corruption is spreading like cancer in the country. Whether it is executive, legislative or judiciary, no section of society has been unaffected with this. India is the largest democracy of the world. Purity and transparency in public life is extremely necessary in democracy. Though there are various agencies and authorities like Central Vigilance Commission, CBI, Public Grievances and Pension Department. IPC and the courts of Law etc. however, they are either partially autonomous or are under any department or the Ministries which have been unable to check corruption, have not been proved effective.

There is a need of such a body in the country which could check corruption prevailing at higher level. This body should be cheap and effective which could look into the matters concerning Minister, deputy Minister, State Minister, Prime Minister's office, MP, Officers, Judges or other high officials. It should also be common and independent which could expeditiously take action and it should also be fully competent to deliver justice.

19.00 hrs.

It should have its own investigating agency. Like other developed countries it was suggested to appoint Lokpal in our country as well. For this a bill in this regard was brought for the first time in 1969 in Lok Sabha and the bill was also passed by Lok Sabha after the discussion on this bill. However, 39 years have elapsed since then. This bill has been moved eight times in the Parliament and often it was moved in the Lok Sabha when Lok Sabha was to be dissolved or sometimes after passing from Lok Sabha it could not be passed in Rajya Sabha. If it was passed in one House it could not be passed in the other House.

Through you, I would like to demand that everyone whether it is Minister or other high official, whether it is judiciary or executive all should be brought under its purview for checking corruption. For this purpose Lok Pal Bill should be introduced in the House at the earliest and it should be passed and executed by way of appointing the Lokpal. Only then our public life will become pure. It is very unfortunate that everyday some scams come to light involving prominent persons. So, Lok Pal Bill should be passed from the Parliament at the earliest. We all Members and the Ministers should ponder over it as to who is responsible for the delay.

[English]

SHRI P. RAJENDRAN (Quilon): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the Government, through you, to a matter of urgent public importance. Kollam District in Kerala is known as the Capital of the cashew industry of the nation as the cashew processing industry of the nation is concentrated in the district and surrounding areas of Allappuzha, Pathanamthitta and Thiruvananthapuram districts. The cashew processing labourers of Kollam are very much celebrated from the very beginning of the industry in India for their skills and hence the cashew nuts produced in Kollam are esteemed in the world market.

The quantum of exporting of cashew nuts from Kollam is more than 50,000 metric tonnes and thus the district collects more than Rs. 1,500 crores of foreign exchange per annum. The cashew industry of Kollam consists of direct exporters, large scale manufacturers, small scale processors and more than two lakhs of labourers engaged in about 500 factories in Kollam. The potential for growth of the cashew processing sector is very high if adequate common facility centres are created, raw material is made available and market facilities are provided. The Government of India implements several projects through various agencies for the uplift of the cashew industry. Recently, the Ministry of Commerce and Industry of the Government of India has given the status of 'Town of Export Excellence for Cashew' to Kollam. The Directorate of Cashew Nut and Cocoa Development under the Ministry of Agriculture administers the schemes for the cashew development of the Government.

So, it will be more appreciable if the Government takes immediate steps to constitute a separate directorate or agency for cashew development with its headquarters at Kollam so that it will give a boost to the cashew industry and allied activities like cashew plantations and value addition of cashew products.

SHRI A.V. BELLARMIN (Nagercoil): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to bring to the notice of the Government that the country is witnessing the closure on an average of one rural branch of a scheduled commercial bank every day for the last 15 years. In the same period, bank branches in the urban metros have doubled, opening at a rate of more than one every day. This fact is substantiated by the statistics furnished by the Reserve Bank of India on the Indian Economy (2006-07). As many as 4,750 branches were closed during 1993-2007 in rural areas whereas branches in metros shot up from 5,753 to 11,826 in the same period.

The closure spree of rural banks will never subscribe to the Government's claims of massive increase in rural credit and plans to boost it. Such a rapid decline has pushed more farmers towards money lenders. It may be meaningless to argue that these are not closed but consolidation or mergers or the creation of satellite offices. It is also unwise to say that more ATMs have been opened to fill the need of the rural farmers. ATMs are located in cities and loans are not given at ATMs. If the Government's intention is to help the farmers in availing of institutional credit, more branches should be opened in rural areas where 72 per cent of the total population lives. It is pertinent to recall that almost all the nationalised commercial banks had Agriculture Department Branches in rural areas during 1970s, advancing credit to farmers for farming purposes as well as livestock rearing and land development at differential rate of interest of 4 per cent. The nationalised banks should also come forward to help the farmers as before.

So, I urge upon the Government to increase the branches of nationalised banks in rural areas to serve the farmers.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Dr. Shafiqur Rahman Barq, even though it is a State matter I am allowing you to raise it for one minute. But this should not be treated as a precedent.

[Translation]

DR. SHAFIQR RAHMAN BARQ (Moradabad): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to extend my thanks to you. Recently, just 20 days back Dr. Mehruddin Khan who is a senior journalist was sent to jail by fabricating a false case against him in Khandala police station in Uttar Pradesh. His son Sakir was also sent to jail. The media has condemned this incident and the Press Council of India has also given notice to the Uttar Pradesh Government in this regard. So, I demand that CBI enquiry should be held regarding this incident involving Dr. Mehruddin Khan and justice should be done in this regard.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The House stands adjourned to meet again on Wednesday, the 30th April, 2008 at 11. a.m.

19.05 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Wednesday, April 30, 2008/Vaisakha 10, 1930 (Saka).

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