

LOK SABHA DEBATES

(English Version)

Fourteenth Session (Part-II)
(Fourteenth Lok Sabha)



(Vol. XXXV contains Nos. 1 to 10)

LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI

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CONTENTS

Fourteenth Series, Vol. XXXV, Fourteenth Session (Part-II), 2008/1930 (Saka)

No. 4, Monday, October 20, 2008/ Asvina 28, 1930 (Saka)

SUBJECT	COLUMNS
WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS	
Starred Question Nos. 21 to 40 ...	2-45
Unstarred Question Nos. 163 to 392 ...	45-570
PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE 571, 578-612
STATEMENT BY MINISTER	
India's Civil Nuclear Energy Initiative	
Shri Pranab Mukherjee	573-577
ASSENT TO BILLS	612
DECISIONS OF THE SPEAKER UNDER TENTH SCHEDULE TO THE CONSTITUTION	613
ESTIMATES COMMITTEE REPORTS	
18th Report	615
COMMITTEE TO INQUIRE INTO MISCONDUCT OF MEMBERS OF LOK SABHA	
3rd Report	616
RAILWAY CONVENTION COMMITTEE	
9th Report	616
COMMITTEE ON EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN	
17th Report	617
STANDING COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION AND TECHNOLOGY	
62nd to 66th Reports	617
STANDING COMMITTEE ON DEFENCE	
30th Report	618
STANDING COMMITTEE ON RAILWAYS	
(i) 37th to 39th Reports	618
(ii) Action Taken Statements	619

SUBJECT	COLUMNS
JOINT PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE ON WAKF	
6th to 8th Reports	620
ELECTIONS TO COMMITTEES	
(i) Coconut Development Board ...	620
(ii) Central Advisory Committee for National Cadet Corps	621
(iii) Employees' State Insurance Corporation	622
DEMANDS FOR SUPPLEMENTARY GRANTS (GENERAL)	622
GOVERNMENT BILLS	
(i) Railways (Second Amendment) Bill	623
(ii) Workmen's Compensation (Amendment) Bill	624
FELICITATION BY THE SPEAKER	
Indian Performance in Beijing Olympics, Feats in Test Cricket and Commonwealth Youth Games at Pune ...	625
STATEMENT BY PRIME MINISTER	
Ongoing Global Financial crisis and its Impact on India Shri Manmohan Singh	636-640
SUBMISSION BY MEMBERS	
RE : Situation arising out of Attacks on North-Indian Students during Railway Board Examination in Maharashtra 643, 663-666
ANNEXURE-I	
Member-wise Index to Starred Questions	667-678
Member-wise Index to Unstarred Questions ...	667-680
ANNEXURE-II	
Ministry-wise Index to Starred Questions	681-682
Ministry-wise Index to Unstarred Questions	681-684

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LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

Monday, October 20, 2008/Asvina 28, 1930 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at eleven of the Clock

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura) : I have given notice to suspend the Question Hour. ...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : Hon'ble Members, please listen.

...(Interruptions)

11.0½ hrs.

(At this stage Shri Akbar Ahmad Dumpy and Shri Ilyas Azmi came and stood on the floor near the Table.)

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing will go on record.

...(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : Please resume your seats. I will listen to you one by one.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I am not able to understand what you are saying.

...(Interruptions)

*Not recorded.

MR. SPEAKER : What is going on in the House? Why don't you understand? There is no notice; nothing has been intimated.

...(Interruptions)

11.01 hrs.

(At this stage Shri Ganesh Prasad Singh and Shri Rajesh Kumar Manjhi came and stood on the floor near the Table.)

...(Interruptions)

11.02 hrs.

(At this stage Shri Narayan Chandra Borkatoky and some other hon. Members came and stood on the floor near the Table.)

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : The whole country is seeing. I do not think you want the Parliament to function.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[Translation]

Remunerative prices to farmers

*21. SHRI TUKARAM GANPAT RAO RENG PATIL :
SHRI MANSUKHBHAI D. VASAVA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether in the absence of adequate reforms in the agricultural sector, the farmers are not getting remunerative prices for their crops and maximum benefit is cornered by brokers and middlemen;

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

(c) the steps taken by the Government to save farmers from touts, money-lenders and landlords and to provide adequate remunerative prices to them;

(d) whether the Union Government has conducted any study to know whether the farmers have been adequately benefited from the schemes undertaken by the Government; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR) : (a) and (b) In order to facilitate better price realization by the farmers through improved marketing opportunities, Government has taken a number of initiatives to implement market reforms in Agriculture. Government of India had formulated a Model Agricultural Produce Marketing (Development and Regulation) Act (APMC Act) and circulated to all the States/UTs in 2003 for making necessary amendments in their respective APMC Acts for bringing efficiency in the existing marketing systems and allowing the private markets and development of alternative marketing channels, such as, direct marketing, contract farming, e-trading etc. The details of the progress of reforms are given in the enclosed Statement. To facilitate the implementation of amended provisions, the Central Government has also formulated Model APMC Rules and circulated to the States/UTs for adoption in November, 2007. So far, the State Governments of Andhra Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Maharashtra, Orissa, Himachal Pradesh, Haryana and Karnataka have notified their amended APMC Rules whereas Madhya Pradesh and Haryana have partially amended the rules. Since agriculture marketing is a State subject, it is for the State Governments to amend the APMC Act, wherever required, to provide for alternate marketing channels to the farmers through direct marketing, contract farming and setting up of markets in cooperative and private sector to enable them to decide the channel which provides the best remunerative price for the agricultural produce.

(c) With a view to eliminate the role of middlemen and to facilitate remunerative prices to farmers, the Ministry

of Agriculture has initiated the following schemes to disseminate price related information and to strengthen the agricultural marketing infrastructure to promote alternate channels of marketing to the farmers:

- (i) The Ministry of Agriculture has launched the IT based Central Sector Scheme of Marketing Research and Information Network in March, 2000 to establish a nation-wide information network by providing electronic connectivity to important Agricultural Produce Markets spread all over the country, State Agricultural Marketing Boards and Directorates. The scheme was introduced with the objective to collect and disseminate prices and market related data for its efficient and timely utilization by the producers, traders and consumers to derive maximum advantage out of their sales and purchases, and to increase efficiency of marketing by effective improvement in the existing market information system.
- (ii) A capital investment subsidy scheme titled 'Construction of Rural Godowns' w.e.f. 01.04.2001 is also being implemented. Under the scheme, subsidy is provided @ 15% to 25% depending upon the entrepreneur and 33.33% for North East, Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes entrepreneurs. The main objectives of the scheme include creation of scientific storage capacity with allied facilities in rural areas to meet various requirements of farmers for storing farm produce, processed farm produce, agricultural inputs, etc., and prevention of distress sale by creating the facility of pledge loan and marketing credit.
- (iii) The Ministry of Agriculture is also implementing a reform linked Central Sector scheme for "Development/Strengthening of Agricultural Marketing Infrastructure, Grading and Standardization". Under the scheme, investment subsidy is provided @ 25% on the capital cost of the

marketing infrastructure development project for each project in all States and @ 33.3% of capital cost for each project in case of North Eastern States, hilly areas and to Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes entrepreneurs. In respect of infrastructure projects of State Governments/State Agencies, there is no upper ceiling on subsidy to be provided under the scheme.

- (iv) An initiative has been taken to promote modern terminal markets for fruits, vegetables and other perishables in important urban centres of the country. These markets would provide "state-of-the-art infrastructure facilities" for electronic auction, cold chain and logistics and operate through primary collection centres conveniently located in producing areas to allow easy access to farmers. The terminal markets are envisaged to operate on a "hub-and-spoke" format wherein the terminal market (the hub) would be linked

to a number of collection centers (the spokes), conveniently located in key production centers to allow easy access to farmers for the marketing of their produce.

- (v) The Government also fixes Minimum Support Prices (MSPs) for major agricultural commodities and organizes purchase operations through public and cooperative agencies. The Government decides on the MSPs for various agricultural commodities taking into account the recommendations of the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices, views of the state Governments and other relevant factors.

(d) and (e) There is no specific study covering all the schemes. However, the MSP operations undertaken by the state designated agencies have helped in maintaining a reasonable price level in the market benefitting the farmers, apart from providing direct price support through their purchases from the market.

Statement

Progress of reforms in Agricultural Markets (APMC Act) as on 30.09.08

Sl.No.	Stage of Reforms	Name of States/Union Territories
1	2	3
1.	States/UTs where reforms to APMC Act has been done for <i>Direct Marketing; Contract Farming and Markets in Private/Coop Sectors,</i>	Andhra Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Chhattisgarh, Goa, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Nagaland, Orissa, Rajasthan, Sikkim and Tripura.
2.	States/UTs where reforms to APMC Act has been done partially	(a) Direct Marketing: NCT of Delhi. (b) Contract Farming: Haryana, Punjab, and Chandigarh. (c) Private Markets: Punjab and Chandigarh.
3.	States/UTs where there is no APMC Act and hence not requiring reforms	Bihar*, Kerala, Manipur, Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Dadra and Nagar Haveli, Daman and Diu, and Lakshadweep.

1	2	3
4.	States/UTs where APMC Act already provides for the reforms	Tamil Nadu
5.	States/UTs where administrative action is initiated for the reforms	Mizoram, Meghalays, Haryana, JandK, Uttrakhand, West Bengal, Puducherry, Jharkhand, NCT of Delhi and Uttar Pradesh.

*APMC Act repealed w.e.f. 1.9.2006.

Management of Employees Provident Fund

*22. PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA :
SHRI NAND KUMAR SAI :

Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has recently engaged private fund managers in addition to the State Bank of India for the Employees Provident Fund (EPF);

(b) if so, the details thereof indicating the bids received in this behalf, accepted and rejected alongwith the reasons therefor;

(c) the terms and conditions finalised with these companies for management of the EPF alongwith the guidelines issued for investment of the fund by such companies; and

(d) the details of action plan formulated for regulating the companies managing the EPF?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES) : (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. Three Asset Management Companies, namely, HSBC, ICICI Prudential and Reliance Capital have been engaged in addition to the State Bank of India for managing the corpus of Employees' Provident Fund Organisation.

Out of 21 bids of expression of interest, 17 bids were accepted for technical evaluation and 10 bids met the

technical qualifications. Out of these 10, two bids were rejected as these were 'zero' bids.

The terms and conditions specifying in detail the obligations, authorisations and rights of both the parties including clauses on indemnity, expenses, permissions and sanctions, custodial arrangements, tenure, confidentiality and dispute resolution mechanism are incorporated in the agreement signed with each of the Fund Manager.

As regards investment related guidelines, it is submitted that the instructions are specified in the 'Investment Pattern' notified by the Government vide number S.O. 2125 dated 9th July, 2003 as modified by number S.O. 2184 dated 10th September, 2008 as given in the enclosed Statement.

Statement

[Published in the Gazette of India, Part II,
Section 3 Sub-Section (ii)]

Government of India
Ministry of Labour

New Delhi, dated 9th July, 2003.

NOTIFICATION

S.O. 2125.- In exercise of the powers conferred by Sub-paragraph (1) of Paragraph 52 of the Employees Provident Funds Schemes, 1952 and in suppression of the Notification of the Government of India in the Ministry of Labour No. S.O. 1398 dated the 11th July 1998

(dated 19.6.1998 published in the Gazette of India) the Central Government hereby directs that all incremental accretions belonging to the Fund shall be invested in accordance with the following pattern namely:-

INVESTMENT PATTERN

Percentage amount to be invested

- (i) Central Government Securities as defined in section 2 of the Public Debt Act, 1944 (18 of 1944); and/or units of such Mutual Funds which have been set up as dedicated Funds for investment in Government securities and which have been approved by the Securities and Exchange Board of India. 25%
- (ii) (a) Government Securities as defined in Sec. 2 of the Public Debt Act, 1944 (18 of 1944); created and issued by any State Government; and/or units of such Mutual Funds which have been set up as dedicated Funds for investment in Govt. securities and which have been approved by the Securities and Exchange Board of India; and/or 15%
- (b) Any, other negotiable securities the principal where of and interest where on is fully and unconditionally guaranteed by the Central Govt or any State Government except those covered under (iii)(a) below:
- (iii) (a) Bonds/Securities of 'Public Financial Institutions' as specified under Section 4(1) of the Companies Act, "public sector companies" as defined in section 2(36-A) of the Income Tax Act, 1961 including public sector banks; and/or 30%

(b) Short duration (less than a year) Term Deposit Receipt (TDR) issued by public sector banks.

(iv) to be invested in any of the above three categories as decided by their Trustees. 30%

(v) The Trusts, subject to their assessment of risk-return prospects, may invest upto 1/3rd of (iv) above, in private sector bonds/securities, which have an investment grade rating form at least two credit rating agencies.

2. Any money received on the maturity of earlier investments reduced by obligatory outgoing shall be invested in accordance with the investment pattern prescribed in this Notification.

3. In case of any instruments mentioned above being rated and their rating falling below investment grade and the same rating has been confirmed by two credit rating agencies then the option of exit can be exercised.

4. The investment pattern as envisaged in the above paragraphs may be achieved by the end of a financial year; and shall come into force with immediate effect.

[F.No. G-27031/3/99-SS-II]

(D.S. Poonia)

Joint Secretary to the Government of India

Regd. No. D.L.-33004/99

The Gazette of India

EXTRAORDINARY

PART II-Section 3-Sub-section (ii)

PUBLISHED BY AUTHORITY

No.1274] New Delhi, Wednesday, September 10, 2008/
Bhadra 19, 1930

**MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT
NOTIFICATION**

New Delhi, the 10th September, 2008

S.O. 2184(E).-In exercise of the powers conferred by sub-paragraph (1) of paragraph 52 of the Employees' Provident Funds Scheme, 1952, and in continuation of Notification of the Government of India in the Ministry of Labour and Employment published in the Gazette of India vide No. S.O. 2125 dated the 9th July, 2003, Central Government hereby directs that in the pattern of investment in vogue, the existing paragraph (iii) shall be replaced by the following paragraph:-

- "(iii) (a) Bonds/Securities of "Public 30%
Financial Institutions" as specified under Section 4(1) of the Companies Act; "Public Sector Companies" as defined in Section 2(26-A) of the Income Tax Act, 1961 including public sector banks; and/or
- (b) Short duration (less than one year) Term Deposit Receipts issued by public sector banks; and/or
- (c) Collateral Borrowing and Lending Obligation (CBLO) issued by Clearing Corporation of India Limited and approved by the Reserve Bank of India.

It is further provided that the investment in CBLO under (iii) (c) above shall not exceed 5% of the incremental accretions at any point of time and this route of investment shall be utilized only with a view to avoid parking of idle funds in the account at the end of the day."

[F.No. S-65025/2/07-SS-II (Vol. II)]
S.K. SRIVASTAVA, Jt. Secy.

[English]

Shortage of Manpower in Armed Forces

*23. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH :
SHRI G.M. SIDDESWARA :

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

- (a) whether there is shortage of manpower in the Armed Forces at present;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor, Service-wise; and
- (c) the steps taken to fill up the vacancies and maintain combat force strength of the three services at the authorized level, to motivate the service personnel to continue in service and to encourage youngsters to join the Armed Forces?

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

(a) to (c) There has been a shortage of officers in the Armed Forces for quite some time. The extent of shortage of officers in the Armed Forces is as below:—

	Army	Navy	Air Force
Authorized Strength	46614	8945	12120
Positioned strength	35495	7586	10768
Shortage	11119	1359	1352

There is no significant shortage of Personnel Below Officers Ranks (PBOR) in the Armed Forces.

The shortage of officers in the three Services is largely attributable to changes in the socio-economic environment and the resultant change in career preferences, better employment opportunities in other sectors, tough selection procedures and service conditions required for the Armed Forces etc.

A number of steps have been taken to motivate the service personnel to continue in service and to tackle the

shortage and attract talented youth to join the Defence Forces. All officers including those in Short Service Commission (SSC) have been made eligible to hold substantive rank of Captain, Major and Lieutenant Colonel and equivalents after 2, 6 and 13 years of reckonable service respectively. The tenure of Short Service Commission (SSC) Officers has been extended to 14 years in the three Services. A total number of 750 posts of Lt. Colonel have been upgraded earlier to Colonel towards implementation of A V Singh Committee (Phase-I). The Government has recently approved implementation of Phase-II of A V Singh Committee recommendations, wherein creation/upgradation of 1896 additional posts in the ranks of Colonel, Brigadier, Major General and Lieutenant General in the three Services have also been approved. Several proposals to reduce shortage of officers in the Armed Forces relating to reduction in the intake of Permanent Commissioned Officers, increase in Short Service Commissioned (SSC) officers, changes in selection process, improvement in service conditions of SSC officers, augmentation of selection and training infrastructure have been approved 'in principle' by Government. The recent implementation of the recommendation of the VI CPC with substantial improvement in the pay structure of officers of Armed Forces will also go a long way in making the Services more attractive.

Besides, the Armed Forces have undertaken sustained image projection and publicity campaign to create awareness among the youth on the advantages of taking up a challenging and satisfying career. Candidate-friendly recruitment procedures to attract more number of candidates and a focused publicity drive in various institutions to attract potential candidates have been undertaken. Awareness campaigns, participation in career fairs and exhibitions, advertisements in print and electronic media, motivational lectures in school, colleges are also some of the other measures in this direction.

Verification of Telecom Subscribers

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

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Government has issued instructions to telecom service providing companies to verify the proof and identity of a subscriber before release of new connection;
- (b) if so, the details in this regard;
- (c) whether the Government has any mechanism to check that the service providers are strictly following the instructions;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (e) the number of telecom companies found violating such Government instructions during 2007-08 and the current year; and
- (f) the action taken/being taken by the Government against such companies?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI A. RAJA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Instructions for verification of subscribers were issued to all Mobile Telephone Service Providers to ensure adequate verification of each and every customer before enrolling him as a subscriber including obtaining photograph and copies of prescribed documents for identity and address proof of the subscriber. Instructions were also issued from time to time for 100% verification of subscribers and to disconnect such connections that have been provided without proper verification.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Department of Telecommunications (DOT) is carrying out audit to ascertain the status of compliance of instructions relating to subscriber verification.

(e) Based on the reports of monthly audit, it has been observed that the correct subscriber verification

percentage on the average is about 80% wherein photograph and copies of documents for identity and address proofs have been obtained by service providers. All the service providers are lacking in meeting the requisite compliance of instructions relating to 100% subscriber verification.

(f) It has been decided to impose financial-penalty of Rs. 1000/- per unverified/improperly verified subscriber on the defaulting service providers.

[Translation]

Redressal of Telephone Complaints in Rural Areas

*25. SHRI HARISINH CHAVDA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any redressal mechanism for the complaints regarding telephone services in the rural areas of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken/being taken by the Government for improving the quality of telephone services in the rural areas?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI A. RAJA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) All the complaints including that of rural areas may seek redressal of their grievances through "Three Tier Institutionalized Grievances Redressal Mechanism" of Service Provider concerned in accordance with Telecom Consumer Protection and Redressal of Grievances Regulations, 2007 (3 of 2007) issued by Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) at the following levels:

- (i) Call Centre of concerned Service Provider
- (ii) Nodal Officer of concerned Service Provider and

(iii) Appellate Authority within the company of Service Provider.

The complainants may approach Public Grievance Cell of Department of Telecommunications (DoT) in case of non-redressal of their grievance at the level of concerned Service Provider.

(c) The following initiatives has been taken by BSNL to improve the quality of telephone services in rural areas:

- (i) Replacement of Multi-Access Radio Relay (MARR) VPTs
- (ii) Upgradation of 256 C-DOT Rural Automatic Exchanges (RAXs) to AN-RAXs
- (iii) Conversion of Single Base Module Switch to Remote Switching Units
- (iv) The coverage of Mobile network is being improved progressively
- (v) The wireless technology instead of underground cables is being used.

[English]

Status of Erosion Control Programme by Brahmaputra Board

*26. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) the schemes cleared for erosion control programme taken up by Brahmaputra Board during the current year alongwith the targets fixed for its execution;

(b) whether the Phase-II and Phase-III of Majuli Master Plan have been delayed;

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

(d) the time by which the work on these Phases is likely to be initiated and completed?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (PROF. SAIF-UD-DIN SOZ) : (a) The following Flood Management Schemes for Erosion Control with targets for their execution shown against these schemes have been taken up by Brahmaputra Board during the current financial year:—

Sl. No.	Name of Schemes	Target for completion
1	2	3
1.	Protection of Majuli Island from Flood and Erosion of river Brahmaputra Ph-I (balance work) Estimated cost Rs. 41.28 crore (Revised cost Rs. 56.07 crore as per 2008 estimate). Details of works shown under enclosed Statement-I	March' 09
2.	Emergent works based on the recommendations of the Standing Committee of Experts in January 2008 (Estimated cost Rs. 4.99 crore). Details of works shown under enclosed Statement-I	Already Completed in Sept. 2008
3.	Protection of Majuli Island from Flood and Erosion Ph-II and III (Scheme under techno-economic appraisal of CWC for Rs. 116 crore). Details of works shown under enclosed Statement-II	March 2012
4.	Avulsion of river Brahmaputra at Dholla Hatighuli Ph-IV. (Scheme under techno-economic appraisal of CWC for Rs. 70 crore).	March 2011
5.	Anti-erosion works at Nagrijuli for protection of Rangia town, Borbhag area etc. from flood and erosion of Puthimari river (Estimated cost Rs. 4.89 crore)	Dec' 2008

(b) and (c) The delay in execution of Phase-II and Phase-III works of protection of Majuli Island has been due

to the long time taken in the completion of model studies which involved number of trial studies which formed the basis for deciding the location and size of structures for protection measures.

(d) The work for preparation of tender documents for Phase-II and Phase-III has already been initiated. These phases are likely to be completed by March 2012.

Statement-I

Works taken up after Nov.-07 and completed

Sl. No	Name of works	Remarks
1	2	3
1.	Raising and strengthening of embankment of Brahmaputra dyke from Bessamara to Kharkharijan	Under Phase-I
2.	Raising and strengthening of emb. Tekeliphuta to Kandulimari	
3.	R/S of embankment from Jengrai to Millitinali	
4.	R/S of embankment from Kandulimari to Bessamara (23646 to 36431)	
5.	R/S of embankment from Kandulimari to Bessamara (13522 to 23646)	
6.	RCC porcupine works repairing of 13 nos. of dampeners at summoimari	
7.	Closing of breaches in Khabulighat and Luit Suti	
8.	Strengthening of 840 m Phulani RCC screen (D/S) of Salmara	
9.	Strengthening of 1300 m Kharachapori RCC screen (U/S) of Salmara	

1	2	3
10. Repairing and strengthening of RCC porcupine screen of length 2400m (U/S) at Dakhinpat		Under Phase-I
11. Construction of 5 km length screen at Aphalamukh to Major Chapari U/S		
12. Strengthening of existing Borpama and Jengrai screen etc.		
13. Repairing and strengthening of RCC screen of length 2400m (D/S)		
14. Construction of 5 km length screen at Aphalamukh to Major chapari D/S		
15. Repairing of 7 nos. of RCC porcupine dampeners at Saimara reach		
16. Construction of R.C.C porcupine dampeners (at Bessamara)		Under emergent condition
17. Construction of R.C.C porcupine screen (at Bhogpur)		in 2008
18. Construction of R.C.C porcupine Sereen No.8 at 1970m (at Bengenati)		
19. Construction of R.C.C porcupine spur (at Kamalabari)		
20. Construction of R.C.C porcupine screen No-1 and 2 (at Bhakatchapori).		
<i>Works taken up prior to Nov.-07 under Ph-I and in progress</i>		
1. Repairing and construction of nose portion of Kandulumari check bund		completed 48%
2. Repairing and construction of nose portion of check bund at Sonowal Kachari no. 2		completed 50%

Statement-II

The details of Works for Protection of Majuli Island

Phase-II and III

- Permeable RCC porcupine spurs and screens at specified locations.
- Construction of 10 land spurs of various lengths based on the recommendations of the model studies.
- Construction of one no. raised platform.
- Construction of 500 meter of bank revetment.
- Construction of sluice.
- Maintenance of the works executed previously.

Arsenic Contamination In Ground Water

*27. SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether a survey was conducted in some districts of Uttar Pradesh with the assistance of United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) regarding arsenic contamination in ground water;

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

(c) whether similar tests have been conducted/are proposed to be conducted in other States;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the time by which these tests are likely to be conducted; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to check the contamination of ground water?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (PROF. SAIF-UD-DIN SOZ) : (a) to (e) As per information received from the Government of Uttar Pradesh, the Uttar Pradesh Jal Nigam has conducted survey of arsenic contamination of ground water in 51 districts of the State with assistance

of United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF). Survey has revealed the problem of arsenic contamination in 20 districts.

The Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) has also reported occurrence of arsenic in ground water from certain parts of the States of Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, Bihar, Chhattisgarh and Assam.

The steps taken by the Government to check ground water contamination include:—

- (i) Exploration conducted by CGWB to find out ground water sources free from Arsenic contaminants.
- (ii) Technical guidance provided by CGWB to the State agencies in tackling the problems of water quality and capacity building of personnel of State Drinking Water Supply agencies.
- (iii) Financial and technical assistance provided to States under Centrally Sponsored Scheme, namely Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP) for provision of safe drinking water to the rural population as per the stipulated norms.

Loss of Foodgrains

*28. DR. M. JAGANNATH :
SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE :

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether a huge quantity of foodgrains stored in the godowns of Food Corporation of India (FCI) was lost over the last decade as reported in the *Hindustan Times* dated 3 July, 2008;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the reasons therefor and the expenditure incurred there against, State-wise;

(c) the total quantum of foodgrains currently held by FCI in its godowns across the country due to the failure of the States to lift their quota of foodgrains; and

(d) the remedial steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to utilise this stock and avoid losses due to destruction of foodgrains?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR) : (a) and (b) About 10 lakh tons of damaged foodgrains had been accrued in the account of FCI over a period of last ten years from 1997-2007 and the same has been reflected in the *Hindustan Times* news item. The accrual of damaged foodgrains is due to various reasons, such as cyclones, floods and long storage of foodgrain stocks. Besides, some quantities of foodgrains had also got damaged during transportation to other regions. The quantity of damaged foodgrains works out to 0.139% approximately of the total foodgrains handled by FCI during the last 10 years.

(c) The allocation and offtake of foodgrains in 2008-09 upto August, 2008 is as under:—

(Figures in Lakh Tonnes)

Year	Commodity	Allotment to States	Offtake
2008-09 (upto August, '08)	Wheat	61.39	46.63
	Rice	119.38	104.29

Stocks held by FCI as on 31.8.2008 was 98.50 lakh tonnes of wheat and 68.88 lakh tonnes of rice, inclusive of unlifted stocks of State Governments.

(d) The foodgrain stocks, which are not lifted by the State Governments in a month, are utilised for allotment for TPDS and other welfare schemes in the next month. The FCI has taken following steps to minimise losses of foodgrains during storage in the godowns of FCI:—

- (i) All FCI godowns are constructed as per specifications and foodgrains stored by adopting scientific storage practices.
- (ii) Adequate dunnage materials, fumigation covers and chemicals are to be provided in all the godowns.
- (iii) Prophylactic and curative treatments is to be carried out regularly for the control of stored grain insect pests.
- (iv) Foodgrains in 'Cover and Plinth' (CAP) storage are stored on elevated plinths and wooden crates used as dunnage material. Stacks should be properly covered with specifically fabricated low-density black polythene water proof covers and tied with nylon ropes/nets.
- (v) Regular periodic inspections of the stocks/godowns are undertaken by qualified and trained staff of FCI.
- (vi) The principle of "First in First Out" (FIFO) is normally adopted so as to avoid longer storage of foodgrains in godowns.
- (vii) Covered wagons are used for movement of foodgrains so as to avoid damage during transit.

Public Telephones in Villages

*29. SHRI EKNATH MAHADEO GAIKWAD :
SHRI MADHU GOUD YASKHI :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether even public telephones are not available in more than 70,000 villages in the country as reported in the *Navbharat Times* dated 28 August, 2008;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has chalked out any plan to provide public telephones in all the villages of the country;

(d) if so, the details thereof alongwith the target fixed in this regard; and

(e) the time by which it is likely to be provided?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI A. RAJA) : (a) to (e) There are 5,93,601 inhabited villages in the country as per Census 2001. Out of this, 5,30,624 villages have been provided with Village Public Telephones (VPTs) facility. It has been decided to provide the VPT facility in all uncovered villages also with subsidy support from Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF). USOF has already authorized BSNL to provide VPTs in these uncovered villages in a period of two years.

[Translation]

Special status to States under AIBP Programme

*30. SHRI SRICHAND KRIPLANI : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether certain States are eligible for a special category status under the Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme (AIBP);

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether in view of the drought and famine prone nature, the Union Government proposes to confer the special status on some States including Rajasthan under the Programme; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the time by which it is likely to be conferred?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (PROF. SAIF-UD-DIN SOZ) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) North Eastern States, Sikkim, Himachal Pradesh, Uttaranchal and Jammu and Kashmir are classified as special category states under the Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme (AIBP). In addition, undivided Koraput, Bolangir and Kalahandi districts of Orissa are also treated at par with special category states under AIBP.

(c) and (d) In order to give a boost to irrigation development in the drought prone areas off the country including in the State of Rajasthan, irrigation projects benefiting drought prone areas are also eligible for 90% of the project cost as central assistance which is at par with the special category states. Further, in normal cases, a new project could be included in AIBP only on completion of an ongoing project of the State under AIBP. However, the projects benefiting drought prone areas could be considered for inclusion in AIBP in relaxation to one-to-one criteria.

Increase in interest rate of EPF

*31. SHRI KASHIRAM RANA :
SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO :

Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the rate of interest on Employees Provident Fund (EPF) is lower than the rate of interest given by the nationalised banks on various deposits;

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

(c) whether there is any proposal to increase the interest rate on EPF to bring it at par with the rate being provided by the banks;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the various Central Trade Unions have demanded for increasing the EPF interest rate in proportion to the income from EPF;

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

(g) the time by which the EPF interest rate for 2007-08 and 2008-09 is likely to be declared alongwith the reasons for the delay in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES) : (a) to (g) The interest rates given by nationalised banks on various types of deposits vary and in some cases may be higher than the interest given by the Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) to its members. However, the interest on Provident Fund is decided for each year based on the estimated earnings of the Fund invested as per the prescribed pattern of investment and estimated liabilities towards its members. The Employees' Provident Fund Organisation is making efforts to get maximum returns by bringing in competition in its fund management. Trade unions' representatives on the Central Board of Trustees (Employees' Provident Fund) have been demanding higher rate of interest on Provident Fund contributions. The rate of interest on Employees' Provident Fund (EPF) balances is declared as per the provisions contained in paragraph 60(1) of the Employees' Provident Funds Scheme, 1952. EPFO is required to credit interest on the balance available in the accounts of the EPF members, at such rate as may be determined by the Central Government in consultation with the Central Board of Trustees. Paragraph 60(1) needs to be read with paragraph 60(4) of the Scheme according to which, "in determining the rate of interest, the Central Government shall satisfy itself that there is no overdrawal of the Interest Suspense Account as a result of debit thereto of the interest credited to the accounts of the members". Accordingly, the rate of interest is decided for each year based on the estimated earnings of the Fund and its estimated liabilities. The Central Government has already approved 8.5% rate of interest for the year 2007-08 to the EPF subscribers. For the financial year 2008-09, the Central Board of Trustees (Employees' Provident Fund) has not given its recommendation so far.

[English]

Reduction in PDS Quota

*32 SHRI P.C. THOMAS :
SHRI L. RAJAGOPAL :

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has recently decided to reduce the quota of foodgrains including wheat and rice allocated to various States including Kerala and Andhra Pradesh under the Public Distribution System (PDS) during the second half of the current year;

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

(c) whether the Government has received any representation from the States for restoration/increase of the quota;

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

(e) the other steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to provide foodgrains to poor sections of the society in the States facing foodgrain shortage due to such reduction?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR) : (a) to (e) The allocation of foodgrains under the Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) is made to all the States/UTs for BPL and AAY families on the basis of 1993-94 poverty estimates of the Planning Commission projected on the population estimates of Registrar General of India as on 1.3.2000 or the number of families actually identified and ration cards issued by each State/UT, whichever is less. While there has been no change in the allocations of foodgrains for BPL and AAY categories, which are made @ 35 kg per family per month for all 6.52 crore families accepted as eligible in the country, the allocations for APL category are

made depending upon the availability of stocks of foodgrains in the Central Pool.

The Government has not reduced any quota of foodgrains allocated under TPDS to various states during the second half of the current year. However, keeping in view the declining stock position of wheat and rice in the Central Pool, the allocation of wheat and rice under TPDS for the APL category have been rationalized with effect from June, 2006 and April, 2007 respectively, on the basis of offtake figures for the previous 3 years i.e. 2003-04, 2004-05 and 2005-06. Further, in view of lower procurement of rice during KMS 2006-07 and 2007-08 than the demands from various States for 2008-09, the allocations of rice for 2008-09 under APL category to the States/UTs, including Kerala and Andhra Pradesh, have been done on the basis of its offtake during 2006-07 and 2007-08.

The Government has received representations/requests from the States/UTs, including Kerala and Andhra Pradesh for restoration/increase of rice and wheat allocation under APL category. The statement showing the details of requests/representations received from various States/UTs for restoration/increase in APL allocation is enclosed.

In order to augment the availability of foodgrains, to check rise in prices of foodgrains in the open market during festival season 2008 and keeping in view requests from the State/UT Governments, the Government has made following allocations of foodgrains:—

- (a) ADHOC/ADDITIONAL APL WHEAT AND RICE ALLOCATIONS TO VARIOUS STATES/UTs.
- (i) Adhoc/additional 9,52,500 tons of wheat at APL rate have been released for the period from July to December, 2008 to various States/UTs.
 - (ii) Adhoc/additional allocation of 20,000 tons of rice at APL rate to Kerala from May to December, 2008 and 78,000 tons of rice at APL rate to Andhra Pradesh from

October to December, 2008 and a one time allocation of 20000 tons of rice to Jammu and Kashmir in September, 2008 have also been made.

(b) ADHOC/ADDITIONAL ALLOCATION OF FOODGRAINS FOR FESTIVALS :

Adhoc/additional allocations of 36000 tons of rice and 192000 tons of wheat at APL rate have been issued for festival season 2008 to various States, including 30,000 tons of rice and 20,000 tons of wheat at APL rate to Kerala

(c) RELEASE OF WHEAT UNDER OPEN MARKET SALE SCHEME (DOMESTIC) :

In order to check inflationary trends in food economy during festival season 2008, the Government has released about 9 lakh tons of wheat for sale to retail consumers and 8.4 lakh tons of wheat for sale to bulk consumers during the months of September to November, 2008 under Open Market Sale Scheme (Domestic) to State/UT Governments, including 50,000 tons each to Andhra Pradesh and 60,000 tons each to Kerala under the above two categories under this scheme.

Statement

Details of the requests received from the States for Increase in Allocation — Additional Monthly Quantity of Rice and Wheat Demanded

(Quantity in Thousand Tons)

Sl. No.	Name of the State/UT	Rice	Wheat
1	2	3	4
1.	Arunachal Pradesh	2.235	

1	2	3	4
2.	Andhra Pradesh	44.755	
3.	Assam	23.219	21.303
4.	Bihar	19.063	65.13
5.	Chhattisgarh	60.047	10
6.	Goa		0.999
7.	Haryana		13.301
8.	Himachal Pradesh	11.482	9
9.	Jammu and Kashmir	20	5
10.	Jharkhand		4.032
11.	Kerala	98.384	15
12.	Madhya Pradesh		119
13.	Karnataka	52.989	
14.	Maharashtra		249.098
15.	Manipur	0.461	
16.	Meghalaya		0.218
17.	Nagaland		4.627
18.	Orissa	64.142	16.407
19.	Punjab		69.318
20.	Rajasthan		100
21.	Sikkim		0.255
22.	Tamil Nadu	73.745	6.217
23.	Tripura	5.863	2.638
24.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	0.301	

1	2	3	4
25. Pondicherry		2.353	
26. Uttar Pradesh		0.67	5
27. Uttarakhand		4.195	5.234
28. West Bengal		195.024	
29. Daman and Diu		0.04	
30. Andaman and Nicobar Islands			2.4
31. Chandigarh		33.75	33.75

Revival of Jute Mills

*33. SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA :
SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPAN :

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) the number of jute mills including those under the National Jute Manufacturers Corporation (NJMC) functioning at present in the country, separately, State-wise;

(b) the number out of them lying closed during each of the last three years and the current year, separately, State-wise;

(c) whether the Union Government proposes to revive, re-open and modernise the above closed jute mills under the public-private partnership model;

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

(e) whether the revival package has been approved by the Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR); and

(f) if so, the details thereof alongwith the funds allocated for the purpose during the Eleventh Plan period, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA) : (a) the number of jute mills including jute mills under National Jute Manufacturers Corporation Ltd. (NJMC) functioning at present in the Country, State-wise are as follows:—

States	Number of Mills Functioning
West Bengal	54
Andhra Pradesh	6
Bihar	2
Uttar Pradesh	1
Assam	1
Tripura	1
Orissa	1
Chhattisgarh	1
Total	67

(b) The number of jute mills lying closed during last 3 years and current year are as below:—

State	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
1	2	3	4	5
West Bengal	14 excluding 5 mills of NJMC Ltd. which are not operational but are not closed officially.	12 excluding 5 mills of NJMC Ltd. which are not operational but are not closed officially.	8 excluding 5 mills of NJMC Ltd. which are not operational but are not closed officially.	5 excluding 5 mills of NJMC Ltd. which are not operational but are not closed officially.

1	2	3	4	5
Andhra Pradesh	1	4	1	1
Uttar Pradesh	2	2	2	2
Bihar	1 excluding 1 Unit of NJMC Ltd. which is not operational but is not closed officially.	1 excluding 1 Unit of NJMC Ltd. which is not operational but is not closed officially.	1 excluding 1 Unit of NJMC Ltd. which is not operational but is not closed officially.	1 excluding 1 Unit of NJMC Ltd. which is not operational but is not closed officially.

(c) and (d) Government is considering a proposal to revive 3 mills of NJMC Ltd., (2 in West Bengal and 1 in Bihar) under Public Private Partnership.

(e) No, Sir. The proposal is under consideration of the BIFR.

(f) Does not arise.

Output of Kharif Crops

*34. SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH :
SHRI M. RAJA MOHAN REDDY :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Kharif production during the current year has been projected less than the last year's output;

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

(c) whether advisories have been issued to the States for working towards higher Rabi output; and

(d) if so, the details thereof alongwith the other steps proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR) : (a) and (b) As per the 1st Advance Estimates released on 25th September, 2008,

production of Kharif foodgrains during 2008-09 is estimated at 115.33 million tonnes which is lower by 5.63 million tonnes as compared to the Kharif foodgrains production of 120.96 million tonnes during 2007-08 (4th Advance Estimates released on 9th July 2008). Similarly, Kharif oilseeds production estimated at 17.95 million tonnes during 2008-09 is lower by 1.89 million tonnes, Sugarcane production estimated at 294.66 million tonnes is lower by 45.90 million tonnes and cotton production estimated at 23.91 million bales is lower by 1.90 million bales as compared to production of respective crops during Kharif 2007-08.

Kharif production has been affected due to adverse impact on sowing on account of deficient rainfall and floods in some parts of the country during monsoon 2008. However, these are preliminary estimates which will gradually improve owing to over all good rainfall received in most parts of the country during the monsoon season 2008. Shortly, firm assessment of area coverage and productivity would also be available. In fact, the 1st Advance Estimates of Kharif foodgrains production during 2008-09 are higher by 3.09 million tonnes and Kharif oilseeds by 1.82 million tonnes as compared to the corresponding 1st Advance Estimates of Kharif foodgrains and oilseeds during 2007-08.

(c) and (d) During the National Conference on Agriculture for Rabi Campaign 2008-09 held on 24th-25th September, 2008, State Governments were advised to ensure early sowing of wheat, use short duration seeds

for summer rice, encourage inter-cropping for jowar, promote high yielding varieties of pulses and oilseeds, make efficient use of irrigation water and ensure timely and balanced use of fertilizers along with organic manures and micro-nutrients.

The areas affected by deficient/scanty rainfall in Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Gujarat and Tamil Nadu were advised to increase area and productivity of Rabi Jowar and flood affected areas of Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Orissa and Assam were advised to go for Rice, Kulthi, Toria and other crops depending on the time flood water recedes in these States.

It was also envisaged to bring additional area of about 10 lakh hectares under Wheat, 15 lakh hectares under pulses and 5 lakh hectares under other crops during the ensuing Rabi season. The addition in area is expected to compensate the loss in area during the Kharif season.

Minimum Support Price for Paddy

*35. SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH :
SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has announced Rs. 850 per quintal as the Minimum Support Price (MSP) for paddy and proposes to revise it further to Rs. 1000 per quintal;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether in view of the continued hike in prices of inputs, the Swaminathan Commission has recommended to fix MSP on "average cost of inputs plus 50 percent extra" and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the time by which the Government proposes to raise MSP for paddy?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER

OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR) : (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. The Government has announced a Minimum Support Price of Rs. 850 per quintal for the Common variety of paddy and Rs. 880 per quintal for Grade A variety of paddy for 2008-09 season. The Government has, at present, no proposal to revise the same. However, a proposal to grant bonus of Rs. 50 per quintal has been approved, over and above the Minimum Support Price (MSP).

National Commission on Farmers chaired by Dr. M.S. Swaminathan had recommended that Minimum Support Prices (MSPs) should at least 50 per cent more than the weighted average cost of production. This recommendation has not been accepted by the Government since MSP is recommended by the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP) who, inter alia, takes into account various factors, which include the cost of production of respective crops also before arriving at their recommendations.

Disbursement of Pension under EPFPS

*36. SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA :
SHRI PANNIAN RAVINDRAN :

Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the amount of pension being paid to the retired employees under the Employees Provident Fund Pension Scheme (EPFPS) is the same since its inception;

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

(c) whether the Government proposes to enhance the pension amount of the said pensioners to make it commensurate with the high cost of living at present; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF
LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR

FERNANDES) : (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. However, in respect of pensions vested from 15.11.1996 onwards, reliefs have been granted in addition to pension as per details given below:—

- (i) 1st Relief @ 4% w.e.f. 15.11.1996 to the pensioners as on 15.11.1996 (i.e. 17.5% as on date).
- (ii) 2nd Relief @ 5.5% w.e.f. 01.04.1998 to the pensioners as on 31.03.1998 (i.e. 13.5% as on date).
- (iii) 3rd Relief @ 4% w.e.f. 01.04.1999 to the pensioners as on 31.03.1999 (i.e. 8% as on date).
- (iv) 4th Relief @ 4% w.e.f. 01.04.2000 to the pensioners as on 31.03.2000 (i.e. 4% as on date).

The Employees' Pension Scheme, 1995 is a defined contribution and benefit scheme. Additional relief can be granted when the Pension Fund has any distributable surplus. At present, there is no such surplus and therefore, no additional relief can be granted.

Postal Savings Schemes

*37. SHRI NAVEEN JINDAL :
SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the total investment in small saving schemes of Posts Offices is declining;
- (b) if so, the details thereof for the last three years and the current year and the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to raise the interest rate on these schemes to make them more attractive; and
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI A. RAJA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The details of the total investment in the Post Offices for the last three years and the current year are given in the enclosed Statement. The investors have several alternative instruments for effecting personal savings and the decline is therefor a function of investors' exercise of choice.

(c) and (d) Interest rates on small savings schemes are administered Interest Rates. High rates of administered interest rate have fiscal implications and therefore, need to be linked to the cost of borrowings by the Central Government. As per the recommendations of the Committee on Administered Interest Rates and other related issues, chaired by Dr. Y.V. Reddy, the then Deputy Governor, RBI, these interest rates are benchmarked to the average yield on Government Securities of comparable maturity in the secondary market, with a suitable spread upto 50 basis points depending upon the maturity and liquidity of the instruments. Recent analysis shows that while the average yield on Government Securities of shorter maturities (one to three years) is at present slightly higher compared to interest rates on small savings schemes of comparable maturities, the interest rates on Post Office Monthly Income Account Scheme (POMIA), National Savings Certificate (NSC)-VIII Issue, Kisan Vikas Patra (KVP) and Senior Citizens Saving Scheme (SCSS) still enjoy a reasonable spread over Government securities yield. Further, net collections under small savings schemes are on lent to the States and serve as a source of funding their Annual Plans, any increase in the small savings interest rates will result in a concomitant increase in the on-lending rate to the States. The State Government have not been comfortable even with the existing rate of 9.5% for 25 years and any increase thereof will imply higher debt servicing costs and is likely to be resisted. Keeping these factors in view, the existing interest rates on small savings schemes are being maintained.

Statement

Details of investment in Small Saving Scheme of Post Offices during last three years and current year upto the month of August, 2008

(Rs. in crores)

Year	SB	RD	TD	MIS	NSS	SCSS	PPF	Total
2004-05	25416.55	20135.30	20429.29	48691.80	571.30	8818.14	3112.94	12717530
2005-06	31432.28	23488.41	20526.45	47272.63	293.47	7435.42	3024.47	133473.13
2006-07	35958.42	26333.05	19799.86	26460.37	317.28	7238.19	3797.87	119905.04
2007-08	43164.99	27684.82	14043.66	17027.00	327.00	2011.51	3346.73	107605.71
2008-09 upto August, 08	19554.47	11379.50	5592.93	9858.27	36.97	676.94	872.73	47971.81

Funds for Rehabilitation of Rescued Child Labour

*38. DR. R. SENTHIL :

SHRI MAHAVIR BHAGORA :

Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the number of child labour including bonded child labour in the country during each of the last three years and the current year, separately, State-wise;

(b) whether the Government has allocated any specific funds for the rehabilitation of rescued child labour including bonded child labour;

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

(d) whether the Government proposes to hold regional and national meetings on the "rescue operations" for child labour; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES) : (a) to (e) The Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Act, 1976 does not differentiate between child bondage and adult bondage. The estimation of the number of child labour in the country State-wise, is done on the basis of the census carried out by the Registrar General of India once every ten years. The last such Census was carried out in 2001. Therefore, yearly data regarding existence of child labour State-wise is not maintained. State-wise number of child labour population as per 2001 Census is given in the enclosed Statement-I.

The Central Government is implementing the National Child Labour Project (NCLP) Scheme for the rehabilitation of children withdrawn from work. Under the Scheme, grants are released directly to the Project Societies chaired by the Dist. Collector. State wise details of fund released during 2007-08 is given in the enclosed Statement-II.

Regional and National work shops and meetings are held from time to time with participation of State

Government and other stake holders. State Governments are the appropriate authority for enforcing the Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, 1986 for the areas coming under their jurisdiction. In order to step up the enforcement activities, a fortnight long nation-wide awareness campaign on "Enforcement Drive against Child Labour" was launched by the Government on 14th November, 2007 under which, the State Governments were financially assisted for taking up awareness campaigns. Further, a Protocol on Prevention, Rescue, Repatriation and Rehabilitation of Trafficked and Migrant Child Labour has also been issued to the State Governments to facilitate the rescue and rehabilitation of such children.

Statement-I

State-wise Distribution of Working Children according to 2001 Census in the age group 5-14 years

Sl. No.	Name of the State/UT	2001
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1363339
2.	Assam	351416
3.	Bihar	1117500
4.	Gujarat	485530
5.	Haryana	253491
6.	Himachal Pradesh	107774
7.	Jammu and Kashmir	175630
8.	Karnataka	822615
9.	Kerala	26156
10.	Madhya Pradesh	1065259
11.	Maharashtra	764075

1	2	3
12.	Chhattisgarh	364572
13.	Manipur	28836
14.	Meghalaya	53940
15.	Jharkhand	407200
18.	Uttaranchal	70183
17.	Nagaland	45874
18.	Orissa	377594
19.	Punjab	177268
20.	Rajasthan	1262570
21.	Sikkim	16457
22.	Tamil Nadu	418801
23.	Tripura	21756
24.	Uttar Pradesh	1927997
28.	West Bengal	857087
26.	Andaman and Nicobar Island	1960
27.	Arunachal Pradesh	18482
28.	Chandigarh	3779
29.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	4274
30.	Delhi	41899
31.	Daman and Diu	729
32.	Goa	4138
33.	Lakshadweep	27
34.	Mizoram	26265
35.	Pondicherry	1904
Total		12668377

Statement-II

State wise details of Funds released to NCLPS during 2007-08.

Sl. No.	State/NCLP District	Total (in Rs.)
1.	Andhra Pradesh	161824057
2.	Assam	31570238
3.	Bihar	97941696
4.	Chhattisgarh	69056211
5.	Gujarat	7187914
6.	Haryana	9219840
7.	Jammu and Kashmir	2392700
8.	Jharkhand	34310325
9.	Karnataka	53653470
10.	Madhya Pradesh	89338542
11.	Maharashtra	38572209
12.	Orissa	116919191
13.	Punjab	14755367
14.	Rajasthan	114901470
15.	Tamil Nadu	58439416
16.	Uttar Pradesh	307980608
17.	Uttaranchal	1611500
18.	West Bengal	134483337

Establishment of Internet Exchanges

*39 SHRI HARIN PATHAK : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) Whether the Union Government has received any proposal in the recent past to establish Internet Exchanges in the Country including Gujarat;

(b) If so, the details thereof alongwith the present status of the proposal: and

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

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI A. RAJA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Government has received requests from some States including Gujarat to establish Internet Exchanges. Presently, Internet Exchanges are operational at Delhi (Noida), Mumbai, Chennai, Kolkata, Hyderabad, Bangalore and Ahmedabad.

(c) The Internet Exchange has been established at Ahmedabad and is Operational from 1st October 2008.

Construction of High Dams in Upper Reaches of Rivers

*40. SHRIMATI MINATI SEN : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has received recommendations to construct high dams in upper reaches of rivers originating in Nepal in order to check recurring floods in the country;

(b) If so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action plan formulated for undertaking the said projects and the details of the negotiations carried on with the Government of Nepal in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (PROF. SAIF-UD-DIN SOZ) : (a) to (c) Pancheshwar Multipurpose Project on river Sharda (Mahakali in Nepal), Saptakoi High Dam Project on river Kosi and Naumure Multipurpose Project on river West Rapti, are under discussion in India-Nepal Joint Committee on Water Resources (JCWR)

headed by Secretaries (Water Resources) of both the countries. The 3rd meeting of JCWR has been held recently from 29.09.08 to 01.10.08 at Kathmandu. During the meeting, JCWR decided to set up a Pancheshwar Development Authority (PDA) at the earliest in accordance with the Mahakali Treaty for the development, execution and operation of the Pancheshwar Multipurpose Project. Further, the JCWR decided to extend the tenure of Joint Project Office (JPO) established for the preparation of Detailed Project Report (DPR) of Sapt Kosi High Dam Multipurpose Project including Sun Kosi Storage-cum-Diversion Scheme upto December, 2009 for expeditious completion of DPR. Indian side also agreed to undertake pre-feasibility study of Naumure Multipurpose Project.

A three tier mechanism consisting of Joint Ministerial Commission of Water Resources (JMCWR) to be co-chaired by Ministers of Water Resources of India and Nepal, the existing Joint Committee on Water Resources (JCWR) at the level of Secretaries of Water Resources of India and Nepal and Joint Standing Technical Committee (JSTC) to coordinate all existing Committees and Sub-committees, has also been agreed in the 3rd meeting of JCWR to expedite the implementation of the above said projects in Nepal.

These high dam projects, on implementation, would provide benefits to people of India and Nepal, in the form of hydro-power, irrigation and flood moderation. In addition, Saptakosi High Dam Project may also provide inland navigation to Nepal, via Kosi river.

AIBP Assistance to Gujarat

163. SHRIMATI JAYABEN B. THAKKAR : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state the central assistance sought by the Government of Gujarat under the Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme (AIBP) during each of the last three years and the current year along with the funds sanctioned and released by the Union Government during the said period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN

YADAV) : Central Assistance claimed by Government of Gujarat under Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme (AIBP) during 2005-06, 2006-07 and 2007-08 were Rs. 177.60 crore, Rs. 315.90 crore and Rs. 1270.28 crore respectively. The Central Assistance released by the Government of India for the respective periods were Rs. 339.60 crore, Rs. 121.8885 crore and Rs. 585.72 crore respectively. Central Assistance amounting to Rs. 251.90 crore has been released on 10th April 2008 for pending demand of the year 2007-08. The AIBP release proposal for the current year has not been submitted by the Government of Gujarat so far.

Health Hazards in Ship Breaking Industry

164. SHRI JASUBHAI DHANABHAI BARAD : Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the labourers/workers engaged in ship breaking industry are exposed to severe health hazard due to presence of dangerous materials like asbestos etc.; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the preventive measures taken by the Government to safeguard the health of such labourers/workers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES) : (a) No Sir, as adequate safety precautions are being taken in the ship breaking yards.

(b) Preventive measures taken by authorities to protect workers from health hazards are as under:—

- Ministry of Labour and Employment has amended the model rule on ship breaking.
- Directorate General Factory Advice Service and Labour Institutes has identified Personal Protective Equipments (PPEs) for different operations carried out in the ship breaking yards. Gujarat Maritime Board (GMB) has agreed to enforce

the use of PPEs in the ship breaking yards and use the penal provisions available in the "Gujarat Maritime Board Ship Recycling Regulations 2003."

Government of Gujarat has notified Rule 68-H under the Gujarat State Factory Rules pertaining to ship building, ship repairing and ship breaking.

- The Government of Gujarat has established a separate Inspectorate of Factories at Alang headed by the Deputy Director for exclusive enforcement of the provisions in ship breaking yards. The competent persons are also declared by the Chief Inspector of Factories for the purpose for issuing certificates like Naked Light, Testing and examination of pressure vessels and lifting appliances, etc. As a result of inspection and monitoring by Inspector of Factories, some of the practices being followed in Alang included wet method for removal of Asbestos, hot work certification and use of personal protective equipments.
- Workers engaged in removal of asbestos are regularly medically examined by doctors. So far, no worker is found to be suffering from asbestosis.

Removing of Silt from the Durgapur Barrage

165. SHRI SUNIL KHAN : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

- (a) whether there is huge accumulation of silt and sand at Durgapur Barrage at present;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and
- (c) the action taken or proposed to be taken to remove the silt and sand from the Durgapur Barrage?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV) : (a) Yes Sir.

(b) During the Damodar Valley Regulation Committee (DVRRC) meeting held on 03.07.2002 at Kolkata, the then Superintending Engineer (DIC), Irrigation and Waterways Department, Burdwan intimated that the present capacity of the Durgapur Barrage Pond has reduced from 6000 acre feet to just 2500 acre feet due to accumulation of silt and sand. It is mainly due to excessive sediment flow from catchment area into river Damodar which gets trapped in the Pond area. In addition, the number of coal washeries in the catchment of river Damodar add to the sediment load.

(c) During the last Damodar Valley Reservoir Regulation Committee (DVRRC) meeting held on 23-07-2008, the representative of Irrigation and Waterways Department, Government of West Bengal informed that Expression of Interest (EOI) had been invited by them from domestic and International bidders for desiltation of Durgapur barrage pond and however, the response on the same has not been encouraging.

Corporatisation of Delhi Milk Scheme

166. SHRI SUBRATA BOSE : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

- (a) Whether the Government had decided to corporatise the Delhi Milk Scheme (DMS) and any other Milk Schemes of other States:
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefore; and
- (c) the steps being taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI TASLIMUDDIN) : (a) to (c) The Government has decided 'in principle' to corporatise the

Delhi Milk Scheme to provide more autonomy in its operations and management, flexibility in financial matters to make it more efficient and viable. Expression of Interest was invited from reputed professional agencies to prepare feasibility report, Memorandum of Understanding, Articles of Association and other related jobs. Request For proposal was sent to three short listed agencies and bids have been received from them.

[Translation]

Auction Process for 3-G Mobile Spectrum

167. SHRI KIREN RIJU :

DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether some countries have refused to participate in the auction process of 3-G mobile spectrum;

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

(c) whether the Government proposes to formulate an auction procedure where many more foreign mobile companies could participate in it; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA) : (a) No, Sir.

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

(c) and (d) The detailed guidelines have been announced by the Government for auction and allotment of spectrum for 3-G Telecom Services on 01.08.08 and certain amendments on 11.09.08 which inter-alia include auction process. As per these guidelines any person shall be eligible to participate in the auction:

(i) who holds a UAS/CMTS licence; or

(ii) (a) who has previous experience of running 3G Telecom Services; and

(b) gives an undertaking to obtain Unified Access Services Licence (UASL) as per Department of Telecommunications guidelines dated 14.12.2005, before starting telecom operations, can bid for 3G spectrum.

As per these guidelines, the 3G spectrum would be allotted through a controlled, simultaneous ascending e-auction.

Conservation of Ground Water

168. SHRI RAGHUVVEER SINGH KOSHAL : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether an Expert Committee of Planning Commission has requested the Union Government to intervene in the matter of conservation of ground water;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Committee has given any details to the Government regarding depletion of ground water table; and

(d) if so, details thereof, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV) : (a) and (b) The Expert Group constituted by the Planning Commission on "Ground Water Management and Ownership" made suggestions, which include the following:-

(i) Artificial recharge of ground water for augmentation of ground water supply in shallow aquifers;

(ii) Tapping of huge "static" water reserves in deeper aquifers;

- (iii) Strengthening institutional infrastructure, enabling legislation and appropriate economic incentive structure;
- (iv) Modification of current regulatory frame work making it more equitable and easier to implement;
- (v) Need to introduce a modified ground water legislation and encompassing the role and responsibility of Water User Groups, Government and Panchayati Raj Institutions;
- (vi) Placing of reliance on community management of resource, supported by adequate technical inputs, complementary institutional changes and appropriate incentives;

(vii) Adopting of a sustainable – yield management goal wherein the average withdrawal should not exceed long-term recharge;

(viii) The areas where ground water level falls below the replenishable level, the areas be declared as 'environmentally threatened'.

(c) and (d) The Expert Committee in it's report has indicated that out of 5723 assessment units assessed jointly by State Ground Water Departments and Central Ground Water Board in the country, 71% (4078) assessment units are in safe category and remaining 29% (1645) units are categorised as semi-critical, critical or over-exploited. The State-wise details of over-exploited, critical and semi-critical assessment units as given in the report are enclosed as Statement.

Statement

Categorization of Blocks/Mandals/Talukas in India (Assessment-2004)

Sl. No.	States/Union Territories	Total No. of Assessed Units	Over-exploited		Critical		Semi-critical	
			Nos.	%	Nos.	%	Nos.	%
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
States								
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1231	219	18	77	6	175	14
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	13	0	0	0	0	0	0
3.	Assam	23	0	0	0	0	0	0
4.	Bihar	515	0	0	0	0	0	0
5.	Chhattisgarh	146	0	0	0	0	8	5
6.	Delhi	9	7	78	0	0	0	0
7.	Goa	11	0	0	0	0	0	0
8.	Gujarat	223	31	14	12	5	69	31

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
9.	Haryana	113	55	49	11	10	5	4
10.	Himachal Pradesh	5	0	0	0	0	0	0
11.	Jammu and Kashmir	8	0	0	0	0	0	0
12.	Jharkhand	208	0	0	0	0	0	0
13.	Karnataka	175	65	37	3	2	14	8
14.	Kerala	151	5	3	15	10	30	20
15.	Madhya Pradesh	312	24	8	5	2	19	6
16.	Maharashtra	318	7	2	1	0	23	7
17.	Manipur	7	0	0	0	0	0	0
18.	Meghalaya	7	0	0	0	0	0	0
19.	Mizoram	22	0	0	0	0	0	0
20.	Nagaland	7	0	0	0	0	0	0
21.	Orissa	314	0	0	0	0	0	0
22.	Punjab	137	103	75	5	4	4	3
23.	Rajasthan	237	140	59	50	21	14	6
24.	Sikkim	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
25.	Tamil Nadu	385	142	37	33	9	57	15
26.	Tripura	38	0	0	0	0	0	0
27.	Uttar Pradesh	603	37	5	13	2	66	11
28.	Uttarakhand	17	2	12	0	0	3	18
29.	West Bengal	269	0	0	1	0	37	14
Total States		5705	837	15	226	4	546	10
Union Territories								
1.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	1	0	0	0	0	0	0

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
2. Chandigarh		1	0	0	0	0	0	0
3. Dadra and Nagar Haveli		1	0	0	0	0	0	0
4. Daman and Diu		2	1	50	0	0	1	50
5. Lakshadweep		9	0	0	0	0	3	33
6. Pondicherry		4	1	25	0	0	0	0
Total UTs		18	2	11	0	0	4	22
Grand Total		5723	839	15	226	4	550	10

Criteria for Categorization

Over-Exploited : Stage of Ground Water Development - >100%, Significant decline in long term water level trend in either pre-monsoon or post-monsoon period or both

Critical : Stage of Ground Water Development - >90% and <=100%, Significant decline in long term water level trend in both pre-monsoon and post-monsoon period

Semi-Critical : Stage of Ground Water Development - > 70% and <=100%, Significant decline in long term water level trend in either pre-monsoon or post-monsoon period

[English]

Production of Foodgrains in Orissa

169. SHRIMATI SANGEETA KUMARI SINGH DEO : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

- (a) the production of Foodgrains in Orissa during last three years, Grain-wise;
- (b) the demand of foodgrains in Orissa;
- (c) the present trend of foodgrain production in Orissa; and
- (d) the steps taken by the Government for increasing foodgrains production in Orissa?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE

MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA) : (a) Table below gives the Grain-wise production of foodgrains in Orissa during the last three years, i.e., during 2005-06 to 2007-08:—

Crop	('000 Tonnes)		
	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08*
1	2	3	4
Rice	6859.0	6824.7	7507.0
Wheat	4.5	5.8	11.0
Jowar	5.7	5.8	6.0
Bajra	1.6	1.4	2.0

1	2	3	4
Maize	101.9	102.8	147.0
Ragi	40.3	43.1	47.0
Small Millets	10.4	9.3	9.0
Tur	98.5	106.5	113.0
Gram	22.8	24.0	26.0
Other Kharif Pulses	114.5	123.7	136.0
Other Rabi Pulses	100.5	97.6	202.0
Pulses	336.3	351.8	477.0
Foodgrains	7359.7	7344.7	8206.0

*4th Advance Estimates released on 09.07.2008.

(b) On the basis of monthly per capita quantities of consumption reported in the National Sample Survey 61st Round Report on "Household Consumption of Various Goods and Services in India, 2004-05" and the population projections given by the Office of the Registrar General of India, the consumption requirement of foodgrains in Orissa during 2007-08 was estimated at 7.71 million tonnes (including seed, feed and wastage).

(c) The trend of foodgrains production in Orissa during 2005-06 to 2007-08 has been given in reply to part (a) of the Question. As per the 1st Advance Estimates released on 25th September 2008, the Kharif foodgrains production in Orissa during 2008-09 is estimated at 6.48 million tonnes.

(d) To increase the production of rice, wheat and coarse cereals in the country, including Orissa, the Integrated Cereals Development Programme (ICDP) in rice, wheat and coarse cereals based cropping systems have been under implementation since October 2000. To increase the production of pulses, a centrally sponsored

"Integrated Scheme on Oilseeds, Pulses, Oilpalm and Maize" (ISOPOM) is under implementation with effect from 01.04.2004 in 14 major pulses growing States in the country, including Orissa. Under the scheme, financial assistance is provided for purchase of breeder seed, production of foundation seed, distribution of seed minikits, infrastructure development, block demonstrations on improved technology, integrated pest management, weedicides, distribution of sprinkler sets and farmers' training for increasing production and productivity of pulses.

In order to further increase the production of rice, wheat and pulses, the Government has launched National Food Security Mission (NFSM) from Rabi 2007-08. The NFSM aims at increasing the production of rice by 10 million tonnes, wheat by 8 million tonnes and pulses by 2 million tonnes in the targeted districts of the country, including Orissa, by the end of the 11th Plan i.e. 2011-2012.

[Translation]

Assistance to Handloom Sector

170. SHRI GIRIDHARI YADAV : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether any proposals from various States including Bihar have been received to provide assistance to handloom sector during the last three years; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGO VAN) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir, proposals were received from various State Governments including State of Bihar, under various schemes being implemented by the Government of India.

Central assistance to the States is released on the basis of viable proposals received in conformity with the

guidelines of the respective schemes. Details of assistance released to the various States including the State of Bihar

under major schemes during the last three years are given in the enclosed Statement-I and II respectively.

Statement-I

Details of releases made during 2005-06, 2006-07 and 2007-08 to various States under different Handloom Plan Schemes

(Rs. in Crores)

S. No.	Name of the State	Handloom Export Scheme		Marketing Promotion Programme		MEP *	DDHPY **		Workshed-cum-Housing Scheme		IHDS ***	Weavers Welfare Scheme Health Package Scheme	
		2005-06	2006-07	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2005-06	2006-07	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2005-06	2006-07
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
1.	Andhra Pradesh		0.05	1.16	1.20	0.95	6.56	9.91	0.57	0.05	16.78		
2.	Arunachal Pradesh			0.02	0.04	0.03	0.00	0.00	2.18	0.74	1.50	1.77	0.41
3.	Assam		0.17	1.76	2.71	1.43	0.11	2.02	1.72	0.20	7.85	0.49	1.06
4.	Bihar		0.06	0.00	0.00	0.02	0.00	0.00			0.88		
5.	Chhattisgarh		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.42	0.05	0.07	0.08	0.13	0.92	0.03	
6.	Delhi			0.13	0.08	0.49	0.00	0.00			0.00		
7.	Goa			0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00			0.00		
8.	Gujarat			0.43	0.00	0.27	0.00	4.88			1.14		
9.	Haryana	0.17	0.00	0.15	0.37	0.13	0.00	0.00			0.05		
10.	Himachal Pradesh	0.20	0.06	0.13	0.12	0.17	0.28	0.12	0.21		0.77		
11.	Jammu and Kashmir	0.06	0.06	0.00	0.82	0.06	0.25	0.00			0.00		
12.	Jharkhand			0.35	0.00	0.00	0.03	0.23			1.89		

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
13.	Karnataka			0.78	0.32	0.70	10.50	0.70		7.64	8.76	0.13	0.14
14.	Kerala	0.33	0.00	0.09	0.00	0.18	2.85	3.21	0.42		6.24	0.03	0.10
15.	Madhya Pradesh			0.40	0.37	0.86	0.30	0.06	0.10		1.46		
16.	Maharashtra			0.44	0.65	1.09	0.00	2.60			0.00		
17.	Manipur	0.05	0.00	0.03	0.00	0.10	2.48	0.23	1.58	2.08	6.02	0.72	0.51
18.	Meghalaya			0.05	0.03	0.17	0.00	0.00	0.20		0.83	0.02	0.41
19.	Mizoram			0.12	0.01	0.51	0.00	0.12	0.13		0.00		
20.	Nagaland		0.00	0.42	0.49	0.87	8.71	4.63	2.48	2.48	1.94	0.79	2.59
21.	Orissa		0.00	0.32	0.66	1.15	1.91	15.25	0.29	0.54	3.98		
22.	Pondicherry			0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00			0.00		
23.	Punjab		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.05	0.00	0.15			0.00		
24.	Rajasthan	0.06	0.00	0.53	0.74	0.64	0.00	0.41	0.27		0.26		
25.	Sikkim			0.00	0.02	0.04	0.00	0.00			0.00		
26.	Tamil Nadu	0.17	0.00	0.67	0.14	0.62	42.27	16.95	1.63	3.89	29.77	0.66	0.64
27.	Tripura			0.00	0.04	0.04	0.00	0.00	0.32		1.36		0.01
28.	Uttar Pradesh	0.60	0.86	0.80	0.90	1.35	10.49	7.98	2.18		2.36		
29.	Uttaranchal			0.14	0.13	0.15	0.00	0.32	0.08	0.20	0.90		
30.	West Bengal	0.11	0.35	0.47	0.13	0.51	3.82	3.64			4.05		
	Total	1.75	1.61	9.39	9.97	13.00	90.61	74.48	14.44	17.95	99.51	4.64	5.87
	Other Organisations	2.80	2.89	2.08	5.22	10.44	2.54	0.83	0	0	10.99	0.00	0.00
	Grand Total	4.55	4.50	11.47	15.19	23.44	93.15	75.31	14.44	17.95	110.50	4.64	5.87

*Marketing and Export Promotion Scheme;

**Deen Dayal Hathkargha Protshan Yojana

***Integrated Handlooms Development Scheme

Statement-II

Under Handloom Weavers Comprehensive Welfare Scheme. The funds are released to ICICI Lombard for Health Insurance Scheme and to LIC for Mahatma Gandhi Bumar Bima Yojana

(Rs. in Crore)			
	Year	No. of weavers covered	Amount released
Health Insurance Scheme	2005-06	297558	26.73
	2006-07	401127	37.00
	2007-08	1774034	102.60
Total		2472719	166.33
Mahatma Gandhi Bumar Bima Yojana	2005-06	196337	3.15
	2006-07	403614	3.60
	2007-08	466486	12.98
Total		1066335	19.13

[English]

Lower MSP to Farmers

171. SHRI M.K. SUBBA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government saved Rs. 10,000 crore on wheat procured this season, by paying the domestic producers lower than the international procurement prices;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there is a demand from farmers for separating Minimum Support Price from procurement prices

and keeping the procurement prices at par with the international reference prices; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and response of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA) : (a) and (b) Under the existing policy, the Central Government through Food Corporation of India (FCI) and State agencies procure all the foodgrains conforming to the prescribed specifications offered for sale at specified centers at the Minimum Support Price (MSP). The producers have the option to sell their produce to FCI/State Agencies at MSP or in the open market as is advantageous to them. During the current Rabi Marketing season (RMS) 2008-09, MSP for wheat was increased to Rs. 1000 per quintal from Rs. 850 (including incentive bonus of Rs. 100 per quintal) fixed in RMS 2007-08.

(c) and (d) While recommending the MSPs, the Commission on Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP) holds consultations with various interest groups and stake holders, including farmers, and while formulating recommendations on MSP considers, inter alia, factors such as cost of production, input prices, inter-crop price parity and international market price situation.

Mango Cultivation

172. SHRI JUAL ORAM : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is a vast scope to promote mango cultivation in Orissa;

(b) if so, the steps taken in this regard during the last three years;

(c) whether any Central Assistance has been extended to the State for the purpose; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) During the last 3 years (2005-06 to 2007-08), a total area of 34663 hectare has been planted under mango in the State of Orissa, out of which, an area of 3687 hectare has been covered under the State Plan Scheme and an area of 30776 hectare under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of National Horticulture Mission (NHM).

Under NHM, the Central Assistance of Rs. 3478.41 lakh has been provided to the State Horticulture Mission, Orissa for mango cultivation during the last 3 years.

National Food Security Mission

173. SHRI RANEN BARMAN : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of districts of West Bengal included in National Food Security Mission (NFSM) alongwith the details thereof, Crop-wise;

(b) the extent to which productivity of foodgrain is likely to increase in West Bengal due to the inclusion of the districts in NFSM;

(c) whether the Government has formulated a perspective plan to increase the production of foodgrain by means of improved seeds, fertilizers, levelling of land, etc.; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA) : (a) In West

Bengal, 13 districts namely, 24 Parganas (South), Birbhum, Cooch-Bihar, Dinajpur (North), Dinajpur (South), Howrah, Jalpaiguri, Malda, Midnapur (East), Midnapur (West), Murshidabad, Nadia and Purulia have been included under National Food Security Mission (NFSM). Of these, 8 districts — 24 Parganas (South), Cooch-Bihar, Dinajpur (North), Howrah, Jalpaiguri, Midnapur (East), Midnapur (West) and Purulia are covered under National Food Security Mission-Rice (NFSM-Rice); 4 districts — Cooch-Bihar, Dinajpur (North), Dinajpur (South) and Jalpaiguri under National Food Security Mission-Wheat (NFSM-Wheat) and 5 districts — Birbhum, Malda, Murshidabad, Nadia and Purulia under National Food Security Mission-Pulses (NFSM-Pulses).

(b) to (d) National Food Security Mission envisages to achieve additional production of 10, 8 and 2 million tonnes of rice, wheat and pulses, respectively from the identified districts of the country including those of West Bengal by the end of 11th Plan (2011-12). The increase in production has been aimed through promotion of quality seeds of high yielding varieties and hybrids, integrated management of nutrients and soils, mechanization for residue management and resource conservation, demonstrations of improved technologies and capacity building of farmers through training. These interventions are poised to achieve the desired targets of production in the country including West Bengal.

[Translation]

Increase in Sugar prices

174. SHRI CHANDRA MANI TRIPATHI :
SHRIMATI KARUNA SHUKLA :
SHRI UDAY SINGH :

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether despite record production of sugar in the country its prices have increased by nearly 25 percent between July 2008 to September 2008;

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

(c) whether the Government released lesser quota of sugar to the states during the last two years leading to the rise in prices;

(d) if so, the details of quota released by the Government during each quarter of last two years; and

(e) the steps being taken by the Government to control sugar prices?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA) : (a) and (b) Due to excess production of sugar in 2006-07 sugar season and anticipated high sugar production in 2007-08 sugar season, sugar prices declined considerable adversely affecting the capacity of sugar mills to pay cane price including cane price arrears to sugarcane farmers. The Central Government took a slew of measures to help the sugar mills and sugarcane farmers and improve realization from sale of sugar. There were news reports that sugar production in the ensuing 2008-09 sugar season would be considerably less resulting in shortage of sugar in the season. High crude prices prevailing in the summer months of 2008, also led to diversion of higher quantity of sugarcane into ethanol and consequently lowering the estimated sugar production in Brazil which is the biggest exporter of sugar in the world market. This expectation strengthened future prices of sugar in both domestic and international markets, which in turn, affected the market sentiments for current prices. When the sugar prices started going up in July-August, 2008, the base price level was very low. The range of ex-mill sugar prices (excluding excise duty and cess) in various centres in the country from June 2008 to September, 2008 is indicated below:

(Rs. per quintal)

Month	Range of ex-mill prices of sugar
June, 2008	1280-1500
July, 2008	1300-1640
August, 2008 (1st to 22nd)	1525-1930
August, 2008 (23rd to 31st)	1620-1840
September, 2008	1500-1800

(c) and (d) The details of the non-levy sugar quota released by the Government during each quarter of last two sugar years (October-September) are as under:-

(In lakh tonnes)

Quarter	Non-levy sugar quota	
	2006-07	2007-08
October-December	41	42
January-March	41	44
April-June	41	52*
July-September	36	53**
Total	159	191

* 8 lac tons estimated to be available out of dismantled first buffer stock.

** 18 lac tons estimated to be available out of dismantled first buffer stock and 25% out of dismantled second buffer stock.

(e) In order to check rising sugar prices, the Central Government has taken the following measures:

- (i) Release of additional non-levy sugar quota of 5 lac tons-2 lac tons for August and 3 lac tons for September, 2008
- (ii) Reinforcement of the directions of complete sale of dismantled first buffer stock by 30th September, 2008 and 25% of the dismantled second buffer stock in August and September, 2008 by an order dated 8.9.2008 stipulated that any unsold and undespached buffer stock shall stand converted to levy sugar. However, the order was partially relaxed in respect of normal non-levy quota of September, 2008 by extending the validity period for sale/despach by 15 days on 29.9.2008.
- (iii) Not allowing extension for sale/despach of dismantled buffer stocks. Unsold/undespached stocks out of dismantled first buffer stock and 25% of the dismantled second buffer stock stand converted to levy sugar.
- (iv) Making available 52 lac tons of non-levy (free sale) sugar for the quarter October-December, 2008 as against 42 lac tons made available during the corresponding quarter (October-December, 2007) of the last sugar year.

[English]

Minimum Wages to Workers

175. SHRI E. DAYAKAR RAO : Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Government proposes to provide minimum wages for persons employment in sheltered and supported work environments; and
- (b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES) : (a) and (b) Under the provisions of the

Minimum Wages Act, 1948, both Central and State Governments are appropriate Governments to notify any employment in the schedule where the number of employees is 1000 or more and fix the rates of minimum wages in respect of the employees employed therein under their respective jurisdictions.

"Employment of workers employed in sheltered and supported work environments" has not been notified as a Scheduled Employment under the Minimum Wages Act, 1948 either in the Central Sphere or State sphere. Further, we have also not received any request for inclusion of this employment in the Central sphere.

Ex-Servicemen Commission

176 SHRI SANTASRI CHATTERJEE : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has contemplated to open a department for Ex-Servicemen under the Ministry of Defence and also to set up an Ex-Servicemen Commission to recommend Welfare scheme for Ex-Servicemen and their families; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI M.M. PALLAM RAJU) : (a) and (b) : The Government has set up a Department or Ex-servicemen under Ministry of Defence w.e.f. 22.9.04 to give focused attention towards welfare of Ex-servicemen and their families. The issue regarding setting up of an Ex-servicemen Commission was recommended by the Parliamentary Standing Committee of Defence in its 20th report of 2003 and 4th Report of 2005. The matter was considered but the recommendation was not accepted as a number of bodies such as Directorate General Resettlement and Kendriya Sainik Board at the Centre and Rajya Sainik Boards at the State Level already exist to undertake welfare schemes for the Ex-servicemen including their families.

[Translation]

Disconnection of MTNL/BSNL Telephones

177. DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the number of Landline connections of Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL) and Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) is declining constantly as people are preferring Landline connections of private telecom operators in the country;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the number of the Landline phone connections got disconnected by the subscribers during last six months, State-wise;

(c) whether the Government proposes to launch any scheme for generating interest of the subscribers for taking MTNL/BSNL Landline connections in the country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA) : (a) and (b) Sir, the MTNL landline connection are still in good demand. Number of landline phone connection got disconnected by the subscribers during the last six months (from 1.4.08 to 30.9.08) is 44540 in MTNL Delhi and 57762 in MTNL, Mumbai. At the same time demand for landline is very much there. 60813 numbers of landline connections (gross) in MTNL Delhi and 68158 numbers of landline connections (gross) in Mumbai have been added during the period. However, in BSNL additional wireline telephone connections are provided, yet overall there is negative growth due to surrender/ disconnection due to non-payment, due to preference of customer for mobile telephone. The circle wise number of Landline telephones of BSNL got surrendered by subscribers during last six months is given in the enclosed Statement.

The reasons for surrender of landline phones by the customers are given below:

- i. Increased use of Mobile Phones.
- ii. Closure of office/company.
- iii. Surrendering of 2nd and above Landline telephone taken for internet etc. due to availability of broadband.
- iv. Shifting of Landline telephone customer to BSNL/ MTNL Mobile.
- v. Shifting of Landline telephone customer to private operator.
- vi. Economic reasons etc.

(c) and (d) Yes Sir. MTNL and BSNL are striving hard to retain its landline connections. MTNL and BSNL are taking following measure for creating interest of the subscribers for taking their landline connection:

Measures taken by MTNL

1. Improving the legacy PSTN Network by change of cables, drop wire etc. as required.
2. All exchanges have been made Digital to improve service quality.
3. Rehabilitation of outdoor n/w is being done on continuous basis to reduce fault rate and MTTR.
4. New RSUs/DLCs are being provided to reduce faults.
5. MTNL plans to commission Convergent billing and CRM in current year. This system provides one bill for all services to a subscriber. The system will also address customer request of services, tariff, complaint resolution etc.

6. MTNL is providing a lot of Value Added Services for PSTN subscribers like news, songs, astrology, e-ticketing, SMS, Voice SMS, Internet, Broadband, IPTV etc. in line with the emerging trends.
7. New tariff plans both in landline based PCOs are launched to retain PCO holders and attract new PCO franchisees.
8. MTNL is also taking care of its customers by opening Sanchar Haat, customer service centre, appointment of Dealers and Agent and special care of Corporate Customers.
9. MTNL is reviewing its tariff for various products and services so as to make them customer friendly and to suit various segments of the society.
10. MTNL has launched VOIP Services to provide ISD calls at lower tariffs. Nearly 2000 VOIP connections are working each in Delhi and Mumbai in MTNL as on 31.08.08.
11. MTNL has introduced Broadband Services w.e.f. 14.01.05 which has been a great success in the country. 5.97 lacs broadband connections are working as on 31.08.2008.

12. MTNL has launched IPTV Services in both Delhi and Mumbai. It has helped stop the churn of landline subscribers and has provided enhanced video services to the customers.
13. Promotional offers as well as some new plans have been introduced in both Delhi and Mumbai.
14. Popularity of MTNL's Broadband is increasing as internet usage is increasing. IPTV is also a very attractive technology and is expected to be quite popular specially for VOD. Broadband and IPTV on landline is expected to reduce the churn of PSTN.

Measures taken by BSNL

1. BSNL is continuously expanding its Broadband network which works over the landline connection. BSNL has introduced several new Value Added Services like Voice over IP (VOIP), Games on Demand, IP TV, SMS etc. for promoting the land line services.
2. The present telecom tariff for landline customer is highly subsidised/ competitive, below cost and affordable to the customer. BSNL has introduced many alternative tariff plans to meet competition from private service providers. The tariff of land line services are reviewed from time to time.

Statement

Details of surrender of Landline phone connections Circle-wise of BSNL during last six months

S.No.	Name of Circle	April	May	June	July	August	September
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	148	189	135	194	149	103
2.	Andhra Pradesh	20,005	21,705	24,107	21,845	19,779	21,314

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
3.	Assam	4,577	4,473	3,724	7,354	7,135	5,791
4.	Bihar	4,733	1,309	4,370	6,449	1,172	305
5.	Chhattisgarh	2,640	4,257	6,063	5,928	3,551	3,254
6.	Gujarat	18,218	16,229	17,655	23,522	15,244	18,578
7.	Haryana	7,468	5,718	5,648	2,145	3,953	4,484
8.	Himachal Pradesh	3,940	4,310	3,413	3,797	2,707	5,356
9.	Jammu and Kashmir	3,957	5,057	5,630	0	0	4,055
10.	Jharkhand	3,907	3,628	1,583	6,398	11,672	3,839
11.	Karnataka	16,027	16,688	21,025	20,041	16,329	16,790
12.	Kerala	12,698	10,731	10,898	10,771	9,965	16,765
13.	Madhya Pradesh	9,539	7,904	7,137	4,722	3,418	6,702
14.	Maharashtra	20,809	19,925	23,114	24,990	32,799	
15.	North East-1	1,090	587	1,197	1,296	1,061	1,015
16.	North East-2	71	110	206	314	268	266
17.	Orissa	1,646	1,678	1,735	2,339	14,204	1,906
18.	Punjab	6,821	6,401	5,698	7,314	6,868	6,495
19.	Rajasthan	16,686	7,580	13,859	8,228	12,051	17,116
20.	Tamil Nadu	24,545	19,381	22,868	20,931	17,330	18,879
21.	Uttaranchal	3,052	3,707	2,226	5,715	3,943	5,351
22.	Uttar Pradesh East	7,624	7,581	1,847	6,209	6,080	3,487
23.	Uttar Pradesh West	3,284	4,001	3,534	3,927	3,020	3,555
24.	West Bengal	8,959	18,175	7,764	7,419	11,396	9,216
25.	Kolkata	6,257	6,214	4,889	6,338	4,516	4,120
26.	Chennai	6,094	6,227	7,572	9,069	6,484	5,621
Total		214,795	203,745	207,897	217,255	215,094	182,363

[English]

Inter State Water Dispute

178. SHRI K.S. RAO : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the pending Inter-State disputes pertaining to water sharing and related issues;

(b) the losses suffered including potential wastages as a result of such disputes;

(c) whether the recommendation for setting up or River Basin Organisation with authority for regulation and control of the basin as provided under River Boards Act, 1956 has been implemented;

(d) If so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps including nationalisation and inter-linking of rivers proposed to be taken to resolve these disputes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV) : (a) As per the Inter-State River Water Disputes (ISRWD) Act, 1956 the water dispute arises among two or more State Governments when the Central Government receives request under Section 3 of the Act from any of the basin States with regard to existence of water dispute. The details of the present inter-State water disputes ISRWD Act, 1956 are as follows:—

S. No.	River/Rivers	States concerned	Date of Reference to the Central Government	Date of Reference to the Tribunal
1.	Ravi and Beas	Punjab, Haryana and Rajasthan	—	April, 1986
2.	Cauvery	Kerala, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, and Union Territory of Pondicherry	July, 1986	June, 1990
3.	Krishna	Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and Maharashtra	September, 2002- January, 2003	April, 2004
4.	Madel/Mondovi/ Mahadayi	Goa, Karnataka and Maharashtra	July, 2002	—
5.	Vansadhara	Andhra Pradesh and Orissa	February, 2006	—

(b) Inter-State water disputes delay the implementation of projects in the basin and consequently delay the benefits that would have accrued from such projects from such projects.

(c) No Sir,

(d) Does not arise.

(e) No such steps are proposed. However, the mechanism for settlement of water dispute is already available in the form of ISRWD Act, 1956. The ISRWD Act, 1956 has been amended in the year 2002 whereby the adjudication of the dispute by the tribunal has been made time-bound.

Crash In Prices of Agricultural Output

179. SHRI HITEN BARMAN : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is a severe crash in prices of agricultural output this year;

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

(c) whether the rise in agricultural input cost has adversely affected the interest of all sections among the

peasantry; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. Table given below showing monthly Wholesale Price Index (Base Year 1993-94 = 100) for agricultural commodities during the period January to September, 2008, indicates this:—

2008

Commodities	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	Sept.
All Commodities	218.1	219.9	225.5	228.5	231.1	236.6	240	240.7	241.0
Primary Article	224.6	230.6	235.9	238.6	241.9	243.9	248.7	249.3	251.5
Food grains	217.7	219.1	222.3	223.9	222.8	223.8	228.2	228.5	229.9
Cereals	215.7	217.2	219.2	220.9	220.2	221.1	224.7	223.8	225.0
Rice	195.5	196.8	198.9	201.7	200.8	200.7	203.1	203.2	202.9
Wheat	231.4	232.6	233.4	233.4	232.6	233.8	240.8	235.8	241.7
Pulses	232.1	232.8	244.8	246.4	241.7	243.9	253.3	263.2	266.2
Oilseeds	225.6	235.4	244.5	240.6	244.1	255.5	259.8	255.2	249.9
Edible Oil	182.4	186.8	196.2	188.9	186.6	197.7	201.3	196.0	192.1

(c) and (d) Cost of production for major crops like wheat has increased marginally from Rs. 573.58 per quintal in 2006-07 to Rs. 624.46 per quintal in 2007-08. The cost of production for paddy also has increased marginally from Rs. 594.63 per quintal in 2007-08 to Rs. 618.76 per quintal in 2008-09. The Government fixes Minimum Support Price (MSP) for major crops, so that farmers get remunerative price for their produce.

[Translation]

Payment to Defunct NTC mills workers

180. SHRI JIVABHAI A. PATEL : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the total payment made to the workers and officers of the defunct National Textile Corporation (NTC)

mills during each of the last three years and current year, State-wise;

(b) the number of workers and officers in NTC mills who are being paid salaries without any work during the said period, State-wise;

(c) the reasons for failure of the Government to resolve the issue even after the lapse of nearly a decade; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGO VAN) : (a) and (b) Details are given in the enclosed Statement.

(c) The revival scheme of NTC as per Board for

Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) approval and Government decision was to be funded through sale of surplus land and assets. Due to delay/non-receipt of requisite permission from some of the State Governments, sale of surplus land could not take place as per schedule which delayed the implementation of the revival scheme. However the revival scheme has been implemented to a great extent and NTC has been able to reduce its idle manpower considerably. So far, 59,179 employees have taken voluntary retirement amounting to Rs. 2124.42 crores.

(d) According to the revival scheme approved by BIFR/Government of India, NTC is modernising 22 mills on its own and 16 mills are under revival through Joint Venture route. These measures will further reduce idle manpower in the Company.

Statement

(Amount Rs. in lakhs)

Sl. No.	Name of State	No. of employees				Amount paid as idle wages			
		2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	Apr.-Sept., 2008	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	Apr.-Sept., 2008
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1.	Punjab	763	146	131	125	379.02	172.13	194.93	98.07
2.	Rajasthan	146	128	115	217	316.11	165.01	146.04	73.14
3.	Uttar Pradesh	330	289	270	262	306.43	477.3	484.37	270.46
4.	Madhya Pradesh	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
5.	Maharashtra	125	121	118	112	221.94	233.51	247.52	127.2
6.	Gujarat	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
7.	Andhra Pradesh	29	10	9	7	46.05	14	12.56	16.66
8.	Karnataka	24	4	226	213	17.78	6.8	266.61	101.15

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
9. West Bengal		73	58	11	6	48.86	19.76	5.13	2.19
10. Bihar		17	16	11	6	13.25	14.17	9.46	2.5
11. Tamil Nadu		21	14	162	56	16.48	11	39.8	81.07
12. Chhattisgarh		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total		1528	784	1053	1004	1365.92	1113.68	1406.42	772.44

[English]

Pesticides in Fruits and Vegetables

181. SHRI K.C. SINGH "BABA" : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government with the consultation of State Governments has conducted inspection and study of pesticides and other harmful substance in fruits and vegetables recently in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the percentage of various harmful substances found in such inspection and study?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA) : (a) Government of India is implementing a central sector scheme, "Monitoring of Pesticide Residues at National Level" in which the pesticide residue levels in fruit and vegetable market samples in the country are being estimated since October, 2006.

(b) Details of pesticide residues detected in fruit and vegetable samples collected from 58 mandis and wholesale markets from different regions in the country from October, 2006 to July, 2008 are given in the enclosed Statement.

(c) Out of 5,462 samples of fruits and vegetables analysed 262 (4.8%) samples were found to contain pesticide residues above the Maximum Residue Limit (MRL) fixed under the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act, 1954.

Statement

Commodity	Samples analysed	Pesticide residues above Maximum Residue Limit (MRL) under the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act (PFA), 1954
Vegetables	4,334	249
Fruits	1,128	13

[Translation]

National Food Security Mission

182. DR. DHIRENDRA AGARWAL : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has carried out any work under National Food Security Mission in Jharkhand;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of progress made under the said scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The National Food Security Mission - Rice (NFSM-Rice) is in operation in Jharkhand in 5 districts namely Gumla, Hazaribagh, Ranchi, Simdega and Singhbhum. During the year 2008-09, an amount of Rs. 1276.89 lakhs has been allocated to State for implementation of NFSM-Rice in the State. In addition, an amount of Rs. 30.00 lakhs has also been allocated for publicity. Against these, amount of Rs. 950.412 lakh for NFSM-Rice and Rs. 30.00 lakh for publicity has been released so far.

[English]

Decline in Cashew Production

183. SHRIMATI C.S. SUJATHA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the production of cashew in the country has been decreasing over the years;

(b) if so, whether the Government has formulated any scheme to provide financial assistance through Horticulture Mission for expanding cashew cultivation;

(c) if so, whether Kerala State Agency for Cashew

Cultivation (KSACC) has submitted proposal for financial assistance for enhancing cashew cultivation in the State of Kerala; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA) : (a) No, Sir. A Statement showing detailed area and production of cashew for the last five years (from 2003-04 to 2007-08) is enclosed.

(b) The Government of India has been implementing two Centrally Sponsored Schemes viz., National Horticulture Mission and Technology Mission on Integrated Development of Horticulture in North Eastern States, Sikkim, Uttaranchal, Jammu and Kashmir and Himachal Pradesh (TMNE) to provide financial assistance for horticulture crops including cashew. The assistance is given for activities like area expansion, development of high yielding varieties, demonstration/dissemination of production technology, etc. under the schemes.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. Government of Kerala has been requested to include the proposal as a part of the State's Annual Action Plan for assistance under the National Horticulture Mission.

Statement

Area, Production and Productivity of Cashewnut in India

A — Area in 000 Ha

P — Production in 000 MT

APY — Average Productivity per Hectare in Kg.

State	2003-04			2004-05			2005-06			2006-07			2007-08		
	A	P	APY	A	P	APY	A	P	APY	A	P	APY	A	P	APY
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
Kerala	101	95	890	102	64	900	80	67	900	80	72	900	84	78	900

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
Karnataka	94	46	500	95	43	680	100	45	700	102	52	700	103	56	710
Goa	55	32	690	55	26	660	55	27	690	55	29	690	55	31	700
Maharashtra	148	120	1100	160	174	1200	160	183	1300	164	197	1500	167	210	1500
Tamil Nadu	95	51	600	105	53	610	121	56	640	123	60	670	123	65	700
Andhra Pradesh	136	95	750	150	88	840	170	92	880	171	99	890	171	107	900
Orissa	124	71	850	126	74	810	120	78	860	125	84	860	131	90	860
West Bengal	9	9	760	9	8	800	10	10	950	10	10	1000	10	10	1000
Others	18	16	790	18	14	800	21	15	900	24	17	700	24	18	800
Total	780	535	800	820	544	810	837	573	815	854	620	820	868	665	860

Constitution of Consumer Protection Councils

184. SHRI K. FRANCIS GEORGE : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether a number of States have failed to constitute the State and District Consumer Protection Councils;

(b) if so, the details thereof and reasons therefor indicating the States that have already set up the said Councils and those that are yet to constitute the said Councils; and

(c) the steps taken to ensure constitutions of the said Councils in all the States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE

MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI TASLIMUDDIN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The details of constitution of State and District Consumer Protection Councils in States/UTs is given in the enclosed Statement. As regards the reasons for non-constitution of these Councils in respect of each State/UT, it is stated that in terms of section 7 and 8(A) of the Consumer Protection Act, 1986, the States/UTs have been empowered to establish the State and District Consumer Protection Councils. The States and UTs are constantly being pursued to set up councils, by this Department.

(c) The Central Government has been pursuing with States and Union Territories to set up these Councils. This is being regularly done through written communications and in meetings of State Secretaries-in-charge of Consumer Affairs.

Statement**Establishment of SCPCs and DCPCs**

Sl. No.	Name of States/UTs	SCPCs	DCPCs
1	2	3	4
1.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	Constituted	Constituted
2.	Andhra Pradesh	Not constituted	Not constituted.
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	Constituted	Constituted
4.	Assam	Constituted	Constituted in 22 out of 23 Districts
5.	Bihar	Not Constituted	Not constituted
6.	Chandigarh	Not constituted	Not constituted
7.	Chhattisgarh	Constituted	Constituted
8.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	Constituted	Constituted in 1 out of 2 Districts
9.	Daman and Diu	Constituted	Constituted
10.	Delhi	Not constituted	Not Constituted
11.	Goa	Constituted	Constituted
12.	Gujarat	Not constituted	Constituted
13.	Haryana	Not constituted	Not constituted
14.	Himachal Pradesh	Constituted	Not constituted
15.	Jammu and Kashmir	Constituted	Not constituted
16.	Jharkhand	Not constituted	Not constituted
17.	Karnataka	Not constituted	Not constituted
18.	Kerala	Not Constituted	Constituted
19.	Lakshadweep	Constituted	Constituted

1	2	3	4
20.	Madhya Pradesh	Not constituted	Not constituted
21.	Maharashtra	Not constituted	Constituted in 2 out of 35 Districts
22.	Manipur	Not Constituted	Not constituted
23.	Meghalaya	Constituted	Constituted
24.	Mizoram	Constituted	Constituted
25.	Nagaland	Constituted	Constituted
26.	Orissa	Not constituted	Constituted in 4 out of 30 districts
27.	Puducherry	Not constituted	Not constituted
28.	Punjab	Not constituted	Constituted in 17 out of 20 districts
29.	Rajasthan	Constituted	Constituted
30.	Sikkim	Constituted	Constituted
31.	Tamil Nadu	Not constituted	Not constituted
32.	Tripura	Constituted	Not constituted
33.	Uttarakhand	Not constituted	Not constituted
34.	Uttar Pradesh	Not constituted	Not constituted
35.	West Bengal	Constituted	Constituted

**Assistance for Kerala Dairy Farmers
Welfare Board**

185. SHRI P. RAJENDRAN : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government has received any proposal from Government of Kerala seeking financial assistance for Kerala Dairy Farmers Welfare Fund for implementing an insurance policy for dairy farmers; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and actions taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI TASLIMUDDIN) : (a) and (b) No such proposal has been received from the State Government of Kerala. However, Kerala Dairy Farmers Welfare Fund (KDFWF) vide its letter dated 2-1-2008 had submitted a proposal for 100% financial assistance from Union Government at a total cost of Rs. 10,859.75 lakh covering activities like pension, family pension, assistance for deformity, comprehensive insurance coverage, marriage

assistance, assistance to cremation activities, educational scholarship and other benefits for a period of 5 years commencing from 2007-08 to 2011-12. KDFWF was informed on 24.1.2008 that there is no scheme being implemented by this Department under which such a proposal can be financed.

Expansion of National Child Labour Project

186. SHRI K.C. PALLANI SHAMY : Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the number of child labourers rescued during each of the last three years and current year, State-wise;

(b) the norms prescribed for the selection of districts for implementing National Child Labour Project (NCLP);

(c) the number and names of districts covered under NCLP in the country, State-wise;

(d) whether the Government proposes to expend the NCLP and the fund allocated for the purpose to all the districts where child labourers are still prevailing during Eleventh Plan;

(e) if so, the details thereof alongwith the steps taken by the Government in this regard; and

(f) the number of child labourers are likely to be benefited therefrom alongwith the funds allocated for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES) : (a) Under the National Child Labour Project (NCLP) Scheme, children engaged in hazardous jobs are rescued and withdrawn from work. The number of such children enrolled in the special schools under the scheme during the last three years is as per the statement-I enclosed.

(b) The districts are identified on the basis of endemicity of child labour as per the Census data and also on the recommendation of the concerned State Government.

(c) The National Child Labour Project (NCLP) is being implemented in 250 districts of the country for the rehabilitation of working children. State-wise details are as per the statement-II enclosed.

(d) to (f) Government has proposed expansion of National Child Labour Project (NCLP) Scheme to all child labour endemic districts during the XI Five Year Plan, in order to increase the coverage of child labour under this scheme.

Statement-I

Coverage of Child Labour under NCLP

Sl. No	Name of the State	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	37882	63056	27503
2.	Assam	4750	4555	4555
3.	Bihar	8500	8500	34650
4.	Chhattisgarh	11639	11002	10988
5.	Gujarat	0	5650	5650
6.	Jharkhand	7375	8856	8341
7.	Karnataka	13212	13790	13790
8.	Maharashtra	6615	8649	8649
9.	Madhya Pradesh	17404	19688	22248
10.	Orissa	83557	33212	29654
11.	Punjab	4657	4308	4308

1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5
12.	Rajasthan	19545	39601	39601	14.	Uttar Pradesh	34171	71479	71479
13.	Tamil Nadu	17540	16522	16522	15.	West Bengal	17095	28401	31284

Statement-II*List of Districts covered under NCLP Scheme*

Sl. No.	Name of States	No. of Districts	Name of the Districts
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	23	Ananatapur, Chittoor, Cuddapah, East Godavari, Guntur, Hyderabad, Karimnagar, Kumool, Medak, Nalgonda, Khammam, Nellore, Nizamabad, Prakasam, Rangareddy, Srikakulam, Vizianagaram, Vishakhapatnam, Warangal, West Godavari, Mehbubnagar, Adilabad and Krishna
2.	Assam	3	Nagaon, Kamrup and Lakhimpur
3.	Bihar	24	Nalanda, Saharsa, Jamui, Katihar, Araria, Gaya, East Champaran, West Champaran, Madhepura, Patna, Supaul, Samastipur, Madhubani, Darbhanga, Muzaffarpur, Nawada, Khagaria, Sitamarhi, Kishanganj, Begusarai, Banka, Saran, Purnia and Bhagalpur
4.	Chhattisgarh	8	Durg, Bilaspur, Rajnandgaon, Surguja, Raigarh, Dantewada, Raipur and Korba
5.	Gujarat	9	Surat, Panchmahals, Bhuj, Banas Kantha, Dahod, Vadodara, Bhavnagar, Ahmedabad and Rajkot
6.	Haryana	3	Gurgaon, Faridabad and Panipat
7.	Jammu and Kashmir	3	Jammu, Srinagar and Udhampur
8.	Jharkhand	9	Garwah, Sahibganj, Dumka, Pakur, West Singhbhum (Chaibasa), Gumla, Palamu, Ranchi and Hazaribagh
9.	Karnataka	17	Bijapur, Raichur, Dharwad, Bangalore Rural, Bangalore Urban, Belgaum, Koppal, Tumkur, Devangere, Haveri, Mysore, Bagalkot, Chitradurga, Gulbarga, Bellary, Kolar and Mandya.

1	2	3	4
10.	Madhya Pradesh	17	Mandsaur, Gwallior, Ujjain, Barwani, Rewa, Dhar, East Nimar (Khandwa), Rajgarh, Chhindwara, Shivpuri, Sidhi, Guna, Betul, Shajapur, Ratlam, West Nimar (Khargon) and Jhabua
11.	Maharashtra	13	Solapur, Thane, Pune, Buldhana, Sangli, Parbani, Jalgaon, Nandurbar, Nanded, Nasik, Yavatmal, Dhule and Beed.
12.	Mizoram	1	Aizwal
13.	Nagaland	1	Dimapur
14.	Orissa	18	Angul, Bargarh, Bolangir, Deogarh, Gajapati (Udayagiri), Ganjam, Jharsuguda, Kalahandi, Koraput, Malkangiri, Mayurbhanj, Nabarangpur, Nuapada, Rayagada, Sambalpur, Sonepur, Cuttack and Balasore
15.	Punjab	3	Jalandhar, Ludhiana and Amritsar
16.	Rajasthan	23	Jaipur, Udaipur, Tonk, Jodhpur, Ajmer, Alwar, Jalor, Churu, Nagaur, Chittaurgarh, Banswara, Dhaulpur, Sikar, Dungarpur, Bharatpur, Bikaner, Jhunjhunu, Bundi, Jhalawar, Pall, Bhilwara, Ganganagar and Barmer.
17.	Tamil Nadu	13	Chidambaranar (Tuticorin), Coimbatore, Dharmapuri, Vellore, Pudukkottai, Salem, Tiruchirapalli, Tirunelveli, Krishnagiri, Chennai, Erode, Dindigul and Theni.
18.	Uttar Pradesh	42	Varanasi, Mirzapur, Bhadohi, Bulandshahar, Saharanpur, Azamgarh, Kaushambi, Gonda, Kheri, Bahraich, Balrampur, Hardoi, Barabanki, Sitapur, Faizabad, Badaun, Gorakhpur, Kushinagar, Shajahanpur, Kannauj, Rae Bareilly, Unnao, Sultanpur, Fatehpur, Shravasti, Pratapgarh, Basti, Sonbhadra, Mau, Bijnor, Banda, Ghaziabad, Jaunpur, Rampur, Bareilly, Lucknow, Meerut, Etawah, Agra, Ghazipur, Mathura and Etah.
19.	Uttaranchal	1	Dehradun
20.	West Bengal	19	Burdwan, North Dinajpur, South Dinajpur, North 24-Parganas, South 24-Parganas, Kolkata, Murshidabad, Midnapore, Maldah, Bankura, Purulia, Birbhum, Nadia, Hugli, Howrah, Jalpaiguri, Cooch Bihar, East Midnapore and Darjeeling
Total		250	

Status to Animal Husbandry

187. SHRI SURESH ANGADI : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

- (a) whether it is proposed to treat animal husbandry at par with farming;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI TASLIMUDDIN) : (a) to (c) Animal Husbandry is a State subject. The State Governments have to take a decision in this regard. However, the Agriculture Minister has written to Chief Ministers of States to treat poultry activities at par with agriculture. States of Orissa, Mizoram, Uttar Pradesh, Kerala and Goa have accorded agricultural status to poultry.

Decrease in Production due to Soil Erosion

188. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the possibilities of decrease in agricultural production rate due to soil erosion in the country have been assessed;
- (b) if so, the estimated average annual decrease in production rate in the country, as a result thereof; and
- (c) the amount of annual loss being suffered by the agriculture sector as a result of this decrease?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA) : (a) to (c) Yes,

As per study conducted by Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), out of a total geographical area of 328.60 million ha., about 146.82 million ha. area is subject to various kinds of land degradation in the country. The average annual productivity of agricultural land decreases with increase in soil erosion, being 2210, 1490 and 670 Kg. per ha. under low, medium and high erosion categories respectively as per details below:—

Status of erosion	Soil loss (Tonnes/ha.)	Area under water erosion (Million ha.)	Productivity (Kg./ha.)
Low	Less than 10	3.15	2210
Medium	10-20	15.29	1490
High	20-40	67.45	670
Very High	More than 40	7.81	Not fit for agriculture
Total		93.70	

The average rate of soil erosion in the country is 16.4 tonnes per hectare per year. Out of total eroded soil, 61% simply moves from one place to another, nearly 29% is lost permanently to the sea and remaining 10% is deposited in the reservoirs. The soil erosion leads to land degradation in upper reaches of the river system, whereas when deposited at various locations of river system in the downstream, it may increase the soil fertility. About 5.3 billion tonnes of soil and around 8.40 million tonnes of plant nutrients are displaced annually through water erosion. Rough estimate also show that agricultural loss from soil erosion varies to the tune of Rs. 5200-8400 crore per annum in the country.

Rajiv Gandhi Shilpi Swasthya Bima Yojana

189. SHRI E.G. SUGAVANAM : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has launched Rajiv Gandhi Shilpi Swasthya Bima Yojana for the benefits of artisans and their families;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the number of persons benefited under the Yojana since its inception, year-wise and State-wise;

(c) whether the pre-existing disease, maternity benefits, accidents and other medical benefits are proposed to be covered under the Yojana; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVA) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Under the Rajiv Gandhi Shilpi Swasthya Bima Yojana scheme, all craft persons whether male or female, upto the age of 80 years are eligible to be covered under the scheme which provides for a medical cover of Rs. 15000/- including cashless facility and OPD etc., to an artisanal family of four comprising self, and any other three members of the family from amongst the dependent parents, spouse, and children. Out of the total annual premium of Rs. 800 plus service tax, the Government of India contributes Rs. 650/- plus service tax for General Category artisans and Rs. 725/- plus service tax in case of artisans belonging to SC/ST/BPL and NER. The general category artisan contributes Rs. 150/- and those belonging to SC/ST/BPL and NER contribute Rs. 75/- towards the annual premium. Besides, the insured artisan is given an insurance cover of Rs. 1.00 lakh for accidental death/permanent disability. Year-wise and State-wise details of artisanal families covered is given in the enclosed Statement-I.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The pre-existing disease, maternity benefits accident and other medical benefits are already covered in the existing scheme. The details are given in the enclosed Statement-II.

Statement-I

*Year-wise and State-wise details of
Artisanal Families Covered*

Artisans covered under RGSSBY

Sl. No.	State	2006-07	2007-08	Total
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	3,865	19,097	22,962
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	170	1,336	1,506
3.	Assam	2,894	157,343	160,237
4.	Bihar	1,654	6,021	7,675
5.	Chhattisgarh	242	930	1,172
6.	Delhi	439	1,934	2,373
7.	Gujarat	6,280	4,353	10,633
8.	Goa	318	0	318
9.	Haryana	822	1,754	2,576
10.	Himachal Pradesh	1,130	1,105	2,235
11.	Jammu and Kashmir	1,710	15,333	17,043
12.	Jharkhand	1,342	3,055	4,397
13.	Karnataka	1,442	15,034	16,476
14.	Kerala	1,804	11,247	13,051
15.	Madhya Pradesh	1,149	4,937	6,086
16.	Maharashtra	987	0	987
17.	Manipur	3,487	44,876	48,363
18.	Meghalaya	184	7,341	7,525

1	2	3	4	5
19. Mizoram		150	386	536
20. Nagaland		925	1,957	2,882
21. Orissa		2,611	5,654	8,265
22. Pondicherry		180	3,262	3,442
23. Punjab		687	6,646	7,333
24. Rajasthan		2,777	11,102	13,879
25. Sikkim		123	316	439
26. Tamil Nadu		3,549	26,360	29,909
27. Tripura		441	12,443	12,884
28. Uttar Pradesh		4,945	298,074	303,019
29. Uttaranchal		2,269	5,996	8,265
30. West Bengal		3,343	214,108	217,451
Total		51,919	8,82,000	933,919

Statement-II

*Details of benefits Medi-Claims of
for Artisanal Families*

BENEFITS

A. Personal Accident : Upto Rs. 1.00 lakh

Death : Sum Assured : Rs. 1.00 lakh

(b) Total and irrecoverable loss of: any one limb by physical separation

Sum assured Rs. 1,00,000/-

(c) Total and irrecoverable loss of : any one limb without physical separation

Sum assured Rs. 1,00,000/-

B. Medi-claim:—

Particulars	Amount (in Rs.)
Annual Limit Per Family (1+3)	15000/-
Sub Limits per Family	
All pre-existing Diseases + New Diseases	15,000/-
Maternity Benefits (per child for the first two)	2,500/-
Dental treatment	250/-
Eye treatment	75/-
Spectacles	250/-
Domiciliary Hospitalization	4,000/-
Ayurvedic/Unani/Homeopathic/Siddha	4,000/-
Pre-Hospitalization and Post Hospitalization	15,000/-
Baby coverage	500/-
OPD	7,500/-
Limit per illness	7,500/-

EXCLUSIONS:

Corrective cosmetic surgery or treatment, HIV, AIDS, Sterility, Venereal diseases, Intentional self-injury, use of intoxicating drug or alcohol. War riot Strike Terrorism acts, and nuclear risks.

National Water Policy

190. SHRI UDAY SINGH : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government proposes to review the National Water Policy;

(b) If so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the existing National Water Policy was found to be inadequate to resolve the various water issues; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the time by which a comprehensive new National Water Policy is likely to be announced and implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV) : (a) to (d) The National Water Policy, 2002 (NWP) was adopted by the National Water Resources Council on 1st April, 2002. The NWP addresses the various issues related to development and management of both surface and ground water resources. The NWP states that it may be revised periodically as and when need arises. Observations/views of a number of people were received in respect of NWP from time to time and they were duly examined by the Ministry of Water Resources. The examination of these views did not call for immediate need for reviewing the NWP. The National Action Plan on Climate Change envisages revisiting the National Water Policy in consultation with States to ensure basin level management strategies to deal with variability in rainfall and river flow due to climate change.

AIBP Assistance for Sardar Sarovar Project

191. SHRI MAHESH KANODIA :
SHRI BHUPENDRASINH SOLANKI :

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) the details of Central assistance allocated to Gujarat for Sardar Sarovar Project under Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme (AIBP) during the last three years and the current year, year-wise;

(b) whether any amount under the said assistance is outstanding against the Union Government;

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

(d) the time by which it is likely to be released?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV) : (a) to (d) The Central Assistance under the Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme (AIBP) is released on year to year basis based on AIBP proposals submitted by the State Government in accordance with the guidelines of the Programme. The central assistance released to the Sardar Sarovar Project during 2005-06 to 2007-08 is Rs. 339.60 crore, Rs. 121.8885 crore and Rs. 585.72 crore respectively. During the current year (2008-09), release of Rs. 251.90 crore has been made on 10th April 2008 which was based on the pending demand for previous year (2007-08).

Funding under AIBP

192. SHRI ARJUN SETHI : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether there have been demand by some of the States in the country to change the present pattern of funding under Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme (AIBP) to make it more favourable for the States as to meet their financial crunch;

(b) if so, the details of changes made therein;

(c) the names of the States that have taken advantage of the present scheme and brought more areas under irrigation;

(d) whether the Kalahandi Bolangir Koraput (KBK) areas in the State of Orissa have received funds under the scheme; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV) : (a) There have been demand for change of funding pattern for the Projects included in Prime Minister's Package for agrarian distress districts from 25% to 90% of Project cost.

- (b) No Sir, no changes have been made.
- (c) 28 States have availed Central Assistance so far under Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme (AIBP) to bring more area under irrigation. The names are given in the enclosed Statement.
- (d) Yes Sir.
- (e) Total Central Loan Assistance (CLA)/Grant amounting to Rs. 1094.9117 crore has been released so far to projects benefiting Kalahandi-Bolangir-Koraput area in the State of Orissa.

Statement

1. Andhra Pradesh
2. Arunachal Pradesh
3. Assam
4. Bihar
5. Chhattisgarh
6. Goa
7. Gujarat
8. Haryana
9. Himachal Pradesh
10. Jammu and Kashmir
11. Jharkhand
12. Karnataka
13. Kerala
14. Madhya Pradesh
15. Maharashtra
16. Manipur

17. Meghalaya
18. Mizoram
19. Nagaland
20. Orissa
21. Punjab
22. Rajasthan
23. Sikkim
24. Tripura
25. Tamil Nadu
26. Uttar Pradesh
27. Uttarakhand
28. West Bengal

Loss to Fruit Growers

193. SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether thunderstorms have adversely affected output of mango, apple, banana and other fruits in some parts of the country recently;

(b) if so, the estimated loss to the fruit growers as a result thereof; and

(c) the assistance provided/to be provided to the affected farmers, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA) : (a) No State Government except the State of Maharashtra has reported such loss.

(b) As per primary estimation, fruit growers have suffered loss of over approximately 400 ha. in the State of Maharashtra.

(c) No proposal for seeking assistance has been received.

Jakhau Fishing Harbour Project

194. SHRI P.S. GADHAVI :
 SHRI MAHESH KANODIA :
 SHRI BHUPENDRASINH SOLANKI :
 SHRI JASUBHAI DHANABHAI BARAD :
 SHRI HARILAL MADHAVAJI BHAI PATEL :
 SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government has accorded approval to Jakhau Fishing Harbour Project (JFHP) as 100 percent Centrally Sponsored Scheme;

(b) whether the initial cost of the project has escalated due to delayed environment clearance thereby raising the amount to Rs. 41.48 lakhs, which is yet to be paid to the Government of Gujarat;

(c) if so, whether the Union Government has assured that the enhanced cost could be considered in view of the fact that the original estimates were based on 1990-91 rates;

(d) whether the Government of Gujarat has sent the detailed report regarding revised estimated cost; and

(e) if so, the time by which the revised cost is likely to be released to the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI TASLIMUDDIN) : (a) Yes, Sir. The

Union Government had in May 1993 accorded approval for construction of fishing harbour at Jakhau at an estimated cost of Rs. 1143.60 lakh with 100 percent Central assistance.

(b) The project was to be completed by May 1996 within the approved cost of Rs. 1143.60 lakh. However, the Government of Gujarat has revised the cost estimates several times with the latest revised cost of estimate put at Rs. 3483.90 lakh. The State Government has attributed the cost escalation to delay in obtaining environmental clearances as one of the reasons.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e) The Government of Gujarat has not submitted a comprehensive and final revised cost estimate proposal as requested by the Government of India.

Road Connectivity between Gujarat's Kutch and Pakistan

195. SHRI VIKRAMBHAI ARJANBHAI MADAM : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government proposes to undertake road connectivity between Kutch and Pakistan; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

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

(a) No Sir. There is no such proposal.

(b) Does not arise.

Effects of Mobile Phones on Health

196. SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU :
 SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the electromagnetic waves emitted by mobile phones can seriously damage the tissues of the users;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has issued guidelines asking manufacturers and service providers to avoid advertisements showing children and pregnant women using telephone;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether any inquiry has been made in this regard; and

(f) if so, the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA) : (a) to (f) The World Health Organisation (WHO) fact sheet No. 304 of May, 2006 states that the radiations from mobile base stations, phones and wireless networks are far below the permitted levels and also the research results collected to date, confirm that there is no convincing scientific evidence that the weak RF signals from base stations/phones and wireless networks cause adverse health effects.

It is further mentioned that the report of the committee constituted as per the orders of Hon'ble High Court, Mumbai, to study the effects of radiations from mobile phone towers/phones and related aspects, under Director General, Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) indicates that 'overall there is not enough evidence to show direct health hazards of RF exposures from mobile base stations/phones.

Government has not issued any guidelines asking manufacturer and services providers to avoid advertisements showing children and pregnant women using mobile telephones.

MSP for Agricultural Products

197. SHRI PRABODH PANDA :
SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR :

SHRI CHANDRABHAN SINGH :
SHRI MADAN LAL SHARMA :
PROF. M. RAMADASS :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has announced the Minimum Support Price (MSP) for agricultural products for the year 2008-2009;

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

(c) the details of the recommendations made in this regard by the Commission for Agricultural Cost and Prices (CACP) particularly with reference to paddy;

(d) whether the Government has proposed to provide additional price as a bonus for different agricultural products; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA) : (a) to (c) The Government has announced Minimum Support Price (MSP) for the Kharif crops of 2008-09 season. The MSPs recommended by the Commission for Agricultural Cost and Prices (CACP) and announced by the Government are as follows:—

(Rs. per quintal)

Commodity	Variety	MSP Recommended by CACP	MSP Announced by the Government
1	2	3	4
Paddy	Common	1000	850 *
	Grade A	1050	880 *

i	2	3	4
Jowar	Hybrid	840	840
	Maldandi	860	860
Bajra	—	840	840
Maize	—	840	840
Ragi	—	915	915
Tur (Arhar)	—	2000	2000
Moong	—	2520	2520
Urad	—	2520	2520
Groundnut- in-shell	—	2100	2100
Soyabean	Yellow	1390	1390
	Black	1350	1350
Sunflower Seed	—	2215	2215
Sesamum	—	2750	2750
Nigerseed	—	2405	2405
Cotton	Stable length (mm) of 24.5 – 25.5 and Micronaire value of 4.3 – 5.1	2500	2500
	Staple length (mm) of 29.5 – 30.5 and Micronaire value of 3.5 – 4.3	3000	3000

*Bonus of Rs. 50 per quintal has been approved.

(d) and (e) The issue of bonus over and above the MSP is considered by the Government from time to time

depending upon requirements of Public Distribution Scheme (PDS), stock situation with procurement agencies and other market factors. However, a proposal to grant bonus of Rs. 50 per quintal for paddy for 2008-09 season has been approved, over and above the MSP.

Shortage of SIM Cards

198. SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is an acute shortage of SIM cards in the country including Basirhat sub-division of North 24 Parganas District of West Bengal;

(b) if so, whether the Government has taken any remedial measures to augment its supply in the country; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA) : (a) No Sir. SIM cards are available on demand in all circles of BSNL including Basirhat Sub-division of North 24 Parganas District of West Bengal. There is no shortage of SIM cards in MTNL also.

(b) and (c) Do not arise in view of (a) above.

National Coastal Protection Project

199. SHRI HARIBHAU RATHOD : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of Maharashtra has submitted a project proposal amounting to Rs. 194 crore under National Coastal Protection Project;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the time by which it is likely to be approved and funds released for the purpose;

(c) whether the Asian Development Bank (ADB) has approved some amount as technical assistance for preparing Coastal Protection and Management Project; and

(d) if so, the details thereof indicating the quantum and adequacy of these funds?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV) : (a) to (d) Water being a State subject, works for anti-erosion measures are taken up by the respective state Governments from their own resources and according to their own priorities. However, realizing the severity of sea-erosion problems in certain critical reaches of the coast line and on the recommendation of National Coastal Advisory Committee, it was decided to obtain information from all maritime States for preparation of a proposal for National Coastal Protection Project (NCP) and seek external funding. Based on information provided by States, an approach paper was prepared and sent to Planning Commission in July 2004 in this regard. This, inter-alia, included the proposal from Government of Maharashtra for Rs. 193.80 Crores.

In March 2005, the Planning Commission forwarded the proposal to Department of Economic Affairs for posing it to an appropriate Agency for external funding. After due consideration, the Department of Economic Affairs forwarded the same to the Asian Development Bank (ADB).

ADB has approved Project Preparatory Technical Assistance (PPTA) in respect of works in the States of Goa, Karnataka and Maharashtra. An agreement has already been signed between ADB and the Department of Economic Affairs on 3rd March, 2008.

[Translation]

Pisciculture Development Agency

200. SHRI CHANDRABHAN SINGH : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received any proposal from the Government of Madhya Pradesh for sanction of Rs. 302.677 lakhs as central share and revalidation of Rs. 4.423 lakhs during the current financial year for development of water creatures in fresh water under the scheme of Pisciculture Development Agency;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which funds are likely to be provided for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI TASLIMUDDIN) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The State Government of Madhya Pradesh had sent a proposal for sanction of Rupees 298.29 lakh as Central share and revalidation of Rupees 4.42 lakh of unspent balance under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Development of Inland Fisheries and Aquaculture during the current year. The proposal was considered by the government and an amount of Rupees 100 lakh has already been released to the state government. Rupees 4.42 lakh lying as unspent with the state government under the Scheme has also been revalidated.

Outstanding Sugarcane Dues

201. YOGI ADITYA NATH : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether huge amount due to sugarcane growers are outstanding against various sugar mills in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps being taken by the Government for earliest payment of said arrears?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE

MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA) : (a) and (b) A sum of Rs. 2624 crore was outstanding as cane price arrears payable to sugarcane growers for the cane supplied in sugar season 2007-08 as on 31.7.2008. The outstanding cane price arrears for the sugar season 2006-07 stood at Rs. 230 crore and for the period prior to sugar season 2006-07, the cane price arrears, as on 31.7.2008, were Rs. 226 crore.

(c) The Central Government has taken a slew of measures to help the sugar industry in liquidating the outstanding cane price arrears payable by the sugar mills to the cane growers, which, inter alia, are as under:

- (i) A buffer stock of 50 lakh tonnes of sugar was created for a period of one year. Under this buffer subsidy scheme, the Central Government reimburses the interest, insurance and storage charges to sugar factories for the quantity allocated and maintained as buffer. Further, the banks provide additional credit on creation of buffer stock by waiving the margin requirement. The buffer subsidy so disbursed to sugar factories is to be utilized for cane price payment as a first priority and additional credit is to be exclusively used for cane price payment; and
- (ii) Export assistance to defray expenditure on internal transport, marketing and handling charges and ocean freight @ Rs. 1,350/- per ton for sugar factories in coastal States and Rs. 1,450/- per ton for those in non-coastal States subject to actuals by road/rail for exports to the neighboring countries has been provided from 19.04.2007 upto 30.09.2008. The assistance so provided is also to be utilized for cane price payment as a first priority; and
- (iii) A loan scheme of about Rs. 3800 crore to extend financial assistance to sugar undertakings has been implemented to provide additional liquidity support to the extent of notional excise duty on

production of sugar in 2006-07 and 2007-08 sugar seasons exclusively earmarked for cane arrears/dues of 2006-07 and 2007-08 sugar seasons respectively.

- (iv) The NABARD package of 2005 for restructuring of term loans of co-operative sugar factories has been expanded to include cooperative sugar factories not included earlier in the package. It was also decided to convert outstanding loans on account of harvesting and transport charges and short margin appearing in the factories' accounts as on 01.04.2007 to five year term loans without interest subvention.

Embankments

202. SHRI SHISHUPAL N. PATLE :
SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY :
SHRI MOHD. TAHIR :
SHRI KAILASH NATH SINGH YADAV :

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

- (a) the total length of embankment in kilometers, constructed in the country so far;
- (b) the total land area in hectares already protected from floods so far;
- (c) the steps taken to check breach in the embankments;
- (d) whether any assessment has been made in regard to area of land damaged due to floods;
- (e) if so, the details and outcome thereof; and
- (f) the details of total amount of funds allocated and released for flood control?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV) : (a) and (b) As per the Report of the Working

Group on Water Resources for the XI Five Year Plan, constituted by Planning Commission, a total of 33929 kilometers of embankments has been constructed in different parts of the country and a result of that, an area of 18.22 million hectares has been provided reasonable protection against floods, up to March, 2006.

(c) Flood Management being a State subject, the schemes for flood control are planned, funded and executed by the State Governments themselves as per their own priorities out of their State plans funds which are made available to them through Planning Commission. In order to provide additional assistance to flood affected states for flood management and erosion control works in critical reaches, the Government of India has also approved a state sector scheme namely "Flood management Programme" for implementation during XI plan.

(d) and (e) As per information provided by different states, average area of 7.509 million hectares has been assessed as affected annually due to floods.

(f) As per the Report of the Working Group on Water Resources for the XI Five Year Plan, constituted by Planning Commission, a total of Rs. 5965 crore was allocated during X Plan for flood management both in Central and State sector, against which actual expenditure of Rs. 4468 crore has been reported upto end of X Five year Plan.

[English]

Tele-Density in Urban and Rural Areas

203. SHRI AMITAVA NANDY :
SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the rural tele-density is extremely low as compared to the urban tele-density in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the tele-

density of rural and urban areas during the current year; and

(c) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to remove the disparity of tele-density between the rural and urban areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA) : (a) and (b) As compared to urban tele-density, rural tele-density in the country is low. The details are furnished below:—

	As on 31.03.2008	As on 31.08.2008
Rural tele-density	9.46%	11.18%
Urban tele-density	66.39%	74.33%
Overall tele-density	26.22%	29.83%

(c) The following steps are taken/being taken by the Government to improve the tele-density in rural areas:—

- (i) Support from universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF) for provisioning of Rural Direct Exchange Lines (RDELs) in all the 1685 net cost positive Short Distance Charging Areas (SDCAs).
- (ii) A scheme has been launched by USO Fund to provide subsidy support for setting up and managing 7871 number of infrastructure sites (towers) in 500 districts spread over 27 states, for provision of mobile services in the specified rural and remote areas, where there is no existing fixed wireless or mobile coverage in the country. Also, about 11000 number of additional infrastructure sites (towers) are proposed to be installed in the second phase.
- (iii) Relaxation of norms by Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) for laying cable upto 5 kms of

exchanges against the earlier standard of 2.5 Kms based on demand and techno-commercial consideration.

- (iv) Large-scale deployment of WLL network by BSNL in rural areas.
- (v) Deployment of Mobile Network along all the Highways by BSNL to give incidental coverage to large parts of rural areas.
- (vi) Remote and far-flung areas, which are not possible to be covered with terrestrial technology, are planned by BSNL to be covered with Digital Satellite Phone Terminals (DSPTs).
- (vii) In addition to the efforts made by BSNL, the private operators are also offering their services to meet the demand for telephone.

[Translation]

Improper use of money by Sugar Mills

204. SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Comptroller and Auditor General of India (C&AG) has made adverse remarks on the improper use of the shareholders' money by the cooperative sector sugar mills in Maharashtra;

(b) if so, whether the Government has taken any step for recovery of the amount payable to the farmers as observed by C&AG;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether any inquiry has been conducted into the incident on the basis of the observations of C&AG; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE

MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA) : (a) to (e) Information is being collected from Government of Maharashtra and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Exemption In Access Deficit Charges

205. SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has proposed to consider to fully exempt the telecom companies from paying the Access Deficit Charge (ADC);

(b) if so, the total benefits of this exemption accruing to the common consumer in this regard; and

(c) if not, the reasons thereof;

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA) : (a) As per regulation issued by Telecom Regulatory Authority of India on 27th March 2008, no Access Deficit Charge (ADC) is payable with effect from 1st October 2008.

(b) and (c) Till 30th September 2008, ADC was applicable on incoming international calls. The charges for such calls are paid by subscribers in foreign countries. Therefore benefit of this exemption does not accrue to the common consumer in India.

Recruitment Process in Armed Forces

206. SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to bring about comprehensive change in recruitment process for officers in the Armed Forces;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the said proposal is likely to be implemented?

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

(a) to (c) The Government has given 'in principle' approval to a proposal from the Army Headquarters for restructuring of the Officers' cadre in the Army which would involve changes in the recruitment process. The restructuring proposal primarily involves reduction in the intake of Permanent Commissioned Officers, increase in the intake of Short Service Commissioned Officers, introduction of a Non-Technical Entry Scheme for Short Service Commission, increasing the in-service entry, etc. The common aspects of the above proposals of the Army will be applicable to the Navy and the Air Force, to the extent possible. As the detailed modalities for the revised structure of Officer's cadre of the Army are not yet worked out, no time frame can be given at this stage for implementation of the proposal.

[English]

**Complaints against Water Bodies
Restoration Projects**

207. **SHRI SARVEY SATYANARAYANA :** Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether widespread complaints have been received from places where the Water Bodies Restoration and Management projects were undertaken;

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

(c) the remedial steps taken by the Government on the said complaints?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV) : (a) to (c) Ministry of Water Resources, Government of India approved a Pilot Scheme viz. 'National Project for Repair, Renovation and Restoration of Water Bodies directly linked to Agriculture' in January 2005 at the

cost of Rs. 300.00 crore to be shared by the Centre and State in the ratio of 3:1 for the remaining period of X Plan. It was a State sector scheme implemented with the help of District Level Implementation Committee (DLIC) under the State Governments. The complaints about the scheme are forwarded to the State Governments for necessary action.

National Dairy Plan

208. **SHRI BALASHOWRY VALLABHANENI :** Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) Whether a National Dairy Plan is under consideration of the Government;

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

(c) the time by which the plan is likely to be finalized?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI TASLIMUDDIN) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The Department has received an Approach Paper on the National Dairy Plan (NDP) formulated by the National Dairy Development Board. The same has been forwarded to the Department of Economic Affairs for tying up external assistance. As the NDP is still at a nascent stage of its conception, it is little too early to spell out the time frame for its finalization.

Ezhimala Naval Academy

209. **SHRI P. KARUNAKARAN :** Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) the details of various projects and training courses conducted in the Ezhimala Naval Academy at present;

(b) whether the Academy has achieved its targets; and

(c) If so, the details thereof alongwith the future plans of the Academy?

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

(a) to (c) The Ezhimala Naval Academy is under construction at present. The Academy will commence conducting B. Tech. course for 750 cadets/commissioned officers with effect from the academic session commencing in 2009. The B. Tech. programme has been drawn up by the Navy in conjunction with JNU and the All India Council for Technical Education. The Academy will have state of art facilities to undertake training. In the intervening period, Naval Orientation courses are being conducted to utilize the available basic training infrastructure since June, 2005. So far six such courses have been completed.

Cultivation of Land in Border Areas

210. **SHRI ABU AYES MONDAL :** Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the farmers are facing difficulties in cultivating land in the border areas of the country; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA) : (a) Yes, Sir. In border areas of the country, farmers at times do face difficulties in cultivating land across the fencing.

(b) The reasons and action taken are detailed below:—

Some inconvenience to farmers have been reported due to fencing that has been created at the International Border of the country to prevent illegal trans-border movement and criminal activities. The border guarding forces

have been deployed on the International Border along the fencing. Farmers' entry to the agriculture fields across the fencing is regulated through the entry and exist gates only and access control measures are taken.

To mitigate the difficulties faced by the farmers, the following measures have been taken by the border guarding forces:—

(a) Timings for opening and closing of gates have been fixed in consultation with the local people and Village Panchayat. Gates are opened on all seven days of the week.

(b) Security is provided to the farmers who are ahead of fencing by deploying extra troops.

[Translation]

Loans to Farmers

211. **SHRI HEMMAL MURMU :** Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of farmers benefiting from the agricultural loans during the last three years and the current year, State-wise;

(b) whether the farmers of many States are not getting the benefit of Kisan Credit Card and other agricultural loans from the banks;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the details of various agricultural loans extended by the banks to the farmers till date during the last three years and the current year;

(e) whether the Government has started any nation-wide survey to make available agricultural loans to every farmer; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA) : (a) As reported by the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD), State-wise details of the number of farmers benefiting from the agricultural loans provided by Cooperative Banks and Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) during the last three years including the current year are given in the enclosed Statement-I, II and III

respectively. The summary position of number of agricultural loan accounts financed in the last three years including the current year in respect of Commercial Banks, Cooperative Banks and RRBs is given in the enclosed Statement-IV.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) The details of various agricultural loans extended by the banks to the farmers till date during the last three years including the current year are as under:-

(Rs. in Crore)

Agency	Total agriculture credit given			
	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08 (Provisional)	2008-09 (01.04.08 to 30.9.08)
Commercial Banks	125,477.01	166,485.43	175,072.13	64,988.65
Cooperative Banks	39,785.66	42,479.80	43,684.13	19,442.33
RRBs	15,222.90	20,434.65	24,813.65	10,633.18
Total	180,485.57	229,399.88	243,569.91	95,064.16

(e) and (f) As per the recommendation of the Rangarajan Committee on Financial Inclusion, emphasis is on providing financial services to the hitherto neglected sections of the population and Government has constituted two funds viz. Financial Inclusion Fund (FIF) and Financial Inclusion Technology Fund (FITF) with an overall corpus of Rs. 500 crore each.

In different parts of the country, banks have conducted surveys to identify the 'financially excluded', based on which appropriate strategies, like opening of 'no-frill' accounts, providing of General Credit Cards with limit of upto Rs.25,000/- etc. have been initiated to enhance Financial Inclusion and thereby facilitate availability of agricultural loans.

Statement-I

Total Nos. of Accounts for the year 2006-2007

Sl. No.	State	Coops Banks	RRBs	Total
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Delhi	253	0	253
2.	Haryana	1115763	113040	1228803
3.	Punjab	949037	78383	1027420

1	2	3	4	5
4.	Himachal Pradesh	25982	14078	40060
5.	Jammu and Kashmir	12429	4167	16596
6.	Uttar Pradesh	33110764	1188359	4499123
7.	Uttaranchal	209886	9012	218898
8.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	265	0	265
9.	Bihar	234360	216031	450381
10.	Chhattisgarh	542560	177844	720404
11.	Jharkhand	0	49566	49566
12.	Orissa	1187053	239480	1426533
13.	West Bengal	0	144274	144274
14.	Arunachal Pradesh	0	542	542
15.	Assam	1751	23512	25263
16.	Manipur	0	0	0
17.	Meghalaya	1931	3208	5139
18.	Mizoram	265	2078	2343
19.	Nagaland	162	144	306
20.	Sikkim	602	0	602
21.	Tripura	522	8399	8921
22.	Goa	146	0	146
23.	Gujarat	743699	166019	909718
24.	Madhya Pradesh	3605420	221265	3826685
25.	Maharashtra	3141113	327130	3468243

1	2	3	4	5
26.	Rajasthan	1257244	206244	1463488
27.	Andhra Pradesh	8567	1096416	1104983
28.	Karnataka	893792	449633	1343425
29.	Kerala	934519	1074322	2008841
30.	Tamil Nadu	689436	428769	1118205
31.	Pondicherry	3600	0	3600
Grand Total		18871111	6241915	25113026

Source: NABARD

Statement-II*Total Nos. of Accounts for the year 2007-2008*

Sl. No.	State	Coops Banks	RRBs	Total
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Delhi	128	0	128
2.	Haryana	1158009	115636	1273645
3.	Punjab	993519	98028	1091547
4.	Himachal Pradesh	26016	37907	63923
5.	Jammu and Kashmir	10021	4217	14238
6.	Uttar Pradesh	3406172	1215651	4621823
7.	Uttaranchal	197472	9430	206902
8.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	30	0	30
9.	Bihar	286341	218156	504497

1	2	3	4	5
10.	Chhattisgarh	648743	139223	787966
11.	Jharkhand	0	57278	57278
12.	Orissa	1181874	227679	1409553
13.	West Bengal	0	95401	95401
14.	Arunachal Pradesh	0	528	528
15.	Assam	3672	35781	39453
16.	Manipur	0	0	0
17.	Meghalaya	1336	3383	4719
18.	Mizoram	856	2456	3312
19.	Nagaland	119	65	184
20.	Sikkim	1413	0	1413
21.	Tripura	560	8642	9202
22.	Goa	139	0	139
23.	Gujarat	760503	173835	934338
24.	Madhya Pradesh	2807248	232841	2840089
25.	Maharashtra	2804192	161717	2965909
26.	Rajasthan	1481611	233362	1714973
27.	Andhra Pradesh	1751154	11455412	2896566
28.	Karnataka	1264851	467461	1732312
29.	Kerala	916159	1066226	1982385
30.	Tamil Nadu	674431	523397	1197828
31.	Pondicherry	3654	0	3654
Grand Total		20180223	6273712	26453935

Source: NABARD

Statement-III

*Total Nos. of Accounts for the year 2008-09
(upto August, 2008)*

Sl. No.	State	Coops Banks	RRBs	Total
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Delhi	2	0	2
2.	Haryana	148459	48353	202318
3.	Punjab	664312	42344	708678
4.	Himachal Pradesh	10252	6661	20135
5.	Jammu and Kashmir	760	564	1645
6.	Uttar Pradesh	1110775	243267	1374940
7.	Uttaranchal	39597	2591	42997
8.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	12	0	12
9.	Bihar	1938	17474	30625
10.	Chhattisgarh	494983	49457	548177
11.	Jharkhand	0	9060	9695
12.	Orissa	266059	64733	357553
13.	West Bengal	0	19247	23990
14.	Arunachal Pradesh	0	25	50
15.	Assam	1022	9782	14221
16.	Manipur	0	0	0
17.	Meghalaya	435	275	750
18.	Mizoram	227	3642	7334

1	2	3	4	5
19. Nagaland		59	149	210
20. Sikkim		789	0	789
21. Tripura		152	6755	7331
22. Goa		48	0	48
23. Gujarat		639840	152741	797529
24. Madhya Pradesh		861811	103868	978349
25. Maharashtra		156575	10480	167619
26. Rajasthan		353355	23509	380185
27. Andhra Pradesh		296242	505846	838795
28. Karnataka		552911	158201	723233
29. Kerala		184774	310969	496917
30. Tamil Nadu		170863	94862	268709
31. Pondicherry		469	0	469
Grand Total		5976721	1884855	8003305

Source: NABARD

Statement-IV

Agency-wise summary in respect of number of agricultural accounts financed during the 2006-07, 2007-08 and 2008-09 (upto August 2008)

(No. of lakh)

Agency	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09 (upto August, 2008)
1	2	3	4
Commercial Banks	172.00	174.79	48.23

1	2	3	4
RRBs	62.41	62.74	18.85
Cooperative Banks	188.71	201.80	59.77
Total	423.12	439.33	126.85

Source: NABARD

*[English]***Inter-Linking of Rivers**

212. SHRI VASANTRAO MORE : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Tapi Irrigation Development Board, Jalgaon of Maharashtra has submitted any project to the Union Government for inter-linking of rivers; and

(b) if so, the current status of the project proposal alongwith the time by which it is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV) : (a) and (b) National Water Development Agency (NWDA) has received five proposals from Tapi Irrigation Development Corporation, Jalgaon through Government of Maharashtra in January, 2007. Out of these, two proposals are for intrastate linking of rivers namely (i) Jalgaon District River linking project and (ii) Tapi river link canal. The work for the preparation of pre-feasibility reports of these two links has been taken up by the NWDA. The implementation of these projects depends upon their techno-economic viability.

*[Translation]***Fertility of Land**

213. SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN :
DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether floods in various parts of the country have destroyed the Kharif crop and also depleted the fertility of the land;

(b) if so, whether the Government provided any assistance to cover the losses due to such floods;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps being taken by the Government to enhance the fertility of land affected by the floods?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA) : (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

[English]

Fodder Banks

214. SHRI NARAHARI MAHATO : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government is provided Central funds to the States for the establishment of fodder banks in the States to meet the exigencies in natural calamities;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the funds released to West Bengal and Maharashtra so far for the purpose and the result achieved therefrom?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI TASLIMUDDIN) : (a) No, Sir. The component relating to establishment of fodder banks was dropped from the Centrally Sponsored Fodder Development scheme w.e.f 1.4.2005.

(b) Question does not arise.

(c) Before the closure of subject component, the State of Maharashtra was released an amount of Rs. 41.25 lakhs in 2001-02 and a similar sum in 2004-05. While funds released in 2001-02 were utilized, the funds released in 2004-05 were refunded by the State Government Funds of Rs. 41.25 lakhs provided to State of West Bengal in 1994-95, for establishment of one fodder bank, were utilized.

[Translation]

Decrease in depth of Rivers

215. SHRI MOHD. TAHIR :
SHRI KAILASH NATH SINGH YADAV :
SHRI SHISHUPAL N. PATLE :

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether an evaluation of the decrease in the depth of the rivers due to silting has been made during the last three years and the current year;

(b) if so, the number of rivers whose depth has decreased due to silt;

(c) whether any scheme has been formulated in the Tenth Five Year Plan to deal with the problem of silting in the big rivers of country;

(d) if so, whether the work has already been started on these rivers;

(e) if so, the details thereof alongwith the funds allocated for the purpose;

(f) whether all the funds have been utilised; and

(g) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV) : (a) No Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No Sir.

(d) to (g) Do not arise.

[English]

Procurement of Wheat under PDS

216. SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR :
SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY :

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government procured wheat from the farmers/market during the current Rabi season for distribution under Public Distribution System (PDS);

(b) if so, the total quantum of wheat procured and the cost thereof;

(c) whether the policy of the Government to supply wheat to State Governments under PDS has been modified; and

(d) if so, the extent and manner in which the Union Government ensured the proper utilization of wheat supplied to State Governments under PDS?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. 226.82 lakh tonnes of wheat has been procured by FCI and State agencies in Rabi Marketing Season 2008-09 for the Central Pool at Minimum Support Price of Rs. 1000 per quintal.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise, as no modification has been made to existing policy of supply of wheat to State Governments under PDS.

[Translation]

Pension facility to workers in Unorganised Sector

217. SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR : Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to extend pension facility to the workers and labourers engaged in the unorganised sector; and

(b) if so, the details thereof;

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES) : (a) and (b) The Government is implementing National Old Age Pension Scheme for people 'Below Poverty Line' (BPL) which inter alia includes unorganized sector workers also.

Public Telephone Booths

218. SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of Public Telephone booths functioning in the country during the last three years and the current year;

(b) the number of telephone booths lying non-functional out of them during the current year;

(c) whether in face of competition from the new technology Multimedia Kiosks, a large number of such Public Telephone booths are struggling to sustain themselves;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to improve the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

(SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA) : (a) The total number of Public Telephone booths (PCOs) operated by the franchisee of Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd. (BSNL) and Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Ltd. (MTNL) and BSNL/MTNL in the country during the last three years and the current year are given as follows:

Status as on	No. of PCOs (Excluding VPTs)
31.3.2006	2385595
31.3.2007	2365570
31.3.2008	2290541
30.9.2008	2180339

(b) Nil.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e) Do not arise in view of (c) above. However, the measures taken to improve the business of PCO operators by Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd. (BSNL) and Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Ltd. (MTNL) are given below:

BSNL

- (i) PCO operators have been allowed to convert their PCOs into "BSNL Shoppes" to sell various services/products of BSNL and earn discount on the same.
- (ii) Discount structure has been made competitive.
- (iii) Upgradation of PCO into Information Technology Kiosks.
- (iv) Incentive in terms of free talk time.

MTNL

- (i) Enhancement of commission of PCOs.
- (ii) Improvement in the terms and conditions of PCOs.

(iii) Reduction in security deposit and minimum guarantee from PCO franchisee.

Crop Insurance for Flood Affected Farmers

219. SHRI BHUVANESHWAR PRASAD MEHTA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has framed any Crop Insurance Scheme for compensating the farmers whose crops got destroyed in recent floods; and

(b) If so, the details thereof;

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. National Agricultural Insurance Scheme (NAIS) which is a multi-peril insurance scheme is already under operation since rabi 1999-2000. The scheme provides comprehensive insurance cover including the risk of yield loss due to flood.

[English]

Agri-Clinics/Business Centres

220. SHRI DUSHYANT SINGH : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of Agri-Clinics/Agri-Business Centres opened in the country, State-wise;

(b) the main objectives of opening these Clinics/Centres;

(c) whether any new Agri-Clinics/Agri-Centres are proposed to be set up during 2008-09 in the country including Rajasthan; and

(d) If so, the steps taken in the this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE

MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA) : (a) Since inception of the Agri-Clinics and Agri-Business Scheme, 5726 Agri-Clinics and Agri-Business Centres have been opened in the country upto 9th October, 2008. The State-wise Centres are as under:—

Andhra Pradesh (281), Arunachal Pradesh (01), Assam (48), Bihar (670), Chhattisgarh (63), Goa (01), Gujarat (158), Haryana (36), Himachal Pradesh (65), Jammu and Kashmir (42), Jharkhand (24), Karnataka (687), Kerala (15), Madhya Pradesh (137), Maharashtra (1030), Manipur (43), Nagaland (03), Orissa (74), Pondicherry (05), Punjab (37), Rajasthan (605), Tamil Nadu (330), Uttar Pradesh (1270), Uttaranchal (49), West Bengal (52).

(b) The main objectives of opening these Clinics/Centres are:—

- (i) To provide extension and other services to farmers on payment basis;
- (ii) To support agriculture development; and
- (iii) To promote self-employment.

(c) So far, 535 new Agri-Clinics and Agri-Business Centres have been established upto 9th October, 2008, including 26 centres in Rajasthan during 2008-09. However, setting up of more centres till the end of this financial year would mainly depend on the agriculture graduates being trained under the scheme.

(d) The steps taken to set up more centres during 2008-09 include:—

- (i) Continuous training of agriculture graduates subject to their availability.
- (ii) Facilitating the trained graduates to start an agri-venture and providing them with the handholding support by the Nodal Training Institutes for one year on completion of the training.

(iii) Availing loan by the trained agriculture graduate on demand from nationalized banks for setting up of agri-ventures.

(iv) Providing trained agricultural graduates with credit linked capital subsidy of 25% of the capital cost of the project funded. This subsidy is 33.33% in respect of candidates belonging to SC/ST, women and other disadvantaged sections and those from North-Eastern and hill areas. Full interest subsidy is also eligible for the first two years of the project.

[Translation]

Subsidy for BPL families

221. SHRI ILYAS AZMI : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state the subsidy provided/proposed to be provided for the Below Poverty Line families and Antyodaya Anna Scheme during the current year, State-wise

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA) : As informed by the Food Corporation of India, the estimate of subsidy for the Below Poverty Line (BPL) families and Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) Scheme during the current year 2008-09 (Budget Estimates), State-wise, is as under:

(Amount in Rs. crore)

Sl. No.	Name of State	BPL Amount	AAY Amount
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1325	1014
2.	Assam and Arunachal Pradesh	588	443

1	2	3	4
3.	Bihar	877	1213
4.	Chhattisgarh	26	
5.	Delhi	149	53
6.	Gujarat	569	405
7.	Haryana	231	153
8.	Himachal Pradesh	144	111
9.	Jammu and Kashmir	240	154
10.	Jharkhand	582	450
11.	Karnataka	906	692
12.	Kerala	436	317
13.	Madhya Pradesh	1189	837
14.	Maharashtra	1659	1199
15.	Meghalaya, Mizoram, Tripura	198	135
16.	Nagaland and Manipur	92	62
17.	Orissa	646	534
18.	Punjab	83	51
19.	Rajasthan	622	482
20.	Tamil Nadu	1536	1165
21.	Uttar Pradesh	1196	913
22.	Uttarakhand	89	41
23.	West Bengal	1134	739
Total		14517	11163

*[English]***Welfare Scheme for Women Workers**

222. SHRI PARSURAM MAJHI :

SHRI ANANTA NAYAK :

Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government has issued any guidelines to the State Governments regarding improving the working conditions off the women employed in different sectors;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Union Government has launched any welfare scheme for women workers in the country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES) : (a) and (b): Central Government has enacted various laws. A meeting of the Central Advisory Committee on Equal Remuneration Act, 1976 was held at New Delhi on 24th June, 2006 in which various suggestions were made by the members to improve the working conditions of Women Workers viz. social security, insurance coverage, better facilities for skill development, constitution of State level advisory boards etc. The State Governments were requested to take follow-up action on these recommendations.

(c) and (d) Welfare of women workers is an ongoing process. Several laws have been enacted by the Government to secure reasonable working conditions for women employees and to prevent their exploitation. These include the Factories Act, 1948, the Plantations Labour Act, 1951, the Contract Labour (Regulation and Abolition) Act, 1970, the Inter-State Migrant Workers (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) Act, 1979, the

Maternity Benefit Act, 1961, the Buildings and Other Construction Workers (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) Act, 1996, Equal Remuneration Act, 1976 etc. which provide inter-alia, creche facilities for the benefit of women workers, time off for feeding of children during working hours, provision of maternity leave and separate toilets and washing facilities for female and male workers near the workplace as well as safe working conditions.

The Government has introduced a scheme of assistance for the construction/expansion of hostel building for working women with day care centre for their children. Further, a Grant-in-aid scheme through Voluntary Organizations/Non-governmental Organizations for awareness generation of women workers about their rights etc. is also implemented.

[Translation]

Irrigation Projects

223. SHRI GANESH SINGH :
SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY :
SHRI K.C. SINGH "BABA" :

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government is contemplating to chalk out new irrigation projects in order to enhance irrigation facilities in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof indicating the number of proposals received, approved and pending, State-wise;

(c) the number of ongoing irrigation projects at present in the country, State-wise;

(d) the details of land in terms of acre being irrigated thereunder every year, State-wise; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF

WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV) : (a) The projects/schemes for creation of irrigation potential are planned and implemented by the respective State Governments. However, Ministry of Water Resources encourages creation of irrigation potential. The XI Plan envisage creation of 16 million hectares of irrigation potential through major and medium irrigation projects and minor irrigation schemes including the extension, renovation and modernisation projects and Repair, renovation and Restoration of water bodies.

(b) During the XI Plan 37 no. of schemes submitted by States have been cleared by Technical Advisory Committee. At present 68 schemes are at different stages of appraisal by various agencies. State-wise details are given in the enclosed Statement-I.

(c) The State-wise details of ongoing schemes are given in the enclosed Statement-II.

(d) and (e) As per the "land use statistics" compiled by Ministry of Agriculture, net irrigated area in 2006 was about 60.2 million hectare. State-wise details are given in the enclosed Statement-III.

Statement-I

State-wise details of schemes cleared by Technical Advisory Committee and schemes under appraisal

Sl. No.	State	Schemes cleared by Technical Advisory Committee	Schemes under Appraisal
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	—	7
2.	Assam	—	2
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	—	1
4.	Bihar	2	2

1	2	3	4
5.	Chhattisgarh	1	3
6.	Haryana	—	1
7.	Jammu and Kashmir	2	4
8.	Jharkhand	—	1
9.	Gujarat	—	1
10.	Himachal Pradesh	3	—
11.	Karnataka	2	9
12.	Kerala	1	4
13.	Madhya Pradesh	1	4
14.	Maharashtra	16	10
15.	Manipur	2	1
16.	Nagaland	1	—
17.	Orissa	4	5
18.	Punjab	—	5
19.	Rajasthan	—	3
20.	Uttar Pradesh	2	2
21.	West Bengal	—	3

Statement-II*State-wise details of ongoing Irrigation Projects*

State	Major Irrigation Project	Medium Irrigation Project	Schemes for ERM	Total
1	2	3	4	5
Andhra Pradesh	30	24	6	60

1	2	3	4	5
Arunachal Pradesh	0	0	0	0
Assam	2	3	2	7
Bihar	10	3	5	18
Chhattisgarh	4	8	1	13
Goa	0	0	1	1
Gujarat	3	20	13	36
Haryana	4	0	1	5
Himachal Pradesh	1	3	0	4
Jammu and Kashmir	0	6	4	10
Jharkhand	6	19	0	25
Karnataka	15	31	5	51
Kerala	3	4	2	9
Madhya Pradesh	19	9	6	34
Maharashtra	58	109	3	170
Manipur	2	1	4	7
Meghalaya	0	1	0	1
Mizoram	0	0	0	0
Nagaland	0	1	0	1
Orissa	8	10	15	33
Punjab	1	0	3	4
Rajasthan	2	8	3	13
Sikkim	0	0	0	0
Tamil Nadu	0	2	3	5

1	2	3	4	5
Tripura	0	3	0	3
Uttar Pradesh	11	0	15	26
Uttaranchal	1	0	0	1
West Bengal	2	8	6	16
Total	182	273	98	553

Statement-III

Net Irrigation Area in thousand hectares in 2006 as per the Land use statistics of Ministry of Agriculture

Sl. No.	State	Net Irrigation Area in 2006
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	4392
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	44
3.	Assam	140
4.	Bihar	3034
5.	Chhattisgarh	1248
6.	Goa	24
7.	Gujarat	3388
8.	Haryana	2936
9.	Himachal Pradesh	105
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	311
11.	Jharkhand	164
12.	Karnataka	2970
13.	Kerala	401

1	2	3
14.	Madhya Pradesh	5681
15.	Maharashtra	3296
16.	Manipur	51
17.	Meghalaya	55
18.	Mizoram	16
19.	Nagaland	67
20.	Orissa	1846
21.	Punjab	4038
22.	Rajasthan	6294
23.	Sikkim	6
24.	Tamil Nadu	2920
25.	Tripura	61
26.	Uttarakhand	345
27.	Uttar Pradesh	13175
28.	West Bengal	3135

[English]

Diversion of Foodgrains to Bangladesh

224. SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the enquiry report on complaints of diversion of Public Distribution System (PDS) foodgrains from West Bengal to Bangladesh has since been received from the State Government;

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

- (c) the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA) : (a) to (c) The State Government of West Bengal has stated that they have not received any specific reports about diversion of PDS foodgrains from West Bengal to Bangladesh.

However there were some Newspaper reports about such diversion. BSF was requested to take all steps to prevent smuggling across the border. They reported that no cases of smuggling of rice on large scale were reported and that they have taken steps to mount extra and strict vigil. State Government also arranged surprise checking by special squads. In some cases FIRs were lodged against a few wholesalers and Rice Mills. The District Magistrates of bordering districts issued prohibitory order u/s 144 Cr.P.C. to prevent unauthorized movement of foodgrains from time to time.

Amendment in Telecom Tariff Policy

225. SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Government has proposed to amend the existing telecom tariff policy in view of the growing competition in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has discussed the matter with the private telecom operators;
- (d) if so, the outcome thereof; and
- (e) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to solve the problem?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF

COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA) : (a) No, Sir. Presently, the Government has no proposal to amend the existing tariff policy in view of growing competition in the country. Currently, Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has been empowered by TRAI Act of 1997 to notify tariffs for various Telecommunications Services. In exercise of its powers, TRAI has laid down the framework for tariff policy in the Telecommunication Tariff Order, 1999 which is amended from time to time depending on the market developments and also to bring about enhanced transparency.

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

(c) No, Sir. The Government has not discussed the matter with the private telecom operators. As detailed above, telecom tariffs in the country are regulated by TRAI.

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

Growth of Farm Sector

226. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA :
SHRI ARJUN SETHI :
SHRI K. SUBBARAYAN :
SHRI SUBRATA BOSE :
SHRI E. DAYAKAR RAO :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the growth in the farm sector has been uneven in different States/Union Territories (UTs) over the years in spite of the best of efforts made by the Government;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the strategy adopted to rectify the uneven growth; and
- (c) the details of the initiatives being taken to ensure sustainable growth to meet the burgeoning requirement of the country in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA) : (a) to (c) The growth rate in agriculture in different States and Union Territories (UTs) during the last three years i.e. 2004-05, 2005-06 and 2006-07 is given below:—

**GROSS STATE DOMESTIC PRODUCT (Agriculture)
AT CONSTANT PRICES**

%age Growth Rate

Sl. No.	State/UT	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	5.42	8.65	3.82
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	-3.48	2.15	10.75
3.	Assam	6.09	3.55	3.40
4.	Bihar	14.90	-12.53	27.94
5.	Jharkhand	18.59	-29.02	2.27
6.	Goa	1.85	-2.04	NA
7.	Gujarat	-7.24	22.89	-0.43
8.	Haryana	3.46	-1.90	9.73
9.	Himachal Pradesh	6.52	1.28	-4.18
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	1.32	0.53	NA
11.	Karnataka	17.98	6.02	0.06
12.	Kerala	7.35	6.62	5.90
13.	Madhya Pradesh	-4.71	4.17	2.80
14.	Chhattisgarh	-6.41	28.96	NA

1	2	3	4	5
15.	Maharashtra	-6.10	9.08	9.09
16.	Manipur	10.82	2.26	3.80
17.	Meghalaya	5.98	5.33	4.86
18.	Mizoram	4.17	3.69	3.09
19.	Nagaland	8.79	4.14	NA
20.	Orissa	3.98	3.20	1.28
21.	Punjab	2.30	1.58	4.00
22.	Rajasthan	-14.65	-2.98	10.01
23.	Sikkim	5.49	5.21	5.59
24.	Tamil Nadu	20.46	8.93	6.14
25.	Tripura	3.57	7.32	3.20
26.	Uttar Pradesh	-1.31	0.28	5.25
27.	Uttaranchal	5.99	-1.75	4.80
28.	West Bengal	0.75	1.81	3.81
29.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	-13.43	-16.39	NA
30.	Chandigarh	-5.50	6.63	NA
31.	Delhi	0.99	-4.65	0.49
32.	Pondicherry	-1.23	-0.09	-0.06

Source : For Sl.No. 1-32 - Directorate of Economics and Statistics of respective State Governments.

To reorient the current agricultural development , strategies to meet the needs of the farmers and for fresh efforts by the Central and State Governments to rejuvenate agriculture so as to achieve 4 percent annual growth during

the Eleventh Five Year Plan, a new State Plan Scheme of Additional Central Assistance (ACA) for agriculture and allied sectors, namely, Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY) has been launched during 2007-08 with an envisaged outlay of Rs. 25,000 crore for the Eleventh Five Year Plan.

The allocation of funds under RKVY to the States is based on the net un-irrigated area, gross state domestic product in agriculture and allied sectors to be attained by the end of the Eleventh Five Year Plan and increase in the State Plan expenditure in agriculture and allied sectors. The ACA is made available to the States as 100% grant.

[Translation]

Special Package for Landline Connections

227. SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is contemplating to provide special package for Landline connections in the rural areas of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether this special scheme is likely to benefit the Government as well as the subscribers; and

(d) if so, details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA) : (a) and (b) No new scheme is being contemplated to provide special package for Landline connections in the rural areas of the country. However, the present rural tariff of Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) under various plans is highly subsidized. It is not only below cost but also below the level/ceiling prescribed by Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI).

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

Losses in Post Offices

228. SHRI MITRASEN YADAV : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether some Post Offices in the country are running in losses;

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

(c) whether some of these Post Offices have been closed;

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

(e) the average number of Post Offices in the rural areas of the country on the basis of population and area; and

(f) the number of total Post Offices in the rural and tribal dominated areas and the percentage of these Post Offices as compared to the total number of Post Offices in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Circle-wise details are enclosed as Statement.

(c) As per policy, no post office is closed down on the basis of financial loss.

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

(e) On an average, a post office in the country, serves an area of 21.2 sq. Kms and population of 7174.

(f) Number of post offices located in rural including tribal areas is 1,39,174. This comprises 89% of the total network.

Statement**Circle-wise number of Post Offices running
In Loss**

Sl. No.	Name of Circle	Number of Post Offices running in Loss
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	9608
2.	Assam	730
3.	Bihar	6567
4.	Chhattisgarh	3106
5.	Delhi	20
6.	Gujarat	6554
7.	Haryana	1344
8.	Himachal Pradesh	2762
9.	Jammu and Kashmir	1307
10.	Jharkhand	2056
11.	Karnataka	9104
12.	Kerala	1036
13.	Madhya Pradesh	6265
14.	Maharashtra	6276
15.	North East	
	Arunachal Pradesh	10
	Manipur	12
	Meghalaya	51
	Mizoram	6

1	2	3
	Nagaland	24
	Tripura	26
16.	Orissa	7345
17.	Punjab	2616
18.	Rajasthan	4797
19.	Tamil Nadu	8430
20.	Uttarakhand	2253
21.	Uttar Pradesh	8402
22.	West Bengal	6842
	Total	97549

Excess Release of Water from Dams

229. SHRI MUNSHI RAM : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the level of water in large dams is monitored by the Government on daily basis;

(b) if so, whether the Government failed to make correct assessment regarding the presence of excess water in these dams and later released huge quantities leading to flooding in many areas;

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

(d) the average and optimum level of water in Tehri Dam during the last six months?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV) : (a) to (c) The Central Water Commission (CWC) is collecting water level and live storage status of 81 important reservoirs across the country on daily basis

through different agencies including CWC field units. This data is being used for issuing weekly Reservoir bulletin. The monitoring operation and regulation of the water level in all the dams/reservoirs including large dams comes under the purview of the respective project authorities/State Governments.

(d) (i) Average level of water in Tehri Dam during the last six months as reported by the project authority are as under:-

Month	Average Level (m)
April, 08	751.98
May, 08	743.95
June, 08	752.78
July, 08	778.98
August, 08	803.70
September, 08	816.15
Average of six months	774.59

(ii) The Maximum Design level of water in Tehri Dam Reservoir is 830m. However, the Government of Uttarakhand has given clearance to fill the reservoir only upto the level of 820m.

[English]

**Commission for ED Employees in
Postal Department**

230. SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has appointed any Commission to study the issues of the Extra-Departmental (ED) Employees in Postal Department;

(b) If so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Commission has submitted its report to the Union Government;

(d) If not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the time by which it is likely to be submitted to the Union Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA) : (a) No Sir, The Government of India, however, has set up a One Man Committee vide Resolution No. 6-1/2006-PE-II dated 23.7.2007 to study the issues of Extra Departmental (ED) Employees, in Postal Department, now known as Gramin Dak Sevaks.

(b) One man Committee under Shri R.S. Nataraja Murti, as Chairman has been set up with following terms and conditions:—

(i) To examine the system of extra departmental post offices, condition of employment, wage structure of the Gramin Dak Sevaks and recommend suitable changes considered necessary.

(ii) To examine the reasonableness of introducing a social security scheme for providing provident fund and retirement benefits to Gramin Dak Sevaks.

(iii) To examine and suggest any change in the method of recruitment, Minimum qualifications for appointment as Gramin Dak Sevaks and Conduct and disciplinary rules.

(iv) To review the facilities provided to the public at different classes of extra departmental post offices.

(v) To examine desirability and need to sanction any interim relief till the time the recommenda-

tions of the Committee are made and accepted by the Government.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e) The tenure of the Committee has been extended upto 24th October, 2008 for completion and submission of report to the union Government.

FDI in Defence Sector

231. SHRIMATI SUSHEELA BANGARU LAXMAN :
SHRI ANANTA NAYAK :

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has proposed some fresh guidelines to allow 49 per cent Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in the Defence Sector as against the existing 26 per cent;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the countries with which negotiations have been made and the steps taken to make the entire procedure transparent?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (RAO INDERJIT SINGH) : (a) and (b) As per extant policy Indian private sector participation is allowed upto 100% in defence industry sector with FDI upto 26%, both subject to licensing. At present Government has no proposal to increase the present level of FDI from 26% to 49% in the sector.

(c) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Soil Erosion in Chambal Region

232. SHRI ASHOK ARGAL : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the efforts being made to check the soil erosion

taking place in ravines of Chambal due to the Chambal River;

(b) the areas likely to be eroded in the next 50 years at the current rate of erosion;

(c) whether the Government proposes to formulate a scheme to check it; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA) : (a) To minimize soil erosion, land degradations and to reduce flood peaks and volume of runoff, Government of India is implementing a Centrally Sponsored Programme of Soil Conservation in the Catchments of River Valley Project and Flood Prone River (RVP and FPR) in 56 catchments including the Chambal catchment. Under the RVP and FPR Programme in the Chambal Catchment falling in the States of Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan, upto 2007-08, the degraded area of 5.59 lakh ha. has been developed with an expenditure of Rs. 100.07 crore.

(b) As per the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), about 0.16 lakh ha. area of land is engulfed by existing ravines every year. However, there is no estimate available regarding the areas likely to be eroded in the next 50 years.

(c) and (d) The Central Soil and Water Conservation Research and Training Institute, Kota (Rajasthan), a Regional Institute of ICAR has developed and demonstrated technology packages for reclamation of the Chambal ravines. These technologies are disseminated to the concerned State Governments including Non - Governmental Organizations for adoption. Under this technology package of ICAR, about 3.00 lakh ha. area of Chambal ravines in Madhya Pradesh and about 1.4 lakh ha. area in Rajasthan have been restored through various watershed/wastelands development programmes. The

Programme of RVP and FPR is also being continued to be implemented in the XI Five Year Plan.

[English]

Sale of mandatory quota of sugar

233. SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL :
SHRI ANANT GUDHE :
SHRI PRAKASH B. JADHAQ :

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether sugar mills in some States including Maharashtra have not sold their mandatory quota sugar in violation of Government orders in this regard;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the names of the mills withholding the mandatory quota;

(c) whether show-cause notices were issued to such mills;

(d) if so, the details thereof and reaction of the sugar mills thereto; and

(e) the action initiated against the defaulters?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA) : (a) to (e) The Central Government allowed sugar factories to sell dismantled first buffer stock of 20 lac tons from 01.05.2008 to 30.09.2008 and 25% of dismantled second buffer stock of 30 lac tons from 01.08.2008 to 30.09.2008 in the domestic market without requirement of release orders from the Directorate of Sugar. This was in addition to normal non-levy sugar quota for the respective quarters. The Central Government vide Order dated 15.07.2008 directed the producers of sugar, inter alia, to submit returns by 10th day of following month in respect of the quantity sold out of dismantled first and second buffer stocks on monthly basis. As many sugar factories did

not furnish the requisite information, a letter dated 13th August, 2008 in the shape of a show cause notice was issued to defaulting sugar mills including defaulting sugar mills of Maharashtra. There was a large scale compliance and a number of sugar factories submitted the returns. The Central Government has already decided to convert any unsold/undespatched stocks out of total quantity of dismantled first buffer stock and 25% of the dismantled second buffer stock, which the sugar factories including sugar factories of Maharashtra were required to sell/ dispatch by 30.09.2008, into levy sugar. Further, the Government has also decided that any unsold/undespatched normal non-levy sugar quota from the month of September, 2008 would also be converted into levy sugar. Besides, quarterly sale targets in respect of the balance 75% of the dismantled second buffer stock have also been laid down with similar condition that any quantity left unsold/undespatched at the end of the quarter concerned, would be converted into levy sugar.

Financial Assistance to Mustard Growers in Distress

234. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government proposes to extend financial assistance to the mustard growers in distress;

(b) if so, the schemes proposed to be launched for the purpose;

(c) whether the Government proposes to increase the Minimum Support Price of mustard and other oil seeds; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA) : (a) and (b) The Government of India already provides financial assistance to the farmers including mustard

growers under a Centrally Sponsored integrated Scheme of Oilseeds, Pulses, Oilpalm and Maize (ISOPOM) in 14 major oilseeds growing States of the country. Under ISOPOM, the assistance is provided to the farmers/oilseeds growers including mustard growers for critical inputs viz; distribution of certified seeds, demonstrations, plant protection chemicals, plant protection equipment, weedicides, rhizobium culture, gypsum, sprinkler sets, water carrying pipes, improved farm implements and micro-nutrients etc. through State Departments of Agriculture. The expenditure on subsidy of these components is shared between Central and State Government on 75:25 basis. Besides this, certified seed of oilseeds including mustard varieties/hybrids released during last 10 years is distributed to the farmers in form of seed minikits free of cost through State Departments of Agriculture.

(c) and (d) The Government declared Minimum Support Price (MSP) of mustard at Rs. 1800.00 per quintal during 2007-08. The Government has also announced MSP of other Kharif oilseeds viz; groundnut, sunflower, soybean, sesame and niger for 2008-09.

[Translation]

Increase in Silk Production

235. SHRI AJIT JOGI : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government proposes to increase the production of various varieties of silk in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the package likely to be provided as assistance for this purpose;

(c) whether the State Governments have submitted any proposal to the Union Government in this regard; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) It is proposed to increase the production of all the four varieties of Raw Silk - Mulberry, Tasar, Eri and Muga from the level of total 18,475 MTs (at the end of 2006-07) to 26,000 MTs by the end of XI Plan Period. The Government of India through Central Silk Board is implementing a centrally sponsored Scheme viz. Catalytic Development Programme (CDP) during XI Plan in collaboration with the State Governments. The package under CDP covers three major areas—Seed sector, Cocoon sector and Post-cocoon sector and will be supplemented by other components of support services which are common to all packages. The Government of India has approved an outlay of Rs. 1476.24 crores during the XI Plan, of which the Union Government's share is Rs. 661.62 crores.

(c) and (d) Yes Sir. The Central Silk Board has received proposals from different State Governments for release of funds under Catalytic Development Programme (CDP) and based on the proposals received from the State Governments, during the first year of the XI Plan period (2007-08), Government of India through Central Silk Board has released its share of Rs. 80.82 crores towards implementation of various schemes/components under CDP and the current year 2008-09, a sum of Rs. 30.76 crores has been released to different State Governments.

Allotment of Spectrum

236. SHRI RAGHUVVEER SINGH KOSHAL : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are differences between the Ministry of Defence and the Ministry of Communications and Information Technology over the issue of vacating the spectrum and an inter-ministerial group has been constituted to settle the said differences;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government proposes to get the Defence Section Spectrum vacated and allot it to the private sector;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the requirements and conditions of Defence Department have been fulfilled; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. The Group of Ministers (GoM) constituted for vacation of spectrum and raising resources, in its first meeting held in 2007, among others, decided to setup a committee under National Security Adviser for speedy release/vacation of spectrum.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The details will be worked out on getting the spectrum vacated from Defence.

(e) and (f) The communication requirement of Defence will be fulfilled by providing Optical Fiber Cable (OFC) network. The work of laying the OFC network for Indian Air Force (IAF) is in progress.

[English]

Dredging Operations in Brahmaputra River

237. SHRI M.K. SUBBA : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) the details of progress made in the dredging operations in Brahmaputra river before the onset of Monsoon and flooding season during the current year alongwith cost incurred thereon; and

(b) the extent to which it helped in reducing the devastation caused by floods in Brahmaputra?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN

YADAV) : (a) and (b) As per the information provided by Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI), IWAI undertakes dredging operations for maintaining the required width and depth in the navigational channel. The need of dredging for this purpose arises only during lean season (October to March) when water depth reduces below required depth. During 2007-08, IWAI has executed 42090 cubic meter of dredging for providing navigation channel. IWAI has further informed that during the year 2007-08, a hydraulic surface dredger was made available by them to the State Government of Assam on their request for dredging in river Brahmaputra at Majuli Island for flood control measure. An expenditure of Rs. 36.57 lakh was incurred for dredging operation in National Waterway No. 2 (Brahmaputra River), of which Rs. 9.83 lakh was contributed by the State Government. The dredging from channel resulted in diversion of part flow from the channel which was causing bank erosion.

Release of Wheat In Open Market

238. SHRI JUAL ORAM : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has finalised a proposal to release additional quantum of wheat in the open market; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken thereon, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA) : (a) Yes sir.

(b) Government has decided to release upto 10 lakh MT of wheat to State/UTs Governments under Open Market Sale Scheme (Domestic) [OMSS(D)]. The State/UT Governments have been asked to distribute wheat released under OMSS(D) to household consumers and small processors of wheat. State/UT Governments have also

been permitted to convert the wheat released under OMSS(D) into atta for distribution to retail consumers.

In addition to above, 8.4 lakh MTs wheat has also been allocated by Government for sale to bulk consumers through open tenders by FCI during October 2008 and November 2008.

Details of State-wise allocations and rates are given in the enclosed Statement.

Statement

Allocation of Wheat to State/UT Governments (along with the rates) and for open tender sale for Bulk Consumers by FCI during the months of September-November 2008.

State	Allocation to State Governments for distribution to household consumers and small processors (In tonnes)	Rate at which allocation made to State/UT Governments (Rs. per qtl.)	Allocation for bulk consumers for sale through tender by FCI (In tonnes)
1	2	3	4
Andaman and Nicobar Islands	5,000	1358	—
Andhra Pradesh	50,000	1136	50,000
Arunachal Pradesh	10,000	1148	—
Assam	30,000	1132	30,000
Bihar	40,000	1090	40,000
Chandigarh	5,000	1021	—
Chhattisgarh	25,000	1123	25,000

	1	2	3	4
Dadra and Nagar Haveli	1,000	1128	—	—
Daman and Diu	1,000	1133	—	—
Delhi	50,000	1027	50,000	—
Goa	5,000	1156	—	—
Gujarat	40,000	1088	40,000	—
Himachal Pradesh	25,000	1131	25,000	—
Haryana	30,000	1021	30,000	—
Jammu and Kashmir	30,000	1176	30,000	—
Jharkhand	20,000	1116	20,000	—
Karnataka	50,000	1161	50,000	—
Kerala	60,000	1185	60,000	—
Lakshadweep	1,000	1223	—	—
Madhya Pradesh	50,000	1078	50,000	—
Maharashtra	75,000	1121	75,000	—
Manipur	5,000	1276	—	—
Meghalaya	5,000	1177	—	—
Mizoram	5,000	1221	—	—
Nagaland	10,000	1142	—	—
Orissa	30,000	1135	30,000	—
Puducherry	1,000	1164	—	—
Punjab	40,000	1021	40,000	—
Rajasthan	30,000	1047	30,000	—
Sikkim	5,000	1162	—	—

1	2	3	4
Tamil Nadu	50,000	1154	50,000
Tripura	10,000	1239	—
Uttar Pradesh	40,000	1055	40,000
Uttarakhand	25,000	1036	25,000
West Bengal	50,000	1120	50,000

Permanent solution for Flood and Drought

239. SHRIMATI MINATI SEN :
SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR :

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the floods affected areas in the country has increased since independence;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has prepared/proposes to prepare action plan for a permanent solution to be recurring problem of floods and drought in various parts of the country;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the benefits likely to accrue from the said Scheme?

THE MINISTER 'OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV) : (a) Based upon the data available from 1953 to 2007, there is no trend in the increase in flood affected areas.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) to (e) Flood and drought are natural calamities and cannot be controlled completely. However, their impact can

be mitigated by way of suitable structural and non structural measures. Flood Management being a State subject, the schemes for flood control are planned, funded and executed by the State Governments, as per their own priorities, out of their state plans funds which are made available to them through Planning Commission. The Ministry of Water Resources and Central Water Commission formulated a National Perspective Plan (NPP) in 1980 for Water Resources Development. The NPP envisages construction of dam projects for storage of water on various river systems alongwith interlinking canal systems to transfer water from water surplus areas to water deficit regions. Subsequently, Government of India has prepared 'The National Water Policy-2002', which has provisions regarding flood control management and 'Drought Prone -Area Development'. Ministry of Agriculture has also prepared a 'Contingency Plan — Drought 2000'. Further, Government of India has setup following organizations to look after flood Management.

1. Central Water Commission (CWC)
2. Brahmaputra Board
3. Ganga Flood Control Commission (GFCC)
4. Farakka Barrage Project (FBP)
5. Damodar Valley Corporation (DVC)

In addition, Government of India has set up a National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) under Disaster Management Act, 2005 for management of natural calamities, including floods and draught.

Joint Military Exercise

240. SHRI NAVEEN JINDAL :
SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN :

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Government proposes to hold Joint Military Exercise with various countries during the current year;

- (b) if so, the details thereof for the last three years;
- (c) whether it also proposes to hold such exercises abroad in the near future; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken to strengthen the military base in the country?

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

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) During the last three years Indian Defence Forces conducted Joint Military Exercises with countries such as China, Maldives, Mongolia, Russia, Seychelles, Singapore, Thailand, Oman, Sri Lanka, Brazil, South Africa, UK, USA and France.

(c) and (d) Yes. Sir. The Government proposes to hold Joint Military Exercises with countries with whom it has relevant agreements in future also, as it enables adoption of best practices to strengthen the military base.

Incentives for Indian FAB Companies

241. SHRI K.S. RAO : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the Indian Chip Policy and response of the global chip manufacturers to set up manufacturing facilities in the country;

(b) the demand of semi-conductors produced by Indian FABs (Fabrications) both in domestic and international market;

(c) whether the Government proposes to expedite development of infrastructure required for economically viable Indian FAB companies and extend financial and other incentives for select global electronic equipment manufacturers to work with Indian FABs; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA) : (a) The Special Incentive Package Scheme (SIPS) to encourage investments for setting up semiconductor fabrication and other micro and nano technology manufacture industries in India, has been announced by the Government vide Gazette Notification dated 21st March, 2007. The SIPS Notification is available on the website of DIT (<http://www.mit.gov.in>). One application for setting up Semiconductor Fab and 14 applications in the ecosystem category have been received under above scheme.

(b) Does not arise as no such FAB exists as on date.

(c) and (d) These units are expected to come up mainly in the existing/proposed Special Economic Zones (SEZs).

Acidic Soil

242. SHRI M. RAJA MOHAN REDDY : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the details regarding estimated acidic soil in the country, State-wise;

(b) whether the Government proposes to take steps to treat acidic soil to make them capable of growing crops; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA) : (a) As per the available estimates of Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR-2005), an area of about 160.33 lakh hectare is affected by Soil Acidity falling in 19 States in the country as per State wise details given below:—

Sl. No.	Name of the State	Area (lakh ha.)
1.	Andhra Pradesh	9.05
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	19.55
3.	Assam	6.12
4.	Bihar	10.29
5.	Goa	0.02
6.	Himachal Pradesh	1.57
7.	Karnataka	0.58
8.	Kerala	1.38
9.	Madhya Pradesh	67.96
10.	Maharashtra	5.17
11.	Manipur	4.81
12.	Mizoram	10.50
13.	Meghalaya	10.30
14.	Nagaland	1.27
15.	Orissa	2.63
16.	Sikkim	0.76
17.	Tamil Nadu	0.78
18.	Tripura	2.03
19.	West Bengal	5.56
Total		160.33

(b) and (c) Government of India, Ministry of Agriculture is implementing the following Centrally Sponsored Programmes in the country to make Acidic Soils suitable for growing the crops:—

(i) Reclamation and Development of Alkali and Acid Soils (RADAS) — Under this programmes, acid soils which are having productive potential are managed in two ways i.e. by growing crops suitable to acidic soils and by ameliorating the soils through the application of soil amendment.

(ii) National Project on Management of Soil Health and Fertility — Under this scheme a subsidy of 25 % of cost of soil amendment upto maximum of Rs. 500 per ha is provided for application of lime/basic slag for development of land affected by Acidity.

The programmes are implemented through the State Governments.

Non-Supply of Telephone Battery

243. SHRI G.M. SIDDESWARA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the problems being faced by the subscribers having WLL telephone connections in rural areas as the BSNL is not supplying the battery of WLL even after purchasing by the subscribers as per the policy;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA) : (a) No Sir. WLL batteries are being replaced whenever these are found unserviceable/faulty.

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

(c) Following steps are taken by BSNL in this regard:—

(i) WLL systems including subscriber end equipments (FWTs) have been put under AMC with the equipment suppliers.

(ii) The circles are authorized to procure internal batteries to replace the unserviceable/faulty ones.

MSP for Wheat and Pulses

244. SHRI HITEN BARMAN : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has decided to substantially increase the Minimum Support Price (MSP) of wheat and pulses;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the time by which a final decision is likely to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA) : (a) to (c) The Minimum Support Price (MSP) of wheat and rabi pulses for the crop of 2007-08 season have been raised substantially above their MSPs of 2006-07. For the Kharif 2008-09 season also the Government has substantially increased the prices of Moong, Urad and Arhar. Minimum Support Price (MSP) of wheat and pulses for 2006-07, 2007-08 and 2008-09 are indicated in the Table below:—

(Rs. per Quintal)

Commodity		Year			Increase over 2006-07	Increase over 2007-08
		2006-07	2007-08	2008-09		
Wheat	MSP	750	1000	—	250	—
	Bonus	100	—	—	—	—
Gram	MSP	1445	1600	—	155	—
Masur	MSP	1545	1700	—	155	—
Arhar	MSP	—	1550	2000	—	450
	Bonus	—	40	—	—	—
Moong	MSP	—	1700	2520	—	820
	Bonus	—	40	—	—	—
Urad	MSP	—	1700	2520	—	820
	Bonus	—	40	—	—	—

The Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP) has submitted its Report on Price Policy for Rabi

Crops of 2008-09 season which is being processed by the Government.

[Translation]

Inclusion of Gujarat in Food Security Mission

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

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Gujarat has requested the Union Government to include some districts of the State under National Food Security Mission;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government so far in this regard alongwith the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA) : (a) to (c) Director of Agriculture, Government of Gujarat, in October 2007 forwarded a request for inclusion of six new districts i.e. Patan, Kheda, Anand, Bhavnagar, Junagarh and Amreli under National Food Security Mission-Wheat and six new districts i.e. Junagarh, Porbandar, Ahmedabad, Kheda, Anand and Surendranagar under NFSM-Pulses, in addition to those already covered under the Programmes. These districts could not be included as they did not fulfill the objective criteria. However, two districts of State i.e. Dahod and Panchmahals were included under National Food Security Mission-Rice (NFSM-Rice), as they fulfill the criteria of area more than 50,000 ha. and yield less than State average.

Poor Telecom Services by BSNL

246. SHRI DHIRENDRA AGARWAL : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Landline and Mobile phone services provided by BSNL in different States including Jharkhand is poor than those of Private Telecom companies;

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government in this regard;

(c) the total number of Landline and Mobile Telephone connections in the country during the last three years and the current year, State-wise; and

(d) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to ensure the better Landline and Mobile services of BSNL in the country including the State of Jharkhand?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA) : (a) No, Sir. Land-line and Mobile services being provided by BSNL in different states including Jharkhand are in general comparable to the services being offered by other Private Telecom Companies.

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

(c) Circle-wise details for landline and Mobile services of BSNL and MTNL are given in the enclosed Statement.

(d) Following steps taken to improve its landline and mobile services of BSNL:

(i) Connecting all telephone exchanges on reliable digital media.

(ii) Replacement of under ground paper core cables by PIJF (Poly Insulated Jelly Filled) Cable and RLU (Remote Located Unit) in phased manner.

(iii) Up gradation of external network by Pole-less activity.

(iv) Interactive Voice Response System (IVRS) based centralized fault booking.

(v) Conversion of SBM (Single Base Module into RSUs (Remote Switching Units).

(vi) Conversion of C.DOT 256 Port exchanges into AN-RAXs (Access Network-Rural Automatic Exchanges).

(vii) Annual Maintenance Contract (AMC) entered for New Technology and WLL equipments including FWTs and provision of AMC in new supplies.

(viii) BSNL is augmenting its Mobile Network progressively in the country including Jharkhand so as to enhance coverage, capacity and to further improve the Quality of Service. BSNL is also optimizing its network continuously for its performance. Monitoring of the network has also been strengthened to ensure performance as per the QoS parameters prescribed by TRAI.

Statement

Circle-wise total No. of landline/mobile telephones connections during 2005-06, 2006-07, 2007-08, 2008-09 (upto August, 08) in respect of BSNL and MTNL

Sl. No.	Circle	Total No. of landline telephones connections				Total No. of mobile telephones connections			
		As on 31.3.06	As on 31.3.07	As on 31.3.08	2008-09 upto Aug. 08	As on 31.3.06	As on 31.3.07	As on 31.3.08	2008-09 upto Aug. 08
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
A. BSNL									
1.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	40173	32965	30234	29605	30736	42741	52468	59653
2.	Andhra Pradesh	3165217	2931352	2689568	2582822	1246499	1846646	2240741	2376332
3.	Assam	567267	583861	531036	501592	377038	583251	817954	907939
4.	Bihar	1166745	1139014	1160896	1169600	571117	761441	1075094	1271185
5.	Chhattisgarh	360104	373607	381359	356680	118989	369571	578278	667425
6.	Gujarat	2655519	2484758	2313509	2202764	899205	1114338	2065893	2231750
7.	Haryana	1178875	1102576	1038991	984663	485781	955077	1221215	1273398
8.	Himachal Pradesh	517625	508367	496312	482052	220134	503184	553979	537708
9.	Jammu and Kashmir	338832	364488	363661	341062	504484	794073	817905	831392
10.	Jharkhand	517172	514070	531807	513653	356440	506417	554883	616613

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11.	Karnataka	2773839	2672181	2610353	2545797	1284887	1780654	1789660	1854809
12.	Kerala	3840336	4024695	4101005	4110909	1604180	1953540	2154757	2237606
13.	Madhya Pradesh	1524967	1557174	1599506	1574125	352850	862202	1263683	1389220
14.	Maharashtra	4164563	4177261	3875927	3626723	1134249	2243064	3186295	3263570
15.	North East-I	222202	241476	259067	259936	95970	179402	268802	242627
16.	North East-II	170333	178030	162468	158531	135644	242084	361918	285265
17.	Orissa	876861	901101	937156	919219	580644	760936	1006084	1116065
18.	Punjab	1909956	1682809	1514067	1480390	371756	1130093	1930959	2190120
19.	Rajasthan	1972911	1886503	1845225	1795950	1099415	2051224	2257723	2464825
20.	Tamil Nadu	2910187	2924080	2744071	2601882	1465000	2071200	2400878	2419571
21.	Uttaranchal	404163	1732611	1774780	1774261	283941	2828730	4253263	4528683
22.	Uttar Pradesh (East)	1750628	1101339	1065090	1075585	1609488	893448	1409671	1567842
23.	Uttar Pradesh (West)	1205060	397755	385879	374452	659835	492972	624170	637059
24.	West Bengal	1333538	1330033	1256644	1223293	686198	1053972	1364228	1461043
25.	Kolkata TD	1387253	1407442	1405487	1402531	431090	620909	1022030	1077377
26.	Chennai TD	1041088	1045319	1055930	1040973	578191	787489	936509	980901
27.	Total	37995414	37294867	36130028	35129050	17163761	27428658	36209040	38489978
B. MTNL									
	Delhi	1621506	1597683	1602057	1575004	936146	13311428	1478440	1688202
	Mumbai	2256102	2203827	2205024	2144683	1005009	1415386	1763411	1941102

[English]

of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

**Construction of Houses under revised
Integrated Housing Scheme, 2005**

247. SHRIMATI C.S. SUJATHA : Will the Minister

(a) whether the applications have been received from the various States including Kerala pertaining to the construction of houses under the Revised

Integrated Housing Scheme, 2005 for Beedi workers and others;

(b) if so, the details thereof indicating the number of applications received, approved and rejected since its inception, year-wise and State-wise; and

(c) the funds allocated, released and spent during the said period, year-wise and State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF

LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES) : (a) to (c) Yes Sir. A total number of proposals for construction of 13287, 18750 and 38517 houses of the beedi workers were received during 2005-06, 2006-07 and 2007-08 respectively under the Revised Integrated Housing Schemes, 2005 for Beedi workers etc. Year-wise and State-wise details of applications received and approved alongwith the details of funds allocated and released during last three years from 2005-06 to 2007-08 is enclosed as Statement.

Statement

State-wise number of applications received from Beedi Workers and sanctioned under 'Revised Integrated Housing Scheme (RIHS), 2005' during last three years under the Beedi Workers Welfare Fund (BWFF)

(Rs. in Lakh)

Name of the State/ District	2005-06 Funds Allocated, Released and Spent Rs. 43.448 Crore			2006-07 Funds Allocated, Released and Spent Rs. 50.00 Crore			2007-08 Funds Allocated, Released and Spent 80.00 Crore		
	Proposals Received for No. of Houses	No. of Houses sanc- tioned	Funds Allocated, Released and Spent	Proposals Received for No. of Houses	No. of Houses sanc- tioned	Funds Allocated, Released and Spent	Proposals Received for No. of Houses	No. of Houses sanc- tioned	Funds Allocated, Released and Spent
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Andhra Pradesh	10,912	10,912	3838.00	11,485	11,485	3308.00	6679	6679	1684.60
Assam	Nil	Nil	Nil	9.1	91	18.20	Nil	Nil	Nil
Chhattisgarh	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	420	420	84.00
Gujarat	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	27	27	5.40
Karnataka	Nil	Nil	Nil	1,160	1,160	353.40	Nil	Nil	Nil
Kerala	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	2049	1854	284.40
Madhya Pradesh	60	60	Nil	225	225	45.00	3284	3284	656.80
Maharashtra	187	187	74.80	129	129	25.80	9327	9327	2088.43

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Orissa	43	43	17.20	1,634	1,634	384.60	1552	1552	310.40
Rajasthan	Nil	Nil	Nil	03	03	0.60	148	148	29.60
Tamil Nadu	Nil	Nil	Nil	2,898	2,898	615.60	271	271	Nil
Uttar Pradesh	21	21	8.40	128	128	25.60	504	504	100.80
West Bengal	Nil	Nil	Nil	168	168	33.60	13068	13068	2613.60
Bihar	1,016	1,016	406.40	678	678	159.40	62	62	12.40
Jharkhand	Nil	Nil	Nil	151	151	30.20	1126	1126	129.57
Grand Total	10,922	10,922	4344.80	18,750	18,750	5000.00	38517	38322	8000.00

Note: Sanction for construction of 1,422 houses by beedi workers was granted during 2007-08 and 432 houses were sanctioned during current year 2008-09 from out of 2049 applications in respect of proposals received from Kerala Government. Remaining 195 (out of 2049) applications, not eligible under the scheme were not considered for grant of subsidy.

Profit and Loss in BSNL

248. SHRI P. RAJENDRAN : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the losses incurred by Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) during the current year are less than the previous year;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the total amount of profits and losses incurred by BSNL during the last three years and the current year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA) : (a) Sir, BSNL has not incurred any losses since its inception including the year 2007-08.

(b) Not applicable in view of (a) above.

(c) Net profit earned by BSNL during last three years and the year 2007-08 are as follows:

Year	Profit in Crores of Rupees
2004-05	10183.29
2005-06	8939.70
2006-07	7805.87
2007-08	3009.39

Enhancement of Maternity and Other Benefits

249. SHRI K.C. PALLANI SHAMY : Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government has any proposal to enhance maternity and other benefits to all categories of women working in various sectors;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the above proposal is likely to be implemented ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. There is a proposal under consideration to include maternity benefit under the "Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojana" which was launched on 1st October, 2007 and became operational from 1st April, 2008 for below poverty line (BPL) families (a unit of five) in Unorganised Sector. For the Organised Sector Worker, the maternity benefits are extended under the Maternity Benefit Act, 1961. Recently the amount of medical bonus paid to a female worker in the Organised Sector has been increased from Rs. 250/- to Rs. 2500/-.

Telephone Revolution in Rural Areas

250. SHRI SURESH ANGADI : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the revolution in telephones has not reached the rural areas in the country inspite of the vast development in Information Technology Sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the private telephone operators and even BSNL have failed to achieve the target for providing telephone facilities in rural areas in the country;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the action taken/being taken by the Government to take the telephone revolution to the rural areas in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA) : (a) to (d) New Telecom Policy, 1999 (NTP-99) envisaged a target of 4%

teledensity in rural areas both in wireline and wireless by the year 2010. As against the teledensity of 0.52% as on 31st March, 1999, the present teledensity has increased manifold and is now 11.18% as on 31st August, 2008. Thus revolution in telephone has reached the rural areas of the country at a much faster rate. To increase the rural penetration, Universal Service Obligation Funds (USOF) are extensively being deployed, as a result, more than 90% villages have already been covered with communication facilities.

(e) Government has taken and is contemplating following action to further intensify the telephone revolution to the rural areas in the country:—

- (i) To increase the wireless communication in rural areas, scheme for setting up of 7871 Shareable Infrastructure Sites in 500 districts in 27 States for provision of mobile services in rural and remote areas through subsidy support from USOF (Phase-I) has been launched. Mobile services from these towers are likely to commence in a phased manner.
- (ii) Second phase of the Mobile Infrastructure Scheme for setting up 11,000 additional towers to cover the remaining uncovered rural and remote areas is likely to be launched shortly.
- (iii) Subsidy support from USOF for provision of Rural Direct Exchange Lines (RDELs) in 1685 commercially unviable Short Distance Charging Areas (SDCAs).
- (iv) Sharing of infrastructure to reduce the capital as well as operation cost.

Import of Foodgrains

251. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

- (a) the total quantity of foodgrains that has been

imported and exported by the Government during the last three years;

(b) the quantity of wheat and pulses out of the above imported during the said period alongwith the reasons therefor;

(c) the names of Government and non-Government institutions which imported the foodgrains alongwith the rates and the countries from which the same were imported;

(d) whether poor quality wheat was imported despite adequate availability of wheat in the country; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA) : (a) to (e) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

North-Eastern Integrated Flood and Riverbank Erosion Management

252. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state : /

(a) whether the Government has cleared the North-Eastern Integrated Flood and Riverbank Erosion Management Project, Assam for execution in Brahmaputra and Barak rivers with the funding from Asian Development Bank; and

(b) if so, the details of the project outlay, name of executing agency and target set for commencement of the actual work, location-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV) : (a) and (b) The Government has forwarded the

proposal for North-Eastern Integrated Flood and Riverbank Erosion Management Project, Assam to Asian Development Bank (ADB) for support. ADB has approved Project Preparatory Technical Assistance. Draft feasibility report has been submitted by the Consultant.

Increase in Digits of PIN

253. SHRI E.G. SUGAVANAM : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has any proposal to increase the digits in Postal Index Number (PIN) from six to eight in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the salient features of the scheme and the reasons therefor; and

(c) the time by which it is likely to be introduced?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SONDIA) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise in view of (a) above.

Private Water Projects

254. SHRI UDAY SINGH : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be please to state :

(a) whether the Union Government has set up special cell for speedy clearance of private water projects;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether many private sector projects are proposed to be funded by the Union Government if water related research is undertaken by them seriously; and

(d) if so, the criteria for selecting such private sector water projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN

YADAV) : (a) Ministry of Water Resources has not set up any special cell for speedy clearance of private water projects.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) Under Research and Development Programme of the Ministry of Water Resources, there is provision to sanction grants to Research and Development Institutions/Organizations and registered Non Government Organizations for undertaking research in water resources as per the approved guidelines.

Seed Production

255. SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has taken steps for the expansion and modernization of seed production facilities in the public sector to produce high quality seeds in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government is also planning to involve the private sector in the production of high quality seeds;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) steps taken to ensure availability of high quality seeds to farmers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. In order to establish/strengthen infrastructural facilities in the public sector for production and distribution of quality seeds, assistance is provided for seed processing plants, seed storage godowns and procuring machinery for seed cleaning, grading, treating, packing etc. The detail of assistance provided for last 4 years is as under:—

2005-06 1270.20 lakhs

2006-07 625.29 lakhs

2007-08 2939.06 lakhs

2008-09 (upto 15.10.2008) 2341.65 lakhs

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The National Seed Policy, 2002 envisages a greater role for the private sector in seed production in the country. Private sector contributed 41.09% of the seed produced in 2007-08 i.e. 76.50 lakh quintals. The Government of India also implements a Scheme to boost seed production in the private sector. Assistance is provided through credit linked back-ended capital subsidy at the rate of 25% of the project cost subject to a maximum limit of Rs. 10 lakh per unit on seed infrastructure development. The assistance has been enhanced to a maximum limit of Rs. 25 lakh per unit on seed infrastructure development in the Eleventh plan (2007-08 onwards). The details of the assistance availed of by different states under the scheme is given in the enclosed Statement.

(e) To ensure availability of high quality seeds to farmers, the systematic production of Breeder, Foundation and Certified/quality seed is undertaken in every season by the seed producing agencies viz Indian Council of Agriculture Research Institutes, State Agricultural Universities, State Department of Agriculture, State Seed Corporation, National Seeds Corporation, State Farm Corporation of India, seed cooperatives and private sector etc. Assistance is provided under various schemes for production and distribution of seeds viz (i) Macro Management Mode of Agriculture through State Work Plan, (ii) Integrated Scheme on Oilseeds, Pulses, Oil Palm and Maize, (iii) Technology Mission on Jute and Mesta, (iv) Technology Mission on Cotton, (v) Transport subsidy on Movement of Seeds to North Eastern States including Sikkim, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir, Uttarakhand and hill areas of West Bengal, (vi) Seed Village Programme, (vii) Infrastructure facilities in public sector, (viii) Boosting

Seed Production in Private Sector and (ix) National Food Security Mission. Government of India assess the seed requirement and availability in Zonal Input Conferences before every sowing season with the State Departments

of Agriculture, Indian Council of Agriculture Research, State Seed Corporations, National Seeds Corporation, State Farms Corporation of India, Cooperatives and Private sector etc.

Statement

Details of Proposal approved for Creation of Seed Infrastructure in Private Sector as on 10.10.2008

State	No. of proposal processed	Capacity of Infrastructure (Qtls)		Amount released as 1st Installment in Rs	Total involvement of subsidy in the state (Rs)
		Processing capacity	Storage capacity		
Andhra Pradesh	13	270000	85633	4993315	9986630
Bihar	1	20000	1240	54381	108762
Gujarat	7	130000	12805	1414055	3582288
Haryana	10	245000	60390	2734993	5195928
Himachal Pradesh	1	20000	0	64201	128402
Karnataka	2	70000	5930	585552	1072229
Madhya Pradesh	7	180000	59649	2317659	4514853
Maharashtra	6	120000	23023	1461010	2913337
Orissa	4	90000	18230	1124851	2258609
Punjab	6	215000	52837	2169746	4237459
Rajasthan	5	120000	17500	1212767	1768004
Tamil Nadu	21	255000	97060	3803472	7416990
Uttar Pradesh	35	515000	312808	13015024	24986663
Uttaranchal	24	470000	292348	7432730	15593636
West Bengal	7	145000	51170	2126885	4054153
Total	149	2865000	1090623	44510641	87817943

[Translation]

Crop Insurance Scheme

256. SHRI TUKARAM GANPAT RAO RENGE PATIL :
SHRI V.K. THUMMAR :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to introduce Crop Insurance Scheme (CIS) with village as unit in place of a district;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons thereof;

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA) : (a) to (c) National Agricultural Insurance Scheme (NAIS) which is in operation since Rabi 1999-2000, is an 'area' based scheme. The implementing States/UTs can notify any unit area of insurance including Gram Panchayat for the implementation of the scheme. However, the States/UTs have to undertake requisite number of Crop Cutting Experiments (CCEs) for making assessment of the yield.

**Resentment among Personnel against
Report of Sixth Pay Commission**

257. PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA :
SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR :

Will the DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is widespread resentment among the Armed Forces Personnel of the all the three Services, especially middle-level officers against the Report of Sixth Pay Commission and some of the officers have sought pre-mature retirement; and

(b) If so, the details thereof and the steps taken by the Government to remove the anomalies and

check exodus of soldiers and officers from the Armed Forces?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY) : (a) and (b) The Services had submitted a detailed representation to the Government bringing out certain issues arising out of the report of the Sixth Central Pay Commission. The Government has decided on most of the issues. Subsequently, few more issues have been raised by the Services viz. grant of higher grade pay to Service officers, placement of Lt. Col. and equivalent in PB-4, reinstatement of pensionary weightages for Personnel Below Officer Rank (PBOR), providing HAG + Pay Band for Lt. Generals and equivalent holding post of Principal Staff Officer, Director Generals, Controllers, etc.

No officer of Navy, Air Force has sought pre-mature retirement (PMR) on the ground of dis-satisfaction with the Sixth Central Pay Commission Report. However, in the Army, since March, 2008 a total number of 584 officers (less Army Medical Corps/Army Dental Corps and Military Nursing Service) have applied for pre-mature retirement/resignation on ground of non-empanelment, compassionate ground, low medical category, failure to acquire minimum technical qualification and better employment in civil life. However, from this it cannot be ascertained that they have sought an exit due to resentment against Sixth Pay Commission Report.

The Government have decided that the Minister of External Affairs will look into the issues raised by the Services and give recommendations, in consultation with the Defence Minister and the Finance Minister.

[English]

Maritime Surveillance Capability of Navy

258. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has reviewed the maritime surveillance capability of Indian Navy;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken to strengthen the same;

(c) whether the Indian Navy is facing shortage of short-range as well as long-range maritime surveillance aircraft; and

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

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

(a) to (d) Government constantly review the security environment and accordingly decide to induct appropriate equipment including short, medium and long range maritime reconnaissance aircraft for the Navy for adequate defence preparedness. Reconnaissance aircraft are required for maritime surveillance. The shortfall in maritime surveillance is being met by induction of new reconnaissance aircraft in the short range, medium range and the long range category in the 11th and the 12th Plan. Divulging further details will not be in the national interest.

Amendment in Indian Post Office Act

259. SHRI SUGRIB SINGH :
SHRI NAND KUMAR SAI :
SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH :
SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR :
SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government proposes to amend the Indian Post Office Act, 1898 to regulate the Courier Companies in the Country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the growth of Private Courier Companies has affected adversely the Speed Post Services of the Post Offices in the country;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the time by which it is likely to be amended; and

(f) the extent to which the postal services will be benefited by such amendments?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) It is still at a proposal stage.

(c) No, Sir.

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

(e) and (f) Do not arise in view of (b) above.

[Translation]

Corruption in Handloom and Handicrafts Sector

260. SHRI HARISINH CHAVDA :
SHRI MANSUKHBHAI D. VASAVA :

Will the TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether due to the prevalence of alleged corruption in the Handicrafts and Handloom Boards, proper monitoring and review of the schemes has been badly affected, thereby depriving the weavers and artisans of the benefits from the said schemes;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any investigation into the matter has been undertaken during the last three years and the current year; and

(d) if so, the outcome thereof and the steps taken by the Government to check recurrence of such Cases?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVA) : (a) and (b) No Sir. So far as the Handicrafts sector is concerned, there is an All India Handicraft Board (AIHB), which performs only advisory functions. The objectives of AIHB include advising the Government in the formulation of the overall development programmes in the Handicrafts sector; advising the Government in formulating the strategies to achieve a higher standard of living for craft persons; preserving and promoting the craft heritage; advising the Government in evolving strategies for expanding markets for Handicrafts in the country and abroad and to take steps for effective coordination of the development efforts of various Government agencies in the sector. The AIHB is not vested with any financial or administrative powers to monitor the schemes of the Government of India being implemented in the Handicraft sector.

So far as the Handlooms sector is concerned; no such information has been received from State Governments. Benefit of various Developmental and Welfare Schemes are being extended to the Weavers through State Governments.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

[English]

Land under Crop Protection Programmes

261. SHRI EKNATH MAHADEO GAIKWAD :

SHRI MADHU GOUD YASKHI :

SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether according to data compiled by the Agrochemicals Promotion Group (APG) and the Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India (ASSOCHAM), only 20 per cent of the 143 billion hectares

of agricultural land is covered under the Crop Protection Programmes;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the response of the Government thereto;

(c) whether the Government has examined the data/suggestions of APG and ASSOCHAM;

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

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA) : (a) to (e) The Agrochemicals Policy Group (APG) have suggested to increase area under crop protection from 20% of the cultivated area of over 140 million hectares of cultivated land. They have inter alia pointed out low pesticide usage in the country as a cause for low yields. Government of India has launched a scheme entitled "Strengthening and Modernization of Pest Management Approach in India" since 1991-92 by adopting Integrated Pest Management (IPM) as the cardinal principle of plant protection strategy in the overall crop protection programme. Under this scheme, 31 Central Integrated Pest Management Centres (CIPMCs) in 28 States and one Union Territory have been established with the mandate to impart training to Agriculture/Horticulture Extension Officers and farmers, pest/disease monitoring, production and release of bio-control agents/bio-pesticides. IPM packages of practices of pest/disease management in 77 major crops have been developed and circulated to all States/UTs for use by extension functionaries and farmers. Since 2007, awareness campaigns against spurious pesticides and for 100% seed treatment have been conducted regularly by the Government of India in coordination with the State Governments.

[Translation]

Decline in Carpets Export

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

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the carpet export is decreasing year after year;
- (b) if so, the details thereof during each of the last three years and also current year and the reasons therefor;
- (c) the remedial steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard; and
- (d) the success achieved as a result of the steps taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGO VAN) : (a) No, Sir. Only in the year 2007-08, the exports of carpets and other floor coverings witnessed a decline of 4.09% in rupee terms and an increase of 8.39% in US\$ term as compared to the export registered in the year 2006-07.

(b) The Export of Handmade Carpets and other Floor Coverings for the last three years is as under:

2005-06	Rs.3082.06 crore
2006-07	Rs.3674.86 crore
2007-08	Rs.3524.73 crore
2008-09 (April-September)	Rs.-1533.35 crore

The decline registered in Rupee terms in the year 2007-08 underscore the impact of appreciation of rupees against US\$, higher interest rates, slackening in demand and world-wide recession etc.

(c) The Government has taken various measures

for development and promotion of handmade carpets and other floor coverings which include: skill upgradation of weavers through training, creating awareness of policy and programmes among the stake holders by way of workshops/seminars, participation in International fairs/exhibitions abroad and organizing buyer-seller meets in India and abroad. Indian institute of Carpet Technology (IICT) under the aegis of Government of India, Ministry of Textiles has been established at Bhadohi to provide technical support to the Carpet Industry to make it a vibrant sector. Government of India announced duty credit scrip of 5% on FOB value of exports of handmade carpets and other floor coverings under Vishesh Krishi Gram Udyog Yojana Scheme (VKGUY), which would help the carpet industry in enhancing exports.

(d) Exports for the month of September, 2008 has witnessed a growth as compared to the exports in the corresponding month of 2007.

[English]

Safety of Mulla Periyar Dam

263. SHRI P.C. THOMAS :
SHRI K. SUBBARAYAN :

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

- (a) whether a recent study regarding Mulla Periyar Dam in Kerala has raised apprehensions regarding its safety;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV) : (a) to (c) A report on "Assessment of Probable Maximum Flood and Flood routing in respect of Mullaperiyar Dam" has been filed by the Government of Kerala before Hon'ble Supreme Court in connection with

the Original Suit No. 3 of 2006 (State of Tamil Nadu V/s State of Kerala and Others). The report was received by Central Water Commission (CWC) through Government Counsel. The report has raised issues regarding the capacity of Mullaperiyar Dam for the estimated probable Maximum flood with existing spillway capacity. The report has been examined by CWC and they have reported that the conclusion drawn in the above report does not appear to be well founded. CWC has sent the comments on the report to the Government Counsel on 13.10.2008 for placing before Hon'ble Supreme Court. The matter is subjudice.

Relief Package to Farmers

264. SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of farmers benefitted so far by the relief package of the Prime Minister;

(b) whether the Government proposes to help those farmers who have taken loan from the private money lenders;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA) : (a) As reported by the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD), 61.48 lakh loan accounts of farmers have been given the benefit of waiver of overdue interest and rescheduling of loans has been done in 33.71 lakh farm loan accounts under the rehabilitation Package for the farmers being implemented in 31 suicide prone districts of Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala and Maharashtra. In addition, 26,729 farmers and 6,17,697 farmers have benefited from subsidiary income activities and extension services respectively.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. The banks have been advised by the Government under farm credit package of 2004 to provide loans to farmers for repaying their debts taken from informal sources including private money lenders. In addition, the banks have been advised to earmark 3% of agriculture credit during 2008-09 for swapping of debt taken by the farmers from informal sources including private money lenders. NABARD has introduced 'Krishak Sathi Scheme' to extend refinance support to the banks for providing loans to the farmers to free them from the clutches of moneylenders.

(d) Does not arise.

IPO of BSNL

265. SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA :
SHRI SUNIL KHAN :
SHRI SURAVARAM SUDHAKAR REDDY :
SHRI P. RAJENDRAN:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has any plan to float a Rs. 4000 crore Initial Public Offer (IPO) of Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL);

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the BSNL unions have opposed this proposal;

(d) if so, the details thereof alongwith the objections; and

(e) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA) : (a) and (b) The Government is contemplating to offer part of its equity shareholding in BSNL by an offer of sale to the public.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The Joint Forum of BSNL Unions

and Associations of BSNL employees had given notice for indefinite strike from 26.2.08 against the IPO proposal of BSNL without giving reasons thereof. The proposed strike has been deferred by the Joint Forum.

(e) The Government has explained the advantages of listing of BSNL shares to the representatives of employees of BSNL shares to the representatives of employees of BSNL. These advantages include:—

- (i) it will facilitate BSNL to get Navratna status;
- (ii) useful for improving the image of BSNL;
- (iii) will promote growth of BSNL.

Distribution of Edible Oil under PDS

266. DR. R. SENTHIL :
SHRI JUAL ORAM :

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has initiated the scheme for distributing subsidized edible oil through Public Distribution System (PDS) to the poorest section of the society; and

(b) if so, the implementation status of the said scheme, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA) : (a) and (b) The Central Government has introduced a Scheme for distribution of upto 10 lakh tons of imported edible oils in 2008-09 with a subsidy of Rs. 15/- per kg. through State Governments/UTs @ 1 kg. per ration card per month through PDS shops/other outlets as decided by them. Following 29 States/UTs who had sought for allocation of edible oil have been allocated edible oil under the Scheme:—

Sl. No.	Name of the State/UT
1	2
1.	Andhra Pradesh
2.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands
3.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli
4.	Delhi
5.	Goa
6.	Gujarat
7.	Haryana
8.	Jammu and Kashmir
9.	Karnataka
10.	Madhya Pradesh
11.	Maharashtra
12.	Manipur
13.	Meghalaya
14.	Mizoram
15.	Nagaland
16.	Orissa
17.	Pondicherry
18.	Punjab
19.	Rajasthan
20.	Sikkim
21.	Tamil Nadu

1	2
22.	Tripura
23.	Uttarakhand
24.	West Bengal
25.	Chhattisgarh
26.	Himachal Pradesh
27.	Daman and Diu
28.	Uttar Pradesh
29.	Chandigarh

The edible oil is imported, packed and supplied by the Central PSUs to the States/UTs. Till 13.10.2008, orders for import of edible oil have been placed for 3.48 lakh tons. Of this, 2.40 lakh tons of edible oil has been shipped and 2.39 lakh tons of edible oil has landed in the country and about 1.43 lakh tons have been distributed to various States/UTs by Central PSUs.

The scheme has been formally launched on 28th July, 2008 from Andhra Pradesh. Distribution of subsidized imported edible oils have started in 12 States/UTs namely Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Maharashtra, Orissa, Tamil Nadu, West Bengal, Karnataka, Sikkim, Nagaland and Rajasthan.

Industrial Park Ordinance

267. SHRI HARIN PATHAK : Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether any State Governments including the Governments of Gujarat and Maharashtra have sent revised proposals to the Union Government on the Industrial Park Ordinance in 2008-09 for obtaining the approval;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Union Government has approved the revised proposals; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Allocation of Indus Water to Gujarat

268. SHRI P. S. GADHAVI :
SHRI MAHESH KANODIA :
SHRI BHUPENDRASINH SOLANKI :

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has received any representation from the Government of Gujarat recently for including Kutch region in the Indus basin and reallocating Indus water proportionately to the State; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV) : (a) and (b) Hon'ble Minister of Water Supply, Water Resources, Urban Development and Urban Housing, Government of Gujarat has written a letter dated 07.02.08 to the Hon'ble Union Minister of Water Resources regarding allocation of Indus water to Kutch region of Gujarat. He has referred to earlier letter dated 23.03.04 from Hon'ble Chief Minister of Gujarat in the matter and letter dated 01.08.05 from his predecessor, requesting for appropriate action by Central Government for allocation of Indus water (i.e. Ravi-Beas-Sutlej water). He has requested for an early decision.

Hon'ble Union Minister of Water Resources has responded to the above letter on 18.03.08 indicating the water issues amongst the present beneficiary States of

Eastern Rivers, some of which are before the Hon'ble Supreme Court including a Presidential Reference on the Punjab Termination of Agreement Act, 2004 enacted by Punjab Vidhan Sabha, whose outcome is awaited. Under the circumstances, till the existing issues get resolved and the present beneficiary States are in a position on spare some water, it might not be appropriate to open any issue for reallocation of water.

Production of Sheep's Yarn

269. SHRI VIKRAMBHAI ARJANBHAI MADAM : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government has received any proposal from the Government of Gujarat or Private Sector Enterprises to set up Sheep's Yarn Production Unit in joint venture in the State;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVA) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Supply of Poor Quality Uniforms

270. SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Personnel Below Officers Rank (PBOR) in the armed forces are being provided ill-fitting and untidy uniforms due to which they are made to buy their own uniforms from open market;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether an investigation has been made in this regard; and

(d) if so, the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY) : (a) to (d) The Personnel Below Officers Rank (PBOR) in the Armed Forces are not being provided ill-fitting and

untidy uniforms. Uniforms being provided to the Jawans are sourced from the Directorate General of Ordnance Factories (DGOF) in 15 different sizes which are based on scientific study. The improvement in the quality of uniforms provided to PBORs is a continuous process.

Procurement of Defence Equipment

271. SHRI SUNIL KHAN :

DR. DHIRENDRA AGARWAL :

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) the details of import of defence equipment alongwith their value during the last three years and the names of the countries from where these have been imported;

(b) the steps taken by the Government to undertake indigenous manufacturing of these equipment; and

(c) the success achieved in this regard?

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

(a) to (c) Procurement of defence equipment is made by the Government from various indigenous as well as foreign sources to meet the requirements of the Armed Forces. The import option is exercised when it is necessary to procure the items within a definite timeframe on operational grounds to bridge the capability gaps and normally when such equipment cannot be sourced indigenously within a specified timeframe. Expenditure incurred on import of defence equipment during the last three years is as follows:—

(Rs. in Crores)

Year	Expenditure incurred on import of defence equipment
2005-06	12101.49
2006-07	10022.00
2007-08	15026.68

Major countries from which the imports are made include Russia, the USA, the UK, France, Germany and Israel. Divulging further details with regard to import of defence equipment will not be in the national interest.

Steps taken to encourage indigenous manufacturing include: (a) rationalization of offset policy to include offset credit banking to enable creation of offset programmes by foreign participants in anticipation of future obligations; (b) products developed by the respective Workshops of the Armed Forces for 'in house' requirements can be procured from these agencies under 'Buy (Indian)' category; (c) provision of Transfer of Technology, if required, to an Indian public/private firm for providing maintenance infrastructure to be applicable for 'Buy' category cases, where equipment is being bought from foreign vendors; and (d) procurement under 'Buy' (Indian) category to have minimum 30% indigenous content if the systems are being integrated by an Indian vendor.

On an average, the expenditure on capital acquisition from indigenous sources has been above 71% during last three years.

[Translation]

Telephone Connections to TAC Members

272. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether all the Members of the Telecom Advisory Committees (TACs) constituted in various districts of the States have been provided telephone connections;

(b) if so, the details thereof during the last three years and the current year; and

(c) if not, the reasons thereof;

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) The details regarding the TAC members who have been provided telephone connections during the last three years and the current year is given below:

BSNL

Status As on	No. of TAC Members	No. of TAC Members to whom telephone is provided
31.03.2006	5904	5634
31.03.2007	4405	4061
31.03.2008	5296	4873
30.09.2008	6269	5742

MTNL

Year	No. of TAC Members	No. of TAC Members to whom telephone is provided
2005	116	106
2006		
2007	230	204
2008		

(c) The main reasons for delay/non provision of telephones to the TAC members are:-

- (i) Consent for acceptance of the TAC members awaited.
- (ii) Technical non-feasibility of the area where telephone is required by the TAC member.
- (iii) TAC member is not interested in telephone.
- (iv) Member is asking for mobile connections, which is not permitted.

- (v) TAC has been constituted recently; installation of telephone is under process.
- (vi) Outstanding dues exists against some members.

[English]

**Artificial Water Recharge Projects in
Andhra Pradesh**

273. SHRI L. RAJAGOPAL : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

- (a) the details of demonstrative artificial water recharge projects for recharging ground water proposed in Andhra Pradesh during the Eleventh Plan period;
- (b) the funds allocated for the purpose; and
- (c) the number of villages proposed to be benefited from the said projects in the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV) : (a) to (c) A project for construction of 23 demonstrative artificial recharge structures in Cuddapah district of Andhra Pradesh covering 16 villages was approved for implementation during the year 2006-08 under the Central Ground Water Board's Central Sector Scheme of 'Ground Water Surveys, Investigation and Exploration'. A sum of Rs. 1.30 crore has been released for the purpose to implementing agency of the State.

Kuttanad Development Package

274. SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPAN :
SHRI PANNIAN RAVINDRAN :
DR. K.S. MANOJ :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

- (a) the details regarding the funding pattern for

the various projects involved in the Kuttanad Package recommended by Dr. M.S. Swaminathan Commission;

(b) whether the Government proposes to relax the norms for the Central Sector Schemes included in the package; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA) : (a) For development of Kuttanad Wetland Eco-system as a part of Rehabilitation Package for the farmers in suicide prone districts of Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala and Maharashtra, the Government has granted 'in-principle' approval for providing financial support for implementing various programmes/interventions suggested by M.S. Swaminathan Research Foundation. The programme/interventions involving financial outlay of Rs. 1,840.75 crore are to be implemented by the concerned Ministries/Departments within their existing schemes and funding pattern for which the Government of Kerala will after identifying the activities to be under taken, submit appropriate proposals after formulation of Detailed Project Reports (DPRs) to the concerned Ministries/Departments of the Government of India in accordance with the approved guidelines/procedures for such schemes for release of necessary funds. The Government has also approved that the programmes/interventions involving financial outlay upto Rs. 50 lakhs will be implemented by the State Government of Kerala from their own funds under their schemes.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Subsidy to Agricultural Products

275. SHRI PRABODH PANDA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government proposes to provide subsidy to the farmers instead of the companies;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government proposes to provide a Special Package for encouraging bio-fertilisers; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA) : (a) and (b) Government is not considering any proposal at present to provide subsidy straight to farmers instead of the companies.

(c) and (d) There is no proposal to provide special package for encouraging bio-fertilizers.

Amendment in 3G Telecom Policy

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

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has amended the Third Generation (3G) telecom policy recently in the country;

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

(c) whether the Government has issued the guidelines to obtain the licence to run 3G spectrum; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA) : (a) to (d) Yes, Sir.

Subsequent to release of the detailed guidelines for auction and allotment of spectrum for 3G Telecom Services on 01.08.08, clarifications/Amendments to these Guidelines were issued on 11.09.08 by the Government based on the queries and feedbacks received from various sources with regard to eligibility for bidding for 3G spectrum, amount of spectrum, merger and acquisitions and spectrum usage charges. The amendments to the guidelines are given in the enclosed Statement.

The spectrum for 3G would be allotted through a controlled, simultaneous ascending e-auction.

Statement

F.No. P-11014/16/2008-PP

Government of India

Ministry of Communications and IT

Department of Telecommunications

WPC Wing

Clarification/Amendments to the Guidelines for Auction and Allotment of Spectrum for 3G Services Issued on August 01, 2008

A number of queries/requests for clarifications and suggestions for amendment were received from various sources on the guidelines for Auction and Allotment of Spectrum for 3G Services issued by DoT on August 01, 2008. Based on the feedbacks and inputs received, following clarifications/amendments are provided:—

Para No. of guidelines	Existing	Substituted by
1	2	3
2. Eligibility for Bidding for 3G Spectrum	<p>Any person</p> <p>(i) who holds a UAS licence of</p> <p>(ii) who fulfills the eligibility criteria for obtaining a Unified Access Services Licence (UASL) as per Department of Telecommunications guidelines dated 14.12.2005 and has previous experience of running 3G telecom services</p> <p>can bid for 3G spectrum</p>	<p>Any person</p> <p>(i) who holds a UAS/CMTS licence; or</p> <p>(ii) (a) who has previous experience of running 3G Telecom Services; and (b) gives an undertaking to obtain Unified Access Services Licence (UASL) as per Department of Telecommunications guidelines dated 14/12.2005 before starting telecom operations</p> <p>can bid for 3G spectrum</p>
3. Amount of Spectrum Sub para 3.2	<p>Spectrum shall be auctioned in the 450 MHz band, in 800 MHz band for EVDO services, and in 1900 MHz band (1900 — 1910 paired with 1980-1990 MHz) when it becomes available. UASL CDMA telecom service providers may have the option to seed 2x1.25 MHz in 800 MHz band subject to availability at a price equivalent to the highest winning bid in 2.1 GHz auction prorated to a per 2x1.25 MHz price. The seniority for allotment shall be the subscriber base in a telecom service area.</p>	<p>Spectrum shall be auctioned for 3G services in the 450 MHz band, 2x1.25 MHz in 800 MHz band for EVDO services, and in 1900 MHz band (1900-1910 paired with 1980-1990 MHz) when it becomes available.</p> <p>The reserve price for auction of one block of 2x1.25 MHz spectrum in 800 MHz band shall be 25% of reserve price for 2x5 MHz in 2.1 GHz band. The reserve price for one block of spectrum in 450 MHz and 1900 MHz bands would be notified separately.</p>
Mergers and Acquisitions Sub para 4.1	<p>Mergers and acquisitions shall be as per policy guidelines on the subject issued by DOT vide No. 20-100/2007-AS-I dated 22nd April 2008 or any subsequent revision thereof.</p>	<p>Mergers and acquisitions shall be as per policy guidelines on the subject issued by DOT vide No. 20-100/2007-AS-I dated 22nd April 2008 or any subsequent revision thereof. This policy is applicable for merger between two UASL holders only in a service area.</p>
7. Grant of Licence Sub para 7 (d)	<p>If the period of existing UAS telecom licence of a successful bidder is expiring before this period of 20 years for spectrum allotment of</p>	<p>If the period of existing UAS telecom licence of a successful bidder is expiring before this period of 20 years for spectrum allotment for</p>

1	2	3
10. Spectrum Usage Charges:	<p>3G services, its existing UAS licence shall be extended in the 19th year of its validity to a date 20 years from the date of 3G spectrum allotment at a price as may be determined by the Government at the time of extension of licence. This extension shall be done in the 19th year of the UAS licence for the period required to make it co-terminus with the 3G spectrum allocation period by amending licence conditions if required.</p> <p>(i) No annual spectrum charge shall be payable for 3G Telecom services in the first year from the date of allotment of spectrum.</p> <p>(ii) The licensee shall pay annual spectrum charge of 1% of AGR after a period of one year.</p>	<p>3G services, its existing UAS licence shall be extended in the 19th year of its validity to a date 20 years from the date of 3G spectrum allotment in such manner, as the Government deems fit. This extension shall be done in the 19th year of the UAS licence for the period required to make it co-terminus with the 3G spectrum allocation period by amending licence conditions if required.</p> <p>(i) No annual spectrum charge shall be payable for 3G Telecom services in the first year from the date of allotment of spectrum.</p> <p>(ii) The licensee shall pay annual spectrum charge of 1% on the incremental revenue due to 3G services after a period of one year. The method of calculation shall be notified separately.</p>
11. Other issues	<p>The Government of India reserves the right to cancel the bidding process or disqualify any bidder.</p>	<p>The Government of India reserves the right to cancel the bidding process for disqualify any bidder without assigning any reason.</p>

Foreign Companies in Defence Production

277. SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has recently allowed foreign companies in defence production:

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has taken adequate safety measures keeping in view the sensitive nature of the production system;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the indigenous companies engaged in producing defence items at present are not equipped enough to produce those items for which the foreign companies are proposed to be allowed; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (RAO INDERJIT SINGH) : (a) No Sir. However, Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) upto 26% is permissible in Indian companies/partnership firms, subject to licensing.

(b) to (f) In view of (a) above, does not arise.

Allowance to registered unemployed persons

278. SHRI HARIBHAU RATHOD : Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government proposes to provide allowance to unemployed persons registered with employment exchanges and not covered under National Rural Employment Guarantee Act due to lack of employment opportunities in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the allowance is already being paid in some States by the respective Governments to registered unemployed persons;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps being taken by the Union Government for extension of allowance to unemployed urban youth in the other States of the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) As per available information, the State Governments of Chhattiagarh, Haryana, Kerala, Manipur, Punjab, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Tripura and Union Territory of Pondicherry are paying unemployment allowance to certain specified categories of unemployed youth.

(e) The Central Government is not in favour of payment of unemployment allowance to any category of unemployed youth as a matter of policy. The Central Government is of the view that the payment of unemployment allowance to all unemployed youth would divert substantial resources from development programmes to a non-development activity. The resources of such a magnitude should better be used for development

activities which would generate substantial productive employment.

[Translation]

Funds for Dairy Development

279. SHRI CHANDRABHAN SINGH : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of fund proposed to be spent on dairy development during Eleventh Five Year Plan and its percentage with regard to total investment proposed for agriculture sector; and

(b) the details of said allocation proposed to be made, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI TASLIMUDDIN) : (a) The details of funds proposed to be spent on various Centrally sponsored and Central sector scheme of dairy development during Eleventh Five Year Plan are as under:

(i) Dairy Development Project: Intensive Dairy Development Programme, Strengthening Infrastructure for Quality and Clean Milk Production Scheme and National Dairy Plan (provisional outlay)	Rs. 225.01 crore
(ii) Assistance to Cooperatives:	Rs. 50.00 crore
(iii) Delhi Milk Scheme:	Rs. 5.00 crore
(iv) Dairy Venture Capital Fund:	Rs. 300.00 crore
Total	Rs. 580.01 crore

This amount is 1.40% (at current prices) of the total investment proposed for various Centrally sponsored and

Central sector schemes in agriculture sector during 11th Five Year Plan.

(b) The above said dairy development schemes are demand driven and no state-wise allocations are made.

Loan for Cattle

280. SHRI SHISHUPAL N. PATLE : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to consider a scheme for waiving off the loan taken for buying the cattle under the loan waiver Scheme for farmers;

(b) If so, whether this scheme would be applicable for all the farmers in the country; and

(c) if so, the details thereof;

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI TASLIMUDDIN) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Question does not arise. However, the following information is furnished:-

In terms of the guidelines of Agricultural Debt Waiver and Debt Relief Scheme-2008, Investment Credit for allied activities extended by Scheduled Commercial Banks, Regional Rural Banks, Cooperative Credit Institutions (including Urban Cooperative Banks) and Local Area Banks to farmers for acquiring assets in respect of activities allied to agriculture, including cattle is covered for loan waiver/relief, provided the loans are otherwise eligible as per the Scheme.

[English]

Investment in Agriculture Sector

281. SHRI AMITAVA NANDY :
SHRI ANURAG SINGH THAKUR :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the amount of investment made in the agriculture sector through various schemes and projects during the last three years and the current year;

(b) whether there has been a constant decline in the investments including private investment made in farm sector as compared to other sectors;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the Government has formulated any scheme to increase the investment including private investment in farm sector; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA) : (a) The amount of investment made in the agriculture sector through various schemes and projects in the last three years and current year are as follows:—

(Rs. in crore)

Sl..	Year	BE	RE	Expenditure No.
1.	2005-06	4209.32	3920.00	3848.15
2.	2006-07	4840.00	4900.00	4679.86
3.	2007-08	5560.00	6927.94	749.36
4.	2008-09	10105.67		4305.46 ** provisional

**upto 30.09.2008

(b) and (c) The total investment (including public and private) in agriculture and allied sectors as well as in other sectors during the period 2002-03 to 2006-07 are as under:—

(Rs. crore)

at constant (1999-2000) prices

Sl.No.	Industry/Sector	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06 [@]	2006-07*
1.	Agriculture and allied	55668	53541	57759	64511	71208
2.	Mining, manufacturing, electricity and construction	220491	275322	389111	489260	563198
3.	Services	266202	282217	300840	336917	384035
Total		542361	611080	747710	890688	1018441

[@]Provisional estimates

*Quick estimates

Source : Central Statistical Organization.

(d) and (e) Public as well as private sector participation is encouraged in developing agricultural marketing infrastructure and in providing alternate marketing channels for agri-produce in order to facilitate establishment of private markets, allow direct marketing and contract farming to improve post-harvest management under the Central Sector Scheme for Development/Strengthening of Agricultural Marketing Infrastructure, Grading and Standardization. Under the Central Sector Scheme "Development and Strengthening of Infrastructure Facilities for Production and Distribution of Quality Seeds", assistance is provided for boosting seed production in the cooperative, public and private sector.

Government has launched Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY), a State Plan Scheme, for the Eleventh Plan period to incentives the states to increase public investment in Agriculture and allied sectors. The funds under the RKVY would be provided to the States as 100 per cent grant by the Central Government. An outlay of Rs. 25,000 crore for the Eleventh Plan Period (2007-08 to 2011-12) has been approved under the scheme.

*[Translation]***Radiation from Mobile Towers**

282. SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether a recent report of Telecom Engineering Centre of the Ministry of Communications and Information Technology has indicated that the radiation from the mobile towers are dangerous for human health;

(b) if so, the research work undertaken to decrease the harmful radiation from these towers; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to shift these towers to safer places?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA) : (a) to (c) The Telecom Commission has approved the adoption of International Commission on Non-ionizing Radiation

Protection (ICNIRP) guidelines, recommended by Telecommunications Engineering Centre (TEC) in the Telecommunication Sector in India regarding basic restriction and response levels for limiting Electro Magnetic Field exposures.

As per these guidelines, Epidemiological studies on exposed workers and the general public have shown no major health effects associated with typical exposure environments. The studies have yielded no convincing evidence that typical exposure levels lead to adverse reproductive outcomes or an increased cancer risk in exposed individuals.

The World Health Organization (WHO) fact sheet No. 304 of May, 2006 also states that the radiations from mobile base stations, phones and wireless networks are far below the permitted levels and also the research results collected to date, confirm that there is no convincing scientific evidence that the weak RF signals from base stations and wireless network cause adverse health effects. It is further mentioned that the report of the committee constituted as per the orders of Hon'ble High Court, Mumbai to study the effects of radiations from mobile phone towers and related aspects, under Director General, Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) indicates that 'overall there is not enough evidence to show direct health hazards of RF exposures from mobile base stations. As long as the level of electromagnetic radiations is within safety limits they are harmless.

[English]

**Programmes to Improve Production of
Cereals and Pulses**

283. SHRI BALASHOWRY VALLABHANENI : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Integrated Cereal Development Programme under Macro Management and Integrated Scheme of Oilseeds, Pulses, Oilpalm and Maize (ISOPOM)

are in operation to enhance the production of cereals and pulses in the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the achievements made therein?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA) : (a) and (b) Integrated Cereals Development Programme in Rice/Wheat/Coarse Cereals Based Cropping Systems Areas (ICDP-Rice/Wheat/Coarse Cereals) is in operation under Macro Management to enhance the production and productivity of Rice, Wheat and Coarse Cereals in the country. Integrated Scheme of Oilseeds, Pulses, Oilpalm and Maize (ISOPOM) is in operation in 14 major pulses growing states of the country for augmenting the production and productivity of pulses. The efforts made under these schemes alongwith others resulted into substantial gain in production of foodgrain including rice, wheat, coarse cereals and pulses which increased from 213.19 million tones in 2003-04 to 230.67 million tones in 2007-08 (as per 4th advance estimates).

Micro Irrigation in Kerala

284. SHRI P. KARUNAKARAN : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the physical and financial targets fixed and achievements made by the Government of Kerala under the Centrally sponsored Schemes for popularising micro irrigation during the last three years and the current year;

(b) whether priority is given to the northern districts of the State including Kasargod having highly skewed rainfall distribution and the long dry spells in the implementation of such schemes; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE

MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA) : (a) The physical and financial targets fixed and achievements made by the Government of Kerala under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Micro Irrigation during the last three years and the current year is as under:—

Year	Physical (Area in ha)		Financial (Rs. in lakh)	
	Target	Achievement	Target	Achievement
2005-06 to 2007-08	25208	2550	4000	303.61
2008-09	22658	Nil	3696.39	Nil

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. Three northern districts viz. Palakkad, Wayanad and Kasargod have been provided assistance under the special package the details of which is as under:—

Year	Physical (Area in ha)		Financial (Rs. in lakh)	
	Target	Achievement	Target	Achievement
2006-07 to 2007-08	5382	1530.46	794.30	110.10
2008-09	3851.54	1.51	684.20	0.05

[Translation]

Production of Sugar

285. SHRI MAHAVIR BHAGORA :
SHRI SHRINIWAS DADASAHEB PATIL :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Sugar Production Capacity in the

country has been on a continuous rise since the year 2000;

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

(c) the annual production and demand for sugar in the country during the said period, year-wise;

(d) whether the existing sugar mills are unable to meet the demand in the country;

(e) if so, the details of measures being taken by the Government to meet the shortfall in supply;

(f) whether apart from the mandatory provision of the minimum 15 kms. radius from any existing sugar mill for opening a new mill any other policy has been framed to provide remunerative price of sugarcane to the farmers; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA) : (a) and (b) A Statement-I indicating the sugar production capacity from 2000-01 to 2007-08 sugar season is enclosed.

(c) A Statement-II indicating the annual production and consumption from 2000-01 to 2007-08 sugar season is enclosed.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

(f) and (g) The mandatory provision of maintaining a distance of 15 Kms. between two sugar factories is to prevent unhealthy competitions among sugar factories to procure sugarcane. As regards remunerative price of sugarcane to the farmers, the interest of the farmers is protected under the relevant provisions of the Sugarcane (Control) Order, 1966.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
19.	Goa	0.093	0.093	0.093	0.093	0.093	0.093	0.093	0.093
20.	Nagaland	0.064	0.064	0.064	0.064	0.064	0.064	0.064	0.064
Total		168.203	176.847	184.038	188.023	189.854	197.972	213.917	224.803

Note: (i) After delicensing of sugar industry vide press note dated 31.08.1998 of the Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion, sugar factories undertaking expansion of capacity generally do not report their expanded capacity. The above statement has been prepared on the basis of available information in the Directorate of Sugar. Therefore, the installed capacity indicated above may not match with the actual installed capacity.

(ii) While working out state-wise annual sugar production capacity, the average duration and recovery percentage for 10 years from 1978-79 to 1987-88 have been adopted.

Statement-II

[English]

**Annual production and consumption of Sugar from
2000-01 to 2007-08 Sugar seasons**

(in lac tons)

Sugar season (October–September)	Production	Consumption
2000-01	185.10	162.00
2001-02	184.98	167.48
2002-03	201.32	183.76
2003-04	139.58	175.00
2004-05	130.00	171.44
2005-06	193.21	183.21
2006-07 (P)	282.00	199.00
2007-08 (P)	264.00	210.00

(P) - Provisional.

Information System for Water Resources

286. SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be please to state :

(a) whether the Union Government proposes to develop Information System for Water Resources in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of funds allocated by the Government during the Eleventh Plan State-wise for management of Water Resources?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. A Plan scheme "Development of Water Resources Information System" has been approved with an estimated cost of Rs. 234.3 crore for the XI Plan. The main component of the scheme is to develop online information system about Water Resources data. The scheme is being implemented by Central Water Commission in cooperation with National Remote Sensing Agency and National Informatics Centre. Provisions

have also been made in the scheme for collection of hydrological data including snow hydrology and water quality data, minor irrigation statistics and monitoring of on-going projects.

State-wise funds allocated by the Planning Commission for the Eleventh Plan, for Irrigation and flood control as given in the Eleventh Five Year Plan (2007-12) document Volume-I are given in the enclosed Statement.

Statement

State-wise funds allocated by the Planning Commission for the Eleventh Plan, for Irrigation and flood control

(Rs. crore at 2006-07 prices)

Sl. No.	States/UTs	XI Plan allocations
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	34292.18
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	516.95
3.	Assam	2862.96
4.	Bihar	7876.15
5.	Chhattisgarh	5550.35
6.	Goa	579.74
7.	Gujarat	29196.49
8.	Haryana	3975.82
9.	Himachal Pradesh	1220.62
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	735.02
11.	Jharkhand	3379.37
12.	Karnataka	26033.78

1	2	3
13.	Kerala	2343.41
14.	Madhya Pradesh	14934.79
15.	Maharashtra	26782.98
16.	Manipur	772.38
17.	Meghalaya	219.72
18.	Mizoram	199.06
19.	Nagaland	151.23
20.	Orissa	6518.18
21.	Punjab	1404.76
22.	Rajasthan	7655.29
23.	Sikkim	84.76
24.	Tamil Nadu	3313.36
25.	Tripura	520.78
26.	Uttar Pradesh	16338.22
27.	Uttarakhand	2661.10
28.	West Bengal	2626.76
	UTs	
29.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	52.94
30.	Chandigarh	3.19
31.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	52.41
32.	Daman and Diu	27.89
33.	Delhi	333.67
34.	Lakshadweep	47.55
35.	Puducherry	314.98

[Translation]

Shortage of Skilled Professionals

287. SHRIMATI SANGEETA KUMARI SINGH DEO :
DR. DHIRENDRA AGARWAL :

Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any shortage of skilled professionals in various sectors of the country;

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

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES) : (a) Ministry of Labour and Employment has not carried out any specific survey of shortage of skilled professionals in the country. However, in the context of faster economic growth, there is always a need to equip professionals with necessary skills.

(b) and (c) Government has taken up the following steps to improve supply of skilled professionals:

- (i) Up-gradation of 500 Government Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs)-100 with domestic funding and 400 with World Bank assistance.
- (ii) Up-gradation of the remaining 1396 Government ITIs through Public Private Partnership mode.
- (iii) Establishment of new ITIs and strengthening of existing ITIs in the North Eastern States, Sikkim and Jammu and Kashmir.
- (iv) Imparting of short term modular employable skills under the scheme "Skill Development Initiative" in 340 modules covering various sectors of economy.

(v) "In-principle" approval of Planning Commission has been obtained for opening of 1500 ITIs and 5000 Skill Development Centres in unserved blocks across the country.

Financial Package for Sugarcane Farmers

288. SHRI GIRIDHARI YADAV :
SHRI HARIKEWAL PRASAD :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government proposes to grant any direct financial package to sugarcane farmers in order to free them from the burden of debt and enable them to adopt modern farming techniques;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA) : (a) to (d) A scheme of debt waiver and debt relief for farmers including sugarcane farmers announced by the Government in the Union Budget 2008-09 is under implementation. This scheme is applicable to all farmers including sugarcane farmers in the country. Direct agricultural loans disbursed by scheduled commercial banks, regional rural banks and cooperative credit institutions up to March 31, 2007 and overdue as on December 31, 2007 which remained unpaid until February 29, 2008 are eligible for debt waiver or debt relief as the case may be.

In case of marginal and small farmers, the entire eligible amount has been waived. In the case of other farmers, there is a one time settlement (OTS) Scheme under which the farmer is to get a rebate of 25 per cent

of the eligible amount subject to the condition that the farmers pays the balance of 75 per cent of the eligible amount.

Agricultural loans restructured and rescheduled by banks in 2004 and 2006 through special packages and other loans rescheduled in the normal course as per RBI guidelines are also eligible either for a waiver or an OTS on the same pattern.

[English]

Pension to War Widows

289. SHRI ABU AYES MONDAL : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has proposed to revise the pension to war widows; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the time by which it will be made effective?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI M.M. PALLAM RAJU) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) As per the recommendations of the 6th CPC and accepted by Government pension of all past pensioners including pension of war widows (i.e. liberalized family pension) will be revised with effect from 1.1.2006 by adding together the following:—

- (i) Existing family pension as on 31.12.2005.
- (ii) Dearness Pension @ 50% of existing Family pension.
- (iii) Dearness Relief @ 24% of basic family pension plus dearness pension.
- (iv) Fitment weightage @ 40% of the existing family pension.

The pension will be revised by the concerned pension paying agencies under the instruction of the Ministry and will be given effect as early as possible.

[Translation]

Soil Erosion and Flood Control Projects

290. SHRI HEMMAL MURMU : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of ongoing/pending projects to control floods and to check soil erosion due to rain water in each State during the last three years and the current year;

(b) the details of the amount actually spent by the Union and State Governments out of the amount allocated and released for each State under each of these projects during the said period;

(c) whether the Union Government and State Governments have prepared any project report for the implementation of the works of floods control and checking water logging and soil erosion; and

(d) if so, the details of the work done and the expenditure incurred by the Union and State Governments for the purpose since May, 2008 till the end of present financial year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV) : (a) and (b) There are no pending projects with Ministry of Water Resources to control floods and to check soil erosion due to rain water. Most of the projects taken up during X Plan from central assistance have been completed. The State wise number of the ongoing flood management works/projects taken up in XI Plan through central assistance of Ministry of Water Resources and the estimated cost and funds released during the year 2007-08 and 2008-09 is given in the enclosed Statement.

(c) and (d) After severe floods of August 2004 in Assam and Bihar, the Ministry of Water Resources constituted a Task Force under Chairman, Central Water Commission to look into the problems of recurring floods

in Assam and its neighbouring states as well as in Bihar, West Bengal and Eastern Uttar Pradesh. The Task Force had submitted its report on 31.12.2004 to Ministry of Water Resources. In its report, along with other measures, the Task Force recommended works/schemes amounting to Rs.4982.10 crore to be taken up by the end of XI Plan in phases. The schemes recommended by the Task Force have been included under a state sector scheme "Flood Management Programme" approved 'in principle' by the Cabinet at an estimated cost of Rs.8,000 crore under Central Plan for implementation during XI Plan.

For reclamation of water-logged area in the commands of CAD projects, 478 schemes of various State Governments have been approved so far under CADWN programme of Ministry of Water Resources for an estimated area of 57700 ha. out of which, an area 46,466 ha. has been reclaimed till March 2008.

Statement

State wise number of ongoing Flood Management Schemes alongwith estimated cost and fund released during the period 2007-08 and 2008-09

(Rs. in crore)

S. No.	Name of State	Nos.	Estimated Cost	Funds released
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	9	54.72	16.4
2.	Assam	75	438.39	90.00
3.	Bihar	29	425.29	59.01
4.	Jammu and Kashmir	14	146.9	12.80
5.	Jharkhand	1	20.12	—
6.	Punjab	1	111.39	—

1	2	3	4	5
7.	Manipur	9	21.19	10.47
8.	Nagaland	5	13.9	6.95
9.	Orissa	72	170.42	45.90
10.	Sikkim	24	86.21	15.75
11.	Tripura	11	26.57	5.00
12.	Uttar Pradesh	4	48.85	5.25
13.	Uttarakhand	4	28.68	3.47
14.	West Bengal	8	59.46	—

[English]

Second Green Revolution

291. SHRI RANEN BARMAN : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether a decision has been taken by the Government to start the campaign of second green revolution in the country;

(b) whether many parts/States have been identified in the country for this purpose;

(c) whether required funds have been provided for in the Eleventh Five Year Plan for achieving the desired results; and

(d) if so, the comprehensive details thereof and the manner in which it is proposed to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA) : (a) to (d) The Green Revolution experienced in India paid rich dividends and the country become self-sufficient in

foodgrains. However, during the past decade, the agricultural growth rate showed a declining trend with production and productivity remaining almost stagnant. To deal with this situation, improvement of agricultural production and productivity and enhancement of the income of the farmers are some of the major thrust areas identified by the Government for focused and concerted action. In order to achieve these objectives, the National Policy for Farmers 2007, incorporating the key recommendations of the National Commission on Farmers, has been approved by the Government. In addition, a number of programmes/schemes are already under implementation. "Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana" which aims to achieve 4% annual growth in agriculture sector during the Eleventh Plan period by ensuring a holistic development of agriculture and allied sectors with an objective, inter-alia, to incentives States to increase public investment in agriculture and allied sectors has been launched and is under implementation with an outlay of Rs. 25,000 crore for the Eleventh Plan Period. Further, the "National Food Security Mission" is also being implemented to enhance the production of rice, wheat and pulses, with an outlay of Rs. 4882.48 crore for the Eleventh Plan. It is targeted that the foodgrain production shall be increased by 20 million tonnes by the end of the current Five Year Plan, through this programme. Several other schemes including National Horticulture Mission, Micro Irrigation and National Bamboo Mission have also been launched by the Government. A comprehensive credit package was also announced by the Government in June 2004 which, inter alia, aimed to enhanced flow of credit to agriculture sector and debt restructuring of outstanding loans for farmers in distress and in arrears. Further, the scheme of debt waiver and debt relief has been announced in the Union Budget for 2008-09 in order to addressed the problems faced by the farmers due to indebtedness and to enable them to access fresh institutional credit. For the year 2008-09, the plan outlay for Agriculture and Allied Sectors including Agricultural Research is Rs. 12865 crore which is higher by about 60% compared to that for 2007-08.

All these schemes and programmes are expected to substantially increase the growth rate of agriculture sector and improve the income level of the farmers.

[Translation]

Use of Chemical Fertilisers

292. SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN :
SHRI HITEN BARMAN :
DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the use of chemical fertilizers such as ammonium nitrate, potassium sulphate and super phosphate has increased manifold over the last few decades;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the over use of chemical fertilizers has led to a fall in per hectare agricultural production apart from exposing farmers to various health risks like cancer and kidney related problems;

(d) if so, the details thereof alongwith the remedial steps taken thereon; and

(e) the details of the steps taken to promote the use of carbonic fertilizers and bio-fertilizers in place of chemical fertilizers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA) : (a) to (e) Ammonium nitrate is not included in Schedule I part (A) of the Fertilizer Control Order, 1985 as a fertilizer. The consumption of potassium sulphate and super phosphate which was 0.32 lakh tonnes and 35.58 lakh tonnes respectively in 1991-92 came down to 0.30 lakh tonnes and 22.88 lakh tonnes respectively during 2007-08. In any case, the per hectare consumption of chemical fertilizers

in the country is around 110 kg only which is far less than those of other developing countries like Sri Lanka (119 kg/ha), Pakistan (137 kg/ha), Bangladesh (166 kg/ha). There is also no scientific evidence of declining soil productivity and exposing farmers to various health risks like cancer and kidney related problems due to use of chemical fertilizers. The Government is, however, promoting integrated and balanced use of fertilizers by advocating soil test based balanced and judicious use of chemical fertilizers including secondary nutrients and micro-nutrients in conjunction with organic manures and bio-fertilizers, for improving soil health and its productivity. The Government is also educating farmers through training and field demonstrations on balanced use of fertilizers.

[English]

Development of Horticulture

293. SHRI NARAHARI MAHATO : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has any scheme/ schemes to give financial assistance to the State Governments for the development of horticulture;

(b) if so, the names of the schemes available with respect to various plantation/crops;

(c) the essential features of each of the schemes; and

(d) the details of the financial assistance given to the Government of Kerala and Meghalaya for the purpose during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA) : (a) Yes. Sir.

(b) and (c) The Department of Agriculture and Cooperation is implementing two Centrally Sponsored Scheme on (i) Technology Mission for Integrated Develop-

ment of Horticulture in North-Eastern States (TMNE) including Sikkim since 2001-02 which was extended to Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand during the year 2003-04 and (ii) the National Horticulture Mission (NHM) in the remaining States and Union Territories from 2005-06, for the holistic development of horticulture.

The objective of both the schemes are to promote the holistic growth of the horticulture sector through area based regionally differentiated strategies; to enhance horticulture production, improve nutritional security and income support to farm households and others; to establish convergence and synergy among multiple on going and planned programmes for horticulture development; to promote, develop and disseminate technologies; to generate employment for skilled and unskilled persons, especially unemployed youth.

The thrust of both the Missions is on area based regionally differentiated cluster approach for development of horticultural crops, having comparative advantage by adopting an end-to-end approach.

Under these schemes, assistance is provided for production and distribution of quality planting material of elite cultivars, area expansion, adoption of new technologies, integrated pest and disease management, human resource development, post harvest management, value addition and marketing.

(d) During the last three years (2005-06 to 2007-08) an assistance of Rs. 17641.24 lakhs was provided to State Horticulture Mission, Kerala under NHM Scheme and an assistance of Rs. 5428.00 lakhs was provided to Government of Meghalaya under TMNE Scheme.

[Translation]

Report of the Central Team on drought situation

294. SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the report of the Central Team on drought situation in the country including Uttar Pradesh and Bundelkhand region in Madhya Pradesh;

(b) whether the Government has provided any financial assistance (package) to these two States on the basis of the said report; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA) : (a) to (c) An Inter-Ministerial Central Study Team visited the Bundelkhand areas and some tehsils in Allahabad district of Uttar Pradesh in the 4th Week of January, 2008 and the Bundelkhand areas of Madhya Pradesh in the 1st week of February, 2008, to study the drought like situation in these areas with a view to assessing the ground situation and the scale of implementation of various medium-term and long-term drought mitigation programmes/schemes and to recommend strategy and various measures that are required for agriculture development suitable for the areas to ameliorate the current situation. The Team submitted its report which is under consideration.

Per capita Availability of Water

295. SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether per capita availability of water is decreasing in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has carried out any district-wise survey in the country in this regard;

(d) if so, the details and outcome thereof;

(e) the steps taken for identification of new water resources in the country alongwith the outcome thereof, State-wise; and

(f) the other steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to improve the availability of water in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV) : (a) and (b) The average annual water availability for the country as a whole has been assessed as 1869 billion cubic meter (BCM). The increase in population results in decline in per capita water availability. In 1951, the per capita water availability was 5177 cubic meter. On the basis of population indicated in 2001 census, the per capita water availability worked out to be 1820 cubic meter.

(c) District wise survey has not been made in this regard.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) and (f) With a view to augment the water resources for utilization for various purposes, several measures are undertaken by respective State Governments which, inter-alia, include conservation of water resources through reservoir, traditional water bodies, rain water harvesting and artificial recharge to ground water,

[English]

Fish Landing Centres

296. SHRI JASUBHAI DHANABHAI BARAD : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Fish Landing Centres along India Coastal are slowing down;

(b) if so, the reasons for decline of catches; and

(c) the steps being taken by the Union Government to solve this problem?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI TASLIMUDDIN) : (a) and (b) No, Sir.

The fish landing centres along Indian coast are not slowing down. The fish production of the Coastal States for the last four years i.e. from 2003-04 to 2006-07 is given in the enclosed Statement and indicates no sharp decline in

marine fish landings except in a few isolated cases due to post tsunami scenario.

(c) Does not arise.

Statement

Trend of Marine Fish Production throughout the Coastal States/UTs of the Country

(in '000 tonnes)

Sl. No.	Name of States/UTs	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
1.	West Bengal	181.60	179.50	160.00	178.10
2.	Andhra Pradesh	263.93	210.73	218.84	240.20
3.	Orissa	116.88	121.93	122.21	128.14
4.	Tamil Nadu	373.00	307.69	307.69	387.25
5.	Gujarat	609.14	584.78	663.88	670.51
6.	Maharashtra	420.01	417.77	445.34	464.09
7.	Goa	83.76	94.81	100.91	98.97
8.	Karnataka	187.00	171.23	176.97	168.54
9.	Kerala	608.52	601.86	558.91	598.06
10.	Daman and Diu	13.77	12.51	17.72	16.35
11.	Lakshadweep	10.03	11.96	11.96	11.75
12.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	31.06	32.60	12.05	28.60
13.	Puducherry	42.80	31.50	19.27	33.61
Total Marine Production		2941.50	2778.87	2815.75	3024.17

Optimum use of Ground Water

297. SHRI DUSHYANT SINGH : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has taken steps for optimum use of ground water resources;

(b) whether some advisory council and other

organisations have been pressed into service for the purpose;

(c) If so, the details of the task performed by the said organisations; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to conserve the ground water resources?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV) : (a) to (d) The Government has constituted an 'Artificial Recharge of Ground Water Advisory Council' with a view to popularize the concept of artificial recharge among all stakeholders. The steps taken by the Government to conserve ground water resources include:—

- Circulation of 'Model Bill' to enable States/ Union Territories to enact suitable legislation for regulation and control of ground water development.
- Organization of National Ground Water Congress for sharing information and achieving coordination among stakeholders.
- Preparation and circulation of Manual on Artificial Recharge to Ground Water.
- Preparation and circulation of 'Master Plan on Artificial Recharge of Ground Water' to States/ Union Territories.
- Implementation of demonstrative schemes of artificial recharge of ground water by Central Ground Water Board (CGWB).
- Implementation of the Scheme of 'Artificial Recharge to Ground Water through Dugwells' in hard rock areas in seven States viz. Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Karnataka, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Gujarat and Madhya Pradesh.
- Promotion of roof top rain water harvesting.

— Awareness and training programmes for rain water harvesting and artificial recharge of ground water.

— Implementation of scheme for Repair, Renovation and Restoration of Water Bodies.

Rise in Prices of Skimmed Milk Powder

298. SHRI PARSURAM MAJHI : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the skimmed milk powder prices have increased;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether rise in the prices of milk powder has created shortage in the country;

(d) whether the Government has any proposal to impose the ban on the export of milk powder in view of the shortage; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI TASLIMUDDIN) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The price of skimmed milk powder (SMP) has increased in the last few years mainly due to increase in the cost of production, procurement and processing of milk.

(c) Government has not received any report on shortage of milk powder in the country.

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

[Translation]

Wheat 'Stock

299. SHRI GANESH SINGH : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the target fixed for wheat stock during the current year;

(b) whether the wheat stock of the country remained much below the target fixed for the current year;

(c) If so, the details thereof and reasons therefor; and

(d) the measures taken by the Government for achieving the targets fixed for wheat stock?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA) : (a) to (d) the stock position of wheat vis a vis buffer norms since 1.1.2008 is as under:-

(in lakh tons)

AS ON	Wheat	
	Minimum buffer norms	Actual stock
1.01.2008	82	77.12
1.04.2008	40	58.03
1.07.2008	171	249.12
1.10.2008	110	220.25

Although, the actual stock of wheat as on 1.1.2008 was lower than the buffer norms, however, the stock of wheat from 1.4.2008 onwards has been higher than the buffer norms due to record procurement of wheat on account of increase in Minimum Support Price (MSP) and other measures taken by the Government.

[English]

Study on Khesari Dal

300. SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI :
SHRI TUKARAM GANPAT RAO RENGE PATIL :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of Maharashtra has requested the National Institute of Nutrition to test a kind of Pulse "Lokhodi" or Khesari Dal and find out its effects on human health;

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

(c) whether many States are capable of producing sufficient quantity of this kind of pulse which can help in cutting down imports of pulse; and

(d) if so, the reaction of the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The National Institute of Nutrition, Hyderabad proposes to conduct a study using goats as animal model had submitted the proposal for approval of the Committee for the Purpose of Control and Supervision on Experiments on Animals (CPCSEA). CPCSEA has now approved the proposal to conduct the study.

(c) and (d) Khesari dal is cultivated in various parts of the country. The production of Khesari dal (*Lathyrus sativus*) in the country during 2002-03, 2003-04, 2004-05 and 2006-07 was as under:-

Year	Production (in lakh tonnes)
2002-03	3.54
2003-04	4.92
2004-05	3.04
2005-06	3.45
2006-07	3.83

The production of Khesari dal in the country may not be sufficient to bridge the gap between demand and domestic production of pulses as the current production of khesari dal is far less than the total imports of pulses.

Quality of Internet Services by BSNL

301. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the quality of Internet services being provided by Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) in various parts of the country is unsatisfactory;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there has been inordinate delay in giving Internet/Land line connections to applicants including in suburban and rural areas as well as lack of efficient customer satisfaction strategy of BSNL which is causing reduction in its market share especially in urban areas;

(d) if so, whether the Government has examined the matter in view of increasing future demands and growing competition in the country;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to ensure optimal and efficient utilization of its resources to provide quality internet service at affordable prices to the people?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA) : (a) to (c) As per Quarterly Performance Indicator Report of Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) dated 7th October 2008, the Internet and Broadband services of BSNL are meeting the quality service parameters prescribed by TRAI in most of the service areas. The Internet connections being

provided by BSNL are within the stipulated time in most of the areas including sub-urban and rural areas. In case of land line connection provisioning, the performance of BSNL as per the aforesaid TRAI report is more than 95% in most of the service areas.

Efficient customer satisfaction strategy is being followed due to which BSNL is presently the leading service provider with a market share of about 54% in Broadband connections and 35% in Internet connections.

(d) to (f) To meet the future demand, BSNL has planned sufficient capacity for Internet and Broadband services for 2008-09. BSNL is making constant endeavor to ensure optimal and efficient utilization of its resources for providing quality Internet Services. To provide affordable Internet services, BSNL has introduced competitive tariff plans like Home Plan 125 and Startup plan 250.

Chief of Defence Staff

302. SHRI ARJUN SETHI : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) the details of steps taken by the Government in regard to creation of the post of Chief of Defence Staff (CDS); and

(b) the latest position in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY) : (a) and (b) Pursuant to the Group of Ministers (GOM) report on "Reforming the National Security System" in February 2001, the Government initiated the process of consultation with political parties in March 2006. As this process is still underway, the Government would take a decision on the creation of the post of Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) after the consultation is completed. Raksha Mantri has addressed leaders of various national level political parties. Four parties have replied. Parties who have not replied to the letter have been reminded to expedite their views.

[Translation]

Mulberry Plantation

303. SHRI AJIT JOGI : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government proposes to bring more area of land under Mulberry plantation in the country;

(b) if so, the package assistance likely to be provided for this purpose;

(c) whether the State Governments have submitted any proposal in this regard; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Considering the potential for expansion of sericulture in the country and with a view to provide/improve livelihoods besides increasing income of the poor people in rural areas, it is proposed to increase the area under mulberry food plants from 1.92 lakh ha. (2006-07) to 2.18 lakh ha. during the XI Plan.

In order to increase the area under food plants, enhance the production, productivity and quality of silk, the Government of India through Central Silk Board is implementing a Centrally Sponsored Scheme viz. Catalytic Development Programme (CDP) during XI Plan in collaboration with the State Governments. The packages under CDP covers three major areas-Seed sector, Cocoon sector and Post-cocoon sector and will be supplemented by other components of Support Services, which are common to all packages.

- The package under Seed sector will have

Schemes for seed production in the Public/Private sector and/or with public/private partnership in case of Mulberry sector and through support for private Graineurs under Vanya Sector.

The package under cocoon sector is basically oriented towards expansion of area under cultivation besides increasing the production and productivity of cocoons both under mulberry and vanya silk sectors. The package supports schemes for food plant development, irrigation facilities, construction of rearing houses, supply of rearing equipments/improved mountages, disinfectants, chawkie rearing centers, with the essential insurance coverage.

Package for post-Cocoon sector covers Schemes for silk reeling and spinning, silk weaving, silk wet processing and bye-product utilization and also for marketing support.

The Government of India has approved an outlay of Rs. 1476.24 crores during the XI Plan, of which Central Government share is Rs. 661.62 crores.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. CSB has received proposals from different State Governments for release of funds under CDP. Based on the proposals received from the States, during the first year of the XI Plan period (2007-08), CSB has released its share of Rs. 80.82 crores towards implementation of various schemes/components under CDP and, for the current year 2008-09, a sum of Rs. 30.76 crores have been released to different State Governments.

Mobile Towers

304. SHRI RAGHUVVEER SINGH KOSHAL : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the comparative figures of the GSM mobile service towers of the Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited.

(BSNL) and the private mobile service operators in the rural areas of the country including Rajasthan, Secondly Switching Area (SSA-wise);

(b) the reasons BSNL is lagging behind the private telecom companies in rural areas in terms of the number of towers and the number of subscribers;

(c) whether there is any plan to expand the network of the BSNL in the rural areas; and

(d) if so, the details thereof;

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA) : (a) Sir, the comparative figure of Rural Base Transceiver Station (BTS) as on 31.3.08 for the country as a whole is as follows:

Name of GSM Service Provider	No. of Rural BTS
BSNL	15140
Airtel	37363
Aircel	3153
Idea	12003
Vodafone	24178
Spice	1141

However, Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd. [BSNL] has provided 18572 GSM mobile towers in the rural areas of the country, including 1683 towers in the state of Rajasthan as on 30.9.2008. Secondary Switching Area [SSA-wise] details in respect of BSNL are enclosed as Statement-I.

(b) BSNL is lagging behind a few private telecom companies in rural areas in terms of the numbers of towers

and the number of subscribers mainly due to lack of network capacities and delay in procurement of the equipments during the last two financial years. The number of Wireless Rural Subscribers of different service providers including BSNL as on 31.8.08 is given in the enclosed Statement-II.

(c) and (d) Yes Sir. BSNL plans to expand the Mobile services coverage to the villages having population more than 1000 progressively in next three years. BSNL has made tentatively plan for provisioning of 33,07,764 Mobile connections in its area of operation in the rural areas during the current financial year: 1,11,29,621 Mobile connections are working in rural areas of BSNL's network and 2,68,947 villages have already been covered with mobile services as on 31.08.2008.

Statement-I

S. No.	Name of Circle	No. of GSM Mobile Towers in Rural areas
1	2	3
1.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	52
2.	Chennai TD	101
3.	Kolkata TD	69
4.	Andhra Pradesh	1401
5.	Assam	522
6.	Bihar	727
7.	Chhattiegarh	413
8.	Gujarat	1354
9.	Himachal Pradesh	413
10.	Haryana	734

1	2	3
11.	Jammu and Kashmir	259
12.	Jharkhand	211
13.	Kerala	1399
14.	Karnataka	837
15.	Madhya Pradesh	698
16.	Maharashtra	1864
17.	NE-I	119
18.	NE-II	112
19.	Orissa	622
20.	Punjab	829
21.	Rajasthan	1683
22.	Tamil Nadu	997
23.	Uttar Pradesh (E)	1577
24.	Uttar Pradesh (W)	423
25.	Uttaranchal	294
26.	West Bengal	862
Total		18572

Andaman and Nicobar Telecom Circle

Sl. No.	Name of SSA	No. of GSM Mobile Towers in Rural areas
1.	Andaman	52
Total		52

Chennai Telecom District

Sl. No.	Name of SSA	No. of GSM Mobile Towers in Rural areas
1.	CHTD	101
Total		101

Andhra Pradesh Telecom Circle

Sl. No.	Name of SSA	No. of GSM Mobile Towers in Rural areas
1	2	3
1.	Adilabad	63
2.	Ananthapur	117
3.	Cuddapah	61
4.	Chittoor	82
5.	East Godavari	76
6.	Guntur	69
7.	Karimnagar	71
8.	Khammam	59
9.	Kurnool	100
10.	Krishna	66
11.	Mahabubnagar	62
12.	Medak	29
13.	Nalgonda	60
14.	Nellore	69

1	2	3
15.	Nizamabad	68
16.	Prakasam	52
17.	RR	47
18.	Srikakulam	50
19.	Vishakhapatnam	37
20.	Vizianagaram	42
21.	West Godavari	71
22.	Warangal	50
23.	Hyderabad	0
Total		1401

Assam Telecom Circle

Sl. No.	Name of SSA	No. of GSM Mobile Towers in Rural areas
1.	Bongaigaon	105
2.	Dibrugarh	56
3.	Jorhat	80
4.	Kamrup	28
5.	Nagaon	101
6.	Silchar	90
7.	Tezpur	62
Total		522

Bihar Telecom Circle

Sl. No.	Name of SSA	No. of GSM Mobile Towers in Rural areas
1.	Patna	46
2.	Gaya	61
3.	Bhagalpur	44
4.	Arah	42
5.	Sasaram	43
6.	Samastipur	34
7.	Chapra	61
8.	Muzafferpur	50
9.	Munger	39
10.	Saharsa	34
11.	Hajipur	22
12.	Madhubani	48
13.	Begusarai	27
14.	Bettiah	27
15.	Kishanganj	12
16.	Darbhanga	37
17.	Katihar	45
18.	Motihari	40
19.	Khageria	16
Total		727

Chhattisgarh Telecom Circle

Sl. No.	Name of SSA	No. of GSM Mobile Towers in Rural areas
1.	Bastar	63
2.	Bilaspur	69
3.	Durg	93
4.	Raigarh	54
5.	Raipur	62
6.	Surguja	72
Total		413

Gujarat Telecom Circle

Sl. No.	Name of SSA	No. of GSM Mobile Towers in Rural areas
1	2	3
1.	Ahmedabad	89
2.	Amreli	42
3.	Bharuch	69
4.	Bhuj	85
5.	Bhavnagar	62
6.	Godhra	75
7.	Himatnagar	113
8.	Jamnagar	52
9.	Junagadh	84
10.	Mehsana	105

1	2	3
11.	Nadiad (Kheda)	98
12.	Palanpur	96
13.	Rajkot	72
14.	Surendrangar	71
15.	Surat	85
16.	Vadodara	66
17.	Valsad	90
Total		1354

Himachal Pradesh Telecom Circle

Sl. No.	Name of SSA	No. of GSM Mobile Towers in Rural areas
1.	Shimla	108
2.	Solan	83
3.	Hamirpur	55
4.	Mandi	42
5.	Kullu	37
6.	Dharamsala	88
Total		413

Haryana Telecom Circle

Sl. No.	Name of SSA	No. of GSM Mobile Towers in Rural areas
2	3	
1.	Ambala	98

2	3
2. Faridabad	34
3. Gurgaon	30
4. Hisar	165
5. Jind	55
6. Karnal	114
7. Rewari	110
8. Rohtak	74
9. Sonapat	54
Total	734

Jammu and Kashmir Telecom Circle

Sl. No.	Name of SSA	No. of GSM Mobile Towers in Rural areas
1.	Jammu	64
2.	Leh	16
3.	Rajouri	24
4.	Srinagar	81
5.	Udhampur	74
Total		259

Jharkhand Telecom Circle

Sl. No.	Name of SSA	No. of GSM Mobile Towers in Rural areas
1	2	3
1.	Ranchi	37

1	2	3
2.	Jamshedpur	28
3.	Dhanbad	24
4.	Hazaribag	60
5.	Dumka	40
6.	Daltonganj	22
Total		211

Kerala Telecom Circle

Sl. No.	Name of SSA	No. of GSM Mobile Towers in Rural areas
1	2	3
1.	Trivandrum	105
2.	Kollam	126
3.	Pathanamthitta	105
4.	Alappuzha	92
5.	Kottayam	148
6.	Ernakulam	210
7.	Thriessur	97
8.	Palakkad	89
9.	Malappuram	109
10.	Calicut	141
11.	Kannur	177
Total		1399

Karnataka Telecom Circle

Sl. No.	Name of SSA	No. of GSM Mobile Towers in Rural areas
1.	Bangalore	46
2.	Belgaum	49
3.	Bellary	45
4.	Bidar	22
5.	Bijapur	62
6.	Chikmagalur	34
7.	Dakshina Kannada	112
8.	Davangere	46
9.	Dharwad	54
10.	Gulbarga	41
11.	Hassan	46
12.	Kodagu	28
13.	Kolar	32
14.	Mandya	22
15.	Mysore	43
16.	Raichur	40
17.	Shimoga	47
18.	Tumkur	30
19.	Karwar	38
Total		837

Madhya Pradesh Telecom Circle

Sl. No.	Name of SSA	No. of GSM Mobile Towers in Rural areas
1.	Balaghat	16
2.	Betul	20
3.	Bhopal	27
4.	Chhatarpur	21
5.	Chhindwara	33
6.	Damoh	12
7.	Dewas	15
8.	Dhar	22
9.	Guna	48
10.	Gwalior	16
11.	Hoshangabad	23
12.	Indore	27
13.	Jabalpur	24
14.	Jhabua	14
15.	Khandwa	33
16.	Khargone	46
17.	Mandla	29
18.	Mandsour	35
19.	Morena	30
20.	Narsinghpur	15

1	2	3
21.	Panna	6
22.	Raisen	12
23.	Rajgarh	3
24.	Ratlam	18
25.	Rewa	11
26.	Sagar	21
27.	Satna	13
28.	Seoni	14
29.	Shahdol	15
30.	Shajapur	18
31.	Shivpuri	21
32.	Sidhi	11
33.	Ujjain	18
34.	Vidisha	11
Total		698

Maharashtra Telecom Circle

Sl. No.	Name of SSA	No. of GSM Mobile Towers in Rural areas
1	2	3
1.	Ahmednagar	111
2.	Akola	48
3.	Amravati	49
4.	Aurangabad	67

1	2	3
5.	Beed	37
6.	Bhandara	36
7.	Buldhana	39
8.	Chandrapur	37
9.	Dhule	68
10.	Gadchiroli	13
11.	Goa	57
12.	Jalgaon	53
13.	Jalna	37
14.	Kalyan	71
15.	Kolhapur	101
16.	Latur	40
17.	Nagpur	56
18.	Nanded	70
19.	Nasik	114
20.	Osmanabad	45
21.	Parbhani	52
22.	Pune	167
23.	Raigad	57
24.	Ratnagiri	42
25.	Sangli	92
26.	Satara	83
27.	Sawantwadi	39
28.	Solapur	115

1	2	3
29.	Wardha	18
30.	Yavatmal	50
Total		1864

North-East-I Telecom Circle

Sl. No.	Name of SSA	No. of GSM Mobile Towers in Rural areas
1.	Meghalaya	59
2.	Mizoram	21
3.	Tripura	39
Total		119

North East-II Telecom Circle

Sl. No.	Name of SSA	No. of GSM Mobile Towers in Rural areas
1.	Arunachal Pradesh	53
2.	Manipur	33
3.	Nagaland	26
Total		112

Orissa Telecom Circle

Sl. No.	Name of SSA	No. of GSM Mobile Towers in Rural areas
1	2	3
1.	Bhubaneswar	50

1	2	3
2.	Cuttack	91
3.	Dhenkanal	42
4.	Berhampur	60
5.	Balasore	55
6.	Baripada	37
7.	Sambalpur	58
8.	Rourkela	53
9.	Koraput	66
10.	Phulbani	16
11.	Keonjhar	44
12.	Bolangir	26
13.	Bhawanipatna	24
Total		622

Punjab Telecom Circle

Sl. No.	Name of SSA	No. of GSM Mobile Towers in Rural areas
1	2	3
1.	Amritsar	84
2.	Bathinda	71
3.	Chandigarh	11
4.	Ferozepur	127
5.	Hoshiarpur	82

1	2	3
6.	Jalandhar	111
7.	Ludhiana	87
8.	Pathankot	63
9.	Patiala	88
10.	Ropar	45
11.	Sangrur	60
Total		829

Rajasthan Telecom Circle

Sl. No.	Name of SSA	No. of GSM Mobile Towers in Rural areas
1	2	3
1.	Ajmer	48
2.	Alwar	81
3.	Bhilwara	58
4.	Bikaner	60
5.	Barmer	80
6.	Bharatpur	57
7.	Banswara	48
8.	Bundi	20
9.	Churu	60
10.	Chittorgarh	47
11.	Jodhpur	122
12.	Jhunjhunu	76

1	2	3
13.	Jhalawar	20
14.	Jaipur	176
15.	Jaisalmer	38
16.	Kota	44
17.	Nagaur	112
18.	Pali	72
19.	Sriganganagar	91
20.	Sikar	93
21.	Sirohi	103
22.	Sawalmadhapur	65
23.	Tonk	25
24.	Udaipur	87
Total		1683

Tamil Nadu Telecom Circle

Sl. No.	Name of SSA	No. of GSM Mobile Towers in Rural areas
1	2	3
1.	Coimbatore	80
2.	Coonoor	22
3.	Crda	47
4.	Cuddalore	65
5.	Dharmapuri	80

1	2	3
6.	Erode	66
7.	Karaikudi	64
8.	Madurai	57
9.	Nagercoil	49
10.	Pondicherry	11
11.	Salem	90
12.	Thanjavur	52
13.	Tirunelveli	57
14.	Trichy	119
15.	Tuticorin	40
16.	Vellore	67
17.	Virudhunagar	31
Total		997

Uttar Pradesh (E) Telecom Circle

Sl. No.	Name of SSA	No. of GSM Mobile Towers in Rural areas
1	2	3
1.	Allahabad	47
2.	Azamgarh	76
3.	Barabanki	75
4.	Bahraich	62
5.	Ballia	34

1	2	3
6.	Banda	35
7.	Basti	70
8.	Deoria	67
9.	Farrukhabad	46
10.	Fatehpur	40
11.	Faizabad	64
12.	Gonda	81
13.	Gorakhpur	57
14.	Ghazipur	45
15.	Hardoi	45
16.	Hamirpur	35
17.	Jhansi	21
18.	Jaunpur	53
19.	Kanpur	48
20.	Lakhimpur	43
21.	Lucknow	27
22.	Mau	37
23.	Mirzapur	65
24.	Orai	21
25.	Pratapgarh	46
26.	Raibareli	61
27.	Shahjahanpur	36
28.	Sitapur	60

1	2	3
29.	Sultanpur	54
30.	Unnao	49
31.	Varanasi	77
Total		1577

Uttar Pradesh (W) Telecom Circle

Sl. No.	Name of SSA	No. of GSM Mobile Towers in Rural areas
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1	2	3
1.	Agra	35
2.	Aligarh	26
3.	Badaun	17
4.	Bareilly	22
5.	Bijnore	39
6.	Bulandshahar	17
7.	Etah	17
8.	Etawah	33
9.	Ghaziabad	17
10.	Mainpuri	20
11.	Mathura	15
12.	Meerut	41
13.	Moradabad	30
14.	Muzaffarnagar	23

1	2	3
15.	Noida	9
16.	Pilibhit	23
17.	Rampur	14
18.	Saharanpur	25
Total		423

Uttaranchal Telecom Circle

Sl. No.	Name of SSA	No. of GSM Mobile Towers in Rural areas
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1	2	3
1.	Nainital	50
2.	Almora	50
3.	Hardwar	32
4.	Dehradun	52
5.	New Tehri	49
6.	Srinagar	61
Total		294

West Bengal Telecom Circle

Sl. No.	Name of SSA	No. of GSM Mobile Towers in Rural areas
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1	2	3
1.	Asansol	99
2.	Berhampur	59
3.	Bankura	83

1	2	3
4.	Calcutta	139
5.	Coochbehar	39
6.	Gangtok	27
7.	Jalpaiguri	37
8.	Puruliya	28
9.	Raiganj	56
10.	Malda	43
11.	Krishnanagar	51
12.	Kharagpur	108
13.	Siliguri	48
14.	Suri	45
Total		862

Statement-II

Number of Wireless Rural Subscribers of different service providers including BSNL as on 31.8.2008

Sl. No.	Companies	Rural Subscribers
1	2	3
1.	Bharti	21,813,540
2.	Reliance	10,720,905
3.	Vodafone	16,078,928
4.	BSNL	14,944,959
5.	Idea	7,086,988
6.	Tata	1,864,076

1	2	3
7.	Aircel	4,164,950
8.	MTNL	0
9.	Spice	386,718
10.	BPL	0
11.	HFCL	1,836
12.	Shyam	895
Total		77,063,795

[English]

Acquisition of Weapon Locating Radars

305. SHRI M.K. SUBBA : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government proposes to acquire highly sophisticated Weapon Locating Radars to track and neutralize hostile artillery fire;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the cost of the proposal; and

(c) the share of private and public sector enterprises in the proposal?

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

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The Government has a proposal to procure, at an estimated cost Rs. 1498.00 crores, 28 weapon Locating Radars being developed jointly by M/s Bharat Electronics Ltd. (BEL) and Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO).

Allotment of 2-G Spectrum

306. SHRI NAVEEN JINDAL : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the procedure and guidelines that was being followed for allocation of Second Generation (2G) spectrum in the country;

(b) whether the Department of Telecom has made any recommendation in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether demand and supply situation of 2G spectrum has been kept in view, while deciding its allocation and pricing of additional spectrum; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA) : (a) to (c) The initial spectrum for Second Generation (2G) services is allotted as per the relevant provisions of the respective service license agreements, subject to availability. The Department of Telecommunications has formulated guidelines for allocation of additional spectrum, based on subscriber based criteria in consultation with Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) and Telecom Engineering Centre (TEC). The existing subscriber based criteria has been announced on 17.1.2008, taking into account optimal and efficient use of already allotted spectrum.

(d) and (e) Yes, Sir. Allotment of additional spectrum is subject to justification, optimal-use, meeting of the subscriber based criteria and availability of spectrum. Pricing of additional spectrum has been fixed in such a manner that service providers use allotted spectrum optimally and efficiently before seeking additional spectrum. The pricing is reviewed from time to time taking all factors into account.

Bhadra Lift Irrigation

307. SHRI G. M. SIDDESWARA : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of Karnataka had given administrative approval for Bhadra Lift Irrigation

Project to feed water to Chitradurga and Davangere districts of State;

(b) if so, the allocation of water under Scheme "A" and Scheme "B" for the project alongwith estimated cost of the project;

(c) whether detailed technical estimate has been, after doing the survey;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV) : The Government of Karnataka has informed as under:—

(a) Administrative approval to Upper Bhadra Project Stage-I has been accorded in August 2003. Further, in order to avoid submersion of land and construction of dam, modified lift scheme has been in principle approved in September 2008.

(b) The allocation of water to Upper Bhadra Project under Scheme "A" is 21.50 Thousand Million Cubic Feet (TMC) and Scheme "B" is 19.00 TMC. Estimated cost of the project for Scheme "A" portion is Rs. 5985 crore at 2006-07 price level.

(c) No Sir, The Engineering Procurement Construction (EPC) tenders have been invited for preparation of detailed project report including execution of the scheme.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) Tentative year of completion of the project is 2012-13.

ESIC

308. SHRI K.C. PALLANI SHAMY : Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Employees State Insurance Corporation (ESIC) has any proposal to bring more establishments and workers under its ambit;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of ESIC hospitals which have got ISO certification at present, State-wise;

(d) whether the ESIC has taken any steps to reduce the pendency of prosecution and cases against the employers and employees; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) In order to bring more establishments and workers under coverage of the scheme, the ESI Corporation prepares a phased programme every year in consultation with the State Governments. During the year 2007-08, the ESI scheme was implemented in 37 areas covering additional 97,739 employees and during the year 2008-09, it is proposed to extend the scheme to 106 new areas to cover 1.96 lakh additional employees. During the year 2008-09, so far, the scheme has been extended to 27 new areas covering 29,432 additional employees.

(c) Seven ESI hospitals viz Basaidarapur, Rohini, Okhla and Jhilmil in Delhi, Noida in UP, Ramdarbar in Chandigarh and Bari Brahmna, Jammu, have obtained ISO Certification.

(d) and (e) In order to reduce the pendency of prosecution cases filed against employers and employees, an Amnesty Scheme has been introduced with effect from 01.01.2008. The total number of cases withdrawn during the period upto 31.08.2008 under various sections of the Act are as under:—

Cases withdrawn under Section 75 — 87

Cases withdrawn under Section 85 — 333

Cases under process for withdrawal under Section 85 — 355

Post Offices in NER

309. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) the number of post offices functioning at present in the country including rural areas of the North-Eastern Region (NER), location-wise;

(b) the number of villages in the States in NER where post office facility has not been provided till date; and

(c) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to open new post offices in the country including rural areas of North-Eastern Region?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA) : (a) 1,55,035 Post Offices are functioning in the country (as on 31.3.2008). Information regarding this is given in the enclosed Statement-I. Of these, 6637 Post Offices are functioning in rural areas of North Eastern Region. Information regarding this is given in the enclosed Statement-II.

(b) In NER postal counter facility is not available in 34,774 villages. However, postal facilities in terms of regular delivery of dak, collection of mail from letter-boxes and sale of stamps/stationery at the door-step of customers is provided throughout the country including the NER. Villages where Post Offices do not exist, are provided basic postal facilities through nearest existing post offices and other alternative means of providing postal services viz Panchayat Sanchar Seva Kendras (PSSKs).

(c) Opening of new Post Offices throughout the country including the NER is an ongoing process. Post Offices are opened in a phased manner on the basis of need, justification as per prescribed norms and availability of resources.

Statement-I**Categorywise Post Offices as on 31-3-2008**

Sl. No.	Name of Circle	HOs		SOs		EDSOs		EDBOs		Total		Total No. of POs
		Urban	Rural	Urban	Rural	Urban	Rural	Urban	Rural	Urban	Rural	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
1.	Andhra Pradesh	98	6	981	1352	12	19	196	13485	1287	14862	16149
2.	Assam	19	0	222	382	0	35	57	3292	298	3709	4007
3.	Bihar	30	1	367	645	18	81	17	7898	432	8625	9057
4.	Chhattisgarh	10	0	195	128	0	0	18	2772	223	2900	3123
5.	Delhi	12	0	406	4	10	9	62	68	490	81	571
6.	Gujarat	34	0	635	638	0	33	58	7515	727	8186	8913
	Daman and Diu	0	0	4	3	0	0	0	12	4	15	19
	Dadar and Nagar Haveli	0	0	1	3	0	0	0	34	1	37	38
7.	Haryana	16	0	293	178	3	11	12	2140	324	2329	2653
8.	Himachal Pradesh	15	3	100	343	4	14	0	2298	119	2658	2777
9.	Jammu and Kashmir	9	0	175	74	11	11	32	1379	227	1464	1691
10.	Jharkhand	13	0	226	209	11	17	22	2593	272	2819	3091
11.	Karnataka	59	0	926	803	11	24	261	7742	1257	8569	9826
12.	Kerala	45	6	485	959	69	394	308	2790	907	4149	5056
	Lakshadweep	0	0	0	7	0	2	0	1	0	10	10
	Mahe	0	0	1	0	2	0	1	0	4	0	4
13.	Madhya Pradesh	42	0	692	323	33	33	93	7107	860	7463	8323
14.	Maharashtra	59	nil	1107	954	10	108	108	10249	1284	11311	12595
	Goa	2	0	45	57	0	3	7	144	54	204	258
15.	North East											
	Arunachal Pradesh	1	0	17	31	0	0	0	251	18	282	300

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
	Manipur	1	0	11	42	0	0	0	643	12	685	697
	Meghalaya	2	0	26	35	0	0	2	423	30	458	488
	Mizoram	1	0	23	17	2	3	32	327	58	347	405
	Nagaland	1	0	15	27	0	0	10	275	26	302	328
	Tripura	3	0	29	53	2	7	24	598	58	658	716
16.	Orissa	35	0	519	638	9	49	16	6896	579	7583	8162
17.	Punjab	21	0	420	325	0	8	11	3076	452	3409	3861
	Chandigarh	1	0	40	2	0	1	0	6	41	9	50
18.	Rajasthan	46	2	593	692	2	20	33	8930	674	9644	10318
19.	Tamil Nadu	92	0	1356	1308	27	175	334	8728	1809	10211	12020
	Pondicherry	1	0	23	9	0	0	13	49	37	58	95
20.	Uttarakhand	13	0	190	181	5	73	10	2242	218	2496	2714
21.	Uttar Pradesh	71	0	1614	855	109	263	152	14598	1946	15716	17662
22.	West Bengal	45	0	945	714	81	251	38	6674	1109	7639	8748
	Andaman Nicobar	1	0	10	16	1	5	0	68	12	89	101
	Sikkim	1	0	12	10	0	0	0	186	13	196	209
	Total	799	18	12704	12017	432	1649	1927	125489	15862	139173	155035

Statement-II*Number of Post offices in North East Region as on 31.3.2008*

Sl. No.	Name of Circle	HOs		SOs		EDSOs		EDBOs		Total		Total No. of POs
		Urban	Rural	Urban	Rural	Urban	Rural	Urban	Rural	Urban	Rural	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
1.	Assam	19	0	222	382	0	35	57	3292	298	3709	4007

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
2. North East												
Arunachal Pradesh		1	0	17	31	0	0	0	251	18	282	300
Manipur		1	0	11	42	0	0	0	643	12	685	697
Meghalaya		2	0	26	35	0	0	2	423	30	458	488
Mizoram		1	0	23	17	2	3	32	327	58	347	405
Nagaland		1	0	15	27	0	0	10	275	26	302	328
Tripura		3	0	29	53	2	7	24	598	58	658	716
3. Sikkim												
		1	0	12	10	0	0	0	186	13	196	209

Revision of Salary Limit for Bonus

310. SHRI E.G. SUGAVANAM : Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government has revised the salary limit for calculation of bonus to industrial workers;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government proposes to extend the scheme to all categories of employees;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the time by which the above proposal is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES) : (a) and (b) Yes Sir, the Union Government has enhanced the calculation ceiling from Rs. 2500/- to Rs. 3500/- per month and eligibility limit from Rs. 3500/- to Rs. 10,000/- per month with effect from 1.4.2006 by the Payment of Bonus (Amendment) Act, 2007 (NO. 45 of 2007).

(c) and (d) All eligible employees as defined in Section

2 (13) of the Payment of Bonus Act, 1965 are eligible to receive Bonus at the enhanced rates with effect from 1.4.2006. Further, Section 32 (vi) has been deleted to bring employees employed through contractors on building operations within the ambit of the Payment of Bonus Act, 1965.

(e) Does not arise.

Utilisation of Funds of World Bank

311. SHRI UDAY SINGH : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has sought funding from the World Bank for sustained long term development of the water sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any schemes have been prepared for the proper utilization of funds of World Bank; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN

YADAV) : (a) to (d) Government of India has not sought any funding from World Bank specifically for "sustained long term development of the water sector". However, a number of projects related to irrigation and water management

have been funded by World Bank. The list of on-going World Bank funded projects is given in the enclosed Statement-I. The list of projects posed to World Bank is given in the enclosed Statement-II.

Statement-I

On-going Externally Assisted Projects

Sl. No	Funding Agency	State	Name of Projects	Date of Agreement/ Completion	Assistance amount in Million Donor Currency
1.	WORLD BANK	Karnataka	Karnataka Community Based Tank Management Project CR.3635-IN	<u>06.06.2002</u> 31.1.2009	SDR 80 Revised SDR 63.420
2.	WORLD BANK	Madhya Pradesh	Madhya Pradesh Water Sector Restructuring Project LN 4750-IN	<u>30.11.2004</u> 31.3.2011	US\$ 394.020
3.	WORLD BANK	Maharashtra	Maharashtra Water Sector Improvement Project-LN4796-IN	<u>19.8.2005</u> 31.03.2012	US\$325
4.	WORLD BANK	Rajasthan	Rajasthan Water Sector Restructuring Project Cr.3603-IN	<u>15.3.2002</u> 31.3.2009	SDR 100.052
5.	WORLD BANK	Uttar Pradesh	Uttar Pradesh Water Sector Restructuring Project Cr.3602-IN	<u>08.3.2002</u> 31.10.2008	SDR 90.471
6.	WORLD BANK	Tamil Nadu	Tamil Nadu Irrigated Agriculture Modernisation and Water Bodies Restoration and Management Projects (Cr.No. 4846(IBRD) and Cr. No. 4255-IN(IDA))	<u>12.2.2007</u> 31.7.2013	US\$ 485
7.	WORLD BANK	Andhra Pradesh	Andhra Pradesh Community Based Tank Management Project Cr. 4291-IN and 4857-IN	<u>8.6.2007</u> 31.12.2012	US\$189
8.	WORLD BANK	Karnataka	Karnataka Community Based Tank Management Project -Additional Financing C. 4872-IN and 3635-I-IN	<u>17.1.2008</u> 31.1.2012	US\$64
9.	WORLD BANK	Multi-State	Hydrology Project (Phase-II) Cr 4749-IN	<u>19.1.2006</u> 30.6.2012	US\$ 104.980

Statement-II**Pipeline Projects**

S. No.	Name of Project	Estimated Cost
1.	Dam Rehabilitation and Improvement Project (DRIP) – (Multi-state)	Rs. 917.00 Crores
2.	Andhra Pradesh Water Sector Improvement Project (Nagarjuna Sagar Project).	Rs. 2250.00 Crores
3.	Orissa Water Sector Improvement Project (OWSIP)	Rs. 3493.10 Crores
4.	Orissa Community Based Tank Management Project	US\$ 127.8 million
5.	West Bengal Accelerated Development of Minor Irrigation Project	Rs. 1143.00 Crores

[Translation]

Minimum wages of workers in unorganised sector

312. SHRI TUKARAM GANPAT RAO RENGE PATIL :
SHRI HARIKEWAL PRASAD :

Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the number of workers in the unorganised sector is growing rapidly;

(b) if so, the details thereof during each of the last three years and the current year alongwith the reasons therefor;

(c) the details of maximum as well as minimum wages being paid to these workers, State-wise;

(d) whether there have been reports of cases where most of these workers are not being paid minimum wages; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES) : (a) and (b) According to the survey conducted by the National Sample Survey Organization (NSSO) in 1999-2000, the total employment in both the organized and the unorganized sectors in the country was 39.7 crore, of which 36.9 crore (about 93%) were in the unorganized sector. As per NSSO survey in 2004-05, the total number of workers in the country had risen to 45.9 crore. Out of these, 43.3 crore were in the unorganized sector which constitute 94% of the workforce. The year-wise data of unorganized sector workers is not being maintained.

(c) to (e) A statement-I indicating the minimum wages for unskilled, semi-skilled and skilled workers is enclosed. Minimum wages are fixed by the appropriate Governments under the Minimum Wages Act, 1948 in respect of scheduled employments under their respective jurisdiction. While in the central sphere, the enforcement is secured through the officers in the Central Industrial Relations Machinery (CIRM), the compliance in the State sphere is ensured through the respective State enforcement machinery. The officers of these machineries are appointed as Inspectors under the provisions of the Act. They conduct regular inspections and in the event of detection of any case of non-payment of minimum wages, they advise the employers to make payment of the shortfall of wages. In case of non-compliance, there are provisions for prosecution in the Act against the defaulting employers. In addition, special inspection drives are also undertaken for ensuring effective implementation of Minimum Wages Act. Details regarding enforcement of the Minimum Wages Act during 2006-07 is given in the enclosed Statement-II.

Statement-I**Rates on minimum wages for different category of workers in different States/Union Territories**

(Rs. per day)

Sl. No.	State/Union Territory	Unskilled	Semi-skilled	Skilled
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh*	58.25-111.00	—	74.00-327.00
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	55.00	60.00	65.00
3.	Assam	74.35	77.22	80.60
4.	Bihar	81.00	83.00	85.00
5.	Chhattisgarh	102.27	106.42	110.65
6.	Goa	93.00	99.00	105.00
7.	Gujarat	55.00	65.00	100.00
8.	Haryana	138.00	143.00	153.00
9.	Himachal Pradesh	100.00	105.00	112.00
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	66.00	88.00	147.00
11.	Jharkhand	67.72	101.00	122.42
12.	Karnataka	83.02	89.86	91.79
13.	Kerala	97.52	99.02	101.12
14.	Madhya Pradesh	93.00	99.00	106.00
15.	Maharashtra	65.00	72.92	75.33
16.	Manipur	72.40	77.65	79.40
17.	Meghalaya	70.00	75.00	85.00
18.	Mizoram	103.00	115.00	143.00
19.	Nagaland	66.00	70.00	75.00
20.	Orissa	70.00	80.00	90.00

1	2	3	4	5
21.	Punjab	100.51	104.96	111.11
22.	Rajasthan	100.00	107.00	115.00
23.	Sikkim	100.00	115.00	130.00
24.	Tamil Nadu	74.12	95.60	102.60
25.	Tripura	47.18	47.18	83.85
26.	Uttar Pradesh	76.31	88.31	102.91
27.	Uttarakhand	72.22	84.86	97.50
28.	West Bengal	74.33	75.31	81.50
29.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	130.00	140.00	168.00
30.	Chandigarh	136.40	142.17	153.71
31.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	102.00	108.50	115.00
32.	Daman and Diu	95.00	105.00	112.00
33.	Delhi	142.00	148.00	158.00
34.	Lakshadweep	71.90	77.90	83.90
35.	Puducherry	78.00	—	86.00
Central Sphere ⊙				
Cities classified as		"C"	"B"	"A"
Total		120.00	150.00	180.00

* Range of minimum wages in respect of scheduled employment of lowest and highest category.

⊙ The upward revision of the minimum wages of unskilled workers in respect of all scheduled employments as recommended by the Minimum Wages Advisory Board. The notifications in respect of scheduled employments of workers engaged in Sweeping and Cleaning and Watch and Ward have been issued. However, the notifications in respect of Construction, Non-coal Mines and Loading and Unloading workers are in progress.

Statement-II*Details regarding enforcement of Minimum Wages Act, 1948 during 2006-07*

Sl. No.	Name of the State/UTs	Inspections made	Irregularities		Claims		Prosecution cases		Amount of Compensation Awarded (Rs. '000)	Amount of Fine (Rs. '000)		
			Detected	Rectified	Filed	Settled	Pending	Filed		Decided	Imposed	Re-covered
	Central Sphere	15147	—	—	1706	1860	—	5692	4942	20421	—	—
1.	Arunachal Pradesh	187	10	6	1	Nil	4	4	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
2.	Bihar	278336	54700	51253	20763	19177	1152	122	35	11738	696	—
3.	Goa	582	2319	513	5	—	13	20	10	—	6	—
4.	Gujarat	115428	78024	49699	1	69	55291	3828	5267	45019	13207	4146
5.	Haryana	2320	389	45	218	277	990	93	155	2090	70	—
6.	Maharashtra	64714	54739	45748	3	—	1402	156	90	1677	59	—
7.	Meghalaya	425	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
8.	Tamil Nadu	94488	1154	91	1996	1298	4627	713	638	18479	221	221
9.	Tripura	6803	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
10.	Uttarakhand	3238	1337	663	335	255	105	508	351	2888	168	157
11.	Uttar Pradesh	16990	12836	5208	3639	2933	8906	1066	883	96861	188	—
12.	Daman and Diu	511	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
13.	Delhi	8575	7002	6333	451	513	11382	1060	612	1373	459	252
Total Above (States)		607744	212510	159559	29118	26382	83872	13262	12983	200546	15074	4776

Note : The information from Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Chhattisgarh, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Manipur, Mizoram, Nagaland, Orissa, Punjab, Rajasthan, Sikkim, West Bengal, Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Chandigarh, Dadra and Nagar Haveli, Delhi, Lakshadweep, Puducherry are awaited.

Damage to wheat due to untimely Rains

313. PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether huge quantity of wheat belonging to the farmers got damaged in the mandis of Punjab, Haryana and Delhi because of untimely rains in May, 2008;
- (b) if so, the quantity of wheat damaged in the said mandis separately;
- (c) whether any enquiry has been conducted to ascertain the reasons for failure to protect this wheat from rains;
- (d) if so, the details and outcome thereof; and
- (e) the remedial steps taken in this regard alongwith the action initiated against those responsible?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA) : (a) to (d) Food Corporation of India, Government of Haryana and NCT of Delhi have informed that no wheat belonging to farmers got damaged in the mandis of Punjab, Haryana and Delhi because of untimely rains in May, 2008.

- (e) Does not arise.

[English]

Printing of details on Packets

314. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Government has made it mandatory to print weight and expiry date on the packets of packaged items;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the steps taken to ensure compliance of the said orders by the manufacturing companies; and

(d) the details and nature of penal action taken against the violators?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI TASLIMUDDIN) : (a) and (b) The provisions of the Standards of Weights and Measures (Package Commodities) Rules, 1977 require among other things declaration of net weight and date of manufacture or packing or import of the commodity contained in the package, as the case may be Expiry date is required only on the package of aspartame and infant food as well as drugs under the provisions of Prevention of Food and Adulteration Act, 1954 and Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940 respectively.

(c) and (d) Enforcement authorities of concerned States/UTs inspect the premises of manufacturer, packer, importer, retailer as well as draw samples regularly to ensure compliance. Under the provisions Packaged Commodities Rules, non declaration of 'net weight' attract a fine of Rs 5000 for the first offence and for the second or subsequent offence, imprisonment which may extend to 5 years and also with fine. Similarly action is taken for non declaration of 'expiry date' under the provisions of Prevention of Food Adulteration Act, 1954 and Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940.

**Amendments In Unorganised Workers
Social Security Bill, 2007**

315. SHRI SUGRIB SINGH :
SHRI NAND KUMAR SAI :
SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL :

Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Government proposes to amend Unorganised Workers Social Security Bill, 2007;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government proposes to cover the volunteers working under various welfare schemes like Aanganwadis under the said Bill; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF

LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A Statement indicating the existing provisions and proposed amendments in the Bill is in enclosed.

(c) and (d) There is no mention of specific category of unorganised sector workers in the Bill. All Unorganised Workers, as defined in the Bill, would be covered under the said Bill.

Statement-I

Comparative Statement of existing provisions and official amendments in the Bill.

S.No.	Existing Provisions	Proposed modifications
1	2	3
1.	The Unorganised Sector Workers' Social Security Bill, 2007	The Unorganised Workers' Social Security Bill, 2008
2.	1.(1) This Act may be called the Unorganized Sector Workers' Social Security Act, 2007.	1.(1) This Act may be called the Unorganized Workers' Social Security Act, 2008.
3.	New sub section of section 2	"organized sector" means an enterprise which is not an unorganized sector
4.	2(1) " unorganized sector worker" means a home based worker, self-employed worker or a wage workers in the unorganized sector	Deletion of sub section
5.	New sub section (n) of section 2	(n) "unorganized worker" means a home-based worker, self-employed worker or a wage worker in the unorganized sector and includes a worker in the organized sector who is not covered under:- (i) the Employees' Provident Funds and Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952; (ii) the Employees' State Insurance Act, 1948; (iii) any other law relating to social security as may be notified from time to time by the Central Government.
6.	3.(1) The Central Government may formulate, from time to time, suitable welfare schemes for different sections	3.(1) The Central Government may shall formulate, from time to time, suitable welfare schemes for different sections

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of unorganised sector workers on matters relating to:—

- (a) life and disability cover;
- (b) health and maternity benefits;
- (c) old age protection; and
- (d) any other benefit as may be determined by the Central Government.

(3) The Central Government may, by notification, amend the Schedule referred to in sub-section (1), and include therein or exclude therefrom any welfare scheme for the unorganized sector workers.

7. 4.(2) Every scheme notified by the Central Government shall provide for such matters that are necessary for the efficient implementation of the scheme including the matters relating to,-

- (i) scope of the scheme;
- (ii) beneficiaries of the scheme;
- (iii) resources of the scheme;
- (iv) agency or agencies that will implement the scheme; and
- (v) any other relevant matter.

8. Chapter III {Section 5 (1)} : National Social Security Advisory Board-

5 (2) The National Board shall consist of the following members, namely:—

- (a) a Chairperson to be appointed by the Central Government;
- (b) the Director General (Labour Welfare) - Member Secretary, ex officio; and
- (c) thirty one-members to be nominated by the Central Government, out of whom -thirty one members to be nominated by the Central Government, out of whom—
 - (i) seven representing unorganized sector workers;
 - (ii) seven representing employers of unorganized sector;

of unorganized sector workers on matters relating to:—

- (a) life and disability cover;
- (b). health and maternity benefits;
- (c) old age protection; and
- (d) any other benefit as may be determined by the Central Government.

(3) The Central Government may, by notification, amend the Schedule referred to in sub-section (1), and include therein any welfare scheme for the unorganized worker.

4. (2) Every scheme notified by the Central Government shall provide for such matters as are necessary for the efficient implementation of the scheme including matters relating to:—

- (i) scope of the scheme;
- (ii) beneficiaries of the scheme;
- (iii) resources of the scheme;
- (iv) agency or agencies that will implement the scheme;
- (v) redressal of grievances; and
- (vi) any other relevant matter.

Chapter III {Section 5 (1)}: National Social Security Board

In Section 5 (2) Union Minister for Labour and Employment – Chairperson

- (c) thirty four members to be nominated by the Central Government, out of whom:—
 - (i) seven representing unorganized sector workers;
 - (ii) seven representing employers of unorganized sector;
 - (iii) seven representing eminent persons from civil society;
 - (iv) five representing State Governments; and
 - (v) five representing Central Government Ministries and Departments concerned.

1	2	3
<p>(iii) seven representing eminent persons from civil society;</p> <p>(iv) five representing State Governments; and</p> <p>(v) five representing Central Government Ministries and Departments concerned.</p>	<p>(vi) two representing Members from Lok Sabha and one from Rajya Sabha</p>	
<p>9. Chapter IV (Section 6 (1)) : State Social Security Advisory Board</p>	<p>Chapter IV (Section 6 (1)) : State Social Security Board</p>	
<p>6(2)(a) a Chairperson to be appointed by the State Government;</p> <p>(b) the Principal Secretary or Secretary (Labour)-Member-Secretary, ex officio; and</p> <p>(c) twenty-six members to be nominated by the State Government, out of whom:—</p> <p>(i) seven representing the unorganized sector workers;</p> <p>(ii) seven representing employers of unorganized sector;</p> <p>(iii) five representing eminent persons from civil society; and</p> <p>(iv) seven representing State Government/ Deptt. concerned.</p>	<p>(a) Minister of Labour and Employment of the concerned state : Chairperson</p> <p>(b) the Principal Secretary or Secretary (Labour)-Member- Secretary, ex officio; and</p> <p>(c) twenty eight members to be nominated by the State Government, out of whom:—</p> <p>(i) seven representing the unorganized workers;</p> <p>(ii) seven representing employers of unorganized workers;</p> <p>(iii) five representing eminent persons from civil society; and</p> <p>(iv) seven representing State Government Departments concerned.</p> <p>(v) Two representing Members of Legislative Assembly of the concerned State</p>	
<p>10. New section (9)</p>	<p>9 (1) The State Government may set up such Workers' Facilitation Centres as may be considered necessary from time to time to perform the following functions, namely:—</p> <p>(a) disseminate information on available social security schemes for the unorganized workers;</p> <p>(b) facilitate the filling, processing and forwarding of application forms for registration of unorganized workers;</p> <p>(c) obtain registration from the District Administration and deliver the identity cards to the registered unorganized workers; and</p> <p>(d) facilitate the enrolment of the registered unorganized workers in social security schemes.</p>	

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11. Name of the Scheme

SCHEDULE
Social Security Schemes for the
Unorganized Sector Workers
{See section 3}

Name of the Scheme

1. Indira Gandhi National Old Age Pension Scheme
2. National Family Benefit Scheme
3. Janani Suraksha Yojana
4. Handloom Weavers' Comprehensive Welfare Schemes
5. Handicraft Artisans' Comprehensive Welfare Scheme
6. Pension to Master craft persons
7. National Scheme for Welfare of Fishermen and Training and Extension
8. Janshree Bima Yojana
9. Aam Admi Bima Yojana
10. Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojana

*[Translation]***Rise in Prices of Milk**

316. SHRI HARISINH CHAVDA :
 SHRI HARIKEWAL PRASAD :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the prices of milk have increased in the country recently;

(b) if so, the number of times the prices have increased during the last three years and the current year alongwith the amount of increase made;

(c) the reasons therefore; and

(d) the steps taken to control the prices?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI TASLIMUDDIN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) In Delhi, during the last three years the price of milk has increased five times with net increase of Rs. 5/- per litre. During current year the milk price has increased one by Rs. 1/- per litre.

(c) Rise in prices of milk is mainly due to increase in the cost of production, procurement, processing and marketing.

(d) Milk prices are not regulated by the Central Government. However, the Government has withdrawn incentives for milk products export to increase domestic availability of milk.

[English]

Food Security

317. SHRI EKNATH MAHADEO GAIKWAD :
SHRI MADHU GOUD YASKHI :
SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether a study titled 'Economics of Food Self Sufficiency' by agricultural economist H.S. Shergill reveals that India's Food Security is under threat and it could become a net importer by 2020 if stagnant production trends are not reversed;

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

(c) the corrective measures taken or proposed to be taken to secure the country's Food Security?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA) : (a) to (c) The compound rate of growth of production of cereals for the period from 1967-68 to 2007-08 is about 2.48% per annum and for the period from 2000-01 to 2007-08, it is about 1.95% per annum. The long term and medium term rate of growth of production of cereals is higher than the growth rate of population post 2001. The Government is aware of the importance of agriculture sector in ensuring food security and has taken a number of initiatives and measures to improve the agricultural production and productivity. The initiatives include launching of National Food Security Mission to increase production of rice, wheat and pulses by 10, 8 and 2 million tonnes respectively by the end of Eleventh Five Year Plan, Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana, revamping of agricultural extension and reforms in agricultural marketing etc. It is expected that with the new initiatives taken the foodgrain production will be more than the demand.

Defence Procurement Policy

318. SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA :
SHRIMATI JHANSI LAKSHMI BOTCHA :

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has recently revised the Defence Procurement Policy;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has also taken steps to ensure that there is transparency in the procurement of Defence Equipment; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken to keep away the middlemen in Defence purchases?

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

(a) to (d) While promulgating Defence Procurement Procedure (DPP)-2006, it was envisaged that review of the procurement procedure would be undertaken every two years. The DPP 2008 is the outcome of the experience and feedback gained in implementation of DPP-2006. DPP-2008 has come into effect from 01 September, 2008. The revised procedure aims to strengthen the procurement framework by making it more transparent, impartial and accountable.

Some salient features of the DPP-2008 to ensure transparency in the procurement of Defence equipment, inter-alia, are as given below:—

- (i) Vendors have to be given advance information before the issue of Request For Proposal (RFP) in all procurement cases excepting those for security sensitive products. This information given on MoD website would provide them a lead time for preparation of their offers in response to the RFP.
- (ii) All verbal communications with the vendors during the course of trials have to be confirmed in writing.

- (iii) The result of technical/trial evaluations along with reason (s) for disqualification has also to be intimated to vendors after the acceptance of technical/staff evaluation reports.
- (iv) A trial methodology has to be given in the RFP for advance information of the vendors. Trial directive framed by the Services has to be issued in conformity with the trial methodology.
- (v) A more broad based and multidisciplinary trial team has been proposed in DPP-2008 for cases where equipment is being procured for more than one Service or if it involves transfer of technology.
- (vi) Technical Oversight Committee has also been mandated to provide oversight on the adopted trial methodology during trials vis-a-vis trial methodology given in the RFP and the trial directives.

In addition to the above measures to enhance transparency in the Defence procurement as per DPP-2006/2008, Government of India invites responses to RFPs only from Original Equipment Manufacturers (OEM) or Authorised Vendors or Government Sponsored Export Agencies (applicable in case of countries where domestic laws do not permit direct export by OEMs). In this regard, the following provisions, inter-alia have been made in DPP 2006/2008:—

- (i) An 'Integrity Pact' between Government department and the bidder for all contracts above Rs. 100 crores.
- (ii) Pre-bid meetings with the vendors.
- (iii) Prohibiting the use of undue influence by the seller for obtaining any contract with the Government.
- (iv) Prohibiting the engagement of any individual or

firm to recommend to the Government the award of a contract to the Seller and the payment of any amount in respect of any such recommendation.

Further, DPP-2006/08, inter-alia, incorporate provisions for penalties being imposed if any seller engages any individual or firm, whether Indian or foreign whatsoever, to intercede, facilitate or in any way recommend to the Government of India or any of its functionaries, whether officially or unofficially, to the award of the contract to the Seller.

Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojana

319. SHRI JUAL ORAM : Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the number of workers covered under the Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojana at present in the country including mining areas of Orissa, Jharkhand and Chhattisgarh, State-wise;

(b) whether the agricultural workers have also been covered under the scheme; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES) : (a) to (c) As reported by the Government of Jharkhand, so far, about 3000 smart cards have been issued to beneficiaries. These beneficiaries include agricultural workers also. Chhattisgarh and Orissa are in the process of completing the procedural requirements. The scheme is likely to roll out in these States during current financial year.

National Status for Sardar Sarovar Project

320. SHRI P. S. GADHAVI : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) the criteria being followed for declaring a River Project as a National Project;

(b) whether the Union Government has received any request from the Government of Gujarat to grant a National Status of Infrastructure Project to the Sardar Sarovar Project (SSP); and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV) : (a) The criteria being followed to declare a project as a National Project is as under:—

- (i) International projects where usage of water in India is required by a treaty or where planning and early completion of the project is necessary in the interest of the country.
- (ii) Inter-State projects which are dragging on due to non-resolution of inter-state issues relating to sharing of costs, rehabilitation, aspects of power production etc. including river interlinking projects.
- (iii) Intra-state projects with additional potential of more than 2,00,000 ha. and with no dispute regarding sharing of water and where hydrology is established.

(b) and (c) Yes sir, The Chief Minister of Gujarat has sent a request to Planning Commission to declare Sardar Sarovar Project as a National Project. Sardar Sarovar project is already eligible for 90% central grant for the irrigation component of the Project falling under drought prone and tribal area. The Power Houses of the project had already been completed. Till date, the Sardar Sarovar Project has been provided with Central Assistance of Rs. 5375.3585 crore under Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme (AIBP) which is highest Central assistance provided to any project in the country.

Conversion of Central Telegraphic Office

321. SHRI VIKRAMBHAI ARJANBHAI MADAM : Will

the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government is planning to convert the Central Telegraphic Offices as a cyber cafe in the country;

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

(c) the time by which it is likely to be implemented; and

(d) if not, the reason therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise in view of (a) above.

(d) Central Telegraph Offices besides providing telegraph facility are also offering other BSNL services such as STD phone facility, fax facility, Telephone Revenue bill collection, sale of BSNL products such as recharge coupons, ITC cards, Internet services etc.

Price Rise

322. SHRI SUNIL KHAN :

SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY :

SHRI HARIBHAU RATHOD :

SHRI HEMMAL MURMU :

SHRI PUNNU LAL MOHALE :

SHRI E. DAYAKAR RAO :

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY :

SHRI CHANDRABHAN SINGH :

SHRI SARVEY SATYANARAYANA :

SHRI CHANDRA MANI TRIPATHI :

DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY :

SHRIMATI KARUNA SHUKLA:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the prices of essential commodities including Foodgrains, Pulses, Edible Oil, Vegetables, Milk etc. continue to rise despite the remedial steps taken by the Government over a period of time;

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

(c) whether the Government has formulated any fresh scheme/action plan to control price rise;

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

(e) whether the Government is also considering a proposal to provide essential commodities to the poor sections of the society at controlled prices by expanding the Public Distribution System (PDS); and

(f) if so, the details thereof and current status of the proposal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI TASLIMUDDIN) : (a) and (b) The details of prices of essential commodities that are monitored by this department, namely, rice, wheat, Gram dal, Tur dal, Masoor dal, Moong dal, Urad dal, Vanaspati, Groundnut oil, Mustard oil, salt, tea, sugar, atta, milk, potato and onion, at Delhi during different periods is given in the enclosed Statement. As it is evident from the Annexure retail prices of wheat remained steady at Rs. 13 per kg in Delhi for the past six months. Retail prices of potato have declined from last year are now reduced to Rs. 13 per kg. Retail prices of onion which reached a peak of Rs. 27 per kg during October 2007 are now reduced to Rs. 17 per kg. Retail prices of edible oils have been declined.

During the current year, prices of most essential commodities have remained within reasonable levels barring some variation in prices of rice and pulses (except Gram Dal). The reasons for the rise in price of these

commodities are shortfall in domestic supplies relative to demand, increase in MSP and bonus, growing demand on account of increase in population and income, hardening of international prices, changes in consumption pattern, adverse weather and climate change, increase in crude oil prices, improvement in income and living standards and increase in freight rates. Seasonal factors as well as loss of crop due to floods contributed to increase in prices of potato and onion.

Due to many pro-active steps taken by the Government, India has been able to soften the impact of international price rise on domestic prices.

(c) and (d) The price situation is reviewed periodically at high-level meetings such as Committee of Secretaries (COS) and the Cabinet Committee on Prices (CCP). Government has procured a record 50 million tonnes of foodgrains (27.5 million tonnes of rice and 22.5 million tonnes of wheat) this year. Even after keeping the minimum buffer stock, there is enough foodgrains to intervene in the market to keep the prices at reasonable level. Government has also decided to create a Strategic Reserve of 5 million tonnes of foodgrains (3 million tonnes of wheat has already been earmarked), out of the domestic procurement. This is in addition to the buffer stock held by FCI every year. Government is aware of the increase in prices of some essential commodities and has been taking effective steps to bridge the gap between demand and supply of essential commodities and contain inflation. It has taken a number of steps as briefed below:—

A. Short Term Measures

1. Fiscal Measures

- (i) Reducing import duties to zero - for rice, wheat, pulses, edible oils (crude) and maize and butter and ghee;
- (ii) Reducing import duties on refined and hydrogenated oils and vegetable oils to 7.5%;

2. Administrative Measures

- (i) Banning export of non-basmati rice, wheat, edible oils (except castor oil, coconut oil and oils produced from minor forest produce, except sesame oil) and pulses (except kabuli chana);
- (ii) No changes in Tariff Rate Values of edible oils;
- (iii) Imposition of stock limit orders in the case of rice, wheat, pulses, edible oils and oilseeds;
- (iv) The periodic enhancements in MSP—currently Rs 1000 per quintal for wheat, Rs. 850 per quintal for common rice and Rs. 880 per quintal for Grade A rice;
- (v) The import duty on Skimmed Milk Powder (SMP) was reduced from 15% to 5% on 29 April 2008.
- (vi) Using Minimum Export Price (MEP) to regulate exports of onion (currently \$230 PMT) and basmati rice (currently \$1200 PMT);
- (vii) Maintaining the Central Issue Price (CEP) for rice (at Rs. 5.65 per kg for BPL and Rs. 3 per kg for AAY) and wheat (at Rs. 4.15 per kg for BPL and Rs. 2 per kg for AAY) since 2002;
- (viii) Forward Markets Commission (FMC) has on 23.01.07 delist all contracts of tur and urad and to close out all outstanding positions in all Tur and Urad contracts at the closing price on 23.01.07.
- (ix) Similarly, FMC has on, 27.2.2007, directed all the three National Exchanges that no new futures contracts in wheat and rice shall be launched.

- (x) The Forward Markets Commission, on 7.5.08, suspended futures trading in soy oil, potato, chana (gram), and rubber for a period of four months and now extended upto 30.11.08.
- (xi) The Government on 03.07.2008 prohibited the export of maize. The prohibition will remain in force till 15th October 2008.
- (xii) As per initiative of Government, the State agencies (NAFED, PEC Ltd., MMTC and STC) have contracted to import about 1.4 Million Metric Tonnes (MMT) of pulses during 2007-08, out of which 14.26 lakh tonnes have arrived and 11.89 lakh tonnes have been disposed upto 16.10.2008.
- (xiii) During the year 2008-09, State agencies have further contracted to import about 874140 metric tonnes, out of which 348479 metric tonnes have arrived upto 16.10.2008.

The Government has launched a scheme on 28.07.2008 to distribute one million tons of edible oils to States/UTs at a subsidy @ Rs. 15/kg. So far, orders have been placed for import of 3.12 lakh tons of edible oils. Of this, about 2.28 lakh tons of edible oil has been shipped. Till 13.10.2008, 2.39 lakh tons of edible oils has landed at various ports in India. As on 13.10.2008, 1.43 lakh tons of edible oil has been delivered to various States/UTs for distribution to ration card holders @ 1 kg per ration card per month.

(B) Medium Term Measures:

In the medium term, Government has taken initiatives such as the National Food Security Mission (NFSM), Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojna (RKVY) to improve production and productivity in agriculture.

(e) and (f) Government has taken several policy decisions in order to provide rice, wheat, sugar, kerosene and edible oils to the poorer sections of the society at controlled prices through the Public Distribution System (PDS) as listed below:—

1. Rice and Wheat

Allocation of foodgrains under the Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) is made for BPL and AAY families on the basis of 1993-94 poverty estimates of the Planning Commission projected on the population estimates of Registrar General of India as on 1.3.2000 or the number of families actually identified and ration cards issued by State Government, whichever is less.

Accordingly, allocations of foodgrains (wheat, rice) for AAY and BPL categories are made @ 35 kg. per family per month to all accepted number of 6.52 crores families in the country.

However, allocations for APL category are made depending upon the availability of stocks of foodgrains in the Central Pool. Besides the normal monthly allocation for APL category, adhoc additional/festival allocations of 11.45 lakh tonnes of wheat and 1.54 lakh tonnes of rice have also been made to various States/UTs for the period July to December, 2008.

2. **Sugar** : In order to ensure better targeting in PDS, w.e.f. 1.2.2001, the Central Government restricted the supply of levy sugar under PDS to BPL families except in the North Eastern States, Hilly States and Island Territories where universal coverage was allowed to continue. Further, the Government increased the minimum per capita per month quantum of levy sugar distribution from 425 gms. to 500 gms. to benefit the BPL families and the population covered for supply of levy sugar under PDS was on the basis

of the projected population as on 1st March, 2000. Accordingly, the allotment of levy sugar is made on the basis of fixed States/UTs quotas with effect from 1.2.2001. Besides, a quantity of about 1.00 lakh MT is allotted as fixed Annual Festival quota of the States/UTs as per the scheduled festival requirement of the State Governments/UT Administrations.

3. **Edible Oils** : The Government has launched a scheme on 28.07.2008 to distribute one million tons of edible oils to States/UTs at a subsidy @ Rs. 15/kg. As on 13.10.2008, 1.43 lakh tons of edible oil has been delivered to various States/UTs for distribution to ration card holders @ 1 kg per ration card per month.
4. **Kerosene** : In order to check the black marketing of Public Distribution System (PDS) kerosene, the Central Government have made provisions in the Kerosene (Restriction on Use and Fixation of Ceiling Price) Order, 1993, issued under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955, according to which the dealers cannot sell PDS kerosene at a price higher than the price fixed by the Government or OMCs and that the PDS kerosene dealers should prominently display stock-cum-price board at the place of business including the place of store at a conspicuous place. With the objective of ensuring that the benefit of the subsidy reaches the targeted consumers in an efficient and cost-effective manner and to prevent any leakages, Ministry of Petroleum has proposed introduction of Smart Card System for distribution of PDS kerosene. The scheme is proposed to be introduced initially on an experimental basis. In the Pilot project, subsidized kerosene through Smart Card is proposed to be available to BPL families while all other ration card holders would be given non-subsidized kerosene.

Statement**Retail Prices of Selected Essential Commodities at Delhi**

Unit: (Rs. per kg)

Items	Current Price 15.10.08	1 week Back 8.10.08	1 month Back 15.9.08	6 months Back 15.4.08	1 year Back 15.10.07	Variation (over 1 month) 15.10.08/ 15.9.08
Rice	22	22	22	18	15	0
Wheat	13	13	13	13	12	0
Atta	14	14	14	14	13	0
Gram dal	37	37	35	37.5	34	2
Tur dal	50	50	45	42	40	5
Urad dal	44	44	42	39	37	2
Moong dal	44	45	42	38	37	2
Sugar	20	20	21	18	16	-1
Milk [⊙]	21	21	20	20	19	1
Groundnut oil*	118	118	121	121	118	-3
Mustard oil*	79	79	79	73	62	0
Vanaspati	62	62	69	75	60	-7
Tea Loose	135	134	128.5	106	108	6.5
Salt Pack	11	11	NR	10	10	-
Potato	13	13	12	8	15.5	1
Onion	17	14	14	9	22	3

⊙ Rs. per litre *Refined oil NR Not Reported

Source : State Civil Supplies Departments.

[Translation]

Diseases in Fruits

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

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether many kinds of fruits get destroyed because of spread of diseases and consequently the Government has to suffer loss to the tune of several crore of rupees;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether research has been conducted to check spread of the said diseases;

(d) if so, the details and the outcome thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The citrus fruits get destroyed due to pathogens like fungi and bacteria. Grapes are vulnerable to post harvest diseases mainly due to bunch and berry rots. Among the prominent cases of crop damage, heavy loss of apple crop was reported during 2006-07 due to severe infestation of codling moth on apple and apricot in Laddakh Division of Jammu and Kashmir. Moderate to severe incidence of Bacterial Leaf Blight (Oily Spot) has been reported in pomegranate in Maharashtra, Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh in recent years. The incidence of Black Spot (Sigatoka) disease on banana crop was reported in Jalgaon district of Maharashtra State.

(c) and (d) Government of India has adopted Integrated Pest Management (IPM) as the cardinal principle of plant protection. IPM packages of practices for pest/disease management in 77 major crops have been developed.

Research has also been conducted by the institutions of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research and recommendations made and control measures suggested to check spread of diseases in fruits.

(e) Does not arise.

Krishak Sahayata/Salah Kendra

324. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Krishak Sahayata/Salah Kendra (Farmer's assistance/advice centres) are being run in the country;

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

(c) whether the Government proposes to open more such centres especially in the backward areas; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the time by which such centres are likely to be opened?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) (1) Kisan Call Centres (KCC) are functioning since 21st January, 2004. At present, the KCCs are in operation through 25 locations covering almost all the states/UTs of the country to cater to the information needs of farmers on latest farming knowledge on all Crops, Horticulture, Poultry, Agro-Forestry, Fishery, Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Sciences.

(2) All KCC locations are accessible by dialling single toll free number '1551' nationwide.

(3) Presently, 144 Call Centre Agents who are Agriculture Graduates have been engaged in KCCs for answering farmers' queries in 22 local dialects from 6 A.M. to 10 P.M. on all 7 days a week.

(4) Till 31st August, 2008, KCCs have received 28,47,222 calls (Live calls 21,05,537+IVR calls 741685) from the farmers.

The state wise call details are given in the enclosed Statement-I.

(c) 14 Kisan Call Centres were functioning through

Statement-I

State-wise Call statistics from 21st January'04 to 31st August '08

S.No.	State	Live	IVR	Total
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	326	3903	4229
2.	Andhra Pradesh	58614	39867	98481
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	1180	818	1998
4.	Assam	24374	7486	31860
5.	Bihar	42384	24134	66518
6.	Chhattisgarh	20786	10470	31256
7.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	72	0	72
8.	Delhi	31157	26835	57992
9.	Goa, Daman and Diu	658	2423	3081
10.	Gujarat	192168	36595	228763
11.	Haryana	73259	24901	98160
12.	Himachal Pradesh	38445	13428	51873
13.	Jammu and Kashmir	45189	7857	53046
14.	Jharkhand	16298	5789	22087

out the country since 21st January, 2004. However, from August, 2008, Ministry of Agriculture has decided to increase these centres to 25 across the country for better coverage.

(d) The list of Kisan Call Centre (KCC) locations and the States/UTs covered is given in the enclosed Statement-II.

1	2	3	4	5
15.	Karnataka	83506	64444	147950
16.	Kerala	105540	42924	148464
17.	Lakshadweep	24	217	241
18.	Madhya Pradesh	187440	40109	227549
19.	Maharashtra	138827	79853	218680
20.	Manipur	19092	3461	22553
21.	Meghalaya	5154	382	5536
22.	Mizoram	5641	684	6325
23.	Nagaland	1088	237	1325
24.	Orissa	36972	18168	55140
25.	Punjab	129377	40214	169591
26.	Rajasthan	232719	46499	279218
27.	Sikkim	414	230	644
28.	Tamil Nadu and Pondicherry	122133	85099	207232
29.	Tripura	11915	3659	15574
30.	Uttar Pradesh	366601	59581	426182
31.	Uttarakhand	38330	17125	55455
32.	West Bengal	75854	34293	110147
Total		2105537	741685	2847222
Percentage		73.95	26.05	100

Statement-II**Kisan Call Centre location from August, 2008**

Sl.No.	State/UT	Location	KCC address
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	Hyderabad	M/s CARETEL Infotech Ltd., Helpbell, Flat No. 11, 1st Floor, Khan Latif Khan Estate, L.B. Stadium Road, Nampally, Haderabad-500001
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	Itanagar	M/s CARETEL Infotech Ltd., H/o Mrs. Hage(Rubu), 1st Floor, Above Rubu Construction, Itanagar-7901113
3.	Assam, Manipur, Negaland	Guwahati	M/s CARETEL Infotech Ltd., 13 Green Path, G.S. Road Ulubani, Behind S.B. Deorah College, Guwahati-781007 Kisan ghy@hotmail. com
4.	Bihar	Samastipur	M/s CARETEL Infotech Ltd., Digital Computer, Bazar Sametee Road, Muktapur, Samastipur, Bihar
5.	Chattisgarh	Raipur	M/s CARETEL Infotech Ltd., Shop No.5, Beside Gurunanak Hall, Shyam Nagar, Inside Nurunakak Dwar, Telibandha, Raipur, Chhatisgarh
6.	Delhi	Pitampura	M/s CARETEL Infotech Ltd., C-123, 7th Floor, pp Tower, Netaji Subhash Palace, Ptampura, New Delhi-110034
7.	Gujarat Dadra and Nagar Haveli Daman and Diu	Ahmedabad	M/s CARETEL Infotech Ltd., UL-17/18/21, Fairdeal House, Opp. Xavier's Ladies Hostel, Navrangpura, Ahmedabad-380009
8.	Haryana, Punjab and Candigarh	Chandigarh	M/s CARETEL Infotech Ltd., SCO 315-316, 2nd Floor, Sector 35 B, Chandigarh
9.	Himachal Pradesh	Shimla	M/s CARETEL Infotech Ltd., Cabin 202, PC Chambers, The Mall, Shimla, H.P
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	Jammu	M/s CARETEL Infotech Ltd., 91-A Gandhi Nagar, Jammu-180001
11.	Jharkhand	Ranchi	M/s CARETEL Infotech Ltd., Digital Computers, 1st and 2nd Floor, Jai Bala Ji Bhawan, Loh Kothi, Ratu Road, Ranchi-834005
12.	Karnataka	Bangalore	M/s CARETEL Infotech Ltd., Tirupati Balaji Towers, Flat No4, Building No.35/13, Langford Road Cross, Bangalore-560025

1	2	3	4
13.	Kerala and Lakshadweep	Trichur	M/s CARETEL Infotech Ltd., Minerva Academy, 3rd Floor, Rohini Plaza Masjid Road, Kokala, Trichur-680021 minervastar@gmail.com
14.	Madhya Pradesh	Jabalpur	M/s CARETEL Infotech Ltd., C/o M/s. Biz Proxy Solutions, 3rd Floor, Samdaria Yatri Niwas, Old Sheela Talkies, Civil Lines, Jabalpur, M.P.
15.	Maharashtra, Goa	Nagpur	M/s CARETEL Infotech Ltd., 115, Gupta Sadan, C.A. Road, Nagpur-440008
16.	Meghalaya	Shillong	M/s CARETEL Infotech Ltd., 2nd Floor, House of Sh. S. Ghosh, Jail Road, Shillong-793001
17.	Mizoram	Aizawl	M/s CARETEL Infotech Ltd., B-5, Ramihar Veng, Bishop Road, Aizawl-796007
18.	Orissa	Bhubneshwar	M/s CARETEL Infotech Ltd., 34 Jaydev Nagar, Nageshwar Tangi HB Colony, Lewis Road Bhubneshwar-751002
19.	Rajasthan	Jaipur	M/s CARETEL Infotech Ltd., U-5, Krishna Appts., C-4 Hathi Babu Marg Bani Park, Jaipur-302016 Tel:09414223450 Kcc jaipur@hotmail.com
20.	Sikkim	Veorail	M/s CARETEL Infotech Ltd., 3rd Floor, 5 ways, Veorail-737102
21.	Tamil Nadu, Pondicherry	Coimbatore	M/s CARETEL Infotech Ltd., Avaya Infosystems, No.340 Abi Call taxi building, Near Kamatka Bank, D.B. Road, R.S. Puram, Coimbatore-641002
22.	Tripura	Agartala	M/s CARETEL Infotech Ltd., 133, Bipani Bitan, Durga Choumohani, Tripura West, Agartala-799002
23.	Uttar Pradesh	Kanpur	M/s CARETEL Infotech Ltd., 508-A Software Technology Park, UPSIDC Complex, A-1/4 Lakhanpur, Kanpur-208024 U.P.
24.	Uttarakhand	Dehradun	M/s CARETEL Infotech Ltd., C/O M/s Sanvi Infotech 43/ 1 Mazri Mati, Front Rajeshwari Nursury, Mokhampur, Dehradun-248002
25.	West Bengal Andaman and Nicobar Islands	Kolkata	M/s CARETEL Infotech Ltd., 12A CAMAC Street 2nd floor Unit-2A Kolkata-700017 Tel:09830186544 cc.ccu.caretelindia.com

[English]

Decline in Export of Textiles

325. SHRI L. RAJAGOPAL : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the textiles exports were below the target fixed for 2007-08;

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

(c) whether the share of textiles in total exports of the country declined drastically during the said period; and

(d) if so, the details thereof, alongwith the corrective measures taken by the Government to promote textiles exports from the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI E.V.K.S ELANGOVA) : (a) and (b) The target fixed for the textiles exports for the year 2007-08 was US \$ 25.06 billion, against which exports performance was of the order of US \$ 22 billion, as per provisional figures. Although the export achievements fell short of the target fixed for 2007-08, there was still an increase of US \$ 2.3 billion over the exports performance of 2006-07. The reasons for the shortfall in export can be partially attributed to the appreciation of the Indian rupee during 2007-08 by over 13%, leading to loss of price competitiveness in the international market. This was further compounded by the fact that there was a general slow down in the off-take of textiles and clothing (T and C) products in some of the major markets abroad.

(c) and (d) The share of textiles in the total exports of the country marginally declined to 13.5% in 2007-08 from 15.16% in 2006-07. To promote exports of textiles from the country and to strengthen the textiles sector of the country, Government has taken a number of measures from time to time as follows:—

- (i) To improve productivity and quality of cotton for manufacture and export of competitive downstream textile products, Government has launched the Technology Mission on Cotton (TMC). The Mission has achieved success in

increasing the productivity and reducing the contamination through upgradation of cotton market yards and modernisation of Ginning and Pressing factories.

- (ii) The Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme (TUFS) was launched to facilitate the modernisation and upgradation of the textile industry both in the organised and unorganised sector. The Scheme has been further fine tuned to increase the rapid investments in the targeted sub-sectors of the textile industry. The cost of machinery has been further brought down by reducing the customs duty on Imports.
- (iii) To provide the textile industry with world-class infrastructure facilities for settling up their textile units meeting international environmental and social standards, a Public-Private Partnership (PPP) based Scheme known as the "Scheme for Integrated Textile Park (SITP)" has been introduced in August 2005.
- (iv) In 2004-05 Budget, the entire textile sector, except for man-made fibre and filament yarn was provided optional exemption from excise duty. In 2005-06 Budget, Central Value-added Tax (CENVAT) on Polyester Filament Yarn has been reduced from 24% to 16%. These modifications in fiscal levies aim at attracting more investments for modernization of textile sector.
- (v) To facilitate Import of state of the art machinery to make our products internationally competitive in post quota regime, in 2005-06 Budget, the customs duty on textile machinery has been brought down to 10% except 23 machinery appearing in List 49 which attracts Basic Customs Duty (BCD) of 15%. The concessional duty of 5% continues to be at 5% on most of the machinery items.
- (vi) Government has launched the Debt Restructuring Scheme w.e.f. Sept., 2003 with the principal objective to permit banks to lend to the textile sector at 8-9% rate of interest.
- (vii) Government has allowed 100% Foreign Direct

Investment in the textile sector under automatic route.

- (viii) Government has de-reserved the readymade garments, hosiery and knitwear from SSI sector so that large scale investments may be encouraged in these sectors.
- (ix) National Institute of Fashion Technology (NIFT) has been set up to provide the leadership role in sensitizing the industry to the concept of value addition by inducting trained professionals to manage the industry. This has resulted in an increased demand for trained professionals in various sectors servicing the industry.
- (x) Government has extended a number of relief measures to textiles exporters such as enhanced DEPB and Duty drawback rates, reduced ECGC premium, subvention on credit rates, refund of service tax paid by exporters on various services etc.;
- (xi) Apparel Training Design Centres (ATDCs) have been set up throughout the country to cope up the requirement of skilled/semi-skilled manpower for the textile industry.
- (xii) To take a serious look at Fashion Education in the changing business context of the opening up of World Economies, Government is taking steps for:—
- Establishing an institution of National Excellence for imparting Fashion Business Education with International Benchmarking.
 - Appointing a nodal agency for standardizing and benchmarking Fashion Business Education in the country.
 - Setting up an Apex Body to train the teachers/trainers imparting Fashion Business Education in the country.

Rashtriya Krishi Bima Yojana

326. SHRI PRABODH PANDA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the steps taken for introducing Rashtriya Krishi Bima Yojana across the country; and

(b) the details of implementation mechanism in the State level and the performance of the State Governments in this regard, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA) :

(a) Rashtriya Krishi Bima Yojana (RKBY) is available to all States/Union Territories. At present, the scheme is being implemented by 23 States and 2 Union Territories.

Efforts are made by the Government and the Implementing Agency by way of convening of meetings with the State Government officials and by creating awareness through extension and publicity programmes, to bring the remaining States and Union Territories under the coverage of the scheme.

(b) Implementation of RKBY involves the following steps :—

(i) The Implementing State/UT constitute a State Level Coordination Committee on Crop Insurance (SLCCCCI) to over see the implementation of the Scheme.

(ii) Before the start of crop season, the Implementing State/UT notify the implementation of the scheme.

(iii) This notification is circulated among all the related agencies including banks.

(iv) Banks at the grass-root level collect the insurance proposals and premium and passed on to Agriculture Insurance Company of India Ltd.. (AIC).

(v) At the end of crop season, AIC, on the basis of yield data received from State Government/ UT, work out and settle payable claims, if any.

State-wise performance of the scheme during last 17 crop seasons is given in the enclosed Statement.

Statement

NAIS - Business Statistics for 17 Seasons from Rabi 1999-00 to Rabi 2007-08 (As on 13th Oct 2008)

Sl. No.	State	Farmers Covered	Area (In Hec.)	Sum Insured	Premium	Subsidy	Claims Reported	Claims Paid	Claims Payable	Rs in Lakhs	
										Farmers Benefitted	Farmers
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	11
1.	Andhra Pradesh	16773224	26044548.24	2499711.49	70281.10	8321.88	176075.65	174930.64	1145.01	3146809	3146809
2.	Assam	104171	78943.93	10494.45	262.84	30.95	423.18	129.60	293.58	20033	20033
3.	Bihar	2959932	3525512.44	448027.14	10077.69	1077.03	98268.59	51802.83	46465.76	1200101	1200101
4.	Chhattisgarh	4928071	10366867.53	325334.04	8425.57	548.63	17462.54	17459.11	3.43	992683	992683
5.	Goa	6271	10499.48	224.41	3.93	1.09	2.25	2.25	0.00	698	698
6.	Gujarat	8356618	19892232.39	1610180.95	68370.46	4192.74	256119.87	253729.85	2390.01	2827802	2827802
7.	Haryana	528467	601513.33	53369.63	1456.13	43.13	3111.81	1759.62	1352.19	112898	112898
8.	Himachal Pradesh	146300	104168.93	9066.51	196.62	35.92	596.09	596.09	0.00	70055	70055
9.	Jammu and Kashmir	20769	28061.80	1680.78	32.85	2.31	10.22	10.21	0.00	1387	1387
10.	Jharkhand	3003932	1442080.82	90648.38	2291.79	131.56	13307.18	13107.80	199.39	754715	754715
11.	Karnataka	7835469	13416106.00	883017.70	28511.47	1797.08	125635.37	125584.42	70.96	3500635	3500635
12.	Kerala	269827	245711.86	37865.50	794.09	153.83	2048.08	1507.31	540.77	59714	59714
13.	Madhya Pradesh	14472280	38483362.66	1395464.29	41754.52	1849.23	60530.06	51978.89	8551.17	2871799	2871799

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
14. Maharashtra	19051618	18834563.74	1080725.84	40043.48	4678.94	100777.68	100777.69	0.00	5532599		
15. Meghalaya	15108	17743.19	1933.43	99.94	19.42	31.42	31.41	0.00	1357		
16. Orissa	8334776	8565348.31	816427.45	20391.17	3153.56	45058.68	44671.37	387.31	1534928		
17. Rajasthan	9795170	21536767.40	978265.91	26692.71	487.73	84711.96	84301.46	410.50	2330063		
18. Sikkim	1431	842.19	150.31	1.66	0.35	1.28	1.28	0.00	86		
19. Tamil Nadu	1565868	2492231.97	257579.13	5554.85	1083.99	43553.89	41943.56	1610.33.	570407		
20. Tripura	11108	6586.95	1183.64	36.36	4.31	52.59	47.02	5.57	2803		
30. Uttar Pradesh	11076357	15530397.36	1160693.26	24017.29	2414.83	63540.08	53144.30	10395.78	2962422		
22. Uttarakhand	88205	97787.19	13783.70	228.60	18.59	587.52	587.52	0.00	22499		
23. West Bengal	6131357	3137529.30	479599.72	12946.48	1976.90	42713.67	41826.46	887.21	1247782		
24. Andaman and Nagar Islands	1028	1534.00	124.77	2.88	0.57	0.63	0.61	0.02	59		
25. Puduchery	22937	33621.77	4674.73	88.72	13.47	177.79	149.79	28.00	4645		
Total	115521292	184494562.78	12159927.18	362563.20	32038.01	1134798.07	1060061.08	74736.99	29768979		

Note : Claims of Rabi 2007-08 are under process and is being reported from various States.

Control of Kosi River

327. SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO :
 SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL :
 SHRI HEMMAL MURMU :
 SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA :
 DR. SHAFIQR RAHMAN BARQ :

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has requested the Government of Nepal to help control flooding in Kosi river;

(b) if so, the response of the Government of Nepal in this regard;

(c) whether the Government of Bihar has urged the Union Government to secure technical recommendations of the Central Committee of water resources experts for sealing the Kosi breach and construction of the Pilot channel to revert the course of the Kosi;

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

(e) the other steps taken for permanent solution of the problem?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV) : (a) and (b) Yes Sir. The Government of India has taken up the matter with the Government of Nepal at the highest political level during the visit of Hon'ble Prime Minister of Nepal to India during September 14-18, 2008. India and Nepal recognized the importance of cooperation on water related issues, in the wake of devastation caused by Kosi floods, in the immediate term as well as in the long term. The matter was further discussed in the 3rd meeting of the India Nepal Joint Committee on Water Resources (JCWR) held recently in Kathmandu (Nepal) from September 29 — October 1, 2008. The JCWR decided to empower the existing 'Joint

Committee on Kosi and Gandak Projects' with financial and functional authority to identify the issues, formulate and approve annual action plans and oversee their implementation.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) The Government of India and Government of Nepal are also committed to build a Kosi High Dam at Barahstetra in Nepal; for which a Joint Project Office (JPO) has been set up in August 2004 to investigate and prepare Detailed Project Report (DPR) of Sapta Kosi High Dam. In the 3rd meeting of the JCWR, JPO was directed to complete the DPR by December, 2009.

Decline in Price of Potato

328. SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY :
 SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the price of potatoes in markets have declined heavily leading to heavy losses to farmers who failed to even recover the costs of production;

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

(c) the remedial steps taken by the Government to arrest the trend and ensure remunerative price to the farmers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA) : (a) to (c) The movement of monthly Wholesale Price Index for potatoes from January 2008 to September 2008 shows that the prices of potato have decreased from January, 2008 to June 2008 and thereafter continued to increase. This is given below:—

Wholesale Price Index for Potatoes January 2008 to September 2008 (1993-94=100)

	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	Sept.
Potato	246.7	216.6	226.1	214.9	214.1	211.3	231.0	231.7	241.5

Prices of potato fluctuate depending upon the availability and demand for potato. Prices decrease when new crop arrives in the market. Cost of production of potato in Himachal Pradesh, which is highest in the country, is reducing over the years from Rs. 666.43 per Quintal in 2002-03 to Rs. 483.40 per Quintal in 2005-06.

Private Sector In Defence Production

329. SHRI K.S. RAO : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) the major elements of the revised Defence Procurement Policy and the changes suggested/made in the offset policy to encourage private sector participation in defence production;

(b) the recommendation of the Committee, if any, constituted by the Government on registration of private industries to qualify for defence offsets;

(c) whether the Government proposes to set new targets for DRDO in various fields in view of the amended provisions of offset policy; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

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

(a) to (d) While promulgating Defence Procurement Procedure (DPP)-2006, it was envisaged that review of the procurement procedure would be undertaken every two years. The DPP-2008 is the outcome of the experience and feedback gained in implementation of DPP-2006. DPP-2008 has come into effect from 01 September, 2008. The revised procedure aims to strengthen the procurement framework by making it more transparent, impartial and accountable.

Provision made in DPP-2008 including Offsets' Policy to encourage private sector participation in Defence Production, inter-alia, are as under:—

- (i) Inclusion of Joint Venture Company for absorption of Transfer of Technology.
- (ii) Apportionment of quantities in case L-1 Vendor is unable to meet the demands of the Services.
- (iii) Banking of Offset Credits.
- (iv) A joint venture company has been exempted from offering offsets in case indigenous content in the product is more than 50%.
- (v) Requirement of industrial licence for a private industry to participate in offset programmes for becoming eligible for defence offsets has been dispensed with. Licensing will now be required only if so stipulated under the guidelines/licensing requirements for the defence industry issued by the Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion.
- (vi) A list of defence products has been added in DPP-2008, to facilitate the foreign vendors in implementing their offset obligations.

There is no Committee constituted by Government on registration of private industries to qualify for Defence Offsets.

No target has been set for DRDO in various fields in view of the amended provisions of Offset Policy. However, Offset Policy of DPP-2008, inter-alia, provides for consultation with DRDO in respect of areas in which offsets are to be preferred.

Export of Foodgrains at BPL Rates

330. SHRI AMITAVA NANDY : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Food Corporation of India has been exporting foodgrains at the rates below the Below Poverty Line rates resulting in loss of food subsidy to foreign importers;

(b) if so, details of the quantum, rate and value of foodgrains of various categories exported during the last three years; and

(c) the extent of loss suffered by the Government each year due to low export prices, year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA) : (a) to (c) There has been no export/sale of wheat and rice for export purposes by the FCI for the last three years.

[Translation]

Indiscriminate Exploitation of Ground water

331. SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has decided to amend the Indian Easement Act, 1882 to check the indiscriminate exploitation of ground water;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any provision is being made under it to put a ban on the manufactures of soft drinks and bottled water from exploiting the ground water for their produce;

(d) whether a cess is also proposed for using ground water for irrigation and domestic purpose; and

(e) if so, the details thereof;

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV) : (a) No such proposal is under consideration of the Ministry of Water Resources.

(b) to (e) Do not arise.

[English]

Use of Foodgrains for Bio-Fuel Production

332. SHRI BALASHOWRY VALLABHANENI : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government in the Third International Grain Summit, 2008 held at Sharm-El-Sheikh, Egypt, expressed concern over the increasing use of foodgrains for production of bio-fuels resulting in increase in prices of foodgrains thereby making them unaffordable for the poor;

(b) if so, the details thereof including the reaction of the participating nations thereon; and

(c) the extent to which foodgrains are being used for bio-fuels?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA) : (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Investment of EPF Money

333. SHRI P. KARUNAKARAN : Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Employees Provident Fund Board has decided to invest the money of Employees Provident Fund (EPF) in the stock/share markets;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the amount proposed to be invested during the current year and the expected minimum return thereof; and

(c) the steps initiated to protect the interest of EPF subscribers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES) : (a) No, Sir.

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

(c) The Employees' Provident Fund Organisation is trying to get maximum returns by bringing in competition in its fund management.

[Translation]

Items under PDS

334. SHRI MAHAVIR BHAGORA :
SHRI ANANTA NAYAK :
SHRI M. SREENIVASULU REDDY :

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) the details of consumer goods being presently distributed through the Fair Price Shops (FPS);

(b) the quantity of the said items released to the States during the last three years, State-wise;

(c) whether the Government proposes to distribute other goods apart from the goods already being distributed through FPS; and

(d) if so, the details thereof;

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA) : (a) and (b)

At present the Central Government makes available wheat, rice, coarse grain, sugar and kerosene under the Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) to the State/UT Governments for distribution through the Fair Price Shops (FPS).

TPDS is operated under the joint responsibility of the Government of India and State/UT Governments. The Government of India carries out procurement of foodgrains for the TPDS, their storage, transportation and allocation to the State/UT Governments. The responsibilities for allocation of foodgrains within the concerned State/UT, identification of eligible BPL and AAY families based on estimates of Planning Commission and issuance of ration cards to them, and supervision of distribution of allocated foodgrains to eligible ration card holders through the FPS rest with the concerned State/UT Government. Details of allocation of rice, wheat, sugar and kerosene under TPDS to various States/UTs during the last three years 2005-06, 2006-07 and 2007-08 are given in the enclosed Statement-I, II and III respectively.

(c) and (d) There is no proposal to distribute other items through TPDS. However, in view of the rise in prices of essential commodities witnessed during the recent past, Government has allocated imported edible oils to State/UT Governments for issue through FPS at subsidized prices to BPL families including AAY families.

In addition, the State/UT Governments have been requested to allow FPS owners to sell additional Non-PDS items to make them viable. Some of the State/UT Governments are selling Non-PDS items through FPS as per details given in the enclosed Statement-IV.

Statement-I

Allocation of Rice and Wheat under TPDS from 2005-06 to 2007-08

(Thousand tons)

Sl. No.	States/UTs	Allocation of Rice			Allocation of Wheat		
		2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Andhra Pradesh	3819.444	3819.444	3819.445	153.672	81.152	65.379

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	101.466	92.054	92.121	9.78	11.59	11.427
3.	Assam	1418.636	1460.52	1081.116	337.024	254.226	264.411
4.	Bihar	2267.745	2856.247	1886.328	2662.956	1132.097	881.703
5.	Chhattisgarh	1395.468	1479.678	773.92	437.964	120.65	51.496
6.	Delhi	342.524	350.16	238.368	825.772	486.296	509.813
7.	Goa	93.479	91.226	22.568	40.777	11.532	9.614
8.	Gujarat	1284.479	1471.508	596.808	2379.933	824.374	533.227
9.	Haryana	249.545	366.365	69.72	1093.231	463.72	382.197
10.	Himachal Pradesh	323.016	270.354	251.16	204.816	172.683	226.336
11.	Jammu and Kashmir	537.808	548.544	551.172	218.996	243.26	272.423
12.	Jharkhand	761.668	847.078	714.381	460.124	348.394	343.355
13.	Karnataka	2701.908	2485.814	2335.429	617.175	367.874	311.602
14.	Kerala	1902.3	1926.885	876.06	559.288	330.183	308.547
15.	Madhya Pradesh	960.316	1142.37	443.768	3304.512	1614.274	1363.258
16.	Maharashtra	2740.316	2943.486	1369.056	4704.868	2071.718	1511.627
17.	Manipur	86.84	99.472	96.635	20.264	11.588	11.022
18.	Meghalaya	114.108	114.108	130.112	7.776	7.696	10.305
19.	Mizoram	88.58	61.862	75.423	12.12	10.36	9.624
20.	Nagaland	99.717	94.37	94.284	54.763	34.714	36.603
21.	Orissa	2501.144	2379.948	1762.86	351.112	155.734	137.207
22.	Punjab	327.936	515.914	39.372	1341.84	353.032	240.653
23.	Rajasthan	654.609	1023.19	215.28	3042.547	1335.72	1059.688
24.	Sikkim	36.852	39.337	41.283	7.2	5.35	4.509
25.	Tamil Nadu	5710.356	5710.356	4753.809	120	95.58	94.072

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
26. Tripura		255.192	273.798	237.96	47.94	26.96	25.251
27. Uttar Pradesh		5593.124	6248.499	3020.884	5386.128	2080.878	1529.806
28. Uttarakhand		332.982	353.64	219.9	209.741	143.302	121.641
29. West Bengal		3158.441	4013.796	1397.976	2941.279	1603.714	1625.228
30. Andaman and Nicobar Islands		34.632	22.964	23.124	10.956	5.946	6.12
31. Chandigarh		23.08	25.816	3.42	62.072	9.39	0.708
32. Dadra and Nagar Haveli		10.827	11.774	10.668	3.033	1.596	1.144
33. Daman and Diu		9.532	9.852	2.256	1.568	0.728	0.444
34. Lakshadweep		3.672	3.721	4.537	0.228	0.433	0.3
35. Pondicherry		47.112	83.112	63.552	1.2	2.05	2.25
Total		39988.855	43237.262	27314.755	31632.658	14418.794	11962.990

Statement-II

*Year-wise and State-wise allocation of levy sugar
from 2005-06 to 2007-08 sugar season*

(Qty. in '000 tonnes)

State	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08
1	2	3	4
Andhra Pradesh	117.48	124.30	124.26
Bihar	7.48	77.54	84.6
Chandigarh	0.95	1.01	0.9
Chhattisgarh	26.84	42.95	54.12
Delhi	35.84	36.38	36.49

	1	2	3	4
Dadra and Nagar Haveli		0.60	0.60	0.60
Gujarat		73.08	75.40	75.35
(a) Goa		1.59	1.59	1.58
(b) Daman and Diu		0.14	0.53	0.6
Haryana		11.91	21.15	31.16
Himachal Pradesh		55.88	56.01	56.74
Jharkhand		0.16	0.15	0.12
Karnataka		69.00	82.71	109.64
Kerala		50.48	49.35	52.92
Maharashtra		106.55	148.70	171.89

1	2	3	4
Madhya Pradesh	156.67	155.98	155.53
Orissa	107.36	108.50	106.99
(a) Pondicherry	2.20	2.18	2.12
(b) Karaikal	0.65	0.63	0.63
(c) Mahe	0.02	0.02	0.02
(d) Yanam	0.15	0.14	0.14
Punjab	6.66	15.67	20.77
Rajasthan	24.00	55.37	97.05
Tamil Nadu	98.09	125.39	136.74
Uttar Pradesh	386.30	365.48	412.02
Uttaranchal	73.03	72.81	73.28
West Bengal	176.01	178.45	169.62
Bhutan	3.80	3.80	3.80
Sikkim	3.95	4.34	4.68
FCI	428.01	422.57	427.57
Total	2024.8	2229.69	2411.93

Statement-III

State-wise subsidized Kerosene Oil (SKO) allocation from 2005-06, 2006-07 and 2008-09 (First Three Quarter)

(MTs)

Sl. No.	Name of States/ UTs	2008-09 (1st three Qtrs.)	2007-08	2006-07	2005-06
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	4362	5816	5816	5816

1	2	3	4	5	6
2.	Andhra Pradesh	387868	517158	517158	517158
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	6942	9257	9257	9257
4.	Assam	193505	258007	258007	258007
5.	Bihar	485572	647430	647430	647430
6.	Chandigarh	8166	13067	13067	13067
7.	Chhattisgarh	110203	146938	146938	146938
8.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	2086	2782	2782	2782
9.	Daman and Diu	1588	2118	2118	2118
10.	Delhi	126363	168484	168484	168484
11.	Goa	14409	19212	19212	19212
12.	Gujarat	557819	743759	743759	743759
13.	Haryana	109214	145619	145619	145619
14.	Himachal Pradesh	37902	50537	50537	50537
15.	Jammu and Kashmir	50711	76044	76044	76044
16.	Jharkhand	158381	211175	211175	211175
17.	Karnataka	346108	461478	461478	461478
18.	Kerala	162231	216308	216308	216308
19.	Lakshadweep	795	795	795	795
20.	Madhya Pradesh	366456	488609	488609	488609
21.	Maharashtra	957657	1276876	1276876	1276876
22.	Manipur	14930	19907	19907	19907
23.	Meghalaya	15300	20401	20401	20401

1	2	3	4	5	6
24.	Mizoram	4662	6217	6217	6217
25.	Nagaland	9984	13312	13312	13312
26.	Orissa	236232	314977	314977	314977
27.	Puducherry	9192	12257	12257	12257
28.	Punjab	177894	237192	237192	237192
29.	Rajasthan	299184	398913	398913	398913
30.	Sikkim	4186	5582	5582	5582
31.	Tamil Nadu	419196	558929	558929	558929
32.	Tripura	23124	30832	30832	30832
33.	Uttar Pradesh	931329	1241772	1241772	1241772
34.	Uttarakhand	67386	89849	89849	89849
35.	West Bengal	564077	752103	752103	752103
Total Allocation		6865014	9163712	9163712	9163712

Statement-IV

Statement showing additional commodities being distributed through PDS outlets other than wheat, rice, coarsegrain, sugar and kerosene oil (As reported by respective State/UT)

(As on 30.9.2008)

Sl. No.	State/UT	Name of Item/Commodity
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	Enriched Wheat floor, Iodized Salt (G.M), Red Gram Dal, Tamarind, P. Oil, Black Gram Dal, Green Gram Dal, Palmolein Oil

1	2	3
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	Edible Oil, Pulses, Vanaspati Ghee, Milk Powder, Baby Food, Dry Cells, Matches, All types of soap, Paper including newsprint, paper board and straw board, Hurricane Lanterns, Lead writing pencils, Exercise books, Butter, Tea, Yarn
3.	Assam	1. Iodised salt under State Zonal quota
4.	Bihar	No item other than PDS items is sold through FPS.
5.	Chhattisgarh	Iodized Amrit Salt
6.	Delhi	No additional commodities is sold through FPS on subsidized rates
7.	Goa	Taluka Mormugao, Goa Sugar (Open Market), Turdal, Masur dal, Vartana, Harbour, Chana dal, Jaggary Rava, Atta, Maida. Taluka Sanguem, Goa Onion, Potatoes, Tea Powder do branded packets, Iodised salt, Palmoleine Oil, Veg. Ghee Packets. Sugar, Rava, Maida, Atta, Turdal, Masurdal, Chana Dal, Moong dal, Orad dal, etc.
8.	Gujarat	Iodized Salt, Edible Oil
9.	Haryana	The State Govt. has issued instructions to all District Food and Supply Officer to sell also items other than PDS items i.e.

1	2	3
		Pulses, Copies, Vegetable Oil, Candle, Match Box, Salt and Soap through FPS and the State Govt. has no objection in regard.
10. Himachal Pradesh		Dal Malka, Dal Channa, Urad Sabut, Mustard Oil, Refined Oil, Iodized Oil.
11. Jammu and Kashmir		No item other than PDS items is sold through FPS.
12. Jharkhand		Iodised salt
13. Karnataka		1. Crystal (Common) and free flow salt brand name: Suruchi Iodised Salt. 2. Condom
14. Kerala		Green Gram, U.D. Split, B.G. Bold, Lobia, Toordhal, Peasdhali, Chillies, Corriander, Cuminseed, Mustard, Methi, Sabari tea, Sabari Palm Oil 1 ltr., Free flow salt 1 kg., Crystal Salt 1 kg.
15. Madhya Pradesh		No item other than PDS items is sold through FPS.
16. Maharashtra		Not reported
17. Manipur		Not reported
18. Meghalaya		Not reported
19. Mizoram		NIL
20. Nagaland		Not reported
21. Orissa		The Govt. has allowed to FPS owners to sale non-PDS commodities in FPS. FPS have been allowed to operate Public Telephone Booth.

1	2	3
22. Punjab		Not reported
23. Rajasthan		Iodized Salt
24. Sikkim		FPSs in the State are permitted to sell all consumer items, however, no subsidy is provided to the additional items/ commodities sold by them.
25. Tamil Nadu		Toor Dal, Orad Dal, Palm Oil, Rava, Maida.
26. Tripura		Atta (wheat is converted into whole meal atta), Iodized Salt in 1 (one) kg poly packet.
27. Uttaranchal		Not reported
28. Uttar Pradesh		Soap, Toothpaste, Oil, Pulses, Iodized Salt, Tea, ORS Tablet, Condom and Sanitary napkins
29. West Bengal		(a) Mustard Oil, Iodized Salt.
30. Andaman and Nicobar Islands		No item other than PDS items is sold through FPS.
31. Chandigarh		FPS are granted to the karyana merchants who apart from distributing the Essential commodities under TPDS to BPL and AAY are also retailing grocery items and other items of daily use like Toothpaste, soaps, detergent powder, tea, salt, match boxes etc.
32. Dadra and Nagar Haveli		No item other than PDS items is sold through FPS.
33. Daman and Diu		Not reported.

1	2	3
34. Lakshadweep		Not reported.
35. Pondicherry		Toor Dhall, Black Gram dhall, Coriander, Chillies, Iodised, Powdered salt, Tamarind, Palm Oil.

[English]

Increase in Infiltration from across the Border

335. SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY :
SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN :
SHRI REWATI RAMAN SINGH :
SHRI RAGHUVVEER SINGH KOSHAL :

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there has been an increase in the number of incidents of infiltration from across the border during the last six months;

(b) if so, the number of such incidents during the said period;

(c) the number of infiltrators killed and arrested during the above period;

(d) whether some heavily armed terrorists have occupied positions in the hilly areas of Doda district of Jammu and Kashmir;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the details of measures being taken by the Government to check infiltration from across the border alongwith the implementation status of the recommendations made by the Review Committee in this regard?

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

(a) and (b) In Jammu and Kashmir (J and K), as against 419 infiltrators during the period April-September, 2007,

there were 243 infiltrators during the period April-September, 2008.

(c) 193 terrorists have been killed and 157 terrorists arrested in Jammu and Kashmir during the period April-September, 2008.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

(f) In Jammu and Kashmir, the overall counter infiltration strategy of the Army envisages a multi-tiered arrangement, including a forward tier of troop deployment, deployment of state of art surveillance devices, the Line of Control (LC) fence and a second tier deployment in conjunction with the fence. There exists a close coordination of the Security Forces, with the State Government and local Police and a high degree of synergy has been achieved through cooperation of all agencies, both for operational and intelligence functions. The efficacy of this strategy has been well established in curbing the infiltration levels of terrorists over the years. The trends of infiltration are being constantly monitored at various levels and requisite actions are initiated to minimize infiltration.

[Translation]

Production of Jathropha

336. SHRIMATI SANGEETA KUMARI SINCH DEO :
DR. DHIRENDRA AGARWAL :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether National Oilseeds and Vegetable Oil Development Board (NOVOD) has been included in the network for producing Jathropha carcass as a major source of bio-diesel;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of works undertaken by the said board in this regard;

(d) whether the said board has done any remarkable work so far;

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

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA) : (a) to (f) National Oilseeds and Vegetable Oils Development (NOVOD) Board is a statutory body set up in the Department of Agriculture and Cooperation, Ministry of Agriculture in terms of the provisions of the National Oilseeds and Vegetables Oils Development Board Act, 1983. The NOVOD Board is entrusted with the nodal responsibility for Integrated Development of Tree Borne Oilseeds (TBOs) including Jatropha. The Board has been promoting Jatropha in the country through its various developmental programmes like development of elite planting material and model plantation, Research and Development, awareness etc. The Board has undertaken nursery raising and model plantation of Jatropha in about 11761 hectare area in 22 potential states of the country. These plantations will serve as parent material for undertaking large scale plantation of Jatropha in future for bio-diesel production. Besides, a "National Research Network on Integrated Development of TBOs-Jatropha" is also being implemented in the country through networking of more than 60 RandD institutions to address the various researchable issues. So far, 2399 superior planting material (Candidate Plus Trees-CPTs) have been identified and 505 germplasm lines have been cryo-preserved. A total of 1345 seeds samples have been analyzed for oil content and fatty acid composition. There has been significant achievement in standardization of package and practices, mass multiplication, genotype/variatal evaluation trials, hybridization etc.

Ground water recharging scheme

337. SHRI JIVABHAI A. PATEL :
SHRI MANSUKHBHAI D. VASAVA :

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the schemes of ground water recharging are being implemented in some regions by National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) in the country; and

(b) if so, the name of the regions covered and expenditure incurred thereon during each of the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV) : (a) and (b) The Central Government has sanctioned an amount of Rs. 1798.71 crore for scheme of "Artificial Recharge to Ground Water through dugwells" in seven States namely, Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Karnataka, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Gujarat and Madhya Pradesh. An amount of Rs. 1499.27 crore have been released to National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) during financial year 2007-08 to be provided as subsidy to beneficiary farmers.

Multiple voices mobiles

338. SHRI HEMMAL MURMU : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether recently certain Chinese mobiles were being sold in the Indian market which had a software by which one could talk in eight different voices;

(b) if so, whether such mobiles are being smuggled into the country;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA) : (a) The import of mobile handsets are freely allowed in the Import and Export Policy at zero per cent basic custom duty and these mobile handsets may have certain value added features.

(b) No, Sir.

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

**Procurement of Aircraft Carrier
Admiral Gorshkov**

339. SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has agreed to pay the additional cost to Russia for procurement of the Aircraft Carrier Admiral Gorshkov;

(b) If so, the details thereof;

(c) the price of the Aircraft Carrier fixed at the time of the agreement and the price which the Government has agreed to pay now; and

(d) the reasons for paying the additional cost?

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

(a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) Contracts and supplementary agreements comprising repair and re-equipping, logistic supports, training, etc. were concluded for acquisition of the aircraft carrier in January 2004 at a cost of US Dollar 974 million. The Russian side has submitted a revised Master Schedule indicating a delay in the project and an increase in price for repair and re-equipping of the aircraft carrier due to increase in scope of work not originally envisaged.

[English]

Latest farming knowledge to farmers

340. SHRI NARAHARI MAHATO : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether any attempts have been made to deliver the latest farming knowledge to farmers;

(b) if so, the details of the public agencies associated with the above and the grant allocated and spent by the above agencies during the last three years, yearwise, category-wise and State-wise;

(c) whether the Government proposes to take steps to control the dealers of agricultural inputs who have a vested interest in promoting excessive chemical pesticides, transgenic seeds etc.; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA) : (a) Yes Sir.

(b) The Centrally Sponsored Scheme "Support to State Extension Programmes for Extension Reforms" launched in May, 2005 aims at supporting State Governments efforts to revitalize their extension system by promoting a new institutional arrangement for technology dissemination in the form of Agriculture Technology Management Agency (ATMA) at the district level. Farming knowledge is being disseminated through ATMA/ATMA like bodies at the district level.

Besides, Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) has established a network of 562 Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs) in the country aiming at technology assessment, refinement and demonstration of technology/products. The KVKs are sanctioned under Agricultural Universities (AU), ICAR Institutes, Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs), State Governments, Public Sector

Undertakings, Deemed Universities/Central Universities/ Other Educational Institutions.

The Kisan Call Centres have been functioning under the Kisan Call Centre scheme of the DAC since January, 2004 for providing information to farmers on agriculture and allied subject through dialing of a nation wise Toll Free No. 1551. The Public agencies associated with Kisan Call Centre Scheme include Telecommunications Consultants India Limited and Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited.

A Statement-I containing the state-wise and year-wise funds released and expenditure under ATMA scheme is enclosed, the state-wise and year-wise fund release to KVKs is given in the enclosed Statement-II and year wise fund released under KCC Scheme is given in the enclosed Statement-III.

(c) and (d) Dealers for pesticides are licensed by the State Governments as per provisions of Insecticides Act. The quality control under the Insecticides Act, 1968 provides for adequate measures for inspection by taking samples of pesticides. Governments have adopted Integrated Pest Management (IPM) as the cardinal principle and main plank of plant protection strategy in the overall crop production programmes in the country.

Under the ambit of IPM programme, the Government of India has established 31 Central IPM Centres in 28 States and one U.T. The mandate of these Centres is pest/disease monitoring, production and release of biocontrol agents/biopesticides, conservation of biocontrol agents and Human Resource Development in IPM by imparting training.

Statement-I

Details of funds released and expenditure under Extension Reforms Scheme for the last 3 years (w.e.f. 2005-06 onwards)

(Rs. in lakh)

S. No.	Name of the State	Releases 2005-06	Expendi- ture 2005-06	U.B. as on 1.04.06	Releases 2006-07	Total of column 5 + 6	Expendi- ture 2006-07	U.B. as on 01.04.07	Release 2007-08	Expendi- ture 2007-08	U.B. as on 1.4.08
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
1.	Andhra Pradesh	223.00	142.12	80.88	467.00	547.88	378.18	169.70	2470.64	985.25	1655.09
2.	Bihar	176.00	47.47	128.53	239.10	367.63	181.03	186.60	1463.00	1241.96	407.64
3.	Chhattisgarh	125.00	102.44	22.56	110.00	132.56	131.16	1.40	422.24	233.90	189.74
4.	Goa	27.00	3.86	23.14	0.00	23.14	11.40	11.74	18.76	0	30.50
5.	Gujarat	116.00	14.67	101.33	194.00	295.33	32.75	223.96	311.21	224.00	311.17
6.	Haryana	123.00	13.90	109.10	116.00	225.10	105.26	119.84	285.84	172.11	233.57
7.	Himachal Pradesh	122.00	122.00	0.00	183.00	183.00	218.05	-35.05	372.75	337.70	0.00
8.	Jammu and Kashmir	104.00	0.00	104.00	0.00	104.00	3.98	100.02		72.56	27.46

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
9.	Jharkhand	163.00	117.00	46.00	157.00	203.00	147.91	55.09	557.73	158.22	454.60
10.	Karnataka	180.00	0.00	180.00	155.00	335.00	93.34	241.66	339.00	192.71	387.95
11.	Kerala	80.00	0.00	80.00	117.00	197.00	0.00	197.00	125.00	24.56	297.44
12.	Maharashtra	231.00	9.19	221.81	383.00	604.81	489.23	115.58	1283.14	965.96	432.76
13.	Madhya Pradesh	200.00	27.57	172.43	294.00	466.43	85.99	380.44	612.23	505.55	487.12
14.	Orissa	255.00	245.63	9.37	419.00	428.37	258.37	170.00	1233.16	1033.89	369.27
15.	Punjab	159.00	30.08	128.92	133.00	261.92	100.55	161.37	427.60	306.64	282.33
16.	Rajasthan	231.00	70.50	160.50	242.00	402.50	181.73	220.77	1152.97	879.67	494.07
17.	Tamil Nadu	128.00	0.00	128.00	263.00	391.00	124.78	266.22	679.14	405.45	539.91
18.	Uttar Pradesh	547.00	4.42	542.58	601.00	1143.58	488.05	655.53	2135.03	1731.63	1058.93
19.	Uttaranchal	149.00	14.72	134.28	182.00	316.28	90.56	225.72	262.25	156.93	331.04
20.	West Bengal	92.00	42.99	49.01	193.00	242.01	235.11	6.90	635.10	547.86	94.11
21.	Assam	160.00	17.62	142.38	0.00	142.38	141.38	1.00	0.00	0.00	1.00
22.	Arunachal	73.00	25.00	48.00	126.00	174.00	57.59	116.41	142.25	171.09	87.57
23.	Manipur	59.00	59.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	93.58	53.32	40.26
24.	Nagaland	61.00	61.00	0.00	50.00	50.00	50.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
25.	Meghalaya	14.00	14.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
26.	Mizoram	49.50	34.00	15.50	118.60	134.10	33.60	100.50	46.55	136.75	10.30
27.	Tripura	22.00	2.56	19.44	0.00	19.44	17.83	1.61	94.66	1.61	94.66
28.	Sikkim	39.00	7.95	31.05	65.00	96.05	64.79	31.26	83.09	47.42	66.93
29.	Delhi	16.00	0.00	16.00	0.00	16.00	0.00	16.00	0.00	1.84	14.16
30.	Pondicherry	16.00	0.00	16.00	0.00	16.00	0.00	16.00	20.75	0.00	36.75
31.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	35.00	0.00	0.00	18.00	18.00	2.85	15.15	11.88	15.29	11.74

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
32.	Lakshadweep	16.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
33.	Dadar and Nagar Haveli	16.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
34.	Daman and Diu	16.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
35.	MANAGE	366.56	40.44	326.12	0.00	326.12	316.98	9.14	300.00	165.97	143.17
36.	DOE	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	0.00	1.21	1.21	0.00
Total		4390.06	1270.13	3036.93	4826.70	7863.63	4043.45	3781.56	15580.78	10771.05	8591.27

Note : Unspent balance as on 31.3.06 lying with Uts. (Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Lakshadweep, Dadar and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu) was automatically lapsed.

Statement-II

Details of State-wise and year-wise funds released to KVKs

(Rs. in lakh)

Sl. No.	States/UTS	Year			Total
		2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	45.90	41.35	39.00	126.25
2.	Andhra Pradesh	1002.39	888.04	917.66	2808.09
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	76.58	150.05	324.00	550.63
4.	Assam	424.66	898.20	1048.45	2371.31
5.	Bihar	1084.29	1257.04	1411.63	3752.96
6.	Chhattisgarh	424.79	382.89	436.34	1244.02
7.	Delhi	25.85	37.10	39.00	101.95
8.	Goa	75.44	52.10	72.75	200.29
9.	Gujarat	796.70	1080.35	1519.37	3396.42

1	2	3	4	5	6
10.	Haryana	799.54	761.47	769.23	2330.24
11.	Himachal Pradesh	728.62	697.65	761.03	2187.30
12.	Jammu and Kashmir	787.69	629.95	659.07	2076.71
13.	Jharkhand	856.93	1704.33	1235.46	3796.72
14.	Karnataka	976.34	1220.61	1262.23	3459.18
15.	Kerala	687.55	483.51	588.48	1759.54
16.	Lakshadweep	33.90	22.35	20.75	77.00
17.	Madhya Pradesh	1838.10	1628.27	2060.60	5526.97
18.	Maharashtra	1411.75	1442.63	1204.45	4058.83
19.	Manipur	312.50	334.60	391.48	1038.58
20.	Meghalaya	110.00	85.35	155.75	351.10
21.	Mizoram	445.02	641.09	267.10	1353.21
22.	Nagaland	161.70	334.15	510.32	1006.17
23.	Orissa	994.35	1292.77	1262.88	3550.00
24.	Pondicherry	90.77	77.75	75.95	244.47
25.	Punjab	774.72	692.15	783.43	2250.30
26.	Rajasthan	1678.72	1498.74	1401.04	4578.50
27.	Sikkim	59.20	43.85	135.00	238.05
28.	Tamil Nadu	1400.02	1538.75	1264.99	4203.76
29.	Tripura	103.70	67.60	110.90	282.20
30.	Uttar Pradesh	4075.54	3417.00	3308.10	10800.64
31.	Uttarakhand	1315.65	821.76	1021.91	3159.32
32.	West Bengal	706.97	1238.34	1042.01	2987.32
Total		24305.88	25461.79	26100.36	75868.03

Statement-III

Year-wise detail of fund released under Kisan Call Centre Scheme from 2005-06 to 2007-08

(Rs. in Lakh)

S.No.	Year	Amount Released
1.	2005-06	358.13
2.	2006-07	484.69
3.	2007-08	407.36

[Translation]

Ilo Assistance for Employment Generation

341. SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR : Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether any action plan has been formulated for seeking assistance from the International Labour Organisation (ILO) for generating employment opportunities in the country in view of the target set by the Union Government for providing employment to all by the year 2012;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to achieve the target fixed for annual increase in employment generation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES) : (a) to (c) No action plan has been formulated to seek assistance from the International Labour Organisation (ILO) for generating employment opportunities in the country. However, National Employment Policy has recently been finalized in consultation with ILO which aims to mainstream employment generation in all policy making. Central Government is fully aware of the unemployment

situation in the country. The 11th Five Year Plan provides a framework to restructure policies to achieve a new vision based on faster, more broad-based and inclusive growth. It aims at making employment generation an integral part of the growth process and devise strategies to accelerate not only growth of employment but also of wages of the poorly paid. The 11th Plan document approved by National Development Council has projected that 58 million job opportunities on Current Daily Status are likely to be created during the 11th Plan period. Besides, Governments of India is implementing various special employment generation and poverty alleviation programmes in both rural and urban areas to increase employment opportunities. Some of the important ones are:- Swarana Jayanti Shahari Rozgar Yojana (SJSRY); Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP); Swarnjayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY) and National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (NREGA), 2005.

Progress in E-Governance Projects

342. SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the progress made in the ongoing major e-governance projects in the country;

(b) the percentage of progress made in terms of allocations of funds to these projects during the last three years and the current year;

(c) whether the several States including Rajasthan has made a remarkable progress in the said projects; and

(d) if so, the details thereof;

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA) : (a) The major Schemes being implemented by the Department of Information Technology are the State Wide Area Network (SWAN) Scheme, the Common Service Centre Scheme (CSC), the State Data Centre (SDC) Scheme the

Capacity Building (CB) Scheme and the e-District Scheme. The State Government are responsible for the implementation of these Schemes under the overall supervision of the Department of Information Technology (DIT), Government of India. These Schemes are at various stages of implementation in the States. The status of these Schemes may be seen at enclosed Statement-I and their detailed status is available at the DIT website www.mit.gov.in.

(b) The total allocations and fund utilization under the e-Government head of DIT may be seen at enclosed Statement-II.

(c) and (d) A number of States have made significant progress in the implementation of these Schemes. The detailed status of implementation of these Schemes in all States including Rajasthan is available at the DIT website www.mit.gov.in.

Statement-I

Status of NeGP (As on 30th September 2008)

(Amount-Rs in Crores)

I. CSC Scheme

Total No. of States/UTs Sanctioned	Total No. of CSCs in these States/UTs	Total Amount Sanctioned	Total Amount Released (DIT Share)	No. of CSCs Set-up
27	108363	1603.08	198.03	17,775

II. SWAN Scheme

Total No. of States/UTs Sanctioned	Total Amount Sanctioned	Total Amount Released (DIT Share)	Remarks
33	2721.9	478.17	SWAN operational in 5 States; In Others Scheme under implementation

III. SDC Scheme

Total No. of States/UTs Sanctioned	Total Amount Sanctioned	Total Amount Released (DIT Share)	Remarks
23	1076.66	84.06	Scheme under implementation

IV. Capacity Building Scheme

Total No. of States/UTs Sanctioned	Total Amount Sanctioned	Total Amount Released (DIT Share)	Remarks
35	62.9	52.13	Scheme under implementation

V. eDistrict Scheme

Total No. of States/UTs Sanctioned	Total No. of Districts where Pilots undertaken	Total Amount Sanctioned	Total Amount Released (DIT Share)	Remarks
14	35	108.65	50.71	Scheme under implementation

Statement-II

*Allocation and Expenditure of e-Governance
from 2005-2006 to 2008-2009*

(Rs. in Crore)

Year	Allocation	Expenditure
2005-06	300.00	299.87
2006-07	425.45	433.84
2007-08	552.40	547.82
2008-09	800.00	45.52

(as on 30.09.2008)

[English]

Quality Control for Bottled Water

343. SHRI JASUBHAI DHANABHAI BARAD : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) the number of companies engaged in the

production of bottled/mineral water in the country at present, State-wise;

(b) the norms fixed by the Government for production of mineral water in the country;

(c) whether any regulator has been appointed for quality control of bottled/mineral water;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the number of companies against whom action has been taken for violating the said norms during the last three years and the current year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI TASLIMUDDIN) : (a) The number of companies (Licences) manufacturing ISI marked Packaged Drinking Water as per IS 14543:2004 and Packaged Natural Mineral Water as per IS 13428:2005 is given, State-wise in the enclosed Statement-I.

(b) Norms for production of Packaged Natural Mineral Water are contained in the Indian Standard IS

13428:2005. These norms pertain to tolerance limits for physical, chemical and toxic substances including pesticide residues.

(c) and (d) Packaged Natural Mineral Water and Packaged Drinking Water were brought under mandatory certification vide Gazette Notification GSR 759 (E) and GSR 760 (E) respectively dated 29 September 2000 issued by Ministry of Health and Family Welfare under Prevention of Food Adulteration (PFA) Rules, 1955. This provides that no person shall manufacture, sell or exhibit for sale bottled/mineral water except under BIS Certification Mark. The implementation of the PFA Act and Rules is carried out by the State Government/Union Territories Administrations who take action in case of any violation of the PFA Rules, 1955. Bureau of Indian Standards, on its part, ensures the quality of Packaged Natural Mineral Water and Packaged Drinking Water manufactured by its licencees through a well defined certification scheme wherein continuous surveillance is done of the licensees by factory inspections and drawing of samples from factory and market and their independent testing to check the conformity of the product.

(e) The number of companies against whom action has been taken for violating the said norms during the last three years and the current year is given in the enclosed Statement-II.

Statement-I

State	No. of Licences	
	Packaged Drinking Water	Packaged Natural Mineral Water
1	2	3
Andaman and Nicobar Islands	02	—
Andhra Pradesh	456	—
Arunachal Pradesh	—	—

1	2	3
Assam	20	—
Bihar	17	—
Chandigarh	—	—
Chhattisgarh	25	—
Dadra and Nagar Haveli	03	—
Daman and Diu	04	—
Delhi	52	—
Goa	12	—
Gujarat	178	01
Haryana	47	—
Himachal Pradesh	06	08
Jharkhand	16	—
Jammu and Kashmir	10	—
Karnataka	140	—
Kerala	38	—
Lakshadweep	—	—
Madhya Pradesh	50	—
Maharashtra	197	—
Manipur	04	—
Meghalaya	02	—
Mizoram	—	—
Nagaland	01	—
Orissa	27	—
Pondicherry	02	—

1	2	3
Punjab	22	—
Rajasthan	35	—
Sikkim	01	—
Tamil Nadu	439	—
Tripura	02	—
Uttar Pradesh	78	01
Uttarakhand	12	02
West Bengal	50	—
Total	1948	12
Grand Total	1960	

Statement-II

Product	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	From April, 2008 to 14th October, 2008
Packaged Drinking Water	253	158	384	184
Packaged Natural Mineral Water	04	01	03	—

Foodgrains Import for PDS

344. SHRI DUSHYANT SINGH : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government proposes to import more foodgrains during the current year to meet the need of the Public Distribution System (PDS); and

(b) if so, the countries from which the said foodgrains are proposed to be imported alongwith the quantum during the above period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Distribution of Foodgrains

345. SHRI GANESH SINGH :
SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY :
SHRIMATI JAYABEN B. THAKKAR :
SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT :

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) the details of demand, allocation and off-take of foodgrains and other goods including kerosene during the last three years, State-wise and year-wise;

(b) whether the allocation to some States including Gujarat and Orissa was less than their demand and the norms for allocation;

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

(d) the remedial steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA) : (a) to (d) The commodity-wise details are as follows:

FOODGRAINS:

Allocation of foodgrains under the Targeted Public

Distribution System (TPDS) is not based on demands made by the States/UTs, but on the accepted norms of allocation. Thus, allocation of foodgrains for the Below Poverty Line (BPL) families, including Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) families, are made @ 35 kgs. per family per month on the basis of poverty estimates of the Planning Commission for 1993-94 projected on the population estimate of Registrar General of India as on 1.3.2000 or the number of families identified and ration cards issued by the State/UT Governments, whichever is less. However, allocations for Above Poverty Line (APL) category are made depending upon the availability of stocks of foodgrains in the Central Pool.

Further, keeping in view the declining stock position of wheat and rice in the Central Pool, a decision has been taken to rationalize wheat and rice allocations for the APL category under the TPDS from the Central Pool stocks, which has been implemented w.e.f. June, 2006 and April, 2007 respectively, by linking them to the offtake figures of the past three years i.e. 2003-04, 2004-05 and 2005-06. Further, in view of lower procurement of rice during 2006-07 and 2007-08 than the overall demand from various States, the allocation of rice for APL category for 2008-09 has been made on the basis of its average offtake during 2006-07 and 2007-08. The decision has been made uniformly applicable for all the States, including the States of Gujarat and Orissa but excluding JandK, AandN Islands, Lakshadweep, Himachal Pradesh and North Eastern States excluding Assam. However, allocations to BPL/AAY families have been maintained as per entitlement without any reduction to all the States/UTs including Gujarat and Orissa.

Considering the requests received from the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations, the Government has made the following allocations:-

- (i) Adhoc/additional allocation of 17.85 lakh tons of wheat for APL category during the period from September 2006 to March 2008. Another adhoc/

additional allocation of 1.22 lakh tons of wheat and 0.15 lakh tons of rice was made for festivals during 2007.

- (ii) Adhoc/additional allocation of 9,52,500 tons of wheat and 1,18,000 tons of rice have been made under Above Poverty Line (APL) category during the current year (upto December 2008) to various States/UTs, against the requests received from the States/UTs.
- (iii) Adhoc/additional allocation of 36000 tons of rice and 192000 tons of wheat at APL rate have been issued for festival season 2008 to various States/UTs.

State-wise details of the allocation and off-take of foodgrains (Rice and Wheat) during the last three years are given in the enclosed Statement-I to III.

SUGAR: The allocation is made on the basis of fixed State/UT quotas. Since the levy obligation has been reduced to 10% of the domestic production, w.e.f. 1.2.2001, the availability of sugar for levy allocation varies depending upon the levels of domestic production. As such, it has not been possible to supply levy sugar as per the fixed levy quota to each State/UT in the years of low production.

As regards Gujarat and Orissa, no reduction in the allocation of their monthly levy sugar quotas has been made.

State-wise and year-wise details of levy sugar allocation for the last three sugar years (October-September) is as per the enclosed Statement-IV. Information on actual lifting offtake by the State/UT is not available.

KEROSENE: Allocation of PDS kerosene is made by the Government of India to the States/Union Territories (UTs) on a quarterly basis for distribution under Public Distribution System (PDS). Further distribution within the States/UTs through their PDS network is the

responsibility of the concerned State/UT. The scale of distribution of PDS Kerosene (SKO) per card holder varies from State to State and is decided by the State Governments/UTs.

Government of India allocates Kerosene to the States/UTs under the Public Distribution System (PDS) on historical basis for the purpose of cooking and illumination only. In accordance with the policy adopted by the Government of India in 2000, Kerosene (SKO) allocation for distribution under the PDS was reduced every year beginning 2001-02 till 2003-04, taking into account the number of LPG connections released in each State/UT. While the initial allotment for 2004-05 was based on the criteria adopted hitherto, additional allocations were made during the year to meet urgent emergent demand. For the years 2005-06 to 2007-08, allocations have been maintained at the level of 2005-06, including additional allocations made during that year. Allocations for 1st, 2nd and 3rd Qtrs. of 2008-09 have also been maintained at the level of 2005-06. The details of allocation of PDS kerosene made to State/UTs and its lifting by them during the last three years are given in the enclosed Statement-V and VI.

In view of requests received from various State Governments for increasing the SKO allocation, the Government of India commissioned a detailed study of kerosene demand in the country, through the National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER) in December, 2004. NCAER submitted its report in October, 2005. NCAER has inter alia recommended restricting the supply of subsidized kerosene to BPL families only.

Further, in order to formulate a long-term pricing policy, the Government had constituted an Inter-Ministerial Committee under the Chairmanship of Dr. C. Rangarajan, Chairman, Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister to examine different aspects of pricing and taxation of petroleum products with a view to stabilizing/rationalizing their prices. The Committee submitted its report on 17.02.2006. The Committee has inter alia recommended to restrict the subsidy on kerosene to BPL families only. The Government has accepted the recommendations of Dr. Rangarajan Committee Report and has decided "in principle" that subsidy on PDS kerosene be limited to BPL families only.

Statement-I

Allocation and Offtake of Rice and Wheat for the Year 2005-2006 under TPDS

(In Thousands Tons)

Sl. No.	States/UTs	Allotment				Offtake			
		BPL	APL	AAY	Total	BPL	APL	AAY	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1,086.129	2,266.740	620.247	3973.116	1101.87	1507.07	608.56	3217.5
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	28.560	69.750	12.936	111.246	25.52	43.25	12.4	81.17
3.	Assam	625.416	955.140	175.104	1755.66	595.48	444.58	181.09	1221.15
4.	Bihar	2,166.651	2,291.520	472.533	4930.704	672.01	25.55	421.06	1118.62

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
5.	Chhattisgarh	532.812	1,045.800	254.820	1833.432	536.803	52.25	229.189	818.242
6.	Delhi	148.464	996.516	23.316	1168.296	145.19	302.61	22.15	469.95
7.	Goa	10.221	118.296	5.739	134.256	3.804	6.103	2.447	12.354
8.	Gujarat	618.063	2,787.564	258.785	3664.412	471.11	178.29	192.34	841.74
9.	Haryana	242.516	1,014.204	86.056	1342.776	195.25	18.07	76.89	290.21
10.	Himachal Pradesh	116.648	348.900	62.284	527.832	95.56	179.07	55.6	330.23
11.	Jammu and Kashmir	220.335	447.720	88.749	756.804	225.77	346.96	73.09	645.82
12.	Jharkhand	700.224	216.300	305.268	1221.792	380.91	21.16	282.63	684.7
13.	Karnataka	876.317	2,035.014	407.752	3319.083	875.69	877.57	378.35	2131.61
14.	Kerala	445.560	1,808.940	207.088	2461.588	436.973	323.932	200.722	961.627
15.	Madhya Pradesh	1,195.315	2,535.372	534.141	4264.828	1217.046	153.02	509.58	1879.646
16.	Maharashtra	1,914.468	4,700.880	829.836	7445.184	1647.21	127.48	736.41	2511.1
17.	Manipur	37.780	47.460	21.864	107.104	33.93	14.89	13.96	62.78
18.	Meghalaya	53.568	45.024	23.292	121.884	54.7	22.61	22.72	100.03
19.	Mizoram	18.279	72.020	10.401	100.7	17.65	55.89	10.01	83.55
20.	Nagaland	35.817	102.400	16.263	154.48	35.61	94.66	16.44	146.71
21.	Orissa	1,261.907	1,155.564	434.785	2852.256	797.408	109.77	450.493	1357.671
22.	Punjab	164.067	1,473.240	32.469	1669.776	71.11	8.84	18.24	98.19
23.	Rajasthan	593.382	2,763.756	340.018	3697.156	469.57	204.17	300.57	974.31
24.	Sikkim	14.076	25.812	4.164	44.052	14.05	24.04	4.32	42.41
25.	Tamil Nadu	1,397.697	3,787.980	6440.679	5830.356	1391.6	1663.797	657.63	3713.027
26.	Tripura	95.364	179.232	28.536	303.132	92.77	66.96	28.53	188.26
27.	Uttar Pradesh	2,945.106	6,494.460	1,539.686	10979.252	2560.263	40.166	1438.289	4038.718

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
28.	Uttarakhand	162.413	333.552	46.759	542.724	166.282	53.316	34.615	254.213
29.	West Bengal	1,447.969	4,089.180	562.571	6099.72	1294.459	1029.41	454.3	2778.169
30.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	7.428	36.360	1.800	45.588	1.81	15.79	0.53	18.13
31.	Chandigarh	8.748	75.516	0.888	85.152	0	0	0	0
32.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	5.192	7.140	1.528	13.86	1.67	0.89	0.72	3.28
33.	Daman and Diu	1.236	9.420	0.444	11.1	0.44	0.15	0.22	0.81
34.	Lakshadweep	0.372	3.360	0.168	3.9	0.47	2.98	0.33	3.78
35.	Pondicherry	22.862	13.200	12.250	48.312	12.53	5.2	7.91	25.64
Total		19,200.962	44,353.332	8,067.219	71,621.513	15,642.518	8,020.494	7,442.335	31,105.347

Statement-II*Allocation and Offtake of Rice and Wheat for the Year 2006-2007 under TPDS*

(In Thousands Tons)

Sl. No.	States/UTs	Allotment				Offtake			
		BPL	APL	AAY	Total	BPL	APL	AAY	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1,052.088	2,194.220	654.288	3900.596	1054.631	1497.672	656.771	3209.074
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	25.524	62.148	15.972	103.644	16.264	35.045	9.069	60.378
3.	Assam	476.700	943.830	294.216	1714.746	479.337	760.534	272.045	1511.916
4.	Bihar	2,019.013	1,307.240	662.091	3988.344	448.589	9.257	566.332	1024.178
5.	Chhattisgarh	483.688	821.390	295.250	1600.328	521.047	33.377	313.059	867.483
6.	Delhi	148.464	664.676	23.316	836.456	146.481	378.265	22.884	547.63
7.	Goa	5.460	91.190	6.108	102.758	4.4	18.67	3.94	27.01

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
8.	Gujarat	540.630	1,444.404	310.848	2295.882	493.911	108.286	259.993	862.19
9.	Haryana	221.151	499.540	109.394	830.085	202.689	4.739	102.921	310.349
10.	Himachal Pradesh	46.831	319.400	76.806	443.037	45.312	247.94	77.244	370.496
11.	Jammu and Kashmir	205.077	482.720	104.007	791.804	209.473	351.349	98.433	659.255
12.	Jharkhand	700.224	189.980	305.268	1195.472	427.972	13.912	299.266	741.15
13.	Karnataka	768.116	1,594.222	491.350	2853.688	768.531	851.32	465.2	2085.051
14.	Kerala	404.277	1,604.460	248.331	2257.068	401.026	375.769	249.313	1026.108
15.	Madhya Pradesh	1,064.538	1,041.946	650.160	2756.644	1049.59	136.652	603.987	1790.229
16.	Maharashtra	1,911.084	2,270.900	833.220	5015.204	1637.217	169.94	698.753	2505.91
17.	Manipur	48.552	41.328	21.180	111.06	37.784	22.171	18.411	78.366
18.	Meghalaya	53.508	44.944	23.352	121.804	53.435	38.895	23.352	115.682
19.	Mizoram	17.640	43.662	10.920	72.222	17.64	40.158	11.246	69.044
20.	Nagaland	32.112	77.004	19.968	129.084	37.656	87.041	22.976	147.673
21.	Orissa	1,165.976	838.990	530.716	2535.682	676.998	137.985	433.288	1248.271
22.	Punjab	138.228	672.410	58.308	868.946	62.856	53.848	33.563	150.267
23.	Rajasthan	635.306	1,337.890	385.714	2358.91	516.875	160.975	348.024	1025.874
24.	Sikkim	11.766	26.447	6.474	44.687	11.766	25.948	6.474	44.188
25.	Tamil Nadu	1,259.232	3,763.560	783.144	5805.936	1159.002	1505.038	775.366	3439.406
26.	Tripura	95.364	176.858	28.536	300.758	83.159	116.723	25.458	225.34
27.	Uttar Pradesh	2,766.663	3,842.700	1,720.014	8329.377	2481.039	325.775	1692.331	4499.145
28.	Uttarakhand	149.511	287.770	59.661	496.942	134.665	102.36	47.404	284.429
29.	West Bengal	1,522.066	3,473.760	621.684	5617.51	1044.249	838.775	515.641	2398.665
30.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	5.040	22.070	1.800	28.91	2.64	13.67	0.82	17.13

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
31.	Chandigarh	2.512	31.806	0.888	35.206	0.21	0	0.07	0.28
32.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	4.948	6.650	1.772	13.37	2.54	1.52	0.38	4.44
33.	Daman and Diu	1.044	8.900	0.636	10.58	0.46	0.25	0.37	1.08
34.	Lakshadweep	0.295	3.698	0.161	4.154	0.24	2.83	0.16	3.23
35.	Pondicherry	21.564	50.050	13.548	85.162	9.59	1.81	7.14	18.54
Total		18,044.192	30,282.763	9,369.101	57,656.056	14,239.274	8,468,499	8,661.684	31,369.457

Statement-III*Allocation and Offtake of Rice and Wheat for the Year 2007-2008 under TPDS*

(In Thousands Tons)

Sl. No.	States/UTs	Allotment				Offtake			
		BPL	APL	AAY	Total	BPL	APL	AAY	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1,052.088	2,178.448	654.288	3884.824	1104.534	1835.017	698.399	3637.95
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	25.524	62.052	15.972	103.548	18.009	47.143	10.857	76.009
3.	Assam	475.470	574.611	295.446	1345.527	480.797	616.97	298.027	1395.794
4.	Bihar	1,719.804	28.239	1,019.988	2768.031	744.97	7.999	872.397	1625.366
5.	Chhattisgarh	472.688	50.784	301.944	825.416	438.525	33.956	308.14	780.621
6.	Delhi	125.874	576.401	45.906	748.181	128.706	533.522	39.361	701.589
7.	Goa	5.460	20.614	6.108	32.182	5.431	19.392	5.037	29.86
8.	Gujarat	524.468	273.387	332.180	1130.035	486.161	102.757	293.573	882.491
9.	Haryana	208.572	120.525	122.820	451.917	197.852	1.333	116.987	316.172
10.	Himachal Pradesh	133.138	261.618	82.740	477.494	123.533	252.51	80.022	456.065
11.	Jammu and Kashmir	201.696	514.511	107.388	823.595	201.488	436.854	107.711	746.053

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
12.	Jharkhand	653.401	52.244	352.091	1057.736	491.574	12.537	323.037	827.148
13.	Karnataka	770.384	1,372.755	503.892	2647.031	762.887	658.628	484.189	1905.704
14.	Kerala	402.348	531.999	250.260	1184.607	402.407	497.499	250.886	1150.792
15.	Madhya Pradesh	1,028.814	125.550	652.662	1807.026	1024.311	101.325	629.096	1754.732
16.	Maharashtra	1,682.633	176.379	1,021.671	2880.683	1412.696	120.662	866	2399.358
17.	Manipur	47.166	37.925	22.566	107.657	45.265	34.433	21.447	101.145
18.	Meghalaya	47.376	63.557	29.484	140.417	46.049	59.732	28.978	134.759
19.	Mizoram	17.640	56.487	10.920	85.047	19.489	54.003	11.62	85.112
20.	Nagaland	32.112	78.807	19.968	130.887	32.488	77.18	21.434	131.102
21.	Orissa	1,165.572	203.375	531.120	1900.067	1004.95	165.491	457.078	1627.519
22.	Punjab	131.123	83.489	65.413	280.025	70.511	50.865	37.805	159.181
23.	Rajasthan	592.532	290.948	391.488	1274.968	536.069	239.832	367.385	1143.286
24.	Sikkim	11.304	27.552	6.936	45.792	11.3	28.109	6.94	46.349
25.	Tamil Nadu	1,259.232	2,805.505	783.144	4847.881	1265.54	1652.474	794.61	3712.624
26.	Tripura	77.962	139.311	45.938	263.211	81.585	127.097	41.252	249.934
27.	Uttar Pradesh	2,765.700	65.510	1,719.480	4550.69	2495.95	52.23	1667.59	4215.77
28.	Uttarakhand	145.656	132.369	63.516	341.541	133.14	95.277	55.633	284.05
29.	West Bengal	1,553.580	847.940	621.684	3023.204	1339.998	780.491	531.52	2652.009
30.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	5.040	22.404	1.800	29.244	3.327	13.444	1.295	18.066
31.	Chandigarh	2.940	0.300	0.888	4.128	3.051	0.119	1.213	4.383
32.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	4.524	5.092	2.196	11.812	0.423	0.781	0.243	1.447
33.	Daman and Diu	1.044	1.020	0.636	2.7	0.293	0.229	0.177	0.699

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
34. Lakshadweep		0.713	3.660	0.464	4.837	0.971	3.76	0.632	5.363
35. Pondicherry		21.564	30.690	13.548	65.802	10.612	5.524	6.54	22.676
Total		17,365.142	11,816.058	10,096.545	39,277.745	15,124.892	8,719.175	9,437.111	33,281.178

Statement-IV

*Year-wise and State-wise allocation of levy Sugar
from 2005-06 to 2007-08 sugar season*

(Qty. in '000' tons)

State	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08
1	2	3	4
Andhra Pradesh	117.48	124.30	124.26
Bihar	7.48	77.54	84.6
Chandigarh	0.95	1.01	0.9
Chhattisgarh	26.84	42.95	54.12
Delhi	35.84	36.38	36.49
Dadra and Nagar Haveli	0.60	0.60	0.60
Gujarat	73.08	75.40	75.35
(a) Goa	1.59	1.59	1.58
(b) Daman and Diu	0.14	0.53	0.6
Haryana	11.91	21.15	31.16
Himachal Pradesh	55.88	56.01	56.74
Jharkhand	0.16	0.15	0.12
Karnataka	69.00	82.71	109.64

1	2	3	4
Kerala	50.48	49.35	52.92
Maharashtra	106.55	148.70	171.89
Madhya Pradesh	156.67	155.98	155.53
Orissa	107.36	108.50	106.99
(a) Pondicherry	2.20	2.18	2.12
(b) Karaikal	0.65	0.63	0.63
(c) Mahe	0.02	0.02	0.02
(d) Yanam	0.15	0.14	0.14
Punjab	6.66	15.67	20.77
Rajasthan	24.00	55.37	97.05
Tamil Nadu	98.09	125.39	136.74
Uttar Pradesh	386.30	365.48	412.02
Uttarakhand	73.03	72.81	73.28
West Bengal	176.01	178.45	169.62
Bhutan	3.80	3.80	3.80
Sikkim	3.95	4.34	4.68
FCI	428.01	422.57	427.57
Total	2024.8	2229.69	2411.93

Statement-V

*State-wise SKO allocation from 2005-06 to
2007-08*

(Figures in MTs)

Sl. No.	Name of States/ UTs	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	5816	5816	5816
2.	Andhra Pradesh	517158	517158	517158
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	9257	9257	9257
4.	Assam	258007	258007	258007
5.	Bihar	647430	647430	647430
6.	Chandigarh	13067	13067	13067
7.	Chhattisgarh	146938	146938	146938
8.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	2782	2782	2782
9.	Daman and Diu	2118	2118	2118
10.	Delhi	168484	168484	168484
11.	Goa	192124	19212	19212
12.	Gujarat	743759	743759	743759
13.	Haryana	145619	145619	145619
14.	Himachal Pradesh	50537	50537	50537
15.	Jammu and Kashmir	76044	76044	76044
16.	Jharkhand	211175	211175	211175
17.	Karnataka	461478	461478	461478
18.	Kerala	216308	216308	216308
19.	Lakshadweep	795	795	795

1	2	3	4	5
20.	Madhya Pradesh	488609	488609	488609
21.	Maharashtra	1276876	1276876	1276876
22.	Manipur	19907	19907	19907
23.	Meghalaya	20401	20401	20401
24.	Mizoram	6217	6217	6217
25.	Nagaland	13312	13312	13312
26.	Orissa	314977	134977	314977
27.	Pondicherry	12257	12257	12257
28.	Punjab	237192	237192	237192
29.	Rajasthan	398913	398913	398913
30.	Sikkim	5582	5582	5582
31.	Tamil Nadu	558929	558929	558929
32.	Tripura	30832	30832	30832
33.	Uttar Pradesh	1241772	1241772	1241772
34.	Uttarakhand	89849	89849	89849
35.	West Bengal	752103	752103	752103
Total Allocation		9163712	9163712	9163712

Statement-VI

*State-wise SKO upliftment from 2005-06 to
2007-08*

(Figures in MTs)

Sl. No.	Name of States/ UTs	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	6582*	5971*	5623*

1	2	3	4	5
2.	Andhra Pradesh	509495*	524075*	517712*
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	9102	9141*	9340
4.	Assam	257174	257937	262766*
5.	Bihar	647190	644582	662623*
6.	Chandigarh	11619	10478	8912
7.	Chhattisgarh	145850	145420	145329
8.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	2646	2540	2674
9.	Daman and Diu	1928	2031	2061
10.	Delhi	157365	160786	164729
11.	Goa	19179	19188	19089
12.	Gujarat	744499*	747385*	743877
13.	Haryana	144513	145447	145816
14.	Himachal Pradesh	47904	48936	47499
15.	Jammu and Kashmir	71315	74536	69757*
16.	Jharkhand	211960*	210416	210867
17.	Karnataka	461576*	463239*	462219*
18.	Kerala	215615	216657*	216327
19.	Lakshadweep	532	858*	532
20.	Madhya Pradesh	484609	489029	484753
21.	Maharashtra	1272009	1280062*	1271373
22.	Manipur	19729	19467	19296
23.	Meghalaya	20265	19678	20505
24.	Mizoram	6206	6215	6220

1	2	3	4	5
25.	Nagaland	13298	13599*	13325
26.	Orissa	312171	316043*	311581
27.	Pondicherry	12344*	12253	12247
28.	Punjab	235267	236044	235216
29.	Rajasthan	392790	399988*	400254*
30.	Sikkim	5559	5589*	5888
31.	Tamil Nadu	568456*	569629*	563892*
32.	Tripura	30514	30641	30713
33.	Uttar Pradesh	1241148	1242373*	1241151
34.	Uttarakhand	86009	93790*	89339
35.	West Bengal	748342	751894	750418*
Total Allocation		9114760	9174917	9153923

*Including additional allocation made to the States/UTs.
PDS SKO upliftments as per IPR

[English]

Failure to Lift Foodgrains

346. SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of Delhi failed to lift its quota of foodgrains for distribution under the Public Distribution System (PDS) during 2007 leading to cut in allocation for Above Poverty Line (APL) families;

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

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA) : (a) to (c) In view of procurement of rice during 2006-07 and 2007-08 being lower than the total demand from various states, the allocation of rice for APL category for 2008-09 has been made on the basis of its average offtake during 2006-07 and 2007-08. APL allocation of wheat has been retained at normal allocation for this category during 2007-08 (excluding adhoc additional allocations).

Details of allocation and offtake of rice and wheat under APL category in respect of Delhi during 2006-07, 2007-08 and 2008-09 (upto August 08) are as under:—

(in thousand tons)

Year		Allotment APL	Offtake APL
2006-07	Rice	298.956	95.786
	Wheat	365.720	282.479
2007-08	Rice	187.164	165.739
	Wheat	389.237	367.783
2008-09 (upto August 08)	Rice	45.204	45.266
	Wheat	130.116	133.665

In order to check inflationary trends during festival season 2008, the Government has released a quantity of 50,000 tons of wheat to Delhi under Open Market Sale Scheme (OMSS) for September and October 2008 for distribution to retail consumers. Another 50,000 tons have also been released to Delhi for sale to bulk consumers for October-November 2008.

Universal Service Obligation Fund

347. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) the total amount of allocation and target fixed for Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF) by the Government during the current year;

(b) the total amount of USO Fund released and utilized by the telecom operators during the current year;

(c) whether there has been huge amount of unutilized USO Fund available with the Union Government;

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

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA) : (a) The Total amount of allocation and target fixed for Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF) during the current Financial Year is Rs. 2000 Crore.

(b) The total amount of USO Fund released and utilized by the telecom operators during the current year till 30th September 2008 is Rs. 357 Crore.

(c) to (e) Universal Service Obligation (USO) levy is collected @ 5% of Adjusted Gross Revenue (AGR) of all telecom service providers except the pure value added service providers like internet, voice mail, USO Fund is allocated through budgetary process with the approval of Parliament. A Statement indicating the funds collected, allocated and disbursed from USO Fund since its inception is enclosed.

Statement**USO Fund Position****AS per DOT USL collection and
disbursement of USO Fund**

(Rs. in Crore)

Year	Funds Collected as Universal Service Ley (USL)	Funds Allocated and Disbursed	Closing Balance at the end of the Year
2002-03	1653.61	300.00	1353.61
2003-04	2143.22	200.00	3296.83
2004-05	3457.73	1314.59	5439.97
2005-06	3533.29	1766.85	7206.41
2006-07	4211.13	1500.00	9917.54
2007-08	5405.46	1290.00	14033.00
Total	20404.44	6388.52	

Telephone connections in villages

348. SHRI ARJUN SETHI : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) the number of villages which have been provided with Landline/Wireless in Local Loop (WLL) telephone connections during the last three years and the current year, State-wise; and

(b) the total number of villages in the country yet to be provided with telephone connections alongwith the break-up thereof, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA) : (a) A Statement-I indicating the year-wise/state-wise details of VPTs provided during the last three years (2005-06 to 2007-08) and during the current year 2008-09 (upto 31.08.2008) is enclosed.

(b) As on 31st August, 2008, out of 5,93,601 inhabited villages in the country as per Census 2001, 5,30,624 villages have been provided with Village Public Telephones (VPTs) facility. Circle-wise details of uncovered villages is given in the enclosed Statement-II.

Statement-I**Number of Village Public Telephone (VPTs) provided during last three years and
current year (upto 31.08.2008)**

Sl. No.	Name of the Circle	Total Number of VPTs awarded as per USO Tender	No. of VPTs Provided during 2005-06	No. of VPTs Provided during 2006-07	No. of VPTs Provided during 2007-08	No. of VPTs Provided during 2008-09 (upto 31.8.2009)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	0	0	0	0	0

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
2.	Andhra Pradesh	1074	407	190	68	10
3.	Assam	8931	3185	5117	352	41
4.	Bihar	0	0	0	0	0
5.	Jharkhand	1694	42	668	740	65
6.	Gujarat	4144	2209	1144	691	4
7.	Haryana	0	0	0	0	0
8.	Himachal Pradesh	1002	234	572	64	57
9.	Jammu and Kashmir	1755	239	873	231	63
10.	Karnataka	0	0	0	0	0
11.	Kerala	0	0	0	0	0
12.	Madhya Pradesh	11894	7477	4088	238	12
13.	Chhattisgarh	5043	1711	1143	471	0
14.	Maharashtra	6441	2830	2555	538	24
15.	North East-I	2128	44	147	249	3
16.	North East-II	1550	37	187	511	79
17.	Orissa	4899	0	515	1037	200
18.	Punjab	0	0	0	0	0
19.	Rajasthan	12386	5913	3996	1283	312
20.	Tamil Nadu	0	0	0	0	0
21.	Uttar Pradesh (E)	0	0	0	0	0
22.	Uttar Pradesh (W)	0	0	0	0	0
23.	Uttaranchal	3881	359	1087	715	54
24.	West Bengal	0	0	0	0	0
Total		66822	24687	22282	7188	924

Statement-II

Number of Villages yet to be provided with telephone connections (As on 31.08.2008)

Sl. No.	Name of the Circle	Total Number of VPTs awarded as per USO Tender	No. of VPTs Provided during 2005-06
1	2	3	4
1.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	501	321
2.	Andhra Pradesh	26613	5940
3.	Assam	25124	2304
4.	Bihar	39032	2412
5.	Jharkhand	29354	2757
6.	Gujarat	18159	3177
7.	Haryana	6764	395
8.	Himachal Pradesh	17495	1493
9.	Jammu and Kashmir	6417	712
10.	Karnataka	27481	1056
11.	Kerala	1372	0
12.	Madhya Pradesh	52117	2328
13.	Chhattisgarh	19744	2559
14.	Maharashtra	41442	6184
15.	North East-I	7347	3194
16.	North East-II	7456	3583
17.	Orissa	47529	8528
18.	Punjab	12301	301

1	2	3	4
19.	Rajasthan	39753	5465
20.	Tamil Nadu	15492	682
21.	Uttar Pradesh (E)	76993	6536
22.	Uttar Pradesh (W)	20949	1481
23.	Uttaranchal	15761	3182
24.	West Bengal	38405	7102
Total		593601	71690*

* Out of these, 8,713 VPTs have been provided by Private Basic Service Operators.

Market share of MTNL and BSNL

349. SHRI P. RAJENDRAN : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) the market share of Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL) and Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) in landline and mobile telephone connections in the country;

(b) whether the market share of the said telecom companies have been increased from the previous year;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the remedial measures taken/being taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA) : (a) Sir, the market share of MTNL and BSNL in landline and mobile connections as on 31.08.2008 is given below:—

Name of PSU	Landline Telephone	Mobile Telephone
BSNL	78.82%	14.14%
MTNL	9.32%	1.28%
Total	88.14%	15.42%

(b) and (c) The market share of MTNL and BSNL has decreased due to the following reasons:—

- (i) In case of MTNL there was capacity constraints in its GSM mobile network due to non-commissioning of 750K lines each in Delhi and Mumbai by the vendors. Similarly, during the past two years, sufficient capacity in GSM mobile equipment was sub-judice and there was delay in supply of equipments.
- (ii) Surrendering of excess landline phones and preference for mobile phones.
- (iii) Customer's preference for mobile and landline phones from different service providers.

(d) The remedial measures taken/being taken by MTNL and BSNL are given below:—

- (i) Order for 30 million lines of GSM Mobile equipment has been placed by BSNL which will meet the expansion requirement of GSM Mobile connections during 2008-09.
- (ii) In, addition, BSNL has invited tender for additional 93 million GSM mobile lines to meet the requirement during next three years.
- (iii) The GSM network of MTNL Delhi has been expanded by 750 K lines in March 2008 with enhanced capacity of the core network 500 K GSM capacity in Mumbai are also added shortly.
- (iv) BSNL and MTNL are taking lot of measures to

improve its market share by way if expansion of network, improvement in services, Customer Care, provision of Value Added Services, revision of tariffs, introduction of Broadband and IPTV etc. The details are given below:—

- Improving the legacy PSTN Network by change of cables, drop wire etc. as required.
- All exchanges have been made Digital to improve service quality.
- Rehabilitation of outdoor network is being done on continuous basis to reduce fault rate.
- New RSUs/DLCs are being provided to reduce faults.
- MTNL/BSNL are also introducing 3G service in their network.
- Additional BTS are planned to be installed to improve coverage.
- MTNL plans to commission Convergent billing and CRM in current year. This system provides one bill for all services to a subscriber. The system will also address customer request of services, tariff, complaint resolution etc.
- MTNL and BSNL are providing a lot of Value Added Services for both PSTN and Mobile subscribers like news, songs, astrology, e-ticketing, SMS, Internet, Broadband, IPTV etc. in line with the emerging trends.
- New tariffs plans both in landline and cellular based PCOs are launched to retain PCO holders and attract new PCO franchisees.

- MTNL and BSNL are taking care of its customers by opening Sanchar Haat, customer service centre, appointment of Dealers and Agent and special care of Corporate Customers.
- The tariff for various products and services so as to make them customer friendly and to suit various segments of the society.
- MTNL has launched VOIP Services to provide ISD calls at lower tariffs. Nearly 2000 VOIP connections are working each in Delhi and Mumbai in MTNL as on 31.08.2008

[Translation]

Failure of foodgrain based schemes

350. SHRI TUKARAM GANPAT RAO RENGE PATIL : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the schemes for providing foodgrains to the Below Poverty Line (BPL) persons at cheaper rates have failed to achieve their objectives due to the rampant corruption among Central and State Government Officials involved in the implementation of these schemes;

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

(c) whether the Government has formulated/ proposes to formulate any other scheme to provide assistance to the poor people directly in place of these schemes; and

(d) if so, the details thereof;

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE

MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) has evolved as a management system for distribution of foodgrains at affordable prices to poor sections of the society. Objective of the TPDS is to supply foodgrains at highly subsidized prices to targeted poor sections of the society.

The off-take of foodgrains under BPL and AAY categories over last 9 years has increased from 60.39% in 2000-01 to 91.06% in 2008-09 (upto July 2008). This shows that TPDS has been of great support to the BPL/ AAY families and, therefore, it would not be correct to infer that the scheme has failed in achieving its objectives.

TPDS is operated under the joint responsibility of the Government of India and State/UT Governments. The Government of India carries out procurement of foodgrains for the TPDS, their storage, transportation and allocation to the State/UT Governments. The responsibility for allocation of foodgrains within a State/UT, identification of eligible families and issuance of ration cards to them, and supervision of distribution of allocated foodgrains to eligible families through a vast network of 4.96 lakh fair price shops rest with the respective State/UT Governments.

Government has been continually taking steps to strengthen the TPDS by improving its efficiency. Government got the TPDS evaluated by PEO (Planning Commission) and ORG MARG some time back. Certain shortcomings were pointed out in their evaluation reports received in 2005. In view of these reports and with a view to strengthen the TPDS and to curb leakages and diversion of foodgrains meant for TPDS, the Central Government, in consultation with State and UT Governments, evolved a 9-point Action Plan in 2006. This includes measures such as review of BPL and AAY lists for exclusion of ineligible families and inclusion of eligible families, ensuring leakage-free distribution by taking penal action against those found indulging in malpractices, involvement of Panchayati Raj

Institution in functioning of Fair Price Shops (FPS), display of BPL and AAY lists at FPS, door step delivery of PDS commodities to FPS, etc. The Action Plan is under implementation in States and UTs since July 2006 and is being closely monitored by FPS level Vigilance Committees. As a result of this exercise, so far 14 States/UTs have reported deletion of 99.36 lakh bogus/ineligible cards since July, 2006 against 23.69 crore ration cards issued by the States/UTs as no 30.09.2008.

The Government has taken various other measures to improve functioning of the TPDS. A Revised Citizens' Charter has been issued and is being implemented since July, 2007. Monthly certification of delivery of allocated foodgrains to FPS and their distribution to ration card holders has been introduced from April, 2008. Training programmes for TPDS functionaries and awareness campaign for TPDS beneficiaries are being taken up. Computerization of TPDS operations has been initiated. Use of new technologies such as Global Positioning System to monitor movement of foodgrains under TPDS has been undertaken on a pilot basis. Policy guidelines have also been issued on distribution of wheat flour under the TPDS, so that the poor families are benefited. For increasing awareness on TPDS, publicity-cum-awareness campaign is also being taken up.

As the TPDS is operated through a vast network of 4.96 lakh FPS in the country and monitoring of functioning of FPS is in the domain of State and UT Governments, complaints on malpractices in working of the TPDS brought to the notice of the Central Government are sent to the concerned States/UT Government for taking remedial action. The Government has given instructions to all State/UT Governments to take action as per law against persons found in possession of bogus or fake ration cards and the Government staff found responsible for issuing ration cards to ineligible persons.

(c) and (d) Presently, a pilot scheme on smart card based delivery of foodgrains to beneficiaries under TPDS and another pilot scheme on direct cash transfer of food

subsidy to BPL families are being formulated. The first scheme is proposed to be piloted in Haryana and Chandigarh and the second scheme in Uttar Pradesh, Delhi and Haryana.

Exodus of Scientists from DRDO

351. SHRI VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA :
SHRI HEMANT KHANDELWAL :

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Defence Research and Development Organization (DRDO), engaged in developing state-of-the-art weaponry for the armed forces, is facing exodus of scientists over a period of time;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the number of scientists who resigned from DRDO during the last three years; and

(c) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to stop the exodus?

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

(a) The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) is facing problem of attrition of young scientists.

(b) During the last three years (2005-2007), 785 scientists have resigned from DRDO.

(c) Sixth Central Pay Commission has recommended a number of incentives for scientists, which have been accepted and implemented by the Government. DRDO has made efforts to arrest the attrition through career enhancement by providing study leave for acquiring higher qualifications viz., Ph D, M Tech, etc., sponsoring scientists for attending conferences/seminars/symposia/short and long term training courses in frontier areas of research within the country and abroad, monitoring of young scientists, creating better working environment and social life in living campuses, etc.

[English]

Post Harvest Wastage

352. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH :
SHRI K.S. RAO :
SHRI VIJOY KRISHNA :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the details of post harvest wastage of food crops, fruits and vegetables recorded during the last three years;

(b) whether the Government has conducted any study to know the reasons for such wastage; and

(c) if so, the steps being taken by the Government to check the wastage?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA) : (a) No specific study regarding wastage of food crops, fruits and vegetables has been conducted by Department of Agriculture and Cooperation during the last three years.

(b) The reasons for post-harvest losses as per the Millennium Study, State of the Indian farmers, conducted by the Ministry of Agriculture in the year 2004, are due to lack of post-harvest technology and non-existence of integrated transport, storage and marketing facilities etc.

(c) In order to protect the losses of foodgrains and fruits and vegetables at different stages of marketing, the Government of India has initiated action on agricultural marketing reforms by bringing amendments in the Agricultural Produce Marketing (Development and Regulation) Act (APMC Act) on the lines of Model Act circulated to all States during 2003. The emphasis has been given to reduce the marketing channel by bringing direct marketing, contract farming and to improve the marketing

infrastructure by involving private sector in development of infrastructure and setting up of markets with modern physical infrastructural facilities. The Ministry has also implemented capital investment subsidy scheme of Development/Strengthening of Agricultural Marketing Infrastructure, Grading and Standardization, Rural Godown Scheme respectively for development of marketing infrastructure providing, storage facilities for farmers and other market participants respectively. The market information is important for taking appropriate marketing decisions by the farmers. The Ministry has also launched a Central Sector Scheme of Marketing Research and Information Network (AGMARKNET) since March, 2000 for dissemination of market information to farmers.

For horticulture crops, the Government has launched two Centrally Sponsored Schemes 'The Technology Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture in North Eastern States and Sikkim' has been launched during the year 2001-02 which was also extended to the Himalayan States of Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand during 2003-04. 'The National Horticulture Mission' has been launched during 2005-06 for the remaining States. Both the schemes provide assistance for creating post-harvest infrastructure, including cold storage facilities as back-ended subsidy @ 33.33% of the project cost with a ceiling of Rs. 60.00 lakh per unit for hilly and tribal areas and @ 25% of the project cost not exceeding Rs. 50.00 lakh per unit for other States. During 2006-07, a new Component has been introduced under the National Horticulture Mission to facilitate setting up of Modern Terminal Markets in the country, which will have state-of-the-art cold chain and other infrastructure and will help in establishing an efficient supply chain right from the farm gate to the consumer/processor/exporter.

The National Horticulture Board (NHB) is also implementing programmes aimed at reducing the losses of horticulture produce through the schemes 'Capital Investment Subsidy for Construction/Expansion/Modernization of cold storage/storages for Horticulture Produce' having the

same norms and 'Development of Commercial Horticulture through Production and Post-Harvest Management' providing back ended subsidy @ 20% of the total project cost with a maximum limit of Rs. 30.00 lakhs for North-Eastern/Hilly/Tribal Areas States and Rs. 25.00 lakhs for other States. The above measures initiated by the Government of India will facilitate reduction in post harvest losses of agricultural produce.

Setting up of Resource Centre for Cyber Forensics

353. SHRI SUGRIB SINGH :
SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Government proposes to strengthen the provisions against cyber crime in the country;
- (b) if so, the details in this regard;
- (c) whether the Government has set up a Resource Centre for Cyber Forensics (RCCF) in the country;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the extent to which RCCF has been able to help the law enforcement agencies for cyber crime in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Information Technology Act, 2000 together with the Indian Penal Code, 1860 provides legal framework for countering cyber crimes.

To strengthen the provisions against cyber crime in the country, the Government has introduced the Information Technology (Amendment) Bill, 2006 in the Parliament, which inter alia provides for new forms of cyber crimes like publishing of material containing sexually explicit act

in electronic form, video voyeurism, breach of confidentiality and leakage of data by service providers, e-commerce frauds through impersonation commonly known as phishing, identity theft and offensive messages through communication service.

(c) to (e) A Resource Centre for Cyber Forensics (RCCF) has been set up at CDAC, Thiruvananthapuram with the objective to develop Cyber Forensics Tool Kit, carry out R and D in Cyber Forensics to meet the requirement of the Law Enforcement Agencies and provide technical services including training to Law Enforcement Agencies. The Centre has developed several tools for Cyber Forensics, which include Disk Forensics, Network Forensics and Device Forensics. Cyber Forensics Toolkit named Cyber Check Suite has been developed indigenously by the Centre and released to Law Enforcement Agencies.

Large number of copies of the tool Kit have been distributed to various Law Enforcement Agencies in the country including Cyber Crime Investigation Cells set up in States, Forensic Labs., Security Agencies, CBI, Army Cyber Security Establishment and National Police Academy.

The Centre has conducted more than 20 basic and advanced level training programmes on Cyber Forensics to Law Enforcement Agencies.

The Centre has been actively involved in providing support to Law Enforcement Agencies in the analysis of Cyber Crime cases. Over 200 cases have been submitted.

Production of Pulses

354. SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the indigenous production of pulses has fallen in the past few years;
- (b) if so, the factors responsible for fall in production of pulses in the country; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to encourage production of pulses in the country and avoid their imports?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA) : (a) No, Sir. The indigenous production of pulses was 13.39 million tones during 2005-06 which rose to 14.20 million tones during 2006-07 and further to 15.11 million tones during 2007-08 (4th Advance Estimates).

(b) Does not arise.

(c) To increase the production of pulses, a centrally sponsored "Integrated Scheme on Oilseeds, Pulses, Oilpalm and Maize" (ISOPOM) is under implementation with effect from 01.04.2004 in 14 major pulses growing States in the country. Under the scheme, financial assistance is provided for purchase of breeder seeds, production of foundation seed, distribution of seed minikits, infrastructure development, block demonstrations on improved technology, integrated pest management, weedicides, distribution of sprinkler sets and farmers' training for increasing production and productivity of pulses.

Further, National Food Security Mission (NFSM) has been launched in the country from Rabi 2007-08 which, inter-alia, aims to increase the production of pulses by 2 million tones by the end of the 11th Plan, i.e. by 2011-12 through productivity enhancement and bringing an additional area of 4.47 million hectares under pulses cultivation through intercropping and utilization of rice follows.

Promotion of Agriculture in Arid and Semi Arid Regions

355. SHRI JUAL ORAM : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the details of arid and semi arid districts in the country, State-wise;

(b) whether the Government proposes to promote agriculture in these regions during the Eleventh Five Year Plan;

(c) if so, the details of the central schemes formulated in this regard; and

(d) the funds earmarked to promote farming in these regions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA) : (a) A statement showing state wise districts coming under arid and semi arid regions based on the studies conducted by International Crop Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics as per the parameters identified by Indian Council of Agricultural Research is enclosed.

(b) to (d) The Government has established a National Rainfed Area Authority (NRAA) for sustained and holistic development of rainfed areas which include arid and semi-arid regions. The Authority is an expert body to provide the much needed knowledge inputs regarding systematic upgradation and management of country's dryland and rainfed agriculture. In the Eleventh Five Year Plan the Government is implementing various programs/schemes for development of agriculture in the country under which funds are provided for arid and semi-arid areas also. The names of the major schemes are:—

(i) Watershed Programmes:—

- National Watershed Development Project for Rainfed Areas (NWDPRRA)
- Soil Conservation for Enhancing Productivity of Degraded Lands in the Catchments of River Valley Project and Flood Prone River (RVP and FPR)
- Watershed Development Projects in Shifting Cultivation Areas (WDPSCA)

- Drought Prone Area Programme (DPAP)
- Integrated Wasteland Development Programme (IWDP)
- Desert Development Programme (DDP)
- (ii) National Food Security Mission (NFSM)
- (iii) Rastriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY)
- (iv) National Horticulture Mission (NHM)

Statement

State-wise districts coming under arid and semi arid regions

Sl. No.	State	District	Arid/Semi-Arid
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	Anantapur	Arid
2.	Gujarat	Banaskantha	Arid
3.		Jamnagar	Arid
4.		Kutch	Arid
5.		Porbandar	Arid
6.		Rajkot	Arid
7.		Surendranagar	Arid
8.	Haryana	Bhiwani	Arid
9.		Fatehabad	Arid
10.		Hissar	Arid
11.		Mahendragarh	Arid
12.		Sirsa	Arid

1	2	3	4
13.	Karnataka	Bagalkot	Arid
14.		Bellary	Arid
15.		Bijapur	Arid
16.		Koppal	Arid
17.	Punjab	Bathinda	Arid
18.		Faridkot	Arid
19.		Firozpur	Arid
20.		Mansa	Arid
21.		Mukatsar	Arid
22.	Rajasthan	Barmer	Arid
23.		Bikaner	Arid
24.		Churu	Arid
25.		Ganganagar	Arid
26.		Jaisalmer	Arid
27.		Jalore	Arid
28.		Jodhpur	Arid
29.		Jhunjhunun	Arid
30.		Nagaur	Arid
31.		Pali	Arid
32.		Sikar	Arid
33.		Sirohi	Arid
34.	Andhra Pradesh	Adilabad	Semi-Arid
35.		Chittoor	Semi-Arid

1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4
36.	Guntur		Semi-Arid	59.	South West Delhi		Semi-Arid
37.	Hyderabad		Semi-Arid	60.	West Delhi		Semi-Arid
38.	Kadapa		Semi-Arid	61. Gujarat	Ahmedabad		Semi-Arid
39.	Karimnagar		Semi-Arid	62.	Amreli		Semi-Arid
40.	Khammam		Semi-Arid	63.	Anand		Semi-Arid
41.	Krishna		Semi-Arid	64.	Bharuch		Semi-Arid
42.	Kurnool		Semi-Arid	65.	Bhavnagar		Semi-Arid
43.	Mahbubnagar		Semi-Arid	66.	Dahod		Semi-Arid
44.	Medak		Semi-Arid	67.	Gandhinagar		Semi-Arid
45.	Nalgonda		Semi-Arid	68.	Junagadh		Semi-Arid
46.	Nellore		Semi-Arid	69.	Kheda		Semi-Arid
47.	Nizamabad		Semi-Arid	70.	Mehsana		Semi-Arid
48.	Prakasam		Semi-Arid	71.	Narmada		Semi-Arid
49.	Ranga Reddy		Semi-Arid	72.	Navsari		Semi-Arid
50.	Warangal		Semi-Arid	73.	Panchmahal		Semi-Arid
51.	West Godavari		Semi-Arid	74.	Patan		Semi-Arid
52. Delhi	Central		Semi-Arid	75.	Sabarkantha		Semi-Arid
53.	East Delhi		Semi-Arid	76.	Surat		Semi-Arid
54.	New Delhi		Semi-Arid	77.	Tapi		Semi-Arid
55.	North Delhi		Semi-Arid	78.	Vadodara		Semi-Arid
56.	North East Delhi		Semi-Arid	79. Haryana	Faridabad		Semi-Arid
57.	North West Delhi		Semi-Arid	80.	Gurgaon		Semi-Arid
58.	South Delhi		Semi-Arid	81.	Jhajjar		Semi-Arid

1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4
82.		Jind	Semi-Arid	105.		Rajchur	Semi-Arid
83.		Kaithal	Semi-Arid	106.		Ramanagara	Semi-Arid
84.		Karnal	Semi-Arid	107.		Tumkur	Semi-Arid
85.		Mewat	Semi-Arid	108.	Madhya Pradesh	Barwani	Semi-Arid
86.		Palwal	Semi-Arid	109..		Bhind	Semi-Arid
87.		Panipat	Semi-Arid	110..		Datia	Semi-Arid
88.		Rewari	Semi-Arid	111.		Dewas	Semi-Arid
89.		Rohtak	Semi-Arid	112.		Dhar	Semi-Arid
90.		Sonepat	Semi-Arid	113.		Gwalior	Semi-Arid
91.	Karnataka	Bangalore Rural	Semi-Arid	114.		Jhabua	Semi-Arid
92.		Bangalore Urban	Semi-Arid	115.		Khandwa (East Nimar)	Semi-Arid
93.		Chamarajnagar	Semi-Arid	116.		Khargone (East Nimar)	Semi-Arid
94.		Chikballapur	Semi-Arid	117.		Mandsaur	Semi-Arid
95.		Chitradurga	Semi-Arid	118.		Morena	Semi-Arid
96.		Davanagere	Semi-Arid	119.		Neemuch	Semi-Arid
97.		Dharwad	Semi-Arid	120.		Ratlam	Semi-Arid
98.		Gadag	Semi-Arid	121.		Shajapur	Semi-Arid
99.		Gulbarga	Semi-Arid	122.		Sheopur	Semi-Arid
100.		Hassan	Semi-Arid	123.		Shivpuri	Semi-Arid
101.		Haveri	Semi-Arid	124.		Ujjain	Semi-Arid
102.		Kolar	Semi-Arid	125.	Maharashtra	Ahmednagar	Semi-Arid
103.		Mandya	Semi-Arid	126.		Akola	Semi-Arid
104.		Mysore	Semi-Arid				

1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4
127.	Amrawati		Semi-Arid	150. Punjab	Amritsar		Semi-Arid
128.	Aurangabad		Semi-Arid	151.	Jalandhar		Semi-Arid
129.	Beed		Semi-Arid	152.	Ludhiana		Semi-Arid
130.	Buldhana		Semi-Arid	153.	Moga		Semi-Arid
131.	Dhule		Semi-Arid	154.	Patiala		Semi-Arid
132.	Hingoli		Semi-Arid	155.	Sangrur		Semi-Arid
133.	Jalgaon		Semi-Arid	156. Rajasthan	Ajmer		Semi-Arid
134.	Jalna		Semi-Arid	157.	Alwar		Semi-Arid
135.	Kolhapur		Semi-Arid	158.	Banswara		Semi-Arid
136.	Latur		Semi-Arid	159.	Baran		Semi-Arid
137.	Mumbai City		Semi-Arid	160.	Bharatpur		Semi-Arid
138.	Mumbai suburban		Semi-Arid	161.	Bhilwara		Semi-Arid
139.	Nanded		Semi-Arid	162.	Bundi		Semi-Arid
140.	Nandurbar		Semi-Arid	163.	Chittorgarh		Semi-Arid
141.	Nashik		Semi-Arid	164.	Dausa		Semi-Arid
142.	Oemanabad		Semi-Arid	165.	Dholpur		Semi-Arid
143.	Parbhani		Semi-Arid	166.	Dungapur		Semi-Arid
144.	Pune		Semi-Arid	167.	Hanumangarh		Semi-Arid
145.	Sangli		Semi-Arid	168.	Jaipur		Semi-Arid
146.	Satara		Semi-Arid	169.	Jhalawar		Semi-Arid
147.	Solapur		Semi-Arid	170.	Karauli		Semi-Arid
148.	Washim		Semi-Arid	171.	Kota		Semi-Arid
149.	Yavatmal		Semi-Arid	172.	Pratapgarh		Semi-Arid

1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4
173.		Rajsamand	Semi-Arid	196.		Theni	Semi-Arid
174.		Sawai Madhopur	Semi-Arid	197.		Thiruvallur	Semi-Arid
175.		Tonk	Semi-Arid	198.		Thiruvarur	Semi-Arid
176.		Udaipur	Semi-Arid	199.		Thoothukudi	Semi-Arid
177.	Tamil Nadu	Ariyalur	Semi-Arid	200.		Tiruchirappalli	Semi-Arid
178.		Chennai	Semi-Arid	201.		Tirunelveli	Semi-Arid
179.		Coimbatore	Semi-Arid	202.		Tirupur	Semi-Arid
180.		Cuddalore	Semi-Arid	203.		Tiruvannamalai	Semi-Arid
181.		Dharmapuri	Semi-Arid	204.		Vellore	Semi-Arid
182.		Dindigul	Semi-Arid	205.		Villupuram	Semi-Arid
183.		Erode	Semi-Arid	206.		Virudhunagar	Semi-Arid
184.		Kanchipuram	Semi-Arid	207.	Uttar Pradesh	Agra	Semi-Arid
185.		Kanyakumari	Semi-Arid	208.		Aligarh	Semi-Arid
186.		Karur	Semi-Arid	209.		Allahabad	Semi-Arid
187.		Madurai	Semi-Arid	210.		Auraiya	Semi-Arid
188.		Nagapattinam	Semi-Arid	211.		Badaun	Semi-Arid
189.		Namakkal	Semi-Arid	212.		Bagpat	Semi-Arid
190.		Perambalur	Semi-Arid	213.		Banda	Semi-Arid
191.		Pudukkottai	Semi-Arid	214.		Bulandshahr	Semi-Arid
192.		Ramanathapuram	Semi-Arid	215.		Chitrakoot	Semi-Arid
193.		Salem	Semi-Arid	216.		Etah	Semi-Arid
194.		Sivaganga	Semi-Arid	217.		Etawah	Semi-Arid
195.		Tanjore	Semi-Arid	218.		Fatehpur	Semi-Arid

1	2	3	4
219.	Firozabad		Semi-Arid
220.	Ghaziabad		Semi-Arid
221.	Hamirpur		Semi-Arid
222.	Hardoi		Semi-Arid
223.	Jalaun		Semi-Arid
224.	Jaunpur		Semi-Arid
225.	Jhansi		Semi-Arid
226.	Kannauj		Semi-Arid
227.	Kanpur Dehat		Semi-Arid
228.	Kanpur Nagar		Semi-Arid
229.	Kaushambi		Semi-Arid
230.	Lalitpur		Semi-Arid
231.	Mahamaya Nagar		Semi-Arid
232.	Mahoba		Semi-Arid
233.	Mainpuri		Semi-Arid
234.	Mathura		Semi-Arid
235.	Meerut		Semi-Arid
236.	Muzaffarnagar		Semi-Arid
237.	Pratapgarh		Semi-Arid
238.	Rae Bareilly		Semi-Arid
239.	Sant Ravidas Nagar		Semi-Arid
240.	Shahjahanpur		Semi-Arid
241.	Unnao		Semi-Arid

Reduction in STD call rates

356. SHRI VIKRAMBHAI ARJANBHAI MADAM : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the STD call rates of MTNL and BSNL to the Arab Countries is much higher as compared to the rates for western Countries;

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

(c) whether there is any proposal to reduce the STD rates for Arab Countries to bring it in parity with other Countries; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA) : (a) Sir, the ISD (International Subscriber Dialing) rates of MTNL and BSNL to Arab countries is higher as compared to some Western countries namely USA, Canada and U.K. However, for other western countries in Europe (other than U.K. for BSNL and U.K.-fixed for MTNL), the ISD rates of MTNL and BSNL are same as for Arab countries.

(b) The details of ISD call rates are given in the enclosed Statement.

Higher calling rates for Arab countries is on account of the higher termination & carriage charges payable for carrying the international call to these countries. While termination and carriage charges vary from Rs. 0.33 to Rs. 1.70 per minute for USA, Canada and U.K., for Arab countries the same is Rs. 1.79 to Rs. 7.00 per minute.

(c) At present, there is no proposal in BSNL and MTNL to reduce the ISD call rates from India to Arab Countries.

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

Statement**ISD Call rates for BSNL**

Country Category	Pulse in Second	Rs. Per Minute*
USA, Canada, UK, Sri Lanka	10	6.00
Europe, (other than UK), Singapore, Thailand, Malaysia, Indonesia and Hong Kong, Kuwait, Bahrain, UAE Oman, Qatar	7.5	8.00
Rest of world	6	10.00

ISD Call rates for MTNL

Country Category	Pulse in Second	Rs. Per Minute*
USA, UK (fixed), Canada and all countries with 001 access, Singapore, Malaysia, Hongkong, Indonesia, Thailand	9.5	6.30
UK (Mobile, Europe, Africa, Gulf, SAARC, China, Japan, South Korea, Australia, Christmas Island and New Zealand	6.5	9.20
Rest of world	3.3	18.20

*Based on unit call rate of Rs. 1.00, for other unit calls rates, the amount will be charged accordingly.

*Translation]***Theft of Weapons in Ordnance Depots**

357. SHRI JIVABHAI A. PATEL : Will the Ministry of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the incidents of theft of weapons are taking place frequently in the armouries/ordnance depots in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof during the last three years alongwith the value of weapons, incident-wise;

(c) whether the stolen weapons are reported to be sold to the anti-social elements; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by the Government to check such incidents?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY) :
(a) to (d) No incidents of theft of weapons in the armouries/ordnance depots in the country have been reported.

Livestock Census

358. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government conducts livestock census on regular basis;

(b) if so, the year in which the livestock census was last conducted;

(c) the number of cattle especially milch and cross breed recorded in the country, State-wise;

(d) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to increase the number of livestock and also to improve their breed; and

(e) the time by which the next census is likely to be conducted?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI TASLIMUDDIN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The last census i.e. 17th Livestock Census was conducted with reference date 15th October, 2003. At present, 18th Livestock Census is being conducted with reference date 15th October, 2007.

(c) A Statement showing State-wise Number of Crossbred and Milch Cattle based on 17th Livestock census is enclosed.

(d) The Department of Animal Husbandry is providing funds to the State Governments under the National project for Cattle and Buffalo Breeding (NPCBB) for the breeding of cattle and buffaloes and upgradation of local non-descript cattle. There is a provision for conservation of indigenous breeds under this scheme.

The Department has seven Central Cattle Breeding Farms (CCBF) located in six States to produce quality bulls for supplying to the State/breeding agencies for induction in their breeding programmes. The CCBFs are maintaining Holstein Friesian (HF), Jersey, Tharparkar, Red Sindhi, HF x Tharparkar, Jersey x Red Sindhi crossbred cattle, Surti and Murrah buffalo breeds.

The Department has four units under Central Herd Registration Schemes (CHRS), which are registering the high yielding animals of different breeds in their breeding tracts. These registered animals and their offspring are

monitored for their breeding performance. The following breeds are registered by CHRS namely Gir, Ongole, Tharparkar, Rati, Kangeyam and Haryana breeds of cattle and Murrah, Surti, Jafrabadi and Mehsani breeds of buffaloes.

The Central Frozen Semen Production and Training Institute (CFSP&TI) located at Hessarghata, Bangalore is maintaining elite bulls for frozen semen production and distribution to various breeding agencies in the country. About 10 to 13 lakh doses of frozen semen are supplied to various breeding agencies every year.

(e) The next census i.e. 19th livestock census is likely to be conducted with reference dated 15th October, 2012.

Statement

(in thousands)

Sl. No.	State/UT	Total cattle	Crossbred cattle	Milch cattle
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	9300	1107	2409
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	458	13	116
3.	Assam	8440	440	2195
4.	Bihar	10729	1274	3408
5.	Goa	76	12	23
6.	Gujarat	7424	639	2437
7.	Haryana	1540	573	572
8.	Himachal Pradesh	2236	677	812
9.	Jammu and Kashmir	3084	1320	1141
10.	Karnataka	9539	1602	3404

1	2	3	4	5
11. Kerala		2122	1735	943
12. Madhya Pradesh		18913	317	5840
13. Maharashtra		16303	2776	4921
14. Manipur		418	69	101
15. Meghalaya		767	23	229
16. Mizoram		36	9	11
17. Nagaland		451	243	137
18. Orissa		13903	1063	3621
19. Punjab		2039	1531	864
20. Rajasthan		10854	464	4483
21. Sikkim		159	80	60
22. Tamil Nadu		9141	5140	3694
23. Tripura		759	57	240
24. Uttar Pradesh		18551	1634	5544
25. West Bengal		18913	1119	5782
26. Andaman and Nicobar Islands		64	13	21
27. Chandigarh		6	5	4
28. Dadra and Nagar Haveli		50	1	11
29. Delhi		92	58	54
30. Lakshadweep		4	2	2
31. Pondicherry		78	63	35
32. Daman and Diu		4	0.08	1

1	2	3	4	5
33. Chhattisgarh		8882	253	2379
34. Uttaranchal		2188	228	694
35. Jharkhand		7659	145	1899
All India		185182	24686	58087

[English]

Delay in Acquisition of Phalcon AWACS

359. SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO :

SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA :

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the delivery of much awaited three Israeli Phalcon Airborne Warning and Control System (AWACS) has been delayed once again; and

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the reasons thereof?

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

(a) As per the current delivery schedule, the delivery of three AWACS to India is expected to be made in February 2009, September, 2009 and April, 2010.

(b) The main reason for the delay in the late arrival of the first modified aircraft from Russia in Israel. The progress on the flight trials has also been slow since the required spares have to be shipped from Russia.

[Translation]

**Salary and Allowances to Defence
Personnel**

360. SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the salary and allowances being paid to the Armed Forces Personnel, deployed in the border areas and facing hardships, are very low at present;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the low salaries and allowances are dampening the morale of the personnel;

(d) if so, whether the Government proposes to effect adequate hike in the pay and allowances of the Armed Forces Personnel, and;

(e) if so, the details thereof?

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

(a) to (e) Pay and allowances of Armed Forces have been determined by taking into account all aspects including hardships faced during their deployment in border areas.

The Armed Forces Personnel deployed in the border areas are being paid a number of allowances like Field Area Allowance, Highly Active Field Area Allowance, Modified Field Area Allowance, Siachen Allowance, Special Compensatory Counter Insurgency Allowance, High Altitude (Uncongenial Climate) Allowance etc.

The Government has accepted the recommendations of VI Central Pay Commission to double all the above allowances and make them inflation proof with provisions for automatic revision whenever Dearness Allowance payable on revised Pay Bands goes up by 50%.

The Services had submitted a detailed representation to the Government bringing out certain issues arising out of the recommendations of the Sixth Central Pay Commission (CPC). The Government has decided on most of the issues. Subsequently, few more issues have been raised by the Services viz: grant of higher grade pay to Service officers, placement of Lt. Col. and equivalent

in PB-4, reinstatement of pensionary weightages for Personnel Below Officer Rank (PBOR), providing HAG+ Pay Band for Lt. Generals and equivalent holding post of Principal Staff Officers, Director Generals, Controllers, etc.

The Government have decided that the Minister of External Affairs will look into the issues raised by the Services and give recommendation, in consultation with the Defence Minister and the Finance Minister.

[English]

Incentives under TUFFS

361. SHRI BALASHOWRY VALLABHANENI : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the textile industry including the spinning industry are facing severe crisis due to, hike in Interest rate in addition to other problems;

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government to ensure a congenial atmosphere for the textile and spinning industry;

(c) whether incentives under the Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme (TUFFS) are being released regularly to the textile industries of the country;

(d) if so, the quantum of fund released during each of the last three years and current year, State-wise;

(e) whether any requests have been received from some States including Andhra Pradesh for releasing the TUFFS's incentives to textiles and spinning Industries; and

(f) if so, the details thereof alongwith the time by which the said incentives are likely to be released to States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGO VAN) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) The steps taken by the Government for the textile industry are given in the enclosed Statement.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) to (f) Funds under the scheme are released through the nodal agencies/co-opted institutions to the identified segments of the industry for the projects in conformity with the scheme and financial norms of the Financial Institutions concerned. The quantum of fund released during 2005-06 onwards are as under:—

(Amount in Rupee crores)

Year	Fund released
2005-06	485
2006-07	823.92
2007-08	1143.37
2008-09	1036.51

Statement

Important measures taken by the Government in the recent past to help the textile sector

- (i) To improve productivity and quality of cotton for manufacture and export of competitive downstream textile products, Government has launched the **Technology Mission on Cotton (TMC)**.
- (ii) Was launched To facilitate the modernisation and upgradation of the textile industry both in the organised and unorganized sector, Government has launched the **Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme (TUFS)**. The Scheme has been

further fine tuned to increase rapid investments in the targeted sub-sectors of the textile industry. The cost of machinery has been further brought down by reducing the customs duty on imports.

- (iii) To provide the textile industry with world-class infrastructure facilities for setting up their textile units meeting international environmental and social standards, a Public-Private Partnership (PPP) based Scheme known as the "**Scheme for Integrated Textile Park (SITP)**" has been introduced in August 2005.
- (iv) In 2004-05 Budget, the entire textile sector, except for man-made fibre and filament yarn was provided optional exemption from excise duty.
- (v) Government has launched the Debt Restructuring Scheme w.e.f. September, 2003 with the principal objective to permit banks to lend to the textile sector at 8-9% rate of interest.
- (vi) In order to cater to the growing skilled manpower requirements at shop floor level, Government is providing assistance for strengthening existing and opening new **Apparel Training and Design Centres (ATDCs)**.
- (vii) Government has allowed 100% Foreign Direct Investment in the textile sector under automatic route.
- (viii) Government has de-reserved the readymade garments, hosiery and knitwear from SSI sector so that large scale investments may be encouraged in these sectors.
- (ix) **National Institute of Fashion Technology (NIFT)** has been set up to provide the leadership

role in sensitizing the industry to the concept of value addition by inducting trained professionals to manage the industry. This has resulted in an increased demand for trained professionals in various sectors servicing the industry.

- (x) In order to promote the Technical textiles, Government has approved a Scheme, which aims at baseline survey of technical textiles units and for setting up of four Centres of Excellence, one each for Agrotech, Buildtech, Meditech and Geotech with the total outlay of Rs. 48 crore for 11th Plan period.

[Translation]

Functioning of Telephone Exchanges

362. SHRI MAHAVIR BHAGORA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of telephone exchanges functioning in the Country during the last three years and the current year, State-wise;

(b) the number of proposals received from the States and the exchanges set up in the Country, during the last three year and current year, State-wise;

(c) whether the Government has set any target regarding setting up of remaining exchanges in the country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof;

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA) : (a) Sir, number of telephone exchanges functioning in MTNL during the last three years and the current year is:

As on	No. of Exchanges (all inclusive PSTN, GSM, CDMA)	
	Delhi	Mumbai
31.03.06	336	186
31.03.07	336	198
31.03.08	342	206
30.09.08	343	206

Details of exchanges functioning in BSNL during the last three years and the current year is enclosed as Statement-I.

(b) The number of exchanges set up in MTNL during the last three years and the current year is:

As no	No. of Exchanges (all inclusive PSTN, GSM, CDMA)	
	Delhi	Mumbai
2005-06	3	10
2006-07	0	15
2007-08	6	8
2008 upto 30.9.08	1	2

Details of exchanges set up in BSNL during the last three years and the current year is enclosed as Statement-II.

(c) and (d) Yes Sir. In BSNL enough landline switching capacity is available to provide telephone connections on demand in most of the cases. New exchanges are being opened on need basis and continuous augmentation is being done. However, in MTNL tentative switching commissioning programme for the year 2008-09 for Delhi and Mumbai unit is given as enclosed Statement-III and IV respectively.

Statement-I*Details of exchanges functioning in BSNL during last three years and current year*

Sl. No.	Name of the Circle	No. of landline Telephone Exchanges as on 31.03.2006	No. of landline Telephone Exchanges as on 31.03.2007	No. of landline Telephone Exchanges as on 31.03.2008	No. of landline Telephone Exchanges as on 30.09.2008
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	49	49	50	48
2.	Andhra Pradesh	3568	3677	4003	4059
3.	Assam	598	598	597	600
4.	Bihar	1163	1202	1223	1231
5.	Chhattisgarh	633	625	625	625
6.	Gujarat	3231	3220	3218	3223
7.	Haryana	1116	1207	1274	1281
8.	Himachal Pradesh	970	1005	1062	1082
9.	Jammu and Kashmir	365	371	372	370
10.	Jharkhand	457	476	479	483
11.	Karnataka	2710	2723	2727	2740
12.	Kerala	1224	1240	1241	1243
13.	Madhya Pradesh	2789	2791	2686	2558
14.	Maharashtra	4949	4950	4942	4937
15.	North East-I	276	322	330	337
16.	North East-II	217	221	223	221
17.	Orissa	1150	1154	1159	1161
18.	Punjab	1554	1553	1542	1539

1	2	3	4	5	6
19. Rajasthan		2347	2338	2335	2323
20. Tamil Nadu		2043	2077	2086	2047
21. Uttaranchal.		453	454	455	456
22. Uttar Pradesh (E)		2292	2300	2296	2298
23. Uttar Pradesh (W)		976	977	977	975
24. West Bengal		1371	1383	1385	1385
25. Kolkata		550	555	550	552
26. Chennai		331	340	321	324
Total (BSNL)		37382	37808	38158	38098

Statement-II*Details of Telephone Exchanges set up in BSNL during last 3 years and current year*

Sl. No.	Name of the Circle	No. of proposal received from State				No. of exchanges set up during			
		2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	Upto 30.9.08	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	Upto 30.9.08
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	—	—	—	—	0	0	0	0
2.	Andhra Pradesh	—	—	—	—	109	326	56	12
3.	Assam	—	—	—	—	0	0	0	0
4.	Bihar	—	—	—	—	0	0	0	0
5.	Chhattisgarh	—	—	—	—	2	1	0	0
6.	Gujarat	—	—	—	—	0	4	3	3
7.	Haryana	—	—	—	—	2	11	6	0
8.	Himachal Pradesh	1	2	0	0	1	3	4	0

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
9.	Jammu and Kashmir	—	—	—	—	3	4	1	0
10.	Jharkhand	—	—	—	—	21	19	3	2
11.	Karnataka	—	—	—	—	3	15	12	11
12.	Kerala	—	—	—	—	13	13	4	1
13.	Madhya Pradesh	—	—	—	—	7	4	3	1
14.	Maharashtra	12	15	24	23	11	9	12	4
15.	North East-I	—	—	—	9	1	0	3	0
16.	North East-II	—	—	—	—	0	0	0	0
17.	Orissa	12	5	3	3	12	5	5	2
18.	Punjab	—	—	—	—	0	0	0	0
19.	Rajasthan	12	4	1	1	12	4	1	1
20.	Tamil Nadu	—	—	—	—	9	4	5	1
21.	Uttaranchal	—	—	—	—	3	1	1	1
22.	Uttar Pradesh (E)	38	2	0	0	38	2	0	0
22.	Uttar Pradesh (W)	2	0	1	1	2	0	1	1
24.	West Bengal	—	—	—	—	0	0	0	0
25.	Kolkata	3	11	21	46	3	11	21	46
26.	Chennai	—	—	—	—	0	0	0	0
Total (BSNL)		80	39	50	83	252	436	141	86

Statement-III*Switching Commissioning Programme of MTNL Delhi for the year 2008-09*

Area	Site	Capacity proposed	Parentage Exchange
1	2	3	4
Central	Kali Bari	5000	JP (D-4/D-6)

1	2	3	4
	South Block	3000	Main
NP	Tiglakabad Extn.	5000	NP (D-6)
TY	Vasundhra Encl.	6000	LN (D-6)
	Vivek Vihar	4000	KKD (D-2)
	Comm. Wealth	5000	LN (D-6)
	Mayur Vihar Ph-II RSU	29000	LN (D-4)
JKP	Shadipur RSU	10000	KB (D-7)
RG	Karampura	8000	RG (D-6)
	Rajokri	2000	BCP (D-2)
North	Saraswati Vihar RSU	24000	SN (D-5)
	Rohini Sec. 24/25	3000	RHN (D-2)
	Bawana Sec.-1	5000	BDL (D-1)
	Burari	10000	SN (D-8)

Statement-IV

*Switching commissioning programme of
MTNL Mumbai for the year 2008-09*

Service	Sl.No.	Name	Capacity
1	2	3	4
Landline	1.	BKC (Main)	2K
	2.	Pahadi Goregoan	5K
	3.	Vanashree	2K
	4.	Sanpada	5K

1	2	3	4
	5.	Devidas Lane	5K
	6.	Raheja Exotica	2K
	7.	Govind Udhyog	4K
	8.	Oberoi Mail	2K
	9.	Lalubhai Compound, Govandi	2K
	10.	Natwarlal Compound, Govandi	2K
	11.	Airoli Railway State	9K

1	2	3	4
	12.	Neptune	3K
	13.	Mhapa Stores	3K
GSM	1.	Fountain MSC	250K
	2.	Cumballa Hill MSC	250K
	3.	Bandra-Kurla Complex MSC	250K
	4.	Ghatkoper MSC	250K
CDMA	1.	Nil	Nil

Cultivable Land

363. SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN :
SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government proposes to enact any law to protect the shrinking cultivable land in the country especially due to industrialisation and acquisition for Special Economic Zones (SEZs);

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the shrinking cultivable land could lead to heavy shortage of foodgrains thereby threatening food security; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the remedial action taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA) : (a) and (b) As per the Seventh Schedule of the Constitution of India, Land falls under the purview of State Government, therefore, it is for the States to bring suitable legislation

to protect the diversion of cultivable land for non-agricultural purposes including Special Economic Zones (SEZs). Land for SEZs is procured as per the policy and procedures of the respective State Governments.

(c) and (d) Though, there has been an increase in land under non-agricultural uses yet, the "net sown area" in the country has remained approximately the same i.e. 141 million ha due to various interventions made by the Government.

Quantum of available water for Irrigation projects

364. SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA :
SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY :

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of average quantity of water available in the rivers of the country for the irrigation projects;

(b) whether the water level in these rivers is declining gradually every year;

(c) if so, the reasons thereof; and

(d) the corrective measures taken/proposed to taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV) : (a) The average annual water availability in the country has been assessed to be about 1869 billion cubic meter (BCM). It is estimated that owing to topographic, hydrological and other constraints about 1123 BCM can be utilized for various purposes including irrigation. Basin wise details of available water is given in the enclosed Statement.

(b) The water levels at various sites in the river vary from time to time depending on the flow resulting from rain and snowmelt etc. The water level data do not indicate any specific declining trend.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

Statement

River Basinwise Average Annual Water Availability

Unit: Billion Cubic Metre (BCM)

Sl. No.	River Basin	Average Annual Water Availability
1	2	3
1.	Indus	73.31
2.	Ganga-Brahmaputra-Barak	
	a. Ganga sub-basin	525.02
	b Brahmaputra and Barak sub-basin	585.60
3.	Godavari	110.54
4.	Krishna	78.12
5.	Cauvery	21.36
6.	Pennar	6.32
7.	East Flowing Rivers between Mahanadi and Pennar	22.52
8.	East Flowing Rivers between Pennar and Kanyakumari	16.46
9.	Mahanadi	66.88
10.	Brahmani and Baitarni	28.48
11.	Subarnrekha	12.37
12.	Sabarnati	3.81
13.	Mahi	11.02

1	2	3
14.	West Flowing Rivers of Kutchh, Saurashtra including Luni	15.10
15.	Narmada	45.64
16.	Tapi	14.88
17.	West Flowing Rivers from Tapi to Tadri	87.41
18.	West Flowing Rivers from Tadri to Kanyakumari	113.53
19.	Area of Inland Drainage in Rajasthan Desert	Negl.
20.	Minor River Basins Draining into Bangladesh and Myanmar	31.00
Total (National)		1869.37

[English]

Demand and supply position of milk

365. SHRI G.M. SIDDESWARA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the total demand and supply position of milk in the country;

(b) the steps being taken to improve the situation;

(c) the total funds allocated during the last three years to promote dairy industry, State-wise; and

(d) the extent to which these funds have been utilized to promote the dairy industry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI TASLIMUDDIN) : (a) Information on

total demand and supply of milk is not being maintained. However, the estimated milk production in the country during the year 2006-07 was 100.9 million tonnes.

(b) In addition to the efforts made by State Governments for improving the milk availability, Government of India is also implementing the following Schemes:—

- (i) Intensive Dairy Development Programme
- (ii) Strengthening Infrastructure for Quality and Clean Milk Production
- (iii) Assistance to Cooperatives

- (iv) Dairy Venture Capital Fund
- (v) National Project for Cattle and Buffalo Breeding
- (vi) Central Cattle Breeding Farms (CCBFs) and
- (vii) Central Herd Registration Scheme (CHRS)

(c) and (d) State-wise details of the funds allocated and utilized for promoting dairy industry during last three years are given in the enclosed Statement-I. to V.

Statement-I

State-wise details of funds released during last three years and funds utilised (upto 31.03.2008) under 'Intensive Dairy Development Programme (IDDP)'

(Rs. in Lakh)

Sl. No.	Name of the State/Uts	Funds released during the year				Total funds utilised upto March, 2008
		2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	Total	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	0.00	0.00	11.34	11.34	0.00
2.	Andhra Pradesh	135.00	288.45	298.33	721.78	425.73
3.	Bihar	100.00	237.55	0.00	337.55	76.64
4.	Jharkhand	146.89	20.00	107.64	274.53	161.65
5.	Haryana	153.83	657.35	200.00	1011.18	849.97
6.	Himachal Pradesh	0.00	39.00	340.05	379.05	189.00
7.	Kerala	329.44	240.00	465.25	1034.69	981.16
8.	Karnataka		72.00	0.00	72.00	72.00
9.	Madhya Pradesh	369.21	100.59	285.00	754.80	569.80

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
10.	Chhattisgarh	0.00	50.00	100.00	150.00	0.00
11.	Maharashtra	500.10	72.00	200.00	772.10	584.45
12.	Manipur	0.00	160.00	200.00	360.00	160.00
13.	Meghalaya	65.00	30.00	0.00	95.00	95.00
14.	Mizoram	74.29	90.00	139.70	303.99	303.99
15.	Nagaland	256.21	162.70	35.00	453.91	453.91
16.	Orissa	817.68	104.61	302.56	1224.85	1165.40
17.	Rajasthan	322.55	0.00	310.00	632.55	271.57
18.	Sikkim	350.61	140.21	75.30	566.12	490.79
19.	Tamil Nadu	0.00	356.47	125.00	481.47	330.71
20.	Tripura	0.00	40.00	90.00	130.00	40.00
21.	Uttar Pradesh	166.32	19.00	100.00	285.32	153.45
22.	Uttaranchal	201.12	467.98	0.00	669.10	581.24
23.	West Bengal	0.00	0.00	70.83	70.83	0.00
Total		3988.25	3347.91	3456.00	10792.16	7956.46

Statement-II

State wise details of Funds released and Funds utilised during last three years under Strengthening Infrastructure for Quality and Clean Milk Production Scheme

(Rs in lakh)

S. No.	Name of the States	Amount released during 2005-06	Amount released during 2006-07	Amount released during 2007-08	Total Release	Funds Utilised as on 31.03.08
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	Assam	8.520	20.000	0.000	28.520	0.000

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
2.	Andhra Pradesh	65.500	83.750	99.630	248.880	168.130
3.	Bihar	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
4.	Haryana	238.525	234.772	125.330	598.627	468.880
5.	Himachal Pradesh	0.000	38.779	2.402	41.181	38.780
6.	Karnataka	53.850	196.130	69.890	319.870	167.380
7.	Kerala	368.040	460.430	309.440	1137.910	1089.840
8.	Madhya Pradesh	193.980	177.150	161.770	532.900	344.890
9.	Maharashtra	494.500	442.580	200.600	1137.680	576.340
10.	Mizoram	22.470	0.000	22.470	44.940	22.470
11.	Nagaland	13.970	9.440	0.000	23.410	23.410
12.	Orissa	271.120	114.010	0.000	385.130	385.130
13.	Punjab	87.110	50.000	81.250	218.360	195.000
14.	Rajasthan	197.120	70.400	286.965	554.485	388.740
15.	Sikkim	47.280	20.000	17.280	84.560	67.280
16.	Uttar Pradesh	341.485	322.685	203.820	867.990	676.460
17.	Tamil Nadu	111.500	106.180	0.000	217.680	217.680
18.	Pondicherry	19.300	0.000	50.000	69.300	19.300
19.	West Bengal	162.760	0.000	75.200	237.960	159.900
20.	Goa	91.480	0.000	40.000	131.480	91.480
21.	Gujarat	251.250	113.280	342.420	706.950	514.530
22.	Manipur	0.000	5.000	0.000	5.000	0.000
Total		3039.760	2464.581	2088.467	7592.808	5615.620

Statement-III

Fund released and Funds utilized by the States/Implementing Agencies as on 31.03.2008 against the last three years releases under Assistance to Cooperatives scheme

(Rs. in lakh)

Name of the States	Funds released during 2005-06	Funds released during 2006-07	Funds released during 2007-08	Total Release	UC received as on 31.03.08
Madhya Pradesh	250.00	285.00		535.00	525.00
Uttar Pradesh	165.00		188.57	353.57	75.00
Haryana	100.00	145.00	94.51	339.51	339.51
Maharashtra	38.00			38.00	0.00
West Bengal			46.92	46.92	0.00
Punjab		20.00		20.00	20.00
Tamil Nadu	175.00		175.00	350.00	350.00
Total	728.00	450.00	505.00	1683.00	1309.51

Statement-IV

*Details of fund released during 2005-06, 2006-07 and 2007-08 under Central Sector Plan Scheme-** "Dairy/Poultry Venture Capital Fund".*

S. No.	State	*Amount of Fund Released during 2005-06 Dairy	*Amount of Fund Released during 2006-07 Dairy	*Amount of Fund Released during 2007-08 Dairy	1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	2596000	0	2250000	3.	Assam	13716030	20934210	41580278
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	0	300000	0	4.	Bihar	0	0	596500
					5.	Chhattisgarh	300000	0	500000
					6.	Goa	0	0	1595000
					7.	Gujarat	649720	158900	0
					8.	Himachal Pradesh	300000	1391500	3135000
					9.	Jammu and Kashmir	530000	814000	6573500
					10.	Jharkhand	657000	392500	2360000
					11.	Karnataka	20255500	6237100	20899900

1	2	3	4	5
12. Kerala	6947070	10991325	10629370	
13. Madhya Pradesh	2805500	16755000	11800000	
14. Maharashtra	11685900	32009100	125907900	
15. Manipur	655000	450000	9627000	
16. Meghalaya	0	120000	241900	
17. Mizoram	10300000	13650000	11050000	
18. Orissa	4204100	4848500	8997800	
19. Punjab and Haryana	1295900	0	2591000	
20. Rajasthan	4911300	28171000	16058700	
21. Sikkim	1347373	2498889	0	
22. Tamil Nadu	247000	0	13305000	
23. Tripura	3192000	8736200	23338500	
24. Uttar Pradesh	2687900	0	4149000	
25. Uttaranchal	8241300	9825600	15533200	
26. West Bengal	0	1100000	10869000	
Total	97524593	159383824	343588546	

*The Statement shows the amount of Funds sanctioned by NABARD to participating banks in the States for release of Interest Free Loan to the beneficiaries.

Note:—GOI releases the funds to NABARD, to be kept as revolving fund to provide interest free loan to the beneficiaries Though the scheme was approved during 2004-05, funds were released for implementation of the scheme for the first time in the year 2005-06.

**A separate scheme for dairy venture has been formulated from the XIth Five year plan

Statement-V

Funds Released and Utilized under NPCBB

Rs in lakh

S. No.	State/UTs	Funds released since inception 2000-01 to 2007-08	Total Unspent balance	Funds Utilized upto 2007-08
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	4680.6	129.12	4551.48
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	541.3	207	334.30
3.	Assam	549	240	309.00
4.	Bihar	499.8	302.8	197.00
5.	Chhattisgarh	1854.35	424.82	1429.53
6.	Gujarat	1122.95	500	622.95
7.	Goa	156	0	156.00
8.	Haryana	1683.5	0	1683.50
9.	Himachal Pradesh	1368.27	0	1368.27
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	135.91	43.76	92.15
11.	Jharkhand	200	0	200.00
12.	Karnataka	1766.49	0	1766.49
13.	Kerala	2284.749	0	2284.75
14.	Madhya Pradesh	3209.51	0	3209.51
15.	Maharashtra	1360	493.11	866.89
16.	Manipur	85.11	0	85.11

1	2	3	4	5
17. Meghalaya		289.06	103.34	185.72
18. Mizoram		413.39	150	263.39
19. Nagaland		937.95	30	907.95
20. Orrisa		2778.8	0	2778.80
21. Punjab		1883.1	100.05	1783.05
22. Rajasthan		1049.3	0	1049.30
23. Sikkim		418.8	42.42	376.38
24. Tamil Nadu		3027.82	572.86	2454.96
25. Tripura		505.87	0	505.87
26. Uttar Pradesh		2304.151	404.13	1900.02
27. Uttaranchal		1711.45	51.33	1660.12
28. West Bengal		2870.78	770.43	2100.35
29. Andaman and Nicobar Islands		0	0	0.00
30. Chandigarh		0	0	0.00
31. Dadra and Nagar Haveli		27.76	0	27.76
32. Delhi		0	0	0.00
33. Lakshadweep		0	0	0.00
34. Pondicherry		105.35	3.78	101.57
35. Daman and Diu -		0		0.00
Total		39821.12	4568.95	35252.17

Note : Funds to the tune of Rs 6391.14 lakh released under the special Livestock and Fisheries Package for suicide prone districts to four States (Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Karnataka and Kerala) are not added.

Water Harvesting and Conservation

366. SHRI K. SUBBARAYAN : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) the steps taken by the Government to improve water harvesting and conservation aquifer recharge and drip irrigation alongwith the success achieved thereon; and

(b) the manner in which the benefits of these steps are proposed to be made available to farmers including small and marginal farmers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV) : (a) and (b) Steps taken by the Government to promote rain water harvesting, artificial recharge and conservation of ground water include:—

- Implementation of demonstrative artificial recharge projects by Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) in the country.
- Implementation of scheme on "Artificial Recharge to ground water through Dug Wells" for augmenting the ground water resources in 7 States namely, Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Karnataka, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Gujarat and Madhya Pradesh to provide sustainability to the dug wells.
- Preparation and circulation of Manuals/Guides on Artificial Recharge of ground water to the States/Union Territories to enable them to formulate area specific Artificial Recharge Schemes.
- Circulation of 'Model Bill' to enable States/Union Territories to enact suitable legislation for regulation and control of ground water development.
- Preparation and circulation of 'Master Plan for

Artificial Recharge to Ground Water" to State Governments.

- Organization of mass awareness programmes on Water Management, Rain Water Harvesting and Artificial Recharge of Ground Water.
- The Farmers Participatory Action Research Programme aimed at creating awareness about water conservation practices.
- Roof top rain water harvesting made mandatory, by 18 States and 4 Union Territories.

Labour Intensive Central Scheme

367. SHRI DUSHYANT SINGH : Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government proposes to introduce any Labour Intensive Central Scheme during the Eleventh Five Year Plan; and

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the fund allocated for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES) : (a) and (b) Plan Schemes are not classified on the basis of their labour intensity. However, Plan Schemes earmarked for the Ministry of Labour and Employment have always beneficial impact on Labour. During the Eleventh Five Year Plan, outlay on Plan Schemes of Ministry had been Rs. 345 crore, Rs. 1250 crore and Rs. 800 crore during 2007-2008 BE, 2007-2008 RE and 2008-2009 BE respectively. Important new Plan Scheme launched during the Eleventh Five Year Plan includes the Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojana with an outlay of Rs. 250 crore during 2008-09.

[Translation]

HIV Infection in Armed Forces

368. SHRI GANESH SINGH : Will the DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether some soldiers in the Armed Forces are afflicted with HIV-AIDS;

(b) if so, the details thereof during the last one year and the current years; and;

(c) the measures being taken by the Government for their treatment?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY) : (a) to (c) There have been incidences of HIV positive/AIDS cases in the Armed Forces. The number of such HIV positive/AIDS cases during the last one year and the current year are as follows:

Year	Total
2007	361
2008 (Till August)	267

The Armed Forces have established 10 Immuno Deficiency Centres (IDC) in selected Military Hospitals. These centres provide investigation, treatment and follow up of all HIV positive persons in the Armed Forces under the supervision of a physician, dermatologist, pathologist and a public health specialist. The centres are equipped with state-of-the-art medical equipment and facilities for detection and treatment of HIV/AIDS cases. In these centres anti-retroviral therapy is provided free to the patient till such time individual is in service, after which these medicines are supplied through Ex-Servicemen Contributory Health Scheme. Regular follow up of patients, their close relatives, alongwith education about the illness is also carried out.

[English]

Advisory Council on Artificial Recharge of Ground Water

369. SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has constituted an Advisory Council for popularising the concept of Artificial Recharge of Ground Water:

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the works undertaken by the Council; and

(c) the other steps taken to promote artificial recharge of ground water in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV) : (a) and (b) The Government has constituted an 'Artificial Recharge of Ground Water Advisory Council' under the Chairmanship of Minister of Water Resources. The Advisory Council comprises of Members from Central Ministries/Departments, representatives of State Governments, Public Undertakings, Financial Institutions, representative of Industries and renowned Subject Experts/Farmers/NGOs. The Advisory Council has held meetings in July 2006 and September, 2007 to pursue it's agenda.

(c) Steps taken to promote artificial recharge of ground water in the country include:—

- (i) Organization of National Ground Water Congress.
- (ii) Institution of Bhoomijal Samvardhan Puraskar and National Water Award for best practices in ground water augmentation.
- (iii) Preparation and circulation of Manual on Artificial Recharge of ground water to the States/Union Territories to enable them to formulate area specific Artificial Recharge Schemes.
- (iv) Preparation and circulation of "Master Plan for Artificial Recharge to Ground Water".
- (v) Organization of mass awareness programmes and training courses on Water Management,

Rain Water Harvesting and Artificial Recharge of Ground Water.

- (vi) Implementation of scheme on "Artificial Recharge to ground water through Dug wells" in 1180 Over-exploited/Critical/Semi-Critical areas in 7 States namely Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Karnataka, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Gujarat and Madhya Pradesh.
- (vii) Implementation of 165 pilot recharge projects in various States under the Central Sector Scheme on 'Study of recharge to ground water'.
- (viii) Implementation of demonstrative artificial recharge projects.

Setting up of Joint Venture Company by BSNL

370. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

- (a) whether Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) is contemplating to set up joint venture company for manufacturing broadband equipment in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether BSNL has taken decision to revive its seven manufacturing units through Joint Venture Companies;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA) : (a) and (b) Yes Sir. BSNL has invited an Expression of Interest for forming a Joint Venture for manufacturing broadband customer premises equipment (ADSL 2+ CPEs) at Telecom Factory, Kolkata.

(c) All the seven manufacturing units are operational.

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

Slow Growth In Indian Software and Services Sectors

371. SHRI EKNATH MAHADEO GAIKWAD :
SHRI MADHU GOUD YASKHI :
SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether as per the report of National Association of Software and Service Companies (NASSCOM), growth in Indian Software and Services Sectors may be slower than expected during the year 2008-09;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. As per the report of the National Association of Software and Services Companies (NASSCOM), the growth rates for the year 2008-09 had been moderated to 21-24%, as compared to an average growth rate of 30% plus recorded over the last few years. The financial meltdown in the Global Markets has had an impact on many sectors including IT and BPO. However, the industry is targeted to achieve export revenue of US\$ 60 billion by 2010.

(c) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Suicide by Farmers

372. PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA :
SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH :

SHRI K. SUBBARAYAN :
SHRI KIREN RIJJU :
SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI :
SHRI ANANTA NAYAK :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the incidents of suicide by farmers are rising throughout the country despite the rehabilitation package and loan waiver by the Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof during the last two years and the current year, State-wise;

(c) whether any survey or assessment has been made to study the impact of globalisation on agriculture; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA) : (a) and (b) The suicides by farmers have been reported mainly from the states of Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Karnataka and Kerala. Some cases of suicides by farmers have also been reported from the states of Gujarat, Punjab and Tamil Nadu. A Statement indicating the number of suicides by farmers as reported by the State Governments is enclosed. As reported by the State Governments, the causes for suicide by farmers are broadly crop failure, indebtedness, drought and social and economic insecurity. To address the problem of suicide by farmers, the Government of India approved a rehabilitation package of Rs. 16978.69 crore for 31 Districts in the four States of Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Karnataka and Kerala, reporting comparatively higher number of suicides by farmers. The package includes both immediate and medium term measures. The rehabilitation package aims at establishing a sustainable and viable farming and livelihood support system through debt relief to farmers, improved supply of institutional credit, crop centric approach to agriculture, assured irrigation facilities,

watershed management, better extension and farming support services and subsidiary income opportunities through horticulture, livestock, dairying, fisheries etc. An amount of Rs.11463.49 crore (about 67.51% of total package cost) has been released by Central/State Governments and Banks under the package up to 30.06.2008. Measures taken by Government include an debt waiver and debt relief scheme for farmers announced in the Union Budget 2008-09 to address the problem of indebtedness of farmers in the country. In addition, for revitalization of agriculture sector, Government in a major policy reorientation has approved the National Policy for Farmers and launched new schemes of Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana and National Food Security Mission.

(c) and (d) In a study conducted by the Ministry of Agriculture on the impact of WTO on Indian agriculture in the year 1999, it was observed that the ex-post gains accruing to Indian agriculture seems to be very little, since developed countries have used various escape routes in the Agreement on Agriculture in protecting their agriculture sector. The study also stated that our agriculture will stand to gain if we bring about improvement in irrigation, transport, agriculture extension services and research.

In the current WTO negotiations it has been agreed to have the mechanisms of Special Products and Special Safeguard Mechanism to address the concerns of developing countries relating to food security, livelihood security and rural development.

Statement

Cases of suicides by farmers as per data made available by State Govts.

Sl. No.	Name of the State	Period	No. (Based on the figures reported by State Govts.)
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	2005	657

1	2	3	4
		2006	514
		2007 (upto 30.09.2007)	142
2.	Karnataka	2006-07	346
		2007-08	342
		2008-09 (upto 31.08.2008)	152
3.	Maharashtra	2006	2355
		2007	1985
		2008 (upto 31.01.2008)	110
4.	Punjab	2005	32
		2006	19
		2007	24
5.	Kerala	2001 to 2006	841
		2007 (upto 31.10.2007)	64
6.	Gujarat	2006	149
		2007	103
		2008 (upto March, 2008)	10
7.	Tamil Nadu	2000-2007 (upto March, 2007)	26

NB: Other States and all Union Territories have reported 'nil' information relating to suicides by farmers.

[English]

Production Cost on Packets

373. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether highly inflated Maximum Retail Prices are printed on packets of packaged items in the absence of regulations for mandatory printing of production cost on packets;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the proposal for making the printing of production cost mandatory has been finalised;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the time by which it is likely to be implemented; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI TASLIMUDDIN) : (a) to (e) The Department has not received any specific complaint of printing of inflated Maximum Retail Price [MRP] on packages. On the direction of the Kerala High Court, the Department constituted an 'Expert Committee' in August, 2007 to study feasibility of declaration of normative price in addition to MRP on packaged items. The report of the Expert Committee, submitted in September, 2008 is under consideration of Government.

Offer of Boeing Business Jets to India

374. SHRI SUGRIB SINGH :
SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL :

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has received the Boeing Business jets to be used by the VIPs in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the features of the aircraft;

(c) whether the Government has issued any guidelines for the use of these aircraft by the VIPs;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to check misuse of these aircraft?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY) : (a) and (b) The Indian Air Force (IAF) inducted the first Boeing Business Jet (BBJ) aircraft on 4 August 2008. The second BBJ aircraft is scheduled to arrive on in the third week of October 2008 and the third aircraft during the first week of January 2009. The aircraft has a range of 3140 nautical miles and a capacity to carry 60 passengers.

(c) to (e) Necessary guidelines for use of VIP aircraft of the IAF are already in existence. These are being implemented meticulously by the concerned agencies. These guidelines are applicable for the new BBJ inducted in the IAF.

Import of Pulses

375. SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has recently decided to import pulses from foreign countries to augment domestic availability and to check its rising prices; and

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the terms and conditions of such imports?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI TASLIMUDDIN) : (a) and (b) In order to augment the domestic availability of pulses, Government has permitted import of pulses at zero duty. In addition, Government has permitted PSU's namely STC, PEC Ltd., MMTc and NAFED to import 1.5 million tonnes of pulses with reimbursement of losses upto 15% of landed cost and service charge of 1.2% of CIF value. The PSUs are to

dispose the pulses in a transparent manner as approved by their respective managements. Details of import by PSU's and NAFED are as follows:—

2006-07	—	49300 MT-only by NAFED
2007-08	—	1.4 Million tonnes
2008-09	—	874140 MT (upto 16.10.2008)

In view of the steps taken by the Government as indicated in para above, domestic availability of pulses has been augmented, there by checking the rise in prices.

[Translation]

Fodder for Livestock

376. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the arrangements made and the amount spent for providing fodder to save the livestock in the drought affected areas in the country during the last three years and the current year;

(b) whether the animal keepers have sent their animals to the other States owing to no-availability of fodder in the drought affected areas;

(c) if so, the facilities/assistance being provided to these animal keepers; and

(d) the steps being taken by the Government for setting up cow sheds particularly in the backward rural areas and providing grants in the regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI TASLIMUDDIN) : (a) There is no specific on going scheme for providing fodder to the livestock in the drought-affected areas. However, under the special Livestock and Fisheries Package for the 31 suicide prone districts of Andhra Pradesh (16 districts), Maharashtra (6 districts), Karnataka (6 districts) and Kerala (3 districts), funds have been provided enclosed in statement-I for the development of feed and fodder in the affected districts. To increase the availability of fodder in the country, Department is also implementing a Centrally Sponsored Fodder Development Scheme throughout the country. During the last three years and the current financial year, fund were provided to States for fodder development under the scheme as per the details given in the enclosed statement-II. Besides this, seven Regional Stations for Forage Production and Demonstration and One Central Fodder Seed Production Farm are in operation to reduce the gap between the demand and supply of feed and fodder in the country.

(b) There are no reports of migration of livestock from the states on account of non-availability of fodder in the drought affected areas.

(c) Question does not arise.

(d) The on going Centrally Sponsored Fodder Development Scheme has no component to provide grants for setting up of cow sheds in the backward rural areas.

Statement-I

Funds released to the States under special package for suicide-prone districts for feed and Fodder Development

(Rs. in lakh)

Sl. No.	Name of the State	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09 (Upto Sept. 08)	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andhra Pradesh	159.00	1997.00	—	2156.00

1	2	3	4	5	6
2.	Karnataka	612.00	—	—	612.00
3.	Kerala	279.00	411.88	42.50	733.38
4.	Maharashtra	612.00	230.00	—	842.00
Total		1662.00	2638.88	42.50	4343.38

Statement-II

Statement showing the funds released to States for the last three years and current year under Centrally Sponsored Fodder Development

(Rs. in lakh)

States	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09 (Upto Sept-08)
1	2	4	5	6
Andhra Pradesh	19.80	0.00	0.00	0
Arunachal Pradesh	0.00	10.00	12.00	0
Assam	0.00	0.00	85.00	0
Chhattisgarh	0.00	0.00	0.00	0
Gujarat	155.57	0.00	136.03	165.00
Haryana	0.00	21.25	0.00	0
Himachal Pradesh	100.00	0.00	0.00	0
Jharkhand	0.00	0.00	0.00	0
Jammu and Kashmir	58.40	106.69	279.19	0
Karnataka	100.00	100.00	55.00	0
Kerala	0.00	0.00	133.00	0
Madhya Pradesh	0.00	221.50	0.00	0
Maharashtra	0.00	27.50	0.00	0

1	2	4	5	6
Manipur	0.00	0.00	0.00	0
Meghalaya	0.00	0.00	0.00	0
Mizoram	100.00	20.00	30.00	199.50
Nagaland	120.50	120.00	0.00	0
Orissa	0.00	272.00	0.00	0
Punjab	129.82	0.00	0.00	115.21
Rajasthan	37.02	33.00	0.00	0
Sikkim	110.00	0.00	33.00	0
Tamil Nadu	24.00	0.00	0.00	0
Tripura	40.25	0.00	0.00	0
Uttar Pradesh	37.03	50.67	0.00	0
Uttarakhand	90.00	0.00	21.25	0
West Bengal	40.00	0.00	136.00	0
Total	1162.39	982.61	920.47	479.71

[English]

Power Saving in Agriculture Sector

377. SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO :
SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government is contemplating to launch a pilot project for power saving in agriculture sector;

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

(c) whether the Government has prepared detailed project reports of the shortlisted Demand Side Management (DSM) projects; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Expenditure Finance Committee (EFC) of Ministry of Power, in its meeting held on 29th May 2008 under the Chairmanship of Secretary (Power) recom-

mended that 20 pilot projects for energy-efficient water pumping may be taken up in agriculture sector to ensure that replicable business model could be evolved, given the complexities of the agricultural sector and the fact that there is no demonstrable sustainable project implemented till date. The EFC recommended that these pilots may be taken up in states selected in terms of their preparedness, segregation on agricultural feeders, installation of High Voltage Distribution System (HVDS), and willingness of the state utility to take up this initiative.

(c) and (d) Six States have been selected based on the parameters approved by EFC for initiation of pilots. These states are Punjab, Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Rajasthan, Haryana and Maharashtra. The preparation of detailed project report is to be undertaken by Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE) in these selected states after the scheme is approved by the Government.

Committee on Impact of Future Trading

378. SHRI BALASHOWRY VALLABHANENI : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the report of Abhijit Sen Committee constituted to study the impact of future trading on price rise in agricultural commodities has since been received;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken in this regard on the basis of recommendations of the Committee?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI TASLIMUDDIN) : (a) Yes Sir.

(b) and (c) The major findings of Abhijit Sen Committee Report are given in the enclosed Statement. The recommendations of Abhijit Sen Committee are broadly

directed at strengthening the regulatory framework in the commodity futures market as well as deepening of the same. This inter alia, requires amendment to the Forward Contracts (regulation) Amendment Act, 1952.

Statement

Major Findings of Abhijit Sen Committee

The Committee analyzed the daily, weekly and monthly data on price volatility (spot price). The analysis made by the Expert Committee led it to conclude as follows:—

"Given these conflicting results from daily as against weekly and monthly data, no strong conclusion can be drawn on whether introduction of futures trade is associated with decrease or increase in spot price volatility".

- (i) The Committee also analyzed annual growth rate in prices of sensitive commodities (food grains and sugar) in pre- future period and post future period and concluded that although inflation clearly increased post-futures in some sensitive commodities that have higher weight in consumer price indices, it is not possible to make any general claim that inflation accelerated more in commodities with futures trading.
- (ii) In order to attract the hedgers, the high basis risk in the future contracts should be addressed;
- (iii) Delivery system in the National Exchanges needs to be broad based and delivery charges on the Exchange platform should be brought down to promote the deliveries;
- (iv) Before listing of new products on futures market, a rigorous examination is essential to find if they are going to be beneficial to the public and the wide spectrum of stakeholders;

- (v) The Legal and regulatory hurdles in setting up and functioning of these national spot exchanges should be removed;
- (vi) To recommend policy guidelines to develop infrastructure by identifying the gaps in infrastructure like communication, transport, banking facilities, storage and assaying which need to be bridged to increase participation of farmers and other stake-holders in the commodity ecosystem;
- (vii) For benefits to reach farmers, the support infrastructure of warehousing and commodity finance should be made adequate;
- (viii) In order to ensure that benefit of price discovery on Exchange platforms reach farmers, it is of prime importance to create structure which enables dissemination of prices to the remotest corners of the country;
- (ix) There should be a consultative group both in FMC as well as in the exchanges comprising persons with proven domain knowledge of commodity sector;
- (x) At the apex level, a Committee on Commodity Market akin to the HLCC in the Capital Market should be constituted with Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission or one of the Member of the Planning Commission as his nominee as Chairman. FMC Chairman should be the Convener of the Committee. Secretary (Agriculture), Secretary (CA), Secretary (Food), Secretary (Commerce), Deputy Governor, RBI, Economist of repute and one representative each of farmers, cooperatives and trade bodies (like FICCI, CII. etc.) should be members of the Committee. The Committee should deliberate on policy issues concerning Development and Regulation of Commodity market and guide the FMC to take appropriate steps;
- (xi) The proposed FC(R) amendment Bill to upgrade the regulation and to improve the capabilities of the regulator need to be pursued vigorously;
- (xii) Farmers' Groups, Co-operative Institutions, RRBs, CCBs, NGOs, State Agricultural Marketing Boards, Warehousing Corporations, Commodity Development Boards which work in the rural areas and have close association with and the trust of farmers should be allowed and encouraged to act as aggregators;
- (xiii) In case of agri-commodities, only simple 'options' may be allowed for some time till market attains maturity of operations and regulations and the farmers attains adequate understanding of the markets and of techniques to use them;
- (xiv) Banks and Financial Institutions which are at present not permitted to trade on Commodity Markets should, subject to approval by the Banking Regulator, be allowed to trade upto limits required for the purpose of devising customized OTC products suited to the needs of small and marginal farmers;
- (xv) An assessment should be made of the possibility of agencies implementing MSP including FCI acting as the writer of 'call' and 'put' options in agriculture commodities;

Decrease in Subscribers of BSNL

379. SHRI G.M. SIDDESWARA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the number of GSM subscribers of BSNL are decreasing in the country;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to improve the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA) : (a) and (b) No Sir. GSM subscribers of BSNL are not decreasing. BSNL is having 38.5 million cellular mobile subscribers as on 31.8.08 vis-a-vis 36.2 million subscribers as on 31.3.08 i.e. a net increase of 2.3 million subscribers during the period.

(c) BSNL has planned to add 15.75 million lines capacity in its network during the current financial year. BSNL has floated the tender for additional 93 million capacity on zonal basis to meet the requirement of mobile services in its area of operation which will improve the coverage in rural area also. Further BSNL plans to expand the Mobile service coverage to the villages having population more than 1000 progressively in next three years.

ICAR Centres

380. SHRI JASUBHAI DHANABHAI BARAD : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of Indian Council of Agricultural

Research (ICAR) centres in the country at present, State-wise;

(b) whether the Government propose to set up more such centres during the Eleventh Five Year Plan in the country;

(c) if so, the time by which such centres are likely to be set up and start functioning; and

(d) the funds allocated/proposed to be allocated for this purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA) : (a) The number of ICAR Institutes is 95. The State-wise details are given in the enclosed Statement.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. It is proposed to establish three more Institutes during XIth Five Year Plan namely Institute for Biotic Stress Management; Abiotic Stress Management; and Agricultural Biotechnology, subject to 'in principle' approval of Planning Commission.

(d) On approval by Planning Commission the financial requirement will be considered by the Expenditure Finance Committee/Competent Body in accordance with the guidelines of Ministry of Finance, Government of India.

Statement

State-wise list of Institutes/National Research Centres/Project Directorates

Sl.No.	Institutes/National Research Centres/Project Directorates	Nos
1	2	3
	Andaman and Nicobar	1
1.	Central Agricultural Research Institute, Port Blair	

1	2	3
	Andhra Pradesh	9
2.	Central Tobacco Research Institute, Rajamundry	
3.	Central Research Institute of Dryland Agriculture, Hyderabad	
4.	National Academy of Agricultural Research and Management (NAARM), Hyderabad	
5.	NRC Oil Palm, Pedavegi, West Godawary	
6.	NRC on Meat and Meat Products Technology, Hyderabad	
7.	NRC for Sorghum, Hyderabad	
8.	Directorate of Rice Research, Hyderabad	
9.	Directorate of Oilseed Research, Hyderabad	
10.	Project Directorate on Poultry, Hyderabad	
	Arunachal Pradesh	1
11	NRC on Yak, West Kamang	
	Assam	1
12.	NRC on Pig, Gowahati	
	Bihar	2
13.	ICAR Research Complex for Eastern Region, Patna	
14.	NRC Litchi, Muzaffarpur	
	Delhi	8
15.	National Bureau of Plant Genetics Resources, New Delhi	
16.	IARI, New Delhi	
17.	Indian Agricultural Statistical Research Institute, New Delhi	
18.	NRC for Plant Biotechnology, New Delhi	

1	2	3
19.	National Centre for Integrated Pest Management, New Delhi	
20.	National Centre for Agril. Economics and Policy Research, New Delhi	
21.	Directorate of Maize Research, New Delhi.	
22.	Directorate of Information and Publication in Agriculture (DIPA), New Delhi	
	Gujarat	2
23.	NRC for Groundnut, Junagarh	
24.	NRC Medicinal and Aromatic Plants, Anand	
	Goa	1
25.	ICAR Research Complex Goa	
	Himachal Pradesh	2
26.	Central Potato Research Institute, Shimla	
27.	NRC for Mushroom, Solan	
	Haryana	6
28.	Central Soil Salinity Research Institute, Karnal	
29.	National Dairy Research Institute, Karnal	
30.	Central Institute for Research on Buffaloes, Hissar	
31.	National Bureau of Animal Genetic Resources, Karnal	
32.	NRC on Equines, Hissar	
33.	Directorate of Wheat Research, Karnal	
	Jammu and Kashmir	1
34.	Central Institute of Temperate Horticulture, Srinagar	
	Jharkhand	1
35.	Indian Lac Research Institute, Ranchi	

1	2	3
	Karnataka	5
36.	Indian Institute of Horticultural Research, Bangalore	
37.	National Institute of Animal Nutrition and Physiology, Bangalore	
38.	NRC Cashew, Puttur	
39.	Project Directorate of Biological Control, Bangalore	
40.	PD on Animal Disease Monitoring and Surveillance, Hebbal, Bangalore	
	Kerala	5
41.	Central Tuber Crops Research Institute, Trivandrum	
42.	Central Plantation Crops Research Institute, Kasargod	
43.	Indian Institute of Spices Research, Calicut	
44.	Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute, Cochin	
45.	Central Institute of Fisheries Technology, Cochin	
	Meghalaya	1
46.	ICAR Research Complex for NEH Region, Barapani	
	Maharashtra	8
47.	Central institute of Cotton Research, Nagpur	
48.	National Bureau of Soil Survey and Land Use Planning, Nagpur	
49.	Central Institute of Research on Cotton Technology, Mumbai	
50.	Central Institute on Fisheries Education, Mumbai	
51.	NRC Citrus, Nagpur	
52.	NRC Grapes, Pune	
53.	NRC Onion and Garlic, Pune	
54.	NRC Pomegranate, Solapur	

1	2	3
	Madhya Pradesh	4
55.	Indian Institute of Soil Sciences, Bhopal	
56.	Central Institute of Agricultural Engineering, Bhopal	
57.	NRC for Soybean, Indore	
58.	NRC-Weed Science, Jabalpur	
	Nagaland	1
59.	NRC on Mithun, Medziphema, Nagaland	
	Orissa	4
60.	Central Rice Research Institute, Cuttack	
61.	Central Institute of Freshwater Aquaculture, Bhubneshwar	
62.	Water Technology Centre for Eastern Region, Bhubaneshwar	
63.	NRC for Women in Agriculture, Bhubaneshwar	
	Punjab	1
64.	Central Institute on Post harvest Engineering and Technology, Ludhiana	
	Rajasthan	6
65.	Central Institute of Arid Horticulture, Bikaner	
66.	Central Arid Zone Research Institute, Jodhpur	
67.	Central Sheep and Wool Research Institute, Avikanagar, Rajasthan	
68.	NRC Seed Spices, Ajmer	
69.	NRC on Camel, Bikaner	
70.	NRC on Rapeseed and Mustard (NRCRM), Bharatpur	
	Sikkim	1
71.	NRC on Orchids, Pakyong, Sikkim	

1	2	3
	Tamil Nadu	3
72.	Sugarcane Breeding Institute, Coimbatore	
73.	Central Institute Brackishwater Aquaculture, Chennai	
74.	NRC Banana, Trichi	
	Uttar Pradesh	14
75.	Indian Institute of Pulses Research, Kanpur	
76.	Indian Institute of Sugarcane Research, Lucknow	
77.	Indian Grassland and Fodder Research Institute, Jhansi	
78.	National Bureau of Agril. Important Micro-organisms (NBAIM), Mau	
79.	Central Institute of Sub Tropical Horticulture, Lucknow	
80.	Indian Institute of Vegetable Research, Varanasi	
81.	Central Institute for Research on Goats, Makhdoom	
82.	Central Avian Research Institute, Izatnagar	
83.	Indian Veterinary Research Institute, Izatnagar	
84.	National Bureau of Fish Genetic Resources, Lucknow	
85.	NRC Agroforestry, Jhansi	
86.	Directorate of Seed Research, Mau	
87.	Project Dte. on Cropping System Research, Modipuram	
88.	Project Directorate - Cattle, Meerut	
	Uttarakhand	4
89.	Vivekananda Parvitya Krishi Anusandhan Sansthan, Almora	
90.	Central Soil and Water Conservation Research and Training Institute, Dehradun	
91.	National Research Centre on Cold Water Fisheries, Nainital	
92.	PD on Foot and Mouth Disease, Mukteshwar	

1	2	3
	West Bengal	3
93.	Central Research Institute for Jute and Allied Fibres, Barrackpore	
94.	National Institute of Research on Jute and Allied Fibre Technology, Calcutta	
95.	Central Inland Capture Fisheries Research Institute, Barrackpur	
Total		95

Milk Cooperative Federations

revive those sick milk cooperative federations; and

381. SHRI DUSHYANT SINGH : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(c) if so, the steps taken in this regard?

(a) the name and the number of milk cooperative federations fallen sick in the country during the last three years; State-wise;

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI TASLIMUDDIN) : (a) Out of 14 Milk Cooperative Federations in the country, the following federations were sick during the last three years:—

(b) whether the Government has any proposal to

Year	State	No. of Federation which were sick	Name of Federation
2004-05	Tamil Nadu	1	Tamil Nadu Milk Cooperative Producer Federation
2005-06	Tamil Nadu and Kerala	2	Tamil Nadu Milk Cooperative Producer Federation, Kerala Milk Marketing Federation
2006-07	Tamil Nadu and Kerala	2	Tamil Nadu Milk Cooperative Producer Federation, Kerala Milk Marketing Federation

(b) and (c) Government of India has not received any proposal in this regard.

(a) whether India and China are contemplating to increase their mutual defence cooperation;

[Translation]

(b) if so, the details thereof;

Indo-China Defence Cooperation

(c) whether any discussion has been held between the two countries in this regard; and

382. SHRI GANESH SINGH : Will the DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(d) if so, the outcome thereof;

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

(a) and (b) Yes. Sir. A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for exchanges and cooperation in the field of defence was signed by Defence Ministers of India and China in May, 2006.

(c) and (d) The first India-China Annual Defence Dialogue was held in Beijing in November, 2007 during which issues relating to enhancement of Military to Military relations were discussed.

[English]

Violation of Ceasefire Agreement

383. SHRI NAND KUMAR SAI :
 SHRI KAILASH NATH SINGH YADAV :
 SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA :
 SHRIMATI JHANSI LAKSHMI BOTCHA :
 SHRI MOHD. TAHIR :
 SHRI SHISHUPAL N. PATLE :
 SHRI DALPAT SINGH PARSTE :

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Pakistani troops have opened fire on Indian positions along the Line of Control (LoC) during the current years;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of occasions, the Pakistani troops have violated ceasefire agreement, so far;

(d) the details of loss suffered in such firings;

(e) whether the Government has registered protest against the breach of ceasefire; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by the Government to check the recurrence of such incidents?

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

(a) and (b) Since January 2008, 34 incidents of firing

on Indian positions have taken place on the Line of Control.

(c) and (d) A total of 58 incidents of ceasefire violations by the Pakistani side have taken place since the ceasefire came into effect in November, 2003. Our troops suffered four fatal and thirteen non-fatal casualties due to such firings.

(e) and (f) Protests have been registered through the established mechanisms of hotline, flag meetings as well as weekly talks between the Directors General of Military Operations. Suitable measures have been enforced by own troops deployed along the Line of Control to ensure its sanctity. Strong retaliatory action is taken against any attempts of violation of the Line of Control, while maintaining adequate restraint to prevent escalation.

Procurement of Wheat from States

384. SHRI NAND KUMAR SAI :
 SHRI PARSURAM MAJHI :
 SHRI DALPAT SINGH PARSTE :
 SHRI K.C. PALLANI SHAMY :

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the measures taken by the Government during the Rabi Marketing Season of the current year to increase procurement of wheat in various major wheat producing States;

(b) the extent to which the procurement of wheat has increased as compared to corresponding period of the previous year alongwith the opening and closing stock during the said period and steps taken to store the excess wheat properly;

(c) whether the Government has also allowed National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation (NAFED) to procure wheat for the Central Pool; and

(d) if so, the quantity of wheat procured by NAFED during the current season?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA) : (a) The steps taken by the Department during Rabi Marketing Season (RMS) 2008-09 to increase procurement of wheat are given in the enclosed Statement.

(b) 226.82 lakh MT of wheat has been procured by FCI/State agencies for the Central Pool in RMS 2008-09 as compared to 111.3 lakh MT procured in RMS 2007-08. The stocks of wheat in the Central Pool as on 1st April, 2008 were 58.03 lakh tones as compared to 47.03 lakh tonnes as on 1st April, 2007. Wheat procured for the Central Pool has been kept in covered or Covered at Plinth godowns to ensure its proper storage.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. NAFED has procured 5.27 lakh tonnes of wheat during RMS 2008-09 from various states for the Central Pool.

Statement

Measures taken by the Government during RMS 2008-09 to increase procurement of wheat

- (i) The MSP for wheat has been fixed at Rs. 1000 per quintal for RMS 2008-09, an increase of Rs. 250 per quintal over the MSP fixed for RMS 2007-08, in order to encourage farmers to increase their production of wheat. This MSP is Rs. 150 per quintal more than the procurement price of Rs. 850 per quintal (including bonus of Rs. 100 per quintal) given to farmers last year.
- (ii) Import of 18 lakh tonnes of wheat was done in RMS 2007-08 which improved the stock position of wheat in the Central Pool and the wheat stocks (as on 1.4.2008) was more than the buffer norms of 40 lakh tonnes at the start of RMS 2008-09.

- (iii) Wheat exports on private account have been banned till further orders. Wheat exports from Central Pool are also banned.
- (iv) A notification titled "Wheat (Stock Declaration by Companies or Firms or Individuals) Order 2008 has been issued under the Essential Commodities Act 1955 on 11.2.2008. The order provides that any Company or Firm or individual which purchases wheat beyond 10,000 tonnes during 2008-09 shall furnish return to Secretary, Food of the State from where maximum quantity has been purchased. While a return for purchase of wheat beyond 25,000 tonnes is required to be furnished to the Central Government.
- (v) Department of Consumer Affairs has extended upto 31st August, 2008 notification under the EC Act enabling State Governments to impose stock limit on wheat.
- (vi) Import of wheat on private account at zero duty has been permitted till further orders.
- (vii) Senior Officers of Department of Food and Public Distribution and FCI frequently visited wheat procuring States to personally assess the situation.
- (viii) In order to encourage wheat procurement in States like Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh etc. Commission to Societies/sub-agents had been enhanced to 2.5% on the lines of the Arthiya Commission in Punjab and Haryana.
- (ix) NAFED was engaged to procure wheat on behalf of FCI in States of Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Gujarat and Madhya Pradesh.

Introduction of 3G Telecom Services

385. SHRIMATI MINATI SEN : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government proposes to introduce Third Generation (3G) telecom services in Telecom Sector;

(b) if so, whether the foreign companies will be allowed in Telecom Sector including 3G telecom services in the country;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government has offered to existing domestic telecom operators and Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) for 3G telecom services in the country; and

(e) if not, the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The Government has announced detailed guidelines for auction and allotment of spectrum for 3G Telecom Services, on 01.08.2008 and amendments dated 11.09.2008. As per the guidelines any person:—

- (i) Who holds a UAS/CMTS licence; or
- (ii) (a) who has previous experience of running 3G Telecom Services.
- (b) gives an undertaking to obtain Unified Access Services Licence (UASL) as per Department of Telecommunications guidelines dated 14.12.2005 before starting telecom operations, can bid for 3G spectrum and is eligible to participate in the auction process. This makes the foreign companies eligible to participate in the auction process. The licences would be granted through a controlled simultaneous ascending e-auction to the successful bidder.

(d) and (e) One block of 2x5 MHz in 2.1 GHz frequency band has been allotted to MTNL in Delhi and Mumbai Metro

Service areas and BSNL in other service areas in the country, BSNL and MTNL will have to pay spectrum charges at a price equal to the highest bid in the respective service area.

[Translation]

Congestion in Telecom Network

386. SHRI RAGHUVVEER SINGH KOSHAL : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) in its latest report has expressed concern over the rise in congestion between the networks of private telecommunication companies including Bharti, Reliance and a Government owned Company, Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL);

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the level of congestion in networks of private telecommunication companies and Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) in urban and rural areas has exceeded beyond the benchmark fixed for it;

(d) if so, the details thereof during the last three years and the current year and the reasons therefor;

(e) whether the Government has taken any steps to maintain the level of congestion in networks according to the benchmark fixed for it;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA) : (a) and (b) Yes Sir. TRAI has been monitoring the performance of service providers against the Quality of Service benchmark of <0.5% for the parameter of Point of Interconnect (POI) congestion through monthly reports received from service

providers. TRAI has expressed concern over the level of congestion between the networks of private cellular mobile service providers and Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) and amongst the networks of private cellular mobile service providers.

(c) As per TRAI report of June 2008 details of the number of POIs where the level of congestion has exceeded the benchmark of 0.5% between the networks of private cellular mobile service providers and Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) is 94 out of total 11500 POIs.

(d) The month - wise details of the number of POIs where the level of congestion has exceeded the benchmark of 0.5% between the networks of private cellular mobile service providers and Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) and amongst the networks of private cellular mobile service providers for last three years i.e. 1.7.2005 to June 2008 are given in the enclosed Statement.

(e) to (g) (i) Direct interconnection among service providers is permitted.

(ii) TRAI has been taking various steps to ensure quality of service by basic service and cellular mobile service providers. These steps are given below:-

- TRAI had issued a Quality of Service (QoS) regulation in July 2000 and subsequently modified in July 2005 so as to benchmark various QoS parameters for basic and cellular mobile services Point of Interconnection (POI) congestion parameter was also introduced for cellular mobile services.
- TRAI had issued a direction on 29th November 2005 to all Cellular Mobile Service Providers to ensure, by 31st December 2005, that the quality of service parameters, including the level of POI congestion, in its network should be strictly with in the benchmark laid down by the Authority. On analysing the Performance Monitoring Report of

the cellular mobile operators for the quarter ending December 2005, it was revealed that while there has been some improvement in meeting the QoS benchmarks there has been increase in the congestion at the POIs. The Authority, therefor, decided to issue show cause notices to those operators in whose network the number of POI having congestion above the benchmark have increased and accordingly issued show cause notices to six mobile operators on 06.03.2006. These operators have since moved TDSAT against the show cause notices and the matter is subjudice since March 2006.

Statement

Month-wise details of the number of Poir where the level of congestions has exceeded the benchmark (>0.5%)

Month	Between BSNL and Private Cellular Mobile Operators	Amongst Private Cellular Mobile Operators	Total
PoI Congestion (>0.5%)			
1	2	3	4
July, 2005	225	0	225
August, 2005	264	0	264
September, 2005	364	0	364
October, 2005	393	0	393
November, 2005	404	0	404
December, 2005	398	0	398
January, 2006	335	53	388

1	2	3	4
February, 2006	404	100	504
March, 2006	381	69	450
April, 2006	519	86	605
May, 2006	517	99	616
June, 2006	465	113	578
July, 2006	426	111	537
August, 2006	439	128	567
September, 2006	366	117	483
October, 2006	398	128	526
November, 2006	360	137	497
December, 2006	300	89	389
January, 2007	330	148	478
February, 2007	327	168	495
March, 2007	337	162	499
April, 2007	323	165	488
May, 2007	297	162	459
June, 2007	312	145	457
July, 2007	269	142	411
August, 2007	234	124	358
September, 2007	217	129	346
October, 2007	208	123	331
November, 2007	212	132	344
December, 2007	203	108	311

1	2	3	4
January, 2008	98	130	228
February, 2008	93	132	225
March, 2008	118	157	275
April, 2008	113	132	245
May, 2008	98	106	204
June, 2008	94	62	156

[English]

National Policy on Check Dams

387. SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether National policy on the check dams has been formulated to make dead rivers alive and bring prosperity to the region;

(b) if so, whether there is any proposal under consideration of the Government to formulate National policy on check dams;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to generate national consensus to built check dams on rivers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV) : (a) Ministry of Water Resources has not formulated "National Policy on the Check Dams". However, the National Water Policy, 2002 states that construction of check dams should be promoted.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

**Joint Water Management between
India and Nepal**

388. SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether India and Nepal have agreed to set up three tier joint water management mechanism to expedite work on the outstanding water projects;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government in collaboration of the Government of Nepal to get rid of perennial flooding by rivers coming from Nepal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. During the visit of Hon'ble Prime Minister of Nepal to India from 14-18 September, 2008, India and Nepal have agreed to set up a three-tier mechanism at the level of Minister, Secretary and technical level to rationalize and raise the efficacy of the existing bilateral mechanism in the field of water resources. Subsequently, India-Nepal Joint Committee on Water Resources (JCWR) in its 3rd meeting held at Kathmandu (Nepal) from 29 September-1 October, 2008 has recommended that the three-tier bilateral mechanism will comprise of : (i) Joint Ministerial Level Commission on Water Resources (JMCWR) headed by Ministers of Water Resources of India and Nepal, (ii) Existing Joint Committee on Water Resources of India and Nepal and (iii) Joint Standing Technical Committee headed by Chairman, Ganga Flood Control Commission (GFCC), Government of India and Joint Secretary, Ministry of Water Resources, Government of Nepal.

(c) There are several schemes and mechanisms through which the Government of India and Nepal have been cooperating to address the flood problems. The Kosi and Gandak Projects, in addition to other benefits, also provide flood Control through embankments in India and Nepal. The two sides are working together to extend

embankments on Lal Bageya, Bagmati, Kamla and Khando rivers to the high ground in Nepal. The Governments have set up a Joint Project Office (JPO) to investigate and prepare Detailed Project Report on Sapta Kosi High Dam and Sun Kosi Diversion Scheme. The JPO will also carry out the feasibility study of the Kamla and Preliminary study of Bagmati Multipurpose Projects. Flood Control is one of the objectives of these projects.

[Translation]

**Adoption of Irrigation Projects as
National Projects**

389. SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR :
SHRI CHANDRA MANI TRIPATHI :
SHRIMATI KARUNA SHUKLA :
SHRI K. SUBBARAYAN :

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has accorded approval for adoption of the fourteen irrigation projects as National Projects under the River interlinking project;

(b) if so, the details thereof and amount of funds spent or proposed to be spent on the construction of each of these projects;

(c) whether any funds have been released to the State Governments for construction of these projects;

(d) if so, the amount of funds released as well as the budgetary allocation made by the Government during 2008-09;

(e) whether any time frame has been fixed for completion of construction of these projects sanctioned as National Projects; and

(f) if so, the details thereof, project-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN

YADAV) : (a) to (f) The Government of India has declared 14 water resources projects as National Projects as per details given in the enclosed Statement. Out of these, three projects namely Gosikhurd project of Maharashtra, Teesta Barrage Project of West Bengal and Shahpur Kandi Project of Punjab are already getting central grant assistance under

Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme. No funds have been spent on these projects under the scheme of funding of national projects. No budgetary allocations under the scheme of National Projects have been made for 2008-09. Time frame for completion of these projects has not been finalized.

Statement

List of projects declared as National Projects:

Sl. No.	Name of the Project	(1) Irrigation (ha.) (2) Power (MW) (3) Storage MAF)	State	Justification
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Teesta Barrage	(1) 9.23 lakh (2) 1000 MW (3) Barrage	West Bengal	Projects governed by International treaty having international ramification and projects of strategic importance
2.	Shahpur Kandi	(1) 0.33 lakh (2) 68 MW (3) Barrage	Punjab	
3.	Bursar	(1) 1 lakh (indirect) (2) 1230MW (3) 1 MAF	Jammu and Kashmir	
4.	2nd Ravi Vyas Link	Harness water flowing across border of about 3 MAF	Punjab	
5.	Ujh multipurpose project	(1) 0.32.lakh ha (2) 280 MW (3) 0.66 MAF	Jammu and Kashmir	

1	2	3	4	5
6.	Gyspa project	(1) 0.50 lakh ha (2) 240 MW (3) 0.6 MAF	HP	
7.	Lakhvar Vyasi	(1) 0.49 lakh (2) 420 MW (3) 0.325 MAF	Uttaranchal	Projects of Yamuna Basin. Important from environmental, drinking water and Commonwealth games consideration.
8	Kishau	(1) 0.97 lakh (2) 600 MW (3) 1.04 MAF	HP/Uttaranchal	
9.	Renuka	(1) Drinking water (2) 40 MW (3) 0.44 MAF	HP	
10.	Noa-Dehang Dam Project	(1) 8000 ha. (2) 75 MW (3) 0.26 MAF	Arunanchal Pradesh	Projects on the international rivers in the North-Eastern States
11.	Kulsi Dam Project	(1) 23,900 ha. (2) 29 MW (3) 0.28 MAF	Assam	
12.	Upper Siang	(1) Indirect (2) 9500 MW (3) 17.50 MAF (4) Flood moderation	Arunanchal Pradesh	
13.	Gosikhurd	(1) 2.50 lakh (2) 3 MW (3) 0.93 MAF	Maharashtra	Intra State major project having big Irrigation potential and drinking water supply component.

1	2	3	4	5
14. Ken Betwa	(1) 6.46 lakh		Madhya	River Interlinking Project.
	(2) 72 MW		Pradesh	
	(3) 2.25 MAF			

[English]

"Project Arrow" Scheme in Post Offices

390. SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has introduced a Scheme called "Project Arrow" in the various Post Offices of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the names of the Post Offices in which above scheme has already been introduced; and

(d) the time by which the above scheme is expected to be completed in all the Post Offices of the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

(SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA) : (a) and (b) "Project Arrow" is not a new scheme. It is the name given to a project in which some post offices have been identified in 12 Postal Circles. There are two aspects of the Project — one is the "Look and Feel" to give uniformity in terms of counter lay-outs, technology upgradation, and the other is the "Core Business" to improve core operational areas in these post offices. Project Arrow, thus, is aimed at upgrading the core postal activities in a focused and structured way. The objective is to replicate these successful initiatives in respect of the post offices in other Circles in a phased manner.

(c) and (d) The names of the post offices in which Scheme has already been introduced, is given in the enclosed Statement-I. Activities in post offices listed in the enclosed Statement-I. I have already been completed. Names of the Post offices identified for Phase-II is given in the enclosed Statement-II. Activities in the post offices listed in the enclosed Statement-II are in process and are expected to be completed by 31.12.2008.

Statement-I

*Post Offices to be taken up for modernization and total computerization (Revised List) Highlighted
Post Offices are selected for the first phase of Pilot Project*

Post Offices to be taken up for modernization and total computerization - Andhra Pradesh Circle

Sl. No.	Name of the identified Post Office	Postal Division	Revenue District	Postal Region
1	2	3	4	5
1	Nekkonda Sub Post office	Warangal	Warangal	Hyd. Region
2.	Kohir Sub Post office	Sangareddy	Medak	Hyd. Region

1	2	3	4	5
3.	Pattikonda LSG Sub Post office	Kurnool	Kurnool	Kurnool
4.	Dwaraka Tirumala Sub Post office	Eluru	West Godavari	Vijaywada
5.	Sompeta Sub Post office	Srikakulam	Srikakulam	Visakhapatnam
Post Offices to be taken up for modernization and total computerization — Jharkhand Circle				
6.	Doranda Head Post office	Ranchi	Ranchi	Ranchi
7.	Madhupur Sub Post Office	Dumka	Deoghar	Ranchi
8.	Jamshedpur Head Post office	Jamshedpur	Jamshedpur	Ranchi
9.	Hazaribagh Head Post Office	Hazaribagh	Hazaribagh	Ranchi
Post Offices to be taken up for modernization and total computerization -Madhya Pradesh Circle				
10.	Guna Head Post Office	Guna	Guna	Indore
11.	Shivpuri Head Post Office	Guna	Shivpuri	Indore
12.	Ashok Nagar Mukhya Dak Ghar	Guna	Guna	Indore
13.	Nanda Nagar Sub Post Office	Indore City	Indore	Indore
14.	Morena Head Post Office	Chambal	Morena	Indore
15.	Morar Head Post Office	Gwalior	Gwalior	Indore
Post Offices to be taken up for modernization and total computerization — Maharashtra Circle				
16.	Bhandara Head Post Office	Nagpur Mfl. Dn.	Bhandara	Nagpur
17.	Jawhar Sub Post Office	Thane West	Thane	Mumbai
18.	Baramati Sub Post Office	Pune Muffasil	Pune	Pune
19.	Nanded Head Post Office	Nanded	Nanded	Aurangabad
20.	Kalangut Sub Post Office	North Goa	Goa	Goa
Post Offices to be taken up for modernization and total computerization — North-East Circle				
21.	Cherrapunjee Sub Post Office	Meghalaya	East Khasi Hills	North-East
22.	Mokokchung Mukhya Dak Ghar	Nagaland	Mokokchung	North-East

1	2	3	4	5
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Post Offices to be taken up for modernization and total computerization — Orissa Circle

23.	Kamakshyanagar Sub Post Office	Dhenkanal	Angul	Sambalpur
24.	Barpali Sub Post Office	Sambalpur	Bargarh	Sambalpur
25.	Gopalpur Sub Post Office	Berhampur	Ganjam	Berhampur
26.	Puri Head Post Office	Puri	Puri	Bhubaneswar
27.	Chandabali Sub Post office	Bhadrak	Bhadrak	Bhubaneswar

Post Offices to be taken up for modernization and total computerization — Rajasthan Circle

28.	Mukundgarh Sub Post Office	Jhunjhunu	Jhunjhunu	Jodhpur
29.	Shahpura Sub Post Office	Bhilwara	Bhilwara	Ajmer
30.	Jhalawar Head Post Office	Kota	Jhalawar	Ajmer
31.	Nandanwan Sub Post Office	Jodhpur	Jodhpur	Jodhpur
32.	Rajasthan Secretariat Sub Post Office	Jaipur	Jaipur	Jaipur

Post Offices to be taken up for modernization and total computerization — Tamil Nadu Circle

33.	Perambalur	Srirangam	Perambalur	Tiruchirapalli
34.	Madanagopalapuram	Srirangam	Perambalur	Tiruchirapalli
35.	Thuraiyur	Srirangam	Perambalur	Tiruchirapalli
36.	Padalur	Srirangam	Perambalur	Tiruchirapalli
37.	Chettikulam	Srirangam	Perambalur	Tiruchirapalli
38.	Ariyalur	Trichy	Ariyalur	Tiruchirapalli
39.	Jeyankondam	Trichy	Ariyalur	Tiruchirapalli
40.	Thuraiyur	Srirangam	Tiruchy	Tiruchirapalli
41.	Tirukuvai	Nagapattinam	Nagapattinam	Tiruchirapalli

Post Offices to be taken up for modernization and total computerization — Uttar Pradesh Circle

42.	Amethi Mukhya Dak Ghar	Sultanpur	Sultanpur	Lucknow
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1	2	3	4	5
43.	Bhadoli Mukhya Dak Ghar	Varanasi West	Varanasi	Allahabad
44.	Nawabganj Sub Post Office	Gonda	Gonda	Gorakhpur
45.	Kaisarganj Sub Post Office	Bahraich	Bahraich	Gorakhpur
46.	Akbarpur Sub Post Office	Kanpur Muffasil	Kanpur Dehat	Kanpur

Post Offices to be taken up for modernization and total computerization — Uttarakhand Circle

47.	Narendranagar Sub Post Office	Tehri	Tehri	Uttarakhand
48.	Rajpur Sub Post Office	Dehradun	Dehradun	Uttarakhand
49.	Satpuli Sub Post Office	Pauri	Pauri Garhwal	Uttarakhand
50.	Kichha Sub Post office	Nainital	Udham Singh Nagar	Uttarakhand

Statement-II

List of 450 Post Offices selected for the second phase of Project Arrow

Sl. No.	Name of PO	Postal Division	Revenue District	Region	
1	2	3	4	5	6
Andhra Pradesh					
1.	S.K. Nagar SO	Adilabad	Adilabad	Hyderabad	1
2.	Sirisilla SO	Karimnagar	Karimnagar	Hyderabad	2
3.	Warrangal HO	Warangal	Warangal	Hyderabad	3
4.	Banswada SO	Nizamabad	Nizamabad	Hyderabad	4
5.	Mahabubnagar HO	Mahabubnagar	Mahabubnagar	Hyderabad	5
6.	Huzurnagar SO	Suryapet	Nalgonda	Hyderabad	6
7.	Nagarkurnool SO	Wanaparthy	Mahbubnagar	Hyderabad	7
8.	Mulug SO	Hanamkonda	Warangal	Hyderabad	8

1	2	3	4	5	6
9.	Sultanabad SO	Peddapally	Karimnagar	Hyderabad	9
10.	Dubbak SO	Medak	Medak	Hyderabad	10
11.	Kamareddy HO	Nizamabad	Nizamabad	Hyderabad	11
12.	Begampeth SO	Secunderabad	Hyderabad	Hyderabad City	12
13.	Hyderabad GPO	Independent Unit	Hyderabad	Hyderabad City	13
14.	Secunderabad HO	Secunderabad	Hyderabad	Hyderabad City	14
15.	Banjara Hills SO	Hyderabad	Hyderabad	Hyderabad City	15
16.	Jubilee HO	Hyderabad South East	Hyderabad	Hyderabad City	16
17.	Gooty SO	Anantapur	Anantapur	Kurnool	17
18.	Badvel SO	Tirupati	Chittoor	Kurnool	18
19.	Kuppam SO	Chittoor	Chittoor	Kurnool	19
20.	Kodur SO	Cuddapah	Cuddapah	Kurnool	20
21.	Cuddapah HO	Kurnool	Kurnool	Kurnool	21
22.	Penukonda SO	Nandyal	Kurnool	Kurnool	22
23.	Yemmiganur SO	Proddatur	Cuddapah	Kurnool	23
24.	Chandragiri HO	Tirupati	Chittoor	Kurnool	24
25.	Tirupati HO	Tirupati	Chittoor	Kurnool	25
26.	Lakkireddy Palli SO	Kadapa	Kadapa	Kurnool	26
27.	Hanuman Junction SO	Gudivada	Krishna	Vijayawada	27
28.	Vijawada HO	Vijayawada	Krishna	Vijayawada	28
29.	Amaravathi SO	Guntur	Guntur	Vijayawada	29
30.	Vinukonda SO	Narasaraopet	Guntur	Vijayawada	30
31.	Guntur HO	Guntur	Guntur	Vijayawada	31
32.	Eluru HO	Eluru	West Godavari	Vijayawada	32

1	2	3	4	5	6
33.	Kothapatnam SO	Prakasam	Prakasam	Vijayawada	33
34.	Tanuku HO	Bhimavaram	West Godavari	Vijayawada	34
35.	Khammam HO	Khammam	Khammam	Vijayawada	35
36.	Sullurpet SO	Gudur	Nellore	Vijayawada	36
37.	Santhamaguluru SO	Prakasham	Prakasham	Vijayawada	37
38.	Amalapuram HO	Amalapuram	East Godavari	Visakhapatnam	38
39.	Narsipatnam HO	Anakapalle	Visakhapatnam	Visakhapatnam	39
40.	Visakhapatnam HO	Visakhapatnam	Visakhapatnam	Visakhapatnam	40
41.	Palakonda SO	Parvathipuram	Srikakulam	Visakhapatnam	41
42.	Tuni SO	Kakinada	East Godavari	Visakhapatnam	42
43.	Vizianagaram HO	Vizianagaram	Vizianagaram	Visakhapatnam	43
44.	Vizianagaram Cantt. SO	Vizianagaram	Vizianagaram	Visakhapatnam	44
Bihar					
45.	Bankipore HO	Patna	Patna	Patna	1
46.	Muzaffarpur HO	Muzaffarpur	Muzaffarpur	Muzaffarpur	2
47.	Madhubani HO	Madhubani	Madhubani	Muzaffarpur	3
48.	Gopalganj HO	Siwan	Gopalganj	Muzaffarpur	4
49.	Chapra HO	Saran	Saran	Patna	5
50.	Biharsharif HO	Nalanda	Nalanda	Patna	6
51.	Aurangabad HO	Aurangabad	Aurangabad	Patna	7
52.	Arrah HO	Bhojpur	Bhojpur	Patna	8
53.	Bikramganj SO	Bhojpur	Rohtas.	Patna	9
54.	Sasaram HO	Rohtas	Sasaram	Patna	10
55.	Hajipur HO	Vaishali	Vaishali	Patna	11

1	2	3	4	5	6
56.	Motihari HO	Motihari	Champanan	Muzaffarpur	12
57.	Gaya HO	Gaya	Gaya	Patna	13
58.	Bhagalpur HO	Bhagalpur	Bhagalpur	Patna	14
59.	Munger HO	Munger	Munger	Patna	15
Gujarat					
60.	Gandhi Nagar HO	Gandhi Nagar	Gandhi Nagar	Ahmedabad	1
61.	Dwarka SO	Jamnagar	Jamnagar	Rajkot	2
62.	Prabhas Patan SO	Junagarh	Junagarh	Rajkot	3
63.	Bhuj HO	Kutch	Kutch	Rajkot	4
64.	Porbandar HO	Porbandar	Porbandar	Rajkot	5
65.	Miyagam Karjan SO	Vadodara West	Vadodara	Vadodara	6
66.	Rajpipla SO	Bharuch	Narmada	Vadodara	7
67.	Padara SO	Vadodara West	Vadodara	Vadodara	8
68.	Chhotaudepur SO	Vadodara East	Vadodara	Vadodara	9
69.	Bodeli(Sankheda) SO	Vadodara East	Vadodara	Vadodara	10
Jharkhand					
70.	Jhumritilaiya SO	Hazaribagh	Kodarma	Ranchi	1
71.	Dhanbad HO	Dhanbad	Dhanbad	Ranchi	2
72.	Golmuri SO	Jamshedpur	Jamshedpur	Ranchi	3
73.	Sakchi NDSO	Jamshedpur	Jamshedpur	Ranchi	4
74.	Katrasgarh SO	Dhanbad	Dhanbad	Ranchi	5
75.	Simdega MDG	Ranchi	Simdega	Ranchi	6
76.	Namkum SO	Ranchi	Ranchi	Ranchi	7
77.	Kanke SO	Ranchi	Ranchi	Ranchi	8

1	2	3	4	5	6
78.	Gumla HO	Ranchi	Gumla	Ranchi	9
79.	Lohardaga MDG	Ranchi	Lohardaga	Ranchi	10
80.	Chaibasa HO	Singhbhum	West Singhbhum	Ranchi	11
81.	Tatanagar SO	Singhbhum	East Singhbhum	Ranchi	12
82.	Daltonganj HO	Palamau	Palamau	Ranchi	13
83.	Girdih HO	Girdih	Girdih	Ranchi	14
84.	B.Deoghar HO	Dumka	Deoghar	Ranchi	15
85.	Dumka HO	-do-	Dumka	Ranchi	16
86.	Godda MDG	-do-	Godda	Ranchi	17
87.	B.S. City HO	Dhanbad	Bokaro	Ranchi	18
88.	B.S. City Sec-IX SO	-do-	Bokaro	Ranchi	19
89.	B.S. City Sec-VI SO	-do-	-do-	Ranchi	20
90.	BCCL Dhanbad SO	-do-	Dhanbad	Ranchi	21
91.	Dhurva SO	Ranchi	Ranchi	Ranchi	22
92.	Ramgarh Cantt. HO	Hazaribagh	Ramgarh	Ranchi	23
93.	Ranchi GPO	Ranchi	Ranchi	Ranchi	24
94.	Koderma SO	Hazaribagh	Koderma	Ranchi	25
95.	Garhwa MDG	Palamau	Garhwa	Ranchi	26
96.	Latehar MDG	Palamau	Latehar	Ranchi	27
Madhya Pradesh					
97.	Sagar Cantt HO	Sagar Dn.	Sagar	Bhopal	1
98.	Rahatgarh SO	Sagar Dn.	Sagar	Bhopal	2
99.	Chhatarpur SO	Chhatarpur Dn.	Chhatarpur	Bhopal	3
100.	Khajuraho SO	Chhatarpur Dn.	Chhatarpur	Bhopal	4

1	2	3	4	5	6
101.	Panna SO	Chhatarpur Dn.	Chhatarpur	Bhopal	5
102.	Hoshangabad HO	Hoshangabad Dn.	Hoshangabad	Bhopal	6
103.	Shahdol HO	Shahdol Dn.	Shahdol	Bhopal	7
104.	Umaria SO	Shahdol Dn.	Umaria	Bhopal	8
105.	Jaisingnagar SO	Shahdol Dn.	Shahdol	Bhopal	9
106.	Dhanpuri SO	Shahdol Dn.	Shahdol	Bhopal	10
107.	Rewa HO	Rewa Dn.	Rewa	Bhopal	11
108.	Chhindwara HO	Chhindwara Dn.	Chhindwara	Bhopal	12
109.	Vidisha HO	Vidisha Dn.	Vidisha	Bhopal	13
110.	Raisen HO	Vidisha Dn.	Raisen	Bhopal	14
111.	Ganj Basoda SO	Vidisha Dn.	Vidisha	Bhopal	15
112.	Sironj SO	Vidisha Dn.	Vidisha	Bhopal	16
113.	Kurwai SO	Vidisha Dn.	Vidisha	Bhopal	17
114.	Sanchi SO	Vidisha Dn.	Raisen	Bhopal	18
115.	Bhopal GPO	Bhopal Dn.	Bhopal	Bhopal	19
116.	C.T.T. Nagar HO	Bhopal Dn.	Bhopal	Bhopal	20
117.	Mungawali SO	Guna Dn.	Ashok Nagar	Indore	21
118.	Guna Bazar SO	Guna Dn.	Guna	Indore	22
119.	Karera SO	Guna Dn.	Shivpuri	Indore	23
120.	Pichhore SO	Guna Dn.	Shivpuri	Indore	24
121.	Narwar SO	Guna Dn.	Shivpuri	Indore	25
122.	Kolaras SO	Guna Dn.	Shivpuri	Indore	26
123.	Guna City SO	Guna Dn.	Guna	Indore	27
124.	Aroun SO	Guna Dn.	Guna	Indore	28

1	2	3	4	5	6
125.	Esagarh SO	Guna Dn.	Ashok Nagar	Indore	29
126.	Raghogarh SO	Guna Dn.	Guna	Indore	30
127.	Shadora SO	Guna Dn.	Ashok Nagar	Indore	31
128.	Bamori SO	Guna Dn.	Guna	Indore	32
129.	Pohri SO	Guna Dn.	Shivpuri	Indore	33
130.	Shivpuri City SO	Guna Dn.	Shivpuri	Indore	34
131.	Badrwas SO	Guna Dn.	Shivpuri	Indore	35
132.	Bhitarwar SO	Gwalior Dn.	Gwalior	Indore	36
133.	Bhander SO	Gwalior Dn.	Gwalior	Indore	37
134.	Dabra SO	Gwalior Dn.	Gwalior	Indore	38
135.	Datia MDG	Gwalior Dn.	Datia	Indore	39
136.	Ambha SO	Chambal Dn. Morena	Morena	Indore	40
137.	Sheopur SO	Chambal Dn. Morena	Morena	Indore	41
138.	JourasO	Chambal Dn. Morena	Morena	Indore	42
139.	Vijaypur SO	Chambal Dn. Morena	Morena	Indore	43
140.	Sabalgarh SO	Chambal Dn. Morena	Morena	Indore	44
141.	Bhind HO	Chambal Dn. Morena	Bhind	Indore	45
142.	Porsa SO	Chambal Dn. Morena	Morena	Indore	46
143.	Mehgaon SO	Chambal Dn. Morena	Bhind	Indore	47
144.	Lashkar HO	Gwalior	Gwalior	Indore	48
145.	Chanderi SO	Guna	Guna	Indore	49
146.	Indore GPO	Indore City Dn.	Indore	Indore	50
147.	Indore City HO	Indore City Dn.	Indore	Indore	51
148.	Dewas HO	Indore Mfi Dn.	Dewas	Indore	52

1	2	3	4	5	6
149.	Dhar HO	Indore Mfl Dn.	Dhar	Indore	53
150.	Sanwer SO	Indore Mfl Dn.	Indore	Indore	54
151.	Badnawar SO	Indore Mfl Dn.	Dhar	Indore	55
152.	Jabalpur HO	Jabalpur Dn.	Jabalpur	Indore	56
153.	Katni HO	Jabalpur Dn.	Katni	Indore	57
154.	Khandwa HO	Khandwa Dn.	Khandwa	Indore	58
155.	Burhanpur SO	Khandwa Dn.	Burhanpur	Indore	59
156.	Khargone SO	Khandwa Dn.	Khargone	Indore	60
157.	Mandsaur HO	Mandsaur Dn.	Mandsaur	Indore	61
158.	Mandsaur City SO	Mandsaur Dn.	Mandsaur	Indore	62
159.	Neemuch HO	Mandsaur Dn.	Neemuch	Indore	63
160.	Garoth SO	Mandsaur Dn.	Mandsaur	Indore	64
161.	Ratlam HO	Ratlam Dn.	Ratlam	Indore	65
162.	Jhabua HO	Ratlam Dn.	Jhabua	Indore	66
163.	Jaora SO	Ratlam Dn.	Ratlam	Indore	67
164.	Sehore HO	Sehore Dn.	Sehore	Indore	68
165.	Ashta SO	Sehore Dn.	Sehore	Indore	69
166.	Rajgarh (Bia) SO	Sehore Dn.	Rajgarh	Indore	70
167.	Khilchipur SO	Sehore Dn.	Rajgarh	Indore	71
168.	Ujjain HO	Malwa Dn.	Ujjain	Indore	72
169.	Ujjain City SO	Malwa Dn.	Ujjain	Indore	73
170.	Shajapur HO	Malwa Dn.	Shajapur	Indore	74
171.	Shujalpur Mandi SO	Malwa Dn.	Shajapur	Indore	75
172.	Bercha SO	Malwa Dn.	Shajapur	Indore	76
173.	Maksi SO	Malwa Dn.	Shajapur	Indore	77

1	2	3	4	5	6
Maharashtra					
174.	Latur HO	Osmanabad	Latur	Aurangabad	1
175.	Amalner SO	Jalgaon	Jalgaon	Aurangabad	2
176.	Egatpuri SO	Nashik	Nashik	Aurangabad	3
177.	Dhule HO	Dhule	Dhule	Aurangabad	4
178.	Pari Vaidyanath SO	Aurangabad	Aurangabad	Aurangabad	5
179.	Aurangabad HO	Bhusawal	Jalgaon	Aurangabad	6
180.	Beed HO	Beed	Beed	Aurangabad	7
181.	Jalgaon HO	Jalgaon	Jalgaon	Aurangabad	8
182.	Nasik HO	Malegaon	Nashik	Aurangabad	9
183.	Parbhani HO	Parbhani	Parbhani	Aurangabad	10
184.	Kolhapur HO	Kolhapur	Kolhapur	Goa	11
185.	Mapusa MDG	Goa	North Goa	Goa	12
186.	Sangli HO	Sangli	Sangli	Goa	13
187.	Ponda MDG	Goa	South Goa	Goa	14
188.	Miraj HO	Sangli	Sangli	Goa	15
189.	C C Oros MDG	Sindhudurg	Sindhudurg	Goa	16
190.	Ratnagiri HO	Ratnagiri	Ratnagiri	Goa	17
191.	Chiplun HO	Ratnagiri	Ratnagiri	Goa	18
192.	Jaysinghpur MDG	Kolhapur	Kolhapur	Goa	19
193.	Panaji HO	Panaji	Panaji	Goa	20
194.	Mumbai GPO	Mumbai South	Mumbai	Mumbai	21
195.	Juhu SO	Mumbai North	Mumbai	Mumbai	22
196.	Mantralaya SO	Mumbai City South	Mumbai	Mumbai	23

1	2	3	4	5	6
197.	Vashi SO	Navi Mumbai	Thane	Mumbai	24
198.	Alibag HO	Raigad	Raigad	Mumbai	25
199.	Matunga SO	Mumbai City North East	Mumbai	Mumbai	26
200.	Dadar HO	Mumbai	Mumbai	Mumbai	27
201.	Motilalnagar SO	Mumbai City North West	Mumbai	Mumbai	28
202.	Ulhas Nagar V	Thane central Division	Thane	Mumbai	29
203.	Nariman Point SO	Mumbai City South	Mumbai	Mumbai	30
204.	Chandrapur HO	Chandrapur	Chandrapur	Nagpur	31
205.	Gondia HO	Nagpur Mfl.	Gondia	Nagpur	32
206.	Sakoli SO	Nagpur Mfl.	Bhandara	Nagpur	33
207.	Amgaon SO	Nagpur Mfl.	Gondia	Nagpur	34
208.	Akola HO	Akola	Akola	Nagpur	35
209.	Amraoti HO	Amraoti	Amraoti	Nagpur	36
210.	Wardha HO	Wardha	Wardha	Nagpur	37
211.	Yeotmal HO	Yeotmal	Yeotmal	Nagpur	38
212.	Nagpur GPO	Nagpur	Nagpur	Nagpur	39
213.	Chandur Railway SO	Amraoti	Amraoti	Nagpur	40
214.	Mahabaleshwar SO	Satara	Satara	Pune	41
215.	Shivaji Nagar SO	Pune City West Dn.	Pune	Pune	42
216.	Pune City HO	Pune City West	Pune	Pune	43
217.	Rajgurunagar SO	Pune Moffusil	Pune	Pune	44
218.	Panchgani SO	Satara	Satara	Pune	45
219.	Shrirampur HO	Shrirampur	Ahmednagar	Pune	46
220.	Karad HO	Satara	Satara	Pune	47
221.	Ahmadnagar HO	Ahmednagar	Admednagar	Pune	48

1	2	3	4	5	6
North-East					
222.	Naharlagun	Arunachal Pradesh	Papumpare	North-East	1
223.	Champhai SO	Mizoram	Champhai	North-East	2
224.	Sabroom SO	Agartala	South Tripura	North-East	3
225.	Panisagar SO	Dharmanagar	North Tripura	North-East	4
226.	Jowai SO	Meghalaya	Janitia Hills	North-East	5
227.	Lunglei SO	Mizoram	Lunglei	North-East	6
228.	Wokha SO	Nagaland	Wokha	North-East	7
229.	Kohima HO	Nagaland	Kohima	North-East	8
230.	Tum HO	Meghalaya	West Garo Hills	North-East	9
231.	Agartala HO	Agartala	West Tripura	North-East	10
232.	Aizwal HO	Mizoram	Aizwal	North-East	11
Orissa					
233.	Junagarh SO	Kalahandi	Kalahandi	Berhampur	1
234.	G. Udayagiri SO	Phulbani	Phulbani	Berhampur	2
235.	Sorada SO	Aska	Ganjam	Berhampur	3
236.	Parlakhemundi HO	Berhampur	Gajapati	Berhampur (GM)	4
237.	Nabarangapur MDG	Koraput	Nabarangapur	Berhampur(GM)	5
238.	Sunabeda-2 SO	Koraput	Koraput	Berhampur(GM)	6
239.	Madanpur Rampur SO	Kalahandi	Kalahandi	Berhampur(GM)	7
240.	Phulbani HO	Phulbani	Phulbani	Berhampur(GM)	8
241.	Pipli SO	Bhubaneswar	Puri	Bhubaneswar	9
242.	Ashok Nagar SO	Bhubaneswar	Bhubaneswar	Bhubaneswar	10
243.	Rajkanika SO	Cuttack North	Kendrapara	Bhubaneswar	11

1	2	3	4	5	6
244.	College Square SO	Cuttack South	Jagatsinghpur	Bhubaneswar	12
245.	Sakhigopal SO	Puri	Puri	Bhubaneswar	13
246.	Choudwar SO	Cuttack South	Cuttack	Bhubaneswar	14
247.	Baripada HO	Mayaurbhanja	Mayurbhanja	Bhubaneswar	15
248.	Soro MDG	Balasore	Balasore	Bhubaneswar	16
249.	Bhadrak HO	Bhadrak	Bhadrak	Bhubaneswar	17
250.	Chandnichowk HO	Cuttack City	Cuttack	Bhubaneswar	18
251.	Banki MDG	Cuttack City	Cuttack	Bhubaneswar	19
252.	Jajpur Road MDG	Cuttack North	Jajpur	Bhubaneswar	20
253.	Bhubaneswar GPO	Bhubaneswar	Khurda	Bhubaneswar	21
254.	Saheed Nagar MDG	Bhubaneswar	Khurda	Bhubaneswar	22
255.	Rajgangapur SO	Sundargarh	Sundargarh	Sambalpur	23
256.	Anandpur SO	Keonjhar	Keonjhar	Sambalpur	24
257.	Talcher MDG	Dhenkanal	Angul	Sambalpur	25
258.	Sambalpur HO	Sambalpur	Sambalpur	Sambalpur	26
259.	Bargarh HO	Sambalpur	Bargarh	Sambalpur	27
260.	Jharsuguda HO	Sambalpur	Jharsuguda	Sambalpur	28
261.	Balangir HO	Balangir	Balangir	Sambalpur	29
262.	Sonepur MDG	Balangir	Sonepur	Sambalpur	30
263.	Rourkela HO	Sundargarh	Sundargarh	Sambalpur	31
264.	Rourkela-2 MDG	Sundargarh	Sundargarh	Sambalpur	32
265.	Pallahara SO	Dhenkanal	Angul	Sambalpur	33
266.	Dhenkanal HO	Dhenkanal	Dhenkanal	Sambalpur	34
267.	Rairakhol SO	Sambalpur	Sambalpur	Sambalpur	35

1	2	3	4	5	6
Rajasthan					
268.	Bundi HO	Tonk	Bundi	Ajmer	1
269.	Chhittogarh HO	Chittorgarh	Chittorgarh	Ajmer	2
270.	Shastri Circle Udaipur SO	Udaipur	Udaipur	Ajmer	3
271.	Kankroli HO	Udaipur	Rajsamand	Ajmer	4
272.	Bhilwara City SO	Bhilwara	Bhilwara	Ajmer	5
273.	Dungarpur HO	Dungarpur	Dungarpur	Ajmer	6
274.	Pushkar SO	Ajmer	Ajmer	Ajmer	7
275.	Madanganj HO	Ajmer	Ajmer	Ajmer	8
276.	Bijainagar MDG	Beawar	Ajmer	Ajmer	9
277.	Gangapur SO	Bhilwara	Bhilwara	Ajmer	10
278.	Ajmer HO	Ajmer	Ajmer	Ajmer	11
279.	Nimbaheda SO	Chittorgarh	Chittorgarh	Ajmer	12
280.	Kapasan SO	Chittorgarh	Chittorgarh	Ajmer	13
281.	Sagwara SO	Dungarpur	Dungarpur	Ajmer	14
282.	Todarai Singh SO	Tonk	Tonk	Ajmer	15
283.	Uniara SO	Tonk	Tonk	Ajmer	16
284.	Deogarh SO	Udaipur	Udaipur	Ajmer	17
285.	Mavli Jn. MDG	Udaipur	Udaipur	Ajmer	18
286.	Kota HO	Kota	Kota	Ajmer	19
287.	Moti Doongri MDG	Alwar	Alwar	Jaipur	20
288.	Alwar HO	Alwar	Alwar	Jaipur	21
289.	Jawahar Nagar HO	Jawahar Nagar	Jawahar Nagar	Jaipur	22
290.	Deeg HO	Bharatpur	Bharatpur	Jaipur	23

1	2	3	4	5	6
291.	Sawai Madhopur HO	Sawalmadhapur	Sawalmadhapur	Jaipur	24
292.	Rajgarh SO	Alwar	Alwar	Jaipur	25
293.	Mansarovar SO	Jaipur City	Jaipur	Jaipur	26
294.	Shastri Nagar HO	Jaipur City	Jaipur	Jaipur	27
295.	Bhusawar SO	Bharatpur	Bharatpur	Jaipur	28
296.	Kaman SO	Bharatpur	Bharatpur	Jaipur	29
297.	Bharatpur HO	Bharatpur	Bharatpur	Jaipur	30
298.	Jodhpur HO	Jodhpur	Jodhpur	Jodhpur	31
299.	Sridungargarh SO	Bikaner	Bikaner	Jodhpur	32
300.	Sadalpur SO	Churu	Churu	Jodhpur	33
301.	Sujangarh SO	Churu	Churu	Jodhpur	34
302.	Pilani SO	Jhunjhunu	Jhunjhunu	Jodhpur	35
303.	Pokaran SO	Jodhpur	Jaisalmer	Jodhpur	36
304.	Merta City SO	Nagaur	Nagaur	Jodhpur	37
305.	Laxmangarh SO	Sikar	Sikar	Jodhpur	38
306.	Abu Road SO	Sirohi	Sirohi	Jodhpur	39
307.	Bhinmal SO	Sirohi	Jalore	Jodhpur	40
308.	Jaisalmer HO	Jodhpur	Jaisalmer	Jodhpur	41
309.	Chohtan SO	Barmer	Barmer	Jodhpur	42
310.	Sumerpur SO	Pali	Pali	Jodhpur	43
311.	Sriganganagar HO	Sriganganagar	Sriganganagar	Jodhpur	44
312.	Pali City SO	Pali	Pali	Jodhpur	45
313.	Nagaur City SO	Nagaur	Nagaur	Jodhpur	46

1	2	3	4	5	6
314.	Kutchery SO	Jodhpur	Jodhpur	Jodhpur	47
315.	Sirohi HO	Sirohi	Sirohi	Jodhpur	48
Tamil Nadu					
316.	Vridhdhachalam HO	Vridhdhachalam	Chennai	Central	1
317.	Nannilam SO	Nagapattinam	Chennai	Central	2
318.	Parangipetai SO	Cuddalore	Chennai	Central	3
319.	Vallam SO	Thanjavur	Tiruvallur	Central	4
320.	Musiri SO	Srirangam	Trichy	Central	5
321.	Karaikal SO	Nagapattinam	Karaikal	Central	6
322.	Bhuvanagiri SO	Cuddalore	Cuddalore	Central	7
323.	Tirukkoyilur SO	Vridhdhachalam	Villupuram	Central	8
324.	Koradachery SO	Kumbakonam	Tiruvarur	Central	9
325.	Udayarpalayam SO	Trichy	Ariyalur	Central	10
326.	Kulithalai SO	Karur	Karur	Central	11
327.	Viralimalai SO	Pudukottai	Pudukottai	Central	12
328.	Sirkali HO	Mayiladuthurai	Nagapattinam	Central	13
329.	Anna Nagar SO	Chennai City North	Chennai	Chennai City	14
330.	Bahoor SO	Pondicherry	Chennai	Chennai City	15
331.	St. Thomas Mount HO	Chennai City South	Chennai	Chennai City	16
332.	Kalpakkam SO	Chengalpattu	Chennai	Chennai City	17
333.	Tinwallaur HO	Kanchipuram	Tiruvallur	Chennai City	18
334.	Villupuram HO	Pondicherry	Tiruvallur	Chennai City	19
335.	Gingee SO	Pondicherry	Tiruvannamalai	Chennai City	20

1	2	3	4	5	6
336.	Tiruvottiyur	Tambaram	Tiruvallur	Chennai City	21
337.	Washermenpet SO	Chennai North	Chennai	Chennai City	22
338.	Chrompet SO	Tambaram	Chennai	Chennai City	23
339.	Sholinghur SO	Arakkonam	Vellore	Chennai City	24
340.	Kanchipuram HO	Kanchipuram	Kanchipuram	Chennai City	25
341.	Mudaliarpet SO	Pondicherry	Pondicherry UT	Chennai City	26
342.	Vandavasi SO	Tiruvannamalai	Tiruvannamalai	Chennai City	27
343.	Gandhinagar SO	Vellore	Vellore	Chennai City	28
344.	Anna Road HO	Anna Road HO Division	Chennai	Circle office	29
345.	Suchindram SO	Kanyakumari	Chennai	Southern	30
346.	Kalakad SO	Tirunelveli	Chennai	Southern	31
347.	Kodaikanal SO	Didigul	Chennai	Southern	32
348.	Rameswaram SO	Ramanathapuram	Chennai	Southern	33
349.	Arumuganeri SO	Tutucorin	Chennai	Southern	34
350.	Tirumangalam SO	Madurai	Tiruvallur	Southern	35
351.	Uthamapalayam SO	Theni	Tiruvallur	Southern	36
352.	Srivilliputhur SO	Virudhunagar	Tiruvallur	Southern	37
353.	Singampuneri SO	Kairalkudi	Chennai	Southern	38
354.	Ilyangudi	Sivaganga	Sivaganga	Southern	39
355.	Kanyakumari SO	Kanyakumari	Kanyakumari	Southern	40
356.	Tenkasi HO	Kovilpatti	Tirunelveli	Southern	41
357.	Palace SO	Madurai	Madurai	Southern	42
358.	Abiramam SO	Ramnad	Ramanathapuram	Southern	43

1	2	3	4	5	6
359.	Tiruppattur SO	Sivaganga	Sivaganga	Southern	44
360.	Theni SO	Theni	Theni	Southern	45
361.	Valliyur SO	Tirunelveli	Tirunelveli	Southern	46
362.	Srivaikundam HO	Tuticorin	Tuticorin	Southern	47
363.	Manamadurai HO	Sivaganga	Sivaganga	Southern	48
364.	Kallal	Sivaganga	Sivaganga	Southern	49
365.	Kalayarkoil	Sivaganga	Sivaganga	Southern	50
366.	Karaikudi HO	Karaikudi	Karaikudi	Southern	51
367.	Devakottai HO	Karaikudi	Karaikudi	Southern	52
368.	Alagappapuram SO	Karaikudi	Karaikudi	Southern	53
369.	Sivaganga HO	Sivaganga	Sivaganga	Southern	54
370.	Perundurai SO	Erode	Chennai	Western	55
371.	Denkanikotta SO	Dharmapuri	Chennai	Western	56
372.	Velur SO	Namakkal	Chennai	Western	57
373.	Valapadi SO	Salem East	Chennai	Western	58
374.	Wellington SO	Nilgiris	Chennai	Western	59
375.	Coimbatore HO	Coimbatore	Coimbatore	Western	60
376.	Coimbatore N.G.G.O Colony	Coimbatore	Coimbatore	Western	61
377.	Podanur SO	Coimbatore	Coimbatore	Western	62
378.	Chennimalai SO	Erode	Erode	Western	63
379.	Pandamangalam SO	Namakkal	Namakkal	Western	64
380.	Aravankadu SO	Nilgiris	Nilgiris	Western	65
381.	Valparai SO	Polfachi	Coimbatore	Western	66

1	2	3	4	5	6
382.	Rasipuram SO	Salem (W)	Namakkal	Western	67
Uttar Pradesh					
383.	Agra HO	Agra	Agra	Agra	1
384.	Anoopshahar SO	Bulandshahar	Bulandshahar	Agra	2
385.	Agra Fort HO	Agra	Agra	Agra	3
386.	Kasganj SO	Etah	Etah	Agra	4
387.	Aligarh HO	Aligarh	Aligarh	Agra	5
388.	Jhansi HO	Jhansi	Jhansi	Agra	6
389.	Lalitpur HO	Jhansi	Lalitpur	Agra	7
390.	KarhalSO	Mainpuri	Mainpuri	Agra	8
391.	Allahabad HO	Allahabad	Allahabad	Allahabad	9
392.	Pratapgarh HO	Pratapgarh	Pratapgarh	Allahabad	10
393.	Saidpur SO	Ghazipur	Ghazipur	Allahabad	11
394.	Allahabad Kutchery HO	Allahabad	Allahabad	Allahabad	12
395.	Varanasi HO	Varanasi East	Varanasi	Allahabad	13
396.	Varanasi Cantt. HO	Varanasi West	Varanasi	Allahabad	14
397.	NOIDA HO	Ghaziabad	Ghaziabad	Bareilly	15
398.	Meerut Cantt. HO	Meerut	Meerut	Bareilly	16
399.	Bareilly HO	Bareilly	Bareilly	Bareilly	17
400.	Kheri HO	Kheri	Kheri	Bareilly	18
401.	Bijnor HO	Bijnor	Bijnor	Bareilly	19
402.	Ghaziabad HO	Ghaziabad	Ghaziabad	Bareilly	20
403.	Moradabad HO	Moradabad	Moradabad	Bareilly	21

1	2	3	4	5	6
404.	Khatauli SO	Muzaffamagar	Muzaffamagar	Bareilly	22
405.	Shahjahanpur HO	Shahjahanpur	Shahjahanpur	Bareilly	23
406.	Balia HO	Balia	Balia	Gorakhpur	24
407.	Azamgarh HO	Azamgarh	Azamgarh	Gorakhpur	25
408.	Gorakhpur HO	Gorakhpur	Gorakhpur	Gorakhpur	26
409.	Kanpur HO	Kanpur City	Kanpur	Kanpur	27
410.	Kanpur Cantt. HO	Kanpur City	Kanpur	Kanpur	28
411.	Nawabganj HO	Kanpur City	Kanpur	Kanpur	29
412.	Lucknow Chowk HO	Lucknow	Lucknow	Lucknow	30
413.	Raebareli HO	Raebareli	Raebareli	Lucknow	31
414.	Laliganj HO	Raebareli	Raebareli	Lucknow	32
415.	Bacchrawan SO	Raebareli	Raebareli	Lucknow	33
416.	Maharajganj SO	Raebareli	Raebareli	Lucknow	34
417.	Mustafabad SO	Raebareli	Raebareli	Lucknow	35
418.	Unchachar SO	Raebareli	Raebareli	Lucknow	36
419.	Dalmau SO	Raebareli	Raebareli	Lucknow	37
420.	Gauri Ganj SO	Sultanpur	Sultanpur	Lucknow	38
421.	Musaffirkhana SO	Sultanpur	Sultanpur	Lucknow	39
422.	Bazar Baldrai SO	Sultanpur	Sultanpur	Lucknow	40
423.	Jais SO	Raebareli	Raebareli	Lucknow	41
424.	Salon SO	Raebareli	Raebareli	Lucknow	42
425.	Sheoratanganj SO	Raebareli	Raebareli	Lucknow	43
426.	Semrauta SO	Raebareli	Raebareli	Lucknow	44
427.	Bhadar SO	Sultanpur	Sultanpur	Lucknow	45

1	2	3	4	5	6
Uttarakhand					
428.	Almora HSGI HO	Almora	Almora	Uttarakhand	1
429.	Ranikhet HSGI HO	Almora	Almora	Uttarakhand	2
430.	Bageshwar HSGI MDG	Almora	Bageshwar	Uttarakhand	3
431.	Gopeshwar HSGI HO	Chamoli	Chamoli	Uttarakhand	4
432.	Rudra Prayag HSGI MDG	Chamoli	RudraPrayag	Uttarakhand	5
433.	Dehradun Cantt HSGI HO	Dehradun	Dehradun	Uttarakhand	6
434.	Dehradun GPO	Dehradun	Dehradun	Uttarakhand	7
435.	Roorkee HSGI HO	Dehradun	Hardwar	Uttarakhand	8
436.	Rishikesh HSGI MDG	Dehradun	Dehradun	Uttarakhand	9
437.	Nainital HSGI HO	Nainital	Nainital	Uttarakhand	10
438.	Haldwani HSGI HO	Nainital	Nainital	Uttarakhand	11
439.	Rudrapur HSGI MDG	Nainital	U.S. Nagar	Uttarakhand	12
440.	Kashipur HSGI MDG	Nainital	U.S. Nagar	Uttarakhand	13
441.	Pauri HSGI HO	Pauri	Pauri	Uttarakhand	14
442.	Kotdwar HSGI HO	Pauri	Pauri	Uttarakhand	15
443.	Lansdowne HSGI HO	Pauri	Pauri	Uttarakhand	16
444.	Srinagar HSGII SO	Pauri	Pauri	Uttarakhand	17
445.	Pithoragarh HSGI HO	Pithoragarh	Pithoragarh	Uttarakhand	18
446.	Champawat HSGI MDG	Pithoragarh	Champawat	Uttarakhand	19
447.	Lohaghat LSG SO	Pithoragarh	Champawat	Uttarakhand	20
448.	New Tehri HSGI HO	Tehri	Tehri	Uttarakhand	21
449.	Uttarkashi HSGI MDG	Tehri	Uttarkashi	Uttarakhand	22
450.	Joshimath LSG SO	Chamoli	Chamoli	Uttarakhand	23

[Translation]

Welfare Fund/Scheme for workers

391. SHRI AJIT JOGI : Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of men and women workers and labourers of urban and rural areas at present engaged in the unorganised sector, separately, State-wise;

(b) whether most of the workers in the unorganised sector are not covered under any welfare fund/scheme;

(c) if so, whether there is any proposal to initiate any welfare fund/scheme for such workers including Beedi Workers in the unorganised sector;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether there is regular demand for creation of welfare fund for the workers in the Agriculture Sector, Beedi Industry, Salt Industry, Fish Processing Industry and Fishery Farms; and

(f) if so, the reaction of the Government thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES) : (a) According to the survey conducted by the National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO) in 2004-05, the total number of workers in both the urban and rural areas in the country was 45.9 crore. Out of these, 43.3 crore (94%) were in the unorganized sector and remaining 2.6 crore (6%) were in the organized sector. The break up of number of men and women in Unorganised Sector is not available.

(b) to (f) The Government has constituted Welfare Funds for certain occupations in the unorganized sector, like Beedi, Cine and certain Non-Coal Mine workers. Under these Welfare Funds, welfare schemes, providing for health care, housing, and education to the children etc. have been formulated. However, it is true that most of the workers in the unorganized sector are not provided social security. Recognising the need for such social security, the Government has introduced the Unorganised Sector Workers' Social Security Bill, 2007 in Rajya Sabha on 10.09.2007. The Bill, inter alia, provides for formulation of welfare scheme for unorganized sector workers. Funds will

be allocated on formulation of such schemes but creation of a separate fund was not felt necessary.

[English]

Nitrate Contents in Ground Water

392. SHRI UDAY SINGH : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state

(a) whether substantial amount of Nitrate in the ground water has been reported from some parts in the country resulting in the risk of contracting fatal diseases;

(b) if so, the details thereof indicating the features of the report of Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) in this regard;

(c) whether the Government in collaborating with foreign experts to free ground water from nitrate pollution; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKAASH NARAYAN YADAV) : (a) and (b) Nitrate in ground water has been reported by Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) in localized pockets in certain parts of the States of Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Orissa, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu and Uttar Pradesh.

(c) and (d) Foreign experts have not been engaged by CGWB for works relating to nitrate pollution.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : The House stands adjourned till 12 noon.

11.02 hrs

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned till
Twelve of the Clock.*

12.00 hrs.

The Lok Sabha re-assembled at Twelve of the Clock.

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

(At this stage, Shri Sansuma Khunggur Bwiswmuthlary and some other hon. Members came and stood on the floor near the Table.)

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : I will listen to you one by one.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I will listen to you one by one. Now, Papers to be laid on the Table of the House. Shri P. Chidambaram.

...(Interruptions)

12.01 hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : I beg to lay on the Table:-

(1) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under section 296 of the Income Tax Act, 1961:-

- (i) The Income-Tax (Fourth Amendment) Rules, 2008 published in Notification No. S.O. 493(E) in Gazette of India dated the 13th March, 2008, together with an explanatory memorandum.
- (ii) The Income-Tax (Fifth Amendment) Rules, 2008 published in Notification No. S.O. 547(E) in Gazette of India dated the 24th March, 2008, together with an explanatory memorandum.
- (iii) The Income-Tax (Sixth Amendment) Rules, 2008 published in Notification No. S.O. 752(E) in Gazette of India dated the 28th March, 2008, together with an explanatory memorandum.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT - 8916/08]

(2) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi

and English versions) issued under section 10 of the Income Tax Act, 1961:-

- (i) S.O. 82(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 14th January, 2008 together with an explanatory memorandum specifying Tax Free Pooled Finance Development Bonds under Pooled Finance Development Fund Scheme to be issued by Water and Sanitation Pooled Fund, Tamil Nadu.
- (ii) S.O. 91(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 15th January, 2008 together with an explanatory memorandum specifying the Commonwealth Games Federation as the person and the Commonwealth games, 2010 to be held in India as the International Sporting even for the purpose of Section 10(39) of the Income-Tax Act, 1961.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT - 8917/08]

- (3) A copy of the Industrial Park (Amendment) Scheme, 2008 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. S.O. 1605(E) in Gazette of India dated the 2nd July, 2008, together with an explanatory memorandum, issued under sub-section (4) of Section 80-IA of the Income-Tax Act, 1961.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT - 8918/08]

- (4) A copy of the Notification No. S.O. 2037(E) (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated the 13th August, 2008 together with an explanatory memorandum specifying the Cost Inflation Index as 582 for the Financial Year 2008-2009 for the purposes of Section 48 of the Income-Tax Act, 1961, issued under said section of Income-Tax Act, 1961.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT - 8919/08]

- (5) A copy of the Notification No. S.O. 2115(E) (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated the 27th August, 2008 together with an explanatory memorandum providing the benefits of Section 80-IC(2)(a)(ii) of the Income-Tax Act, 1961 to some areas of

the State of Himachal Pradesh, issued under sub-section (2) of Section 80-IC of the Income-Tax Act, 1961.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT – 8920/08]

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

Shri Pranab Mukherjee.

...(Interruptions)

12.02 hrs.

STATEMENT BY MINISTER

India's Civil Nuclear Energy Initiative

[English]

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : Sir, with your permission, I want to give a statement on India's Civil Nuclear Energy Initiative.

Sir, with your permission, I beg to lay the statement on the Table of the House....(Interruptions).

I would like to inform this august House about recent developments in our civil nuclear initiative. In the three months since this matter was last considered in Parliament, we have made considerable progress.

The India-specific Safeguards Agreement with the IAEA was approved unanimously by the IAEA Board of Governors on 1st August 2008. As approved, the Safeguards Agreement reflects the key understandings upon which our civil nuclear initiative is based and enables their implementation. We will bring the agreement into force and offer facilities for safeguards in a phased manner in accordance with the provisions of the Safeguards Agreement and in keeping with our Separation Plan.

On 6th September 2008 the Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG) adopted a decision by consensus which enables its members to engage in full civil nuclear cooperation with India. This decision opens the door for India to resume civil nuclear cooperation with the international community to meet its energy and development requirements. As I had mentioned in my statement in this House last July, the IAEA

approval and the NSG decision provide us the passport which allows us to engage in civil nuclear cooperation with our international partners. We are now in the process of getting visas by engaging with our international partners to negotiate and finalise bilateral cooperation agreements.

On September 30, 2008 we signed an Agreement for Cooperation in Civil Nuclear Energy with France during PM's visit to France. On October 10, 2008 I signed the Agreement for Cooperation between the Government of India and the Government of the United States of America concerning Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy (also known as the 123 Agreement), with the US Secretary of State Dr. Condoleezza Rice in Washington. We hope to sign a cooperation agreement with Russia when President Medvedev visits India in December later this year.

These agreements represent a careful balance of rights and obligations. Cooperation with our international partners will be carried out on the basis of the terms and provisions of these agreements. The agreements that we have signed with the US and France and will be signing with Russia provide for cooperation in various aspects of nuclear fuel cycle. They include the fuel supply assurances which are the basis of our civil nuclear initiative as well as our right to build our strategic fuel reserves, to ensure the uninterrupted operation of our civil nuclear reactors under IAEA safeguards. These Agreements and the India-specific safeguards Agreement also provide for India to take corrective measures if necessary. These are interlocking provisions which protect our rights fully.

It has also been ensured in these agreements that we have the right to reprocess the nuclear material that we obtain from our international partners. We will also be setting up a new national reprocessing facility and taking other steps necessary to operationalise these agreements and realize the full potential of the civil nuclear initiative.

All these agreements are fully consistent with India's national interest, with the assurances that PM had given to Parliament and that Government has made to the people of India. Taken together the India-specific Safeguards Agreement, the NSG decision and the bilateral cooperation agreements provide the basis for us to engage in international cooperation in civil nuclear energy on a long term and sustainable basis with interested international partners. We regard these decisions as a vindication and

[Shri Pranab Mukherjee]

recognition of India's impeccable non-proliferation credentials. When the enabling bilateral cooperation agreements are brought into force they will provide the legal framework to negotiate and finalise commercial arrangements to source nuclear fuel for our strategic fuel reserve as well as other nuclear equipment and technologies covering the nuclear fuel cycle. We will honour our commitments and implement these agreements in good faith and in accordance with the principles of international law and have no doubt that our partners will similarly discharge their commitments and obligations.

In achieving this result the Government has ensured that they only relate to cooperation in civilian nuclear energy and that our strategic programme and our indigenous research are not affected. Our three stage indigenous nuclear programme will continue as envisaged by Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru and Dr. Homi Bhabha. The bilateral cooperation agreements that we have signed with the US and France as well as the India-specific Safeguards Agreement include specific provisions which ensure that there will be no hindrance to our strategic programme and that we retain the freedom to take action with regard to our strategic programme even as we engage in international cooperation in civil nuclear energy.

Sir, allow me to use this opportunity to elaborate why Government considers this initiative a historic contribution to our nation building effort, in respect of energy, sustainable development, technology and other aspects.

First, it enhances our development options. We are all aware that the availability of clean, affordable and sustainable sources of energy is a critical requirement if we hope to maintain healthy economic growth and abolish poverty. Today, the shortage of energy hampers our efforts to rapidly develop our economy. Hon'ble Members are well aware of the strain put on our economy and on the daily lives of the people by the rise in the global prices of crude oil earlier this year. We must develop and utilize energy sources which are clean and do not contribute to climate change or global warming. We are and will continue to develop renewable sources of energy such as bio-fuels, solar and wind energy as well as other sources like hydel power. Nuclear energy offers us an economically and

environmentally viable alternative. With the international cooperation that is now available, we will be in a position to bring additional generating capacity through nuclear power into our energy mix. It will also help our indigenous nuclear programme to grow rapidly. Today we have about 4000 MW of installed capacity in nuclear power. Even the existing plants are operating at a much lower level than their capacity due to a shortage of uranium. With the opening up of international nuclear trade and commerce we will have new opportunities to expand our nuclear power capacity.

Today, our total power generation capacity is about 1,45,000 megawatts. If we wish to sustain an annual GDP growth rate of 9-10 per cent then by 2030, our projected energy deficit would be 1,50,000 megawatts. If we go a little more in future, that is by 2050, our energy deficit would be 4,12,000 megawatts. In working out these figures, we have taken into account thermal power, coal, petrol and diesel, hydel power, and non-conventional energy sources like wind, solar, etc. Even after their fullest exploitation, the projected deficit would remain. Nuclear power is the only effective way to bridge this gap. As per some studies, if we start work today on nuclear power, to produce 40,000 megawatts of energy in the period of eight years from 2012 to 2020, then within 22 years, that is by 2030, we will be able to reduce the deficit to only 50,000 megawatts as against the deficit of 1,50,000 megawatts. Thereafter, we will be able to reduce the energy deficit in 2050 from 4,12,000 megawatts to only 7,000 megawatts.

Second, this initiative marks the end of the technology-denial regimes which have restricted India for over three decades. These developments are the beginning of a new chapter for India – of engagement as equal partners in civil nuclear energy cooperation with other countries. As we move forward it will help us to expand high technology trade with technologically advanced countries.

Third, it is an acknowledgment of the scientific and technological achievements of our scientists whose tireless efforts in the face of adverse conditions laid the basis for this initiative. It is their efforts that have made it possible for the world today to recognize India as a state with advanced nuclear technology. Hon'ble Members are aware that the embargoes in the nuclear field that were in place

against us had hampered the efforts of our scientists to fully participate in international exchanges. With this initiative they will be able to engage with their counterparts in exchange of scientific ideas and technical know how and contribute to the global effort to deal with the world-wide challenges of energy security and climate change; and

Finally, the initiative is an acknowledgment of India's role as a responsible power in international affairs on global stage. It is for us to utilize this opportunity with confidence as we pursue our national interests.

Sir, during the course of negotiations on the civil nuclear initiative questions were raised whether we would be able to maintain the independence of our foreign policy. As I have said on earlier occasions, let me reiterate once again that we will never compromise on our independent foreign policy. Our foreign policy will be determined at all times by our own assessment of our national interest. This initiative in no way constrains our ability to pursue an independent foreign policy. It does not in any way affects our strategic autonomy. In fact it does the opposite by increasing our foreign policy options. The NSG decision by opening up the possibility for us to engage in civil nuclear cooperation with other countries actually enhances our choices to engage as an equal partner with the international community. The ultimate objective of our foreign policy is to create conditions conducive to our growth so that we can meet our developmental objectives. In this respect I can say emphatically that this initiative creates more space for us to pursue a foreign policy which serves our national interest.

In conclusion, the civil nuclear initiative is a landmark achievement which not only allows us to meet our future energy requirements in a sustainable manner but is also one which acknowledges India's growing role in global affairs. I am sure that you all will agree with me that it is time for us to look ahead and move forward with confidence to occupy our new and well deserved position in the Comity of Nations.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT - 8969/08]

[English]

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

12.02½ hrs.

(At this stage, Shri Sansuma Khungur Bwiswmuthiary and some other hon. Members went back to their seats.)

...(Interruptions)

12.02¼ hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE (Contd.)

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI A. RAJA) : I beg to lay of the Table a copy of the Indian Post Office (Fifth Amendment) Rules, 2008 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 588(E) in Gazette of India dated the 11th August, 2008 under sub-section (4) of Section 74 of the Indian Post Office Act, 1898.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT - 8921/08]

THE MINISTER OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS (SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA) : I beg to lay on the Table:-

- (1) A copy of the 51st Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) on the Working and Annual Administration of the Companies Act, 1956 for the year ended 31st March, 2007 under section 638 of the Companies Act, 1956.
- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT - 8922/08]

- (3) A copy of the Company Secretaries (Election to the Council) Amendment Rules, 2008 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 552(E) in Gazette of India dated the 24th July, 2008 under section 40 of the Company Secretaries Act, 1980.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT - 8923/08]

[Shri Prem Chand Gupta]

(4) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under section 30B of the Chartered Accountants Act, 1949:—

- (i) The Chartered Accountants (Election to the Council) Amendment Rules, 2008 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 553(E) in Gazette of India dated the 24th July, 2008.
- (ii) Notification No. 1-CA(7)/109/2008 published in Gazette of India dated the 5th March, 2008 determining the fee for entry in the Register of Members.
- (iii) Notification No. 1-CA(7)/110/2008 published in Gazette of India dated the 5th March, 2008 determining the additional fee for entry of names in the Register as a fellow.
- (iv) Notification No. 1-CA(7)/112/2008 published in Gazette of India dated the 4th March, 2008 determining the annual membership fee payable by every Member together with a Corrigendum thereto published in Notification No. 1-CA(7)/112/2008(40) (in English version only) dated the 18th March, 2008.
- (v) Notification No. 1-CA(7)/113/2008 published in Gazette of India dated the 5th March, 2008 determining the additional fee for entry again in the Register of Members.
- (vi) Notification No. 1-CA(7)/121/2008 published in Gazette of India dated the 19th August, 2008 empowering the Council of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India to designate head of Disciplinary Directorate.

(vii) The Chartered Accountants (Amendment) Regulations, 2008 published in Notification No. 1-CA(7)/116/2008 in Gazette of India dated the 25th September, 2008.

(5) Five statements (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at item Nos. (ii) to (vi) of (4) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT – 8924/08]

(6) A copy of the Cost and Works Accountants (Election to the Council) Amendment Rules, 2008 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 554(E) in Gazette of India dated the 24th July, 2008 under section 40 of the Cost and Works Accountants Act, 1959.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT – 8925/08]

(7) A copy of the Competition Appellate Tribunal (Term of the Selection Committee and the manner of selection of panel of names) Rules, 2008 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 387(E) in Gazette of India dated the 19th May, 2008 under sub-section (3) of Section 63 of the Competition Act, 2002.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT – 8926/08]

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ) : I beg to lay on the Table:—

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Brahmaputra Board, Guwahati, for the year 2006-2007 alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Brahmaputra Board, Guwahati, for the year 2006-2007.

- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT - 8927/08]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES) : I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Financial Estimates and Performance Budget (Hindi and English versions) of the Employees' State Insurance Corporation for the year 2008-2009.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT - 8928/08]

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I will hear all of you one by one.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA) : I beg to lay on the Table:-

- (1) A copy of the Notification No. 5-20/2007-CAU (Hindi and English versions) published in weekly Gazette of India dated the 25th January, 2008 making second amendments to the statutes of Central Agricultural University, Imphal, under section 26 of the Central Agricultural University Act, 1992.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT - 8929/08]

- (2) A copy of the Plant Quarantine (Regulation of Import into India) Amendment Order, 2006 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. S.O. 1121 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 17th July, 2006 issued under sub-section (1) of Section 3 of the Destructive Insects and Pests Act, 1914.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT - 8930/08]

- (3) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) Section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956:-

(a) (i) Review by Government of the working of the Andhra Pradesh State Agro Industries Development Corporation Limited, Hyderabad, for the year 2006-2007.

(ii) Annual Report of the Andhra Pradesh State Agro Industries Development Corporation Limited, Hyderabad, for the year 2006-2007, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT - 8931/08]

(b) (i) Review by Government of the working of the Himachal Pradesh Agro Industries Corporation Limited, Shimla, for the year 2006-2007.

(ii) Annual Report of the Himachal Pradesh Agro Industries Corporation Limited, Shimla, for the year 2006-2007, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT - 8932/08]

(c) (i) Review by Government of the working of the Madhya Pradesh State Agro Industries Development Corporation Limited, Bhopal, for the year 2005-2006.

(ii) Annual Report of the Madhya Pradesh State Agro Industries Development Corporation Limited, Bhopal, for the year 2005-2006, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Shri Kantilal Bhuria]

- (4) Three statements (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (3) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT – 8933/08]

- (5) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (3) of Section 3 of the Agriculture Produce Grading and Marking Act, 1937:—

- (i) The Mahua Flower Grading and Marking Rules, 2008 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 615(E) in Gazette of India dated the 28th August, 2008.
- (ii) The General Grading and Marking (Amendment) Rules, 2008 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 598(E) in Gazette of India dated the 18th August, 2008.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT – 8934/08]

- (6) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (6) of Section 3 of the Essential Commodities Act, 1955:—

- (i) S.O. 1935(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 4th August, 2008 making certain amendments in the Notification No. S.O. 1258(E) dated 4th August, 2006.
- (ii) S.O. 1900(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 31st July, 2008 notifying the specification of Customised fertilizer, mentioned therein, for a period of three years to be manufactured by the manufacturers mentioned in the Notification.
- (iii) S.O. 1243(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 28th May, 2008 notifying the specification of imported Triple Super Phosphate for a period of two years from

the date of publication of the Notification.

- (iv) S.O. 1740(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 22nd July, 2008 fixing the specification in respect of the following provisional fertilizers to be manufacture by M/s. Coromandal Fertilisers Limited for a period of three years from the date of publication of the Notification.
- (v) The Fertiliser (Control) Second Amendment Order, 2008, published in Notification No. S.O. 1741(E) in Gazette of India dated the 22nd July, 2008.
- (vi) S.O. 836(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 10th April, 2008 fixing the specifications in respect of the provisional fertilizers Bentonite Sulphur with Zinc to be manufactured by M/s. Coromandal Fertilisers Limited, Secundrabad, Andhra Pradesh, for a period of three years from the date of publication of the Notification.
- (vii) The Fertiliser Control (Amendment) Order, 2008, published in Notification No. S.O. 837(E) in Gazette of India dated the 10th April, 2008.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT – 8935/08]

- (7) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Horticulture Board, Gurgaon, 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 Horticulture Board, Gurgaon, 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 – 8936/08]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI TASLIMUDDIN) : I beg to lay on the Table:—

- (1) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under section 50 of the National Dairy Development Board Act, 1987:—
- (i) The National Dairy Development Board Officers (Appointment, Pay and Allowances) (Amendment) Regulations, 2008 published in Notification No. DEL: NDDB 01/08 in Gazette of India dated the 1st May, 2008.
 - (ii) The National Dairy Development Board Workmen (Appointment, Pay and Allowances) (Amendment) Regulations, 2008 published in Notification No. DEL: NDDB 01/08 in Gazette of India dated the 1st May, 2008.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT - 8937/08]

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : I will hear you one by one. I promise that I will hear you one by one. Please cooperate. I will hear you.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I will listen to you one by one.

...(Interruptions)

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL) : Sir, on behalf of Shri S.S. Palanimanickam, I beg to lay on the Table:—

- (1) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section

(2) of section 38 of the Central Excise Act, 1944:—

- (i) G.S.R. 333(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 5th May, 2008 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to rescind Notification No. 55/2001-Cus., dated the 16th May, 2001.
- (ii) G.S.R. 334(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 5th May, 2008 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 52/2003-Cus., dated the 31st March, 2003.
- (iii) G.S.R. 335(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 5th May, 2008 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the two Notifications mentioned therein.
- (iv) G.S.R. 490(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 1st July, 2008 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to notify pan masala, except the pan masala containing not more than 15% betel nut, and pan masala containing tobacco, manufactured with the aid of packing machine and packed in pouches for the purposes of Section 3A of the Central Excise Act, 1944.
- (v) The Pan Masala Packing Machines (Capacity Determination And Collection of Duty) Rules, 2008, published in Notification No. G.S.R. 491(E) in Gazette of India dated the 1st July, 2008 together with an explanatory memorandum.
- (vi) The Pan Masala Packing Machines (Capacity Determination And Collection of Duty) (Amendment) Rules, 2008 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 528(E) in Gazette of India dated the 15th July, 2008 together with an explanatory memorandum.

[Shri Pawan Kumar Bansal]

- (vii) G.S.R. 221(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 27th March, 2008 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 39/2001-C.E., dated the 31st July, 2001.
- (viii) G.S.R. 222(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 27th March, 2008 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 32/99-C.E., dated the 8th July, 1999.
- (ix) G.S.R. 223(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 27th March, 2008 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 33/99-C.E., dated the 8th July, 1999.
- (x) G.S.R. 224(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 27th March, 2008 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 56/2002-C.E., dated the 14th November, 2002.
- (xi) G.S.R. 225(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 27th March, 2008 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 20/2007-C.E., dated the 25th April, 2007.
- (xii) G.S.R. 226(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 27th March, 2008 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 56/2003-C.E., dated the 25th June, 2003.
- (xiii) G.S.R. 227(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 27th March, 2008 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 57/2002-C.E., dated the 14th November, 2002.
- (xiv) G.S.R. 228(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 27th March, 2008 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 71/2003-C.E., dated the 9th September, 2003.
- (xv) G.S.R. 597(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 14th August, 2008 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 6/2006-C.E., dated the 6th March, 2006.
- (xvi) G.S.R. 629(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 1st September, 2008 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 8/2003-C.E., dated the 1st March, 2003.
- (xvii) G.S.R. 634(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 2nd September, 2008 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to fully exempt from basic excise duty, goods donated or purchased out of cash donations for the relief and rehabilitation of people affected by the floods in Bihar, subject to certain conditions.
- (xviii) G.S.R. 316(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 29th April, 2008 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 6/2006-C.E., dated the 1st March, 2006.
- (xix) G.S.R. 361(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 10th May, 2008 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 4/2006-C.E., dated the 1st March, 2006.

- (xx) G.S.R. 362(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 10th May, 2008 together with an explanatory memorandum resending Notification No. 14/2008-C.E., dated the 1st March, 2008.
- (xxi) G.S.R. 410(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 28th May, 2008 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 3/2005-C.E., dated the 24th February, 2005.
- (xxii) G.S.R. 426(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 4th June, 2008 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 4/2006-C.E., dated the 1st March, 2006.
- (xxiii) G.S.R. 439(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 10th June, 2008 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 32/99-C.E., dated the 8th July, 1999.
- (xxiv) G.S.R. 440(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 10th June, 2008 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 33/99-C.E., dated the 8th July, 1999.
- (xxv) G.S.R. 441(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 10th June, 2008 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 39/2001-C.E., dated the 31st July, 2001.
- (xxvi) G.S.R. 442(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 10th June, 2008 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 56/2002-C.E., dated the 14th November, 2002.
- (xxvii) G.S.R. 443(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 10th June, 2008 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 57/2002-C.E., dated the 14th November, 2002.
- (xxviii) G.S.R. 444(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 10th June, 2008 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 56/2003-C.E., dated the 25th June, 2003.
- (xxix) G.S.R. 445(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 10th June, 2008 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 71/2003-C.E., dated the 9th September, 2003.
- (xxx) G.S.R. 446(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 10th June, 2008 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 20/2007-C.E., dated the 25th April, 2007.
- (xxxi) G.S.R. 461(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 13th June, 2008 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 6/2006-C.E., dated the 1st March, 2006.
- (xxxii) G.S.R. 483(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 27th June, 2008 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 63/95-C.E., dated the 16th March, 1995.
- (xxxiii) G.S.R. 492(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 1st July, 2008 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to specify the rate of duty of excise to be levied on pan masala, except the pan masala containing not more than 15%

[Shri Pawan Kumar Bansal]

betel nut, and pan masala containing tobacco, manufactured with the aid of packing machine and packed in pouches.

(xxxiv) G.S.R. 527(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 15th July, 2008 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 42/2008-C.E., dated the 1st July, 2008.

(xxxv) G.S.R. 580(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 6th August, 2008 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 4/2006-C.E., dated the 1st March, 2008.

(xxxvi) The Central Excise (Third Amendment) Rules, 2008 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 397(E) in Gazette of India dated the 23rd May, 2008 together with an explanatory memorandum.

(xxxvii) G.S.R. 330(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 2nd May, 2008 together with an explanatory memorandum ordering non-reversal of Cenvat Credit taken by the manufactures and buyers of metalized plastic films, till 12-02-2004, irrespective of the fact that the process of metalization of duty paid film was held as not amounting to manufacture by the Supreme Court in the case of M/s Metlex (I) Pvt Limited.

(2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at item Nos. (vii) to (xiv) of (1) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT – 8938/08]

(3) A copy of the Notification No. G.S.R. 460(E)(Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated the 13th June, 2008 together with

an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the first schedule of the Central Excise Tariff Act, 1985, issued under sub-section (1) of section 3 of the said Act.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT – 8939/08]

(4) A copy of the Notification No. G.S.R. 398(E)(Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated the 23rd May, 2008 together with an explanatory memorandum specifying the form of monthly return, mentioned therein, in respect of goods, manufactured, goods cleared and receipt of inputs and capital goods, issued under sub-rule (3) of Rule 17 of the Central Excise Rules, 2002.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT – 8940/08]

(5) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (4) of section 94 of the Finance Act, 1994:—

(i) The Service Tax (Second Amendment) Rules, 2008 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 364(E) in Gazette of India dated the 10th May, 2008 together with an explanatory memorandum.

(ii) The Export of Services (Second Amendment) Rules, 2008 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 365(E) in Gazette of India dated the 10th May, 2008 together with an explanatory memorandum.

(iii) The Taxation of Services (Provided from Outside India and Received in India) Second Amendment Rules, 2008 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 366(E) in Gazette of India dated the 10th May, 2008 together with an explanatory memorandum.

(iv) G.S.R. 367(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 10th May, 2008 together

with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 1/2006-Service Tax dated the 1st March, 2006.

- (v) G.S.R. 368(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 10th May, 2008 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the three Notifications mentioned therein.
- (vi) G.S.R. 369(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 10th May, 2008 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 41/2007-Service Tax dated the 6th October, 2007.
- (vii) G.S.R. 405(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 27th May, 2008 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 1/2006-Service Tax dated the 1st March, 2006.
- (viii) G.S.R. 482(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 26th June, 2008 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to exempt from levy of service tax on supply of transport vehicles to a goods transport agency to be used for transport of goods by road from the whole of service tax leviable thereon.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT - 8941/08]

- (6) A copy of the Notification No. G.S.R. 363(E)(Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated the 10th May, 2008 together with an explanatory memorandum appointing 16th May of 2008 as the date on which the provisions of the Finance Act, 2008 shall come into force, issued under clauses (A) and (B) of section 90 of the said Act.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT - 8942/08]

- (7) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (7) of section 9A of the Customs Tariff Act, 1975:--

- (i) G.S.R. 264(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 4th April, 2008 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to extend levy of anti-dumping duty imposed on imports of Vitamin E, originating in or exported from the People's Republic of China upto and inclusive of 16th March, 2009, pending finalization of Sunset Review Investigations being conducted by the Directorate General of Anti-dumping and Allied duties.
- (ii) G.S.R. 276(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 10th April, 2008 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to impose provisional anti-dumping duty on imports of Diclofenac Sodium, origination in, or exported from, the People's Republic of China and imported into India.
- (iii) G.S.R. 283(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 11th April, 2008 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to impose provisional anti-dumping duty on imports of Sulphur Black in all forms and strength, originating in, or exported from, the People's Republic of China and imported into India.
- (iv) G.S.R. 284(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 11th April, 2008 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to impose anti-dumping duty on imports of Sodium Nitrite, originating in, or exported from, the European Union, at the rates recommended by the Designated Authority in final findings of Sunset Review Investigation.

[Shri Pawan Kumar Bansal]

- (v) G.S.R. 296(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 21st April, 2008 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to extend the levy of anti-dumping duty on import of steel or fibre glass measuring tapes, their parts and components, originating in or exported from the People's Republic of China, based on the recommendation of the Designated Authority, upto and inclusive of 3rd October, 2008.
- (vi) G.S.R. 308(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 28th April, 2008 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to impose anti-dumping duty on imports of Hydrofluoric acid, originating in, or exported from, the People's Republic of China and imported into India at the rates recommended by the Designated Authority in final findings of Sunset Review Investigation.
- (vii) G.S.R. 309(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 28th April, 2008 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to impose anti-dumping duty on imports of Pentaerythritol, originating in, or exported from, Chinese Taipei and Japan and imported into India at the rates recommended by the Designated Authority in final findings of Sunset Review Investigation.
- (viii) G.S.R. 327(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 1st May, 2008 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 73/2003-Cus., dated the 1st May, 2003.
- (ix) G.S.R. 328(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 1st May, 2008 together with an explanatory memorandum rescinding

Notification No. 59/2007-Cus., dated the 30th April, 2007.

- (x) G.S.R. 337(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 5th May, 2008 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to impose provisional anti-dumping duty on imports of Rubber Chemicals, originating in, or exported from, the People's Republic of China and Korea RP and imported into India.
- (xi) G.S.R. 378(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 16th May, 2008 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 15/2007-Cus., dated the 20th February, 2007.
- (xii) G.S.R. 379(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 16th May, 2008 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to impose provisional anti-dumping duty on import of fully drawn yarn or fully printed yarn or spin drawn yarn or flat yarn of polyester of any specification, produced and exported by M/s H.K Corporation, Korea RP.
- (xiii) G.S.R. 419(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 2nd June, 2008 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to impose anti-dumping duty on import of Nylon tyre cord fabric from the Republic's of China when exported by M/s Junma Tyre Cord Company Limited, in view of the New Shipper Review notified by the Designated Authority.
- (xiv) G.S.R. 420(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 2nd June, 2008 together with an explanatory memorandum rescinding Notification No. 84/2006-Cus., dated the 29th August, 2006.

- (xv) G.S.R. 447(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 10th June, 2008 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to impose final anti-dumping duty on imports of Acetone, originating in, or exported from, Korea ROK into India.
- (xvi) G.S.R. 450(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 11th June, 2008 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 37/2004-Cus., dated the 20th February, 2004.
- (xvii) G.S.R. 457(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 13th June, 2008 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to amend Second Schedule of the Customs Tariffs Act, 1975 so as to increase export duty on Iron ores, all shorts, to 20%.
- (xviii) G.S.R. 484(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 27th June, 2008 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to extend levy of anti-dumping duty on Graphite electrodes originating in or exported from China-PR for a period of one year *i.e.* up to 6th July, 2009.
- (xix) G.S.R. 485(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 27th June, 2008 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to impose definitive anti-dumping duty on imports of vitrified and porcelain tiles, other than vitrified industrial tiles, originating in, or exported from, the People's Republic of China at the rates recommended by the Designated Authority in final findings of Sunset Review Investigation.
- (xx) G.S.R. 516(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 11th July, 2008 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 54/2004-Cus., dated the 19th April, 2004.
- (xxi) G.S.R. 533(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 16th July, 2008 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to provide no anti-dumping duty shall be imposed on imports into India of vitrified and porcelain tiles during the specified period from the specified producers and exporters from the People's Republic of China and Hong Kong.
- (xxii) G.S.R. 534(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 16th July, 2008 together with an explanatory memorandum rescinding Notification No. 39/2007-Cus., dated the 9th March, 2007.
- (xxiii) G.S.R. 551(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 23rd July, 2008 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to impose provisional anti-dumping duty on digital versatile discs recordable, of all kinds, originating in or exported from China PR, Hong Kong and Chinese Taipei.
- (xxiv) G.S.R. 556(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 24th July, 2008 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to impose provisional anti-dumping duty on cathode ray colour television picture tubes, originating in or exported from Malaysia, Thailand, China PR and Korea RP.
- (xxv) G.S.R. 565(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 30th July, 2008 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to impose definitive anti-dumping duty on imports of Diclofenac sodium, originating in, or exported from, the People's Republic of China and imported into India.
- (xxvi) G.S.R. 566(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 30th July, 2008 together with an explanatory memorandum rescinding Notification No. 46/2008-Cus., dated the 10th April, 2008.

[Shri Pawan Kumar Bansal]

(xxvii) G.S.R. 570(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 1st August, 2008 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 82/2008-Cus., dated the 27th June, 2008.

(xxviii) G.S.R. 614(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 27th August, 2008 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to impose definitive anti-dumping duty on imports of Ceftriaxone Sodium Sterile, originating in, or exported from, the People's Republic of China and imported into India.

(xxix) G.S.R. 626(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 29th August, 2008 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 101/2004-Cus., dated the 29th September, 2004.

(xxx) G.S.R. 641(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 4th September, 2008 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to impose final anti-dumping duty on imports of Hydrogen Peroxide, originating in, or exported from, the People's Republic of China, European Union, Indonesia, Korea ROK and Turkey and imported into India.

(xxxi) G.S.R. 642(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 4th September, 2008 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to extend the levy of anti-dumping duty, on plastic ophthalmic lenses, originating in or exported from People's Republic of China and Chinese Taipei for a period of one year *i.e.* up to 4th September, 2009.

(xxxii) G.S.R. 649(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 10th September, 2008

together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 147/2003-Cus., dated the 7th October, 2003.

(8) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at item no. (ii) of (7) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT - 8943/08]

(9) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under section 159 of the Customs Act, 1962:—

(i) G.S.R. 257(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 31st March, 2008 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 89/2005-Cus., dated the 4th October, 2005.

(ii) The Customs, Central Excise Duties and Service Tax Drawback Amendment Rules, 2008 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 413(E) in Gazette of India dated the 29th May, 2008 together with an explanatory memorandum.

(iii) G.S.R. 474(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 24th June, 2008 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 68/2007-Cus., (N.T.) dated the 16th July, 2007.

(iv) G.S.R. 510(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 8th July, 2008 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 68/2007-Cus., (N.T.) dated the 16th July, 2007.

(v) G.S.R. 590(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 13th August, 2008 together

- with an explanatory memorandum provides concessional rates of custom: duty to goods imported from specified Least Developed Countries under the Duty Free Tariff Preference scheme.
- (vi) G.S.R. 616(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 28th August, 2008 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 96/2008-Cus., dated the 13th August, 2008.
- (vii) G.S.R. 635(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 2nd September, 2008 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to fully exempt from basic customs duty and additional duty of customs, goods imported for donation for the relief and rehabilitation of people affected by the floods in Bihar upto 28th February, 2009, subject to certain conditions.
- (viii) G.S.R. 338(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 6th May, 2008 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the two Notifications mentioned therein.
- (ix) G.S.R. 346(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 8th May, 2008 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the nine Notifications mentioned therein.
- (x) G.S.R. 349(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 9th May, 2008 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to reduce Basic Customs Duty (BCD) from 5% to 3% and to redefine the terms Export Obligation and Manufacture for the purpose of the scheme.
- (xi) G.S.R. 350(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 9th May, 2008 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the four Notifications mentioned therein.
- (xii) G.S.R. 389(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 19th May, 2008 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the three Notifications mentioned therein.
- (xiii) G.S.R. 532(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 16th July, 2008 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the two Notifications mentioned therein.
- (xiv) G.S.R. 627(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 29th August, 2008 together with an explanatory memorandum notifying all Industry Rates of Duty drawback for the year 2008-2009. The rates have come into effect from 1st September, 2008.
- (xv) G.S.R. 273(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 9th April, 2008 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the two Notifications mentioned therein.
- (xvi) G.S.R. 297(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 21st April, 2008 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to grant exemption to apparel and clothing accessories, mentioned therein, imported from Bangladesh for a Tariff Rate Quota of 8 million pieces, subject to certain conditions.
- (xvii) G.S.R. 299(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 22nd April, 2008 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 26/2000-Cus., dated the 1st March, 2000.
- (xviii) G.S.R. 315(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 29th April, 2008 together with an

[Shri Pawan Kumar Bansal]

explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 21/2002-Cus., dated the 1st March, 2002.

- (xix) G.S.R. 359(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 10th May, 2008 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to provide concessional rate of export duty on specified iron and steel products, and Basmati rice.
- (xx) G.S.R. 360(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 10th May, 2008 together with an explanatory memorandum rescinding Notification No. 22/2008-Cus., dated the 1st March, 2008.
- (xxi) G.S.R. 401(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 26th May, 2008 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 21/2002-Cus., dated the 1st March, 2002.
- (xxii) G.S.R. 425(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 4th June, 2008 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 21/2002-Cus., dated the 1st March, 2002.
- (xxiii) G.S.R. 456(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 13th June, 2008 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 66/2008-Cus., dated the 10th May, 2008.
- (xxiv) G.S.R. 458(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 13th June, 2008 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to extend concessional rate of export duty 15% ad valorem on iron ores, all sorts.
- (xxv) G.S.R. 459(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 13th June, 2008 together with an explanatory memorandum rescinding Notification No. 62/2007-Cus., dated the 3rd May, 2007.
- (xxvi) G.S.R. 493(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 1st July, 2008 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 68/2006-Cus., dated the 30th June, 2006.
- (xxvii) G.S.R. 508(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 8th July, 2008 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 21/2002-Cus., dated the 1st March, 2002.
- (xxviii) G.S.R. 569(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 1st August, 2008 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 102/2007-Cus., dated the 14th September, 2007.
- (xxix) G.S.R. 572(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 4th August, 2008 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to reduce basic customs duty from 10% to 5% on Injection Progesterone.
- (10) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at item no. (i) of (9) above.
- [Placed in Library, See No. LT - 8944/08]
- (11) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Institute of Financial Management, Faridabad, for the year 2007-2008, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the

working of the National Institute of Financial Management, Faridabad, for the year 2007-2008.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT - 8945/08]

(12) A copy each of the following Notification (Hindi and English versions) under section 31 of the Securities and Exchange Board of India Act, 1992:-

- (i) The Securities and Exchange Board of India (Depositories and Participants) (Second Amendment) Regulations, 2008 published in Notification No. LAD-NRO/GN/2008/18/134585 in Gazette of India dated the 8th August, 2008.
- (ii) The Securities and Exchange Board of India (Stock Brokers And Sub-Brokers) (Amendment) Regulations, 2008 published in Notification No. LAD-NRO/GN/2008/20/134766 in Gazette of India dated the 11th August, 2008.
- (iii) The Securities and Exchange Board of India (Portfolio Managers) (Amendment) Regulations, 2008 published in Notification No. LAD-NRO/GN/2008/19/134764 in Gazette of India dated the 11th August, 2008.
- (iv) The Securities and Exchange Board of India (Mutual Funds)(Amendment) Regulations, 2008 published in Notification No. LAD-NRO/GN/2008/03/123042 in Gazette of India dated the 16th April, 2008.
- (v) The Securities and Exchange Board of India (Mutual Funds)(Second Amendment) Regulations, 2008 published in Notification No. LAD-NRO/GN/2008/09/126202 in Gazette of India dated the 22nd May, 2008.

(vi) The Securities and Exchange Board of India (Foreign Institutional Investors) (Amendment) Regulations, 2008 published in Notification No. LAD-NRO/GN/2008/10/126204 in Gazette of India dated the 22nd May, 2008.

(vii) The Securities and Exchange Board of India (Intermediaries) Regulations, 2008 published in Notification No. CAD-NRO/GN/2008/11/126538 in Gazette of India dated the 26th May, 2008.

(viii) The Securities and Exchange Board of India (Public Offer and Listing of Securitised Debt Instruments) Regulations, 2008 published in Notification No. LAD-NRO/GN/2008/12/126567 in Gazette of India dated the 26th May, 2008.

(ix) The Securities and Exchange Board of India (Issue and Listing of Debt Securities) Regulations, 2008 published in Notification No. LAD-HRD/GN/2008/13/127878 in Gazette of India dated the 6th June, 2008.

(x) The Securities and Exchange Board of India (Custodian of Securities) (Amendment) Regulations, 2008 published in Notification No. 11/LC/GN/15/2008/130775 in Gazette of India dated the 4th July, 2008.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT - 8946/08]

(13) A copy of the Notification No. LAD-NRO/GN/2008/01/122441(Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated the 8th April, 2008 specifying the 21st Day of April, 2008 as the notified date for the purposes of sub-regulation (1) of regulation 2 of the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Mutual Funds)(Second Amendment) Regulations, 2007; and regulation 2 of the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Foreign Institutional

[Shri Pawan Kumar Bansal]

Investors) (Second Amendment) Regulations, 2007 issued under the said Regulations.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT – 8947/08]

- (14) A copy of the Memorandum of Understanding (Hindi and English versions) between the Security Printing and Minting Corporation of India Limited and the Ministry of Finance for the year 2008-2009.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT – 8948/08]

- (15) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation for the year ended 31st March, 2008 along with Audited Accounts under sub-section (2) of Section 32 of the Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation Act, 1961.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT – 8949/08]

- (16) A copy of the Export-Import Bank of India (Employee's) Pension (Amendment) Regulations, 2007 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. EXIM/Pension/2007/F.No.11/3/2001-IR (Vol. III) in Gazette of India dated the 8th September, 2007 under sub-section (3) of Section 39 of the Export-Import Bank of India Act, 1981.

- (17) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (16) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT – 8950/08]

- (18) A copy of the State Bank of India (Amendment) General Regulations, 2007 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. 45-November 6, 1999 in weekly Gazette of India dated the 17th May, 2008 under sub-section (4)

of Section 50 of the State Bank of India Act, 1955.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT – 8951/08]

- (19) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (4) of section 19 of the Banking Companies (Acquisition and Transfer of Undertakings) Act, 1970:—

(i) The Bank of Maharashtra Officer Employees' (Discipline and Appeal) (Amendment) Regulations, 2003 published in Notification No. Ref. No. AX1/ST/DW/173/2007 in the weekly Gazette of India dated the 15th September, 2007.

(ii) The Indian Overseas Bank (Officers) Service Amendment Regulations, 2008 published in Notification No. S.O. PAD/SUP/177 in the Gazette of India dated the 5th April, 2008.

- (20) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at item No. (i) of (19) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT – 8952/08]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGO VAN) : I beg to lay on the Table:—

(1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Institute of Textile Management, Coimbatore, for the year 2007-2008, alongwith Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Institute of Textile Management, Coimbatore, for the year 2007-2008.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT – 8953/08]

(2) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Man-Made Textiles Research Association, Surat, for the year 2007-2008, alongwith Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Man-Made Textiles Research Association, Surat, for the year 2007-2008.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT – 8954/08]

MR. SPEAKER : I will listen to you. Nothing is being recorded now.

*(Interruptions)...**

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA) : I beg to lay on the Table:—

(1) A copy of the Indian Telegraph (Amendment) Rules, 2008 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 547(E) in Gazette of India dated the 18th July, 2008 under sub-section (5) of section 7 of the Indian Telegraph Act, 1885.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT – 8955/08]

(2) A copy of the Telecommunication Interconnection usage Charges (Ninth Amendment) Regulations, 2008 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. F. No. 409-22/2007-FN in Gazette of India dated the 28th March, 2008 under section 37 of the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India Act, 1997.

(3) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing

reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (2) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT – 8956/08]

(4) A copy of the Indian Post Office (fourth Amendment Rules, 2008 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 400 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 26th May, 2008 under sub-section (4) of Section 74 of the Indian Post Office Act, 1898.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT – 8957/08]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA) : Sir, on behalf of Dr. Akhilesh Prasad Singh I beg to lay on the Table:—

(1) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956:—

(i) Review by the Government of the working of the Hindustan Vegetable Oils Corporation Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2004-2005.

(ii) Annual Report of the Hindustan Vegetable Oils Corporation Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2004-2005, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

(2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT – 8958/08]

(3) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Food Corporation of India, New Delhi for the year 2005-2006, alongwith Audited Accounts.

[Shri Kantilal Bhuria]

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Food Corporation of India, New Delhi for the year 2005-2006.

(4) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (3) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT - 8959/08]

(5) A copy of the Statement (Hindi and English versions) explaining reasons for not laying the Annual Reports and Audited Accounts of the Food Corporation of India for the year 2006-2007 within the stipulated period of nine months after the close of the accounting year.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT - 8960/08]

(6) A copy each of the following Notification (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (6) of section 3 of the Essential Commodities Act, 1955:-

(i) G.S.R. 278(E)-Ess. Com./Sugarcane published in Gazette of India dated the 10th April, 2008 containing order determining the minimum price of sugarcane for the year 2007-2008 in respect of the States mentioned therein.

(ii) G.S.R. 601(E)-Ess Com./Sugarcane published in Gazette of India dated the 19th August, 2008 containing order determining the minimum price of sugarcane for the year 2007-2008 in respect of the States mentioned therein.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT - 8961/08]

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL) : I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (Amendment) Ordinance, 2008 (No 8 of 2008) (Hindi and English versions) promulgated by the President on 13th October, 2008 under article 123(2)(a) of the Constitution.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT - 8962/08]

12.06 hrs.

ASSENT TO BILLS

[English]

SECRETARY-GENERAL : Sir, I lay on the Table the following four Bills passed by the Houses of Parliament during the second part of Thirteenth Session of Fourteenth Lok Sabha and assented to by the President since a report was last made to the House on the 17th April, 2008:-

1. The Appropriation (Railways) No. 3 Bill, 2008;
2. The Appropriation (No. 2) Bill, 2008;
3. The Finance Bill, 2008; and
4. The Jawaharlal Institute of Post-Graduate Medical Education and Research, Puducherry, Bill, 2008.

I also lay on the Table copies, duly authenticated by the Secretary-General, Rajya Sabha, of the following four Bills passed by the Houses of Parliament and assented to by the President:-

1. The Delimitation (Amendment) Bill, 2008;
2. The Representation of the People (Amendment) Bill, 2008;
3. The Railways (Amendment) Bill, 2008; and

4. The Prasar Bharati (Broadcasting Corporation of India) Amendment Bill, 2008.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT – 8963/08]

12.07 hrs.

DECISIONS OF THE SPEAKER UNDER TENTH SCHEDULE TO THE CONSTITUTION

[English]

SECRETARY-GENERAL : I beg to lay on the Table a copy each of the decision (Hindi and English versions) of the Speaker, Lok Sabha under the Tenth Schedule to the Constitution and The Members of Lok Sabha (Disqualification on ground of Defection) Rules, 1985, in the following five matters:

- (1) Decision dated 10 September, 2008 on the petition given by Shri Avtar Singh Bhadana, MP under the Tenth Schedule to the Constitution and rules thereunder against Shri Kuldeep Bishnoi.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT – 8964/08]

- (2) Decision dated 11 September, 2008 on the petition given by Prof. Ram Gopal Yadav, MP under the Tenth Schedule to the Constitution and rules thereunder against Shri Jaiprakash.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT – 8965/08]

- (3) Decision dated 12 September, 2008 on the petition given by Prof. Ram Gopal Yadav, MP under the Tenth Schedule to the Constitution and rules thereunder against Prof. S.P. Singh Baghel.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT – 8966/08]

- (4) Decision dated 3 October, 2008 on the petition given by Shri Prabhunath Singh, MP under the Tenth Schedule to the Constitution and rules thereunder against Shri Ramswaroop Prasad.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT – 8967/08]

- (5) Decision dated 3 October, 2008 on the Petition given by Shri Santosh Gangwar, MP under the Tenth Schedule to the Constitution and rules thereunder against Dr. H.T. Sangliana.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT – 8968/08]

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Please do not do this. Please do not shout slogans. I will hear you one by one. What are you doing?

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I will hear you one by one. Nothing is recorded.

(Interruptions)...*

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : I have told you that I will listen to you.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : I will hear you. Please go to your seats. One by one, I will hear all of you. I promise that I will hear you. Please go to your seats.

...(Interruptions)

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

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I will listen to you. Hon. Members, I know that you have important matters to raise. Please cooperate with the Chair. I will allow you one by one.

...(Interruptions)

*Not recorded.

[*Translation*]

MR. SPEAKER : What are you doing?

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Please sit down. I will hear all of you one by one.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I will give you opportunity to speak. Presently nothing is going on record.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I will allow you to speak.

...(Interruptions)

12.08 hrs.

ESTIMATES COMMITTEE

18th Report

[*English*]

SHRI C. KUPPUSAMI (Madras North) : I beg to present the Eighteenth Report (Hindi and English versions) of Estimates Committee on the 'Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment – Programmes and schemes for welfare of persons with disabilities'.

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER : Please go to your seats. I will allow you to speak. I am appealing to all the hon. Members to give me an opportunity to call you one by one. If all of you stand together, what can I do?

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : There are important businesses. Even Papers could not be laid on the Table of the

House. If I do not give you an opportunity, then you can raise it. I would request you to give me one opportunity to call you. Already, we have lost the Question Hour.

...(Interruptions)

[*Translation*]

MR. SPEAKER : You go to your seat now. I will give you an opportunity to speak. I will listen to you.

...(Interruptions)

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER : I will call you first.

12.08½ hrs.

COMMITTEE TO INQUIRE INTO MISCONDUCT OF MEMBERS OF LOK SABHA

3rd Report

SHRI V. KISHORE CHANDRA S. DEO (Parvatipuram) : I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Third Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Committee to Inquire into Misconduct of Members of Lok Sabha.

12.08¾ hrs.

RAILWAY CONVENTION COMMITTEE

9th Report

[*English*]

SHRI MADAN LAL SHARMA (Jammu) : I beg to present the Ninth Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Railway Convention Committee (2004) on "Rate of Dividend for 2008-09 and Other Ancillary Matters".

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER : I will allow you. I will call you. I have given you my word.

12.09 hrs.

COMMITTEE ON EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN

17th Report

SHRIMATI KRISHNA TIRATH (Karol Bagh) : I beg to present the Seventeenth Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Committee on Empowerment of Women (2008-09) on the Action Taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in the Twelfth Report of the Committee (Fourteenth Lok Sabha) on the subject 'Plight of Indian Women Deserted by NRI Husbands'.

12.09½ hrs.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

62nd to 66th Reports

[English]

SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR (Aurangabad, Bihar) : Sir, I beg to present the following Reports (Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Committee on Information Technology (2008-09):-

- (1) Sixty-second Report on Management of Funds by the Department of Posts through Banking and Insurance Activities relating to the Ministry of Communications and Information Technology (Department of Posts).
- (2) Sixty-third Report on Action Taken by the Government on the Observations/Recommendations of the Committee contained in their Fifty-fifth Report on Demands for Grants (2008-2009) of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting.
- (3) Sixty-fourth Report on Action Taken by the Government on the Observations/Recommendations of the Committee contained in their Fifty-seventh Report on Demands for Grants (2008-09) of the Ministry of Communications and Information Technology (Department of Telecommunications).

(4) Sixty-fifth Report on Action Taken by the Government on the Observations/Recommendations of the Committee contained in their fifty-eighth Report on Demands for Grants (2008-09) of the Ministry of Communications and Information Technology (Department of Information Technology).

(5) Sixty-sixth Report on Action Taken by the Government on the Observations/Recommendations of the Committee contained in their Fifty-sixth Report on Demands for Grants (2008-09) of the Ministry of Communications and Information Technology (Department of Posts).

12.10 hrs.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON DEFENCE

30th Report

[Translation]

SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL (Kopergaon) : Sir, I beg to present the Thirtieth Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Committee on Defence (2008-09) on the subject 'Status of Married Accommodation in Defence and Allied Services'.

12.10½ hrs.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON RAILWAYS

(I) 37th to 39th Reports

[English]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura) : I beg to present the following Reports (Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Committee on Railways:-

- (1) Thirty-seventh Report on Action Taken by the Government on the recommendations/observations contained in the Thirty-second Report (14th Lok Sabha) on 'Performance of New Railway Zones'.

[Shri Basu Deb Acharia]

- (2) Thirty-eighth Report on Action Taken by the Government on the recommendations/observations contained in the Thirty-third Report (14th Lok Sabha) on 'Industrial Relations and Staff Welfare in Railways'.
- (3) Thirty-ninth Report on Action Taken by the Government on the recommendations/observations contained in the Thirty-fourth Report (14th Lok Sabha) on 'Suburban and Metro Railway'.

(II) Action Taken Statements

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura) : I beg to lay on the Table the following Action Taken Statements (Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Committee on Railways:—

- (1) Statement showing the Action Taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in Chapter I of 10th Action Taken Report (14th Lok Sabha) on 'Resource Mobilisation';
- (2) Statement showing the Action Taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in Chapters I and V of 18th Action Taken Report (14th Lok Sabha) on 'Demands for Grants 2005-06 of the Ministry of Railways';
- (3) Statement showing the Action Taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in Chapters I and V of 31st Action Taken Report (14th Lok Sabha) on 'Terminal Facilities in Metropolitan Cities'; and
- (4) Statement showing the Action Taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in Chapters I and V of 35th Action Taken Report (14th Lok Sabha) on 'Demands for Grants 2007-08 of the Ministry of Railways'.

12.11 hrs.

JOINT PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE ON WAKF

6th to 8th Reports

[English]

SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE (Aurangabad, Maharashtra) : I beg to lay on the Table the following# Reports (Hindi and English versions) of the Joint Parliamentary Committee on Wakf:—

- (1) Sixth Report on Implementation of the Wakf Act, 1995 in Karnataka and working of Karnataka State Board of Wakfs;
- (2) Seventh Report on Implementation of the Wakf Act, 1995 in Tamil Nadu and working of Tamil Nadu State Wakf Board; and
- (3) Eighth Report on Implementation of the Wakf Act, 1995 in Bihar and working of Bihar State Sunni and Shia Wakf Boards.

12.11½ hrs.

ELECTIONS TO COMMITTEES

(I) Coconut Development Board

[English]

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR) : I beg to move the following:—

"That in pursuance of sub-section 4 (e) of section 4 of the Coconut Development Board Act, 1979 read with rule 4 (1) (i) and (ii) of the Coconut Development Board Rules, 1981, the members of this House do proceed

#The Reports were presented to the Chairman, Rajya Sabha on the 29th March, 2008 when Rajya Sabha was not in Session and were forwarded to the Speaker, Lok Sabha on the 31st March, 2008.

to elect, in such manner as the Speaker may direct, two members from amongst themselves to serve as members of the Coconut Development Board, subject to other provisions of the said Act and the Rules made thereunder."

MR. SPEAKER : The question is:

"That in pursuance of sub-section 4 (e) of section 4 of the Coconut Development Board Act, 1979 read with rule 4 (1) (i) and (ii) of the Coconut Development Board Rules, 1981, the members of this House do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Speaker may direct, two members from amongst themselves to serve as members of the Coconut Development Board, subject to other provisions of the said Act and the Rules made thereunder."

The motion was adopted.

**(II) Central Advisory Committee for
National Cadet Corps**

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY) :
I beg to move the following:-

"That in pursuance of clause (i) of sub-section 1 of section 12 of the National Cadet Corps Act, 1948, the members of this House do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Speaker may direct, two members from amongst themselves to serve as members of the Central Advisory Committee for the National Cadet Corps, subject to other provisions of the said Act."

MR. SPEAKER : The question is:

"That in pursuance of clause (i) of sub-section 1 of section 12 of the National Cadet Corps Act, 1948, the members of this House do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Speaker may direct, two members from amongst themselves to serve as members of the Central Advisory Committee for the National Cadet Corps, subject to other provisions of the said Act."

The motion was adopted.

(III) Employees' State Insurance Corporation

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY
OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR
FERNANDES) : I beg to move the following:-

"That in pursuance of sub-section (1) of section 4 of the Employees' State Insurance Act, 1948, read with rule 2A of the Employees' State Insurance (Central) Rules, 1950, the members of this House do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Speaker may direct, two members from amongst themselves to serve as members of the Employees' State Insurance Corporation, subject to other provisions of the Act."

MR. SPEAKER : The question is:

"That in pursuance of sub-section (1) of section 4 of the Employees' State Insurance Act, 1948, read with rule 2A of the Employees' State Insurance (Central) Rules, 1950, the members of this House do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Speaker may direct, two members from amongst themselves to serve as members of the Employees' State Insurance Corporation, subject to other provisions of the Act."

The motion was adopted.

12.15 hrs.

**DEMANDS FOR SUPPLEMENTARY GRANTS –
(GENERAL), 2008-09**

[English]

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P.
CHIDAMBARAM) : Sir, I beg to present a statement (Hindi
and English versions) showing the Supplementary
Demands for Grants in respect of the Budget (General)
for 2008-09.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT – 8970/08]

12.15½ hrs.

**RAILWAYS (SECOND AMENDMENT)
BILL, 2008***

[English]

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI LALU PRASAD) :
Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to
amend the Railways Act, 1989.

MR. SPEAKER : Motion moved:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to
amend the Railways Act, 1989."

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN (Chirayinkil) : Sir,
I oppose the introduction because the law in question is
beyond the legislative competence of this House.

You see this is for the enhancement of the Railway
Tribunal Chairman and Members of the Tribunal. There
are other tribunals in the country also and their position
has not been changed. So, it is a discriminatory process.
We cannot show any favouritism to any particular tribunal.
There are many tribunals functioning under our Statute
passed by this House. When that is the situation, it is not
fair to have a discriminatory process or a discriminatory
attitude towards a particular tribunal.

The Constitution is very particular. The law is equal
to all. We cannot have a separate law for a separate set
of people. That is why, it is discriminatory legislation and
on that basis, it is not within the competence of this House
to legislate on this piece of legislation. That is what I have
to submit.

SHRI LALU PRASAD : I request Shri Radhakrishnan
not to oppose this at this time because there will be time
to have discussion on this and he will have sufficient
time to discuss this. *[Translation]* At present he may.
...*(Interruptions)*

*Published in the Gazette of India Extraordinary Part-II,
Section 2, dated 20.10.08

[English]

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN : Sir, the Railways
is following a discriminatory policy. Even at this current
stage, there is a long standing demand for a particular
Railway Zone in Kerala....*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI LALU PRASAD : Sir, it is the prerogative of the
Parliament, we will participate in whatever will be discussed
here....*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MD. SALIM (Calcutta-North East) : Sir, the hon.
Member has raised a very pertinent question on the
legislative competence of this House. He is taking a
decision in a selective way. So, the hon. Minister has failed
to satisfy and respond on this ground. The House should
know what has compelled the hon. Minister to bring this.
...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : I believe it is the duty of the Deputy
Leader to explain that to him.

The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to
amend the Railways Act, 1989."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI LALU PRASAD : I introduce* the Bill.

12.17 hrs.

**WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION (AMENDMENT)
BILL, 2008****

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF

*Introduced with the recommendation of the President.

**Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary Part II,
Section 2 dated 20.10.08.

LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES) : I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1923.

MR. SPEAKER : The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1923."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES : I introduce the Bill.

12.18 hrs.

FELICITATION BY THE SPEAKER

Indian Performance in Beijing Olympics, Feats in Test Cricket and Commonwealth Youth Games at Pune

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Hon. Members, may I have an opportunity to speak? As you are aware, the Beijing Olympics 2008 witnessed the historic first ever Gold Medal win by an Indian sportsman in an individual event. Two Indian sportsmen also won the individual Bronze Medals in their disciplines. The Beijing Olympics thus bore testimony to the best Indian performance till date, at the mega sports event.

Shri Abhinav Bindra won gold Medal in the men's 10 metre Air Rifle Shooting event and Sarvshri Vijender Kumar and Sushil Kumar won Bronze Medals in the men's 75 kg. boxing and men's 66 kg. freestyle Wrestling events respectively.

Hon. Members, Shri Sachin Tendulkar has also made the country proud by becoming the highest run-getter in test cricket. He achieved this commendable feat in the ongoing test match against Australia at Mohali, Punjab on 17th October, 2008.

Shri Sourav Ganguly has also achieved a great

distinction of being the fourth Indian to score over 7000 runs in test cricket. Our young player Shri Amit Mishra has also achieved great distinction in getting five wickets in his debut test match at Mohali. I am sure the hon. Members will join me in felicitating them and wishing them many more years of service to the game of cricket.

In the recently concluded Commonwealth Youth Games at Pune, India has topped the medal's tally with 76 medals including 33 gold medals due to the high sporting abilities and all-round spirited performance by the Indian contingent. I believe, along with the sportspersons, Mr. Kalmadi deserves some congratulation.

I am sure the whole House would join me in congratulating these sportsmen who have brought laurels and accolades to the country. Their achievements will no doubt inspire the budding sportspersons of the country to accomplish similar feats which will make the nation proud.

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE (Mumbai South Central) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, Shri Sachin Tendulkar has made world record in one day international and test matches in cricket. Earlier, when Shri Kapil Dev had made a world record as a bowler, he was felicitated by the Government. Ms. Lata Mangeshkar was also felicitated in the Central Hall. I would like to submit that Shri Sachin Tendulkar should similarly be invited in the Central Hall and felicitated on behalf of the Parliament.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : I will consider it if the House runs well in this Session. I will very seriously consider this.

MR. SPEAKER : I have given promise to Mr. Bwiswmuthiary. Yes, Mr. Bwiswmuthiary. Please speak slowly, so that people can understand and record is kept, and do not abuse Members please.

[Translation]

SHRI GANESH SINGH (Satna) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to raise the issue of manhandling of Shri Virendra Kumar, the hon'ble Member of Parliament from Madhya Pradesh....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Please sit down. I know much about him. I have immediately taken action in this regard. I am sorry for whatever happened with him. He has also met me.

[English]

SHRI SANSUMA KHUNGGUR BWISWMUTHIARY (Kokrajhar) : Hon. Speaker, Sir, I am quite thankful to you for giving me this opportunity to highlight about the most crucial and terrible situation which is going on in my Bodoland Territory particularly in the district called 'Udalguri' within BODOLAND in another district called 'Darrang' which is outside the Bodoland Territorial Areas District.

Sir, up to date, approximately more than 50 numbers of people from indigenous Bodo and Garo Tribes, Bengali, Assamese and Bihari communities on the one hand, and anywhere between 30 and 40 numbers of Muslim attackers on the other hand died in the bloody and pre-planned carnage which was engineered by the pro-Pakistani fundamentalist outfits and Jihadis. More than 2 lakh people have been taking shelter in different relief camps in the districts of Udalguri and Darrang. More than 41 numbers of villages inhabited mostly by the indigenous Bodo and Garo Tribal people and also by some other non-Muslim groups of people, have already been burned down. More than 5000 houses of Bodo families were set on fire and household properties including cattle worth Rs. 2000 crore (two thousand crore) were looted and damaged.

MR. SPEAKER : Mr. Bwiswmuthiary, may I make a request to you? Please take off that photograph. It is against the rules of the House. No disrespect to you, but you cannot show it in the House.

SHRI SANSUMA KHUNGGUR BWISWMUTHIARY : Okay, Sir.

MR. SPEAKER : Thank you very much.

SHRI SANSUMA KHUNGGUR BWISWMUTHIARY : Sir, more than 5000 houses of Bodo families were burnt down and their household properties including cattle worth Rs. 2000 crore were looted by the immigrant Muslim attackers and by the pro-Pakistan fundamentalist outfits and Jihadis. It is also worthwhile to mention that the chastity and sanctity of the indigenous 'Bathou Religion' of the aboriginal Bodo people has been raped and insulted by way of cutting into pieces the 'Sijou plants' which is called in English 'cactus plants'.

The Sijou plant is the symbol of the Bodo people's religion. These cactus plants were cut into pieces by the attackers. It is a great assault on the indigenous religion of the Bodo people that happens to be a part and parcel of the great Indian civilization.

The aforementioned terrible as well as diabolical carnage resulting in a great assault on and threat to the sovereignty and integrity of India in relation to Assam, had occurred due to the utter neglect and on account of the deliberate intention and nefarious motive of both the civil as well as police administration of the two districts in question. A sense of mutual suspicion, doubt and fear is still looming large in the hearts and minds of the affected people.

It is also a surprising and horrible fact that even the flags of Pakistan were hoisted by the Jihadis at different places and villages like Sonaripara, Sapmari, Rangagora and Simoluguri in Udalguri district within Bodoland Territory. The Jihadis also shouted slogans like "Mughal pathan Zindabad, Pakistan Zindabad and Hindustan Murdabad", etc. while waging war against the indigenous Bodo and other non-Muslim people. ... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : You have mentioned it.

SHRI SANSUMA KHUNGGUR BWISWMUTHIARY : Sir, this horrible incident took place on the 3rd and 4th of October, 2008. [Translation] On the morning 3rd October a Bodo person of Mohan pur village...*

*Not recorded.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Do not mention the names here. You cannot mention the names.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI SANSUMA KHUNGGUR BWISWMUTHIARY : Some ...* people had kidnapped him and after kidnapping him three-four...* people.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : This is not right. Nothing more.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : His submission has gone on record. I have not deleted it. It is recorded.

...(Interruptions)

MD. SALIM (Calcutta—North East) : The Government should come out with a Statement on the happenings in Assam....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I would not allow you further. You please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : You can raise it later. Let him conclude now.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : Please, sit down.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Bring the record to me. I will have to see.

...(Interruptions)

*Not recorded.

MR. SPEAKER : I will look into the record.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : What is going on?

...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI SANSUMA KHUNGGUR BWISWMUTHIARY : Sir, please allow me to conclude now. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Please take your seat. Nothing more will be recorded.

(Interruptions)...*

MR. SPEAKER : Now, Shri Basu Deb Acharia.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : You are dictating to the Chair. What is happening in this House?

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I have given him a chance although he has not given a proper notice. Nothing more will be recorded. He is not listening to me.

(Interruptions)...*

MR. SPEAKER : Now, Shri Basu Deb Acharia.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura) : Sir, I know that a breach of privilege notice can be given against a Member of the House. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Let the House be in order, Mr. Acharia.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the House. ...(Interruptions)

*Not recorded.

MR. SPEAKER : Please wait. Let him finish. You are not listening to me. Nobody is listening. Mr. Bwiswmuthiary, you have already concluded. You have already made your submission.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI SANSUMA KHUNGGUR BWISWMUTHIARY : Sir, let me conclude. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : No. You have concluded. I will not allow anymore on this.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing will go on record.

(Interruptions)...*

MR. SPEAKER : Mr. Bwiswmuthiary, please take your seat. I have given you more than enough time. You have concluded and I would not allow you any further.

Nothing will go on record.

(Interruptions)...*

MR. SPEAKER : Yes, Mr. Acharia.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Sir, I know that the breach of privilege notice can be given against a Member of the House. But I would like to draw this attention of this House....(Interruptions)

When there was a Special Session, there was a debate on the Confidence Motion. While replying to the debate on 22nd July. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Are you referring to the privilege matter?

...(Interruptions)

12.31 hrs.

(At this stage, Shri Sansuma Khunggur Bwiswmuthiary came and stood on the floor near the Table.)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Sir, while replying to

*Not recorded.

the debate on the Confidence Motion, the hon. Prime Minister said....(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : Please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Do not record anything till the House comes to order.

(Interruptions)...*

MR. SPEAKER : Mr. Bwiswmuthiary, I have given you an opportunity. You have made your statement. It has all been recorded. Please take your seat.

...(Interruptions)

12.32 hrs.

(At this stage, Shri Sansuma Khunggur Bwiswmuthiary sat on the floor near the Table.)

MR. SPEAKER : Mr. Acharia, just a minute. Let the House be in order.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Let me see. I would suspend him.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Hon. Members, what are you going to do? I have not called you. Please take your seats.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Mr. Bwiswmuthiary, I earnestly request you to please go to your seat.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Please go back to your seat.

...(Interruptions)

*Not recorded.

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR (Bangalore South) : Sir, let there be response by the Government.

MR. SPEAKER : All right. But I cannot compel them, you know that very well.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Will you please keep quiet? Please keep quiet.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : What is all this going on?

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Yes, Mr. Basu Deb Acharia, you start.

...(Interruptions)

12.36 hrs.

(At this stage, Shri Sansuma Khunggur Bwiswmuthiary went back to his seat.)

MR. SPEAKER : I appeal to all sections of the House, please cooperate.

I allowed you to make submissions. You have made your submissions in full. You are not doing justice to the cause. I am sorry.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Please take your seats. All Members must take their seats. Mr. Nandy, what is going on here?

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Mr. Nandy, please take your seat. I will take action. I tell you I will take action against everybody.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : You sit down. You take your seat. You must take your seat.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : You take your seat first. Mr. Chakraborty, I will name you.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : You take your seat. Unless you take your seat, I will be forced to suspend you. Do not force me to do this. I called you. I have given you full opportunity, and in spite of that, you are disturbing the proceedings of the House.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA (South Delhi) : The Government should respond to this. ... (Interruptions) Why does the Government not respond. ... (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : I hope the country is seeing. The hon. Members, who have been sent by the people, here are deliberately creating disturbance only for the purpose of getting some political advantage. I am very sorry to say this.

The House stands adjourned till 4 o' clock.

12.37 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Sixteen of the Clock.

16.00 hrs

The Lok Sabha re-assembled at Sixteen of the Clock.

[Mr. SPEAKER in the Chair]

...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura) : Sir, you have called my name. ... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I will call everybody. But now, I will call the hon'ble Prime Minister.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV (Jhunjharpur) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the people of Bihar and Uttar Pradesh are being maltreated in Maharashtra. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Sit down, please sit down.

[English]

Please sit down. When I am on my legs, please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : Sit down please. You have had your field day today. Sit down, please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV (Patna) : Sir, justice is not being done to us.

MR. SPEAKER : Gross injustice is being done. Please wait for some time.

[English]

The hon. Prime Minister of the country wants to make a statement on the financial situation. I do not know, whether it is not important to you, but I think, it is important for the country. Afterwards, you will be allowed to raise it.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I will ask you to go out now, Shri Bwiswmuthiary. I will ask you to go out now. I will ask you to go out – please go out of the House. Please remove yourself now, if you do not behave. I would not allow any further. Enough is enough. It is over now.

Yes, Mr. Prime Minister.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : There must be some propriety in the House. The Prime Minister of the country wants to speak and you are not allowing him to speak.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing is to be recorded. I would not allow anything to be recorded.

(Interruptions)*...

MR. SPEAKER : It is such an important issue which he has volunteered to come and feels that it is his duty to make a statement. You are not prepared to listen. That shows your concern for the financial situation of the country.

16.02 hrs.

STATEMENT BY PRIME MINISTER

Ongoing Global Financial Crisis and its Impact on India

THE PRIME MINISTER (DR. MANMOHAN SINGH) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I wish to make a statement on the ongoing global financial crisis and its impact on India. Hon. Members are aware that this crisis had its origins in the United States and spread quickly to Europe. While the crisis began in the housing mortgage market, it soon extended to the money market and the credit market. As a result, several financial institutions were pushed to the brink of insolvency. The US and some other developed countries have bailed out a number of financial institutions and banks.

MR. SPEAKER : Silence in the House please. They are not distributed ever. Please do not distribute it here.

DR. MANMOHAN SINGH : They have also taken a number of unconventional steps to infuse liquidity, recapitalize the banks and unfreeze the credit market. The financial storm has shaken confidence in the system and precipitated a steep decline in stock markets. It has produced a sharp slowdown in economic activity, with the

*Not recorded.

prospect of a prolonged recession in industrialized countries. Many observers have described this as the worst crisis since the Great Depression of 1930s. India, like other developing countries, is experiencing the ripple effects of the financial crisis. However, we have taken a number of steps to minimize the impact. Our first concern was to ensure the stability of our banking system. I am happy to inform the House that the Indian banking system is not directly exposed to the sub-prime mortgage assets. ...
(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : You may wait until he finishes.

DR. MANMOHAN SINGH : Their exposure to other problem assets is also minimal. Our banks, both in the public sector and in the private sector, are financially sound, well capitalized and well regulated.

There should be no fear of a failure of any bank. In particular, I wish to assure depositors in our banks that their deposits are entirely safe.

Although our banks are safe, and they are also providing credit in line with anticipated credit targets, the global turmoil has led to a contraction in other forms of commercial credit. External commercial borrowings, which are used by the corporate sector have dried up, as have international suppliers credits. This has led to a reduction in overall credit availability in the economy even though credit from commercial banks has expanded satisfactorily. This contraction produced a liquidity crisis in the system.

We have taken a number of steps to address this problem. Between October 6, 2008 to October 15, 2008, the Reserve Bank of India cut the Cash Reserve Ratio by a total of 250 basis points. The Statutory Liquidity Requirements were relaxed initially by 1 percentage point and subsequently an additional window of 0.5 percentage points was introduced specifically to enable banks to draw funds to provide liquidity to mutual funds. As a result of these steps, the liquidity position in the Indian financial system has improved considerably. The call money rate today is around 6.8 per cent.

Government also arranged to provide, in advance, a sum of Rs. 25,000 crore to the banking system under the Debt Waiver and Debt Relief Scheme. The limit of investment by Foreign Institutional Investors in corporate bonds was increased from US 3 billion dollar to US 6 billion dollar.

Earlier today, the Reserve Bank announced a 100 basis points cut in the repo rate which is the rate at which banks can borrow, against surplus SLR securities. Government welcomes this decision of the RBI. It will have a beneficial effect on the interest rate structure and, in combination with the other steps to increase liquidity, will help to support economic activity and investment. It is broadly consistent with our objective to control inflation which has already begun to moderate. I am happy to inform honourable Members that the Wholesale Price Index has declined in the last three weeks and, although the current rate is still high, the movement in the level of prices shows a clear deceleration in the current momentum of inflation. We expect a further reduction in the Wholesale Price Index in the next two months.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Government is conscious of the fact that it is not enough to infuse liquidity. The liquidity must translate into expanded flow of credit to industry, trade and business. Suitable advisories have, therefore, been issued by the RBI and the Ministry of Finance to the banks to ensure that borrowers are provided adequate credit, including export credit and working capital. Banks must also provide adequate funds in the form of investment or credit to mutual funds and NBFCs who, in turn, lend to industry, trade and business. These institutions are an important part of the larger financial system and banks are being encouraged to provide liquidity to ensure that there is no disruption in economic activity.

Both RBI and Government are carefully monitoring the flow of credit and will ensure that the additional liquidity infused into the system translates into actual credit. We will not hesitate to do more if needed. While the capital adequacy ratios of all our banks are well above the Basel norm and also above the RBI stipulated norm, Government

[Dr. Manmohan Singh]

has promised that it will help banks, which have lower ratios, to access funds to increase their Capital Risk Weighted Asset Ratio to 12 per cent.

The financial crisis and the economic slowdown in the developed countries are likely to have an indirect impact on the Indian economy. Fortunately, this effect will be on an underlying strong performance. GDP growth in the first quarter of 2008-09 was 7.9 per cent. During April-August, 2008, exports increased in dollar terms by 35.1 per cent. Foreign Direct Investment during this period was US\$14.8 billion. Gross tax revenues are on target. The CMIE database shows that a huge amount of money towards capital expenditure is in the pipeline.

Nevertheless, we must be prepared for a temporary slowdown in the Indian economy. The precise impact is difficult to estimate at this point since the depth and duration of the global slowdown remain uncertain. Some estimates project GDP growth to decelerate to 7.5 per cent in the current year. The most pessimistic estimates place it at no less than 7 per cent. Our effort will be to minimize the negative effect of the financial crisis and, once the global situation stabilizes, to return to the growth trajectory of 9 per cent. I would urge hon. Members and the people of India to continue to repose faith in the fundamentals of the Indian economy.

Hon. Members will recall that in anticipation of a slowdown we had stepped up public expenditure in the Budget presented on February 29, 2008. Our expenditure proposals were criticized at the time in some quarters, but I am happy to note that it is now widely acknowledged that increased public expenditure is an important part of the solution. Our expenditure on education, health, National Rural Employment Guarantee Programme (NREGP), National Rural Health Mission (NRHM), Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme (AIBP), Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM) and other programmes will, I believe, stand us in good stead in these difficult times. Besides, the debt waiver and debt relief amounting to Rs. 65,000 crore to 3,60,00,000 farmers will

also greatly benefit our farmers and enthuse them to increase production.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, India has faced challenges in the past and has overcome them. We have the strength to overcome the current challenges too. In fact, it is when India is challenged that the Indian people rise to the occasion and convert the challenge into an opportunity. There is no place for fear. This is the time for unity of purpose and resolute action. I seek the support of all sections of this august House to the measures taken by Government and the authorities.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 8970-A/08]

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I will certainly allow a discussion.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Do you want to discuss this matter?

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : If you kindly speak one-by-one, I will give you chance to speak.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I will come to you.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : This is not proper. I will come to you. I am assuring you.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I will call you. I promise you.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : I will call you.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV (Patna) : When will you give us time?

MR. SPEAKER : Today only. After this is over.
[English] Please do not pressurise the Chair.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura) : Sir, on the 22nd July, 2008. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Are you referring to the privilege matter?

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Sir, let me explain the position.

MR. SPEAKER : It is under my consideration.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Do you want a discussion on the statement of the hon. Prime Minister? If so, then kindly give a notice and I shall allow a discussion.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Sir, you have called my name, but I have not spoken.

MR. SPEAKER : I have already said that the matter is under my consideration.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Sir, while replying to the debate on the Confidence Motion, the hon. Prime Minister had stated....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Let me say that I have received notices on question of privilege from S/Shri Basu Deb Acharia, Rupchand Pal, K. Yerranaidu, Varkala Radhakrishnan and N.N. Krishnadas, Members of Parliament against the hon. Prime Minister for allegedly committing a breach of privilege of not fulfilling an assurance given by him in the House on 22nd July, 2008 regarding the Indo-US Nuclear Agreement. The matter is under my active consideration.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Sir, I will take only two minutes to make my submissions....(Interruptions) On the 22nd of July, 2008 while replying to the debate on the Confidence Motion, the hon. Prime Minister stated and I quote:

"I say in all sincerity that this Session and the debate was unnecessary because I have said on several occasions that our nuclear agreement after being endorsed by IAEA and Nuclear Supplier Groups would be submitted to this august House for expressing its views. All I had asked our Left colleagues were that please allow us to go through the negotiation process. I will come to the Parliament before operationalising this nuclear deal"

This assurance was given to this House. But after getting the approval of the IAEA and the Nuclear Supply Groups the Government did not come to Parliament. This is an insult to our Parliament. The assurance given by the hon. Prime Minister has been violated. So, the hon. Prime Minister owes an explanation to this House. It is a clear case of breach of privilege....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Why have you given a notice under privilege if you do not want to wait for the decision?

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I repeat that it is under my consideration.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : He did not come to the House....(Interruptions) It is a clear case of breach of privilege....(Interruptions) The assurance given by the hon. Prime Minister has been violated....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Devendra Prasad Yadav.

Nothing, except the speech of Shri Devendra Prasad Yadav, will go on record.

(Interruptions)*...

*Not recorded

16.20 hrs.

SUBMISSION BY MEMBERS

Re: Situation arising out of attacks on North-Indian Students during Railway Board Examinations in Maharashtra

[Translation]

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV (Jhanjharpur) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the Government towards a very sensitive issue of national importance. A very painful and unfortunate incident happened yesterday on 19th October. It is a matter of shame for us that the Maharashtra Nav Nirman Sena and Shiv Sena violently attacked north Indian students who had gone to appear in the railway board examinations. It is the fifth consecutive attack on the north Indians in the name of regionalism and linguistic jingoism. Since last February, violent attacks are continuously being carried out against them not only once but many times. The lives and property of lakhs of people are insecure. Such acts of terrorism are being perpetrated by the extremist organizations in Mumbai, Maharashtra. Such incidents have given rise to a sense of insecurity in the minds of lakhs of north Indian people. It is not only a blow on the unity and integrity of the country but is also an act to demean the Constitution of India. It is an anti constitutional behaviour aimed at dividing the country. Despite that the Chief Minister of Maharashtra has kept mum over the entire episode. The Chief Minister of Maharashtra has made a statement. ...*(Interruptions)* I will not compromise with anyone over this issue. It is the question of maintaining the unity and integrity of the country....*(Interruptions)* Yesterday, the Chief Minister of Maharashtra made an irresponsible statement. He said that he had no information. I can challenge his contention on the plea that the D.G., RPF of the Railway had clearly intimated all the divisions on 17th regarding the places where the examination of railway recruitment board was held. He has also intimated the Sholapur division. With your permission, I would like to quote only one operative line from that. ...*(Interruptions)*

This is because nothing can be quoted without your due permission.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Thank you very much.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I know the Rule.

[English]

CP Sholapur has also been requested for deploying local police.

[Translation]

This has been sent in writing on 17th October by DG, RPF. The Chief Minister has given statement that he has no information. Same is the case with Nagpur Division.

[English]

CP, Nagpur has also been requested for deploying local police.

[Translation]

It has also been mentioned where there was examination. [English] CP Navi Mumbai, Thane, has also been asked for making necessary arrangements.

[Translation]

Local police been called. Even after that the Maharashtra Government....*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : I will look into it. Now, Shri Ramji Lal Suman may speak.

...*(Interruptions)*

*Not recorded.

MR. SPEAKER : These words will not go on record.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV (Jhanjharpur) : I have not taken the name of the Chief Minister. ... (Interruptions)

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would request you that the Union Government should take immediate steps in this matter. The situation has got so worse that there has been a constitutional break down in Maharashtra due to hooliganism and that's why we all demand that Union Government to take law and order situation under their control under Article 355 of the constitution and provide security to the people. Millions of people from North India have made contributions to improve the economic condition of Maharashtra while living over there for years together but they are now facing deadly attacks.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I do not know but they are saying that there were less Shiv Sena activities. Be they in more or less in number but the question is that Navnirman Sena is doing hooliganism. ... (Interruptions) MNS is indulging in hooliganism. ... (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : It is enough, Shri Yadav. I have called Shri Suman to speak.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV : All the leaders and activists of Navnirman Sena and Shiv Sena who are guilty in this incident. ... (Interruptions) They should be arrested under national acts like MISA. ... (Interruptions) Shiv Sena and (Interruptions)...*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : That name will be deleted.

...(Interruptions)

*Not recorded.

[Translation]

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV : Shiv Sena and Maharashtra Navnirman Sena should be banned. ... (Interruptions) Ban should be imposed.... (Interruptions) If these guilty people are not arrested, a nationwide agitation will be held in protest. To maintain national unity and integrity, for the protection of constitution of India.... (Interruptions) They are creating terrorism.... (Interruptions) On one hand there are terrorists, anti nationals while on the other terrorism is being spread in the name of region and language.... (Interruptions) The Government should give guarantee to safeguard the life and property of the people, otherwise agitation will be held by the people.... (Interruptions)

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN : Please let me speak. ... (Interruptions) Please let me speak.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing else except the speech of Shri Ramji Lal Suman will go on record.

(Interruptions)...*

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN : Ram Kripalji, just a minute, listen to me.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, bring the House in order. ... (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Syed Shahnawaz Hussain will be called.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN : Mr. Speaker, Sir, Railway Recruitment Board examinations were to be held at 13 places yesterday in Thane, Maharashtra in which large number of students from north India appeared. ... (Interruptions)

*Not recorded.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Do not take the name of any individual. Do not criticize the State Government.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN : The number of students from Bihar and Uttar Pradesh was more in the examination. People from all over the country appeared in the examination. The so-called Navnirman Sena of Maharashtra and its president....* They have been creating such a nuisance not today but for a long time. Even in February, 2003, when such an examination was conducted, students of north India were beaten up and threatened. Now they are saying that these are just a beginning and on the occasion of Chhath they will apply more force to show their strength. I fail to understand why such a treatment is frequently meted out to North-Indians sometimes in Maharashtra and sometimes in Assam. They are brutally beaten. This country is one and this kind of incident can be said as a country – divisive act. My allegation is that the Maharashtra Government are too liberal while taking steps to deal with this problem. ...(Interruptions) My allegation is ...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : This is not the State Assembly. Do not do it. You can refer to the role of Central Government.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN : Mr. Speaker, Sir, we wish my demand is that...* this party should be banned and its activists should be immediately apprehended so that they could not dare to create such incidents in future. This is a very serious issue and Maharashtra Government should take strict action in this regard.

*Not recorded.

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV (Jhanjharpur) :

This is such a serious issue that the Government should definitely respond to it. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : You have spoken [English] I have called Shri Syed Shahnawaz Hussain.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : Take your seat.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Hon. Members, your leader has made his submissions. It is okay.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I have called him. I have called Shri Ramji Lal Suman. I will call Shri Rajiv Ranjan Singh 'Lalan'.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN (Bhagalpur) : Mr. Speaker, I rise to raise the same issue which was raised by Devendraji and Sumanji.

16.25 hrs.

[SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN in the Chair]

Mr. Chairman, Sir, it is unfortunate that today there is UPA Government both at the Centre and in the State of Maharashtra, there is Congress-NCP Government is the power. ...(Interruptions) We do not have allies. When he was speaking on Bihar, he was being interrupted by the Members from Bihar. I am voicing the plight of the people of Bihar here. They should cooperate. We have also extended our cooperation. This issue would be dealt with while rising above party politics. We are all from Bihar, so please allow me to raise this issue. ...(Interruptions)

This attack is not a recent incident. It dates back to the time ever since Congress N.C.P. came to power in Maharashtra and at the Centre too. Full security should have been provided to the Railway Board Examination today. The hon. Minister of Railways and the hon. Minister of Home Affairs are from the U.P.A. Government. The Chief Minister of Maharashtra is from U.P.A. Through you, I would like to submit that the atrocities committed against the North – Indians in Maharashtra and the injustice being meted out to them would pose a threat to the country's unity and integrity. Through you, I would like to know whether or not the Government would give notice of imposing section 355 in Maharashtra following the request of its own alliance partner RJD? Since this demand has been made by the Members of the ruling party, under Section 355 they should. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please conclude. You can only mention the subject. No, it cannot be allowed.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I have not even begun and you are asking me to conclude. ...*(Interruptions)* There was so much uproar in the House, when you came in just now. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please conclude. You have made your point. Please conclude.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN : Sir, I would like to submit that every citizen of India has a right to go and work anywhere in the world. They can go and work in the United States of America, Europe and the entire Gulf region. Mr. Chairman, Sir, a lot of people from Kerala are living in Bahrain, the Keralites have outnumbered the local population there, people of India have spread across the

world. Should people belonging to Bihar and Uttar Pradesh need a permit from a political leader to work somewhere in the country. If Raj Thakre has been encouraged then the Union Minister of Home Affairs Shivraj Patilji will have to give its reply as to why he was not immediately arrested.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, through you, I would like to state that Members of the UPA are raising this issue, however, now the Government will have to find out a remedy. The Government is of the UPA and they themselves are raising this issue. So, a statement should come from the Government since only one Cabinet Minister, Lalu Prasadji is sitting here. I want that he should respond on behalf of the Government here as to what action is being taken by their Government against the Government of Maharashtra? The State Government should be dismissed because during their regime, the North Indians viz. the people of Bihar and Uttar Pradesh are not safe. It is my request. The Government should respond immediately. Whenever such an issue is raised, there is hardly any response from the Government, they only try to hush up the matter. So, through you, I would like to state that the Government should taken this matter seriously.

SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN' (Begusarai) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, Devendra Prasadji has drawn the attention of the House towards a very important question. However, while raising this issue he has derailed it.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please conclude. You have made your point. Please speak on the point because a lot of Members have given notices on this subject.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN' : Sir, I am speaking on the same point. ... *(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please come to the point and then speak.

...*(Interruptions)*

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN' : But he has derailed it. This is the characteristic of the country that there is unity in diversity. People speaking different languages, culture, belonging to several castes and creed live here peacefully and harmoniously. However, the incidents taking place in Maharashtra for the last one year reflect the mental bankruptcy of a mentally insane person who is posing a threat to the country's unity and integrity. Law and order is the responsibility of the State. So, it is the responsibility of the Government of Maharashtra. These incidents have been taking place there for the last one-year. Why could not the Government of Maharashtra check a mentally bankrupt person? What the Union Government has been doing here for the last one year? The Congress party has been in power both at Centre and State level. It could be the election gimmick of the Congress party and the Government wants to create instability there. Isn't the Union Government in connivance with the State Government encouraging terrorists activities in Maharashtra once again? This question is lurking before the country, so it is pertinent, and if the Government has courage, then it should issue notice under section 355 and curb the activities of the person sitting in security cover and making a spectacle of others. Only then we will understand that the Union Government is serious towards the North Indians, otherwise, a wrong message will go across the country that both the Union Government and the Congress Party are acting in connivance.

MD. SALIM (Kolkata – North East) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, this is a very serious issue and several times such issues have been raised during the last one year. The incident that occurred yesterday is a serious issue. Our youths appeared in the Railway Recruitment Examination. There was security arrangement for people coming from North India, particularly, from Bihar and Uttar Pradesh. Railway is an Indian Organisation. We call it the life line of the country. The country has a federal structure and some elements are trying to weaken the structure in the name of language, region etc. The incident of Thane

yesterday, was abominable. I saw it on television. Candidates went there to write exam and they were not given any security cover, they were rather attacked by the hooligans. They were chased away as if some wild animals were being attacked. It gives out a very wrong message to the country's unity and integrity. What message are we giving to our youths of next generation. I know it is weakness of Government in Maharashtra. I do not want to refer to the Legislative Assembly in Parliament, but Union Government and the State Government fear to face such elements. ...(*Interruptions*) I had stated it even last time. ...(*Interruptions*) The State Government, the Police Commissioner and other police officers are feeling more concerned about the security of the people like Shri Raj Thakre and M.L.A.s who openly defend such attacks. They were not arrested. Today, the Parliament is discussing it. Laluji is Minister of Railways. I call upon him as well. UPA Government had come to power on the promise of not tolerating any attack in the name of language, religion, caste and region. Why don't they ask their Home Minister, Prime Minister, Chairperson of UPA? These two constituents of UPA are ramming UPA. Railways is an Indian institution. ...(*Interruptions*) The people of all States and speaking any language have a right on it. The recruitment through employment exchange is made especially for groups 'D' posts. While castigating this condemnable deed to Raj Thakery, we will have to ensure that we should not take such a step in the name of recruitment in Railways that the people who want to disintegrate the country in the name of region and language get an opportunity to act. I would like to request UPA Government not to indulge in electoral politics, else it will weaken the country and we are opposed to it.

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE (Ratnagiri) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I condemn the attacks on the candidates visiting Thane, Navi Mumbai for railway recruitment. I cannot support any such activity. However, there is a need to go into the root cause of such incidents in regard to railway recruitment. There are 42 lakh educated unemployed in Maharashtra. ...(*Interruptions*) You listen it. ...(*Interruptions*) Do you want its solution or merely want

to keep on debating. ...*(Interruptions)* Mr. Chairman, Sir, do we need to debate it or find its solution. ...*(Interruptions)* If we want to solve this issue, we have to think in that direction as well. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SITA RAM SINGH (Sheohar) : The people of the entire country take part in examination and nobody is denied taking part. ...*(Interruptions)*

[*English*]

MR. CHAIRMAN : You please address the Chair.

...*(Interruptions)*

[*Translation*]

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE : Mr. Chairman, Sir, what is this?...*(Interruptions)* Will you not allow me to speak?...*(Interruptions)*

[*English*]

MR. CHAIRMAN : You please address the Chair.

...*(Interruptions)*

[*Translation*]

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE : Mr. Chairman, Sir, will they not allow me to speak?...*(Interruptions)*

[*English*]

MR. CHAIRMAN : You need not look at them. You please address the Chair.

[*Translation*]

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI LALU PRASAD) : Geeteji, you please speak honestly. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE : I won't say anything wrong nor do I want to provoke you. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN' (Begusarai) : He means to say that RRB office be removed from there. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE : Mr. Chairman, Sir, the problem of unemployment is rampant in the entire country. There are 42 lakh educated unemployed in Maharashtra as well. ...*(Interruptions)* Laluji, you listen. All our nationalized banks and insurance companies are of national level. No such dispute has taken place at the time of recruitment either in Mumbai or at any other place. The recruitment is done in banks as well as insurance companies. This controversy is born due to the policy adopted by Railway Recruitment Board. ...*(Interruptions)* You better understand this thing. You conduct probe into what I am saying. If it is wrong. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI LALU PRASAD : What Method be adopted?

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE : I am telling you and you should understand it. ...*(Interruptions)*. Have you ever heard of any violence taking place during the all India recruitment in nationalized banks and insurance companies also? Have you ever heard about it?...*(Interruptions)*

[*English*]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Nothing will go on record except what Shri Anant Gangaram Geete says.

...*(Interruptions)**

[*Translation*]

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I also have condemned wrong thing. Even now I deplore it. I am not supporting it but whether or not you will accept the reality or not?...*(Interruptions)* I am telling you. ...*(Interruptions)* I am giving you those solutions. The modus operandi of Railway Recruitment Board. ...*(Interruptions)* If you don't allow me to speak, I will keep quiet. You find out the solution. ...*(Interruptions)* You find out the solution, I will sit down. ...*(Interruptions)* Let the recruitment take place there. ...*(Interruptions)* You find out the solution. ...*(Interruptions)* I don't want to speak, you recruit the people. You will recruit by intimidating people. ...*(Interruptions)* This is the state of affairs in the House. ...*(Interruptions)* Laluji, if this is the situation in the House and you want to recruit by intimidating then do it. ...*(Interruptions)* Won't you allow me to speak?...*(Interruptions)*

*Not recorded.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Nothing will go on record except what Shri Anant Gangaram Geete says.

...(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE : I am concluding within two minutes. The process adopted by him in regard to Railway Recruitment Board is faulty. Regional Boards have been constituted. As far as Insurance companies and banks are concerned, they have adopted tripartite formula. Advertisement for recruitment is given in newspapers of both the English and Hindi languages as well as in the newspapers of regional languages. ...(Interruptions) Mr. Chairman, Sir, you listen to me. There is no advertisement in regional language. I will prove it.

Secondly, in case these recruitments are made. ...(Interruptions) Why have these Regional Recruitment Boards been constituted? These have been constituted so that the unemployed living in those regions can get employment opportunities. Why have you constituted these regional recruitment Boards?...(Interruptions) I do not want to say anything. These should be scrapped. I would like to cite an example. Some days ago, recruitment of assistant motorman was made.

SHRI VIJOY KRISHNA (Barh) : I will show you the advertisement.

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE : The recruitment for the post of Assistant Motorman was for just one vacancy. The question paper for the examination of the said post should have been same throughout the country but different question papers were given in different regions. There is need to conduct an inquiry into it. Gradation of 'A' 'B' 'C' 'D' and 'E' was done for one post of Motor Assistant. What is this?

There will be only one motorman who will run the train in Mumbai. The same person will run it from Patna, and from Allahabad. What kind of recruitment process is this? Why are you doing like this?

*Not recorded.

SHRI LALU PRASAD : Does it mean you would kill them?

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE : Such gradation policy that you have framed is wrong.

SHRI LALU PRASAD : Is that why you have beaten them?

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE : This is because of your gradation policy that the local people are not able to get the benefits of recruitment. This system of recruitment should be changed and recruitment policy of the Banks and other companies should be adopted. An hon'ble Member from Orissa who is to speak after me will tell you in details about it. We are not opposed to the constitution. The candidates, whosoever they may be, can take the examination, but the advertisements should have been given about it by the Railway Recruitment Board in the newspapers, particularly in the regional languages. If this is the way to find its solution, then, there is no need to hold a discussion in this House.

SHRI RAJESH VERMA (Sitapur) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, the incident that took place yesterday in Maharashtra, the assault launched at Railway station on the examinees is very shameful. The whole country has expressed shock over this issue rising above party politics, casteism, regionalism, as there is no place for all these things in the country, the way in which the innocent students were lathicharged and assaulted barbarously at the railways stations in Maharashtra is highly condemnable. There is a provision in our constitution that each and every person who is born in this land has the right to avail education, take examination and do the job in any part of the country. It is condemnable to assault the innocent students in Maharashtra in the name of language and regionalism. I would like to ask the House as well as the Government of Maharashtra whether there is no contribution of the North Indians, who have been assaulted like this, in the construction of roads in Maharashtra? Were not mills and factories set up over there with the help and cooperation of these North Indians? Have they not toiled hard and put labour in the construction of big buildings in which the

people of Maharashtra are living now? But when they go to take examination or interview, they are assaulted like this. This is a very shameful incident. Our party BSP strongly opposes it. Our colleague, Shri Geeteji was saying that it was the Railway Recruitment Board Examination that caused such an assault. I would like to ask whether the innocent students will be assaulted in this manner due to the Railway Recruitment Board Examination? This is no way if it seems to you that the way in which the examination was conducted is wrong, then, there should be a debate, discussions should be held and protest registered in writing about it, but it is wrong to baton charge the North-Indians for this. They are terrorized with this happening. I would like to ask in this House whether the products manufactured in Uttar Pradesh will not be used in Maharashtra. As the products of Bihar and Uttar Pradesh are used in Maharashtra, the products of Maharashtra are also used in Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and other parts of the country. Lichis produced in Muzaffarpur, Bihar are very much liked in Maharashtra.

It does not behove the champions of regionalism to attack their north Indian countrymen whose produce goes there to feed them. Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am concluding my speech. I would like to say that the incident that has taken place is shameful. Shri Geeteji alleged that there seemed to be irregularities in the Railways Recruitment Board examinations, but, at the same time, there is no justification at all for charging lathis on the innocent students of North India on account of this. There is Congress led UPA Government is power both in Maharashtra and at the Centre. But they are turning a blind eye to these incidents. They have neither made any statement on the incident nor condemned it. Devendra Prasadji has demanded imposition of the provisions of same section. I support it. Using the sections of the constitution, the power of the Government should be seized of these words. I again condemn this incident and conclude.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Tathagata Satpathy. Try to avoid repetition.

SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY (Dhenkanal) : I will be short.

Chairman, Sir, thank you for giving me this opportunity. No one can condone violence, and the incidents in Bombay were definitely sad. Everybody here in this House will be united in opposing it.

But, Sir, this House is not meant just to make allegations. We, as representatives of the people, are supposed to find solutions to problems that arise in any part of this country. Whether it is the extreme end in the East in a State called Assam or in the extreme end of the West in a State called Maharashtra, why are we seeing this kind of a violence? Where lies the seed? It is easy to make allegations. It is easy to get united as North Indians, South Indians, Biharis, Marathis, Oriyas but when will we start thinking as Indians? It is time that we understand that the heart is burning and there is irritation in the minds of people. Why is this happening especially in the case of the Railways? It is not only in Maharashtra, it is all over the country. The Regional Recruitment Boards do not represent the people of the region. People from other States are coming in particularly of certain States. I do not wish to name anybody. I am an Indian first and then I may be of some State. I am ashamed to admit this that it is happening over and over again all over the country and in every Regional Recruitment Board of the railways. People from a particular zone are overpowering.

Take the example of the Zonal Railway Users' Consultative Committees. Take the data. All over this country you have ZRUCCs. How many ZRUCCs have actually sat, taught, discussed and have found solutions to problems of the users of that zone. The meetings are not being held. Why are the meetings not being held? In the State of Orissa, we have a ZRUCC. Members from another neighbouring State; they are no more neighbouring because another new State has come in between; but a large group of member from the erstwhile neighbouring State are dominating our ZRUCC. Our hon. MPs of various parties including Congress, BJD, BJP have preferred to walk out of the meeting but they have not allowed it to be conducted. This is a very serious matter.

[Shri Tathagata Satpathy]

I support Anant Geeteji in this thing that in regional dailies there are never any advertisements about what is happening in the Railways. They avoid the regional dailies; whereas in certain areas of the country, in a certain pocket of this country, regional dailies are given the advertisements.

You will be surprised to know that in Allahabad, 3000 applicants appeared for an examination; 1500 were taken in; the rest 1000 were sent to Bombay to appear for exams there. This is creating a heartburn that is going deep into the psyche of this nation. It is time this House rises above being a Bihari, being a UPite, being an Oriya, or being a Tamilian. We have to think as Indians. It is a matter of shame for all of us. We pose to be great leaders but it is a shame for all of us to behave like this.

Lastly, I would like that as a political person let us not denigrate Mr. Raj Thackeray or his MNS organisation because we do not know what his future is.

Let us talk with respect towards everybody because he also represents a certain group of people. Let us not disrespect anybody but let us set our own house in order. I would request the hon. Railway Minister – he is a broad-minded person – Lajuji not to derail the Railways but to put it back on the rails so that people even in Orissa do not feel slighted, do not feel neglected because this sort of a situation may arise there also, and the people there will be forced and no political leader can control it. This is a warning. Let us accept this warning and let us set our house in order before we make allegations against MNS or against Mr. Raj Thackeray.

SHRI BRAHMANANDA PANDA : Sir, I support the hon. Member, Shri Tathagata Satpathy.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Dr. Prasanna Kumar Patasani is allowed to associate on this issue.

Now, Shri Gurudas Dasgupta.

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA (Panskura) : Mr.

Chairman, Sir, something is fundamentally wrong in the place where this incident has taken place. It is not an issue whether advertisements were published in different newspapers or not. That is not the issue. It is also not the issue, whether the Railway Board did not publish the advertisement in the regional newspapers.

Basically the question is that the people who had gone there to beat the examinees were not hurt; they were never the applicants. They were not the applicants and they were not hurt. They had gone deliberately with an intention of beating up the examinees, who had come from a particular zone of India. I do not say 'North India and Maharashtra'; I do not say 'Bombay and Bihar'; I do not say 'Thackeray and Lalu'; I do not say that. I am only saying that the group of people who had indulged in hooliganism had deliberately gone there to stop the examination to ensure that the people from other parts of India are not able to get the job. It is the clear question. Let us not find the pretext to justify the situation. This is the clear question and this is the simple question.

Secondly, Sir, what is being raised is dangerous for the country. Slogan – job for the son of the soil – is being raised surreptitiously. What does it mean? Does it mean Bengal for Bengalis, Maratha for Marathis, UP for the people who live in UP? If this is going to be allowed, India is going to split, India is going to be divided. Either today or tomorrow there will be a two-India – North India and South India – and there will be no Indian nation as a whole.

Somebody is playing fire. Who are they? Who is this Thackeray? What business he had to send his people there? He is playing on chauvinism to win the election. It is a game of chauvinism. It is a game of dirty politics. I am constrained to say Lalu babu, please tell your friends. You are very friendly with the Congress Party. The Congress Government there is feeling shy to face the slogan of chauvinism. They are playing soft. They are not hard on the dirty politicians. What prevents them from arresting that man? It is because they are afraid of facing the chauvinism, the Marathi chauvinism. If they would like to fight this chauvinism, then they may not win the election.

Everything is being done with the intention of getting the sympathy of the people of a particular State, a particular region and a particular language.

Sir, I appeal to the people of Maharashtra to fight against this menace. They should fight against this menace. Parliament cannot fight them. The people of Maharashtra should fight this menace of Thackeray. ...
(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE (Mumbai-South Central) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, the House has passed a legislation with regard to third and fourth category recruitment providing that the call should be invited from the local employment exchange. There are Marathis in Mumbai, Bangalis in Bengal, Gujaratis in Gujarat and Oriyas in Orissa. These people should be given priority in their respective areas. This will help maintain national integration. Actually, this law was enacted in the House in 1959. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. CHAIRMAN: No discussion between you two. It is not permissible. There can be no discussion between you two. Shri Dasgupta, you please address the Chair.

17.00 hrs.

SPECIAL MENTIONS

...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA (Panskura) : Please listen to me. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now, Shri C. Kuppusami. You can speak now.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri C. Kuppusami, you can speak now.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Mr. Kuppusami, you may speak now.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI C. KUPPUSAMI (Madras North) : Mr. Chairman, Sir...(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Nothing will go on record except the submission of Mr. Kuppusami

(*Interruptions*)*...

[*Translation*]

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE (Mumbai-South Central) : This very hour has passed a legislation with regard to recruitment of third and fourth category. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN (Balasore) : Sir, I have also given a notice to speak.

MR. CHAIRMAN : If your name is there in the list, I will call you.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Hon. Member, please be seated.

SHRI C. KUPPUSAMI : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to draw the attention of this House to the continued killing of innocent Tamil civilians by Sri Lankan Army. In the ongoing hostilities against LTTE, Sri Lankan Army has unleashed aerial attacks and volley of bullets on the innocent Tamil civilians. There are more than two lakh internally displaced persons who are languishing due to lack of food, water, transport and fuel. The security situation in Jaffna peninsula remained tense due to continued aerial attacks in Killinochchi and Mullathive. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI VIJAY KRISHNA (Barh) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, at least tell the hon'ble Minister to give a reply....(*Interruptions*)

*Not recorded.

[English]

SHRI C. KUPPUSAMI : Food, shelter, clean water, sanitation and above all, security remain the most urgent concerns of lakhs of displaced civilians in North of Sri Lanka.

Taking the deteriorating situation in North Sri Lanka into consideration, the All-Party meeting under the leadership of Dr. Kalaignar, decided to urge the Prime Minister and the Central Government to take urgent measures to stop the ongoing hostilities on humanitarian ground and to stop any strategic support from Indian side. The meeting also gave ultimatum up to 28th October to take steps and all MPs from Tamil Nadu have decided to resign to protest against the killings of Tamil civilians; and most of them have already submitted resignation letters to our leader for necessary action.

There are also unprovoked firings on Indian fishermen by Sri Lankan Navy which should be stopped forthwith. Our leader and Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, Dr. Kalaignar urged to stop the bombardment and hostilities in North Sri Lanka and to initiate the process for political settlement. Urgent steps should be taken to rush relief materials to the displaced persons and to save the suffering Tamils in Sri Lanka.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri A.K.S. Vijayan, Shrimati Bhavani Rajenthiran and Shri K.C. Pallanishamy are allowed to associate on this issue.

17.03 hrs.

SUBMISSION BY MEMBERS

RE: Situation arising out of attacks on North-Indian Students' during Railway Board Examinations in Maharashtra – (Contd.)

[Translation]

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV (Patna) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, what about the reply. At least tell the Government to give reply. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : It is over.

...*(Interruptions)**[Translation]*

SHRI LALU PRASAD : Please take your seats, I am giving the reply. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : The hon. Minister is responding. Please take your seats.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN (Balasore): Sir, this is not the method. You should also allow us to speak. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI LALU PRASAD : Do not do like that. Take your seat please. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV (Jhanjharpur) : The House will not run like this. The Government are silent on important issue. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI LALU PRASAD : Tomorrow you will get the reply. I also want to speak a little bit. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Mr. Minister, just a minute. Let us hear Mr. Kharabela Swain also.

SHRI LALU PRASAD : Okay, Sir.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN : Sir, I also very strongly condemn the assault made on the people, who had gone there for the Railway Recruitment Board Test in Mumbai. I also agree that the country does not belong to any singular person; nobody can drive away other people.

But, Sir, I have also got another point to make. You please take the example of my State, Orissa. I belong to East-Coast Railways. It is within the confines of Orissa.

There is a Khurda Road Division. We find a miracle for the last four years that out of all Class-IV employees, those Group-D employees, who have been appointed there in the last four years, 70 per cent belongs only to Bihar. ...*(Interruptions)* Now, in Orissa, Oriyas can get into IAS. Oriyas can get into first class category jobs. The Oriyas can get into everything but they cannot get into Group-D. ...*(Interruptions)*

The second point I would make is this. Take the example of East Coast Railway's Zonal Railway Consultative Committee. In the Zonal Railway Consultative Committee, there are some members who are nominated by the hon. Railway Minister. He has nominated 75 members to the Zonal Railway Consultative Committee of the East Coast Railway. They are all from Bihar. They are all from North Bihar. They belong to only on religion. ...*(Interruptions)*

I will also mention to Mr. Gurudas Dasgupta. My area comes under South Eastern Railway. The hon. Railway Minister has nominated 150 members to the Zonal Railway Consultative Committee of South Eastern Railway, and I will tell you, Mr. Dasgupta that not a single Bengali is in that Committee. Let him go through the list.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Yes, please conclude.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN : They all belong to one caste and one religion and they are all from Bihar. This is what the Railway Minister has done. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Mr. Ramchandra Paswan, please.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN : What he has done? He has taken one railway factory to his constituency, another factory to his wife's constituency, and the third one to the UPA Chairperson's constituency. ...*(Interruptions)* We are

nowhere. Shall we be eligible to get any rail factory any time in life?...*(Interruptions)* People say that now-a-days jobs are being given in the Railways by taking land from them....*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please go to your seat. Let the Minister reply. I will give him time.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN : Even now the Ministers in the Government are becoming Ministers by giving land in this country....*(Interruptions)*

17.07 hrs.

(At this stage, Shri Ram Kripal Yadav and some other hon. Members came and stood on the floor near the Table.)

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : If you do not go, I have no other way but to adjourn the House. If you want me to adjourn the House, then I will adjourn it.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN : It is because of this only. ...*(Interruptions)* This is happening and nothing else. I strongly object to what is being done by the Railways. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please go to your seats. If you do not go, I have no other way but to adjourn the House.

The House stands adjourned to meet tomorrow, the 21st October, 2008 at 11 a.m.

17.08 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Tuesday, October 21, 2008/ Asvina 29, 1930 (Saka).

ANNEXURE-I

Member-wise Index to Starred Questions

Sl. No.	Member's Name	Question Number
1	2	3
1.	Shri Athawale, Ramdas	28
2.	Shri Bhagora, Mahavir	38
3.	Shri Chandrapan, C.K.	33
4.	Shri Chavda, Harisinh	25
5.	Shri Dasputa, Gurudas	36
6.	Shri Gaikwad, Eknath Mahadeo	29
7.	Dr. Jagannath, M.	28
8.	Smt. Jayaprada	33
9.	Shri Jindal, Naveen	37
10.	Shri Kriplani, Srichand	30
11.	Shri Kumar, Nikhil	37
12.	Prof. Malhotra, Vijay Kumar	22
13.	Shri Mollah, Hannan	35
14.	Shri Pannian Ravindran	36
15.	Shri Patel, Kishanbhai V.	24
16.	Shri Pathak, Harin	39

1	2	3
17.	Shri Rajagopal, L.	32
18.	Shri Rana, Kashiram	31
19.	Shri Reddy, M. Raja Mohan	34
20.	Shri Range Patil, Tukaram Ganpatrao	2
21.	Shri Sai, Nand Kumar	22
22.	Dr. Sarma, Arun Kumar	26
23.	Smt. Sen, Minati	40
24.	Shri Senthil, R.	38
25.	Shri Shivajirao, Adhalrao Patil	31
26.	Shri Siddeswara, G.M.	23
27.	Shri Singh, Chandra Bhushan	34
28.	Shri Singh, Prabhunath	23
29.	Shri Singh, Sugrib	24
30.	Shri Thomas, P.C.	32
31.	Shri Tripathy, Braja Kishore	35
32.	Shri Vasava, Mansukhbhai D.	21
33.	Shri Veerendrakumar, M.P.	27
34.	Shri Yaskhi, Madhu Goud	29

Member-wise Index to Unstarred Questions

Sl No.	Member's Name	Question Number
1	2	3
1.	Shri "Baba", K.C. Singh	181, 223
2.	Shri Acharia, Basudeb	203, 226, 301, 347, 370

1	2	3
3.	Shri Adsul, Anandrao Vithoba	233, 276, 327, 387, 388
4.	Dr. Agarwal, Dharendra	182, 246, 271, 287, 336
5.	Shri Ahir, Hansraj G.	204, 282, 331, 360, 389
6.	Shri Angadi, Suresh	187, 250
7.	Shri Argal, Ashok	232
8.	Shri Athawale, Ramdas	272, 324, 358, 376
9.	Shri Azmi, Ilays	221
10.	Shri Bara, Jasubhai Dhanabhai	164, 194, 296, 343, 380
11.	Shri Barman, Hiten	17, 244, 292.
12.	Shri Barman, Ranen	173, 291
13.	Dr. Barq, Shafiqur Rahman	327
14.	Shri Bhagora, Mahavir	285, 334, 362
15.	Shri Bose, Subrata	166, 226
16.	Shri Chakraborty, Ajoy	198, 277, 322, 328
17.	Shri Chandrappan, C.K.	274
18.	Shri Chatterjee, Santasri	176
19.	Shri Chavda, Harisinh	260 316
20.	Shri Chowdhary, Pankan	196
21.	Shri Chowdhury, Adhir	202, 216, 227, 322, 364
22.	Shri Dasgupta, Gurudas	265
23.	Smt. Deo, Sangeeta Kumari Singh	169, 262, 287, 336
24.	Shri Gadhavi, P.S.	194, 268, 320
25.	Shri Gaikwad, Eknath Mahadeo	261, 317, 371
26.	Shri Gandhi, Maneka	224, 300, 346, 369, 372

1	2	3
27.	Shri Gangwar, Santosh	197, 205, 239, 257, 328
28.	Shri Gehlot, Thawarchand	345
29.	Shri George, K. Francis	184
30.	Shri Gudhe, Anant	233
31.	Shri Hussain, Syed Shahnawaz	213, 292, 335, 339, 363
32.	Shri Jadhao, Prakash B.	233
33.	Smt. Jayaprada	255, 318, 354, 375
34.	Shri Jindal, Naveen	240, 306
35.	Shri Jogi, Ajit	235, 303, 391
36.	Shri Kanodia, Mahesh	191, 194, 268
37.	Shri Karunakaran, P.	209, 284, 333
38.	Shri Khan, Sunil	165, 265, 271, 322
39.	Shri Khandelwal, Hemant	351
40.	Shri Karventhan, S.K.	193, 240
41.	Shri Koshal, Raghuveer Singh	168, 236, 304, 335, 386
42.	Shri Krishna, Vijoy	352
43.	Shri Krishnadas, N.N.	230
44.	Shri Kumar, Nikhil	216, 259
45.	Shri Kumar, Shallendra	217, 294, 341
46.	Smt. Botcha, Jhansi Lakshmi	318, 383
47.	Smt. Laxman, Susheela Bangaru	231
48.	Shri Madam, Vikrambhai Arjanbhai	195, 269, 321, 356
49.	Smt. Mahajan, Sumitra	206, 363
50.	Shri Maharia, Subhash	218, 295, 342, 364

1	2	3
51.	Shri Mahato, Narahari	214, 293, 340
52.	Shri Majhi, Parsuram	222, 298, 384
53.	Prof. Malhotra, Vijay Kumar	257, 313, 351, 372
54.	Shri Mandal, Sanat Kumar	188, 251, 309
55.	Smt. Mane, Nivedita	261, 317, 371
56.	Dr. Manoj, K.S.	274
57.	Shri Mehta, Bhubneshwar Prasad	219
58.	Shri Mistry, Madhusudan	194
59.	Shri Mohale, Pannu Lal	322
60.	Shri Mohd., Tahir	202, 215, 383
61.	Shri Mollah, Hannan	264, 372
62.	Shri Mondal, Abu Ayes Mondal	210, 289
63.	Shri More, Vasantao	212
64.	Shri Munshi Ram	229
65.	Shri Murmu, Hemlal	211, 290, 322, 327, 338
66.	Shri Nandy, Amitava	203, 281, 330
67.	Shri Nayak, Ananta	222, 231, 234, 334, 372
68.	Shri Oram, Jual	172, 238, 266, 319, 355
69.	Dr. Pallani Shamy, K.C.	186, 249, 308, 384
70.	Shri Panda, Prabodh	197, 275, 326
71.	Shri Pandey, Laxminarayan	167, 177, 213, 292, 322
72.	Shri Pannian Ravindran	274
73.	Shri Parste, Dalpat Singh	383, 384
74.	Shri Patel Harijal Madhavaji Bhai	194

1	2	3
75.	Shri Patel, Jivabhai A.	180, 245, 323, 337, 357
76.	Shri Patel, Kishanbhai V.	259, 315, 353, 374, 384
77.	Shri Pathak, Harin	267
78.	Shri Patil, Shrinivas Dadasaheb.	285
79.	Shri Patle, Shishupal N.	202, 215, 280, 383
80.	Shri Prasad Harikewal	288, 312, 316
81.	Shri Rajagopal, L.	273, 325
82.	Shri Rajendran, P.	185, 248, 265, 349
83.	Shri Ramadass, M.	197
84.	Shri Rana, Kashiram	262
85.	Shri Rao, E. Dayakar	175, 226, 322
86.	Shri Rao, K.S.	178, 241, 329, 352
87.	Shri Rathod, Haribhau	199, 278, 322
88.	Shri Reddy, M. Raja Mohan	242
89.	Shri Reddy, M. Sreenivasulu	334
90.	Shri Reddy, Suravaram Sudhakar	265
91.	Shri Renge Patil, Tukaram Ganpatrao	256, 300, 312, 350
92.	Shri Rijju, Kiren	167, 372
93.	Shri Sai, Nand Kumar	259, 315, 383, 384
94.	Dr. Sarma, Arun Kumar	252
95.	Shri Sathyanarayana, Sarvey	207, 322
96.	Shri Satpathy, Tathagata	223, 225, 345
97.	Smt. Sen, Minati	239, 385
98.	Dr. Senthil, R.	266

1	2	3
99.	Shri Sethi, Arjun	192, 226, 302, 348
100.	Shri Sharma, Madan Lal	197
101.	Shri Shivajirao, Adhalrao Patil	276, 327, 359, 377
102.	Smt. Shukla, Karuna	174, 322, 389
103.	Shri Siddeswara, G.M.	243, 307, 365, 379
104.	Shri Singh, Chandra Bhushan	259
105.	Shri Singh, Chandrabhan	197, 200, 279, 322
106.	Shri Singh, Dushyant	220, 297, 344, 367, 381
107.	Shri Singh, Ganesh	223, 299, 345, 368, 382
108.	Shri Singh, Prabhunath	258, 314, 352, 373
109.	Shri Singh, Rewati Raman	335
110.	Shri Sugrib	259, 315, 353, 374
111.	Shri Singh, Uday	174, 190, 254, 311, 392
112.	Shri Solanki, Bhupendrasinh	191, 194, 268
113.	Shri Subba, M.K.	171, 237, 305
114.	Shri Subbarayan, K.	226, 263, 366, 372, 389
115.	Shri Sugavanam, E.G.	189, 253, 310
116.	Shri Sujatha, C.S.	183, 247
117.	Smt. Thakkar, Jayaben B.	163, 345
118.	Shri Thakur, Anurag Singh	281
119.	Shri Thomas, P.C.	263
120.	Shri Thummar, V.K.	245, 256, 323
121.	Shri Tripathi, Chandra Mani	174, 322, 389
122.	Shri Tripathy, Braja Kishore	286, 335

1	2	3
123.	Shri Vallabhaneni, Balashowry	208, 283, 332, 361, 378
124.	Shri Vasava, Mansukhbahi D.	260, 337
125.	Shri Verma, Ravi Prakash	276, 327, 359, 377, 383
126.	Shri Yadav, Giridari	170, 288
127.	Shri Yadav, Kailash Nath Singh	202, 215, 383
128.	Shri Yadav, Mitrasen	228
129.	Shri Yaskhi, Madhu Goud	261, 317, 371
130.	Shri Yerrannaidu, Kinjarapu	196, 270, 390
131.	Shri Yogi, Aditya Nath	201

ANNEXURE-II

Ministry-wise Index to Starred Questions

Agriculture	21, 34, 35
Communication and Information Technology	24, 25, 29, 37, 39
Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution	28, 32
Defence	23
Labour and Employment	22, 31, 36, 38
Textiles	33
Water Resources	26, 27, 30, 40.

Ministry-wise Index to Unstarred Questions

Agriculture	166, 169, 171, 172, 173, 179, 181, 182, 183, 185, 187, 188, 193, 194, 197, 200, 208, 210, 211, 213, 214, 219, 220, 226, 332, 234, 242, 244, 245, 255, 256, 261, 264, 274, 275, 279, 280, 281, 283, 284, 288, 291, 292, 293, 294, 296, 298, 300, 303, 316, 317, 323, 324, 326, 328, 332, 336, 340, 352, 354, 355, 358, 363, 365, 372, 376, 377, 380, 381
Communication and Information Technology	167, 177, 196, 198, 203, 205, 218, 225, 227, 228, 230, 236, 241, 243, 246, 248, 250, 253, 259, 265, 272, 276, 282, 301, 304, 306, 309, 321, 338, 342, 347, 348, 349, 353, 356, 362, 370, 371, 379, 385, 386, 390
Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution	174, 184, 201, 204, 216, 221, 224, 233, 238, 251, 266, 285, 299, 313, 314, 322, 330, 334, 343, 344, 345, 346, 350, 373, 375, 378, 384
Defence	176, 195, 206, 209, 231, 240, 257, 258, 270, 271, 277, 289, 302, 305, 318, 329, 335, 339, 351, 357, 359, 360, 368, 374, 382, 383

Labour and Employment

164, 175, 186, 217, 222, 247, 249, 267,
278, 287, 308, 310, 312, 315, 319, 333,
341, 367, 391

Textiles

170, 180, 189, 235, 260, 262, 269, 325,
361

Water Resources

163, 165, 168, 178, 190, 191, 192, 199,
202, 207, 212, 215, 223, 229, 237, 239,
252, 254, 263, 268, 273, 286, 290, 295,
297, 307, 311, 320, 327, 331, 337, 364,
366, 369, 387, 388, 389, 392.

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