

LOK SABHA DEBATES

(English Version)

Seventh Session
(Fourteenth Lok Sabha)



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CONTENTS

[Fourteenth Series, Vol. XVIII, Seventh Session, 2006/1927 (Saka)]

No. 20, Tuesday, March 14, 2006/Phalguna 23, 1927 (Saka)

SUBJECT	COLUMNS
ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS	
*Starred Question Nos. 322—326	1—32
WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS	
Starred Question Nos. 327—341	33—131
Unstarred Question Nos. 2455—2600	131—334
PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE	334—345, 352—353
MESSAGES FROM RAJYA SABHA	345, 392
COMMITTEE TO INQUIRE INTO ALLEGATIONS OF IMPROPER CONDUCT ON THE PART OF SOME MEMBERS IN THE MATTER OF IMPLEMENTATION OF MPLAD SCHEME	
Report	345—346
STANDING COMMITTEE ON URBAN DEVELOPMENT	
Statement	346
OBSERVATION BY THE SPEAKER	346—348
STATEMENTS BY MINISTERS	348—351, 392—394
(i) Status of Implementation of recommendations contained in the 19th Report of Standing Committee on Finance on Demands for Grants (2005-06) of the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation	
Shri G.K. Vasan	348—349
(ii) Status of Implementation of recommendations contained in the 7th Report of Standing Committee of External Affairs	
Shri E. Ahamed	349—350
(iii) Statement correcting reply to Unstarred Question No. 1068 Dated 29.11.2005 Re: UNDP Report 2005	
Shri M.A.A. Fatmi	351

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

SUBJECT	COLUMNS
(iv) Incident of Hijacking of Mughalsarai-Barkakhana passenger train No. 628 at Hehegara Station by Naxalites in Jharkhand on 13th March, 2006	
Shri Lalu Prasad	392—393
ELECTION TO COMMITTEE	
Post-graduate Institute of Medical Education and Research, Chandigarh	352
CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE	
Situation arising out of alleged brutal attack and killing of Adivasis by Police in Kalinganagar in Orissa	353—380
Shri Basu Deb Acharia	353, 359—362
Shri Shivraj V. Patil	357—359, 375—380
Shri Dharmendra Pradhan	363—364
Shri Giridhar Gamang	365—366
Shri Jual Oram	366—368
Shri C.K. Chandrappan	368—369
Shri Tathagata Satpathy	369—371
Shri Hemlal Murmu	373—374
MATTERS UNDER RULE 377	380—391
(i) Need to take steps for continuance of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands Forest and Plantation Development Corporation Limited	
Shri Manoranjan Bhakta	380—381
(ii) Need to construct Kalka by-pass in Himachal Pradesh on priority basis	
Dr. (Col.) Dhani Ram Shandil	381—382
(iii) Need to review the policy for import of Vanaspati from Sri Lanka and Nepal	
Dr. Karan Singh Yadav	382
(iv) Need to operate international flights from Madurai, Tamil Nadu to Singapore, Kuala Lumpur and Gulf countries	
Shri N.S.V. Chitthan	382—383
(v) Need to implement urban development schemes in towns of Amreli Parliamentary Constituency, Gujarat	
Shri V.K. Thummar	383
(vi) Need to check mass exodus of tribals from Bastar region of Chhattisgarh due to Naxal violence in the region and provide interim relief to them	
Ms. Ingrid Mcleod	383—384

SUBJECT	COLUMNS
(vii) Need to ensure effective implementation of labour laws in Border Roads Organisation	
Shri Avinash Rai Khanna	384
(viii) Need to take steps for providing relief to the paddy growers whose crops have been affected due to natural calamities in Maharashtra	
Prof. Mahadeorao Shiwankar	384—385
(ix) Need to provide canteen and other facilities to the para-military personnels after their retirement	
Shri Bachi Singh Rawat 'Bachda'	385—386
(x) Need to develop 'Dandi Yatra' route as a heritage project in Gujarat	
Shri Kashiram Rana	386
(xi) Need to upgrade Medical College at Gorakhpur, Uttar Pradesh with a view to provide better medical facilities to the people in the region	
Shri Pankaj Choudhary	386—387
(xii) Need to suitably amend forest laws for facilitating the development of tribal areas in Bharuch Parliamentary Constituency, Gujarat	
Shri Mansukhbhai D. Vasava	387
(xiii) Need to expedite construction of Barjora-Tajpur, Hatashuri-Godardihi and other pending road projects in Bankura and Burdwan districts in West Bengal under Pradhan Mantri Gramin Sadak Yojana	
Shri Sunil Khan	387—388
(xiv) Need to grant special package for the development of ravines in Etawah Parliamentary Constituency, Uttar Pradesh	
Shri Raghuraj Singh Shakya	388
(xv) Need to check pollution caused by the effluents released by Sir Shadi Lal Chemicals Works Pilkhani, Saharanpur, Uttar Pradesh	
Shri Rasheed Masood	388—389
(xvi) Need for construction of a National Highway linking Patna, Bihata and Aara in Bihar	
Shri Ram Kripal Yadav	389
(xvii) Need to review the decision to construct a dam on Paalar river in Andhra Pradesh by the State Government	
Shri D. Venugopal	389—390
(xviii) Need to expedite repair and four laning work of National Highway No. 28 between Rudauli and Basti in Uttar Pradesh	
Shri Mitrasen Yadav	390

SUBJECT	COLUMNS
(xix) Need to allot Iron Ore Deposits In State of Chhattisgarh or Orissa for the use of Vishakhapatnam Steel Plant, Andhra Pradesh	
Shri Kinjarapu Yerrannaidu	390—391
(xx) Need to evolve a clear policy for the protection of tigers in Sunderbans Tiger Reserve	
Shri Sanat Kumar Mandal	391
GENERAL BUDGET—2006-07—GENERAL DISCUSSION	
DEMANDS FOR GRANTS, 2006-07	
Ministry of Agriculture	394—538
Dr. Vallabhbhai Kathiria	395, 397—403
Cut Motions	403—404
Shri V.K. Thummar	404—406
Shri Balasaheb Vikhe Patil	406—418
Shri Girdhari Lal Bhargava	418
Shri Sudhangshu Seal	418—422
Prof. Ram Gopal Yadav	422—425
Shri Avinash Rai Khanna	426—427
Shri Sitaram Singh	427—430
Shri Lalmani Prasad	430—431
Shri Anant Gudhe	431—433
Shri Prasanna Acharya	433—438
Shri C.K. Chandrappan	438—441
Dr. Rattan Singh Ajnala	442—444
Shri Shailendra Kumar	444—445
Shri A.K.S. Vijayan	445—448
Shrimati Maneka Gandhi	448—453
Shri Srichand Kriplani	453—457
Shrimati Tejaswini Seeramesh	458—463
Shri Kinjarapu Yerrannaidu	463—466
Shri Bir Singh Mahato	466—467
Chaudhary Bijendra Singh	467—474
Shri Shishupal Patle	474—477

SUBJECT	COLUMNS
Shri Jai Prakash	477—481
Dr. K.S. Manoj	481—483
Shri Varkala Radhakrishnan	483—485
Shri M. Shivanna	485—487
Dr. Laxminarayan Pandey	487—490
Dr. Thokchom Meinya	490—492
Dr. R. Senthil	492—494
Shri Munshi Ram	494—495
Shri Ravichandran Sippiparai	495—496
Shri Baleshwar Yadav	496—497
Shri M. Raja Mohan Reddy	497—499
Shri Bhanu Pratap Singh Verma	499—500
Shri Tufani Saroj	500—501
Shri Wangyuh W. Konyak	501—504
Shri Dharmendra Pradhan	504
Shri R.L. Jalappa	505—506
Shri Pralhad Joshi	506—508
Shri S.K. Kharventhan	508—510
Shri Ashok Pradhan	510—512
Shri Sharad Pawar	512—537
 ANNEXURE I	
Member-wise Index to Starred Questions	539
Member-wise Index to Unstarred Questions	540—542
 ANNEXURE II	
Ministry-wise Index to Starred Questions	543—544
Ministry-wise Index to Unstarred Questions	543—544

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LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

Tuesday, March 14, 2006/Phalgun 23, 1927 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock.

[MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

[*English*]

SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE (Aurangabad, Maharashtra): Sir, I wish you a Happy Holi. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYARANJAN DASMUNSI): Happy Holi to all the Opposition Members also. Sir, these people are not playing Holi.

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: Today there is a complete Holi spirit in the House.

...(*Interruptions*)

11.01 hrs.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Santosh Gangwar, Q. No. 322.

[*Translation*]

Higher Education

*322. SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR:
SHRI K.S. RAO:

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

(a) the amount of assistance annually provided by the Government for higher education during each of the last three years;

(b) the basis/criteria on which these funds are allocated;

(c) whether the Government proposes to rationalise the criteria for allocation of funds for higher education;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government proposes to seek cooperation from private sector for the promotion of higher education; and

(f) if so, the details of the steps taken in this regard?

[*English*]

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

Statement

(a) Funds provided for higher education for the last three years under plan and Non-Plan are as under:

(Rs. in crore)

	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05
Total	1751.84	1761.55	2090.87

(b) to (d) UGC allocates funds for promotion of Higher Education to eligible Institutions under various schemes of the Commission in terms of the criteria laid down in respect of each scheme.

(e) and (f) Non-Government self-financed institutions promoted by not-for-profit Societies or Trusts are already participating in higher education.

[*Translation*]

SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR: Through you, I would like to bring it to the notice of the Government that the Hon. Minister of Human Resource Development Shri Arjun Singh has admitted in a statement, published in newspapers that the desired target has not been achieved in Higher Education i.e. no special progress has been made after independence, the way we wanted. Thereafter in another statement he made on 16 January, he said

that the Centre would pull itself out from spending on Higher Education *i.e.* the Union Government will not spend money for Higher Education and private sector would be roped in. Today the countries across the world are progressing owing to the importance they are laying on higher education there. The Governments in foreign countries spend a substantial amount on education. Certain percentage of total revenue collected is fixed for this while it is not so in our country. Our Hon. Minister of Human Resource Development is making statements to the effect that we have nothing to do with higher education whereas more than twenty lakh graduate and post graduate youths in the country are unemployed. If in such a situation education would be entrusted to the private sector where barring the I.I.M. and I.I.T. students, the B.B.A. and M.B.A. qualified candidates do not get employment and such highly qualified youth are starving and reconciling for a meagre salary of Rs. two thousand to five thousand.

Through you, I would like to ask the Government whether our education system is so sick that we cannot revive it as per our needs. Then how do we improve this situation because our youth want to work. In regard to employment we have got this reply that apart from the expenditure incurred on Higher Education during the last two three years Rs. 2090 crore are proposed to be spent during the year 2005. Do the Government have any transfer plan for higher education as per the needs of the country so that our youths get proper education and at the same time people who are there either in business or have vested interests are not persuaded to go, for higher education.

SHRI M.A.A. FATMI: Whatever has been said about Shri Arjun Singh Ji's statement that the Government are pulling it out of Higher Education is not at all true. He has not made any such statement. The fact is that if we go through the related figures of last three years, we will find that Rs. 1751 crore were spent during the year 2002-03 which have increased to Rs. 2090 crore in the year 2004-05. It is both for plan and non plan expenditure. The Government have announced Rs. 1403 crore and approximately Rs. 1400 crore for plan and non plan expenditure respectively, it will escalate to a total of Rs. 2800 crore after the House passes it. If we make a comparative study of figures during the year 2002-03 the amount of Rs. 1751 crore will rise to Rs. 2800 crore. Our Ministry and our Minister have to think how to concentrate more on Higher Education in the days to come. In reality we have not been able to keep pace

with our target that is we have not been able to increase our pace in the desired manner. It is a different issue. The present U.P.A. Government have increased the allocation.

The Government have taken cognizance of vocational training so that the people get more employment opportunities and we are working in that direction.

SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR: I would not like say anything on the statement of the Hon. Minister of Human Resource Development but even he has admitted that they have not been able to achieve the desired results in Higher Education Sector. Today, we have sub-standard schools for higher education in the countries. Higher Education schools are being run in one-room and a lot of things have been brought to the notice of the House as to what is going on in the name of Distance Education. I would like to know the manner in which standard of Higher Education Schools are likely to be improved and whether the Government propose to make any special education zone for the sick units, so that children get proper education and youth do not remain unemployed despite receiving higher education. They do not take interest in jobs abroad. Do the Government propose to make any action plan immediately in this regard?

SHRI M.A.A. FATMI: Sir, as far as running a college or an Institution in small rooms is concerned, the colleges are to be run as per the norms specified by U.G.C. and A.I.C.T.E. In addition to that we do not propose to make any zone, rather we would like to disseminate higher education in the educationally backward areas and we are working in that direction.

[English]

SHRI K.S. RAO: Sir, it is common knowledge that the present system of education is not relevant to the needs of the nation. In fact, I was very much thrilled that in 1985, under the Prime Ministership of late Rajiv Gandhi, in those days they have changed the name of the Ministry of Education as Ministry of Human Resource Development. I thought that the Government has realised the importance of the human resource development and there will be a good future.

MR. SPEAKER: Please put your question.

SHRI K.S. RAO: Yes, Sir. I am formulating the question. It is proved beyond doubt that given opportunity, motivation and facilities, Indians are extremely intelligent and they have proven their merits and they went outside

the country particularly to the developed nations. But, it is also agreed or felt by everybody that unless the skills, unless the creative thinking of the people are increased, there is no future for this nation.

If Germany, Japan, South Korea, Malaysia and Singapore were to come up, it is only because of their innovative thinking and extreme skills that they acquired. I am happy that the UPA Government has allocated a large amount of money for education, four to five times more than what was allocated by the NDA. Merely allocation of money is not a solution. I wish to know one thing. Earlier, several Governments were used to announce new education policy every time there was a change of the Government. But that has not resulted in any real change in the educational policy.

I wish to know from the hon. Minister whether he will concentrate on changing the system of education itself, either totally or substantially so that the real vocational skills will be improved not only at lower level but also in the higher education so that a student can come out of the institution with confidence that he will be useful to the society and he can live on his own skills.

MR. SPEAKER: These are policy matters. You want every detail. The Question Hour is something else, for eliciting information.

[Translation]

SHRI M.A.A. FATMI: I have said that the Government have taken cognizance of vocational training and as far as technical education is concerned, approximately five lakh students are studying in Engineering Colleges. It is correct that we have a target of more students. We are concentration on including maximum number of children between the age group of 18 to 23 years in the higher education age group. It is regretted that as of now only 8.97 percent children of this age group are able to attend colleges. Our target is to increase this to 10 percent within two years.

SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to submit that out of Rs. 18000 crore, Rs. 12,000 crore are given as salary to teachers. As everyone knows that we have 300 universities and some 15 to 18 thousand colleges. The biggest problem in the country is the lack of proper monitoring of this fund. UGC and AICTE on several occasions have expressed their inability to the Ministry that they are not able to

proper monitoring of this fund. I would like to ask a direct and specific question to the Hon. Minister whether he proposes to introduce any other alternative for its monitoring.

SHRI M.A.A. FATMI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, UGC is entirely responsible for it. It is the over all in-charge and there is no question of any problems in it.

[English]

PROF. BASUDEB BARMAN: Sir, the reply given in the statement appears to be inadequate. Regarding replies to parts b and c, UGC Terms and Conditions are referred to. I feel that the contents of the reply could have been a bit more elaborate. I would now request the hon. Minister, through you, to give us the relevant information as sought for. What are the Terms and Conditions? We are not to go to the UGC for seeking such information.

Secondly, regarding non-Government self-financed institutions, I would like to know whether there is any monitoring system to see that such institutions are working on no-profit basis. I want to know these details through you.

MR. SPEAKER: Question Hour is not for seeking details.

PROF. BASUDEB BARMAN: I want this information. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI M.A.A. FATMI: if he needs guidelines I will sent it to him. If the hon. Member is hinting at the commercialisation of private institutions the Government does not allow it. If he has an information of an institution accepting money, we will take action against it.

[English]

SHRI A. KRISHNASWAMY: Sir, from the statement of the hon. Minister, I have come to know that every year there is an increase in funds allocation for higher education. In the Tenth Five Year Plan, we had decided to promote private colleges in the country. If I am right, at that time our percentage of higher education was only six per cent. That is why, we planned to promote private colleges. I want to know from the hon. Minister that by giving so much of money to higher education, what is

the percentage of higher education increase in this country? As we decided and took steps to promote higher education through private colleges and societies, what is their percentage participation in promotion of higher education in the country? I want to know both these percentages.

If the percentage has not increased, what are the steps taken by the Government to promote higher education?

MR. SPEAKER: He has said 'ten per cent target'.

[Translation]

SHRI M.A.A. FATMI: As I had already stated that only 8.97% children of this age group are able to attend colleges, the Government have achieved this much and our target is to make it 10%, Children enroll themselves in private institutions for engineering and management courses only but in the Government institutions, colleges and universities, all courses like social science, political science and literature and all other faculties are available. So it would not be proper to make a comparison between these two. Both are complementary to each other.

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to draw the attention of the Minister towards the state-wise funds being allocated to each student and I am giving it as per my information. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: You have to seek information, not give information.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: The amount allocated to State Government by the Union Government for each student is Rs. 1.87 for Bihar, Rs. 2.59 for Rajasthan, Rs. 4.07 for Orissa, Rs. 7.39 for Chandigarh and Rs. 77.01 for Arunachal Pradesh. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Member what is your specific question to the hon. Minister?

[Translation]

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I feel that the funds being allocated to poor states by the

Government are very meagre vis-a-vis their requirement. Through you, I would like to know from the Minister whether funds would be specially provided to those states which have been allocated meagre funds so that their children get a chance to study. I would also like to know as what action the Government propose especially in regard to Bihar, in this respect as the hon. Minister also belongs to that State.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: He is a Minister for the whole of India.

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: But, Sir he is also a Bihari.

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: It is a very good question.

SHRI M.A.A. FATMI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, so far as expenditure in universities and colleges is concerned, central universities are the responsibility of the Union Government and the State Universities are mainly, taken care by the State Governments. The Government give assistance for their maintenance as per the prescribed norms. Funds are allocated about the question raised by the hon. Member regarding Bihar, if he has good relations with Government of Bihar then requirements can be send to the Union Government. We will consider them and try to give assistance to them.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Why not? The relationship should not be bad on the issue of education.

SHRI DEEPENDER SINGH HOODA: Thank you, Speaker, Sir. The last part of the Question says whether this Government proposes to seek cooperation from private sector for promotion of higher education. My question to the hon. Minister, through your presence, is this. Is this Government allowing or seeking or promoting foreign investment in the area of higher education? By foreign investment I meant setting up of institutes of higher education, and foreign campuses of some of the world-renowned universities on the pattern of China. China has allowed some of the big universities such as the Harvard University to set up campuses on the Chinese soil. Thank you, Sir.

[*Translation*]

SHRI M.A.A. FATMI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the entire policy is being formulated. Once it is formulated it will be presented before the nation and the House. So far as the question of the Hon'ble Member is concerned, investment in this sector is welcomed but the Government will certainly not allow commercialisation and profiteering by any Indian or foreign university.

SHRIMATI KIRAN MAHESHWARI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the Hon'ble Minister that psyche of the society, has changed now and the girls are also being encouraged to go for higher education as the boys were encouraged. I would like to know from the Government whether it has prepared any scheme to provide higher education to girls. There are many regions in the country where the parents are averse to the idea of giving higher education to the girls alongwith the boys. Are vocational courses, technical courses to be started or technical institute established separately for the girls as it is being done for boys? What are the views of the Government in this regard? What are the views of the Government to provide higher education to the girls?

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: This issue does not come under this question, but the hon. Minister wants to oblige her by answering it, then please go ahead.

[*Translation*]

SHRI M.A.A. FATMI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, if the Hon'ble Member wishes to have the details in this regard, I can provide location-wise details of these colleges. Reservation is also there in some colleges. If the Hon'ble Member so desires, I can supply her with details of the policy in writing.

MR. SPEAKER: The Hon. Minister will send you all the details.

[*English*]

Now, the last supplementary on this Question to be asked by Shri N. Janardhana Reddy.

SHRI N. JANARDHANA REDDY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, this is the most confusing Ministry. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: We have listened to all of it, but not recorded.

...(*Interruptions*)*

SHRI N. JANARDHANA REDDY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, this is the most confusing Ministry in the Central Government, which is now assisting the State Governments for various schemes. I am saying this because we do not know, and the whole country does not know about the similarity of assistance given in every State. For example, the hon. Minister has given in his statement that the expenditure for 2002-2003 is Rs. 1,751.84 crore. Similarly, for the year 2004-2005 the expenditure is Rs. 2090.87 crore. I would like to know this from the hon. Minister. Does this money also include the State Government spending or is it only for the Central Government?

If it is so, how are you going to plan it? The State Government is spending money; the Central Government is spending money, and there is no control over the State.

SHRI M.A.A. FATMI: It is the Central Fund.

MR. SPEAKER: You have put the question and he will answer it now. You should not have replied until he has finished.

SHRI M.A.A. FATMI: It is the Central Government fund.

Promotion of Sanskrit

*323. SHRI M. SHIVANNA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Sanskrit Vidyalayas/Universities in the country, State-wise;

(b) the details of funds and other resources being provided by the Government to these Sanskrit Vidyalayas/Universities during each of the last three years;

(c) whether the Government proposes to introduce any scheme to provide employment to the Sanskrit Scholars and to promote use of Sanskrit in the country/abroad; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

*Not recorded.

[Translation]

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

Statement

(a) and (b) Information regarding Sanskrit Vidyalayas is being collected.

State-wise number of Sanskrit Universities, their number which have been provided funds by the Ministry and the amount of funds released to them during last three years are given in the Annexure.

(c) and (d) While there is no proposal to introduce any scheme to provide employment to Sanskrit scholars, a scheme for Development of Sanskrit Education is already being implemented with the following components:

- (i) Financial assistance to eminent Sanskrit Pandits in indigent circumstances;
- (ii) Award of scholarships to students of High/Higher Secondary Schools;
- (iii) Salary support for Sanskrit teachers in Secondary Schools;
- (iv) Modernisation of Sanskrit Pathshalas;
- (v) Grants to State Governments, deemed Universities and NGOs for promotion of Sanskrit.
- (vi) Grant to Rashtriya Sanskrit Sansthan/Deemed Universities/Central Board of Secondary Education/National Council for Education, Research and Training (NCERT)/State Council for Education, Research and Training (SCERT) etc. for improving the methodology of teaching Sanskrit.

Annexure

Sl.No.	State	State-wise Sanskrit Universities	Out of col. 3, no. receiving grants from the Ministry	Amount of funds provided during last 3 years to Sanskrit Universities (Rupees in Lakhs)		
				2002-03	2003-04	2004-05
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1	1	437.09	536.37	539.45
2.	Bihar	1	1	50.48	32.79	47.35
3.	NCT of Delhi	2	2	3912.01	3719.13	3687.32
4.	Gujarat	1	—	—	—	—
5.	Kerala	1	1	0.71	0.00	2.37
6.	Maharashtra	1	—	—	—	—
7.	Orissa	1	1	56.83	10.69	4.67
8.	Rajasthan	1	1	—	—	0.55
9.	Uttar Pradesh	1	1	85.46	188.97	324.58
10.	Uttaranchal	1	—	—	—	—
Total		11	8	4542.58	4487.95	4606.29

*SHRI M. SHIVANNA: Sir, Sanskrit and Tamil are the two languages which have been accorded the status

*English translation of the speech originally delivered in Kannada.

of classical language in India. Sanskrit is a glorious language and in one village in Karnataka State all the people speak Sanskrit, that is in Mattur village, Sagar Taluk, Shimoga district where young and old all speak in Sanskrit.

I want to know whether the Union Government has any proposal to adopt about ten villages in the country on experimental basis and provide all teaching and financial facilities to promote Sanskrit language in the country.

[Translation]

SHRI M.A.A. FATMI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, majority of the small schools are established by the State Governments, but our Rashtriya Sanskrit Sansthan is also running some model schools and campuses and it is providing assistance to some colleges. But regarding the question of selecting 10 villages; if State Government will send proposals then the Government will consider them and give assistance to it.

*SHRI M. SHIVANNA: Sir, Mysore is one of the most beautiful cities in the world. It is an excellent Educational Centre which has campuses like Manasa Gangotri and others. I want to know whether the Centre has any proposal to set up a new Sanskrit University especially in the city of Mysore which is in the Centre of South Indian States.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: You can give the reply in one word; you can say, 'yes' or 'no'.

[Translation]

SHRI M.A.A. FATMI: Sir, there is no such proposal right now. There are 11 Sanskrit Universities in India. There is no such proposal for Mysore with the Government right now.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you for your concern for Sanskrit.

SHRI M.A.A. FATMI: Sir, there is no such proposal as of now. There are 11 Sanskrit universities in the country. There is no in respect of Mysore with us.

[Translation]

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, several Gurukuls and Sanskrit Vishwa Vidyalayas have

been established in the country. I would like to ask whether teachers and students of these Gurukuls and Vishav-Vidyalayas will be provided with the same facilities and recognition as has been given to the other Vishav Vidyalayas and degree colleges.

SHRI M.A.A. FATMI: There are several schemes to promote Sanskrit e.g. Sanskrit teachers are being paid Rs. 6 thousand per month as salary, we have programmes for modernization of Sanskrit Vidyalayas and also for establishing Adarsh Sanskrit Mahavidyalayas. Besides, we extend our help to Sanskrit pandits also.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: You have mentioned all that in your written answer. You need not read that again.

Shri Prabhunath Singh, why have you sudden interest in Sanskrit?

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, Sanskrit is being taught at secondary and senior secondary levels in schools of Bihar. However, Primary schools have been opened after getting approval and registration. Hon'ble Minister has not given reply to part 'a' and 'b' of this question. He has submitted that information is being sought in this regard.

That means the Minister of State in the Ministry of Human Resource Development is not aware of the number of Sanskrit Vidyalayas existing at present in different States in the country and the amount allocated by his Ministry to these Vidyalayas annually.
...(*Interruptions*)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Vidyalayas must be under State Government.

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, in the reply placed by the hon'ble Minister on the Table of the House, it has been stated that the hon'ble Minister is not aware of it and information in this regard is being collected.

MR. SPEAKER: All right. Ask your question.

...(*Interruptions*)

*English translation of the speech originally delivered in Kannada.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: What is happening? He does not need your help.

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, people call the examination conducted in existing Sanskrit Vidyalayas of Bihar as the examination of Raharia Vidyalayas because examination of these Vidyalayas are not conducted in a proper school format but students write their exams while sitting in fields and also the results are prepared in the same way. I would like to bring to the notice of the hon'ble Minister that funds allocated to these Vidyalayas are being curtailed year by year. I would like to know the reasons therefor. Secondly, I would also like to bring to his notice that Several Sanskrit Vidyalayas are functioning under Bihar Board. What efforts are being made by the hon'ble Minister to strengthen those Vidyalayas and to impart proper education in them also to spread Sanskrit education widely?

Sir, one more question is connected with it i.e. lack of proper arrangements to provide employment to Sanskrit Scholars. In Bihar, after completing their education, these scholars earn their livelihood by performing rites at various ceremonies like marriages and 'Shradh' etc. I would like to know from the hon'ble Minister whether any efforts are being made on the part of the Government to provide employment to these Sanskrit Scholars.

SHRI M.A.A. FATMI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, hon'ble Member has asked about the number of Sanskrit Vidyalayas in the country. I would like to mention that there are 520 Sanskrit Vidyalayas in the country at present. These have been linked up with 'Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan' under which mid-day-meal is provided to the students. Hon'ble Member may not have the figures but I would like to tell him that 3700 schools have been affiliated with Sanskrit Board. Instructions have been given to link up all these schools to Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan and to appoint Sanskrit teachers in the schools where students want to learn Sanskrit and also to provide same facilities to these schools which are being provided to schools under Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan. The same facilities will be provided in other states also if such schools are opened.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, hon'ble Member hails from Bihar and I would request him that this scheme should be

launched in Bihar because Ministry of Human Resource Development has already taken up this matter with the concerned Ministry in Bihar and has directed the later to link up all these Vidyalayas with Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan. Same assistance will be provided to them which is given to the schools under Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan but we have not been successful to do this in Bihar as yet.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the second part of his question is about how to provide vocational education to Sanskrit Scholars passing out from the aforesaid 11 major Vishva Vidyalayas or from other colleges so that they could earn their livelihood and the language may also continue to survive because it is the employment oriented language that will have the maximum chance of survival also. I would like to tell the hon'ble Member that the concerned Ministry and Sanskrit Scholars have been consulted in this regard and something would really be done so that the language may not become obsolete.

CHAUDHARY LAL SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to submit to the hon'ble Minister that the Kashmir and Bhadravahi languages spoken in my State Jammu and Kashmir are based on Sanskrit.

MR. SPEAKER: This question is related to Sanskrit?

CHAUDHARY LAL SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, if you hear the 'Kashmiri and Bhadravahi' you will find that they are totally based on Sanskrit.

I would like to bring to the notice of the hon'ble Minister that not a single Sanskrit Vishva Vidyalaya exists in such a big State and large number of local people want to learn Sanskrit. I would like to know from him whether a Sanskrit Vidyalaya or Vishva Vidyalaya would be opened there so that the students of Jammu and Kashmir could learn Sanskrit.

SHRI M.A.A. FATMI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to inform the hon'ble Member that State Government, if desires can open such Vidyalaya or Vishva Vidyalaya in the State. So far as the assistance is concerned, Sanskrit Sansthan working under our Ministry can help them in this regard. There will not be any difficulty in it.

SHRIMATI JAYABEN B. THAKKAR: Mr. speaker, Sir, there is only one Sanskrit Vishva Vidyalaya in Gujarat, however, the Ministry has not allocated any funds to it. I want to know the reason for it. I would like to bring to the notice of the hon'ble Minister that Sanskrit is the

divine language. Enormous knowledge is stored in the various literary work written in Sanskrit language. Are any efforts being made by his Ministry to preserve this heritage by computerization.

SHRI M.A.A. FATMI: There are 11 universities in the entire country. 3 out of those 11 universities get aid from the Union Government. One each Universities located in Gujarat, Maharashtra and Uttaranchal do not get aid from the Union Government, because these universities do not fulfill the above criterion. They do not fulfill criterion prescribed in terms of teachers and due to many other problems also. When Gujarat University gets over these shortcomings, then aid would be given to it.

[*English*]

SHRI C. KUPPUSAMI: Recently, the UPA Government recognised 'Tamil' as a Classical language. On behalf of the people of Tamil Nadu, I would like to thank the Central Government.

I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to whether there is any proposal to start a Tamil University in Tamil Nadu on par with Sanskrit University by the Central Government.

[*Translation*]

SHRI M.A.A. FATMI: This question is related to Sanskrit, when question of Tamil will be raised, then I will give reply to that.

[*English*]

Export of Iron Ore

*324. SHRI R.L. JALAPPA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the details with regard to the quantity of iron ore being exported from the country, State-wise;

(b) whether any restriction has been laid down by the Government in respect of quantum of iron ore to be exported by any individual State;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether export of iron ore from Bellary and Tumkur districts of Karnataka has been permitted;

(e) if so, the quantum of iron ore exported from Bellary and Tumkur districts of Karnataka;

(f) whether the government has received any complaints against exporters for violating norms laid down for the export of iron ore; and

(g) if so, the details thereof alongwith the inquiry conducted in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) to (g) A Statement is laid in the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) The state-wise figures of exports of iron ore are not maintained. However, the quantities of iron ore exported from the country during 2002-03, 2003-04 & 2004-05 are 48.02, 62.57 & 78.15 (Provisional) Million Metric Tonnes, respectively.

(b) and (c) No, sir. However, in order to conserve the high grade iron ore for domestic consumption, an annual ceiling of 3.0 Million Metric Tonnes on lumpy ore and 3.8 Million Metric Tonnes on fines ore has been imposed on exports from the Bailadila Sector of Chhattisgarh State.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) District-wise details of exports of iron ore are not maintained.

(f) and (g) During November, 2004, a joint team of officials of Director General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) and Export Inspection Council (EIC) had conducted test checks of consignments of iron ore, wherein one consignment was found to have exported iron ore containing iron content more than 64% without valid permission. Under Foreign Trade (Development & Regulation) Act, 1992, a fiscal penalty of Rs. 10 lakhs was imposed on the firm, which has since been paid.

SHRI R.L. JALAPPA: In Karnataka, iron ore is concentrated in Bellary and Tumkur districts. Iron ore is being exported to China at the rate of 60,000 tonnes every day. There are two varieties of iron ore. One is below 60 grade, and the other is above 60 grade. Under the guise of below grade, they are exporting the higher grade to China. The hon. Minister in his reply stated that one inspection was held in November, 2004, and one

consignment was caught and a penalty of Rs. 10 lakh was imposed. It is my understanding that a lot of such iron ore consignments is exported in the guise of lower grade iron ore. By exporting this iron ore, every year—you will be surprised to know—exporters are generating more than Rs. 2,000 crore of net income per year. We do not know as to where that money goes and as to whether it is properly calculated. Would the Minister order for an inspection by the CBI to find out how much iron ore is being exported to China in the guise of second grade iron ore?

SHRI KAMAL NATH: Sir, there are two types of iron ore. One is 64 per cent and above and the other is 64 per cent and below. Below 64 per cent is freely exportable. There is no control on this. However, for the above 64 per cent iron ore, a Cabinet decision was taken in February, 2004 allowing these exports with ceiling in the Bailadilla sector. Against a total export in 2003-04 of 62.58 million tonnes of high grade, that is, above 64 per cent iron ore; it was 21.8 million tonnes, below 15.61 per cent of 62 to 64 per cent and the low grade was 25 per cent. As I said, it is only for high grade, that there is an issue. As the hon. Member was saying, some of the firms may be exporting in the name of low grade, high grade. As I stated in my reply, an inspection was carried out by the DGFT and the Export Inspection Council and three were issued Show Cause Notices. One of them was found indulging in some malpractices and he was fined.

The field formation is done by the Revenue Intelligence and Customs. If and when such a thing comes to our notice or if the hon. Member has any specific concern on this or specific information on this, I will be happy to get the matter examined.

MR. SPEAKER: He wants to know whether the malpractice has stopped.

SHRI R.L. JALAPPA: Sir, the Department itself has found that there is malpractice, then why should a Member once again tell him about it? It is already there.

Secondly, I cannot understand as to how so much of ore is being exported depriving our posterity. Last year, it was done to the extent of three crore tonnes. Due to non-availability of iron ore to the local industries, 25 per cent of the capacity is not being used while converting from iron ore to pellet. Why should we exhaust this natural resource?

MR. SPEAKER: You say: Why should it at all be exported?

SHRI R.L. JALAPPA: Does he think that the posterity does not require the iron ore in future for our country's use? Secondly, this could be used in our own country for establishing conversion plants and processing plants and then supplying steel outside. Last year, we had imported nearly 1.5 million tonnes of steel from China. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: The second part of your question will not be answered.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI R.L. JALAPPA: Is it at all necessary? We have imposed only five per cent of the Import Duty. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You have asked a pertinent question. Let him answer it.

SHRI R.L. JALAPPA: I would request the hon. Minister whether he would consider putting a stop to this export and using the same in our country.

SHRI KAMAL NATH: The hon. Member's concern is that we should not export it. I just want to give the facts as they are. The figures say something else. The total production in 2003-04 was 122.84 million tonnes. In 2004-05, it was 142 million tonnes. So, the domestic demand was 44.98 and 44.40 million metric tonnes respectively. The export was 62.58 million metric tonnes and 78 million metric tonnes. Still, there was a surplus of 15.28 million metric tonnes in 2003-04 and 19 million metric tonnes was the projected surplus in 2004-05.

The question whether the reserves should be exported or not, the Ministry of Mines makes this assessment. The Indian Bureau of Mines have said that there is a huge reserve of iron ore. The Ministry of Mines makes such a survey which shows that the export of iron ore should be contained or curtailed. It is for them to take a decision and not my Ministry.

[Translation]

SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAJRE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the export of Iron ore is increasing every year. Just now, hon'ble Minister replied that only high grade iron ore is exported, low grade is not exported. ...*(Interruptions)*

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: What is your question?

...(Interruptions)

[*Translation*]

SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: Low grade is exported, but permission for it has not been given. ...(*Interruptions*) Permission for high-grade ore only has been given, but many people have exported without valid permission, as hon'ble Minister has stated that penalty of Rs. 10 lakh was imposed in one such case. We discuss in the meeting of Steel Committee that Steel Industry is running in losses ...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: It is for the Ministry of Mines to answer this.

[*Translation*]

SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: Due to non availability of iron-ore, they have to procure more than 200 percent of iron ore, due to which iron production in the country costs more. I would like to know from the Minister whether he will grant permission to the Steel Industry for captive mining for mining out iron ore.

SHRI KAMAL NATH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Ministry of Mines grants permission for this. I would like to point out that exported iron ore contains approx. 80% fines. We are having surplus fines, because 60% fines come out at the time of mining of iron-ore. Our capacity for utilization of fines is less therefore it is in surplus. We are facing this problem. It is evaluated by the Ministry of Mines. Figures are worked out in that basis.

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: Now, Md. Salim.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Sunil Kumar Mahato, please sit down. I have not permitted you. The next question is already listed in your name. Now, please do not disturb.

...(Interruptions)

MD. SALIM: Sir, iron ore is an important raw material of national importance. Now, it has acquired an international importance. But here, the Minister's reply to the main Question is very evasive. They do not maintain the State-wise or the District-wise figures of the iron ore.

The main Question asked was: "Whether there is some restriction imposed." But the hon. Minister's answer is only for Bailadilla in Chhattisgarh State and not other States. There is a *mafia raj* now going on starting from Goa to Orissa, in between Chhattisgarh, in between Karnataka, in between Madhya Pradesh, and throughout Jharkhand, which has an impact on our social-political system. This is the background. Now, it is not only with regard to the Commerce Ministry.

MR. SPEAKER: Put your question, please.

MD. SALIM: The Government of India, keeping in mind the national importance of steel and mines, should think of the domestic consumers also. In domestic consumption there is a shortage. People are ready to put up industry, particularly steel and mines. Here, every State is strict.

MR. SPEAKER: He can only answer for the Commerce Ministry. It is enough now.

MD. SALIM: My question is this. Is it not the responsibility of the Government of India to oversee the movement of raw materials of national importance like iron ore within the country and helping the domestic consumption instead of encouraging export in a big manner?

SHRI KAMAL NATH: Sir, the assessment of what is produced, where it is produced and how much should be exported is taken by the Ministry of Mines. The hon. Member said that I was being evasive. I was not being evasive because the issue concerned is about export; and he is asking me, what is the production! It is a very valid question; I am not saying that it is not a valid question. But it is being asked to a wrong Ministry. I would be able to tell him how much is exported, and what is the amount decided to be exported. This decision is also not taken by my Ministry. This decision is taken by evaluating the surplus by the Ministry of Mines, and the control of it that the right quantity is being exported, is done with the help of the Revenue Intelligence Authority where it is being correctly done.

MR. SPEAKER: Now, where he should sit with the Minister of Mines in this regard.

[Translation]

SHRI JUAL ORAM: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon'ble Minister has stated in his reply that the production of iron ore in the country is in surplus, therefore its export has been allowed. The Ministry of Mines has allowed it. I would like to ask a very specific question to the hon'ble Minister as to since when export of iron ore having more than 64% or around 64% iron content has been allowed? As per earlier rules, export of iron ore having iron contents around 59-60% only was allowed and export of iron ore having iron content more than 60% was not permitted to be exported. I would like to ask the hon'ble Minister as to when the decision for export of 64% grade iron ore was taken? Country is facing shortage of iron ore, therefore, I would also like to associate myself with the demand put up by Shri Jalappa and would like to ask as to what quantum of 64 grade iron ore has been exported? Besides, I would also like to ask whether a CBI inquiry would be conducted in to the illegal export of 64 grade iron ore.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Only that part of 64% should be replied.

[Translation]

SHRI KAMAL NATH: Decision to export 64 grade iron ore was taken by the cabinet in January, 2001. Thereafter, the Cabinet again took this decision in February, 2004 but put a limit only on lumps ore of Bailadila sector. After that, no other decision has been taken. Our current policy is based on the decision of February, 2004.

Revival of Sick Industries

*325. SHRI SUNIL KUMAR MAHATO:
SHRI KASHIRAM RANA:

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

(a) the number of the sick industries revived during the last two years, State-wise;

(b) the number of the sick industries which are likely to be revived during the current financial year, State-wise; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to revive sick industries?

[English]

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) to (c) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) and (b) The Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) considers revival of sick industrial units registered with the Board under the provisions of Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provision), Act 1985 (SICA). As per the information received from BIFR, 96 sick industries were revived during the last two years i.e. from 1.1.2004 to 31.12.2005. The State-wise list is given in the statement at Annexure.

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

Annexure

State-wise list of revived cases registered with BIFR during 1.1.2004 to 31.12.2005

Sl.No.	State/U.T.	No. of Units
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	9
2.	Chattisgarh	1
3.	Delhi	6
4.	Goa	1

1	2	3
5.	Gujarat	8
6.	Haryana	4
7.	Karnataka	7
8.	Kerala	4
9.	Madhya Pradesh	2
10.	Maharashtra	22
11.	Oriasa	1
12.	Pondicherry	2
13.	Punjab	5
14.	Rajasthan	6
15.	Tamil Nadu	8
16.	Uttar Pradesh	4
17.	Uttaranchal	1
18.	West Bengal	5
Total		96

[Translation]

SHRI SUNIL KUMAR MAHATO: Mr. Speaker, Sir, after independence, we had set up many basic industries and many industries were taken over due to labour problems. After some time, due to lack of modern technique in place of old technique, lack of capital, market situation, which was one of the main reasons and management system of these industries, many of these industries gradually got closed. Due to this, property worth billions of rupees is lying unutilized. It is adversely affecting our production. The main reason behind the closure of these industries is the appointment of IAS and IPS officers on pivotal positions in these industries. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Put the question.

SHRI SUNIL KUMAR MAHATO: Sir, due to political influence, these officers kept occupying pivotal positions in these industries, while these positions demanded technical expertise. Therefore, some of these industries are on the verge of closure. I would like to know from the Government and through my supplementary question

would like to ask whether the Government propose to frame rules to appoint people having technical know how in place of IAS and IPS officers at pivotal positions in the various Public Sector undertakings of the country? If not, the reasons therefor?

MR. SPEAKER: Ask question one by one.

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: He is asking, will you drive away all IAS and IPS Officers.

[Translation]

SHRI KAMAL NATH: The Government cannot decide as to who should be appointed in private sector, whether it should be an IAS and IPS Officer or anybody else. This decision has to be taken by them only. It is not appropriate to impose the condition on them for appointing IAS and IPS officers on them. Everybody has his own capability and experience. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN: He is asking about their appointment. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Do not speak anything from there.

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister, do not take notice of any question that is not permitted.

SHRI KAMAL NATH: No, its not a matter of appointment. They will appoint or not, but it can't be thrust on them to appoint an IAS or IPS. It would be depending on their capability and experience. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SUNIL KUMAR MAHATO: Sir, Do the Government plan to take action against such industries which are on the verge of closure and are under the charge of an IAS, or against the officers-in-charge?

SHRI KAMAL NATH: Sir, as far as public sector or public Enterprises Selection Board is concerned, the decision is made on the basis of their capability after thorough investigation and interview. Who should be

appointed and who should it be, the Government take this decision according to the decision of Public Enterprises Selection Board. What the Government can do in the Public Selection Enterprises? Public Enterprises Selection Board has its own procedure which is in vogue for long. If the hon. Member is referring to some particular IAS Officer, I am not aware of it.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Kashiram Rana—Not present.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI RANJEET RANJAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to ask the Hon. Minister about the industries which have been closed down. In my constituency, a paper mill has been closed down for last several years, and a bank loan of about Rs. 9-10 crore is outstanding against it. In Barabanki, a sugar mill, which once used to be no. 1 sugar mill of India is lying closed and because of this farmers there are not getting due prices of their sugarcane produces because market no more exists there. Do the Government propose to revive these two mills alongwith several other mills in Bihar which have been closed down due to outstanding bank loans or have fallen sick?

SHRI KAMAL NATH: There are guidelines of Reserve Bank of India for sick units. As far as small-scale sector is concerned, the Reserve Bank of India has given them plenty of concessions in the form of restructuring plan and loan-to-be rescheduled. When it comes to large factories, BIFR is there, a number of cases have been referred to BIFR. BIFR deliberates upon these cases how to revive them. I am not aware of any paper mill or sugar mill in the constituency of the Hon. Member nor have I received any information in this regard. If she provides me the details, I can make efforts.

DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to know whether certain cement factories in Madhya Pradesh were being run by CCI. These factories are sick and have been closed down for the last several years. The employees are getting salaries but no plan of their revival is proposed. Though the question is not directly linked to you, I asked specifically this question in the context of Madhya Pradesh. Efforts have also been made a number of times to sell off or to give on lease out certain plants of CCI, but uncertainty persists in this regard. Do you have no say in regard to the cement

plants that could be revived particularly Naya Goa Plant managed by CCI?

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Have you got the specific information he is asking for?

[Translation]

SHRI KAMAL NATH: Sir, I agree to hon. Members concern. So far as CCI is concerned, it comes under M/o Heavy Industries. The information hon. Member has given to me would be transferred to the Minister of the concerned Ministry. I shall meet the hon. Minister and make efforts to revive the cement factories of Madhya Pradesh.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: The Minister is very responsive so far as Madhya Pradesh is concerned.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Sir, the Minister has given a list of 96 units which have been revived on the recommendation of BIFR, but, Sir, there are a number of units for which BIFR has recommended for revival and for providing financial assistance by financial institutions as also waiver of loans and outstanding dues by the Government of India. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether there are some units, out of these 96 units about which the revival scheme was approved by the BIFR, which could not be revived because of not providing financial assistance and not implementing the package approved by the BIFR.

MR. SPEAKER: Have these 96 units been revived?

SHRI KAMAL NATH: Yes, Sir, and five have been revived in West Bengal. As the hon. Member would have noticed. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Which are those five units which have been revived in West Bengal?

MR. SPEAKER: He need not give those details.

SHRI KAMAL NATH: Sir, BIFR is a statutory body and when they pass an order, it is incumbent on the banks to proceed with the terms of that order. I will have to check from the Finance Ministry, which are the cases where the BIFR has given a ruling and the banks have

not acted on it. The banks acting on BIFR ruling has to be necessarily taken up with the. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Not only that, the Government of India also. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: He is not responsible for all the Ministries.

SHRI KAMAL NATH: Sir, I do not know, if they are making me a Minister of all the Ministries! I possibly cannot. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: In that case, the Prime Minister will reply to it. You may get the information and supply it to the hon. Member.

[*Translation*]

DR. KARAN SINGH YADAV: Sir, vegetable oil industry is facing serious crisis in the country. Out of 260 vegetable oil units, 120 units have been closed down and as a result thereof lakhs of workers have been rendered jobless. For this reason, crops like mustard, oilseeds etc. are not being procured and those already procured are lying in godowns. The reason behind this is that we have made an agreement for free trade with Sri Lanka and Nepal, under which vegetable oil is imported on zero percent duty where as a duty of 80% has been imposed on the import of palm Oil. Goods from these countries are imported duty free. This is the reason the markets have been flooded with these goods. This policy is not good as our farmers and entrepreneurs are facing heavy losses because if it, and our income is going to Sri Lanka. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: This question is no way related to the original question.

DR. KARAN SINGH YADAV: Sir, this question is related to policy only. Our whole industry has been closed down because of this. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: Everything is related. I agree that it is a very vital problem but it does not arise from the main Question. I do not mind if the Minister can respond.

[*Translation*]

DR. KARAN SINGH YADAV: Sir, several units of ours have been closed down because of this policy. Until

and unless this issue is solved, these units cannot be improved. I would like to say this much only. The M/o Food has also recommendations that some other policy should be formulated so that our farmers and units could be benefited.

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Member, brevity is a virtue.

[*Translation*]

SHRI KAMAL NATH: This is true that we had signed a trade agreement with Sri Lanka in 2003 and if I remember, vegetable oil has been imported duty free from there during the last two years under the straight agreement, and it has affected the local vegetable oil industry. I have discussed this matter with hon. Agriculture Minister last week only. Now we are taking up the matter with Sri Lanka so that it could be checked and our local industry is not put at loss. I have discussed it with hon. Agriculture Minister.

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: He has also mentioned Nepal.

[*Translation*]

SHRI KAMAL NATH: With Nepal, we have an old agreement. But Nepal is misusing this agreement and the cause of this is smuggling. We frequently received reports of smuggling from there. The Minister of Finance is continuously making efforts to check it. But our highest concern is Sri Lanka. That is why we are taking up the matter with them. I hope that will find a solution soon.

Absconding Criminals

*326. SHRI HARIKEWAL PRASAD:
SHRI JIVABHAI AMBALAL PATEL:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether many persons have absconded and left the country after committing crime;

(b) if so, the details in this regard for the last three years;

(c) the efforts made by the Government to nab such criminals;

(d) whether any officials have been found involved in helping such criminals;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

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

[English]

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: (a) to (f) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) to (c) Yes, Sir. However, Red Corner Notices have been issued on the request of various investigating agencies in respect of 250 offenders and circulated through Interpol Secretariat General (IPSG) during the last 3 years. Look Out Circulars have also been issued in respect of such persons and disseminated to all entry/exist points. As per available information nine fugitives have been got extradited from five countries to India in the last 3 years. Efforts are on for extradition of twenty-two wanted fugitives by way of extradition requests made to foreign governments involving eleven countries.

(d) As per available information no such instance has been reported.

(e) and (f) Do not arise.

[Translation]

SHRI HARIKEWAL PRASAD: Mr. Speaker, The Minister in his reply has said that the number of fugitives is 250. These are those people who commit crime in country, let down country's prestige and run away abroad. I would like to know from the Minister as to what efforts are being made by Government of India to nab such criminals and what are the names of 22 wanted fugitives for whom extradition requests are being made to foreign governments involving eleven countries? Alongwith it I also want to know whether UN is giving shelter to these fugitives or helping Government of India for in nabbing them?

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: Sir, I have a list of their names. I am laying it on the table and also giving one to you.

SHRI HARIKEWAL PRASAD: Was any press conference organized in October, 2003 to nab those fugitives who have left the country after committing crime and if so what decisions were made?

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Did you hold a Press Conference?

[Translation]

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: Sir, no decision is taken in press conference. According to information available with me. I can say that no decision was taken in press conference.

SHRI JIVABHAI A. PATEL: After committing crime in country some culprit officials run away to Pakistan. I would like to know from the Minister as to how many such criminals have been handed over by Pakistan government to Indian Government and if not handed over, what is the reaction of Government to this?

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: It is believed that such 103 people are there with our neighbouring country. We are initiating steps to get them back and discussions are on with their Government. But we are told that they are not there or are unable to be traced. Owing to this there are certain difficulties in their extradition.

SHRI ILYAS AZMI: Mr. Speaker, through you, I would like to know from hon. Minister that whether among the 250 absconders, there is someone who is very close to royal family, His Excellency*?

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Please strike out the names.

[Translation]

This is no joke.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: The previous government tried to extradite them.

*Not recorded.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

Excessive use of Force on Civilians

*327. SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been cases of excessive use of force on civilians in the recent past in the country;

(b) if so, whether the Amnesty International has expressed grave concern over the excessive use of force by police on people during the protests at Kalinga Nagar and Bokaro;

(c) if so, whether the Union Government has issued any guidelines to the State Governments in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken or being taken by the Government to ensure that human rights violations do not take place in the economic development of the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) There has been no excessive use of force on civilians in the recent past in the country.

(b) to (d) Amnesty International have not submitted any report on the alleged use of excessive force by police on people during the protests at Kalinga Nagar and Bokaro. The State Government of Orissa has set up an Inquiry Commission consisting of a sitting judge of Orissa High Court under the Commission of Inquiries Act, 1952 to inquire into the incident. The State Government of Orissa has also announced the setting up of a High Level Committee of Group of Ministers on 5.1.2006 to review the rehabilitation package to the land oustees and come up with a revised rehabilitation policy. The State Governments of Orissa and Jharkhand have been advised by the Central Government to take preventive measures so as to check the incidents of the types which have taken place in Kalinga Nagar. It is the policy of the Government to ensure that human rights violation do not take place in the economic development of the country and care is taken to ensure that human rights of the citizens are protected.

Environment as Compulsory Subject in Education Syllabi

*328. SHRI A. SAI PRATHAP:
SHRI M. RAJA MOHAN REDDY:

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

(a) whether the Government intends to incorporate environment as a compulsory subject in the education syllabi;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether NCERT/UGC/AICTE and other educational bodies have been instructed in pursuance of the direction of the Supreme Court of India in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof alongwith the action taken in this behalf; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.A.A. FATMI): (a) to (e) Following steps have been taken regarding Environmental Education:

- (1) The National Curriculum Framework (NCF) 2005 envisages that Environment Education should be infused in all subjects and at all stages of School Education. The NCF has been circulated to all States for appropriate action.
- (2) UGC has circulated a module syllabus for Environmental Studies at the undergraduate level to all Universities for implementation.
- (3) National Council for Teacher Education (NCTE) has prepared a Curriculum Framework in environment for Teachers and Teacher Educators.
- (4) The All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) is also taking action in pursuance of the directives of the Hon'ble Supreme Court.

[Translation]

Development of Tribal Dominated Areas

*329. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE:
SHRI TEK LAL MAHTO:

Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the amount allocated and released under various schemes/projects for the development of tribal dominated areas during last three years, State-wise;

(b) whether the outcome from the implementation of these schemes/projects has been for behind the targets;

(c) whether the Government is taking any initiatives to expedite the implementation of these projects;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government proposes to launch some new projects during the current financial year;

(f) if so, the details thereof;

(g) whether the Union Government has taken any steps to formulate any effective scheme to ensure all round development of the tribal dominated areas in the country; and

(h) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION (SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH): (a) and (b) Statements-I, II and III showing the amounts allocated and released under various schemes of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs for the welfare and development of tribal people/tribal dominated areas during the years 2002-03, 2003-04 and 2004-05 are enclosed. The financial achievement position submitted by the States shows that most of them have utilised more than 75% of the amounts released within the stipulated time limit and for the purposes for which they were released under various schemes/programmes.

(c) and (d) In order to ensure that the funds released under the schemes of the Ministry are expeditiously utilised, the Ministry has reiterated to the States that

release of further funds would be dependent on utilisation of funds within stipulated time prescribed for the purpose.

(e) to (h) In addition to various social sector and infrastructure development programmes/schemes being implemented by various sectoral Ministries, which also cover tribal dominated areas and people, the Ministry of Tribal Affairs implements various Central Sector/Centrally Sponsored schemes/programmes for the socio-economic development of the tribal people in the country. These schemes are related to income and employment generation, infrastructure development, educational development and improvement in literacy of the tribal people. There are some schemes, which pertain to ensuring fair price for minor forest produce besides promotion of voluntary efforts for the upliftment of scheduled tribes. These schemes/programmes are implemented in States/Union Territories and the funds are released to the State Governments, who identify individual projects/schemes and implement the same for upliftment of tribal people. During the current financial year, the Ministry initiated in a more focused manner the programme of providing minor irrigation on the lands of STs by providing earmarked funds to the tune of Rs. 50 crores out of the Grants under Article 275 (1) of the Constitution. In addition, the Ministry launched the following new schemes/programmes for the benefit of tribals in the country:

- (1) Development of Forest Villages under SCA to TSP: Under this programme, the Ministry has released funds amounting to Rs. 181.08 crores to the States of Assam, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh and West Bengal for integrated development of 1624 forest villages in these States to provide for basic minimum facilities and services like food, safe drinking water, health care, primary education, approach roads, irrigation and other infrastructure facilities.
- (2) Rajiv Gandhi National Fellowship: The Ministry had conceived a new higher education oriented scheme titled 'Rajiv Gandhi National Fellowship Scheme' for Scheduled Tribes to provide fellowships for M.Phil and Ph.D. courses. The scheme has been approved for implementation from the current financial year 2005-06 through the University Grants Commission. A budget provision of Rs. 8.80 crore has been made for this scheme during the current financial year for a total number of 667 fellowships.

Statement I

*The amounts allocated and released under various Schemes/Programmes of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs during 2002-03***

(Rs. in lakhs)

Sl.No.	States/Schemes	Special Central Assistance to Tribal Sub Plan	Grant Under Article 275(1) on the Constitution	Non Governmental Organisations	Coaching and Allied	Vocational Training Centre	Educational Complex	Grant-in-aid to State TDCCs	Village Banks Grain Banks	Development of Primitive Tribal Groups	Post Matric Scholarship
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
1.	Andhra Pradesh	2732.80	2160.30	175.53	8.04	59.40	216.27	480.00	177.72	11.31	774.88
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	—	300.00	237.78	—	4.80	9.04	—	—	—	—
3.	Assam	3058.99	1023.40	127.94	1.69	63.25	—	—	—	—	1275.94
4.	Bihar	556.66	209.00	—	—	—	0.30	—	—	—	—
5.	Chhattisgarh	4626.18	2689.50	13.61	—	120.34	9.73	—	—	183.83	32.07
6.	Gujarat	3930.91	2250.00	73.44	8.64	34.59	26.35	—	—	20.00	—
7.	Himachal Pradesh	643.53	80.00	53.08	2.90	—	—	—	—	—	—
8.	Jammu and Kashmir	891.94	318.00	84.01	—	47.72	—	—	—	—	6.50
9.	Jharkhand	5870.24	2808.00	386.18	—	—	—	—	—	266.55	—
10.	Karnataka	771.33	904.35	252.46	1.76	32.03	—	—	—	1.75	75.38
11.	Kerala	273.70	588.00	30.08	—	—	—	225.00	—	—	—
12.	Madhya Pradesh	7833.22	4052.32	68.44	—	44.16	92.46	—	712.16	61.15	—
13.	Maharashtra	3723.83	2925.00	67.59	—	—	11.13	—	—	12.63	165.02
14.	Manipur	761.96	424.55	130.87	—	4.80	—	—	—	11.25	820.11
15.	Meghalaya	—	555.00	295.77	—	2.40	—	100.00	—	—	609.96
16.	Mizoram	—	240.00	86.46	—	36.00	—	—	—	—	370.96
17.	Nagaland	—	—	42.60	—	29.56	—	—	—	—	671.19
18.	Orissa	6495.30	3641.60	308.93	4.82	67.44	141.99	400.00	—	—	—
19.	Rajasthan	3649.56	2224.48	51.52	—	—	34.47	119.37	—	—	131.95
20.	Sikkim	108.02	83.00	15.26	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
21.	Tamil Nadu	323.32	210.00	62.06	0.00	2.40	0.30	—	—	—	—
22.	Tripura	1041.03	665.50	15.72	—	54.00	—	122.00	—	—	—
23.	Uttaranchal	92.91	78.00	51.03	2.67	—	—	—	—	—	—

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
24.	Uttar Pradesh	32.10	27.00	47.33	0.63	—	11.00	—	—	100.00	—
25.	West Bengal	2202.57	1543.00	242.67	—	6.13	42.10	53.63	28.93	—	—
26.	Delhi	—	—	82.58	8.79	—	3.78	—	—	—	—
27.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	200.85	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1.59
28.	Daman and Diu	99.15	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1.05
29.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	—	—	2.93	—	2.40	—	—	—	—	—
Total		50000.00	30000.00	3003.87	39.94	631.43	598.92	1500.00	918.81	668.47	5158.64

Sl.No.	States/Schemes	Book Bank	Upgradation of Merit	Girls Hostel	Boys Hostel	Ashram Schools	Res. & Tg. (TRIs)	Exchange of Vets of Tribals	State Tribal Finance Development Corps	Special Incentive to NGOs	Total
1	2	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21.	22
1.	Andhra Pradesh	47.20	12.60	128.00	204.50	—	5.48	2.21	20.00	—	7124.24
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	—	6.45	20.00	38.00	—	0.44	—	—	—	616.51
3.	Assam	—	—	—	—	—	5.31	—	—	—	5556.52
4.	Bihar	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	765.86
5.	Chhattisgarh	8.21	21.00	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	7704.48
6.	Gujarat	10.25	—	—	—	—	6.00	1.95	—	—	6362.13
7.	Himachal Pradesh	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	19.21	—	798.72
8.	Jammu and Kashmir	7.00	2.10	—	—	—	0.44	—	—	—	1437.71
9.	Jharkhand	—	—	—	—	—	6.00	—	—	—	9336.97
10.	Karnataka	20.00	—	—	—	130.00	—	—	40.00	10.00	2239.06
11.	Kerala	—	—	—	—	—	2.50	1.94	—	5.00	1126.22
12.	Madhya Pradesh	30.14	25.80	440.00	422.00	820.00	101.04	—	—	10.00	14712.89
13.	Maharashtra	—	—	—	—	—	6.00	—	100.00	—	7011.20
14.	Manipur	—	—	—	—	—	—	2.08	—	—	2155.62
15.	Meghalaya	—	—	13.75	13.75	—	—	—	—	5.00	1791.65
16.	Mizoram	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	733.44
17.	Nagaland	—	—	32.50	32.50	—	—	—	—	—	834.35
18.	Orissa	5.02	10.20	—	—	—	3.64	—	—	—	11098.94

1	2	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
19.	Rajasthan	5.20	4.45	—	—	—	10.78	1.83	—	—	6233.81
20.	Sikkim	—	0.75	—	—	—	—	—	13.79	—	220.82
21.	Tamil Nadu	2.64	—	—	—	—	6.97	—	—	—	607.69
22.	Tripura	1.49	2.40	—	—	—	5.00	1.95	27.00	—	1936.09
23.	Uttaranchal	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	224.81
24.	Uttar Pradesh	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	218.06
25.	West Bengal	2.85	6.30	—	5.00	—	40.40	—	—	20.00	4193.58
26.	Delhi	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	95.15
27.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	—	—	—	—	—	29.50	—	—	—	231.94
28.	Daman and Diu	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	100.20
29.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	5.33
Total		140.00	92.05	634.25	715.75	950.00	229.50	11.96	220.00	50.00	95563.59

**Prior to 2003-04, there was no State-wise allocation of funds under all the schemes.

Funds were earmarked State-wise under various schemes/programmes since 2003-04 onwards.

Statement II

The amounts allocated and released under various schemes/programmes of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs during 2003-04

(Rs. in lakhs)

Sl.No.	Name of the State/UT	Name of the Schemes																					
		Grant-in-aid to NGO for STs including Coaching and Allied and award for exemplary service						Vocational Training in Tribal Areas				Educational Complex Is Low Literacy Pockets		Schemes of PMS, Book Bank and Upgradation of Merit of ST students						Girls/Boys Hostels	Establishment of Ashram Schools in TSP Areas		
		Assistance to Vol. Organs.		Special Incentive to NGOs		Coaching & Allied		State		NGO		Literacy Pockets		PMS		Book Bank		Upgradation of Merit of ST students					
		Allo.	Release	Allo.	Release	Allo.	Release	Allo.	Release	Allo.	Release	Allo.	Release	Allo.	Release	Allo.	Release	Allo.	Release	Allo.	Release	Allo.	Release
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
1.	Andhra Pradesh	220.00	158.21	—	0.00	8.80	0.00	24.77	107.80	43.00	—	230.00	273.35	774.88	2435.70	9.28	—	5.00	—	130.05	277.00	88.80	380.00
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	218.00	287.03	—	3.00	1.20	0.00	3.24	—	28.00	—	10.00	—	0.00	85.19	1.21	—	0.77	—	17.10	—	—	—
3.	Assam	127.00	70.82	—	0.00	6.40	0.00	18.59	—	43.00	25.00	—	1275.94	0.00	8.32	—	—	5.02	—	88.30	—	—	80.80
4.	Bihar	20.00	0.00	—	0.00	1.30	0.00	3.38	—	5.00	—	5.00	—	8.00	8.00	1.28	—	0.88	—	17.80	—	—	12.10
5.	Chhattisgarh	81.00	19.84	5.00	0.00	10.80	0.00	33.73	—	7.20	—	20.00	9.20	32.07	0.00	12.81	—	7.00	21.00	177.70	—	—	121.00
6.	Delhi	29.00	40.89	—	0.00	—	0.00	—	—	—	—	—	13.45	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	230.82
7.	Goa	—	0.00	—	0.00	—	0.00	0.15	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	0.07	—	0.15	—	1.00	—	—	—
8.	Gujarat	123.00	120.58	—	0.00	11.80	0.80	38.00	141.46	11.20	—	30.80	28.91	0.00	185.27	13.58	—	8.00	3.46	191.50	—	—	180.40

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	
9.	Himachal Pradesh	68.00	0.00	-	0.00	0.40	0.00	1.28	-	2.40	-	5.90	-	0.00	0.00	0.48	0.38	-	6.80			4.60		
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	56.00	20.72	-	0.00	0.20	0.00	1.35	-	2.40	-	6.50	0.00	3.30	2.35	-	2.00			2.00				
11.	Jharkhand	287.00	484.72	5.00	0.00	12.40	0.00	35.86	-	8.20	-	5.00	-	0.00	0.00	9.88	7.00	-	187.80	817.86	127.20			
12.	Karnataka	237.00	142.48	10.00	0.00	4.20	0.00	11.30	-	12.00	50.00	75.38	0.00	4.21	3.14	59.50	150.00	40.00						
13.	Kerala	78.00	40.12	-	0.00	0.70	0.00	1.80	4.80	-	0.00	0.00	1.71	0.45	-	10.00	6.80							
14.	Madhya Pradesh	118.00	45.53	-	10.00	19.40	0.00	57.82	36.00	29.89	100.00	74.92	0.00	81.62	18.63	140.00	-	300.00	204.80					
15.	Maharashtra	170.00	80.00	-	0.00	13.20	0.00	42.17	73.52	30.00	20.00	3.18	165.02	391.92	15.25	11.00	-	228.20	154.80					
16.	Manipur	130.00	146.67	-	0.00	2.40	0.00	3.73	7.20	6.77	820.11	928.93	139	0.88	-	19.80	46.84	13.30						
17.	Meghalaya	250.00	298.89	5.00	81.00	11.40	0.00	8.95	4.80	6.87	805.98	339.99	3.34	3.60	47.20									
18.	Mizoram	60.00	6.15	-	0.00	1.40	0.00	3.86	61.08	2.40	370.98	389.00	1.44	0.91	-	20.30								
19.	Nagaland	37.00	0.88	-	0.00	2.30	0.00	6.25	57.00	679.19	1028.61	2.33	1.48	32.90	150.00									
20.	Orissa	270.00	285.78	5.00	0.00	11.80	0.00	41.44	43.50	35.34	200.00	91.55	0.00	0.00	16.00	9.94	40.80	218.50	41.46	148.80				
21.	Rajasthan	43.00	22.58	-	0.00	8.10	0.00	32.90	9.20	50.00	52.74	131.85	484.00	10.04	788	7.33	170.10	115.80						
22.	Sikkim	28.00	29.35	-	0.00	0.20	0.00	0.64	16.34	2.40	-	0.00	12.69	0.20	0.13	1.50	2.80	1.90						
23.	Tamil Nadu	50.00	20.78	-	0.00	1.30	0.00	3.39	-	2.40	6.99	5.00	-	0.00	0.00	1.26	0.80	17.80	12.10					
24.	Tripura	34.00	9.34	-	0.00	1.80	0.00	5.43	-	2.40	10.80	-	0.00	161.09	1.88	1.54	2.40	28.50	50.00	18.00	50.00			
25.	Uttar Pradesh	58.00	5.19	-	0.00	0.29	0.00	0.44	-	2.40	10.00	0.00	0.00	0.84	0.10	-	2.30	1.50						
26.	Uttaranchal	58.00	82.00	20.74	0.50	0.00	1.28	-	2.40	10.00	-	0.00	0.00	0.47	0.30	-	6.60	4.50	217.00					
27.	West Bengal	150.00	323.97	20.00	20.00	6.40	0.00	21.32	-	4.80	40.00	26.68	0.00	94.57	3.84	5.34	-	118.30	47.78	80.80				
28.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	-	0.00	-	0.00	0.00	-	1.59	0.89	300.00														
29.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	4.00	0.00	-	0.00	0.00	-	2.40	7.23	-	0.00	0.00												
30.	Daman and Diu	-	0.00	-	0.00	0.00	-	-	-	-	1.05	0.00												
Total		3201.00	2889.87	80.00	84.00	138.60	0.00	398.85	400.00	377.50	117.98	800.00	574.98	5188.84	8228.46	138.98	98.72	76.88	2391.85	1614.54	1360.00	647.00		

(Rs. in lakhs)

Sl.No.	State/UT	*Special Central Assistance to TSP		**Grant-in-aid under Article 275(1) of the Constitution		Grants-in-aid to State Tribal Development Corps. for MFPS (STDCCs)		Village Grain Banks		Development of PTGs		Research & Training	
		Allo.	Release	Allo.	Release	Allo.	Release	Allo.	Release	Allo.	Release	Allo.	Release
1	2	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36
1.	Andhra Pradesh	2459.52	2459.52	1536.00	1785.00	300.00	30.00	400.00	240.00	246.40	26.80	4.92	
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	-	0.00	200.00	0.00	-	30.00	-	-	-	-	-	

1	2	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36
3.	Assam	2753.09	2753.09	1050.00	688.87	-	30.00	-				18.20	36.00
4.	Bihar	500.90	500.90	209.00	209.00	25.00		50.00		8.00			
5.	Chhattisgarh	4183.56	4405.12	2089.00	2089.00	-		-		280.00	121.46		
6.	Delhi		0.00		0.00			-					-
7.	Goa		0.00	-	0.00	-		-		-			
8.	Gujarat	3537.82	3743.09	2250.00	2780.00	25.00		150.00		105.00	40.00	39.20	36.21
9.	Himachal Pradesh	579.18	612.79	80.00	60.00		300.00			-		-	0.43
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	874.75	925.50	317.00	367.00	-							-
11.	Jharkhand	5283.22	5283.22	2208.00	2208.00					300.00	135.80	38.00	44.00
12.	Karnataka	694.20	694.19	700.00	797.00	-		-		35.00	52.47		-
13.	Kerala	246.33	280.62	118.00	158.00	10.00		150.00		15.00		2.20	17.50
14.	Madhya Pradesh	7049.90	7458.93	3536.00	3821.58	300.00		1000.00		280.00	357.70	62.00	21.16
15.	Maharashtra	3351.45	3351.45	2672.00	2672.00	250.00		400.00		285.00	301.12	46.40	27.75
16.	Manipur	686.76	725.55	230.00	230.00	25.00				5.00	0.51	4.10	44.30
17.	Meghalaya		0.00	555.00	50.55	100.00	30.00	-					
18.	Mizoram		0.00	240.00	240.00								-
19.	Nagaland	-	0.00	387.00	0.00	-		-		-			-
20.	Orissa	5845.77	6184.94	2570.00	2830.00	300.00	30.00	400.00		50.00	169.60	45.00	5.40
21.	Rajasthan	3284.60	3284.60	2000.00	2070.00	200.00		200.00		5000	10.00	34.20	
22.	Sikkim	97.22	102.86	33.00	33.00			-			10.00		
23.	Tamil Nadu	290.99	290.99	210.00	250.00			50.00		180.00	85.00	3.70	
24.	Tripura	936.93	991.29	313.00	313.00	75.00	-	100.00		85.00		5.50	15.72
25.	Uttar Pradesh	28.89	30.57	27.00	27.00					8.00		0.80	
26.	Uttaranchal	83.62	88.47	78.00	128.00					34.00	72.40		-
27.	West Bengal	1982.30	1982.31	1393.00	1793.00	50.00	-	100.00		50.00		23.90	
28.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands		0.00	-						10.00		50.00	
29.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	-	0.00	-				-					
30.	Daman and Diu	-	0.00	-				-					
Total		44730.00	46089.43	25000.00	25070.00	1800.00	450.00	3000.00		2000.00	1254.78	400.00	253.39

Statement III

The allocations and releases made to various States/UTs under the Schemes of Ministry of Tribal Affairs during 2004-05

Sl.No.	Name of the State/UT	Name of the Schemes																			
		Grant-in-aid to NGO for STs including Coaching and Allied and award for exemplary service						Vocational Training in Tribal Areas				Educational Complex in Low Literacy Pockets		Schemes of PMS, Book Bank and Upgradation of Merit				Girls/Boys Hostels		Establishment of Ashram Schools in TSP Areas	
		Assistance to Vol. Organs.		Special incentive to NGOs		Coaching & Allied		State		NGO				PMS		Upgradation of Merit of ST students					
		Allo.	Release	Allo.	Release	Allo.	Release	Allo.	Release	Allo.	Release	Allo.	Release	Allo.	Release	Allo.	Release	Allo.	Release	Allo.	Release
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
1.	Andhra Pradesh	190.00	207.54	-	9.00	11.48	24.77	-	36.00	-	400.00	324.80	2,009.86	1,084.23	6.77		130.50		88.80		
2.	Andhra Pradesh	30.00	253.32	-	1.80		4.24		3.00					59.33		0.77		17.00	20.50		
3.	Assam	89.00	77.05	-	6.00	2.83	21.59	82.53	20.00	28.08				1,506.64	100.00	5.52	9.00	89.30		60.80	
4.	Bihar	-		-	2.00	-	7.38		3.00		5.00			25.48		2.86		17.80		12.10	
5.	Chhattisgarh	10.00	15.27	-	10.00	3.05	33.73	134.55	20.00		15.00			75.21	208.45	6.00	17.55	177.70		121.00	
6.	Delhi	-	121.54	-	8.00	9.48							24.00	88.31					234.88		
7.	Goa							3.15							12.88	0.15		1.00			
8.	Gujarat	80.00	83.47	-	12.00	11.31	37.80	146.88	20.00		80.00	88.47	227.05	222.43	8.00			191.50	67.80	130.40	86.40
9.	Himachal Pradesh	-	61.43												9.17						
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	80.00	48.70		1.00	-	4.13		13.00					24.42	198.07	0.38		6.80		4.80	
11.	Jharkhand	40.00	478.79		1.00	-	4.13		13.00					22.88	200.00	2.20		2.00	8888	2.00	
12.	Karnataka	15.00	227.19	5.00	10.00	1.92	36.88	88.73	10.00	13.88	3.08		44.28	400.00	7.00			167.80	120.00	127.20	77.51
13.	Kerala	100.00	128.48	5.00	5.00		11.30	40.50	9.00		30.00		19.83	146.14	4.14			59.50		40.00	
14.	Madhya Pradesh	80.00	83.05	-	2.00	14.25	6.90	-	3.00	13.88	-	96.82	7.59	888.04	0.46			10.00	300.00	6.80	300.00
15.	Maharashtra	80.00	70.33	-	20.00	-	67.82	-	85.00		75.00		125.74	1042.88	11.00			300.00	242.13	204.80	88.00
16.	Manipur	80.00	108.88	-	15.00	-	42.17	-	40.00		15.00		261.73	538.97	9.12			228.20		154.80	
17.	Meghalaya	75.00	378.24		1.00	-	6.73	-	10.00	0.50			1,001.23	926.28	1.14			19.80		13.30	
18.	Mizoram	10.00	27.47		2.50	1.77	8.95		9.00				982.98	900.99	5.23			47.20			
19.	Nagaland	10.00		-	2.00	-	3.88		3.00				428.41	507.80	0.91		20.30	151.00			
20.	Orissa	30.00	108.53		2.00		6.25	-	30.00				70.91	802.10	1.48			32.80			
21.	Punjab	150.00	67.34	5.00	15.00	-	41.59	-	48.00		130.00	48.04	29.55	1792.57	9.04			218.50		148.80	
22.	Sikkim													15.01		2.25					
23.	Tamil Nadu	90.00	88.57	-	11.00	-	49.30	-	15.08		30.00		181.33	48.05	6.88			170.10		115.80	
24.	Tripura	20.00	13.43				3.54	-	3.00				14.18	286.19	0.13	2.40	2.80			1.80	
25.	Uttar Pradesh	90.00	3.80		1.00	2.67	7.39		4.00		3.00	25.80	4.16	107.82	1.68			17.80		12.10	
26.	Uttarakhand	10.00	18.48		1.50		7.43		5.00				182.78	137.50	1.54			28.50		18.00	
27.	West Bengal	40.00	238.01	10.00	-		0.44	-	3.00		38.00	14.74	3.78	345.31	6.10	7.83	2.30			1.50	

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	
28.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	40.00				1.40		3.26	-	3.00			-	23.41	2.74	0.30		6.80		4.50		
29.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	50.00				9.00		25.2	-	20.00		30.00	-	173.40		6.75		116.30		69.60		
30.	Daman and Diu							1.15					-	6.00		0.28		300.00		50.00		
31.	Chandigarh																			65.12		
	Total	1,280.00	2,899.88			30.00	180.00	58.76	460.00	448.99	380.00	56.54	660.00	686.69	8241.00	10137.71	98.00	39.03	2400.00	1,298.89	1,400.00	560.00

(Rs. in lakhs)

Sl.No.	State/UT	*Special Central Assistance to TSP		**Grant-in-aid under Article 275(1) of the Constitution		Grants-in-aid to State Tribal Development Corps. for MFPs		Village Grain Bunk		Development of PTGs		Research & Training	
		Allo.	Release	Allo.	Release	Allo.	Release	Allo.	Release	Allo.	Release	Allo.	Release
1	2	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34
1.	Andhra Pradesh	2,459.52	2,459.52	1,668.60	2,300.46	126.00	300.00	292.50		270.00	252.64	26.00	0.48
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	-		220.00	273.72	18.00		-		-	-		
3.	Assam	2,753.09	2,064.82	1,155.00	1,115.00	72.00		-				17.80	
4.	Bihar	509.90	250.45	229.90	229.90	18.00		32.50		13.00	5.00	-	
5.	Chhattisgarh	4,163.56	5397.76	2297.90	2858.56	144.60	144.00	260.00		310.00	284.37		5.44
6.	Delhi									13.28	-		
7.	Goa	-											
8.	Gujarat	3,537.82	2,537.82	2,475.00	2515.00	162.00		292.50		125.00	125.00	36.20	
9.	Himachal Pradesh		750.87		109.36			-	-		6.80	-	1.84
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	579.18	874.75	88.00	398.70			-					
11.	Jharkhand	874.75	5,283.32	348.70	2,428.80						323.37		0.67
12.	Karnataka	5283.22	899.97	2428.80	957.88	162.00		292.50		300.00	34.97	37.90	2.00
13.	Kerala	694.19	319.35	770.00	161.56					50.00			67.94
14.	Madhya Pradesh	246.33	9139.70	129.80	5173.57	18.00		32.50		15.00	306.71	2.00	36.60
15.	Maharashtra	7049.90	3351.45	3,889.80	2,939.20	270.00		662.50		320.00	121.43	60.60	
16.	Manipur	3351.45	685.76	2,939.20	253.00	196.00		380.00		285.00	31.54	45.40	60.00
17.	Meghalaya	685.76		253.00	769.50	18.00	366.00			10.00		3.90	
18.	Mizoram			610.50	496.41	54.00							
19.	Nagaland			-	264.00	529.58							
20.	Orissa		7578.63	425.70	4,346.96						35.00		0.92
21.	Rajasthan	5845.77	3284.60	2,827.00	2,200.00	216.00		422.50		65.00	76.00	43.50	

1	2	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34
22.	Sikkim		126.04		45.20								-
23.	Tamil Nadu	3284.80	377.25	2,200.00	287.40	162.00		292.50		50.00	178.50	33.80	
24.	Tripura	97.22	1214.66	36.30	428.30	-					29.81	-	
25.	Uttar Pradesh	290.99	37.45	231.00	36.62	-		32.50		160.00	2.50	3.50	1.28
26.	Uttaranchal	936.93	83.62	344.30	135.80	36.00		97.50		85.00	33.83	5.00	3.73
27.	West Bengal	28.89	1,982.31	29.70	1987.30					8.00	53.17	0.80	
28.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	83.62		85.80						34.00	200.00	-	
29.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	1,982.31		1,532.30		128.00		260.00		50.00		23.50	
30.	Daman and Diu											50.00	
31.	Chandigarh												
Total		44,730.00	49,700.00	27,500.00	33,000.00	1,800.00	800.00	3,250.00		2,150.00	2,101.52	391.50	200.00

*[English]***Stamp Paper Scam**

*330. SHRI D.V. SADANAND GOWDA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of persons arrested and convicted in the multi-crore stamp paper scam, State-wise;

(b) the amount of fake stamp papers seized so far; and

(c) the steps taken to prevent such incidents in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT): (a) to (c) 509 accused persons have been arrested and 6 accused persons have been convicted in the cases investigated by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) in connection with the stamp paper scam. State-wise details of arrested and convicted persons are given in the enclosed statement. The convicted persons included Abdul Karim Telagi and two of his close associates.

The total amount of fake stamp papers seized in the above-mentioned case is about Rs. 33,96,02,57,180 (approx).

The Government of India has taken the following steps to check recurrence of such cases:

- (i) Based on the recommendations of the Working Group on Non-Judicial Stamp Paper (NJSP), additional security features have been approved for incorporation in the NJSP. The new security features will make counterfeiting difficult.

(ii) The Stamp Act has been amended to facilitate modern methods of revenue collection.

(iii) The curtail erratic and unrealistic indents, the States are now required to pay 30% amount of the indented value of the NJSP in advance and balance 70% at the time of taking delivery. They are also required to place 3 years rolling indent and follow a six monthly supply schedule to ensure realistic indent and better production planning.

(iv) To eliminate the possibility of pilferage and theft en-route, the supplies to indentors is made on Free on Rail (F.O.R.) basis at Security Printing Press, Hyderabad as is the practice at India Security Press, Nasik.

Statement*Details of Persons arrested & convicted in Stamp Paper Scam*

State/UTs/Agencies	Persons Arrested*	Persons Convicted
1	2	3
Gujarat	12	—
West Bengal	—	—
Delhi	48	—
Karnataka	87	3

1	2	3
Tamil Nadu	10	—
Maharashtra	234	3
Kerala	6	—
Andhra Pradesh	79	—
Bihar	3	—
Uttar Pradesh	9	—
Madhya Pradesh	2	—
Railway Protection Force	9	—
India Security Press, Nasik	10	—
Total	509	06

*This figure includes the names of those accused also, who have been arrested in more than one case).

Export of Shrimp

*331. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK:
SHRI JUAL ORAM:

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

(a) the quantity and value of shrimps exported during each of the last three years till date;

(b) whether the prices of Indian shrimps has been declining in the international markets during the said period;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor alongwith the loss suffered as a result thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) As per the export figures compiled by MPEDA, on the basis of shipping bills and invoices, the export of frozen shrimp to the major importing countries during the last three years and the current year (upto December, 2005) have been as follows:

Year	Quantity (In Metric Tonne)	Value (In US \$ Million)
2002-03	134815	953.44
2003-04	129768	876.64
2004-05	138085	938.41
2005-06 (upto Dec' 05)	109951	749.44

(b) and (c) The average unit value of Indian shrimps in our major importing countries during the last three years and the current year (upto December, 2005) were as follows:

Country	(Average unit price US \$ per kg.)			
	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06 (upto Dec' 05)
USA	8.11	8.18	8.86	8.54
European Union	4.88	5.12	5.33	5.31
Japan	8.29	7.31	7.43	7.61

Thus, there has been marginal decline in the average prices of shrimp in some of the markets. The prices get determined by the market forces and that in turn also affects the profitability of exports.

(d) The Marine Products Export Development Authority have been extending financial assistance aimed at implementing programmes for capacity building, upgradation of processing facilities, expansion of aquaculture, assistance for production of value added products and marketing support, in order to facilitate the growth of marine products export.

Implementation of ICDS

*332. SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO:
SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI:

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

(a) whether several States have not been successful in the implementation of Centrally sponsored schemes viz. Integrated Child Development Scheme (ICDS) meant for the development of children;

(b) if so, the names of such States;

(c) whether misappropriation of Central funds meant for these schemes has also been noticed by the Government;

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

(e) whether the NCAER has made a survey of ICDS; and

(f) the details of the amount sanctioned to States under ICDS as on date and the number of beneficiaries under the Scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI

RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) and (b) While the pace of operationalization of ICDS Projects and Anganwadi Centres and delivery of services may vary from State to State, it would not be correct to conclude that certain States have not been successful in implementation of the Scheme.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) Yes, Sir. Rapid Facility Survey of Infrastructure at Anganwadi Centres has been carried out by NCAER.

(f) State-wise details of the amount sanctioned under ICDS Scheme during 2005-06 (upto 3.3.2006) and the number of beneficiaries under the Scheme, as on 30.9.2005, are given in the Statement enclosed.

Statement

Sl. No.	State/UT	Amount sanctioned under ICDS (upto 3.3.2006) (Rs. lakhs)	No. of Supplementary Nutrition Beneficiaries (as on 30.9.2005)				No. of PSE Beneficiaries (Children 3-6 years) as on 30.9.2005	
			0-3 years	3-6 years	Total Children	Women	Total Children & Women	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1.	Andhra Pradesh	26115.94	912579	1460768	2373347	623995	2997342	1535762
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	1632.32	42754	34301	77055	12138	89193	33465
3.	Assam#	24974.55	562298	540841	1103139	148030	1251169	781953
4.	Bihar	16177.85	1768745	1786819	3555564	775353	4330917	2010573
5.	Chhattisgarh	8698.68	812297	541555	1353852	384750	1738602	580782
6.	Goa	492.66	20395	16141	36536	9062	45598	16141
7.	Gujarat	13582.36	850676	810775	1661451	293047	1954498	1297426
8.	Haryana	6899.04	498711	441295	940006	235802	1175808	441347
9.	Himachal Pradesh	3733.05	186594	139183	325777	73943	399720	121009
10.	Jammu & Kashmir	5642.75	99429	83549	182978	39982	222960	107385
11.	Jharkhand	6249.82	555874	617352	1173226	356842	1530068	720357
12.	Karnataka	21258.08	941777	1198605	2140382	558628	2699010	1200024
13.	Kerala	9113.93	353522	449550	803072	156360	959432	455859

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
14.	Madhya Pradesh	19379.86	1371500	1194712	2566212	631485	3197697	1471450
15.	Maharashtra	29790.73	1988555	2465658	4452213	719396	5173609	2290300
16.	Manipur	2344.45	0	0	0	0	0	111851
17.	Meghalaya	2813.65	84458	100800	185258	33365	218623	87578
18.	Mizoram	1952.90	70195	48148	118343	27914	146257	52025
19.	Nagaland	2430.51	151608	100676	252284	42617	294901	102477
20.	Orissa	17164.67	1813797	1837064	3650861	686221	4317082	936771
21.	Punjab	6798.17	32651	410155	442806	136177	578983	434299
22.	Rajasthan	12654.99	1346173	1287567	2633740	599273	3233013	1320076
23.	Sikkim	313.86	714	0	714	250	964	10239
24.	Tamil Nadu	19266.53	655148	1075413	1730561	495503	2226064	1070597
25.	Tripura	3103.73	62199	86006	148205	22088	170293	101052
26.	Uttar Pradesh	49706.06	856872	3834048	4690918	1554610	6245528	3871340
27.	Uttaranchal	3898.67	126100	84411	210511	47122	257633	164620
28.	West Bengal	26581.24	1700721	1759536	3460257	410786	3871043	1411453
29.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	312.50	9745	9085	18830	4268	23098	8681
30.	Chandigarh	212.28	18600	13110	31710	7703	39413	13110
31.	Delhi	2000.06	236514	147320	383834	68629	452463	147320
32.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	57.59	6353	6167	12520	2184	14704	5019
33.	Daman and Diu	51.62	3400	3577	6977	1898	8875	4213
34.	Lakshadweep	40.19	2023	1854	3877	986	4863	4024
35.	Pondicherry	319.40	22524	3870	26394	8952	35346	4015
	All India	345664.69	18165501	22589909	40755410	9149359	49904769	23124593

#Beneficiaries as on 31.7.2004.

[Translation]

Misutilisation of Funds by NGOs

*333. SHRI CHANDRA MANI TRIPATHI: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether grants received by the NGOs for welfare, development and empowerment of women are being misused;

(b) if so, the details of the NGOs against which complaints of misuse of funds have been received by the Government during each of the last three years;

(c) the action taken by the Government against such NGOs; and

(d) the other measures taken/to be taken by the Government to check misutilisation of funds?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[English]

Reserved Items for Production

*334. SHRI SUGRIB SINGH:
SHRI BALASHOWRY VALLABHANENI:

Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether certain items have been reserved for production under small scale sector;

(b) if so, the details of the items which were reserved for production under small scale sector upto the end of December, 2005;

(c) the number of items dereserved from this category during the last three years and thereafter till date;

(d) the reasons for removing the items from the reserved list; and

(e) the assessment on the status of the small scale industry sector after deleting the items from the reserved list?

THE MINISTER OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND MINISTER OF AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The list of 506 products reserved for exclusive manufacture by small scale industries till the end of December 2005 is enclosed as statement.

(c) 391 products, including 27 sub-items, have been dereserved during the last three financial years and thereafter till date.

(d) the reasons for removing these items from the reserved list include, among others, the need for technological upgradation and enhanced competitiveness, achieving economies of scale, etc.

(e) Two studies, commissioned by the Government, to evaluate the impact of dereservation during the last five years have not revealed any adverse impact on the small scale industries.

Statement

*List of Items Reserved for Exclusive Manufacture in the Small Scale Sector
(As on 31 December, 2005)*

Sl.No.	(As per Gazette Notification)	Product Code	Name of the Product
1	2	3	4
		20-21	Food and Allied Industries
1.	3	202501	Pickles & chutneys
2.	7	205101	Bread
3.	8A	2053102	Pastry
4.	9	209201029	Hard boiled sugar candy
5.	10	21100101	Rapressed oil (except solvent extracted)
6.	11	21100102	Mustard Oil (except solvent extracted)
7.	12	21100103	Sesame oil (except solvent extracted)

Other than cases of State Agro-Cooperatives and Growers Cooperatives

1	2	3	4
8.	13	21100104	Ground nut oil (except solvent extracted)
9.	16	21920101	Ground and processed spices other than spice oil and Oleo resin spices
		27	Wood and Wood Products
10.	37A	271001	Sawn timber
11.	38	27210301	Wooden crates
12.	40	273002	Seasoned wood
13.	41	279914	Wooden sewing machine covers
14.	42	273012	Cable drums for AA & ACSR conductors
15.	47	276001	Wooden furniture and fixtures
16.	48	276002	Wooden storage cupboards
17.	49	276003	Wooden storage shelves & racks
18.	50	279908	Wood wool slabs
		28	Paper Products
19.	53	270905	Decorative papers
20.	55	281001	Papers Bags
21.	57	28120101	Paper board cartons (unlaminated)
22.	58	281301	Paper cups/plates
23.	59	281902	Paper envelopes
24.	60	281904	Corrugated fibre board containers
25.	65	283902	Paper napkins including facial tissue napkins
26.	67	283906	Teleprinter rolls
27.	68	283907	Stencil paper
28.	70	283909	Slicing of ordinary paper into rolls & sheets
29.	71	283910	Toilet paper rolls and sheets
30.	73	283912	Stickers, labels of gummed paper etc.
31.	74	283913	Treated training paper
32.	75	283914	Gummed paper for stamps

1	2	3	4
33.	76	283915	Gummed paper other than for stamps
34.	78	283917	Transfer labels
35.	79	285002	Exercise books and registers
36.	80	285005	Letter pads
37.	81	285006	File covers and file board
		303	Plastic Products
38.	126	301201	Full PVC footwear chappals, sandals and shoes
39.	128	42713	Acrylic sheets except by continuous extrusion process
40.	129	303303	Fibre-Glass reinforced plastic products other than the following: (a) SMC & DMC and its mouldings. (b) Continuous Filament Winding (Pipes above 600 mm diameter) (c) Pultruded products (d) FRP sheets by continuous process
41.	130	30330402	Hessain, paper and cloth to polythylene laminations-Straight and sandwiched by extrusion coating process except paper to polythelene laminations for integrated packing
42.	131	303402	H.D. Polythylene Mono-Filament (Except for captive use for rope manufacturers)
43.	132	303403	Polypropylene Mono-Filament (Except for captive use for rope manufacturers)
44.	133	30350101	Polythylene Films with thickness less than 0.10 mm except co-extruded film cross linked polymer films and high density molecular films
45.	134	30350102	Products of polythylene films as coloured printed films & bags.
46.	135	303601	Spectacle frames by fabrication or by injection moulding
47.	136	303702	Polypropylene tubular films (except biaxially oriented)
48.	137	30370301	Industrial items from engg. plastics material by fabrication process only
49.	139	303705	Polypropylene box strapping
50.	140	30370601	Polythylene and PVC flexible houses (except wire braided hoses)

1	2	3	4
			Injection moulding thermo-plastic product
51.	140 A	303701	1. Handles
52.	140 B	303802	2. Soap cases
53.	140 C	303804	3. Buckets
54.	140 D	303808	4. Cups
55.	140 E	303810	5. Lunch Boxes
56.	140 F	303812	6. Water jugs
57.	140 G	303816	7. Saucers
58.	140 H	303818	8. Tumblers
59.	140 HH	30382200	8A. Plastic cane
60.	140 I	303831	9. Bins for various sizes
61.	140 J	303832	10. Washing bowls
62.	140 K	303833	11. Salad baskets
63.	140 L	303834	12. Dust pans and bins
64.	140 M	303835	13. Hair brushes
65.	140 N	303836	14. Umbrella frames
66.	140 O	303837	15. Hined hair pins
67.	140 P	303838	16. Babies bath tubs
68.	140 Q	303839	17. mugs
69.	140 R	303840	18. Plates and dishes
70.	140 S	303841	19. Salt containers
71.	140 U	303843	21. Pencil boxes
72.	140 V	303844	22. Coffee pots
73.	140 W	303845	23. Coffee pot covers
74.	140 X	303846	24. Table calendar stands
75.	140 Y	303847	25. Office table tray
76.	140 Z	303848	26. Waste paper baskets
77.	142	30390102	Flexible polyurethane foam products
78.	143	42960	Polystyrene foam products from expandable polystyrene beads (except slabs for expandable polystyrene beads manufacturers)

1	2	3	4
79.	144	303903	Plastic buttons
80.	145		Fabricated plastic products as follows:
		30390401	1. Advertising novelties
		30390402	2. Desk calendar
		30390403	3. Pen stand
		30390405	5. Decorative and industrial fixtures
		30390406	6. Street lights
		30390407	7. Corridor lights
		30390408	8. Passage lights
		30390409	9. Building models (Prototype)
		30390410	10. Machine model (Prototype)
81.	146	303909	Plastic combs
82.	147	30391201	PVC Pipes including conduits-Upto-110 mm dia
		30393501	Fittings for PVC pipes including conduits upto-110 mm dia.
83.	148	303913	Zip fasteners-Non-metallic (Except in the case of integrated plants manufacturing all components).
84.	150	303916	Plastic rain coats
85.	152	303926	Flash light torch cases-plastic
86.	153	303927	Polyester sheets
87.	154	303928	Other thermo-welded plastic product such as:
		30392801	1. Shopping bags
		30392802	2. Diaries
		30392803	3. File cover
		30392804	4. badges/Folders
		30392805	5. Advertising materials
		30392806	6. Wallets
		30392807	7. Passport covers
		30392808	8. Tool kit covers

1	2	3	4
		30392810	10. Industrial packings for calculators, Microphones etc.
		30392811	11. Inside assembly of brief cases
		30392812	12. Key chains
		30392813	13. Identity cards and visiting cards
		30392814	14. Albums
		30392815	15. Textile welding for garments
			Injection Moduling Thermo-Plastic Products
88.	156A 31	303962	Toilets seats
89.	156 A 32	303963	Toilets lids
90.	156 A 33	303964	Letter/Words
		31	Chemicals and Chemical Products
91.	210A	31922301	Water soluble wood preservative based on copper chrome arsenic boric compounds
92.	211		Dyestuff Basic Dyes
		31220301	1. Basic Yellow 2
		31220302	2. Basic green 4
		31220303	3. Basic green 1
		31220304	4. Basic violet 11
		31220305	5. Basic violet 1
		31220306	6. Basic blue 7
		31220307	7. Basic violet 10
		31220308	8. Basic blue (Methylene Blue) 9
93.	213		Azo Dyes
			Direct
		31220701	1. Direct yellow 8
		31220702	2. Direct yellow 17
		31220703	3. Direct yellow 9
		31220704	4. Direct yellow 29
		31220705	5. Direct red (Congo red) 28

1	2	3	4
		31220706	6. Direct red 13
		31220707	7. Direct dye [Brilliant Congo C(A)]
		31220708	8. Direct red 1
		31220709	9. Direct brown 2
		31220710	10. Direct brown 59
		31220711	11. Direct orange 1
		31220712	12. Direct yellow 20
		31220713	13. Direct orange 1
		31220714	14. Direct violet 45
		31220715	15. Direct violet 1
		31220716	16. Direct black 29
		31220717	17. Direct blue 2
		31220718	18. Direct blue 6
		31220719	19. Direct red 61
		31220725	25. Direct yellow 4
		31220726	26. Direct yellow (Chrysopheninc) 12
		31220727	27. Direct violet 7
		31220728	28. Direct violet 31
		31220729	29. Direct violet 9
		31220730	30. Direct violet 51
		31220731	31. Direct red 81
		31220732	32. Direct yellow 44
		31220733	33. Direct red 31
		31220734	34. Direct orange 26
		31220735	35. Direct red 23
		31220736	36. Direct red 83
		31220737	37. Direct brown 1
		31220738	38. Direct brown 5
		31220739	39. Direct black 38

1	2	3	4
		31220740	40. Direct green 1
		31220741	41. Direct green 6
		31220742	42. Direct green 8
		31220743	43. Direct brown 75
		31220744	44. Direct blue 71
		31220745	45. Direct black 56
			Acid Dyes
		31220761	1. Acid yellow 36
		31220762	2. Acid orange 7
		31220763	3. Acid red 88
		31220764	4. Acid red (Food Red 7) 18
		31220765	5. Acid red (Food Red 10) 1
		31220766	6. Acid violet (Food Red 11) 7
		31220767	7. Acid yellow 11
		31220768	8. Acid yellow 76
		31220769	9. Acid yellow (Food Yellow 5) 17
		31220770	10. Acid yellow (Food Yellow 4) 23
		31220771	11. Acid brown 55
		31220772	12. Acid orange 24
		31220773	13. Acid brown 14
		31220774	14. Acid black 1
		31220775	15. Acid red 85
		31220776	16. Acid yellow 42
		31220778	18. Acid blue 113
		31220779	19. Acid red 142
		31220781	21. Acid red 17
		31220782	22. Acid yellow 73
94.	214		Naphthols
		31220801	1. Azoic coupling Component (Naphthol AS) 2

1	2	3	4	
		31220802	2. Azoic coupling Component (Naphthol ASF)	10
		31220803	3. Azoic coupling Component (Naphthol AS-BS)	17
		31220804	4. Azoic coupling Component (Naphthol AS-D)	19
		31220805	5. Azoic coupling Component (Naphthol AS-TR)	8
		31220806	6. Azoic coupling Component (Naphthol AS-OL)	20
		31220807	7. Azoic coupling Component (Naphthol AS-LT)	24
		31220808	8. Azoic coupling Component (Naphthol AS-PH)	14
		31220809	9. Azoic coupling Component (Naphthol AS-BO)	4
		31220810	10. Azoic coupling Component (Naphthol AS-SW)	7
		31220811	11. Azoic coupling Component (Naphthol AS-6)	5
95.	215	31220901	Phthalocyanine Blue (Except for Captive consumption for manufacture of Phthele Cyanine green.)	
96.	216		REACTIVE DYES	
		31221001	1. Brilliant red M-5B	Reactive Red-2
		31221002	2. Brilliant red H-7B	Reactive Red-4
		31221003	3. Rubine M-5B	Reactive Red-6
		31221004	4. Scarlet H-CR	Reactive Red-8
		31221005	5. Brilliant Red M-8B	Reactive Red-11
		31221006	6. Brilliant red H-8B	Reactive Red-31
		31221007	7. Rubine H-BN	Reactive Red-32
		31221008	8. Pink RB	Reactive Red-37
		31221009	9. Brilliant red EB	Reactive Red-73
		31221010	10. Brilliant pink B	Reactive Red-74

1	2	3	4
		31221011	11. Brilliant purple H-RR Reactive Violet-1
		31221012	12. Brilliant magenta B Reactive Violet-13
		31221013	13. Brilliant violet PR Reactive Violet-14
		31221014	14. Brilliant violet 5RX Reactive Violet-21
		31221015	15. Magenta B
		31221016	16. Yellow MY-R Reactive Yellow-1
		31221017	17. Yellow 4-As Reactive Yellow-3
		31221018	18. Yellow MY-R Reactive Yellow-4
		31221019	19. Yellow M-GR Reactive Yellow-7
		31221020	20. Yellow H-4G Reactive Yellow-18
		31221021	21. Brilliant yellow M-4G Reactive Yellow-22
		31221022	22. Brilliant yellow 6G Reactive Yellow-43
		31221023	23. Yellow R Reactive Yellow-44
		31221024	24. Black H-N Reactive Black-8
		31221025	25. Brilliant blue H-70 Reactive Blue-3
		31221026	26. Brilliant blue M-R Reactive Blue-4
		31221027	27. Brilliant blue H-GR Reactive Blue-5
		31221028	28. Navy blue M-3R Reactive Blue-9
		31221029	29. Brilliant blue H-5G Reactive Blue-25
		31221030	30. Navy blue H-3R Reactive Blue-28
		31221031	31. Navy blue RX Reactive Blue-39
		31221032	32. Blue BRR Reactive Blue-56
		31221033	33. Navy blue RX Reactive Blue-59
		31221034	34. Orange MX-G Reactive Orange-1
		31221035	35. Brilliant orange M-2R Reactive Orange-4
		31221036	36. Golden yellow H-R Reactive Orange-11
		31221037	37. Brilliant orange H-2R Reactive Orange-13
		31221038	38. Orange Reactive Orange-14
		31221039	39. Orange GEX Reactive Orange-36

1	2	3	4
		31221040	40. brilliant orange RX Reactive Orange-37
		31221041	41. Brilliant orange 3RX Reactive Orange-38
		31221042	42. Brown 4-RH Reactive Brown-9
		31221043	43. Brown M-4R Reactive Brown-10
		31221044	44. Yellow H-AS Reactive Yellow-46
		31221045	45. Navy blue 3RH Reactive Blue-26
97.	217		Fast Colour Bases
		31221101	1. Fast Yellow GG base (Azoic Daizo Comp 44) 37000
		31221102	2. Fast Orange GC base (Azoic Daizo Comp 2) 37005
		31221103	3. Fast scarlet GG/GCS base (Azoic Daizo Comp 3) 37010
		31221104	4. (Azic Daizo Comp 7) 37030
		31221105	5. Fast red 3 GL base (Azoic Daizo Comp 9) 37040
		31221107	7. Fast red KB base (Azoic Daizo Comp 32) 37090
		31221109	9. Fast Red GL base (Azoic Daizo Comp 8) 37110
		31221110	10. Fast Red R/RC base (Azoic Daizo Comp 10) 37120
		31221111	11. Fast Red B base (Azoic Daizo Comp 5) 37125
		31221112	12. Fast scarlet R/RC base (Azoic Daizo Comp 13) 37130
		31221113	13. Fast Violet B base (Azoic Daizo Comp 41) 37165
		31221114	14. Fast blue BB base (Azoic Daizo Comp 20) 27175
		31221115	15. Fast garment GOC base (Azoic Daizo Comp 4) 37219
			Natural Essential Oils
98.	219	315102	Cashew shell oil
99.	226	36154	Natural essential oils by steam/hydro distillation process
			Organic Chemicals, Drugs and Drug Intermediates
100.	227	31060101	Para-amino phenol-Indl. grade
101.	228	310605	Balls & cubes made of Para dichlorobenzene
102.	230	310627	Dimethyl sulphate-based on methyl alcohol
103.	231	310628	Pyrazolones
104.	232	31062901	Pottassium citrate-Indl. grade

1	2	3	4
105.	234	310631	Tartrates
106.	235	310645	Diethyl phthalate
107.	236	310646	Diocetyl phthalate
108.	237	310647	Dibutyl phthalate
109.	238	310648	Dimethyl phthalate
110.	239	310649	Benzyl chloride PT for captive consumption
111.	240	310650	benzyl benzoate
112.	2401	310650	Niacinamide
113.	240(A)	310669	Stearate of Aluminium
114.	240(B)	310670	Stearate of magnesium
115.	240(C)	310671	Stearate of calcium
116.	240(D)	310672	Stearate of zinc
117.	241	312127	Paint driers-Napthhenates octoates linoleates etc. of lead, cobalt, manganese, zinc, calcium etc.
118.	242	312405	Chlorinated paraffin wax (upto 60% Chlorine content)
119.	244	313125	Paracetamol
120.	246	313149	Glycero phosphoric acid
121.	247	313150	Lanolin anhydrous
122.	248	313151	Xanthates
123.	249	313152	Dichlorophenol
124.	249A	31315801	Methyl parabens and sodium salt starting from para hydroxy benzoic acid
125.	249B	31315901	Ethyl parabens and sodium salt starting from Para hydroxy bezoic acid
126.	249C	31319501	Propyl parabens and sodium salt starting from Para.hydroxy benzoic acid
127.	249D	3131960	Calcium gluconate
128.	249E	35339	Turpentine by steam/hydro distillation process
129.	250	316201	Polyester resins unsaturated
130.	251	316204	PVC compounds
131.	252	316206	Alkyd resins (except for captive consumption)

1	2	3	4
132.	252A	31942960	Nicotinic acid
Other Chemicals and Chemicals Products			
133.	253	305301	Wax candles
134.	254	305901	Napthalane ball
135.	254A	31010101	Pottassium Nitrate produced from salt petre
136.	255	310100	Pottassium meta bi-sulphate
137.	256	310111	Barium carbonate
138.	257	310112	Barium sulphate
139.	258	310113	Barium sulphide
140.	259	310115	Sodium sulphide except as by-product
141.	260	310121	Sodium thio sulphate
142.	261	31012301	Calcium chloride-incl. grade except as by-product
143.	262	31012401	Zinc oxide-Incl. grade
144.	263	310126	Aluminium hydroxide gel.
145.	264	310139	Zinc nitrate
146.	265	310301	Nickle sulphate-Other than manufactured as primary producer as a by product
147.	266	310302	Nickel chloride
148.	267	310304	Nickel carbonate
149.	268	310305	Nickel formate
150.	269	310306	Copper sulphate-Other than manufactured as primary producer as a by-product
151.	270	301307	Copper nitrate
152.	271	310308	Copper chloride
153.	272	310322	Cadmium oxide
154.	273	310323	Cadmiumiodide
155.	274	310325	Cadmium nitrate
156.	275	310329	Cadmium phosphate
157.	276	310330	Barium chloride
158.	277	310331	Barium nitrate

1	2	3	4
159.	277A	310334	Calcium nitrate except as by-product
160.	278	310336	Zinc chloride
161.	279	310337	Zinc sulphate-other than manufactured by primary metal producer as a by-product
162.	280	310360	Copper oxy-chloride
163.	281	310361	Copper carbonate
164.	282	310362	Potassium iodide
165.	283	310363	Sodium iodide
166.	284	310364	Precipitated silica except fumed silica and spray dried silica
167.	285	310365	Sulphur powder-Other than insoluble for rubber vulcanization
168.	287	310409	Sodium thiocynate
169.	288	310412	Magnesium sulphate
170.	289	310424	Electroplating salts-Compound
171.	290	310426	Zinc cyanide
172.	291	310435	Cadmium cyanide
173.	295	312017	Artists colours-oil, water and wax based
174.	296	312122	Red lead paints
175.	297	312123	Red oxide paints
176.	298	312124	Wagon black paints
177.	299	312125	Graphite paints
178.	300	312126	Paste paints
179.	304	312408	Aluminium paints
180.	305	312109	Bitumen based paints
181.	307	312901	Dry Distempers
182.	308	314201	Laundry Soap
183.	309	314303	Formulated perfumery compounds
184.	311	314402	Tooth powder
185.	313	317001	Safety matches

1	2	3	4
186.	314	318401	Fire works
187.	316	31930301	Husked & dehusked guargum splits & meals
188.	317	319501	Animal glue
189.	318	319504	Office gum paste
190.	318A	319602	Saccharine
191.	318B	319603	Sodium saccharine
192.	319	319902	Agarbattles
193.	320	319704	Sodium silicate
194.	321	319701	Sealing wax
195.	322	319906	Industrial adhesives based on starch, gum dextrin and silicates
196.	322A	319907	Camphor tablets
197.	323	3199802	Alums including aluminium sulphate-indl. grade excluding its manufacture in integrated sulphuric acid plants and also recovery from waste toxic effluents.
198.	324	319921	Potassium silicate
199.	325	319922	Calcium silicate
			Glass and Ceramics
200.	327	320101	Fire clay, bricks and blocks containing Less than 40% alumina
201.	328		<i>Roofing Tiles</i>
		320401	3. Roofing tiles-clay
		329202	7. Roofing tiles-cement concrete
202.	329		<i>Flooring Tiles</i>
		320402	3. Flooring tiles-clay
		326316	5. Flooring tiles-marble (excluding tiles of thickness less than 10 mm)
		326137	6. Flooring tiles-granite (excluding tiles of thickness less than 10 mm)
		328903	7. Flooring tiles-cement mosaic
		329204	8. Flooring tiles-cement concrete

1	2	3	4
203.	330		<i>Ceramic Table Wares and Allied Items in Stone Wares Semi Vitreous Wares and Earthen Wares Namely:</i>
		323101	1. Dinner sets
		323102	2. Tea sets
		323103	3. Cups and saucers
		322104	4. Jars and other containers
204.	330A	321002	Block Glass
205.	330B	321003	Vitrite Glass (except for captive use)
206.	331	32110601	Glass beads except industrial beads
207.	331A	321202015	Glass mirrors excluding those manufactured by using automatic spray or vacuum coating process.
208.	333	321408	Scientific laboratory glassware (excluding boro Silicate type)
209.	334	321409	Micro-cover glasses and slides for microscopes
210.	335	321701	Glass bangles
211.	336	321908	Glass holloware by mouth blown and/or semi automatic process
212.	337	32190901	Sodalime silica pressed glass tumbler
		32190902	1. Sodalime silica pressed glass plates
		32190903	2. Sodalime silica pressed glass bowls
		32190904	3. Sodalime silica pressed glass ashtrays
		32190905	4. Sodalime silica pressed glass vases
213.	337A	321910	Glass marbles (All types)
214.	338	323301	Low tension insulators
215.	339		Chemical porcelain, items as follows:
		32380401	1. Flat tipped basins
		32390402	2. Round and rectangular type dishes
		32390403	3. Combustion posts
		32390404	4. Crucibles
		32390405	5. Filter funnels for vacuum pressure
		32390406	6. Gravity filtrations
		32390407	7. Pipette rests
		32090408	8. Spotting plates
		32390409	9. Dessicator plates

1	2	3	4
216.	339A	324201	Lime used for construction and lime wash
217.	339B	32420401	Hydrated lime used for construction and lime wash
218.	340	324901	Plaster of paris (excepting for use as construction material)
219.	341	324902	Chalk crayons including tailors chalk
220.	342	32490501	Plaster boards (excepting for using automatic Process)
221.	343	326906	Stoneware jars and bowls kundi
222.	344	326904	Salt glazed sewer pipes
223.	345	32890101	Asbestos pipes and fittings-for household purposes only according to ISI specification
224.	347	32890501	Reinforced cement concrete pipes up to 100 cms dia
225.	348	32960101	Graphite crucibles-up to 500 nos.
226.	349	32990801	Silicon carbide crucibles upto 150 nos.
		33-35	Mechanical Engg. Excluding Transport Equipment
227.	353	331149	Bright bars
228.	354	33115101	Pressure die casting upto 0.75 k.g.
229.	355	331152	M.S. and C.I. flanges.
230.	357	33130401	Flexible metallic pipe up to 35 mm. dia for non-pressure applications
231.	358	331503	Stranded wire (excluding high tensile prestressed concrete wires)
232.	360	33172201	Mechanical jacks up to 30 tonnes
233.	361	33172301	Hydraulic jacks upto 30 tonnes capacity
234.	362	331727	Signal ladders
235.	363	331751	Street light fittings
236.	364	340101	Steel almirah
237.	365	340102	Steel vaults, safes and cash boxes excluding the following items of which detailed specifications are given below: (I) Fire Resistant Record Protection equipment Test for two hours up to 10000 (degree) C against the time temperature graph specified by the International standard Organisation in their specification No. ISOR-834. The test is inclusive of the drop test midway through the rim test. The Cabinet to be tested and certified by the Central Building Research Institute, Roorkee or similar approved testing organisation.

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(II) Fire and Burglar Resistance Safe

Which can withstand 'Expert Test Attack'. 'Expert Test Attack' is defined hereunder as per recognized testing procedure:—

- (a) The testing party shall consist of two experienced operators who have studied the sample safe and are fully familiar with its detailed construction, and operation. They will also have fully studied detailed component and assembly drawing of the safe.
- (b) The tools available shall be all the common hand tools including sledge hammers; up to 3.5 kg size and crow bars upto 1¹/₂ metres long. Power tools will include portable electric impact hammers upto 25 mm size, portable drill presses or drill holding mechanism to accommodate portable electric drill upto 12mm in size carbide tipped drills will be used (and not just plain HSS drills). Also power saws upto 200 mm in diameter and hole saws upto 62.5 mm in diameter and reciprocating saws with maximum blade length 200 mm.
- (c) The objective will be of either making a hole of minimum 40 sq. cm or knocking of the lock and welding open the door.
- (d) The total above test attack will last for a specific time.

(IV) Jewellers safe which can withstand 'Expert Test. Attack' 'Expert Test Attack' is defined hereunder as per recognised testing procedure:

This will be as per the fire and Burglar Resistant Safe described above, but with the following vital additions:

- (a) Oxy-Acetylene gas cutting torch will be for attack. The quantity of gas consumed shall be limited to 30 cu.m. of combined total oxygen and fuel gas.
- (b) One combination Lock is mandatory on these safes. The lock should be manipulation proof and be capable of one million different combinations.
- (c) There shall be provision for fitting a 2 movement time lock.
- (d) The safe will have several automatic locking devices activated by components breaking, explosives, very high temperature and severe shock to automatically relock the safe. Also in case any lock is dislodged by means explosives or other means, the safe will automatically re-lock.
- (e) The objective of the attack will be to make a hole of 13 sq. cm.
- (f) The attack is required to last for twice as long was for the Fire and Burglar Resisting Safes.

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(V) Safe Deposit Locker

The locker doors will have milled edges to permit close seating, thus ensuring not only great resistance to crow bar attack but also interchangeability with each other. This is vital from the servicing point of view. The locks will be interchangeable between themselves which is again absolutely vital for servicing purposes. Each lock is jointly controlled by the renter with a renter's key; and by the custodian who has one master key for the entire installation which may be several hundred of lockers. The lock lever combinations shall be computer generated to ensure that no two keys are identical and that its own key alone will open lock. This loss of keys by the renters is a common feature and a system of breaking open (no duplicate keys of records are kept), urgently repairing the door and refitting with a new interchangeable lock, are vital servicing matters. Also occasionally there is a loss of the custodians key putting hundred of Lockers in jeopardy. In this case a mechanic has to be deputed to camp at site, customers are called one by one and lockers opened in their presence and the custodians part of the lock mechanism changed to suit the new master key. This is a major operator.

(VI) Safes with Safe Deposit Lockers

This can be specified as incorporating all the special features of both a Fire Burglar Resistant Safe and the safe Deposit Locker as indicated above. This term is used in Banks which do not have their own reinforced vault and also in large hotels as a service to their customers for keeping their valuables. Here the ability for urgent service to hotel guests who may have lost their keys and may have valuables like money, airline tickets and passports, is very vital. One other vital point is that the most popular size is the 2085 mm high unit which weight is around 2.5 tonnes and requires an overhead crane during its manufacture.

238.	366	340103	Meat and food safes-Metallic
239.	367	340104	Metal cabinets-All types
240.	368	340201	Steel trunks
241.	369	34030101	Tin containers unprinted-other than O.T.S. and cans up to 18 litres capacity
242.	370	340306	G.I. buckets
243.	371	34030801	Barrels upto 60 litre cap.
244.	372	34032001	Drums upto 60 litre cap.
245.	373	340322	Tin trays

1	2	3	4
246.	375	340324	Dust bins
247.	376	340401	Sanitary fixtures-metallic
248.	377	340403	Cocks and valves-water pipe fittings
249.	378	340401	M.S. pipes fittings-up to 100 mm dia.
250.	378A	34101201	M.S. storage tanks up to 15000 litres storage capacity (simple type with rivets/welds but excluding pressed ribs)
251.	379	340501	Pressure stove
252.	380	340502	Wick stoves. Other than those manufactured accordance with design nos. 145215, 145216, 145299 (Nutan type stoves) registered in the name of IOC
253.	381	340601	Hurricane lanterns
254.	382	340605	Signal lamps
255.	383	340606	Hand lamps
256.	386	340904	Umbrella ribs and fittings
257.	387	340906	Zip fasteners-Metallic except in the case of integrated plants manufacturing all components
258.	388	340907	Tin cutters
259.	389	340918	Belt fasteners
260.	390	340919	Snap fasteners
261.	391	340920	Pilfer proof caps
262.	392	340921	Gun cases
263.	393	341001015	Doors, windows and ventilators metallic (excluding heavy duty hollow steal doors filled with non-metallic cores, suitable for special applications like security, fire protection, sound proofing and bullet penetration resistance).
264.	394	341004	Rolling shutters
265.	396	342002	Aluminium furniture
266.	397	34200301	Adjustable beds-Hospital
267.	398	34200302	Iron and steel cots-All types
268.	399	342004	Storage cupboards-Iron and steel
269.	400	342005	Racks-All Types including angular Racks-Iron and steel
270.	402	34200602	Steel chairs-All types

1	2	3	4
271.	403	34200701	Steel tables-Hospitals
272.	404	34200702	Steel tables-All other types
273.	405	34200801	Trolleys-Railway Platform drinking water
274.	406	34200802	Trolleys-Iron and steel-Hospital
275.	407	342009	Stretchers-Iron and steel
276.	408	342010	Storage bins-Steel
277.	409	342099	Steel furniture-All other types
278.	410	343101	Hacksaw Frames
279.	411	343102	Pliers
280.	412	343103	Screw drivers
281.	413	343104	Spanners
282.	414	343106	Hammers
283.	415	343108	Anvils
284.	416	343109	Wood working saws
285.	417	343111	Wrenches
286.	418	343112	Knives and shearing blades (all types including those of metal, paper, bamboo and wood for manual operations)
287.	419	343113	Nail pullers
288.	420	343114	Chisels
289.	421	343115	Pincers
290.	422	343116	Wire cutters
291.	423	343199	Other Hand Tools for Blacksmithy, carpentry, handforging, foundry etc.
292.	424	34320101	Bolts and nuts-Except high tensile and special types
293.	426	343207	Wire adjusting screws
294.	427	343301	Tumbler locks
295.	428	343302	Padlocks
296.	429	343303	Safe/cabinet locks
297.	430	343305	Door locks
298.	431	343306	Locks-bicycles

1	2	3	4
299.	432	343399	Drawer locks and suitcase locks
300.	439	343507	Plough shears/iron ploughs
301.	440	343508	Cultivators
302.	441	343509	Disc Harrows
303.	447A	345207	Stainless steel utensils
304.	448	343517	Pickers-Metallic
305.	457	343601	Wire nails
306.	458	343602	Panel pins
307.	459	343603	Wood screws
308.	460	34360401	Machine screws-except socket head and special types
309.	463	343626	Hob nails
310.	464	343627	Builders hardware
311.	466	343901	Metallic washers
312.	467	343903	Barbed wire
313.	468	345101	Spoons-cutlery
314.	469	345102	Forks-cutlery
315.	470	345103	Table knives/Household
316.	471	345104	Bread cutters
317.	472	345199	Other cutlery items
318.	473	345201	Domestic utensils-brass
319.	474	345202	Domestic utensils-Aluminium
320.	477	345205	Domestic utensils-Iron
321.	482	345406	Gas appliances such as cooking ranges, ovens etc.
322.	485	349903	Safety pins
323.	486	349906	Watch straps-Metallic
324.	487	34990701	Beam scales
325.	490	34991001	Welded wire mesh except for expansion of existing units
326.	491	34991101	Wire gauge and wire netting metallic-coarser, than 100 mesh size and up to 2 metre width

1	2	3	4
327.	494	349941	Metal fittings for leather goods and garments
328.	495	349942	Ghamelas
329.	501	350103	Wheat and rice threshers-Up to 5 h.p. motive power
330.	502	350104	Seed cleaners-Up to 5 h.p. motive power
331.	503	350105	Grain Dries-Up to 5 h.p. motive power
332.	504	350106	Shell Huskers Up to 5 h.p. motive power
333.	506	350108	Cotton Delinting machine-Up to 5 h.p. motive power
334.	508A	35080101	Harvester grader, alter & other earth moving blades used in agricultural machines
335.	510	35230101	Diesel engines up to 15 h.p.-Slow speed except those with specific fuel consumption less than 180 gr. per b.h.p./per hour
336.	511	353134	Rice and Dal mill machinery
337.	513A	353804	Cotton ginning knives
338.	513E	345805	Chopping knives and lancets for match industry
339.	513F	354806	Plastic shredding and granulating knives
340.	513G	354807	Knives and shearing blades (all types including those for metal, paper, and wood for hand operated machines)
341.	513h	354808	Doctor blades
342.	513I	354809	Stainless steel refiner/bar knives
343.	514	35490701	Concrete mixtures up to 3 cubic metre capacity
344.	515	354925	Band saw blades-For cutting wooden logs
345.	516	35520101	Room Cooler-Desert type
346.	517	355819	Air-conditioning ducting, louvers, grills and other sheet fabrication in air-conditioning
347.	518	35630301	Centrifugal pumps up of size 10 cm x 10 cm
348.	519	35650401	Air compressors up to 5 H.P. for spray painting repair shops.
349.	519A	356803	Electro formed screens/Liners used in the Chemicals & sugar industries
350.	520B	35720201	12 mm Drilling machine up to 1500 rpm Bench and pedestal type
351.	521	35720801	Turning, Boring and Treading Addas-small single or multiple operation devices

1	2	3	4
352.	522	35741001	Bench Grinder up to 300 mm diameter
353.	523	35750201	Power Hacksaw-Mechanical-300 mm Blade size
354.	523A	35760301	Screw Presses (manually operated)
355.	523B	35760501	Hand presses (manually operated)
356.	524	357806	Coolant pumps etc.
357.	525	357807	Steadies
358.	526	357808	Dog Plates
359.	529	358601	Weighing machines/weight bridges—Ordinary
360.	530	358901	File mechanism
361.	531	35910102	Sewing Machine—Domestic, hand operated, conventional type components except arms, and needles
362.	532	59203	Household knitting machine
363.	535	359910	Bottle washers
		36.	Electrical machines, Appliances & Apparatus Including Electronics & Electrical Appliances
364.	552	77559	Voltage stabilizers—Domestic type upto 5 KVA
365.	553	36040201	Electric motor 1 H.P. to 10 H.P.—A.C. except—Special types
366.	555	36100101	PVC wires—Domestic type
367.	558	36310401	Exhaust fans up to 460 mm
368.	564	363170101	Electric irons—Other than steam irons
369.	568	36370501	Storage water heaters/Geysers up to 100 litres capacity/upto 3 KW
370.	569	36370601	Electric kettles—sauce pan/ring types up to 1.70 litres
371.	570	36370701	Mixers/Grinders such as meat mincer, juice extractor cap. of jar 1 litre max/up to 500 watts 30 minutes rating
372.	573	36371301	Hot air blowers/heat convector upto 2 KW upto fan Size 26 cm x 20 cm x 6 cm:
373.	577	36371801	Expresso coffee makers upto 1.7 litres, capacity
374.	582	36372401	Bread toasters ordinary/upto/semi-auto upto cap 6 slices
375.	587	363804	Electrical wiring accessories other than switches, plugs and sockets
376.	588	363911	Electrical light fitting chokes

1	2	3	4
377.	589	363914	Electrical light fittings starters
378.	593	367104	Carbon brushes manufactured from carbon block
379.	596A	36991400	Electric Bells and Buzzers
380.	597	36991601	Metal clad switches up to 100 Amps
			Electronic Equipments and Components
381.	604	364903	Amplifiers for entertainment and public address system
		37	Transport Equipment Boats & Truckbody Building
382.	620	370201	Wooden-Boats body Building
383.	621	374201	Truck body-building-Wooden structure
384.	622	374202	Seats for buses and trucks
			Auto parts components and ancillaries & garage equipment
385.	626	374606	Grease nipples
386.	627	374708	Gun metal bushes
387.	630	374721	Hose pipes and radiator hoses-Auto
388.	631	374722	Horn buttons
389.	632	37472601	Shackle pins—Automobile use
390.	638	374752	Radiator grills—auto
391.	640	374759	Seat cushion
392.	642	374778	Sun shades—Auto
393.	643	37478001	Side lamps assembly—Auto Excluding combination lamp assembly
394.	648	374811	Battery cables and fittings
395.	649	374812	Battery cell tester
396.	650	378469	Electrical fuse boxes—Auto
397.	651	374870	Electrical fuses—Auto
398.	654	374883	Fuel tank caps—Auto
399.	657	374901	Armature tester
400.	658	374902	Battery terminal lifters
401.	659	374903	Condensers and resistance testers
402.	660	374904	Fenders, spoons and hammers

1	2	3	4
403.	661	374905	Feeler gauges
404.	662	374906	Flaring tools
405.	663	374907	Gear flushers
406.	664	374908	Puller of all types
407.	665	374909	Ring expanders
408.	666	374910	Ring compressors
409.	667	374911	Screw extractors
410.	668	375912	Spark Plug tester & cleaners
411.	669	374913	Stud removers-extractors
412.	670	374914	Toe-in gauges
413.	671	374915	Tyre valve pullout tools
414.	672	374916	Tube cutter
415.	673	374917	Flanging tools
416.	677	374921	Painting equipments like spray guns etc.
417.	678	374925	Grease guns
418.	679	374926	Tyre inflators-Both hand foot operated
419.	681	374994	Auto rubber components as follows:
		37499401	1. Brake pedals
		37499402	2. Clutch pedals
		37499403	3. Dust covers
		37499404	4. Wiper blade components
		37499405	5. Windscreen beedings
		37499406	6. Door channels
		37499407	7. Rubber beeding
		3026071	8. Rubber mats
420.	682	375804	Spokes and nipples—Auto cycle other than swaged type
		376.	Bicycle parts, tricycles & perambulators
421.	684	3766102	Cycle frames-Except for captive consumption
422.	685	37680101	B.B. Axles except through cold forging process

1	2	3	4
423.	686	376802	B.B. Cups
424.	687	376803	B.B. Shells
425.	688	376804	Bicycles tube valves
426.	689	376805	Handles bicycles
427.	690	376807	Bolts & Studs and screws—All types—Bicycles
428.	691	376811	Bells—Bicycles
429.	692	376812	Carrier—Bicycles
430.	694	37681401	Chain wheels and Adjusters—bicycles except chain wheels, and adjusters for light weight bicycles
431.	695	376815	Lamps—Bicycle
432.	696	376816	Chain covers
433.	697	376817	Cones—Hub cones—Bicycle
434.	698	376818	Cotter pins—Cycle
435.	699	376819	Crank shafts—Cycle
436.	700	37682001	Cranks except cold forged cranks including single piece cranks—cycle
437.	701	376822	Crown outer cover—Cycle
438.	703	738824	D-nuts—Cycle
439.	704	376825	Eye bolt cups—Cycle
440.	705	376826	Fork blade crown cover—Cycle
441.	706	376827	Fork handles—Cycle
442.	707	376828	Frame collars—Cycle
443.	708	376832	Guide pins—Cycle
444.	709	376836	Handle bar grips
445.	710	376838	Hub oil clips—Bicycle
446.	711	376839	Hub axle nuts
447.	712	376840	Lock nuts & rings—Bicycle
448.	713	376842	Lugs all types—Bicycle
449.	714	376843	Mudguards—Bicycle
450.	715	376844	Lamp brackets—Bicycle

1	2	3	4
451.	716	376847	Pedal assembly-cycle
452.	717	376848	Saddle-Cycle
453.	718	376850	Shackle rivets-Cycle
454.	719	376851	Stands-Cycle
455.	720	376852	Spokes & nipples-Cycle
456.	721	37685801	Hubs and cups—bicycles along with components except single piece hub and flange for light weight bicycle
457.	723	37689901	Other cycle parts and accessors, except free wheels chains; single piece hub-shell and flange for light weight bicycle; B.B. Axles through cold forging process; chain wheels and adjusters for light-weight bicycles; cold forged including single piece cold forged cranks and items allowed for manufacture for captive use
458.	724	376901	Tricycles
459.	725	376903	Tricycles-Parts and accessories
460.	726	376904	Perambulator
461.	727	376905	Perambulator parts and accessories
Miscellaneous Transport Equipment			
462.	728	378099	Hand & animal drawn carriage, fittings, tonga parts and wheel rings
463.	729	378108	Wheel Barrows
464.	730	378109	Animal—drawn vehicles
465.	731	378401	Hand-drawn carts of all types
Sports Goods			
466.	761	261401	All types of sports nets
467.	762	385101	Shuttle cocks
468.	763	385104	Hockey sticks
469.	764	38510510	Protective equipments, for sports like pads gloves, etc., soft leather goods
470.	765	385106	Dumb-bells and chest expanders
471.	766	385107	Cricket and hockey balls
472.	767	385108	Football, volley ball and basket ball covers

1	2	3	4
			Stationery Items
473.	768	319911	Writing inks & fountain pen inks
474.	769	387101	Ball point pens
475.	770	387103	Fountain pens
476.	771	387104	Pen nibs
477.	772	387105	Fountain pens and ball pens components excluding metallic tips
478.	773	387201	Pencils
479.	774	387401	Hand stapling machine
480.	775	387501	Paper pins
481.	776	387601	Carbon paper
482.	777	38760210	Typewriter ribbon for mechanical type writers
483.	778	387901	Hand numbering machines
484.	779	387903	Pencil sharpeners
485.	780	387907	Pen holders
			Others
486.	784	265101	Umbrellas
487.	786	38011401	Sterlisers-Stainless steel & aluminium
488.	787	380225	Microscope-Student and medical use
489.	788	380401	Water metres
490.	790	380504	Revolution counters mech.
491.	791	380505	Liquid level controller—(Excepting electronic-type)
492.	792	38060601	Thermometers-Up to 150 (degree) C
493.	792A	38110201	Ophthalmic lenses from blanks (Glass)
494.	793	381301	Photographic enlargers
495.	795	343902	Wire brushes
496.	796	389101	Paint brushes
497.	797	389102	Hair brushes
498.	798	389103	Fibre brushes
499.	799	389104	Tooth brushes

1	2	3	4
500.	800	389105	Brushes-Natural bristles
501.	801	389106	Other brushes
502.	803A	389501	Bone meal (except captive consumption for 100% export)
503.	803B	389502	Crushed bones
504.	804	389704	Cufflinks, tie-pins, metallic dress buttons & bucklets
505.	806	389912	Absorbent cotton
506.	807	389911	Cigarette lighters

[*Translation*]

Benefits to Exporters

*335. DR. DHIRENDRA AGARWAL:
SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA:

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

(a) whether the Government proposes to provide benefits to the exporters on the products which have a negligible presence in India's trade basket as reported in the "Times of India" dated February 16, 2006;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the other schemes existing for the promotion of exports;

(c) whether the Government intends to conduct any study prior to extending of these benefits to the exporters in order to assess the impact on the exports of these items;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government is likely to introduce some more schemes to boost the exports; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) to (f) To achieve the objectives laid down under the Foreign Trade Policy 2004-09 and double our percentage share of global merchandise trade by the year 2009, the Government is committed to provide a stimulus to exports through various export promotion schemes from time to time. Details of the existing Export

Promotion Schemes i.e. Duty Exemption and Neutralisation schemes like Advance Licence, DEPB etc. and Export Reward schemes like Vishesh Krishi Upaj Yojana, Served from India, Target Plus are available in the book titled "Foreign Trade Policy 2004-09" as amended from time to time. Policies laid down under Foreign Trade policy are reviewed periodically after extensive consultations with various stakeholders viz. Export Promotion Councils, Trade Associations and Chambers of Commerce, Inter Ministerial meetings etc. Need based market assessment and feasibility studies are also carried out from time to time to assess the suitability of the export promotion proposals.

[*English*]

Amendments in Cr. PC

*336. SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO:
SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to amend some sections of the criminal procedure code to bring about a radical change in the procedure of recording of evidence by the police in the criminal cases;

(b) if so, whether the Government has decided to make the signature of a witness mandatory while recording evidence;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the extent to which functioning of criminal justice system will improve in the country by such amendments?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) to (d) To prevent the evil of witness turning hostile, the Criminal Law (Amendment) Bill, 2003 had proposals, inter alia, to amend Sections 161 and 162 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973 and to insert new sections 164A and 344A in the Code to provide that (i) statement made to Police relating to offences punishable with imprisonment upto seven years be signed and quickly transmitted to the Magistrate; (ii) recording of evidence of material witness by Magistrate in all offences punishable with death or imprisonment for 7 years or more; (iii) summary procedure for trial of witnesses depositing contrary to statements recorded under section 164A Cr. P.C. by Magistrate; and (iv) enhanced punishment for perjury.

However, the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Home Affairs which examined the Bill did not agree to these proposals. Government accepted the Standing Committee's recommendations and accordingly these proposals were deleted from the Bill by way of moving official amendments. Thereafter, the revised Bill was passed by both Houses of Parliament during the winter session of Parliament, 2005.

Credit Guarantee Fund Scheme

*337. SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has launched a 'Credit Guarantee Fund scheme' for the Small Scale Industries;

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

(c) the number of SSI Units provided collateral guarantee under the scheme during each of the three years and till date, State-wise;

(d) whether the Government proposes to create a corpus of the fund; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND MINISTER OF AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. To ensure better flow of credit to small and tiny enterprises by reducing the risk perception of financial institutions and banks in lending without collateral security, the Central Government launched a Credit Guarantee Fund Scheme for Small Industries on 30 August 2000, which became operational with effect from 1 January 2001. This scheme is operated by the Credit Guarantee Fund Trust for Small Industries (CGTSI) through the Trusts' member lending institutions i.e., scheduled commercial banks (public/private sector banks), select regional rural banks, National Small Industries Corporation Ltd., North Eastern Development Finance Corporation Ltd. and Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI). The scheme provides guarantee up to 75 per cent of the credit to new and existing small enterprises (small scale industries (SSI)/ small scale service and business enterprises (SSSBs) on loans up to Rs. 25 lakh.

(c) The details of State/UT-wise proposals approved for guarantee cover during 2002-03, 2003-04, 2004-05 and cumulative position upto 28 February 2006 are given in the enclosed statement.

(d) and (e) For implementation of the scheme, a corpus fund of CGTSI has been created with contribution by the Central Government and SIDBI respectively in the ratio of 4:1. Till the end of February 2006, the Central Government and SIDBI have jointly contributed Rs. 1079.07 crore to the corpus.

Statement

State/UT-wise details of proposals approved for guarantee cover under Credit Guarantee Fund Scheme for Small Industries

Sl.No.	State/UT	Number of proposals approved			
		2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	Cumulative (upto 28.2.06)
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	3	2	4	10
2.	Andhra Pradesh	443	97	390	1890

1	2	3	4	5	6
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	0	0	0	16
4.	Assam	24	54	297	606
5.	Bihar	845	183	140	1326
6.	Chandigarh	3	3	22	68
7.	Chhattisgarh	62	35	260	663
8.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	0	0	7	8
9.	Daman and Diu	1	4	4	11
10.	Delhi	28	29	56	201
11.	Goa	14	4	22	85
12.	Gujarat	22	46	210	617
13.	Haryana	75	36	231	614
14.	Himachal Pradesh	121	32	187	628
15.	Jammu & Kashmir	86	8	305	573
16.	Jharkhand	317	126	488	1160
17.	Karnataka	461	364	860	3073
18.	Kerala	1133	641	2529	6825
19.	Madhya Pradesh	268	228	672	1866
20.	Maharashtra	89	123	311	1069
21.	Manipur	0	24	1	77
22.	Meghalaya	1	0	9	21
23.	Mizoram	0	0	1	35
24.	Nagaland	8	4	1	16
25.	Orissa	223	242	507	1434
26.	Pondichery	2	8	7	26
27.	Punjab	119	62	288	851
28.	Rajasthan	141	213	129	654
29.	Sikkim	2	4	24	36
30.	Tamil Nadu	246	334	1001	2887
31.	Tripura	2	0	17	35
32.	Uttar Pradesh	667	3842	1506	7657
33.	Uttaranchal	10	9	25	69
34.	West Bengal	544	178	936	2424

Quality of SSI Products

*338. SHRI MADAN LAL SHARMA:
SHRI K.C. PALANISAMY:

Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the small scale industries in India are not able to compete with foreign products in terms of quality and cost of production;

(b) if so, the steps taken to help the Small Scale Industries to improve the quality and reduce the cost of production to compete with foreign products; and

(c) the names of the sectors where the facilities in this behalf are extended to?

THE MINISTER OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND MINISTER OF AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD): (a) No, Sir. On the contrary, the exports of products manufactured by the small scale industries (SSI) have increased from Rs. 71,244 crore during 2001-02 to Rs. 97,644 crore during 2003-04 and continue to account for nearly 33 per cent of the total exports from India.

(b) and (c) However, with a view to enhancing the competitiveness of the SSI in the global market, the Central Government implements several schemes/programmes which, among others, include, the scheme of reimbursement of the cost up to Rs. 75,000 of acquiring ISO 9000.14001 certification, Credit Linked Capital Subsidy Scheme (CLCSS) for technology upgradation, financial assistance for obtaining registration of bar coding of their products, training on packaging for exports, market development assistance to enable participation in the domestic and international fairs and exhibitions, Regional Testing Centers and Field Testing Stations to test the quality of SSI products, National Quality Awards to encourage quality standards in SSI, etc.

Educationally Backward Areas

[English]

*339. SHRI SRICHAND KRIPLANI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has identified educationally backward areas in the country;

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

(c) the name of the schemes launched and other measures taken by the Government for development of these areas during the year 2004-05?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.A.A. FATMI): (a) and (b) State-wise list of Special Focus Districts identified by the Ministry is enclosed as statement.

(c) The above list was finalized in November, 2005. hence, the question of special measures being taken on its basis during 2004-05 does not arise. However, schemes of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan and Mid Day Meal cover all districts, and schemes of Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalayas and Navodaya Vidyalayas, already cover 64 and 87 Special Focus districts respectively.

Statement

State-wise list of special focus districts finalized by the Department of Secondary & Higher Education in November, 2005

Sl.No.	Name of the State	No. of Districts	Name of the Districts
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1.	Adilabad
		2.	Khammam
		3.	Mahbubnagar
		4.	Warrangal
2.	Assam	1.	Barpeta
		2.	Darrang
		3.	Dhemaji
		4.	Dhubri
		5.	Goalpara
		6.	Karbi Anglong
		7.	Kokrajhar

1	2	3	4
		8.	Lakhimpur
		9.	Morigaon
		10.	Nalbari
		11.	North Cachar Hills
		12.	Sibsagar
		13.	Sonitpur
		14.	Tinsukhia
3.	Bihar	1.	Araria
		2.	Darbhanga
		3.	Katihar
		4.	Madhepura
		5.	Madhubani
		6.	Muzaffarpur
		7.	Paschim Champaran
		8.	Purba Champaran
		9.	Purnea
		10.	Sheohar
		11.	Sitamarhi
		12.	Supaul
4.	Chhattisgarh	1.	Bastar
		2.	Bilaspur
		3.	Dantewara
		4.	Jashpur
		5.	Kanker
		6.	Koriya
		7.	Rajnandgaon
		8.	Sarguja
5.	Gujarat	1.	Dangs

1	2	3	4
		2.	Panchmahals
6.	Himachal Pradesh	1.	Chamba
		2.	Kinnaur
		3.	Lahaul & Spiti
7.	Jharkhand	1.	Deoghar
		2.	Garhwa
		3.	Giridih
		4.	Godda
		5.	Gumla
		6.	Jamtara
		7.	Latehar
		8.	Lohardagga
		9.	Palamau
		10.	Sahebganj
		11.	Saraikela
		12.	Simdega
		13.	West Singhbhum
8.	Karnataka	1.	Bidar
9.	Kerala	1.	Waynad
10.	Madhya Pradesh	1.	Balaghat
		2.	Barwani
		3.	Dewas
		4.	Dindori
		5.	Mandla
		6.	Shahdol
		7.	Sheopur
		8.	Sidhi
		9.	Umaria

1	2	3	4
		10.	West Nimer
11.	Maharashtra	1.	Ahmednagar
		2.	Chandrapur
		3.	Dhule
		4.	Gadchiroli
		5.	Nanded
12.	Manipur	1.	Tamenlong
13.	Meghalaya	1.	East Garo Hills
14.	Orissa	1.	Balasore
		2.	Boudh
		3.	Gajapati
		4.	Ganjam
		5.	Kalahandi
		6.	Kandhamal
		7.	Keonjhar
		8.	Koraput
		9.	Mayurbhanj
		10.	Nawarangpur
		11.	Sambalpur
		12.	Sundergarh
15.	Rajasthan	1.	Banswara
		2.	Dungarpur
		3.	Jaisalmer
		4.	Sikar
16.	Sikkim	1.	North Sikkim
		2.	South Sikkim
		3.	West Sikkim
17.	Tamil Nadu	1	Cuddalore
		2.	Tiruvannamalai

1	2	3	4
18.	Tripura	1.	Dhalai
		2.	North Tripura
		3.	South Tripura
19.	Uttar Pradesh	1.	Barabanki
		2.	Sitapur
20.	West Bengal	1.	Bankura
		2.	North 24 Pargana
		3.	Purulia
		4.	West Midnapur

[English]

Import of Rubber

*340. SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPPAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the production of rubber in the country is adequate to cater to the needs of the country;

(b) if not, the quantity of rubber produced/imported in the country during the last three years;

(c) whether the Government has allowed duty free import of rubber;

(d) if so, the details thereof including the quantity of rubber imported during each of the last three years and thereafter, country-wise;

(e) the reasons for permitting the duty free import of rubber; and

(f) the likely impact of the duty free import of rubber on the prevailing price of rubber and the extent to which it would affect the interest of the rubber growers in the country?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) The production of natural rubber in the country is more or less adequate to meet the domestic demand. There is only a marginal shortfall.

(b) the quantity of rubber produced & imported since 2002-03 are as follows:

Year	Production (tonnes)	Import (tonnes)	Export (tonnes)
2002-03	649,435	26,217	55,311
2003-04	711,650	44,199	75,905
2004-05	749,665	68,718	46,169
2005-06 (up to November)	515,595	35,100	55,105 till 30th January 2006

(c) Yes, Sir. The Government has allowed duty free import of rubber for export production only to the Advance Licence holders, the 100% Export Oriented Units and the Special Economic Zone Units. Duty free import is quantitatively capped as it is based on the rubber content in the products exported and based on Standard Input and Output Norms notified by the Government.

(d) Country-wise import figures of rubber for the last three years and thereafter including duty free import of rubber is given below:

Country	(in tonnes)			
	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06 (up to November 2005 only)
Indonesia	5125	6924	11758	13283
Malaysia	6646	21706	24986	7501
Myanmar	79	196	561	2008
Singapore	1164	248	435	1091
Sri Lanka	552	388	2331	522
Thailand	10575	12244	26613	8874
Vietnam	1447	1464	1702	1616
Others	629	1029	332	205
Total	26217	44199	68718	35100

(Source: Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence & Statistics, Kolkata)

(e) Duty free import of rubber is allowed only for export production.

(f) Since the duty free import of rubber is allowed under the export promotion scheme for export production only, there is no likely impact on the price of rubber or on rubber growers. At present the international price of natural rubber is higher than the equivalent grade of domestic rubber and there are exports of natural rubber also from India.

Indo France Trade

*341. SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL;
SHRI CHENGARA SURENDRAN:

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

(a) the details of the trade between the India and France during each of the last three years and till date;

(b) whether a delegation from France visited India recently to explore trade and investment opportunities in India; and

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the trade between the two countries will get a boost consequent upon the visit of the delegation and the decisions taken thereon; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) Details of trade between India and France during the last three years and during the first eight months of 2005-06 are as follows:

(Value in US\$ Million)

Year	Exports from India	Imports by India	Total trade
2002-03	1074.09	1094.18	2168.27
2003-04	1280.89	1090.23	2371.12
2004-05	1609.11	1380.70	2989.81
2005-06 (April-Nov.)	1170.93	902.59	2073.52

(b) and (c) The President of France, Mr. Jacques Chirac visited India during February 19-21, 2006. He was accompanied, among others, by the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Minister of Economy, Finance and Industry,

Minister of State for Foreign Trade and a large delegation of senior CEOs of leading French companies.

(d) and (e) Contacts and visits by official and business delegations as much as the recent visit of the French President will boost Indo-French trade and economic cooperation through, inter alia, better understanding, business to business contacts, exchange of delegations, participation in trade fairs, etc.

National Export Insurance Account

2455. SHRI MILIND DEORA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to create a National Export Insurance Account (NEIA);

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith its aims and objectives; and

(c) the manner in which it will make the balance of trade favourable?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) Yes, Sir. Government has decided to establish a National Export Insurance Account (NEIA).

(b) The NEIA shall be maintained and operated by a public trust constituted by the Department of Commerce and the Export Credit Guarantee Corporation of India. A Committee of Directions (CoD), constituted under the Ministry of Commerce & Industry is the competent authority to approve the projects under the Scheme. The objective of the Scheme is to ensure the availability of credit risk cover for medium and long term high-value projects, which are commercially available and desirable from the national interest point of view.

(c) The implementation of the Scheme is expected to enhance Indian exports.

Mid Day Meal Scheme

2456. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the allocation of Rs. 2 per child is provided under the Mid-Day Meal Scheme;

(b) if so, whether the Government proposes to revise this amount;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the adequate steps taken by the Government to ensure that this scheme is fully operational in all the States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (d) Under the Revised Mid-Day Meal (MDM) Scheme effected from September 2004, assistance for meeting cooking cost @Rs. 1 per child per school day is provided as Central assistance. States are expected to supplement Central assistance with their own resources to ensure a hygienic mid-day meal having variety and wholesomeness. Many States are already contributing substantially. Central Government is constantly during States to make adequate contribution, over and above the Central assistance.

The following steps have been taken by the Government to ensure that this scheme is fully effectively operational in the all States:

- (i) Mothers have been exhorted to supervise, in turns, the cooking and serving of the meal to the children in the schools.
- (ii) A media campaign has been started to heighten public awareness about the programme.
- (iii) States have been requested to encourage decentralized implementation of the scheme through involvement of Panchayati Raj Institutions, Village Education Committees, School Management Committees, Women Self-Help Groups, Youth Clubs, etc.
- (iv) Guidelines also provide for constitution of Steering-cum-Monitoring Committees at National, State, District and Block level, consisting of representatives, inter-alia, experts/persons with significant contribution in the areas of nutrition, child welfare, community mobilization, school education, etc.

[Translation]

**Agreement between India and France
on Education Sector**

2457. SHRI CHANDRABHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether an agreement has been signed between India and France for research and studies in the subject of science, management, engineering, law, non-technology and medicine etc.;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the talents in rural areas are not being provided infrastructure as compared to urban areas; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.A.A. FATMI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

[English]

Revamp Lecturers Eligibility Criteria

2458. SHRI E.G. SUGAVANAM: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has formulated any new procedure to revamp the lecturer's eligibility criteria and to streamline their selection;

(b) if so, the details and the benefits likely to be accrued therefrom; and

(c) the time by which the new procedure would be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.A.A. FATMI): (a) to (c) No, Sir. A review Committee has been set up to review the National Eligibility Test (NET) for its utility, effectiveness and continuation.

[Translation]

Drug Addiction among Youth

2459. SHRI AVINASH RAI KHANNA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the tendency of drug addiction is increasing among the youths in the country;

(b) if so, whether the Government is formulating any plans in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether there is any foreign hand behind the supply of such drugs;

(e) if so, the names of such countries;

(f) whether the crime has also increased due to the increase in the use of drugs; and

(g) if so, the measures being taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) to (c) Any authentic report suggesting increase or decrease of drug addiction among the youths is not available. The Government is already implementing the Scheme for Prevention of Alcoholism and Substance (Drugs) Abuse to deal with the problem of Drug Abuse/Addiction for the victims of substance Abuse as a part of its drug demand reduction strategy, the major components of which are preventive awareness, motivational counselling, curative treatment and post-treatment rehabilitation of substance abusers.

(d) and (e) No such instance has come to notice.

(f) and (g) There is no information available to suggest that there has been increase in crime due to the increase in the use of drugs.

[English]

Mineral Exploration

2460. SHRIMATI JAYABEN B. THAKKAR: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state the manner in which the various new elements of mining *viz.* mineral

exploration in the sea-bed, development of proper inventory, environmental protection, livelihood security for members of scheduled areas, enforcement of proper mining methods, optimum utilization and export of minerals and recycling of metallic scrap and mineral waste are being tackled?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY): Geological Survey of India has been carrying out systematic seabed mapping within the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) of India and has delineated economic mineral bearing zones. The National inventory of mineral resources has been maintained and updated by Indian Bureau of Mines (IBM) from time to time. Mining projects are subject to environmental plan to ensure protection of environment. Government has formulated the National Policy on Resettlement and Rehabilitation of Project Affected Families-2003, which lays down minimum provisions to be given to displaced people in areas mentioned in schedule V & VI to the Constitution of India. IBM carries out regular inspections for enforcing proper mining methods. Conservation and optimum utilization of mineral resources are regulated through Mineral Conservation and Development Rules, 1988. The policy of export keeps in view the mineral inventory position and long term needs of the country. Recycling of metallic scrap and mineral wastes is taken up by industry wherever found feasible.

[Translation]

Kuposhan Niwaran Sanjeevani Abhiyan

2461. DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY:
DR. COL. (RETD.) DHANI RAM SHANDIL:

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

(a) whether 'Kuposhan Niwaran Sanjeevani Abhiyan's being run on behalf of 'UNICEF' for complete eradication of malnutrition in various States of the country;

(b) if so, the comprehensive details thereof;

(c) the amount allocated by the Government in this regard to various States during each of the last three years, State-wise; and

(d) the amount utilized by the each State during the same period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) and (b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(c) and (d) The Government of India has not allocated any funds to any State for this purpose.

[English]

Committee for Exporters

2462. SHRI JASHUBHAI DHANABHAI BARAD: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has set up any Committee to simplify the procedures and rules for exporters;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Committee has submitted its report;

(d) if so, the recommendations made by the Committee; and

(e) the time by which the recommendations of the Committee are likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A Committee was constituted under the Chairmanship of the Director General of Foreign Trade to look into the aspects of procedural simplification. The Committee also included the Members from the Department of Revenue, National Informatics Centre, Indian Bank Association and Apex Bodies viz. ASSOCHAM, CII, FICCI and FIEO.

(c) and (d) The Committee has since submitted its report and has in general terms also suggested need for procedural simplification in the form of reduction in the number of documents, number of application forms as well as volume of information sought from the Exporters. The report emphasizes the need to facilitate web enabled retrieval of such documents by all community partners. It has also recommended that all the concerned Departments should update their EDI set up at the earliest.

(e) Electronic Data Interchange between Customs and Department of Commerce is being updated continuously and online filing without the requirement of submission of hard copies for claiming various benefits under FTP is being introduced. Implementation of other general recommendations relating to reduction of documentation is being done on a continuous basis in consultation with other stake holders and is brought out in the annual document *viz.* Hand Book of Procedures Vol. I which is kept readily available and updated on the DGFT website.

Grants to SHS

2643. SHRI TUKARAM GANGADHAR GADAKH: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of Maharashtra had requested the Central Government to provide the State with financial assistance to enable it to grant incentives to Secondary and Higher Secondary students participating in Olympiads in different science subjects;

(b) if so, the details of the scheme suggested and the extent of incentive sought; and

(c) the extent of financial assistance granted for the scheme this year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.A.A. FATMI): (a) to (c) A proposal was received from the Government of Maharashtra for giving grants to SSC/HSC Boards, at the rate of Rs. Five lakh per student selected from such Boards, to represent India in Olympiads held every year in various fields *viz.* Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry and Biology etc. According to the proposal, grants would be utilized by the Boards to develop infrastructure for grooming students for these Olympiads.

It was felt that since the issue of quality has been receiving considerable attention over the years and from the perspective currently accepted, it would be preferable to look at quality as a systematic concern. This implies that attention should be focused on improvement of teaching in classroom across the board, rather than in terms of preparing students for special or competitive events. It is true that students' performance in such events brings a momentary glory, but preparation for such events do not add significantly to the overall quality of the system.

Therefore, the proposal has not been found suitable for implementation in the present framework.

Status of Cottage Industries

2464. SHRI SUBODH MOHITE: Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the present status of the cottage industries in the State of Maharashtra in comparison to other States;

(b) whether the Union Government has any action plan or package for development of cottage industries in the country particularly in the Maharashtra;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the measures taken by the Government to increase production in cottage industries?

THE MINISTER OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND MINISTER OF AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD): (a) to (d) Village industry (VI) units are established by eligible entrepreneurs under the Central Government's Rural Employment Generation Programme (REGP), a credit-linked subsidy programme implemented through the Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) in collaboration with Khadi and Village Industries Boards (KVIBs) of the respective States/Union Territories (UTs). 2,09,705 VI units have been set up and 28,05,235 employment opportunities have been created under the REGP upto 31 March, 2005 since its inception in April 1995. The VI units set up in Maharashtra account for 10.34 per cent of the total number of the VI units in the country and 7.51 per cent of the total employment generated. Maharashtra ranks second among the States/UTs in respect of the number of VI units set up and fifth in respect of employment generated.

Besides, the Government has recently approved the 'Schemes of Fund for Regeneration of Traditional Industries' (SFURTI) for implementation in 50 VI clusters in the country, for holistic development of these clusters.

The other steps taken for the promotion and development of village industries throughout the country, including Maharashtra, include:

(i) Rural Industries Service Centres Scheme (RISC) for setting up of common facility centers (CFCs) to provide infrastructural support and services to such industries;

- (ii) Product Development, Design Intervention and Packaging Programme (PRODIP) for improved design and packaging of village industry products; and
- (iii) Providing facilities for quality control of products, financial assistance for participation in national and international exhibitions, assistance for technology upgradation, research and development, etc.

Modernisation

2465. SHRI DUSHYANT SINGH: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government proposes to mechanise and modernize the exploration and production of zinc and lead;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the steps taken by the Government in this regard particularly in respect of Rajasthan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY): (a) and (b) Under the Ministry of Mines, Geological Survey of India (GSI) and Mineral Exploration Corporation Limited (MECL) are two government organizations engaged in mineral exploration activities. GSI is equipped with state of the art geological, geochemical and geophysical instruments to modernize its exploration activities. MECL has so far completed exploration of 14 lead-zinc prospects located in the State of Andhra Pradesh, Rajasthan, West Bengal, Uttaranchal & Sikkim.

At present, Hindustan Zinc Limited (HZL), a disinvested company, is engaged in production of zinc and lead, while, another private company, namely, Binani Industries Limited (BIL) is producing zinc only. HZL has intimated that they have a clear focus on modernizing exploration and production of lead and zinc. HZL has increased its zinc production capacity from 2,30,000 MT to 4,11,000 MT per annum recently in Rajasthan.

(c) MECL is carrying out lead & zinc exploration activities in two prospects of Rajasthan. MECL is also carrying out exploration for zinc on behalf of M/s. Hindustan Zinc Limited. Geological Survey of India (GSI) also has taken up one project for exploration of lead-zinc in Rajasthan.

Illegal Migrants (Determination by Tribunals) Act

2466. SHRIMATI JYOTIRMOYEE SIKDAR: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government proposes to effect some changes in illegal Migrants (Determination by Tribunals) Act, 1983 with special reference to Assam;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the number of tribunals proposed to be set up to identify foreigners in Assam; and
- (d) the number of foreign nationals identified in Assam at present and the number of detection cases pending in different tribunals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) In view of (a) above, does not arise.

(c) The Central Government has approved the proposal of the Government of Assam for establishment of additional 21 Foreigners Tribunals in addition to the existing 11 Foreigners' Tribunals.

(d) As on 31.12.2005, in Foreigners Tribunals, 14,947 cases were pending and 29,429 persons were detected as foreigners, who came to Assam between 1.1.1966 to 24.3.1971. In the erstwhile Illegal Migrants Determination Tribunals, (as on 12.7.2005), 88,770 cases were pending and 12,846 persons were declared as illegal migrants who came to Assam after 25.3.1971. These cases stand transferred to Foreigners Tribunals.

[Translation]

Landmine Proof Vehicles

2467. SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Union Government has provided landmine proof vehicles to Chhattisgarh to deal with the Naxal activities;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether Maharashtra has also been provided such vehicles;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) to (e) Yes Sir.

Under the Scheme for Modernization of State Police Forces, Government has provided eighteen mine proof vehicles to Chhattisgarh and five such vehicles to Maharashtra to enable the concerned State Governments to deal with the naxal activities.

Activities of Nepal on No Man Land

2468. SHRI KULDEEP BISHNOI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Nepal police have set up ambushes within three meters area towards the Indian side at Indo-Nepal border violating all international norms;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to prevent the Nepal police from entering into Indian territory?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) There are no reports suggesting that the Nepal police have set up ambushes within three meters area towards the Indian side at India-Nepal border.

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

[English]

Workforce in Coir Industry

2469. SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN: Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the total workforce in the coir industry as on 2004-05;

(b) the estimated additional employment generated in the coir sector during the year 2005-06; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to popularize the use of coir products in the country and abroad?

THE MINISTER OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND MINISTER OF AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD): (a) The total workforce in the coir industry during 2004-05 is estimated at 6.06 lakh.

(b) During April, 2005—February, 2006, the coir industry generated as estimated additional employment of 12,750.

(c) The steps taken by the Government to popularise the use of coir and coir products in the country and abroad, *inter alia*, include:

(i) publicity through the print and electronic media in the country and abroad;

(ii) placing of hoardings and banners featuring coir products at vantage points in different cities of the country; and

(iii) participation by the Coir Border as well as produces/exports in trade fairs, exhibition, buyer-seller meets, seminars and conferences, etc., in the country and abroad.

Improvement of School Education

2470. DR. COL. (RETD.) DHANI RAM SHANDIL: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has recently approved a scheme of Rs. 115 crore for improvement in school education in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the State Governments are proposed to be involved in the scheme; and

(d) if so, the likely share of various States particularly Himachal Pradesh in this scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.A.A. FATMI): (a) to (d) A composite centrally sponsored scheme called "Quality Improvement in Schools" has been approved by Government in November, 2005 by converging the following five existing schemes of the Department as its components:

- (i) Improvement of Science Education in Schools;
- (ii) Environmental Orientation to School Education;
- (iii) Introduction of Yoga in Schools;
- (iv) National Population Education Project; and
- (v) International Science Olympiads.

It has been decided to transfer the component "Improvement of Science Education in Schools" to the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations as a State Sector Scheme. The States/UTs shall make provision for the scheme in their budgets as per their requirements.

It has also been decided that the other four components, would be implemented by the National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT), an autonomous body under the Department of Secondary & Higher Education, from 2006-07. It has been decided to delete hostel and other construction activities from the list of items for financing under the component "Introduction of Yoga in Schools". The schemes of 'Environmental Orientation to School Education' and 'Introduction of Yoga in Schools' are implemented through State Governments/UT Administrations and voluntary agencies. The National Population Education Project is being implemented in 30 States and Union Territories, including Himachal Pradesh, by the State Councils of Educational Research and Training/State Institutes of Education on behalf of their respective Departments of Education, State-wise allocations are not made under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme and each proposal is considered based on its merit.

[Translation]

Export of Ceramic Goods

2471. SHRI RASHEED MASOOD: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government proposes to promote ceramic industry in the country; and
- (b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the schemes formulated by the Government to promote export of ceramic goods?

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

INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) and (b) Yes Sir, Government is taking steps to promote the exports of all goods, including ceramic goods. The schemes formulated for the promotion of exports inter alia included the Advance Licence Scheme (ALS), Duty Entitlement Passbook Scheme (DEPB), Market Development Assistance Scheme (MDA), Market Access Initiative Scheme (MAI) etc.

Sale of Fake Books

2472. SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the news relating to the sale of pirated text books had been published in the newspapers last year and lakhs of pirated text books have been seized in the raids conducted recently;

(b) if so, the reasons as to why the incidents of sale of pirated text books are still going on in the open market; and

(c) the steps being taken by the Government to completely check the said activity?

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.A.A. FATMI): (a) and (b) Piracy of copyright material including of text books is a problem that all copyright industries including the publishing industry face. The police departments under the State Government conduct frequent anti-piracy activities including raid and seizure operations to curb such activities. Wide publicity through newspaper reports and press releases is given to such enforcement activities to deter potential pirates. For such anti-piracy activities, many States have also created anti-privacy cells in their respective Police Departments or have entrusted such activities to the Economic Offences Wings of the Department. Earnest attempts are being made to restrict this criminal activity to the minimum. This is an on-going activity which would bear fruit through sustained pressure on piracy.

(c) There are adequate provisions in the Copyright Act, 1957, providing for civil and criminal remedies against such violations.

However, it is for the affected right holders to move the machinery for appropriate relief.

[*English*]

Photo Identity Card to Farmers

2473. SHRI ABDUL MANNAN HOSSAIN: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the farmers, fishermen in the Indo-Bangladesh Borders areas in West Bengal are facing difficulties due to harassment by BSF;

(b) if so, whether these farmers and fishermen do not have Photo Identity Card, which is required to cultivate in char land and fishing in border areas;

(c) if so, whether the Government proposes to issue Photo Identity Cards to all genuine farmers and fishermen of Indo-Bangladesh Border areas in West Bengal;

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

(e) if not, the time by which the work of misusing Photo Identity Card is likely to be started?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) and (b) No Sir. No farmer or fishermen are being harassed by the BSF on the Indo-Bangladesh Border. However, BSF imposes certain restrictions on the movement of local population in the close vicinity of the International Border to check the activities of fundamentalist/anti-national elements. The BSF allows only such fishermen and farmers to go to the riverine areas/char land for fishing/cultivation who possess Photo Identity Cards issued by the State Administration.

(c) to (e) Presently the Central Government has no proposal to issue Photo Identity Cards to farmers/fishermen in the border areas.

Law to Deal with Terrorism

2474. SHRI P. RAJENDRAN: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of legislations enacted to deal with Terrorism or any other activities endangering the security of the Nation;

(b) the number of preventive detention cases in the country and since how long they are under preventive detention without any trial, State-wise; and

(c) the reason for not producing them before Court of Law?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) The Government amended the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967 and incorporated therein such provisions as are considered necessary to deal with various facets of terrorism. Besides, there are other Acts like the National Security Act, the Prevention of Money Laundering Act etc. to deal with activities endangering the security of the Nation.

(b) and (c) During the years 2003 to 2006 (upto 28th February), 1392, 1110, 864 and 104 persons respectively have been detained under the National Security Act. A statement showing State-wise details is enclosed. The procedure as per the National Security Act, 1980 is followed in all the cases. Besides, Advisory Boards have been set up by all the States.

Statement

Persons detained under the National Security Act from the years 2003 to 2006 (upto 28th February)

Sl.No.	Name of States/UTs	2003	2004	2005	2006 (upto 28th Feb.)
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Uttar Pradesh	857	483	450	59
2.	Assam	41	261	41	4
3.	Nagaland	107	70	34	3
4.	Tripura	17	1	5	1

1	2	3	4	5	6
5.	Gujarat	0	1	0	0
6.	NCT Delhi	8	5	5	0
7.	Tamil Nadu	48	31	31	1
8.	Madhya Pradesh	122	98	105	19
9.	Orissa	16	18	17	4
10.	Manipur	162	134	162	12
11.	Rajasthan	7	7	4	0
12.	Jharkhand	0	0	0	0
13.	Bihar	2	0	1	0
14.	Haryana	0	0	0	0
15.	Chattisgarh	0	0	4	0
16.	Goa	0	0	0	0
17.	Uttaranchal	5	1	5	1
18.	Maharashtra	0	0	0	0
19.	Punjab	0	0	0	0
20.	NCT Chandigarh	0	0	0	0
21.	Mizoram	0	0	0	0
22.	Arunachal Pradesh	0	0	0	0
Total		1392	1110	864	104

Production/Export of Cashew

2475. SHRI CHENGARA SURENDRAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the quantum of cashew produced in Kerala during each of the last three years and thereafter;

(b) the quantum of cashew exported during the said period;

(c) whether there is a vast scope to increase production and export of cashew from the State;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken to promote production and export of cashew from Kerala?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) The total quantity of raw cashewnut produced in Kerala during the last three years is as under:

Year	Production in MT
2002-03	90,000
2003-04	95,000
2004-05	64,000

(Source: Department of Agriculture & Cooperation)

(b) The total quantity of cashew kernels exported from India during the last three years is given below:

Year	Quantity (MT)
2002-03	1,04,137
2003-04	1,00,828
2004-05	1,26,667

(Source: Cashew Export Promotion Council of India)

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. There is further scope for the expansion of area under new plantation development and replanting of senile plantation with high yielding varieties of cashew from the State of Kerala. Similarly, there is a potential for increasing the utilization of the installed processing capacity in the State and consequently of the export of cashew from the State of Kerala.

(e) Under the National Horticulture Mission for increasing production and productivity of raw cashew nut, several schemes are being implemented such as area expansion, integrated pest management, organic farming, transfer of technology programmes, production of nucleus planting materials of high yielding and export oriented varieties and their further multiplication and distribution through State Department Nurseries and dissemination of technical information through seminars, workshops and training programmes.

For boosting export of cashewnut, the Cashew Export Promotion Council of India, Kochi is undertaking several export promotion programmes under various schemes of the Government of India. Cashew exporters from all over the country including from Kerala are eligible to avail assistance under these schemes.

Elementary Education

2476. PROF. M. RAMADASS: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has conducted any survey on the outcome of elementary education campaign;

(b) if so, the details of findings thereof;

(c) the reaction of the Government to the findings of the survey that boys and girls within the age group of

7-10 could not read words and 60 per cent could not write simple sentences;

(d) whether the Government proposes to introduce a system of citizen's audit for getting better results in the field; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (e) The National Council for Educational Research & Training (NCERT) conducted a national survey on "Learning Achievement of Students at the end of Class V" in 2002 whose report shows that the mean achievement of students in Language, Mathematics & Environmental Studies at the national level is 58.57%, 46.51% and 50.30% respectively. There is a provision for conducting periodic national surveys to assess progress in students learning achievement levels, under the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan programme.

Pratham, a non-governmental organisation has brought out an Annual Status of Education Report which brings out learning levels of children in 7-14 years age group. This is an independent effort.

Under Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, to overcome the barriers hindering learning achievement levels of students, several activities have been undertaken to improve the quality of elementary education. This includes recruitment of 4.92 lakh additional teachers to improve the pupil teacher ratio, in service training of about 30 lakh teachers for a period of 20 days each year, free distribution of text books for primary and upper primary classes to about 5.02 crores SC, ST and girl students, regular academic support to primary and upper primary schools through 7422 Block Resource Centres and 70735 Cluster Resource Centres, regular evaluation of students and monitoring of school performance.

[*Translation*]

Target Plus Scheme for Exporters

2477. SHRI RAGHUVVEER SINGH KOSHAL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is spending huge amount on 'Target Plus Scheme' for promotion of exports;

(b) if so, whether only a handful of exporters are availing advantage under the said scheme;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) the steps taken by the Government to improve the said scheme; and

(e) the funds spent by the Government on the said scheme alongwith the exporters who availed advantage therefrom during the last three years and thereafter, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) to (d) One of the major objectives of the Foreign Trade Policy is to double our percentage share of global merchandise trade by the year 2009. 'Target Plus Scheme' was introduced as one of the reward schemes to enable us to achieve this objective and total value of credits allowed under the scheme till date is in the vicinity of Rs. 3000 crores. All status holders who have achieved the minimum prescribed growth can avail of this benefit and therefore the scheme is not restricted only to a handful of exporters. Monitoring and Review of the export promotion schemes to improve them is a continuous process. The latest review was carried on 20.2.2006 for exports from 1.4.2005 to 31.3.2006 and Notification No. 48 (RE-2005)/2004-09 dated 20.2.2006 issued in this regard is at enclosed statement.

(e) The scheme became operational in respect of the targets achieved during 1.4.2004 to 31.3.2005 on 4.6.2005 and therefore no benefits were given during the previous three years.

Statement

*To be published in the Gazette of India Extraordinary
Part-II, Section-3, Sub Section (ii)*

*Government of India
Ministry of Commerce and Industry
Department of Commerce*

Directorate General of Foreign Trade, New Delhi

**Notification No. 48 (RE 2005)/2004-2009 Dated
20.2.2006**

S.O. (E) In exercise of powers conferred by Section 5 of the Foreign Trade (Development & Regulation) Act, 1992 read with paragraph 1.3 and paragraph 3.7.8 of the

Foreign Trade Policy, 2004-2009, the Central Government hereby makes the following amendments in the Target Plus Scheme, for the exports effected during 1.4.2005 to 31.3.2006, of the Foreign Trade Policy, 2004-2009, as amended from time to time.

1. In Note 4 of Para 3.7.3, the words 'and Gems & Jewellery Shipping Bills' are deleted.
2. In Para 3.7.3, Note 5 is deleted.
3. In Paragraph 3.7.5 (b), the words 'or supplies made to such units' are inserted after the word Schemes.
4. Existing Para 3.7.5(e) is substituted by the following—'Diamonds and other precious, semi precious stones'.
5. Existing Sub-Para 3.7.5(g) is renumbered as 3.7.5. (k).
6. In Para 3.7.5., the following shall be inserted after sub para 3.7.5.(f)
 - (g) Ores and Concentrates, of all types and in all forms.
 - (h) Cereals, of all types.
 - (i) Sugar, of all types and in all forms.
 - (j) Crude/Petroleum Oil & Crude/Petroleum based Products covered under ITC HS codes 2709 to 2715, of all types and in all forms.
7. This will take effect for exports from 1.4.2005.

This issues in public interest.

Sd/-
(K.T. Chacko)
Director General of Foreign Trade and
Ex Officio Additional Secretary to the
Government of India

(Issued from F. No. 1/94/180/172/AM06/PC.I)

[English]

Bills and Ordinances

2478. SHRI P.C. THOMAS: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Kerala has submitted for assent of the President an ordinance/Bill providing stringent clauses against sandalwood smuggling;

(b) if so, the details of other Bills/Ordinances passed by various State Governments and sent for the assent of the President;

(c) the time by when these Bills/Ordinances are pending; and

(d) the action taken/proposed to be taken by the Union Government for taking the assent of the President alongwith status of each Bill at present?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) to (d) The Kerala Forest (Amendment) Ordinance, 2004 which seeks to regulate cutting/destruction of sandalwood trees, the possession, transport, processing and sale of sandalwood and sandalwood oil was forwarded by the Government of Kerala to the Union Government in December, 2004 for obtaining the instructions of the President under Article 213(1) of the Constitution of India. The said Ordinance is under the consideration of the Union Government in consultation with the State Government. Apart from the said Ordinance, no other ordinance/Bill on provisions pertaining to prevention of sandalwood smuggling is pending with the Union Government.

[Translation]

Setting up of New BTS

2479. SHRI D.B. PATIL: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to set up a new BTS by giving special priority to Apparapet hilly region in Kinvata Taluka of Nanded (Maharashtra) as a Naxal affected area;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION (SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH): (a) to (c) No such proposal has been received by this Ministry from State Government of Maharashtra.

[English]

Roadsides Hoardings

2480. SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV:
SHRI D.P. SAROJ:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the directive of hon'ble Supreme Court with regard to putting of hoarding on roadsides for advertisements is being violated;

(b) if so, the reasons due to which hoardings/ advertisements have again come up in multiple on roadsides specially in NDMC/MCD areas in Delhi;

(c) the officials responsible for the same; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) to (d) As per the directions of the Supreme Court of India, hoardings, which are hazardous and cause disturbance to the safe traffic movement, are not to be permitted in Delhi. Whenever such hoardings come to the notice of NDMC/MCD, action is taken to remove them and prosecute the persons responsible for putting them. Special drives are also launched from time to time removal of such hoardings.

Education Cess

2481. SHRIMATI P. SATHEEDEVI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal to introduce 5% education cess as per Common Minimum Programme of the Government;

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

(c) the approach of the Government in earmarking 6% GDP and 10% of the budget for education?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.A.A. FATMI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The matter of achieving the earmarking of 6% GDP to education sector in a phased manner is under consideration of the Government.

New Agenda of NCW

2482. SHRI B. MAHTAB: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether National Commission for Women (NCW) has launched any new programme with a focus on various issues relating to women in rural India especially the girl child; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) and (b) The NCW has launched a programme 'Chalo Gaon Ki Ore' in February, 2006 to make the rural women aware of their rights, health problems, violence and ill-treatment meted out to them, Government schemes for their upliftment, availability of free legal aid, their rights in various Acts like the National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, the Right to Information Act, the Dowry Prohibition Act and the Child Marriage Restraint Act etc.

With regard to the girl child, the NCW has informed that it had launched a campaign 'Bal Vivah Virodhi Abhiyan' in 2005 with focus on the States of Rajasthan, Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh and Jharkhand. The NCW urged the said State Governments to take various steps to prevent child marriages, such as constitution of village/panchayat level committees, civil registration of marriages where possible, monetary incentive to parents to send their daughters to schools instead of getting them married early. The representatives of NCW visited these States and held discussions with Chief Secretaries and Directors General of Police about the strategies to be adopted to stop the menace of child marriage.

Foreign Educational Institutions

2483. SHRI PANNIAN RAVINDRAN:
SHRI RASHEED MASOOD:
SHRI CHENGARA SURENDRAN:
SHRI SHISHUPAL PATLE:
SHRI JOACHIM BAXLA:
SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPPAN:
SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV:

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

(a) whether the Government has taken a decision with regard to permitting foreign educational institutions in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Commerce Ministry has been asked to withdraw the provision allowing foreign universities free entry into the country, from the list of offers to the World Trade Organisations; and

(d) if so, the details and decision taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.A.A. FATMI): (a) and (b) Government intends to bring a legislation to regulate entry and operation of foreign institutions in higher education.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Mid-day Meal to Students Studying in Madarasas

2484. SHRI KAILASH NATH SINGH YADAV:
SHRI SHISHUPAL PATLE:

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

(a) whether the Government has cleared the Mid-day Meal Scheme for the students studying in Madarasas as reported in the *Rashtriya Sahara* dated February 1, 2006;

(b) if so, the facts thereof;

(c) whether any assessment has been made with regard to the students studying in such schools in the country;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the funds earmarked for this scheme are proposed to be increased;

(f) if so, the total additional amount proposed to be increased under the 'Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan'; and

(g) the date from which this scheme is likely to be started for the students studying in Madarasas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) and (b) Under the Revised Mid-Day Meal Scheme effective from September, 2004, children studying in Madarasas/Maqtabs which fall within the category of a Government-aided school or EGS/AIE center receiving Central assistance in accordance with the EGS/AIE scheme of the Ministry of HRD are covered under the Mid-Day Meal Programme.

(c) and (d) Assessment of students studying in such schools in the country has not been carried out.

(e) and (f) Budget Estimates for Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) and Mid-Day Meal Scheme are as under:

*Budget Estimates 2005-06 & 2006-07
excluding NER component*

(Rs. in crores)

Year	Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan	Mid-Day Meal Scheme
2005-06	7156.00	3010.76
2006-07 (Proposed)	10041.70	4813.20

(g) The Scheme is operative w.e.f. September, 2004.

[*Translation*]

Financial Assistance to Craftsmen

2485. CHAUDHARY BIJENDRA SINGH: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Craftsmen involved in the manufacturing of locks, State-wise;

(b) whether the Government has any scheme to economically assist Craftsmen involved in the manufacturing of locks;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) if not, whether the Government is contemplating to provide financial assistance to such Craftsmen; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND MINISTER OF AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD): (a) The State-wise break-up of the number of craftsmen involved in the manufacturing of lock is given in the enclosed Statement.

(b) and (c) A National Programme for Development of Lock Industry (NPDLI) has been taken up by the Government. Under this programme, small enterprises engaged in the manufacturing of locks in different states, including Uttar Pradesh and Tamil Nadu are assisted in improving manufacturing practices and product designs to achieve higher levels of productivity and efficiency and associated financial benefits.

In addition, the Credit Linked Capital subsidy Scheme (CLCSS) for Technological Upgradation and ISO Certification Reimbursement Scheme implemented by the Central Government also benefit the small scale industries (SSI) engaged, inter alia, in manufacturing locks in improving technology, processes, etc.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

Statement

Registered Sector

Sl.No.	State/Union Territory	Employment (Number)
1	2	3
1.	Uttar Pradesh	4700
2.	Haryana	397
3.	Maharashtra	382
4.	West Bengal	185
5.	Punjab	153
6.	Gujarat	125
7.	Delhi	113
8.	Kerala	108
9.	Goa	73
10.	Tamil Nadu	71
11.	Chandigarh	48

1	2	3
12.	Karnataka	38
13.	Daman & Diu	31
14.	Jharkhand	26
15.	Madhya Pradesh	17
16.	Andhra Pradesh	13
<i>Unregistered Sector</i>		
1.	Uttar Pradesh	18720
2.	Maharashtra	532
3.	West Bengal	424
4.	Andhra Pradesh	161
5.	Delhi	144

Note: This data is based on the Third All India Census (2001-02) of the SSI.

Import/Export of Soyabean Oil

2486. SHRI JASWANT SINGH BISHNOI:
DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY:

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

(a) the quantity of soyabean oil imported/exported during each of the last three years;

(b) whether the Government proposes to import/export soyabean during the current year;

(c) if so, the details thereof alongwith its likely impact on our oil-industry; and

(d) the reaction of the oil producers of the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) The quantity of Soyabean Oil imported/exported during each of the last three years is as under:

Year	Soyabean Oil	
	Import	Export
2002-03	11,96,534	13378
2003-04	9,93,499	2550
2004-05	10,48,043	7506

Source: DGCI&S, Kolkata.

(b) The Government is not directly engaged in the import/export of soyabean but facilitates trade in general.

(c) and (d) Does not arise.

[English]

National Plan for Rural and Urban Women

2487. SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA:
SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL:

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

(a) whether the Government has prepared any national plan to bridge the gap between rural and urban women;

(b) if so, the salient features and the objective of the said plan; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government for effective implementation of said plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) to (c) Ministry of Women and Child Development is implementing various schemes and programmes for socio-economic empowerment of women, especially those who are poor and living in less developed regions like urban slums and rural areas. The schemes under implementation are: Swayamsidha, Swawlamban, Swa-shakti and support to Training and Employment Programme for Women. These programmes encourage women to form Self Help Groups and also include provision for education, vocational training, credit, marketing linkages, awareness generation regarding health, nutrition, women's legal rights etc. The Central

Social Welfare Board implements the scheme of Condensed courses of Education for Women for providing skill upgradation and vocational training to girls and women above 15 years who had to discontinue school education or could not join mainstream education system due to adverse family circumstances or other constraints. The National Commission for Women has also recently, launched a programme *viz.* 'Chalo Gaon Ki Ore' with a view to empower rural women by making them aware of their rights and health issues peculiar to women.

Besides, the Government has also introduced "gender budgeting" to ensure that adequate resources, under developmental Schemes/Programmes being implemented its various Ministries/Departments, get allocated for women beneficiaries.

All these measures are expected to bridge the gap between the rural and urban women.

[Translation]

Demand of Educational Institutions

2488. SHRI V.K. THUMMAR:
SHRIMATI SANGEETA KUMARI SINGH DEO:

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

(a) whether the demands for more funds from the Government is being made by even such educational institutes to whom crores of rupees had been granted to promote research activities but which have achieved practically nothing in a long period of three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the institute-wise amount provided and the way the said amount has been utilized;

(c) the reaction of the Government regarding the functioning of above Institutes;

(d) whether the Government is contemplating to allocate more amount to the above institutes keeping in mind their performance and achievements into account;

(e) if so, the amount likely to be allocated to them and the reasons therefor;

(f) the provisions that are existing to prevent misuse of funds in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.A.A. FATMI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (f) Do not arise.

[English]

Pending Cases of Freedom Fighter Pension

2489. DR. BABU RAO MEDIYAM:
SHRI ABDULLAKUTTY:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the procedure/criteria for sanctioning Sainik Samman Pension to the freedom fighters;

(b) the total number of applications for pensions received by the Central Government from the freedom fighters of different States, State-wise; and

(c) the details of the applications approved, rejected and pending, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT):

(a) Persons who consider themselves eligible for Samman pension under the Swatantrata Sainik Samman Pension Scheme, 1980 should apply on the prescribed application form. The application, duly filled, and supported by proof of claim of suffering, should be routed through the concerned State Government/Union Territory Administration.

The claims of Central Samman pension can be considered only when these are duly verified and recommended by the concerned State Government/Union Territory Administration in accordance with the provisions of the Scheme. The verification and recommendation report of the State Government/Union Territory Administration is mandatory in view of the fact that the documents and other evidence of the claims are in the possession of the concerned State Government/Union Territory Administration, and not of the Central Government. However, it is also to mention that the Central Government has to keep all documents/reports/evidence in view and take a decision in accordance with the prescribed eligibility criteria and evidentiary requirements of the Swatantrata Sainik Samman Pension

Scheme, 1980. A positive recommendation of the State Government is, therefore, not binding on the Central Government (if the claim does not satisfy the eligibility criteria and evidentiary requirements prescribed under the Central Scheme).

The Scheme specifies eligibility criteria of imprisonment/underground sufferings of atleast six months (three months in case of women and SC/ST freedom fighters), internment in homes/externment from districts for atleast six months, confiscation of properties, permanent incapacitation or loss of job, which a claimant should have undergone in connection with the national freedom struggle.

Spouses (widow/widowers), unmarried & unemployed daughters (upto maximum three) and parents of deceased freedom fighters, as also of martyrs, are eligible for grant of dependent family pension under the Scheme.

(b) and (c) A statement showing the State-wise number of applications received, number of applications rejected and number of pensions sanctioned, is enclosed.

Fresh receipt of new applications, representations/ references for re-consideration of earlier rejected claims and Court cases and Court orders with regard to claims, etc. are a continuous process. No statistics are maintained in this regard.

Statement

Pending Cases of Freedom Fighter Pension

(Position as on 28.2.2006)

Sl. No.	Name of State/UT	Total Number of Applications Received	Number of Applications Rejected	Number of Pensions Sanctioned
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	54,981	40,411	14,570
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	41	41	0
3.	Assam	27,884	23,447	4,437
4.	Bihar	1,18,459	93,589	24,870
5.	Goa	5,141	3,716	1,425
6.	Gujarat	8,205	4,614	3,591
7.	Haryana	7,810	6,126	1,684
8.	Himachal Pradesh	4,356	3,739	617
9.	Jammu and Kashmir	12,611	10,805	1,806
10.	Karnataka	22,494	12,412	10,082
11.	Kerala	53,625	50,447	3,178
12.	Madhya Pradesh	9,243	5,778	3,465
13.	Maharashtra	46,230	28,649	17,581
14.	Manipur	717	655	62

1	2	3	4	5
15.	Meghalaya	181	95	86
16.	Mizoram	17	13	04
17.	Nagaland	35	32	03
18.	Orissa	17,957	13,769	4,188
19.	Punjab	31,802	24,797	7,005
20.	Rajasthan	7,170	6,362	808
21.	Tamil Nadu	2,2762	18,665	4,097
22.	Tripura	3,568	2,681	887
23.	Uttar Pradesh	41,838	23,848	17,990
24.	West Bengal	80,650	58,171	22,479
25.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	73	70	03
26.	Chandigarh	281	192	89
27.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	85	02	83
28.	Daman and Diu	103	70	33
29.	NCT of Delhi	7,375	4,332	2,043
30.	Pondicherry	2,956	2,639	317
31.	Indian National Army (INA)	39,278	16,811	22,467
Total		6,26,928	4,56,978	1,69,950

Execution of Death Sentence

2490. SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Law Commission has completed its study on the method of execution of death sentence and forwarded its recommendation to the Ministry of Home Affairs for further action; and

(b) if so, the details of the action so far taken by the Ministry of Home Affairs in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The 187th Report of the Law Commission on "Mode of execution of death sentence and incidental

matters" was laid on the table of the Lok Sabha on 9th July 2004 and on the Table of Rajya Sabha on 12th July 2004. The report has been forwarded by the Ministry of Home Affairs to the State Governments to obtain their views/comments, since the Criminal Laws and Criminal Procedure are on the Concurrent List of the Seventh Schedule to the Constitution of India and the same are administered by the State Governments.

Allocation of Funds under ICT

2491. SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the amount of Rs. 19.29 crore sanctioned under Information and Communication Technology (ICT) @Schools has been released to the Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the total amount released so far to the State Government; and

(c) the time by which the balance amount is likely to be released?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.A.A. FATMI): (a) No amount has so far been either sanctioned or released under the scheme "ICT@Schools" for the State of Andhra Pradesh.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Financial assistance for Rural Economy

2492. SHRIMATI ARCHANA NAYAK: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the artisans, weavers, cottage and rural industries are facing hardships and disintegration;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there is any proposal to provide more financial assistance to them to boost the rural economy; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF SMALL SALE INDUSTRIES AND MINISTER OF AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD): (a) The employment in the village industries sector has shown steady growth over the years. the employment of spinners and weavers of khadi declined considerably during the period 1997-2002 but has shown some improvement since then. Thus, the total value of production and employment generated in the khadi and village industries taken together have increased by 27.43 per cent and 15.54 per cent during 2002-03 to 2004-05.

(b) Spinning and weaving of khadi and further production processes are carried out by khadi institutions which are autonomous bodies, generally registered as societies and supported by the Central and State Governments through statutory organizations like the Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) and the State/ Union Territory Khadi and Village Industries Boards (KVIBs) concerned. Paucity of funds with the khadi institutions for replacing outdated charkhas and looms, inadequate attention to production and sales planning,

particularly product quality and marketability, weak working capital position of these institutions due to high unsold stocks and non-payment of rebate in time, etc., contributed to the decline of employment in the khadi sector.

(c) and (d) The KVI sector has continued to receive priority as can be judged from the fact that budgetary allocation has increased from Rs. 423.91 crore (actual) in 2002-03 to Rs. 677.75 crore (BE) in 2006-07.

Besides, the Government has recently approved the 'Scheme of Fund for Regeneration of Traditional Industries' (SFURTI) for implementation in 25 khadi and 50 village industry clusters for their holistic development, with the aim of improving, *inter alia*, employment prospects of the artisans and weavers.

[Translation]

Ban on Imports of Birds and Meat

2493. PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR:
SHRI KAILASH NATH SINGH YADAV:

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

(a) whether the Government has decided to impose ban on the imports of birds and their meat due to bird flu;

(b) whether the Government has received request/ suggestions from various sections of the society in this regard;

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

(d) the quantum of birds meat imported and exported during the year 2005-06 and so far;

(e) whether the decline in foreign exchange earnings is due to bird flu during the said period;

(f) if so, the details thereof;

(g) whether any assessment has been made by the Government about the effect of bird flu on the poultry industry;

(h) if so, the details thereof; and

(i) the steps taken to save the domestic poultry industry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) Yes, Sir. Import of birds and their meat has been banned from countries affected by avian flu.

(b) and (c) Some representations have been received in the Department of Animal Husbandry, dairying and Fisheries for the ban on the import of Live poultry and poultry products. Restrictions on imports have been effected.

(d) Information is given in the enclosed Statement-I and II.

(e) and (f) No study has been made by the Directorate General of Foreign Trade to ascertain whether there has been a decline in foreign exchange due to Bird Flu.

(g) and (h) The impact on the poultry industry is as follows:

(i) The consumption and production of poultry products nose dived all over the country.

(ii) A number of states imposed a ban on the inter-state movement of poultry and poultry products.

(iii) A number of countries have also banned the import of chicken products from India.

(iv) As a consequence the poultry industry of the country has been adversely affected.

(i) The Government of India has taken the following steps to save the domestic poultry industry:

(i) import of livestock or products have been banned from the HPAI positive countries since 2004.

(ii) The Quarantine Stations at four international airports of Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata and Chennai were alerted.

(iii) An action plan has been prepared and circulated to state Animal Husbandry Departments for control and containment in case of outbreak.

Statement I

Export of Birds meat

HS Code	Commodity	Quantity in Thousand Kgs				Value in Rs. lakhs			
		2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06 (Apr-Sep.)	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06 (Apr-Sep.)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
2071100	Meat/EDBL OFAL of Fowls of the SPCS Gals Domestic not cut in pieces, fresh/chilled	75.54	157.57	96		33.15	67.49	37.38	
2071200	Meat/EDBL OFAL of fowls of the SPCS GALs Domestic not cut in pieces, frozen	28.38	3,431.57	1,254.50	86	18.72	1,588.43	544.61	38.43
2071300	Cuts & OFAL of FWLS of the SPCS GALs Domestic. Fresh/Chilled	0.65	86.58	1.1	12.2	0.37	38.86	0.33	16.01
2071400	Cuts & OFAL of Fowls of the SPCS Gals Domestic, FRZN	345	797.36	52.1		145.59	363.89	55.21	
2072500	Meat & Edible Ofals of Turkeys Whole, FRZN		982				444.12		

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
2072600	Cuts and Ofal of Turkeys Fresh/Chilled		0.36				0.59		
2072700	Cuts and Ofal of Turnkeys Frozen	27.5				11.74			
2073200	Meat & EDBI OFAL of Ducks, Geese/Guinea Fowls, not cut in pieces Fresh/Chilled	51.23	0.6			25.3	0.16		
2073300	Meat & EDBL Ofal of Ducks, Geese/Guinea Fowls, not cut in pieces, frozen		0.15		0.58		0.2		0.75
2073400	Fatty/Livers of Ducks, Geese, etc. Fresh/Chilled		8				0.81		
2073500	Meat & EDBL Ofal of DCK GESE etc. Fresh/Chilled			0.1				0.07	
2073600	Meat & EDBL OFL of Duck, GESE etc. FRZN		793.7	256.26			347.34	111.39	
Total		528.3	6257.89	1660.06	98.78	234.87	2851.9	748.99	55.19

Statement II*Import of Birds meat*

HS Code	Commodity	Quantity in Thousand Kgs				Value in Rs. lakhs			
		2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06 (Apr-Sep.)	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06 (Apr-Sep.)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
2071100	MEAT/EDBL OFAL of FOWS of the SPCS GALS Domesticus not cut in Pieces, Free/chilled		7.00				3.90		
2071300	Cuts & Ofal of FWLs of the SPCS GALS Domesticus FRSH/Child	0.01				0.03			
2072400	Meat & EDBI Ofal of Turkeys whol frsh/chld			0.61				1.13	
2072600	Cuts and Ofal of turkeys fresh/chilled	0.01				0.02			
2072700	Cuts and Ofal of Turkeys frozen	0.58			0.37	1.93			1.93

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
2073400	Fatty/Livers of Ducks, Geese etc. Fresh/Chilled				0.01				0.25
2073500	Meat & EDBL Ofal of DCK GESe etc Fresh/Chilled			0.10				0.12	
2073600	Meat & EDBL OFL of Duck, GESE etc. FRZN	0.85		2.39		2.49		1.85	
Total		1.45	7.00	3.10	0.38	4.47	3.90	3.10	2.18

Production and Sales by KVIC Outlets

2494. SHRI TUFANI SAROJ:
DR. M. JAGANNATH:
SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN:
SHRI RAGHUVVEER SINGH KOSHAL:

Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of sales outlets of Khadi and Village Industries Commission located in various parts of the country, State-wise;

(b) the total production and sales of Khadi and other hand made products alongwith the profits earned by KVIC during each of the last three years and till date;

(c) the projected sale and profit during the next year, State-wise;

(d) whether the Government proposes to increase the number of Khadi outlets from the present 7050 to 8000; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF SMALL SALE INDUSTRIES AND MINISTER OF AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD): (a) to (c) The Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) is not a commercial organisation. However, in the course of its statutory functions, the KVIC undertakes activities to assist the khadi and village industries (KVI) institutions in the marketing of their products through the 12 sales outlets

owned and run by the KVIC. Of these, one outlet each is located in Bihar, Goa, Guajrat, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Orissa, Tripura and West Bengal while two are located in Delhi.

The khadi programme is implemented by the institutions registered with the KVIC as well as Khadi and Village Industries Boards (KVIBs) of States and Union Territories. These institutions are non-Governmental organizations and have their own identity. The details of profit/loss of these institutions are not compiled centrally by the KVIC. Similarly, the village industry units under the Rural Employment Generation Programme (REGP) are set up by entrepreneurs and the details of profit/loss of these units are not maintained centrally. The total estimated values of production and sales of KVI products during 2002-03, 2003-04 & 2004-05 and that projected for 2005-06 are given below:

Year	Value of production (Rs. crore)	Value of sales (Rs. crore)
2002-03	8569.37	10193.34
2003-04	9681.78	11575.22
2004-05	10920.44	13105.20
2005-06	12664.00	14998.00

(d) KVIC has no plans to increase the number of its own sales outlets. The decisions in this regard on the 7050 sales outlets of registered KVI institutions are taken by the institutions concerned, based on their operational requirements, commercial viability, etc.

(e) Does not arise.

Production of Salt

2495. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

- (a) the production cost of the ordinary salt per tonne produced in the coastal States;
- (b) the cost incurred for iodizing the salt per tonne;
- (c) the average per kilogram price of the iodized salt being sold in the country;
- (d) the per year consumption of salt in the country;
- (e) the cost of iodized salt being consumed in the country at present; and
- (f) the number of multinational companies engaged in the production of salt and the annual turnover thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL POLICY AND PROMOTION, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR): (a) The production cost of ordinary common salt in the coastal States ranges from Rs. 90 to Rs. 400 per tonne.

(b) Cost of iodization of ordinary common salt is around Rs. 100 per tonne.

(c) The average price of iodized salt being sold in the country varies from Rs. 3.00 to Rs. 9.00 per kg.

(d) The consumption of salt in the country during 2005 is estimated at 146.44 lakh tonnes.

(e) Total value of iodized salt consumed during the year 2005 is estimated to be around Rs. 2055 crores.

(f) There is no multinational company engaged in the production of iodized salt.

Export of Potato

2496. SHRI MOHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has decided to export potatoes to Arab Countries including Pakistan;

(b) if so, the value of the potatoes exported during 2004-05 and thereafter alongwith foreign exchange earned therefrom;

(c) whether the Government proposes to give incentive or promote potato exporter States;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) and (b) The Government does not export potatoes. Potato is already being exported to Arab countries and also to Pakistan by the exporters engaged in export of agri-produce. The value of export is given below:

Country	(Value in Rupees)	
	2004-05	2005-06*
Pakistan	954088	820142
Qatar	11741	—
Saudi Arabia	254453	—
United Arab Emirates	476402	21017
Oman	—	34484
Others	282187831	130278169

(Source: APEDA) *Provisional

(c) and (d) The initiatives taken by the Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority to promote export of potato and also other fruits and vegetables include financial incentives to exporters through its schemes for Infrastructure Development, Market Development, Quality Development, Research and Development and Transport Assistance. Agri-Export Zones to promote export to potato have been set up in Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Punjab and West Bengal.

(e) Does not arise.

Gold Production

2497. SHRI AJIT JOGI:
SHRI TUFANI SAROJ:

Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has set any target for production of gold during the current year;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether production of gold has declined during the current year;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) the name of the various companies producing gold in the country; and

(f) the quantity of gold produced by each of such companies during each of the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY): (a) and (b) No,

Sir, Indian Bureau of Mines (IBM), a subordinate office of Ministry of Mines has intimated that no demand projection of gold could be ascertained due to paucity of reliable consumption data in the country and hence no target for gold could be ascertained due to paucity of reliable consumption data in the country and hence no target for gold production has been set.

(c) and (d) As the current financial year has not yet been completed, information relating to decline of gold production during the current year is not available.

(e) Hutti Gold Mines Company Limited (HGMCL), a Government of Karnataka undertaking and Manmohan Industries (P) Limited are primary producers of gold. However, gold is also being produced as a by-product of copper ore by Hindustan Copper Limited (HCL), a Central Government Public Sector Undertaking and Hindalco Industries Limited (HIL), a private company.

(f) The gold produced by different companies during last three years is given below:

Name of the Company	Year	Production in Kilogram
Hutti Gold Mines Company Ltd.	2002-2003	2799.00
	2003-2004	3261.00
	2004-2005	3501.00
Manmohan Industries (P) Ltd.	2002-2003	Nil
	2003-2004	Nil
	2004-2005	25.00
Hindustan Copper Ltd.	2002-2003	354.00
	2003-2004	196.00
	2004-2005	Nil
Hindalco Industries Ltd.	2002-2003	5347.00
	2003-2004	6907.00
	2004-2005	5154.00

*(English)***Diversion of Explosives**

2498. SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the number of officials of the coal companies diverted explosives to the open market which reached in the hands of Naxalites as well as other anti-social elements in Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, West Bengal and Maharashtra;

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

(c) the number of explosions carried out by Naxalites and other anti-social elements in the States of Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, West Bengal and Maharashtra alongwith number of people killed in these explosions; and

(d) the measures taken to check diversion of explosives to the open market?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) and (b) No such reports have come to the notice of the Government.

(c) The number of explosions carried out by the naxalites alongwith the number of people (civilians and police personnel) killed in these explosions during 2005 are as under:

State	No. of explosions	No. of people killed
Chhattisgarh	29	35
Jharkhand	17	20
West Bengal	1	—
Maharashtra	9	17

(d) The Central Government has issued Guidelines for regulating the manufacture, transportation and storage of explosives. Besides, the State Governments are advised from time to time to streamline security mechanisms in this regard.

Incidents of Killing in Assam

2499. SHRI SANSUMA KHUNGGUR
BWISWMUTHIARY:
SHRI MOHAN SINGH:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether peace and security has been threatened in the wake of killing of certain innocent people in Assam allegedly by the Indian Reserve Police Battalion and Army troops;

(b) if so, whether the Government has conducted any investigation of the matter;

(c) if so, the details of the findings thereof;

(d) the details of the compensation paid to the next of kin of the persons killed in such incidents;

(e) the reasons for the killings by the security forces in Assam; and

(f) the steps taken by the Government to check recurrence of such incidents in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) No, Sir. However, consequent to the death of Ajit Mohanta, violence had erupted in some parts of Tinsukia district of Assam. On 10th February 2006, while controlling an unruly crowd at Kakopathar, the Central Police Forces/State Police had to resort to firing, which led to death of 8 persons and injury to 16 civilians and some 'Security Forces' personnel.

(b) and (c) The Army has ordered a Staff Court of inquiry to investigate the circumstances leading to death of Late Shri Ajit Mohanta. The Court of inquiry has been expeditiously finalized and disciplinary action against the defaulters has been initiated.

(d) The Government of Assam has granted Rs. 5 lakh to next of kin (NoK) of Shri Ajit Mohanta and Rs. 3 lakhs each to other deceased. The army has also granted ex-gratia grant to the NoK of Shri Mohanta separately and have taken measures to rehabilitate the family.

(e) Majority of the casualties suffered by civilians are primarily due to insurgent activities. Security forces resort

to opening of fire as a last resort. In such situations endeavour is always to minimise the casualties to innocent civilians.

(f) The Government has adopted adequate measures to prevent recurrence of such incidents.

Export of Grapes/Wine

2500. SHRI DEVIDAS PINGLE: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of grapes exported from the country during each of the last three years;

(b) whether the wine industry is unable to optimally utilise the capacity installed due to inadequate supply to grapes;

(c) if so, the details thereof alongwith the measures taken in this regard;

(d) the details with regard to the quantity of grapes/wine exported during each of the last three years alongwith the foreign exchange earned, country-wise; and

(e) the measures being taken by the Government to ensure that the exports earning made in this regard are optimised?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) The quantity of grapes exported from the country during the last three years is given below:

Year	(Quantity in metric tons)			
	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06 (April-Aug)
Quantity	25681	26784	35936	16690

(Source: APEDA)

(b) Available information suggests that neither the capacity of the grape wine industry is underutilized nor has there been a shortage of grapes of wine processing varieties.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) The details of the grape wine exported to major importing countries are given below:

(Quantity in kilograms: Value in rupees)

Country	2002-03		2003-04		2004-05	
	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value
United Kingdom	147424	9529599	157727	8104668	300	18728
Nepal	—	—	—	—	5610	529000
Thailand	—	—	—	—	25000	2249998
United Arab Emirates	78074	7035773	9561	1063293	40738	2196376
U.S.A.	—	—	—	—	10000	677980
Bangladesh	—	—	8000	404382	4500	538455

(Source: APEDA)

(e) The steps to enhance the exports and optimize the earnings included financial incentives to exporters through the schemes of agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority for Infrastructure Development, Market Development, Quality Development, Research and Development.

Raising of Battalion in PMF

2501. SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the existing strength of paramilitary forces/police force is adequate to counter the prevailing circumstances particularly terrorism in the country;

(b) if so, the reasons for the failure of the Government in minimizing the untoward incidents happening in the country particularly terrorist attacks;

(c) whether the Government has assessed the need to enhance the paramilitary forces in the country;

(d) if so, whether the Government is considering to raise a 300 battalion paramilitary force to counter terrorism; and

(e) if so, the details thereof alongwith the action taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) Based on operational requirements to deal with internal security situations and terrorists activities, the Central Government reviews the requirement of forces from time to time.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) to (e) Raising of 209 Battalions of CPFs (Including 50 India Reserve Battalions and 30 Battalions of Rashtriya Rifles) were approved by the Government in the year 2000. In addition, raising of 20 Battalions of SSB and 25 India Reserve Battalions has been approved.

[Translation]

Setting up of Service Commission

2502. SHRI SITA RAM SINGH: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the provisions laid down by the Government for the recruitment of lectures/readers/professors in various institutions under the jurisdiction of University Grants Commission (UGC) and All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE);

(b) whether these provisions are being strictly followed in the recruitment of lecturers/readers/professors by various institutions;

(c) if not, whether any system is in existence to check the instances of violation of provisions;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the UGC/AICTE has issued any guideline to the State Governments for constituting a service commission for the recruitment of lectures/readers/professors; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.A.A. FATMI): (a) According to the information furnished by the University Grants Commission (UGC), UGC's Regulation 2000, provide for minimum qualification for the teaching posts in subjects other than Fine Arts, Management, Engineering and Technology in Universities or Colleges for appointment through open advertisement. Information from All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(b) All the universities have been advised by the UGC to strictly comply with these provisions.

(c) and (d) The UGC generally obtain the comments from the concerned university/institute/college, in case of any complaint regarding non-compliance with these provisions is revised.

(e) and (f) No, Sir.

[English]

Assistance to States for Industrialisation

2503. SHRI D.P. SAROJ: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the budget allocated for industrialisation to each State especially to the State of Uttar Pradesh during each of the last three years and thereafter;

(b) whether the Government has appointed any consultancy agency to take up evaluation for industrialisation in Uttar Pradesh; and

(c) if so, the details thereof alongwith outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL POLICY AND PROMOTION, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR): (a) State-wise information on release of Central Assistance under the Growth Centre Scheme and Central Grant under the Industrial Infrastructure Upgradation

Scheme (IIUS) since 2002-03 is mentioned in the Statement enclosed.

(b) and (c) For preparation of project reports under the IIUS, services of M/s. Infrastructure Leasing & Financial Services Ltd., New Delhi were taken for the Kanpur-Unnao Leather Cluster at Kanpur and of M/s UP Industrial Consultant Ltd., Kanpur for Woodware Industries Cluster at Saharanpur and Silk & Carpet Cluster at Varanasi. The Kanpur-Unnao Leather Cluster at Kanpur has been sanctioned under the IIUS.

Statement

*Central Release under Growth Centres
Scheme since 2002-2003*

(Rs. in lakh)

Sl.No.	State	Amount released till Feb., 2006
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	505
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	520
3.	Assam	1666
4.	Bihar	200
5.	Chhattisgarh	207
6.	Goa	176

1	2	3
7.	Gujarat	300
8.	Haryana	450
9.	Himachal Pradesh	653
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	1275
11.	Jharkhand	200
12.	Madhya Pradesh	915
13.	Maharashtra	290
14.	Meghalaya	500
15.	Mizoram	580
16.	Orissa	618
17.	Pondicherry	250
18.	Rajasthan	1650
19.	Sikkim	500
20.	Tripura	930
21.	Uttaranchal	1000
22.	Uttar Pradesh	1050
23.	West Bengal	700

Central Release under the Industrial Infrastructure Upgradation Scheme since 2002-2003

(Rs. in Crore)

Sl. No.	Name of the State	Name of Cluster	Central Grant Released till February, 2006
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	Auto Cluster, Vijayawada	7.80
2.	Gujarat	Chemical Cluster, Vapi	12.50
3.	Gujarat	Chemical Cluster, Ankleswar	33.40
4.	Gujarat	Gem & Jewellery Cluster, Surat	16.70
5.	Gujarat	Chemical Cluster, Ahmedabad	8.30

1	2	3	4
6.	Haryana	Textile Cluster, Panipat	13.63
7.	Karnataka	Foundry Cluster, Belgaum	6.19
8.	Karnataka	Machine Tools Cluster, Bangalore	16.37
9.	Kerala	Coir Cluster, Allaphuza	14.20
10.	Madhya Pradesh	Auto Cluster, Pithampur	16.65
11.	Maharashtra	Auto Components Cluster, Pune	15.00
12.	Maharashtra	Textile Cluster, Ichalkaranji	6.54
13.	Orissa	Metallurgical Cluster, Jajpur	15.66
14.	Punjab	Textiles Cluster, Ludhiana	4.21
15.	Rajasthan	Marble Cluster, Kishangarh	9.20
16.	Tamil Nadu	Textiles Cluster, Tirupur	25.00
17.	Tamil Nadu	Auto Ancillary Cluster, Chennai	11.70
18.	Tamil Nadu	Cereals, Pulses & Staples Cluster, Madurai	10.00
19.	Tamil Nadu	Leather Cluster, Ambur	8.70
20.	Tamil Nadu	Pump, Motor & Foundry Cluster, Coimbatore	8.00
21.	Uttar Pradesh	Leather Cluster, Kanpur	1.95
22.	West Bengal	Foundry Park, Howrah	8.48
23.	West Bengal	Multi-Industry Cluster, Howrah	7.39
24.	West Bengal	Rubber Cluster, Howrah	3.14

Activities of Spy Agents

2504. SHRI SUBRATA BOSE:

SHRI DHANUSKODI R. ATHITHAN:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the spying activities of ISI agents are still continuing and spies have been arrested in Delhi while operating from cyber cafe;

(b) if so, the details of the cases reported during each of the last three years from various States;

(c) whether the Government is aware that such spies enter in the country through Nepal and Bihar border; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) to (c) There are no specific inputs regarding ISI agents arrested while operating cyber cafe in Delhi. However, 9 ISI backed espionage modules were neutralized in which espionage agents had used/were using cyber cafe, out of these 3 were neutralized in Delhi. As per available information, State-wise details of espionage modules detected are as follows:

State	2003	2004	2005
Gujarat	1	—	—
Haryana	1	—	—
Delhi	—	2	1
Punjab	—	1	—
Rajasthan	—	—	2
Uttar Pradesh	—	—	1

Some of the espionage agents have reportedly come *via* Nepal.

(d) In order to check the situation, Government has adopted a well coordinated and multi-pronged approach for tackling the activities of ISI by strengthening the border management to check illegal cross border activities, gearing up the intelligence machinery, close interaction and coordination between different agencies of the Center and the State Governments for neutralizing plans of militants and anti-national elements, modernization and upgradation of police and security forces with advanced sophisticated weapons and communication system, action against these elements under the Official Secrets Act, etc.

Financial Assistance to Sanskrit Colleges

2505. SHRI P.S. GADHAVI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the institutes recognized as model Sanskrit colleges/research institutes for granting financial assistance by the Rashtriya Sansthan, State-wise; and

(b) the criteria adopted for granting recognition to the said institute for this purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.A.A. FATMI): (a) A statement indicating the names of Adarsh Sanskrit Mahavidyalayas/Shodh Sansthans is enclosed.

(b) The scheme "Financial Assistance to institutions recognized as Adarsh Sanskrit Mahavidyalayas/Shodha Sansthan" is being implemented by the Rashtriya Sanskrit

Sansthan. Any registered voluntary organization either as society under the Societies' Registration Act or a registered Trust, maintaining a Sanskrit Mahavidyalaya or Shodha Sansthan will be eligible to apply for recognition. Recognition will be considered by the Government of India only if the following conditions are satisfied:

- (i) The Mahavidyalaya should be teaching at the level of Prak Shastri, Acharya or equivalent courses on traditional lines. The Shodha Sansthan should be actively pursuing research in the various traditional Sanskrit disciplines;
- (ii) The Mahavidyalaya/Shodha Sansthan should have been in existence for at least seven years at a level mentioned in (i) above.
- (iii) The institution should be in ownership and in possession of adequate building and campus. Lease of 99 years in favour of the institution will also be acceptable.
- (iv) The registered Parent Body applying for recognition and financial assistance under this scheme would have to deposit in a Fixed Deposit Account a sum of at least Rs. 2.00 lakhs.
- (v) The Mahavidyalaya/Shodha Sansthan should be affiliated either to a University duly set up by an enactment of the Central Government or a State Government or to the Rashtriya Sanskrit Sansthan.
- (vi) The Mahavidyalaya should have a student strength of not less than 50; a Shodha Sansthan should have not less than 12 active researchers.

An on the spot inspection and assessment of the institution is made by an expert Committee constituted by the Rashtriya Sanskrit Sansthan, New Delhi. The recommendation of the expert Committee is then considered by the Government for recognition of the Institutions as Adarsh Sanskrit Mahavidyalaya/Shodha Sansthan.

The recognized Adarsh Sanskrit Mahavidyalayas/Shodha Sansthans are eligible for financial assistance provided they undertake to abide by the conditions laid down under the said Scheme.

<i>Statement</i>	
State	Name of the Adarsh Sanskrit Mahavidyalaya/Shodha Sansthan
1	2
Andhra Pradesh	1. Sanskrit Academy, Osmania University, Hyderabad (Shodha Sansthan)
Bihar	(i) J.N.B. Adarsh Sanskrit Mahavidyalaya, PO Lagma, Darbhanga. (ii) Rajkumari Ganesh Sharma Sanskrit Vidyapeetha, PO Kolhanta Patori, Darbhanga (iii) Swami Prankuscharya Adarsh Sanskrit Mahavidyalaya, Hullasaganj, Gaya (iv) Ramji Mehta Adarsh Sanskrit Mahavidyalaya, Muzaffapur
Haryana	(i) Haryana Sanskrit Vidyapeetha, Bhagola, PO Palwal (ii) Shri Diwan Kishore S.D. Adarsh Sanskrit College, Ambala Cantt.
Himachal Pradesh	(i) S.D. Adarsh Sanskrit College, PO Dohgi, Una (ii) Himachal Adarsh Sanskrit Mahavidyalaya, PO Jangla, Distt. Shimla
Jharkhand	(i) Laxmi Devi Saraf Adarsh Sanskrit Mahavidyalaya, Kalirakha, Deoghar
Kerala	(i) Calicut Adarsh Sanskrit Vidyapeetha, PO Balussery, Dist. Calicut
Karnataka	(i) Poonaprajana Samsodhana Mandiram, Bangalore (Shodha Sansthan)
Maharashtra	(i) Mumba Devi Adarsh Sanskrit Mahavidyalaya, Bharatiya Vidya Bhawan, Mumbai

1	2
	(ii) Vaidik Samshodhan Mandala, Maharashtra Vidyapeetha, Pune (Shodha Sansthan)
Tamil Nadu	(i) Ahobila Muth Adarsh Sanskrit College, PO Madurantakam. (ii) Madras Sanskrit College & S.S.V. Pathasala, Mylapore
U.P.	(i) Sri Ranglakshmi Adarsh Sanskrit Mahavidyalaya, Vrindaban (ii) Sri Ekarshanand Adarsh Sanskrit Mahavidyalaya, Mainpuri (iii) Rani Padmavati Tara Yoga Tantra Adarsh Sanskrit Mahavidyalaya, Shilpuri, Varanasi
Uttaranchal	(i) Shri Bhagwan Das Adarsh Sanskrit Mahavidyalaya, Haridwar
West Bengal	(i) Thakur Gadadhar Adarsh Sanskrit Mahavidyalaya, PO Arambagh, Dist. Hooghly (ii) Kaliachak Bikram Kishore Adarsh Sanskrit Mahavidyalaya, PO Haria, Distt. East Midnapore (iii) Sri Sitaram Vaidic Mahavidyalaya, 7/2 PWD Road, Kolkata

Free and Compulsory Education to Children

2506. MS. INGRID MCLEOD:

DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA:

SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI:

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

(a) whether the Supreme Court has made it clear to the Centre and the State Governments that it was their duty to put children in schools;

(b) if so, whether they have drawn the attention of the children under article 21A which was inserted in the constitution through an amendment in 2002 making free and compulsory education a fundamental right of children aged between 6 and 14;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether there are nearly 100 million children in India who are either out of school or forced to do manual labour;

(e) if so, the action the Union Government proposes to take to see that Central and State Governments provide education to all 100 million children in the country;

(f) whether any concrete action plan has been prepared by the Union Government after the Supreme Court's direction; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (g) The Supreme Court has recently admitted a Public Interest Litigation, that prays for absolute prohibition of child labour in the wake of the Constitution (86th Amendment) Act 2002, effected in December 2002. The matter is still *sub-judice*.

According to an independent Survey commissioned by the Ministry of Human Resource Development in July-October, 2005, the number of out of school children, in the age-group of 6-13 years, is estimated to be 13,459,734. In order to achieve the goal of universalisation of elementary education, the schemes of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, Mid Day Meal and Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya are being implemented by the Government.

Special Assistance to States

2507. SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY:
SHRI UDAY SINGH:

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

(a) whether some State Governments have introduced special literacy programmes in their States;

(b) if so, whether the Union Government has extended/proposes to extend special assistance to such States who have introduced special literacy programmes;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the details of funds allocated to State Governments for literacy programmes during the last three years and thereafter till date alongwith the details of achievements made in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (c) No special literacy programmes have been introduced by the State Governments. However, some State Governments have taken initiative in selected areas to strengthen the literacy programmes for disadvantaged sections of the society, which have been broadly supported by the National Literacy Mission (NLM) within the framework of the existing programmes. The NLM has decided to launch a Special Literacy Drive in 150 districts of the country, which have the lowest literacy rates, to eradicate residual illiteracy in these districts with special focus on the minority groups, persons belonging to Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, women and other backward sections of the society. Statement-I showing State-wise number of districts covered under Special Literacy Drive through Total Literacy Campaign/Post Literacy Programme/Project for Residual Illiteracy is enclosed.

(d) Under the Adult Education Programme, funds are not released to state Governments and Union Territory Administrations, but directly to District and State level registered societies. Statement-II indicating the amount released to these societies for implementation of literacy programmes during the last three years and current year, State-wise as also achievements is enclosed.

Statement I

Sl.No.	State/District	No. of low literacy districts	No. of districts covered under special literacy drive through Total Literacy Campaign/Post Literacy Programme/Project for Residual Illiteracy
1	2	3	4
1.	Arunachal Pradesh	7	7
2.	Andhra Pradesh	8	8

1	2	3	4
3.	Assam	3	—
4.	Bihar	31	31
5.	Chhattisgarh	4	2
6.	Gujarat	2	—
7.	Jammu and Kashmir	8	8
8.	Jharkhand	13	12
9.	Karnataka	4	2
10.	Madhya Pradesh	9	9
11.	Meghalaya	3	3
12.	Nagaland	2	2
13.	Orissa	10	8
14.	Punjab	1	1
15.	Rajasthan	11	10
16.	Uttar Pradesh	30	27
17.	West Bengal	4	4

Statement II

Grant Released during the last three years and current year under various schemes of National Literacy Mission (NLM)

(Rs. in lakhs)

Sl.No.	State/UT	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06 (till 28.2.2006)	No. of persons made literate (in lakh)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1074.89	2466.87	1124.60	2424.82	169.37
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	186.25	10.00	147.97	67.30	1.02
3.	Assam	110.70	109.57	184.23	80.91	26.81
4.	Bihar	961.53	873.65	1168.67	901.34	108.07
5.	Chhattisgarh	284.76	37.67	546.24	383.34	26.75
6.	Goa	24.01	12.14	16.08	21.80	0.71
7.	Gujarat	1879.96	1749.53	742.57	1074.58	61.31

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8.	Haryana	82.21	101.61	446.25	294.05	8.08
9.	Himachal Pradesh	26.40	87.97	40.65	60.02	5.60
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	61.41	350.39	153.09	148.96	2.70
11.	Jharkhand	374.18	175.84	220.84	1110.62	22.41
12.	Karnataka	2016.52	1451.01	2774.54	1955.56	66.17
13.	Kerala	269.63	657.46	742.16	260.22	16.74
14.	Madhya Pradesh	3825.75	2125.51	3199.81	558.48	96.06
15.	Maharashtra	293.84	507.26	591.14	3189.60	76.71
16.	Manipur	15.25	168.60	172.88	84.22	0.90
17.	Meghalaya	32.00	50.91	194.11	26.29	1.66
18.	Mizoram	88.40	31.70	15.00	13.72	0.75
19.	Nagaland	0.00	168.42	152.68	19.97	0.63
20.	Orissa	466.09	795.43	791.77	578.04	45.32
21.	Punjab	92.38	76.29	48.02	449.79	9.55
22.	Rajasthan	2591.46	2204.11	2332.96	805.87	86.57
23.	Sikkim	36.60	7.50	0.00	0.00	0.27
24.	Tamil Nadu	741.71	1062.84	1846.28	862.18	80.88
25.	Tripura	165.00	76.43	344.86	26.14	5.69
26.	Uttar Pradesh	4120.41	2120.67	2335.75	2886.44	5.20
27.	Uttaranchal	60.63	113.71	287.49	845.35	156.28
28.	West Bengal	201.79	4077.72	1753.03	1974.34	114.93
29.	Chandigarh	118.39	67.24	149.06	25.67	0.42
30.	Delhi	89.50	203.31	127.03	94.15	4.56
31.	Pondicherry	0.00	32.63	0.00	0.00	1.11
32.	Daman and Diu	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.03
33.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.14
34.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.07
35.	Lakshadweep	0.00	11.74	11.74	17.01	0.01
Total		20291.65	21985.74	22661.50	21240.78	1203.49

FDI in Wholesale Trading

2508. SHRI PRABODH PANDA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has drawn up a proposal to allow 100 per cent FDI through the automatic route in wholesale trading;

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

(c) whether this process will generate employment in the country; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL POLICY AND PROMOTION, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR): (a) and (b) With a view to improve the investment climate and to rationalise the Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) Policy, Government has recently notified several policy rationalisation measures which, *inter-alia*, included allowing FDI up to 100% under the automatic route for wholesale cash and carry trading. Prior to this, FDI up to 100% was permitted in wholesale cash & carry trading with prior Government approval.

(c) and (d) FDI complements and supplements domestic investment and leads to additional employment opportunities.

[Translation]

Construction of Working Women Hostel

2509. SHRI KRISHNA MURARI MOGHE:
SHRI VIJAY KUMAR KHANDELWAL:
SHRI RANEN BARMAN:

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

(a) the total number of proposals sent by the State Governments to the Union Government under working women hostel construction scheme;

(b) the status of the said proposals and the action being taken by the Union Government thereon;

(c) the reasons for pendency of these proposals;

(d) the time by which the said proposals are likely to be sanctioned; and

(e) the financial assistance likely to be provided by the Union Government for this purpose, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) 89 proposals have been recommended and sent by the State Governments under the Scheme of Construction/Expansion of Hostel Building for Working Women in the last 3 years (2003-04, 2004-05, 2005-06 so far).

(b) and (c) 23 proposals have been sanctioned in the above period. The proposals not meeting the schematic norms and requirements have not been approved. The deficiencies are communicated to the State Governments and applicant organizations for taking necessary action thereon.

(d) The time taken in sanctioning any proposal is dependent upon the proposal being complete and in consonance with the schematic norms.

(e) There is no State-wise earmarking of funds under the Scheme.

[English]

Problem of Exporters

2510. SHRI NAVJOT SINGH SIDHU:
KUNWAR MANVENDRA SINGH:

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

(a) whether exporters met the Prime Minister during January, 2006 to present their grievances;

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

(c) whether the exporters have requested the Government to set up a high level taskforce in order to have proper coordination amongst the exporters and to look into the problems of exporters;

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

(e) the extent to which the demands of the exporters would be met by the Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Chairpersons of leading Export Promotion Councils and other leading exporters met the Prime Minister on 24.1.2006.

(c) Yes, Sir. The Government, agreeing to the request of the delegation, has decided that the Department of Commerce will set up sector specific task force for identified sectors consisting of officers from Department of Commerce, Planning Commission and Ministry of Finance to examine and redress the problems faced by the exporters.

(d) and (e) The Government is committed to resolve various issues relating to exporters through better Inter Ministerial coordination. In this regard, the Government has also agreed to set up an Inter Ministerial Group, comprising of the Finance Minister and the Commerce & Industry Minister, which will meet at periodic intervals, to look into the grievances of the exporters.

Migration of Foreign Citizens

2511. SHRI DALPAT SINGH PARSTE: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Chinese nationals are migrating to India;

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

(c) the number of persons migrated to India from Pakistan, Bangladesh, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Myanmar, China, Afghanistan and Bhutan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) and (b) As per available information, during last 3 years, 18 Chinese nationals were granted Indian Citizenship.

(c) The number of nationals of Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, China, Myanmar, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Pakistan who were granted Indian Citizenship during the year 2005 are as under:

(i) Afghanistan	—	185
(ii) Bangladesh	—	41
(iii) Bhutan	—	Nil
(iv) Myanmar	—	03

(v) Nepal	—	02
(vi) Sri Lanka	—	63
(vii) China	—	07
(viii) Pakistan	—	844

Sand Mining in Kerala

2512. DR. K.S. MANOJ: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the proposal for mineral sand mining along the Coast of Arattupuzha and Thrikkunnappuzha Panchayats in Alappuzha District of Kerala has been dropped in view of the public protest in the place;

(b) if so, whether the State Government of Kerala has intimated the Government of India in this regard;

(c) whether the Government of India has stopped sanctioning mineral and mining along Alappuzha Coast; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY): (a) and (b) Four mining leases granted by State Government of Kerala in Arattupuzha—Thrikkunpuhza areas in Alappuzha district have been kept in abeyance as informed by the State Government.

(c) and (d) Prior approval to the proposals of State Government for grant of mineral concessions for beach sand minerals listed in the First Schedule to the Mines and Minerals (Development & Regulation) Act, 1957 is conveyed after obtaining no objection from Department of Atomic Energy and imposing conditions for safeguarding national security, environment and coastal regulation.

[*Translation*]

Utilization of Funds for Development of Adivasis

2513. SHRI BAPU HARI CHAURE: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether some States of the country have not utilized even a single penny out of the funds allocated to them for development of Adivasi areas;

(b) if so, whether funds allocated by the Union Government for development of the Naxalite infested States have not been utilized;

(c) if so, the names of the States which have not utilized the funds allocated to them;

(d) whether the Union Government has sought any reply from the State Governments for not utilising the funds allocated to them; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION (SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH): (a) to (e) Instances of the type mentioned in parts (a) and (b) of the Question have not come to the notice of this Ministry. The schemes of the Ministry for the socio-economic development of tribal people/tribal areas are implemented through the State Governments and a few through NGOs. Funds under these schemes are released to the Departments in-charge of Tribal Welfare in the State/UT Governments which are required to ensure that the benefits of the schemes reach the target groups/areas. Funds released under the various schemes are required to be utilised within 12 months from the date of sanction. The utilisation position submitted by the States shows that most of them have utilised more than 75% of the amount released within the stipulated time limit.

In order to ensure that the funds released under the schemes of the Ministry are utilised properly and expeditiously, the Ministry has further reiterated to the States that release of further funds would be dependent on utilisation of funds within the time prescribed for the purpose.

[English]

Fake Degrees

2514. SHRI ANANT GUDHE:
SHRI K.C. PALANISAMY:

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

(a) whether many rackets of issuing fake degrees of various Universities have been unearthed during the last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of cases detected where persons has already taken benefits on the basis of fake degrees and the action taken against them; and

(d) the steps taken to detect remaining fake degrees?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.A.A. FATMI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

[Translation]

Lotteries

2515. SHRI BALESHWAR YADAV:
SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH:
SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether various State Governments have requested the Union Government to permit them to restart State Lotteries;

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

(c) whether the Government has decided to set up a Committee to suggest measures for lottery business in the country instead of imposing blanket ban;

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

(e) the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT): (a) The Lotteries (Prohibition) Bill, 1999 was introduced in Rajya Sabha on 23.12.1999 with a view to completely ban all types of lotteries. The said Bill was referred to the Department Related Standing Committee on Parliament on Ministry of Home Affairs. The standing Committee could not reach a consensus on the issue and recommended that the Government should take up this issue at the political level to explore the possibilities of evolving a larger consensus in the matter. Some State Governments are not in favour of imposing complete ban on lotteries.

(b) to (e) An all party meeting was held on 6.2.2006 to elicit their views on the Lotteries (Prohibition) Bill, 1999. The representatives of the State Governments organizing lotteries were also invited to express their views. The overwhelming view in the meeting was that lotteries should not be prohibited but there should be stronger and more effective regulation of lotteries and various suggestions were made in this regard. In pursuance of decision taken at the meeting, a Committee headed by the Union Home Secretary and consisting of State Finance Secretaries as members has been set up to examine the suggestions made by the political parties and the State Governments and make suitable recommendations thereon.

Deployment of PMF in Public Sector Undertakings

[English]

2516. SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the dues for deployment of Central Para Military Forces, force-wise, in the Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) has been paid by respective PSUs;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons thereof alongwith the total dues outstanding against each PSUs as on date;

(d) whether Government proposes to review the policy to avoid accumulation of due on deployment of Para Military Forces to PSUs; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) to (c) The Government recovers on regular basis, the cost of deployment of CMPF's provided to PSUs for their security. Details of amount recovered and outstanding are given in the enclosed statement. Bulk of these dues are outstanding against sick PSUs. Revival packages have been moved by the concerned Ministries for some of the sick PSUs. CISF dues are expected to be recovered after the approval of these packages.

(d) and (e) The Government of India reviews outstanding dues on a regular basis and in the last two years the dues have been reduced by more than Rs. 200 crore. A system of taking three months advance payment before regular induction has been introduced and CISF has also been withdrawn from units which are chronic defaulters in payment.

Statement

Details of Bills raised and payment received during the year 2005-2006 from PSUs/Airports, etc.

Sl.No.	Name of the PSUs/AP	Last balance as on 31.3.2005	Amount billed (From April-5 to Feb. 2006)	Payment received (April-05 to Feb. 2006)	Outstanding dues on 1.3.2006
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Agartala Airport	50349158	30239705	48297341	32291522
2.	AGPP/NTPC Anta Kota	0	18532756	18632756	0
3.	Agra Airport	10110635	10801354	9849331	11062658
4.	Ahmedabad Airport	5097267	51229715	51209583	5094619
5.	ALK Neemuch	0	7836006	7125244	710762
6.	Amritsar Airport	28367820	30233303	13677452	44923671
7.	ATPP Anpara (UP)	5762275	58654750	59284365	5132660
8.	AUGPP Etawah	1376228	18993373	18942734	1426867

1	2	3	4	5	6
9.	Aurangabad Airport	1012161	13344089	13215680	1140570
10.	Bagdogra Airport	28477665	14843714	21474587	21856792
11.	Bangalore Aiorport	9492122	41336043	34264918	16563247
12.	BARC/TAPS Tarapur	8033585	55442504	63476089	0
13.	BCCL Jharia	134966536	361587100	912615692	798640944
14.	BDL Bhanur	0	31743561	31743561	0
15.	BDL Kanchanbagh	2690596	33898167	36588763	0
16.	BESCL (NTPC) Bhilai	491729	6686948	6151577	1027100
17.	BHEL Bangalore	2066159	11813818	12570744	1309233
18.	BHEL Bhopal	132411	81258675	81279580	111506
19.	BHEL Hardwar	9643381	67771628	71844471	5570538
20.	BHEL Jhansi	1991766	22547437	22812485	1726718
21.	BHEL Ramachandrapura	8116630	59927951	68044581	0
22.	Bhopal Airport	2879852	23551142	24455350	1975644
23.	Bhubaneshwar Airport	9625608	32975893	2642119	16180322
24.	Bhoj Airport	1313305	8958600	9173139	1098766
25.	Bhuntar Airport	8000203	7843495	8761750	7081948
26.	BIOP DEP-14 (Kiridul)	2417688	21304480	22103096	1619072
27.	BIOP DEP-5 (Bachell)	852088	21455887	22307975	0
28.	BKPL Barauni	242353	3146898	3389251	0
29.	BLSM Bhavnathpur	1097000	11721172	11006082	1812090
30.	BNP Dewas	4146338	51282608	50660679	4768267
31.	BOGL Durgapur (W/D)	26563560	0	0	26563560
32.	BPCL Bombay	0	27215447	27215447	0
33.	BPCL Naini	34509229	10118724	10185976	3441977
34.	BRPL Bongaigaon	0	50922023	50922023	0
35.	BSL Bokaro	0	193938308	193938308	0
36.	BSP Bhilai	0	173835874	161207673	12638201
37.	BSP Surangani (HP)	2957221	19222823	20457493	1722551

1	2	3	4	5	6
38.	BSTPP/NTPC Barh	0	14467508	14467508	0
39.	BTPS Badarpur	1299118	52817143	54116261	0
40.	BTPS/DVC Bokaro	7268162	53238067	56169730	4336499
41.	C.R. Bldg., (ITO) N.D.	4618447	7530547	9318712	2830282
42.	Calicut Airport	1944405	17653005	17248253	2351157
43.	CCIL Tughlakabad	2346908	24866531	22013739	5199700
44.	CCL Kargali	18775120	113731599	109291130	23215589
45.	CCWO Dhanbad	147736059	33840368	157512256	24054171
46.	Chandigarh Airport	20675119	15588789	16430235	19833673
47.	Chennai Airport	29612048	91937329	90013416	31539581
48.	CHEP Chamera	11788878	17171736	16646187	1704427
49.	CNP Nashik	10213615	56261341	66474956	0
50.	Cochin Airport	9461276	38282339	40068825	7474790
51.	Cochin Shipyard	994331	14705126	15098174	601283
52.	Coimbatore Airport	2394975	18478645	17807899	3065721
53.	CPCL Manali	2866948	36901331	39768279	0
54.	CPP Cachar	1991736	29296775	28644942	2642569
55.	CPT Calcutta	29870509	99189796	127650766	1409539
56.	CPT Chennai	6725505	91516238	90779521	7462222
57.	CPT Cochin	26405394	53191783	72652563	6944614
58.	CTPS Chandrapura	3680332	54977059	534412339	4245042
59.	DCC Dankuni (W/D)	1391591	0	43031	1348560
60.	DEBOLIM (Goa) Airport	2578420	28602024	31031121	149323
61.	DESU New Delhi	1620753	17666444	17990700	1296497
62.	DHEP Dulhasti	59906907	110659924	108982266	61854565
63.	DHEPP Doyang	3127300	24089318	2519732	2019375
64.	Dibrugarh Airport	26886136	19157254	20714799	25328591
65.	Dimapur Airport	0	2411466	0	2411466
66.	DIOM Donimalai	0	10346130	9475872	87025

1	2	3	4	5	6
67.	DMP Panna	820528	9795246	10615774	0
68.	DOS ISRO Bangalore	0	1832672	1832672	0
69.	DSP Durgapur	-297773	211784420	19491694	16494953
70.	DTPS Durgapur	3194212	41633444	41329171	3498485
71.	DVC HQRs Calcutta	484562	6410493	6795055	0
72.	DVC Methon	2652076	26566363	25411604	3806835
73.	DVC Panchet	1767564	20266539	20367437	1686666
74.	ECL Seetalpur	23598860	132757456	124802502	31453804
75.	ELEC, N. Delhi (S D)	0	7821792	7110720	711072
76.	Ennore Port Trust	0	5992174	5992174	0
77.	FACT (UDL)	10365555	56732817	39344794	27753578
78.	FBP Farakka	11976382	72364255	53574315	30766322
79.	FCI Dighaghat	34453	9660720	8873265	821908
80.	FCI Gaya	816631	7512392	8329023	0
81.	FCI Gorakhpur (W/D)	63466667	0	0	63466667
82.	FCI Mokameh	1102285	9040467	8847137	1295615
83.	FCI New Jalpaiguri	0	13901528	12767603	1133925
84.	FCI Phulwarisheriff	0	5319548	4867392	452156
85.	FCI Ramagundam (W/D)	76015904	11122848	0	87138752
86.	FCI Sindri (W/D)	56789905	0	0	56789905
87.	FCI Talcher (W/D)	51337441	0	0	51337441
88.	FGPP/NTPC Faridabad	3633991	13961942	16258368	1337565
89.	FGUPP/NTPC Unchahar	3618202	45869960	46070331	3427831
90.	FSTPP Farakka	7031064	81734837	87646221	1119680
91.	GAIL Etawaha (PATA)	0	27834927	27834927	0
92.	GAIL Gandhar	0	6759040	6193795	565245
93.	GAIL Usher (MS)	986960	10327583	10343271	971262
94.	GAIL Vighodia	558239	6862732	7421061	0
95.	Gaya Airport	10218670	20028400	17989753	12257317

1	2	3	4	5	6
96.	Goa Shipyard	0	19056279	17281263	1775026
97.	GOF Ghazipur	1269839	16459265	16376662	1353552
98.	GOF Neemuch	0	7033802	6400366	633436
99.	Guwahati Airport	51823663	34744651	45826278	40742036
100.	Gwalior Airport	6753229	7925298	8525766	6152761
101.	HAL Pimpri Pune)	28747466	8997493	3348052	34399907
102.	HDC Haldia	0	53240791	53240791	0
103.	HEC Ranchi	721686926	64599537	0	786286463
104.	HEP Uri Baramulla	0	70426029	67426029	3000000
105.	HFCL Barauni (W/D)	1175309	0	0	1175309
106.	HFCL Durgapur (W/D)	8318407	0	0	8318407
107.	HFCL Haldia (W/D)	4809718	306018	41611	5074125
108.	HFCL/BVFC Namrup	5066945	30797038	14902118	20961865
109.	HIL (UDL) (W/D)	5996945	124417	3597628	2522463
110.	HIL Delhi (W/D)	1664647	132904	0	1797551
111.	HIL Rasayani (W/D)	9610600	0	4778284	4832316
112.	HMT Ranibagh (W/D)	73643094	0	0	73643094
113.	HMT Srinagar	10938552	15140794	0	117089346
114.	HOC Rasayani (W/D)	27683515	275139	877681	27080973
115.	HPCL Bombay	0	33753822	33753822	0
116.	HPCL Bottling Plant	261304	54266280	5687564	0
117.	HPCL-VR Vizag (VSP)	0	25742471	25742471	0
118.	HTPP Harduaganj (UP)	3477865	38521368	41985543	13690
119.	HWP Manuguru	3585796	33605909	34429073	2762632
120.	HWP Talchar	303995	4251226	4238096	317124
121.	Hyderabad Airport	16651701	58531571	60162302	13020970
122.	IDPL Gurgaon (W/D)	28969402	0	0	28969402
123.	IDPL Hyderabad (W/D)	19844340	0	0	19844340
124.	IDPL Muzaffarpur (W/D)	23327120	0	0	23327120

1	2	3	4	5	6
125.	IDPL Rishikesh (W/D)	89443938	0	0	89443938
126.	IFFCO Aonla (W/D)	0	19132271	14809753	4322518
127.	IFFCO Fhulphur (W/D)	0	18659110	16791182	1867928
128.	IFFCO Kalol (W/D)	0	8488982	76411329	857653
129.	IFFCO Kandla (W/D)	0	12229190	10346892	1882298
130.	IG Mint Hyderabad	3395378	252597956	25794215	2850919
131.	IGI Airport	144023855	355083039	321917111	177189783
132.	IISCO Bumpur	154299071	9931278	253611449	0
133.	Indore Airport	0	3869933	2176401	1693532
134.	IOC Barauni	1	54270580	54270580	1
135.	IOC Faridabad	0	7921723	7326537	595186
136.	IOC Gauhati	3379656	48837650	52035405	181901
137.	IOC Mathura	0	35065906	41490234	3575672
138.	IOC Panipat	2860627	55338308	50627685	7571250
139.	IOC Shakurbasti (W/D)	1051899	124207	82081	1094025
140.	IOC (GR) Baroda	0	58723766	54278332	4445434
141.	IOC/HRP Haldia	0	44031578	44031578	0
142.	IOC/LPG GAIL Lakhwa	1297898	16443074	17740972	0
143.	IP BHEL Jagdishpur	290146	9073858	8615167	748837
144.	IPCL Baroda (W/D)	5031652	108406	0	5140058
145.	IPCL Dahej (W/D)	663550	695818	0	1359368
146.	IPCL Nagothane (W/D)	98865	54642	0	153507
147.	IPS Indraprasth	592	17087475	15991421	1095546
148.	ISP Khandwa		795717	0	795717
149.	ISP Nasik	6786805	41102114	8788919	0
150.	ISRO Bangalore	2	26133704	26133705	1
151.	ISRO Lucknow	366368	3368949	3735317	0
152.	ITI Mankapur	35981034	9797689	5000000	40878723
153.	ITI Naini (W/D)	67720246	-24611	5392492	62303143

1	2	3	4	5	6
154.	ITI Paighat	3387218	2554716	5746936	194998
155.	ITI Raibareli (W/D)	54204326	2306521	8171542	48339305
156.	Jaipur Airport	51371044	31827180	52019563	31178661
157.	JNPT Sheva Bombay	0	541459910	49022143	5123767
158.	Jodhpur Airport	9045328	11979871	9038148	11977051
159.	Jorhat Airport	15868876	11157098	11552539	15473435
160.	Kanpur Airport	0	0	0	0
161.	KAPP Surat	0	32169724	32169734	0
162.	KCC Khetri (W/D)	50652644	353617	353617	50652644
163.	KCCPP Kayamukulam	0	13079340	13079340	0
164.	KGPP/NTPC Surat	1411945	19528398	20930343	0
165.	Khajuraho Airport	9556048	13742733	14348290	8950491
166.	KHSTPP Kahalgaon	4358005	54644431	59002436	0
167.	KIOCL Kudremukh	0	44951464	42183633	2767831
168.	KIOM Kiriburu	1583951	10109889	12261762	4432078
169.	KKNPP Kundamkulam	0	19314585	19314585	0
170.	Kolkata Airport	68612679	110164625	87303104	91474210
171.	KPT Kandla	3957493	53574967	53241069	4291391
172.	KSTPP Korba	2662971	53688348	56351319	0
173.	KTPS Kota (Rajasthan)	4332324	20518539	18296284	6552579
174.	Lilabari Airport	0	0	0	0
175.	LPG Vijaipur (GAIL)	0	18095251	18095251	0
176.	Lucknow Airport	65271090	46951031	45188573	7033548
177.	Madurai Airport	2606064	12918275	12308641	3215698
178.	MAMC Durgapur	126210658	8669922	0	134880580
179.	Mangalore airport	1316751	12528236	11839683	2005304
180.	MAPP Kalpakkam	18486610	71531807	77690058	5328359
181.	MCF Bhopal		2083494	2083494	0
182.	MCF Hassan	-9	7957602	7957593	0

1	2	3	4	5	6
183.	MDL E/Y Bombay	2975029	36071518	36193654	2852893
184.	MDL N/Y Bombay (W/D)	284772	75536	360308	0
185.	MFL Manali	26687938	10331563	16038245	20981256
186.	MIOP Meghataburu	2735188	16445562	18000909	1179841
187.	MPT Goa	2362252	41031779	43394031	0
188.	MPS Majia	2758867	38673656	41430523	0
189.	Mumbai Airport	90115808	276338022	177559616	188894014
190.	Nagpur Airport	1652749	26377529	25300471	2729537
191.	NALCO Angul	0	101060763	101060763	0
192.	NALCO Damanjodi	0	54118352	54118352	0
193.	NAPPA Narora	0	50387776	50387776	0
194.	National Museum N.D.	1984754	15870698	16480037	1375415
195.	NCL Singrauli	0	8593210	8593210	0
196.	NFC Hyderabad	1500000	64997648	66497648	0
197.	NFL Bhatinda	2023320	24447441	24567920	1902841
198.	NFL Nangal	0	21499124	21499124	0
199.	NFL Panipat	6397	25318349	25318517	6329
200.	NFL Vijapur	2213737	22488438	22795486	1866689
201.	NHPCL Chamera ST-II	0	20034345	20026109	8236
202.	NHPCL Subansiri	924422	15826406	15402844	1347984
203.	NIL Jadavpur (W/D)	8685418	13556	0	8696974
204.	NJPCL Jhakri	5292200	22279164	25538484	2032880
205.	NLCL Neyveli	15063657	199490251	194401637	20152271
206.	NMPT Mangalore	2196348	293777234	31473582	0
207.	NNP Mysore	0	23372926	23372926	0
208.	NNP Salboni	2503514	3368850	33057026	2815338
209.	NPC Kaiga	0	28619152	28591500	2127652
210.	NPP Nowgaon	0	29133131	29133131	0
211.	NPPCL Nagaland (W/d)	60814886	105468	0	60920354

1	2	3	4	5	6
212.	NRL Numaligarh	1894476	27748093	25085500	4557069
213.	NRSA Balangar Hyd.	4	156762426	14479822	1282608
214.	NSPCL Durgapur	652776	8816946	8850858	618864
215.	NSPCL Rourkela	1511635	8653394	8932610	1232419
216.	NTPC Dadri	592191	56121225	57260999	4552417
217.	NTPC Kaniha	4415570	54133543	58549113	0
218.	NTPC Koldam (S Duty)	1722909	16031016	17663808	90117
219.	NTPC Tanda (UP)	8221474	30567357	33946062	4842769
220.	NTPC/JGGPP Jhanoor	0	17805470	17805410	60
221.	NTPC/SSTPP Sipat	402840	21450154	21852994	0
222.	Oil Duliajan	0	197186763	184081166	13105597
223.	ONGC Ahmedabad	0	37131917	34055328	3076589
224.	ONGC Ankleshwar	2174329	25857004	28031333	0
225.	ONGC Hazira	0	47583296	46379296	1210000
226.	ONGC Mehsana	4334493	43396898	46965105	766286
227.	ONGC Bombay	6533052	93861673	93704565	8690160
228.	ONGC Dehradun	1564085	17652573	17630718	1585940
229.	ONGC Gandhar	1802342	19447635	21249977	0
230.	ONGC Jorhat	8218642	100731913	10100309	7947746
231.	ONGC Narsapur	1090352	12408297	12400797	1097852
232.	ONGC Nazira Assam	41133765	177257784	218391549	0
233.	ONGC Tripura (W/D)	5873639	52017527	46911071	10970095
234.	OTHP Obra (UP)	13308378	80812254	85034505	9086127
235.	P&HCS Chandigarh	216717368	106189183	52456148	270350403
236.	Patna Airport	2100501	36415123	30221398	27794226
237.	PDRP Paradip	942112	7956955	8427671	471396
238.	PGCIL Katwaria Sarai	1048350	6329758	5572550	1805558
239.	PGCIL Wagoora	172441	14661110	14833515	36
240.	Port Blair Airport	6815745	13698827	11885684	8628888

1	2	3	4	5	6
241.	PPCL/IPS Estate N.D.	213637	14932535	10771131	4375041
242.	PPL Paradip (W/D)	192532	0	192532	0
243.	PPT Paradip	10725022	64951063	70837950	43838135
244.	PRL Ahmedabad	0	5314441	4839113	475328
245.	PTPP Parichha (UP)	9889542	38604640	49494182	0
246.	PTPS Panipat (Har.)	839065	11328770	11257033	910802
247.	PTPS Panki (UP)	3246454	4048079	43741446	87
248.	PTPS Patratu (Bihar)	28904521	47261548	45036015	31130054
249.	Pune Airport	1100763	11710285	11859275	951773
250.	Raipur Airport	107631	16063371	14692848	1451154
251.	Raja Rampur Library	2789801	3635835	5314517	1111119
252.	Rajkot Airport	623465	16464772	16070873	1017364
253.	Ranchi Airport	7977043	22461501	16149678	14288866
254.	RAPS Kota	6443119	70495206	69391536	7346789
255.	RCFL Thal	0	20548548	19092357	1456181
256.	RCFL Bombay	0	46144002	46144002	0
257.	RCP Rakha (W/D)	10579336	0	0	10579336
258.	Red Fort, New Delhi	-448852	40590360	0	40141508
259.	RHEP Rihand (Pipri)	236290	17214290	18456502	1120728
260.	RHSTPP Rihand	0	42217974	37800250	4417224
261.	Rohtash Industries	66912112	8829144	0	75741256
262.	RHP Rajghat (Delhi)	1401914	1752892	17587270	1343546
263.	RSP Rourkela	-1555575	155437994	169791239	-14088820
264.	RSTPP Ramagundam	0	62485332	57772579	4712743
265.	SAC Ahmedabad	16987	16734288	15550035	1201240
266.	Salarjung Museum	6848147	16218921	16264716	6812352
267.	SBSS Salakati	3541287	14923644	16464931	0
268.	SCCL Bellampalli	58696048	182722553	226259996	15158605
269.	Shar Centre	0	84442884	78047038	6395846

1	2	3	4	5	6
270.	SHEP Salal	5989922	31262876	37252798	0
271.	SHEP Sewa-II (JNDK)	252822	7407010	7341911	647921
272.	Shimla Airport	1067318	93224224	9720083	10280459
273.	SMP HE Proj. Siyom		1693198	0	1693198
274.	SMPL Rajkot	0	39787426	36159680	3627766
275.	SPEC Kovvur (W/D)	20305242	170940	0	204766
276.	SPM Hoshanagabad	2060828	48160099	36398519	5722408
277.	SSP Salem	112845	26761282	26761282	112845
278.	SSTPP Shaktinagar	0	49766864	49766864	0
279.	STPP Simadhari, Vizag	0	28552006	28159511	392495
280.	Tajmahal Agra	1453460	24168335	0	25621845
281.	Tezpur Airport	0	0	0	0
282.	THDC Tehri (UP)	4348237	34132149	35608259	2872137
283.	THEP Banbassa	1571357	14712524	14724876	1559005
284.	TPT Tuticorin	2122954	28294343	28083539	2333758
285.	Trichy Airport	1530921	14640335	14660494	1510762
286.	Tripupati Airport	1610755	8214130	8785349	1039536
287.	Trivandrum Airport	0	26219320	24216609	2002711
288.	TSL Naini (W/D)	94023536	0	0	94023536
289.	TSP Tungbhadra (W/D)	40653670	0	0	40653670
290.	TSTPP/NTPC Talcher	0	39568367	39568367	0
291.	TTPS Lalpania	2253910	18690417	19145064	1699263
292.	UCIL Jaduguda	3715893	45853713	33248066	16321540
293.	Udaipur Airport	28514480	22823534	13443097	37894917
294.	UTPS Ukai (Gujarat)	3256770	21767901	23229875	1794796
295.	Vadodara Airport	2970606	24347666	24392052	2926220
296.	Varanasi Airport	13070686	18877338	19516925	12431099
297.	Vizg Airport	1966350	11740276	10816359	2890267
298.	VPT Visakhapatnam	5210209	114403900	114403900	5210209

1	2	3	4	5	6
299.	VSP Visakhapatnam	14517495	131748950	146266455	0
300.	FSSC Thumba	8585176	106145402	106026884	8712794
301.	VSTPP/NTPC Sidhi	0	48861172	48861172	0
Total		5608337560	10624508529	11173869718	5058976371

*[Translation]***Export of Whisky**

2517. SHRI ASHOK KUMAR RAWAT:
SHRI SHISHUPAL PATLE:

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

(a) whether the Government propose to review the trade agreements with Britain as appeared in '*Rashtriya Sahara*' dated January 17, 2006;

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

(c) whether the European Union has objected for the purchase of Indian whisky;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) the steps taken by the Government to maintain export status of whisky in International market?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) and (b) The Government of India has no such proposal of reviewing the Trade Agreement with Britain (UK).

(c) and (d) Indian whisky is not allowed to be marketed in the European Union as 'whisky' since it is manufactured out of alcohol made from molasses and the EC tariff schedule has adopted the World Customs Organisation's definition of whisky as 'grain based alcohol'.

(e) The matter is appropriately taken up in bilateral interactions with the European Commission and member States.

*[English]***Assistance for SSS/HSC Boards**

2518. SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the meeting of all Education Ministers regarding the financial assistance for SSS/HSC Board giving quality education was held recently;

(b) if so, the outcome of the meeting;

(c) whether the State Governments have given any suggestion in this regard; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.A.A. FATMI): (a) No meeting of State Education Ministers has been held since 1.4.2005 on the subject of financial assistance to SSS/HSC Boards.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Investment by MNC in Backward Districts

2519. SHRI RANEN BARMAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of investment made by the multinational companies in the backward districts of the country during the last three years and thereafter, project-wise; and

(b) the achievements made under these projects during the above period, project-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL POLICY AND PROMOTION, MINISTRY

OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR): (a) and (b) Under the liberalised economic environment, investment decisions, including choice of location, are taken by the entrepreneurs based on their techno-economic judgements and consistent with the policy framework. No district-wise data is centrally maintained for investments by multinational companies.

World Bank Assistance for Primary Education

[*Translation*]

2520. SHRI SRICHAND KRIPLANI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the amount provided by the World Bank for primary education during each of the last three years and thereafter till date, State-wise;

(b) the State-wise details of the amount provided for this scheme;

(c) whether the States have been given free hand in the utilisation of this amount; and

(d) if so, the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (d) The World Bank (IDA) is currently funding Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) and District Primary Education Programme (DPEP). The World Bank (IDA) and other external funding agencies have accepted the existing national framework, guidelines and implementation mechanism of the SSA and the national guidelines for the DPEP. The external funds for SSA are received on a reimbursement basis and there is no dedicated external fund for any particular activity or for any geographical area. Reimbursement provided by World Bank under SSA & DPEP during 2003-04, 2004-05 & 2005-06 is given below:

Scheme	Reimbursement Provided (Rs. in crore)		
	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06
DPEP	586.89	423.12	280.89
SSA	360.43	1056.91	Reimbursement not yet due

State-wise reimbursement provided by the World Bank under DPEP is given in the enclosed Statement.

Statement

Assistance provided by World Bank under DPEP for the years 2003-04, 2004-05 & 2005-06

(Rs. in Crore)

Sl.No.	State	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Assam	23.13	Project closed	Project closed
2.	Haryana	46.96	-do-	-do-
3.	Karnataka	13.52	-do-	-do-
4.	Kerala	4.31	-do-	-do-
5.	Maharashtra	34.19	-do-	-do-
6.	Tamil Nadu	4.85	-do-	-do-
7.	Himachal Pradesh	10.42	-do-	-do-
8.	Orissa	25.65	-do-	-do-
9.	Madhya Pradesh	11.30	-do-	-do-
10.	Chhattisgarh	1.68	-do-	-do-

1	2	3	4	5
11.	Uttar Pradesh	107.96	77.44	65.56
12.	Bihar	34.91	58.75	25.21
13.	Andhra Pradesh	42.65	80.30	36.90
14.	Rajasthan	158.12	117.04	77.71
15.	Uttaranchal	13.81	111.79	34.87
16.	Jharkhand	53.43	77.80	40.64
Total		586.89	423.12	280.89

[English]

Potential of Agro Industries

2521. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL:
SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY:

Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has made an assessment of the potential of agro industries in the country particularly West Bengal and Karnataka;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the extent to which this potential is being exploited; and

(d) the steps taken by the Union Government to develop the marketing facilities in these States for large scale development of agro industries?

THE MINISTER OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND MINISTER OF AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) To develop and promote village industries, including agro industries, in the rural areas of the country, including West Bengal and Karnataka, Government has been implementing the Rural Employment Generation Programme (REGP) through the Khadi and Village

Industries Commission (KVIC). Under the REGP, village industries are set up based on project proposals prepared by the applicant-entrepreneurs, for which technical assistance is provided to them by the KVIC, State/Union Territory Khadi and Village Industries Boards (KVIBs). As such, separate assessment of the potential of agro industries in a State is not conducted under this programme. 904 and 326 agro and food processing village industry (VI) units have been established during 2004-05 in West Bengal and Karnataka respectively, under the REGP.

(d) To promote the marketing of VI products, including those based on agro industries, 198 and 346 sales outlets managed by the KVIC—assisted institutions are functioning in the State of West Bengal and Karnataka respectively, besides one KVIC-owned sales outlet each in both these States. In addition, KVIC organizes exhibitions at the national and sub-national levels to help the marketing of such products.

Enrolment of SC/ST Students in IITs

2522. SHRIMATI PARAMJIT KAUR GULSHAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of SC and ST students enrolled and admitted in Post Graduation programme of Indian Institutes of Technology during each of the last five years, category-wise alongwith the percentage thereof;

(b) whether admission of SC and ST students is less than prescribed reservation of 15 per cent and 7.5 per cent respectively;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the Government has received any representations/complaints from the SC and ST students of various IITs, seeking centralised admission system for Post Graduation programmes as followed for Under Graduation programmes at the same IITs;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.A.A. FATMI): (a) A statement showing number and percentage of SC/ST students admitted in Postgraduate and

equivalent courses in Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) during each of the last five years is enclosed.

(b) and (c) It is a fact that admission of scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe students in Postgraduate courses is less than prescribed reservation of 15% and 7.5% respectively in IITs. This is largely attributable to various social and economic factors.

(d) to (f) IITs are autonomous institutes and have autonomy in academic matters including admission procedure. A centralised admission system already exists for Postgraduate Admissions through Graduate Aptitude Test in Engineering (GATE) and Joint Admission Test (JAM) to M.Sc.

Statement

Enrolment of SC/ST Students in IITs

Sl.No.	Institute	Total students admitted in Postgraduate courses in Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs)																	
		2005-2006				2004-05				2003-04				2002-03				2001-02	
		SC	%	ST	%	SC	%	ST	%	SC	%	ST	%	SC	%	ST	%	SC	%
1.	IIT Delhi	130	9.27	22	1.57	94	7.87	11	0.90	119	8.42	22	0.14	102	7.22	17	1.20	92	6.51
2.	IIT Bombay	72	8.71	20	3.68	52	9.07	21	4.94	57	9.59	22	6.44	55	10.37	26	4.05	52	12.51
3.	IIT Kanpur	127	10.47	6	0.42	114	10.26	7	2.93	94	9.29	7	2.00	124	12.56	11	1.64	71	9.12
4.	IIT Kharagpur	131	12.82	50	4.89	89	10.22	30	3.44	82	11.45	28	3.63	64	11.82	22	3.99	56	9.63
5.	IIT Madras	61	14.67	21	10.00	71	15.00	26	6.5	52	10.00	24	8.00	54	14.67	25	9.5	54	13.33
6.	IIT Roorkee	93	12.4	22	3.00	101	12.6	36	4.5	90	12.00	45	6.01	106	14.3	33	4.5	00	00
7.	IIT Guwahati	36	15.05	11	4.1	26	9.5	7	4.5	20	8.4	7	3.15	13	8.3	4	4.4	2	9.5
Total		650	11.91	152	3.95	547	10.82	138	3.96	514	9.88	153	4.2	518	11.29	138	4.18	327	10.1

Funds Received from International Institutions

2523. SHRI J.M. AARON RASHID: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the funds received from the international institutions like United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) for the academic year 2005-06;

(b) the schemes likely to be implemented from such funds; and

(c) the details of such funds received and utilized under various schemes for the last three years, Scheme-wise and State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.A.A. FATMI): (a) to (c) The information is given in the enclosed statement.

Statement*Funds Received from International Institutions*

Agencies*	Scheme+	2002-03 Fund Sanctioned/ Utilised US\$ (Rs.)	2004-05 Fund Sanctioned/ Utilised US\$ (Rs.)	2006-07 Fund Sanctioned/ Utilised US\$ (Rs.)
1	2	3	4	5
A. UNESCO	1. Regular Budget** Programmes to New Delhi Cluster Office	US\$ 472050 (Rs. 2.12 Crores)/ Funds Utilised	US\$609,000 (Rs. 2.74 Crores)/ funds utilised	US\$539,300 (Rs. 2.43 Crores)/ being utilised
	2. Participation Programme** Funds utilised	US\$ 980000 (Rs. 0.44 Crore)/	—	
	3. Dialogue Among Civilization Funds utilised	US\$180000 (Rs. 0.78 Crore)/	Nil	—
	4. For celebrating National Literacy Day	US\$5000 (Rs. 0.02 Crore)/ Funds utilised	US\$5000 (Rs. 0.02 Crore)	—
B. UNFPA	1. To undertake educational interventions on Adolescent Reproductive and Sexual Health in Schools through NCERT	US\$1.50 million (Rs. 6.8 crores) for five years from January, 2003 to December, 2007.	For the year 2004-Rs. 1.08 crores and for the year 2005-Rs. 2.23 crores.	—
	2. For conducting workshops/training of Teacher Educators on issues related to HIV/AIDS held in Madhya Pradesh (funds allocated to UNESCO New Delhi, Office.)	Sanctioned US\$51278 (Rs. 0.23 crore) Utilised US\$10000 (Rs. 0.04 crore)	—	—

1	2	3	4	5
C. UNAIDS	For mainstreaming HIV/AIDS prevention and care issues into the programmes of the National Literacy Mission (funds allocated to UNESCO New Delhi Office)	Sanctioned: US\$150000 (Rs. 0.68 Crore) Utilised: US\$21175 (Rs. 0.09 Crore)	—	—

+ Schemes relate to Education Sector

* The information being provided here is in respect of UN agencies only.

** Biennium basis.

Note—Rate of Exchange is US\$1= Rs. 45

The schemes which are being/would be benefited from such funds in the Education Sector are schemes/activities relating to Education for All, Quality Education, Inclusive Education and certain regular programmes of UNESCO such as ASP Net and UNESCO/UNITWIN Chairs programme.

Literacy Campaigns

2524. SHRI KIRTI VARDHAN SINGH:
SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE:
SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE:

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

(a) the total amount spent/released for implementation of literacy campaigns particularly Adult Education Programme during each of the last three years and thereafter till date, State-wise;

(b) the number of districts in the country where this campaign was launched, State-wise;

(c) the details of the Special Schemes formulated by the Government for promoting female literacy in the country through voluntary organisations;

(d) the number of National Literacy Mission projects sanctioned for Non-Governmental Organizations by the

Government particularly in rural areas during the above period;

(e) whether the Government has reviewed the performance of the Government agencies and NGOs;

(f) if so, the details thereof;

(g) the monitoring mechanism to examine the performance;

(h) the action taken/proposed to be taken against the Government agencies/NGOs whose performance is not satisfactory; and

(i) the steps taken to increase the performance of Adult Education Programme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) Under the Adult Education Programme, funds are not released to State Governments and Union Territory Administrations, but directly to District and State level registered societies. Statement-I indicating the amount released to these societies for implementation of Adult Education Programmes during the last three years and current year, State-wise, is enclosed.

(b) So far, Literacy Campaigns have been launched in 597 districts of the country. Statement-II indicating the

districts covered under Total Literacy Campaign, Post Literacy Programme and Continuing Education Programme is enclosed.

(c) Under the scheme of financial assistance to NGOs working in the field of adult education, Accelerated Female Literacy Projects were sanctioned in some of the districts where female literacy was less than 30%. Such projects were taken up through Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) in Uttar Pradesh and Orissa to cover 24.53 lakh and 9.10 lakh women illiterates respectively in the 15-35 age-group in these two States.

(d) The number of literacy projects sanctioned to NGOs during 2002-03 and 2003-04 is 99 and 117 respectively. No fresh projects have been sanctioned thereafter.

(e) to (g) The performance of the programme is monitored by the State Literacy Mission Authorities of the concerned States and also through the Monthly Monitoring Meetings with the implementing agencies. The programmes are also externally evaluated by the Institutes of Social Science and Research. The Utilization Certificates in respect of the expenditure incurred and Audited Accounts are also obtained from the implementing agencies. During 2003-04, evaluation of 97 NGOs, which implemented the Female Literacy Programme in 8 districts of Uttar Pradesh, had been conducted by the National Sample Survey Organization (NSSO) and Programme Evaluation Organization (PEO) of Planning Commission. The district-wise achievement reported in evaluation is given in the following table:

Sl.No.	AFLP Districts	Results
1.	Baharaich	69.96%
2.	Shravasti	56.12%
3.	Balrampur	56.51%
4.	Gonda	66.83%
5.	Siddarthnagar	70.83%
6.	Maharajganj	70.32%
7.	Rampur	79.92%
8.	Budaun	80.51%

The evaluation of NGOs, which implemented the female literacy project in Orissa, has been entrusted to empanelled evaluation agencies.

(h) and (i) The Literacy Programmes implemented by the Zilla Saksharata Samities are reviewed in the Monthly Monitoring Meetings held by the State Literacy Mission Authorities, where the performance of each district is reviewed and appropriate remedial/corrective action taken, wherever required. Concerted efforts are being made to improve the quality for the programme through better monitoring, providing adequate resource support through State Resource Centres and by convergence with other development programmes. A performance linked grading system was introduced for the NGOs implementing projects in Uttar Pradesh and Orissa. Those NGOs whose performance is not found to be satisfactory are not sanctioned any new projects.

Statement I

Grants released during the last three years & current year under various schemes of National Literacy Mission (NLM)

(Rs. in lakhs)					
Sl.No.	State/UT	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06 (till 28.2.2006)
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1074.89	2466.87	1124.60	2424.82
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	186.25	10.00	147.97	67.30
3.	Assam	110.70	109.57	184.23	80.91

1	2	3	4	5	6
4.	Bihar	961.53	873.65	1168.67	901.34
5.	Chhattisgarh	284.76	37.67	546.24	383.34
6.	Goa	24.01	12.14	16.08	21.80
7.	Gujarat	1879.96	1749.54	742.57	1074.58
8.	Haryana	82.21	101.61	446.25	294.05
9.	Himachal Pradesh	26.40	87.97	40.65	60.02
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	61.41	350.39	153.09	148.96
11.	Jharkhand	374.18	175.84	220.84	1110.62
12.	Karnataka	2016.52	1451.01	2774.54	1955.56
13.	Kerala	269.63	657.46	742.16	260.22
14.	Madhya Pradesh	3825.75	2125.51	3199.81	558.48
15.	Maharashtra	293.84	507.26	591.14	3189.60
16.	Manipur	15.25	186.60	172.88	84.22
17.	Meghalaya	32.00	50.91	194.11	26.29
18.	Mizoram	88.40	31.70	15.00	13.72
19.	Nagaland	0.00	188.42	152.68	19.97
20.	Orissa	466.09	795.43	791.77	578.04
21.	Punjab	92.38	76.29	48.02	449.79
22.	Rajasthan	2591.46	2204.11	2332.96	805.87
23.	Sikkim	36.60	7.50	0.00	0.00
24.	Tamil Nadu	741.71	1082.84	1846.28	882.18
25.	Tripura	165.00	76.43	344.86	26.14
26.	Uttar Pradesh	4120.41	2120.67	2335.75	2896.44
27.	Uttaranchal	60.63	113.71	287.49	845.35
28.	West Bengal	201.79	4077.72	1753.03	1974.34
29.	Chandigarh	118.39	67.24	149.06	25.67
30.	Delhi	89.50	203.31	127.03	94.15
31.	Pondicherry	0.00	32.63	0.00	0.00
32.	Daman and Diu	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

1	2	3	4	5	6
33.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
34.	Dadra and Nagar Havelli	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
35.	Lakshadweep	0.00	11.74	11.74	17.01
Total		20291.65	21985.74	22661.50	21240.78

Statement II*Districts covered under Literacy Programmes*

Sl. No.	Name of States/UTs	No. of Distt.	Total Literacy Campaign	Post Literacy Programme	Continuing Education Programme	Total distts. covered
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	Andhra Pradesh	23	0	2	21	23
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	15	15	0	0	15
3.	Assam	23	13	10	0	23
4.	Bihar	38	14	21	3	38
5.	Chhattisgarh	16	1	13	2	16
6.	Delhi	9	0	0	9	9
7.	Goa	2	2	0	0	2
8.	Gujarat	25	0	2	23	25
9.	Haryana	19	8	7	4	19
10.	Himachal Pradesh	12	0	11	1	12
11.	Jammu and Kashmir	14	14	0	0	14
12.	Jharkhand	22	8	9	5	22
13.	Karnataka	27	0	1	26	27
14.	Kerala	14	0	0	14	14
15.	Madhya Pradesh	45	0	3	42	45
16.	Maharashtra	35	3	7	25	35
17.	Manipur	9	9	0	0	9
18.	Meghalaya	7	4	3	0	7
19.	Mizoram	8	0	0	8	8

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
20.	Nagaland	8	8	0	0	8
21.	Orissa	30	6	21	3	30
22.	Punjab	17	7	9	1	17
23.	Rajasthan	32	0	1	31	32
24.	Sikkim	4	4	0	0	4
25.	Tamil Nadu	29	0	1	28	29
26.	Tripura	4	0	0	4	4
27.	Uttaranchal	13	0	5	8	13
28.	Uttar Pradesh	70	11	35	24	70
29.	West Bengal	19	0	2	17	19
30.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	2	0	0	0	0
31.	Chandigarh	1	0	0	1	1
32.	Dadra and Nagari Haveli	1	1	0	0	1
33.	Daman and Diu	2	0	1	0	1
34.	Lakshadweep	1	0	0	1	1
35.	Pondicherry	4	0	0	4	4
Total		600	128	164	305	597

Target under PMRY

2525. SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO: Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether sponsoring of a much larger number of applicants than the actual target under Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana has led to dissatisfaction amongst the intended beneficiaries;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the norms fixed for the purpose;

(c) the action taken by the Government to achieve the target each year;

(d) whether the apathy of the participating Banks is the main contributory factor for continued poor

performance under District Credit Plan and other welfare scheme; and

(e) if so, the action taken to improve the situation and achieve the targets?

THE MINISTER OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND MINISTER OF AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD): (a) and (b) The Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana (PMRY) is implemented through the District Industries Centres (DICs) of the States/Union Territories (UTs) and banks, in the rural areas as well as urban areas. The PMRY norms provided for sponsoring of applications numbering 125 per cent of the targets. However, in practice, many DICs do sponsor more applications.

(c) The primary responsibility of implementing the PMRY in accordance with the norms of the Yojana thus

lies with the State/Union Territory Governments. The steps taken by the Central Government to see that the Yojana is implemented according to the norms in achieving the targets include instructions to States/banks for monthly monitoring of progress as per the 'Quarterly Schedule' prescribed by the Central Government for sponsoring and sanctioning of applications, advice to hold regular meetings of the District Task Force on sponsoring of *prima-facie* eligible applications, regularly convening meetings of the Block Level Task Force Committee and ensuring participation of banks in such meetings, instructions to banks to dispose of applications for loans up to Rs. 2 lakh within four weeks provided the loan applications are complete in all respects, etc.

(d) and (e) While it cannot be stated that the banks are apathetic to satisfactory implementation of the PMRY, the actual performance of the banks in some Districts/States is not always satisfactory. The Government has set up an inter-Ministerial Group to review the PMRY and make recommendations for improving its efficacy. The information regarding District Credit Plan is not maintained at the central level. However, credit flow under the PMRY has increased from Rs. 1198 crore in 2002-03 to Rs. 1471 crore in 2004-05.

Committee on Mining Problems

2526. SHRIMATI JAYABEN B. THAKKAR: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government Committee set up under an Additional Secretary of Ministry of Mines has submitted a Report with recommendations to solve various mining problems;

(b) if so, the details of various recommendations made by the said Committee; and

(c) the details of the recommendations accepted and implemented so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The Additional Secretary Committee (AS Committee) has submitted its report. Meanwhile, a High Level Committee has been set up under the chairmanship of Shri Anwarul Hoda, Member, Planning Commission to review the National Mineral Policy and to recommend possible amendments to the Mines and Minerals (Development & Regulation) Act, 1957 to give a fillip to

private investment in the mining sector. The recommendations of the AS Committee have been sent for consideration of the High Level Committee. The High Level Committee has not submitted its recommendations yet.

Setting up of Study Centres

2527. SHRI JASHUBHAI DHANABHAI BARAD: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of study centres set up under the Total Literacy Programme, State-wise;

(b) whether there is any proposal to increase the study centres to achieve the target of educating all by 2015; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) The Total Literacy Programme is volunteer based and literacy is imparted by the Volunteer Teachers to non-literates. Volunteer Teachers impart literacy to learners at convenient locations. The programme is implemented in a campaign mode and does not envisage setting up of permanent study centres.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

State Trading Corporation in Retail Segment

2528. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether State Trading Corporation (STC) proposes to increase the share of the STC brand in the retail sector;

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

(c) the details of products being sold by STC through retail outlets; and

(d) the details of profit earned by STC through retail segment and proposed to earn after the expansion in retail segment?

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

INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) and (b) M/s STC, on a pilot scale, have introduced a few commodities in the retail sector, under its own brand name.

(c) The products sold by STC under its brand are Mustard Oil, Tea, Sugar, Pulses, Wheat Flour, Wheat, Rice, Dates, Honey and Cumin Seeds.

(d) The business turnover and margin, in the retail marketing of STC's branded products has been negligible. Being a pilot sale operation, it is premature to forecast the anticipated profit at this stage.

Commando Training to NSG Women

2529. SHRI E.G. SUGAVANAM: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to give training to more NSG women commandos for their deployment as sky marshals;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the requisite number of commandos will be fully trained for deployment?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) to (c) Women Commandos inducted in NSG against authorized strength are trained and deployed as per requirement of the force.

Educational System

2530. PROF. M. RAMADASS: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the World Bank has pointed out a defective picture of educational system, especially of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government agrees with the view that giving of greater importance to accountability, autonomy and local initiative is required to improve the educational system;

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

(e) the steps taken by the Government to improve the existing educational system?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (e) An independent review of implementation of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) is conducted every six months through a Joint Review Mission comprising the representatives of Development Partners (World Bank, European Commission (EC) and the Department for International Development (DFID) of United Kingdom) and representatives of Government of India. The last review was conducted during January 2006. Salient findings are indicated below:

- *Overall, more children in schools:* The number of out-of-school children in India has fallen from 25 million in 2002-03 to 13.5 million in 2005-06.
- *More girls, children from disadvantaged communities and disabled children in schools:* Share of girls in total enrolment rose from 44 per cent in 2002 to 47 per cent in 2005.
Share of children from Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe communities increased from 18.92% and 10.3% respectively in 2002-03 to 20.6% and 19.4% respectively in 2004-05.
Share of disabled children in primary schools rose from 0.6 to 1.37 percent during the same period.
- *More children moving to upper primary grades:* Transition rates primary to upper primary levels rose from 75 percent in 2002 to 87 percent in 2005.
- The trend towards greater decentralization and community participation is evident.

Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan has been focusing on greater empowerment of the community and community organisations for monitoring and supervision of the functioning of schools. The programme is implementing several measures to improve the quality of education and has put in place system for regular monitoring of students learning levels.

Creation of Basic Infrastructure in Cluster Basis

2531. SHRI K.C. PALANISAMY: Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the tiny sector industrial units under the integrated infrastructure development scheme for the

creation of basic infrastructure in cluster basis in Tamil Nadu;

(b) whether the scheme is being extended to other parts of the State where it is not in operation so far;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND MINISTER OF AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD): (a) The number of small and tiny units set up in the seven new Integrated Infrastructural Development (IID) Centres established in Tamil Nadu under the IID Scheme is 1094.

(b) and (c) The IID Scheme is demand-driven. Extension of the Scheme to other parts of Tamil Nadu thus depends on the State Government submitting acceptable proposals for this purpose.

(d) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Common Entrance Test

2532. SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR CHOUDHARY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has issued an order to conduct an All India Combined Examination for admissions in Management, Engineering and M.A. etc. courses from the year 2005-06 and onwards;

(b) if so, whether the said examination has been scrapped before being held;

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

(d) whether it is a move to maintain the autonomy of educational institutions disregarding the interests of students; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.A.A. FATMI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (e) Does not arise.

[English]

Education to Girls

2533. SHRIMATI JYOTIRMOYEE SIKDAR: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the University Grants Commission (UGC) has implemented the Single Girl Child Scholarship Scheme;

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

(c) the details of the UGC scholarship awardees since the introduction of the scheme, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.A.A. FATMI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. An eligible girl student is entitled for the Single Girl Child Scholarship. The Scholarship amount is Rs. 2,000 per month for a period of two years for each awardee.

(c) The UGC has not earmarked any number of scholarship State-wise. The selection of candidate is on the basis of fulfilling the eligibility criteria under the scheme. However, a State-wise list of awardees under the scheme of Indira Gandhi PG Scholarship for Girl Child is enclosed as Statement.

Statement

State-wise List of Candidates under the scheme of Indira Gandhi PG Scholarship for Single Girl Child (2005-2006)

Sl.No.	Name(s) of States/UTs	Number of Candidates Phase-I	Number of Candidates Phase-II	Total
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	0	0	0
2.	Andhra Pradesh	84	48	132

1	2	3	4	5
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	0	0	0
4.	Assam	6	2	8
5.	Bihar	5	0	5
6.	Chandigarh	0	1	1
7.	Chhattisgarh	0	1	1
8.	Daman and Diu	0	0	0
9.	Delhi	21	23	44
10.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	0	0	0
11.	Gujarat	10	3	13
12.	Goa	0	0	0
13.	Haryana	6	2	8
14.	Himachal Pradesh	4	1	5
15.	Jammu and Kashmir	1	0	1
16.	Jharkhand	5	3	8
17.	Karnataka	28	19	47
18.	Kerala	538	232	770
19.	Lakshadweep	0	0	0
20.	Madhya Pradesh	3	2	5
21.	Maharashtra	39	25	64
22.	Manipur	2	0	2
23.	Mizoram	3	3	6
24.	Meghalaya	0	0	0
25.	Nagaland	0	1	1
26.	Orissa	15	6	21
27.	Pondicherry	1	4	5
28.	Punjab	6	5	11
29.	Rajasthan	4	3	7
30.	Sikkim	0	0	0
31.	Tamil Nadu	128	113	301

1	2	3	4	5
32.	Tripura	3	9	12
33.	Uttar Pradesh	27	15	42
34.	Uttaranchal	6	3	9
35.	West Bengal	42	42	84
Total		1047	566	1613

Production of Copper and Lead

2534. SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the States producing copper and lead;

(b) the quantum of these minerals produced during each of the last three years and thereafter, State-wise; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to increase the production of copper and lead?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY): (a) States of Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Sikkim produce copper, whereas States of Andhra Pradesh, Rajasthan and Sikkim produce lead.

(b) State-wise annual production of copper ore is as under:

(Qty. in Tonnes)

States	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05 (P)
Jharkhand	89486	Nil*	Nil*
Madhya Pradesh	2273531	2321026	2053711
Rajasthan	701773	574283	871632
Sikkim [§]	6503	7663	5815
Total	3071293	2902972	2931158

* Due to uneconomic operation, production activities were stopped during June 2003 at Surda Mine in Ghatsila, Jharkhand.

§ The production of ore relates to multi metal ore containing Cu, Pb and Zn. (P) Provisional.

State-wise annual production of lead concentrate is as under:

(Qty. in Tonnes)

States	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05 (P)
Andhra Pradesh	3153	Nil	Nil
Rajasthan	55806	72958	81601
Sikkim	148	111	34
Total	59107	73069	81635

(P) Provisional.

(c) To increase the exploration and production of copper, lead etc., the Government of India has opened up the non-fuel and non-atomic mineral sector for private investment including foreign direct investment involving reconnaissance, prospecting and mining operations. Besides, prospecting work has been carried out by the Geological Survey of India and State Directorates of Geology & Mining. Hindustan Copper Limited, a public sector undertaking under the Ministry of Mines, has also stepped up its development work to sustain/increase production of ore in its leasehold areas. Hindustan Zinc Limited, which produces lead, has also expanded its mining and smelting capacity.

[Translation]

Production/Consumption of Cement

2535. DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY:
SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI:

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

(a) the production/consumption of cement in the country at present;

(b) the current percentage market share of foreign cement companies in the cement industry of the country;

(c) whether Swiss cement companies has captured 24 percent of Indian cement market by acquiring major stake of Gujarat Ambuja cement company too; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by the Government to protect the interests of Indian cement producers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL POLICY AND PROMOTION, MINISTRY

Sl.No.	Name of company	Foreign participant	Production (In Mn. tons) (Apr. 2005-Jan. 2006)	Share in total production
1.	Associated Cement Companies Ltd.	M/s. Holcim, Switzerland	14.62	12.67%
2.	Gujarat Ambuja Cements Ltd.	M/s. Holcim, Switzerland	12.35	10.70%
3.	Lafarge India Ltd.	M/s. Lafarge, France	3.71	3.21%
4.	Zuari Cement Ltd.	M/s. Italcementi, Italy	2.30	1.99%

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

[English]

Construction of Bridge over Lohit and Khabolu River

2536. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Will the Minister of DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION be pleased to refer to USQ No. 2915 dated 13.12.2005 and state:

(a) whether NEC has completed its examination of the projects relating to construction of bridge over Lohit and Khabolu river alongwith its connecting road and strengthening of the Lakhimpur College of Veterinary Science in Assam; and

(b) if so, the details and present status of the projects?

OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR): (a) The production and consumption of cement in the country at present is given as under:-

(In Million Tonnes)

Year	Production	Consumption
2004-05	127.57	123.08
2005-06 (Upto January, 2006)	115.40	110.28

(b) The production share of cement companies with foreign equity is as under:—

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION (SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH): (a) No, Sir. The DPR for the Bridge over Lohit and Khabolu river alongwith its connecting roads has not yet been received by the NEC from the Government of Assam. The project "Strengthening of Lakhimpur College of Veterinary Science" in Assam requires SFC approval. NEC has, therefore, requested the Government of Assam to submit the DPR together with the requisite SFC Memo which is awaited.

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

Examination Coaching Facility for STs

2537. SHRI M. SHIVANNA: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Department of Social Welfare is running P.E.T.C. at Bangalore to provide coaching to IAS/IPS/KPSC/CET and other competitive examinations for the ST students under the Centrally sponsored scheme;

(b) if so, whether Karnataka State has urged the Centre to release funds for the years 2004-05 and 2005-06;

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

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

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION (SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH): (a) to (d) The Ministry, under Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Coaching & Allied, received proposals from the Social Welfare Department, Government of Karnataka for imparting coaching to ST students for Civil Services (Prelims & Mains), Professional Courses, Subordinate Services and Lower Subordinate Services during the years 2004-05 and 2005-06. The Government of India has released Rs. 1.92 lakhs for imparting coaching to 62 ST students to the State Government during 2004-05. The proposal for 2005-06 for imparting coaching to 61 ST students has already been processed as per the procedure.

Import of Second Hand Telecom Goods

2538. SHRI SUGRIB SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has permitted import of second hand telecom capital goods in the country;

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

(c) the value of second hand telecom capital goods imported during each of the last three years and thereafter; and

(d) the extent to which the import of second hand telecom capital goods has affected quality of telecom services in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) and (b) Second hand capital goods are freely importable in terms of Para 2.17 of the Foreign Trade Policy. However, second hand personal computers, laptops, printers are not allowed except against a licence.

(c) The c.i.f. value of the licences of second hand computers/laptops during the last three years is:

2002-2003 & 2003-2004	Rs. 16,60,495.80
2004-2005	Rs. 24,75,15,238.25
2005-2006	Rs. 78,75,000.00

(d) Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has notified regulations on Quality of Services for various services. The services provided by Telecom Service Operators are monitored by TRAI with reference to parameters laid down. TRAI brings out quarterly report regarding services rendered by various service providers. As per report of TRAI there is no nexus between use of second hand capital goods and level of Quality of Service.

[Translation]

Setting up of World Class Universities

2539. CHAUDHARY BIJENDRA SINGH: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to establish some world class universities in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the site for setting up of such universities have been identified; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.A.A. FATMI): (a) The present policy is to encourage existing Central Universities and other institutions of higher learning to achieve excellence in quality.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Setting up of Small Scale Industries

2540. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has taken any steps to set up at least one small scale industry in each village to stop the exodus of unemployed to the urban areas; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND MINISTER OF AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD): (a) and (b) Small Scale Industries (SSI) are set up by individuals and not by the Government. However, the Central Government assists the States/Union Territories (UTs) in encouraging potential entrepreneurs to set up small scale industries all over the country, including villages. In particular, the Central Government assists the States/UTs in setting up new Integrated Infrastructural Development (IID) Centres (and also upgrading existing Industrial Estates) in which SSI units can be set up. Fifty per cent of these new IID Centre have to be in rural areas. Further, to facilitate setting up village industries, the Central Government implements two credit-linked subsidy schemes for employment generation, namely, the Rural Employment Generation Programme (REGP) in rural areas and small towns, and the Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana (PMRY) for the educated unemployed youth in the rural as well as urban areas.

[English]

Policy on Captive Iron Ore Mining

2541. SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Steel Industry has sought a policy framework from the Government that puts the processing of captive iron ore mining lease applications from the domestic integrated steel companies on the fast track;

(b) if so, whether the Industry has pointed out that such a move would neutralize the dis-advantage that exist in the form of high freight cost low level productivity poor infrastructure, high cost of power that makes Indian steel uncompetitive especially at a time when competition is getting fierce;

(c) if so, whether the Government has considered the proposal made by the steel Industry;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) to (e) A high level committee has been constituted under the Chairmanship of Shri Anwar-ul-Hoda, Member, Planning Commission, to review the National Mineral Policy, 1993 and recommend possible amendments to the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) (MMDR) Act, 1957. One of the Terms of Reference of the Committee is to review the existing procedures for granting mineral concessions and suggest ways for their streamlining and simplification. The Committee has not submitted its recommendations yet.

Alcoholic Personnel of CRPF

2542. SHRI KULDEEP BISHNOI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the CRPF has identified personnel who are in danger of getting alcoholic;

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

(c) the steps taken by the Government to launch a major intervention programme to save them from turning chronic tipplers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) and (b) Out of total force strength of 2,48,689, only 496 chronic cases of alcoholism have been found in CRPF. The reasons leading to alcoholism are: separation from family for long durations and stress, mostly due to domestic problems.

(c) To create awareness among force personnel about alcoholism and substance abuse, lectures are delivered by Medical Officers in Unit/GC about alcoholism and its abuse. Early symptoms and signs of addiction/dependence are explained. CRPF Wives Welfare Association (CWWA) in association with Society for Promotion of Youth Masses (SPYM) and UNODC (United Nation Office on Drug and Crime) has also taken an initiative in this regard.

Chronic cases of alcoholism are treated at Base Hospital of CRPF by psychiatrists and also in de-addiction clinics.

Single Window Clearance for Industrial Investment

2543. SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI:
SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN:
SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL:

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

(a) the details with regard to the system to be followed by an investor for investment in industrial sector;

(b) whether the investors are required to obtain clearance from several Government agencies prior to investment in industrial sector despite having the system of single window clearance;

(c) if so, the details thereof alongwith the measures being taken by the Government for the speedy disposal of industrial investment proposals;

(d) whether FICCI has requested the Government to get away with the cumbersome process of clearance of industrial investment proposals; and

(e) if so, the details thereof alongwith the reaction of the Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL POLICY AND PROMOTION, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR): (a) to (e) Under the liberalized economic environment, most sectors/activities have been deregulated from licensing requirements and entrepreneurs desirous of setting up of industrial units are required to file Industrial Entrepreneur Memorandum (IEM). Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) upto 100% is allowed under the automatic route in most sectors/activities. However, the policy is subject to sectoral regulations & requisite clearances. FICCI has requested the Government to simplify the clearance mechanism of industrial investment proposals. Industrial Policy, including FDI Policy, is reviewed on a continuing basis with a view to liberalise, and simplify the procedures.

Peace Talks with DHD

2544. SHRI SANSUMA KHUNGGUR BWISWMUTHIARY: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has initiated any formal political dialogue/peace talks with the Dimasha Militant Outfit—'DHD' of Assam; and

(b) if so, the details of the steps taken and progress made so far in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Three rounds of tripartite talks have been held to discuss the charter of demands submitted by the Dima Haram Daogah (DHD). The talks are inconclusive.

Minerals of Economic Value

2545. SHRI M. RAJA MOHAN REDDY: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to identify minerals of economic value which would contribute in the growth of agricultural and health sectors; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY): (a) and (b) Investigation programmes for fertilizer minerals like phosphorite, apatite etc. in Sidhi district of Madhya Pradesh and Purulia district of West Bengal are being carried out by Geological Survey of India. Reserves of phosphorite in Sagar/Chattarpur and Jhabua districts of Madhya Pradesh have been identified by Mineral Exploration Corporation Limited.

Misutilisation of Funds

2546. SHRI D.V. SADANAND GOWDA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Funds granted for flood relief works to the State of Karnataka are being misutilised;

(b) if so, whether the Union Government has received any complaints in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof alongwith actual amount given, utilized and lapsed during current year; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) and (b) No complaint has been received by the Ministry of Home Affairs regarding misutilisation of funds released from the Calamity Relief Fund/National Calamity Contingency Fund to the State Government of Karnataka towards flood relief operations during the year 2005.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

*[Translation]***Re-Investigation of Gujarat Violence Cases**

2547. SHRI MOHAN SINGH:
SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAIISI:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Supreme Court has directed the State Government of Gujarat to re-investigate the cases of Godhra incident;

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

(c) whether the State Government of Gujarat has started investigation afresh;

(d) whether the Union Government proposes to rehabilitate the victims of Gujarat riots on the lines of the riots of 1984;

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

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) As per the information received from the State Government of Gujarat, an offence under Godhra Railway Police Station-I has been registered for the incident of fire that took place in S-6 coach of Sabarmati Express on 27.2.2002. Several petitions for transfer of the investigation of the case have been filed in the Supreme Court. No direction either for re-investigation or for transfer of the case has yet been given by the Supreme Court. The case is pending for trial in the POTA Court. The Supreme Court has stayed the trial of this case.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

(d) to (f) At present there is no such proposal since the riots of 1984 were not communal riots as only one community was affected and as such had to be dealt altogether on different footing.

*[English]***New Agro and Rural Industries Policy**

2548. SHRI SUBODH MOHITE: Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to formulate a new Agro and Rural Industries policy; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND MINISTER OF AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD): (a) and (b) The Government has been promoting khadi, village and coir industries through the Rural Employment Generation Programme (REGP), Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana (PMRY), schemes for development of the khadi and coir sectors, etc. Further, in keeping with the declaration in the National Common Minimum Programme and announcement in the July 2004 budget speech of the Finance Minister, the Government has introduced a bill in the Lok Sabha to amend the existing Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) Act with the aim of revamping the organisation and functions of the KVIC and also approved the Scheme of Fund for Regeneration of Traditional Industries (SFURTI) for development of 100 clusters in the khadi, coir and village industries, over five years beginning 2005-06.

*[Translation]***Mining and Geological Studies**

2549. SHRI KAILASH NATH SINGH YADAV: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) the achievements made by Indian mining and geological studies during the last three years;

(b) whether funds allocated for the mining and geological studies are not being optimally utilized;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) the details of funds allocated and schemes under the IBM-BRGM projects by the Union Government, scheme-wise;

(e) the details of funds allocated and utilized for the purchase of equipment for laboratories for Indian Mines Bureau; and

(f) the details of works completed during Ninth Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY): (a) to (f) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Promotion of Marketing of Tribal Products

2550. SHRI TEK LAL MAHTO: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is considering to promote the marketing of tribal products/produce;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the contribution of TRIFED in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION (SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH): (a) to (c) The promotion and marketing of tribal products/produce is being done through the Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India Ltd. (TRIFED).

TRIFED undertakes the promotion and marketing of tribal handicrafts and processed/value-added Minor Forest Produce (MFP) and Surplus Agricultural Produce (SAP) through a series of marketing and development initiatives, e.g.:

- Direct sale through their eleven sales-outlets called 'TRIBES India' and by consignment sales through twenty State Level Organisations located in 22 cities in various States. TRIBES India is also engaged in exporting handicrafts abroad.
- Retail marketing of tribal MFP products like Honey, Hill Brooms, Shikakai, Soapnut, Amla and Medicinal Powders besides organically grown agricultural produce like Rajma, Cashew, Red Chilli, Turmeric, etc.
- TRIFED promotes these tribal products by participating in exhibitions and meals also and displaying these items.
- TRIFED also organizes Tribal Artisan Melas in which they invite tribal artisans to display their skills and sell their products as well.
- In January 2006 TRIFED organised a National Tribal Craft Expo in Delhi at the Delhi Haat for display and sale of art and craft of tribals of various States.
- TRIFED also imparts training to tribals so as to upgrade their skills and to educate them on ways of sustainable collection as well as improved

quality of Minor Forest Produce in respect of MFP products like wild honey extraction, production of Hill Brooms, making of leaf-plates/leaf-cups (pattals/donnas) etc. It is also proposing to impart training to gum pickers/collectors.

- TRIFED has started a project for cultivation and marketing of medical plants (like Safed Musli) at Jagdalpur, Distt. Bastar, Chhattisgarh.

[English]

Custodial Death

2551. SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY:
SHRI UDAY SINGH:
SHRI M.K. SUBBA:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the police in various States, particularly in Delhi are not following guidelines in respect of cases of arrest and detention;
- (b) if so, the reasons thereof alongwith the action taken in this regard;
- (c) whether the Supreme Court has expressed concern over the growing number of custodial violence in the country and police using third degree methods to interrogate the accused;
- (d) if so, the reaction of the Government on the views of the Supreme Court;
- (e) the number of custodial deaths reported during each of the last three years, State-wise and UT-wise; and
- (f) the action taken by the Government against such erring officers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) to (d) The Government has circulated the guidelines laid down by the Hon'ble Supreme Court on arrest and detention to all the State Governments and Union Territories (UTs) for compliance. The Hon'ble Supreme Court has directed the State Human Rights Commissions to constitute a sub committee in their respective Commissions with a view to oversee whether the

11 requirements as spelt out in D.K. Basu's case are being carried out or not and to take all such further necessary steps as are required to ensure that those requirements are carried out. It shall be open to such sub-committee to make surprise checks with a view to see actual implementation of those requirements. The Hon'ble Supreme Court has further directed that the report of the action taken by the Committee constituted by the State Human Rights Commissions, as per the order above, is to be sent to them directly.

(e) As per the reports received by the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) from various States and UTs, a statement indicating the number of custodial deaths from the year 2003-2004, 2004-2005 and 2005-2006 (upto 28.2.2006) is enclosed.

(f) Law and Order is a State subject. The NHRC, however, makes recommendations to the State Government concerned to take disciplinary action, which include prosecution as well as compensation, against the errant officers involved in custodial deaths, wherever their guilt has been established after inquiry by NHRC.

Statement

Custodial Deaths reported to NHRC from State Governments during the years 2003-2004 to 2005-2006 (Up to 28.2.2006)

State	2003-2004			2004-2005			2005-2006 (Up to 28.2.2006)		
	PC	JC	Total	PC	JC	Total	PC	JC	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Andhra Pradesh	10	114	124	13	116	129	7	124	131
Arunachal Pradesh	2	1	3	—	2	2	1	—	1
Assam	6	18	24	4	11	15	4	25	29
Bihar	9	139	148	3	150	153	1	227	228
Goa	—	—	0	—	4	4	1	4	5
Gujarat	20	37	57	15	54	69	19	49	68
Haryana	2	49	51	2	49	51	3	57	60
Himachal Pradesh	—	2	2	—	5	5	—	5	5
Jammu and Kashmir	—	—	0	—	—	0	1	—	1
Karnataka	4	52	56	9	51	60	5	57	62
Kerala	4	51	55	6	51	57	5	38	43
Madhya Pradesh	3	30	33	2	49	51	3	38	41
Maharashtra	32	148	180	23	138	161	18	104	122
Manipur	—	—	0	—	—	0	—	—	0
Meghalaya	3	3	6	2	6	8	0	4	4
Mizoram	—	2	2	—	—	0	—	—	0

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Nagaland	—	0	0	—	—	0	0	—	0
Orissa	1	52	53	3	39	42	2	40	42
Punjab	7	81	88	6	65	71	6	90	96
Rajasthan	5	45	50	—	50	50	7	46	53
Sikkim	—	—	0	—	—	0	—	—	0
Tamil Nadu	12	106	118	9	98	107	6	91	97
Tripura	—	—	0	1	4	5	1	4	5
Uttar Pradesh	18	199	217	7	219	226	17	235	252
West Bengal	13	43	56	11	64	75	8	66	74
Andman and Nicobar Islands	—	—	0	—	1	1	—	3	2
Chandigarh	—	4	4	1	3	4	—	3	3
Dadra and Nagar Haveli	—	—	0	—	—	0	—	—	0
Daman and Diu	—	—	0	—	—	0	—	—	0
Delhi	3	22	25	5	27	32	3	28	31
Lakshadweep	—	—	0	—	—	0	—	—	0
Pondicherry	1	—	1	1	—	1	—	1	1
Chhattiegarh	2	42	44	5	26	31	2	48	50
Jharkhand	3	53	56	5	66	71	4	56	60
Uttaranchal	2	7	9	3	9	12	—	9	9
Total Cases	162	1300	1462	136	1357	1493	124	1451	1575

[Translation]

Pre-Exam Coaching Scheme

2552. SHRI KRISHNA MURARI MOGHE: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether proposals worth Rs. 6.40 lakh under pre-exam coaching scheme for vocational courses for students belonging to Scheduled Tribe in Madhya Pradesh for pending with the Union Government; and

(b) the time by which the said amount is likely to be sanctioned by the Union Government?

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION (SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH): (a) and (b) No such proposal is pending with the Ministry. The Ministry has sanctioned an amount of Rs. 19.63 lakhs to the State Government of Madhya Pradesh for providing pre-examination coaching to scheduled tribes students for professional courses (Medical and Engineering) examinations during 2004-05. Out of this, an amount of Rs. 13.23 lakh was released during 2004-05 and the balance amount of Rs. 6.40 lakh has already been released during the current financial year.

Quality of Education

2553. PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR:
SHRI SHISHUPAL PATLE:

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

(a) the amount sanctioned by the Government for improving the quality of education in Government and aided schools during the expired period of the current Five Year Plan, year-wise;

(b) whether some schools have been identified for this purpose and assessment made of the required funds in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether any steps have been taken to improve the quality of education of science in the revised plan;

(e) if so, whether the States have submitted district-wise lists of such schools to the Central Government; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor alongwith the efforts made by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.A.A. FATMI): (a) to (f) The National Policy on Education accords priority for improvement of the standard of education at all levels. Concerns regarding quality and equity are continuously addressed by the Central and State Governments through appropriate interventions at various levels. Such interventions include infrastructure development, supply of teaching-learning material, periodic revision of the curricula, introduction of subjects in new and emerging areas, value education, teachers' training and deployment, and reforms in the examination system. During the Tenth Five Year Plan, it was decided to introduce a composite Centrally Sponsored Scheme called "Quality Improvement in Schools" by converging the following five existing schemes of this Department:-

- (i) Improvement of Science Education in Schools;
- (ii) Environment Orientation to School Education;
- (iii) Introduction of Yoga in Schools;

(iv) National Population Education Project; and

(v) International Science Olympiads.

It has been decided to transfer the component "Improvement of Science Education in Schools" to the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations as a State Sector Scheme. The States/UTs shall make provision for the scheme in their budgets as per their requirements.

The other four components would be implemented by the National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT), an autonomous body under the Department of Secondary & Higher Education, from 2006-07. The expenditure incurred on the scheme of 'Quality Improvement in Schools' during the first three years of the Tenth Five Year Plan is indicated below:-

Year	Expenditure (Rs. in lakh)
2002-03	1843.15
2003-04	1113.09
2004-05	513.84

[English]

Language Training Programmes

2554. SHRI DUSHYANT SINGH: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the tribal language programmes have been organized by the Government in various States;

(b) if so, whether any such programme has been organized in Rajasthan and Chhattisgarh; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION (SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH): (a) Under Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA), the States of Andhra Pradesh, Orissa, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Jharkhand, Karnataka and Assam have implemented some programmes for helping tribal students in bridging the gap between the home and school language at the primary level. These initiatives are in the nature of primers for classes I to III, glossaries and bridge language inventories, workshops, alphabets and word cards and teacher training programmes.

(b) and (c) Rajasthan has not implemented any such programme. Chhattisgarh has reported that Kurdk (Oraon) & Halbi language programme has been prepared from Class I to V, but has not been implemented.

Filling up of Reserved Posts In Andaman and Nicobar Islands

2555. SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the latest position in regard to filling up of posts reserved for all reserved categories in Andaman & Nicobar Administration;

(b) whether all the posts of these reserved quotas has been filled up completely with no backlog of vacancies;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the time by which all the reserved quota vacancies will be filled up?

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

Loan for Self Employment

2556. SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA: Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the schemes being running by the Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) to provide loans for self-employment to the handicapped persons

and persons belonging to Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, backward classes and lower income groups;

(b) the number of persons benefited in each State under the scheme during the last three years and current year, till date, State-wise;

(c) whether the Government proposes to formulate any new scheme in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND MINISTER OF AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD): (a) The Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) has been implementing a Central sector credit-linked subsidy Programme, titled the Rural Employment Generation Programme (REGP), in collaboration with the Khadi and Village Industries Boards (KVIBs) of the respective States/Union Territories (UTs). Under this programme, eligible entrepreneurs are assisted in establishing village industries, by availing of loans from public sector scheduled commercial banks, selected regional rural banks, cooperative banks, etc., and also margin money assistance (subsidy) from the KVIC, for projects with a maximum cost of Rs. 25 lakh. Entrepreneurs belonging to the categories of scheduled castes, ex-servicemen, women, etc., are entitled to a higher margin money assistance.

(b) State-wise details of the additional employment generated under the REGP during 2002-03, 2003-04, 2004-05 and 2005-06 (upto January 2006) are given in the enclosed Statement.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Statement

State-wise additional employment generated under the REGP during 2002-03, 2003-04, 2004-05 and 2005-06 (upto January 2006)

Sl.No.	State/Union Territories	Employment (Number of persons)			
		2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06 (upto January 2006)
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	1392	504	93	4495
2.	Bihar	1965	3818	5049	5063

1	2	3	4	5	6
3.	Jharkhand	9398	3968	6855	3491
4.	Orissa	2816	13431	15241	3496
5.	Sikkim	120	2140	3227	607
6.	West Bengal	22531	27350	36581	30074
7.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	192	61	0	0
8.	Daman and Diu	0	0	0	0
9.	Goa	3556	1715	1670	1845
10.	Gujarat	1717	2236	8581	10924
11.	Maharashtra	27990	15498	25040	23442
12.	Chandigarh	7	162	188	36
13.	Delhi	293	231	144	106
14.	Haryana	15964	33201	35691	18313
15.	Himachal Pradesh	11644	13485	12256	9009
16.	Jammu and Kashmir	3129	6845	9406	13532
17.	Punjab	31461	13600	30665	16168
18.	Rajasthan	43040	51337	38287	27024
19.	Andhra Pradesh	34500	31996	66463	44565
20.	Karnataka	29648	29958	19478	10508
21.	Kerala	21394	50291	16434	12683
22.	Lakshadweep	0	127	0	0
23.	Pondicherry	5	219	146	566
24.	Tamil Nadu	11017	24028	19159	6172
25.	Chhattisgarh	7254	19815	18347	12745
26.	Madhya Pradesh	10947	23683	40539	10901
27.	Uttaranchal	6881	16825	10471	4928
28.	Uttar Pradesh	42652	57847	64900	28422
29.	Arunachal Pradesh	806	864	1219	1393
30.	Assam	7003	15548	25768	23868
31.	Manipur	2196	682	1313	118

1	2	3	4	5	6
32.	Meghalaya	2515	2171	3789	1778
33.	Mizoram	3970	1174	5180	2914
34.	Nagaland	981	2332	3851	1475
35.	Tripura	2021	4316	3994	1953
Total		361005	471458	530025	332614

Institute of Advanced Studies in Education

2557. SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the main objectives of setting up of Institute of Advanced Studies in Education;

(b) whether the said institute is facing the problem in co-relating the Indian traditions with the need and aspirations of the modern world;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the main proposals of the Institute to study the Indian culture scientifically?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.A.A. FATMI): (a) The Institute of Advanced Studies in Education (IASE) of Gandhi Vidya Mandir, Sardarshahr (Rajasthan) has the main objective of providing instruction training and research for the advancement and dissemination of knowledge.

(b) Government do not maintain record of the problems of individual institutions and no problem co-relating the Indian traditions with the need and aspirations of the modern world, concerning IASE, has been brought to the notice of the Government.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Government is not aware of the proposal of IASE to study the Indian culture scientifically.

NCERT

2558. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether National Council of Education Research and Training (NCERT) has agreed to help the State Government to revise their syllabi to ensure that this becomes more student friendly;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the NCERT is intending to grant Rs. 10 lakh to each State in addition to technical support;

(d) whether after reviving the national curriculum, the NCERT has decided to lend a helping hand to the State Government for making their information based syllabi more attractive in approach;

(e) if so, the extent to which these new books for the States has helped the students; and

(f) the total amount so far provided to the Government of Karnataka?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.A.A. FATMI): (a) to (f) Following the approval of National Curriculum Framework (NCF)-2005 by the Central Advisory Board of Education (CABE) in September, 2005, National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) has given suggestions to the States to set up core groups to ensure that syllabi used in States and UTs reflect ideas presented in NCF-2005. NCERT has offered to provide technical resource support to the core groups set up by States/UTs through the involvement of resource persons. NCERT has not released any funds to Government of Karnataka for this purpose so far.

Setting up of Additional Schools

2559. SHRIMATI ARCHANA NAYAK:
SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR:

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

(a) whether the Government proposes to set up 350 additional Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalayas in the country;

(b) if so, the number of students belonging to scheduled castes, scheduled tribes, other backward classes and minorities likely to be benefited by the new schools; and

(c) the funds earmarked and its expected time of completion?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (c) Government of India has approved 430 additional Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalayas (KGBV) on 1st February, 2006 within the total allocation for the KGBV Scheme for the Tenth Plan. In view of the targeted nature of the scheme, a minimum of 75% of the enrolment is reserved for girls from Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, Other Backward Classes and Minorities in these KGBVs. Around 32,400 girls are likely to be enrolled in these schools.

Indian International Trade Fair

2560. SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the India International Trade Fair (IITF) is earning huge profits for the Government;

(b) if so, the details of profits for last three years;

(c) whether there is any proposal to increase the number of days of the IITF which is also a long pending demand; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) and (b) The surplus from IITF during the last three years is as follows:

(Rs. in Lakhs)

Year	Gross surplus	Net Surplus
2002-03	1726.59	1026.93
2003-04	2002.92	1343.06
2004-05	2131.88	1416.55

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Import of Milk and Milk Products

2561. SHRI MADAN LAL SHARMA:
SHRI K.C. PALANISAMY:

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

(a) whether there has been steep increase in imports of milk and milk products during the last three years and thereafter;

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

(c) its impact on domestic manufacturers and producers of these items?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) No, Sir.

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

Seizure of Arms/Ammunition from Infiltrators

2562. SHRI B. MAHTAB: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Bangladeshi infiltrators sneaked into the country from various borders during each of the last three years, till date;

(b) the details of arms and ammunitions seized from such infiltrators during the said period;

(c) the status of the legal proceedings against these infiltrators in various courts; and

(d) the details of diplomatic steps taken with Bangladesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) to (d) Normally infiltration from across the border takes place clandestinely. It is difficult to determine the precise magnitude of infiltration and seizure of arms and ammunition from the infiltrators. However, during the last

three (3) years 164 arms and 11903 ammunitions have been seized by the BSF on Indo-Bangladesh border. All apprehended Bangladeshi nationals and infiltrators have been handed over to the State police or pushed back to Bangladesh. The issue of illegal infiltration of Bangladesh nationals has been taken up with the Government of Bangladesh diplomatically, including D.G. level talks between BSF and Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) and Home Secretary level meetings of both the countries.

[Translation]

**Regularisation of Teachers Appointment
In KVS on Ad-hoc Basis**

2563. SHRIMATI RANJEET RANJAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the norms adopted for appointment of primary teachers on ad-hoc basis in Kendriya Vidyalayas;

(b) the number of teachers appointed on ad-hoc basis during 2000-2003;

(c) whether the services of some teachers appointed during the above period have been terminated;

(d) if so, the reasons of termination of their services;

(e) whether some teachers appointed during the above period have been appointed on substantive basis;

(f) if so, the reasons therefor;

(g) whether some public representatives have written letters to the Government in this regard; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.A.A. FATMI): (a) As per the existing policy of Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan no primary teacher is being appointed on ad-hoc basis at present.

(b) Nil.

(c) to (h) In view of (b) above, do not arise.

[English]

Vacant Posts in Colleges

2564. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether NET clearance is essential for the appointment of Lecturers in University colleges even for the candidates who has passed M. Phil/Ph.D.;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the number of vacancies lying vacant in the colleges in Delhi and outside under central universities/institutions, till date, faculty-wise;

(d) the number of candidates declared successful in each NET examination since January 2001 alongwith the number of candidates appeared in each examination; and

(e) the manner by which the Government propose to fill up the backlog in the appointment of Lecturers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.A.A. FATMI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The NET was introduced to make rigorous merit based selection of suitable persons in the teaching profession.

(c) No centralized data is being maintained in regard to Colleges. As regards Central Universities, 1056 posts of lecturers are lying vacant in 16 Central Universities as on 31.3.2005.

(d) The number of candidates appeared and declared successful in the UGC-NET since January, 2001 are given as under:-

Date	Candidates Appeared	Qualified
June, 2001	75776	2400
Dec., 2001	89946	2037
June, 2002	74324	1861
Dec., 2002	53854	1976
June, 2003	73738	1644
Dec., 2003	81714	4632
June, 2004	81503	3291
Dec., 2004	107049	3951
June, 2005	95590	5470

(e) As the vacancies are attributed to the administrative reasons, it is the responsibility of the concerned educational institutions/authorities to fill up the vacancies.

Recommendation of Committee on Conversion

2565. SHRIMATI JAYABEN B. THAKKAR: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a committee under the leadership/ chairmanship of Justice Shri Bhawani Shankar Niyogi was constituted on April 14, 1956 has already submitted its report to the Government on the conversion of poor backward classes people to Christianity;

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

(c) the action taken by the Government on various recommendations of the above committee so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) to (c) The Christian Missionary Activities Enquiry Committee was set up under the Chairmanship of Justice (Dr.) M. Bhawani Shankar Niyogi by the Government of Madhya Pradesh *vide* their Resolution dated 14.4.1954. The Committee submitted its Report on the 18th April, 1956 to the Government of Madhya Pradesh. Since the Committee was constituted by the Government of Madhya Pradesh, the Union Government was neither concerned with the examination of the report nor taking follow up action.

Price and Production of Coffee

2566. SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the production of coffee in India is about 4% of total production of coffee in the world and exporting 75% of its total production;

(b) if so, whether the prices received by the farmers are not adequate;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Coffee growers are presently getting remunerative prices.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) The Government of India has approved a "Coffee Relief Package" aimed at debt amelioration which envisages equal sharing of total interest burden estimated to Rs. 287.10 crore on Special Coffee Term Loan (SCTL) during the three year moratorium period amongst the banks, the Government and the grower loanees to the extent of one third each; requesting the banks to lower the interest rates charged on SCTL from existing 11% to 9% or rate applicable to agriculture sector whichever is lower, during the remaining repayment period of SCTL loans; writing off of coffee developmental loans along with interest amounting to around Rs. 24 crore, due from the Coffee Board to the Government of India—the Coffee Board will in turn waive the old developmental loans amounting to around Rs. 64.59 crore extended by the Board to the coffee growers having holdings below 10 hectares only and continuing the interest subsidy scheme on working capital loans for small growers (below 10 ha.) at the rate of 5% and large growers at the rate of 3% for the remaining years of the Tenth Plan. The coffee package has been welcomed by the growers.

[Translation]

Use of Hindi Language for Correspondence

2567. DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY:
SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any scheme is being formulated to encourage the use of Hindi in all the correspondence between the Government and various companies (national and multinational) set up in the country;

(b) if so, whether discussions are being held between the Department of Official Language and the companies;

(c) if so, whether Department of Official Language has invited suggestions in this regard from the major industrial bodies of the country;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the details of suggestions received from the industrial sector and the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT):

(a) No, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) to (e) Committee of Parliament on Official language, in seventh part of its Report has recommended that "Correspondence in Hindi with the Government should be made mandatory for those Multi-National Companies as well as Domestic companies, who use Hindi to publicise and promote the sale of their products. At the same time the Government should also respond in Hindi." The President's order passed on this recommendation directs that the Department of Official Language may discuss this issue with concerned parties.

The Department of Official Language have invited the comments of Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industries, Confederation of Indian Industries, Association of Chambers of Commerce & P.H.D. Chambers of Commerce and Industries in this regard. No comments have been received so far from them. Chambers of Industries have not given any suggestion.

[English]

Loss to Coffee Crops

2568. SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether coffee board has reported loss of arabica crop in almost all States;

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

(c) the total crop lost till date since November 2005; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to help the coffee growers?

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

INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) to (c) A total crop loss of 7050 MTs in arabica coffee has been estimated by the Board mainly in Karnataka and to some extent in Tamil Nadu during the year 2005-06. The main reason for the loss is due to the flare up of White Stem Borer (WSB) infestation and consequent removal of infested plants. High incidence of WSB in the coffee growing areas has occurred mainly due to the hostile weather conditions in the last three years like inadequate rainfall prolonged drought period, higher temperature range etc., which is conducive for proliferation of WSB.

(d) To reduce the pest inoculums in the arabica plantations, Coffee Board launched the 'Catch and Kill Programme' during 2004-05 under which growers were provided incentives for mechanically collecting grubs and adults. This helped in considerable reduction in the pest population. Further, such planters were also provided with free of cost seedling to replace the borer affected plants. A Multi Country Project is in operation to study the pest bio-cycle further and to find out feasible methods to control it. In addition to this National level Multi Institutional collaborative studies were also initiated by associating Tamil Nadu Agriculture University (TNAU), University of Agricultural Sciences (UAS) and Horticultural Institutes in the country to develop a viable eco-friendly method of combat the pest. Board has also intensified its extension programmes to combat the WSB problem on war footing with intensive campaigns on measures for control of WSB, testing quality to pesticides available in the market, use of pheromone traps technology, supply of coffee seedlings to replace WSB affected and removed plants and supply of desirable shade tree saplings to build up optimum shade.

Mining in Ramanadurga

2569. SHRI M. SHIVANNA: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Karnataka has submitted a proposal to Union Government to start mining work in Ramanadurga in Bellary district of Karnataka;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Union Government has cleared the said proposal;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the time by which the said proposal is likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Details are as under:—

Name of Applicant	Mineral	Area	Status
M/s Salgaoncar Mining India (P) Ltd.	Iron ore and manganese ore	376.50 hecets.	Matter <i>sub-judice</i> .
M/s Kumar Enterprises	Iron ore	7.69 hecets.	State Government of Karnataka has been asked to send comments on allegations received against the proposal.
M/s Zeenath Transport Company	Iron ore and manganese ore	50 hecets.	Received on 7.3.2006.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) It is not possible to indicate the time that would be required for taking a decision on the proposals.

Indo-Vietnam Economic Relations

2570. SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has fixed different tariff rates for the imports from different countries;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the reasons therefor, country-wise and product-wise;

(c) whether the tariff rate fixed for the imports from Vietnam is much more than that fixed by Vietnam on imports from India;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor, alongwith the total trade between India and Vietnam during the last three years;

(e) whether Vietnam has requested the Government to reduce the tariff for balance of trade between the two countries;

(f) if so, the steps taken or being taken in this regard;

(g) whether India is investing in Vietnam; and

(h) if so, the details thereof alongwith the details of other countries wherein India is investing?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) Under the Most Favoured Nation (MFN) obligation of the WTO, a member country has to maintain the same tariffs for all other WTO member countries. WTO however, allows member countries to maintain preferential tariffs under preferential trade agreements. India being a WTO member maintains the same tariffs for all other WTO member countries and even for non-WTO members. India maintains preferential tariffs for several countries with which it has preferential trade agreements.

(b) India has entered into preferential trade agreements with several countries. The details of such countries and the preferences offered in tariffs are available on the official website of this Department at www.commerce.nic.in.

(c) and (d) Each country determines the level of its import duty on various factors including *inter alia* level of protection need for domestic industry, revenue implications etc. India-Vietnam bilateral trade for the years 2002-03, 2003-04 and 2004-05 amounted to US\$ 366.57 million, US\$ 448.65 million and US\$ 607.51 million respectively.

(e) and (f) A Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement (CECA) is being negotiated with ASEAN countries, of which Vietnam is a member. Reduction in tariff amongst the Parties is an important aspect of the CECA.

(g) and (h) Total investment from India into Vietnam as on December 2005 is US \$ 580 million (Source: Ministry of Planning & Investment of Vietnam).

[Translation]

Conference of Directors of States

2571. SHRI BALESHWAR YADAV: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the issue on which Celebrations were held in the conference of the Directors of States Council for Educational Research and Training and principals of the District Teachers Training Institutes held in Delhi recently;

(b) the issues on which consensus was reached in this conference; and

(c) the follow up action proposed to be taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) and (b) The main issues on which deliberations were held and consensus arrived at were:-

- (i) Role of State Councils of Educational Research and Training (SCERTs) and District Institutes of Education and Training (DIETs) in providing academic resource support for achieving quality elementary education as well as need for them to take up Action Research and act as Evaluation Centres for improving the quality of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan and Mid-Day Meal.
- (ii) Need for strengthening linkages between SCERTs, DIETs and Block Resource Centres (BRCs)/Cluster Resource Centres (CRCs) so the SCERTs could mentor DIETs and DIETs in turn could provide resource support to BRCs/CRCs.
- (iii) Role of SCERTs/DIETs in effective implementation of Quality Monitoring Tools developed by NCERT in respect of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan.
- (iv) SCERT's role in Adolescent Education.

(v) Need for capacity building of SCERT/DIET faculty so that they can effectively discharge the mandate given to them.

(c) Specially designed programmes for capacity building of faculty of SCERTs and DIETs have been worked out with institutions of repute viz. Administrative Staff College of India, Hyderabad and Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad.

DIETs have been entrusted the work of quarterly assessment of Mid-Day Meal.

Role of DIETs and SCERTs in effective implementation of Quarterly Monitoring Tools developed by NCERT has been clearly identified and defined.

[English]

Seizure of Arms

2572. SHRI SUBODH MOHITE: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether arms seized by security forces in Jammu & Kashmir are rusting;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the details of the arms seized by forces from terrorists during each of the last three years;

(d) whether the Government has any plan to use these arms;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) to (f) No Sir. As per information received from the Government of Jammu and Kashmir, the arms and ammunitions seized by the Security Forces are properly maintained and kept in Malkhanas of different police stations in the State. These arms and ammunitions remain court property.

The details of arms seized from terrorists during each of the last three years are shown below:-

Sl.No.	Items	Year 2003	Year 2004	Year 2005
1.	AK Rifles	1440	962	950
2.	Pistol/revolvers	344	229	224
3.	UMG's	08	03	05
4.	Carbine's	03	03	03
5.	RPG's	69	59	37
6.	GPMG's	01	05	0
7.	LMG's/SLR's	18	20	25
8.	Sniper Rifles	11	12	13
9.	Rocket Launchers	30	14	15
10.	Rockets Boosters	133	104	103
11.	Rockets	144	48	74
12.	Hand Grenades	3733	2222	2879
13.	IED's	229	260	203
14.	AP Mines	124	69	89
15.	AT Mines	08	02	05
16.	Wireless sets	664	468	455

Computer Education

2573. SHRI JASHUBHAI DHANABHAI BARAD:
SHRI JUAL ORAM:

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

(a) the details of Government run school which have introduced computer education in their curriculum during the last two years in different parts of the country; and

(b) the steps are being taken by the Government to increase computer proficiency in different parts of the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.A.A. FATMI): (a) Computer education has been introduced at Secondary and Senior Secondary level by all the Boards

in the country. In regard to schools affiliated with Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE), three computer related subjects have been introduced at +2 level and one optional additional subject in classes IX and X. Among the CBSE affiliated schools, 300 State Government schools, 412 Kendriya Vidyalayas and 43 Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalayas have introduced these subjects at +2 level during the last 2 years.

(b) In order to increase the computer proficiency among students, CBSE has adopted a multi-tiered approach to curriculum design in the IT segment.

CBSE also conducts regular teacher training programmes in computer based subjects at different centres across the country in order to update the skills, knowledge and pedagogy of teachers.

Under the centrally sponsored scheme "ICT @ Schools", assistance is provided to State/UT Governments

to promote use of information and communication technology especially in higher secondary and secondary Government schools.

Research and Training Activities for Tribals

2574. SHRI SUGRIB SINGH: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of research and training activities undertaken by the Union Government for the welfare of tribal people in the country during each of the last three years and current year particularly in Orissa and Gujarat;

(b) the number of people/scholars assigned by the research work in the country, State-wise;

(c) the extent to which success has been achieved;

(d) whether the Union Government proposes to start any new such activities in Orissa and Gujarat; and

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

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION (SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH): (a) to (c) The research and training activities are implemented under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme "Research and Training". The Ministry releases funds on 50:50 matching basis of sixteen State Governments for Tribal Research Institutes (TRIs) and 100% central assistance to U.T. Administration. These

Institutes are engaged in the work relating to planning inputs, conducting research/evaluation studies, conduct of training, seminars and workshops, codification of customary laws and tribal museums for exhibiting tribal artifacts. Under the scheme 'Award of Research Fellowship in various aspects of Tribal Development', 100% grant is given to the State Governments for disbursement of research fellowship and contingency grant to the research scholars doing Ph.D and Post Doctoral courses related to tribal development. State-wise funds released to State Governments for Tribal Research Institutes for the last three years and current year and number of scholars receiving fellowships are given in the enclosed Statement-I.

The Ministry also provides 100% financial assistance under the scheme 'Supporting Projects of All India or Inter State Nature' to the Non-Governmental Research Organizations, Universities and Institutions for undertaking research/evaluation studies, conducting of seminars/workshops and publication of literature related to tribal development. The details indicating state-wise number of Non Governmental Organizations, research/evaluation studies, seminars/workshops and publication on tribal development commissioned during the last three years and current year are given in the enclosed Statement-II. The input of these efforts is helpful in planning and effective implementation of welfare schemes.

(d) and (e) No such proposal is under consideration.

Statement I

The amount released to different states for Tribal Research Institutes and Award of Research Fellowship

(Rs. in lakhs)

Sl.No.	Name of State/T.R.I.s	2002-2003			2003-2004			2004-2005			2005-2006						
		TRI	Fellow. Amount released	Total of No. of Column Scholars (3+4)	TRI	Fellow. Amount released	Total of No. of Column Scholars (7+8)	TRI	Fellow. Amount released	Total of No. of Column Scholars (11+12)	TRI	Fellow.*** Amount released	Total of No. of Column Scholars (15+16)				
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
1.	Andhra Pradesh	5.00	0.48	1	5.48	4.00	0.92	2	4.92	—	0.48	1	0.48	—	—	—	—
2.	Assam	5.31	—	—	5.31	35.00	—	—	36.00	—	0.00	—	0.00	24.85	—	—	24.85
3.	Jharkhand	6.00	—	—	6.00	44.00	—	—	44.00	—	0.87	1	0.87	—	—	—	0.00

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	1	2	1	1	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—
4.	Bihar	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—
5.	Jharkhand	1	11	2	3	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	1*
6.	Gujarat	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	2	—	—
7.	Himachal Pradesh	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
8.	Jammu and Kashmir	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
9.	Karnataka	1	1	1	1	—	—	—	—	3	3	—	—
10.	Kerala	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
11.	Madhya Pradesh	3	6	2	5	—	—	—	—	8	8	—	—
12.	Chhattisgarh	—	12	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	3	—	—
13.	Maharashtra	1	4	5	5	—	—	—	—	3	3	—	—
14.	Manipur	1	2	2	2	—	—	—	—	6	6	—	—
15.	Meghalaya	1	1	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
16.	Nagaland	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
17.	Orissa	11	18	8	11	—	—	1	1	22	22	—	—
18.	Rajasthan	1	4	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	1	1	1
19.	Sikkim	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
20.	Tamil Nadu	2	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
21.	Tripura	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
22.	Uttar Pradesh	3	1	3	3	—	—	—	—	3	3	—	—
23.	Uttaranchal	2	3	1	2	—	—	—	—	1	3	—	1*
24.	West Bengal	4	7	3	3	—	—	—	—	8	7	—	—
25.	Delhi	21	1	13	5	—	—	—	—	11	7	1	—
26.	Mizoram	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total		63	93	45	45	—	—	2	2	82	86	2	2

Sl.No.	Name of state	2004-05						2005-06					
		Research Evaluation Study		Seminar/Workshop		Publication of books related to tribal development		Research Evaluation Study		Seminar/Workshop		Publication of books related to tribal development	
		No. of Organizations	No. of Studies	No. of Organizations	No. of seminars	No. of Authors	No. of books	No. of Organizations	No. of Studies	No. of Organizations	No. of seminars	No. of Authors	No. of books
1	2	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	2	—	—
2.	Assam	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—

1	2	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
4.	Bihar	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5.	Jharkhand	—	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
6.	Gujarat	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—
7.	Himachal Pradesh	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
8.	Jammu and Kashmir	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
9.	Karnataka	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
10.	Kerala	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—
11.	Madhya Pradesh	—	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	3	—	—
12.	Chhattisgarh	—	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
13.	Maharashtra	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—
14.	Manipur	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15.	Meghalaya	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	2	—	—
16.	Nagaland	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
17.	Orissa	—	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—
18.	Rajasthan	—	1	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
19.	Sikkim	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
20.	Tamil Nadu	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
21.	Tripura	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	2	—	—
22.	Uttar Pradesh	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
23.	Uttaranchal	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—
24.	West Bengal	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
25.	Delhi	2	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	2	2	—	—
26.	Mizoram	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total		5	35	2	2	—	—	—	—	18	18	—	—

Note: (i) Organization's location is shown against State.

(ii) Certain organizations are conducting study/seminar and workshop for more than one State other than their locational base.

(iii) Book relates to more than one state.

(iv) * Authors of the books are Delhi based.

*[Translation]***Vocational Training to STs**

2575. SHRI KRISHNA MURARI MOGHE: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of proposals received from State Governments seeking grants under vocational education for providing vocational training to Scheduled Tribes in the country during the last three years till date, State-wise;

(b) the number of proposals cleared/pending till date, State-wise; and

(c) the time by which pending proposals are likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION (SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH): (a) to (c) The receipt of proposals from the State Governments for release of grants under the scheme of Vocational Training to Scheduled Tribes is a continuous process. The grants can be released only if the proposal is complete in all respects *i.e.* utilization and physical progress report, in respect of the grants released in previous years have been furnished.

The proposals, complete in all respects, which were received from State Governments during last 3 years were cleared and the grants released, subject to availability of funds, as per State-wise details given in the enclosed Statement.

No proposal complete in all respects is pending as on date.

Statement

(Rs. in Lakhs)

Sl.No.	States Amount	2002-2003 Amount	2003-2004 Amount	2004-05 Amount	2005-06 (Till date) Amount
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andhra Pradesh	0	107.6	0	0
2.	Assam	44.26	0	62.53	0
3.	Bihar	0	0	0	0
4.	Gujarat	29.79	141.46	145.68	0
5.	Jammu and Kashmir	46.71	0	0	15.50
6.	Karnataka	0	0	66.73	68.26
7.	Kerala	0	0	40.50	—
8.	Madhya Pradesh	0	0	0	57.00
9.	Maharashtra	0	73.52	0	0
10.	Manipur	0	0	0	0
11.	Mizoram	36	61.08	0	0
12.	Orissa	64.15	0	0	0
13.	Rajasthan	0	0	0	0

1	2	3	4	5	6
14.	Tamil Nadu	0	0	0	0
15.	Tripura	54	0	0	0
16.	West Bengal	6.13	0	0	63.60
17.	Daman and Diu	0	0	0	0
18.	Himachal Pradesh	0	0	0	0
19.	Chhattisgarh	118.95	0	134.55	0
20.	Sikkim	0	16.34	0	42.57
Total		399.99	400	450.00	2.47

Hostel Facilities to Girls

2576. PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR:
SHRI SHISHUPAL PATLE:

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

(a) the details of States which have sought funds for providing hostel facilities to the girls;

(b) the total amount provided to various States and spend under the scheme for providing hostel facilities to the girls during each of the last three years and thereafter till date, State-wise;

(c) whether the amount has been spent on the said scheme at the snail's pace during the said period;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.A.A. FATMI): (a) to (e) Under the scheme of "Strengthening of Boarding and Hostel Facilities for Girls", assistance is given to voluntary organizations for running girls' hostels for students of classes VI to XII. No assistance under this scheme is given to State Governments directly. Total grant released under this scheme during last three years are as under:—

2002-03	Rs. 17.82 crore
2003-04	Rs. 5.92 crore
2004-05	Rs. 3.72 crore.

During 2005-06 till 8.3.2006, an amount of Rs. 3.64 crore has already been approved under the scheme.

The amount spent depends upon receipt of feasible proposal from the Voluntary Organizations. The Ministry is making continuous efforts for more effective implementation of this scheme.

In addition, another scheme called "Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya" has been launched in August, 2004 for setting up residential schools at upper primary level for girls belonging predominantly to the SC, ST, OBC and minorities in educationally backward blocks of the country where the female literacy is below the national average and gender gap in literacy is more than the national average. An amount of Rs. 120.50 crore has been released under this scheme upto December 2005. A statement indicating the funds released state-wise is enclosed.

Statement

Sl.No.	Name of the State	Fund released by Govt. of India (Rs. in Crore)
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	18.24
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	2.11
3.	Bihar	11.16
4.	Chhattisgarh	8.10

1	2	3
5.	Gujarat	4.97
6.	Haryana	0.12
7.	Himachal Pradesh	1.92
8.	Jammu and Kashmir	1.91
9.	Jharkhand	13.35
10.	Karnataka	8.45
11.	Madhya Pradesh	7.01
12.	Maharashtra	5.28
13.	Meghalaya	0.13
14.	Orissa	8.84
15.	Punjab	0.33
16.	Rajasthan	3.51
17.	Tamil Nadu	6.44
18.	Tripura	0.33
19.	Uttar Pradesh	7.95
20.	Uttaranchal	2.91
21.	West Bengal	7.46
Total		120.50

[English]

Impact of DEPS on Export

2577. SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether reduction in Duty Entitlement Pass Book rate has any impact on export;

(b) if so, whether any study has been conducted in this regard;

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

(d) whether a new export facilitation scheme to replace Duty Entitlement Pass Book has been finalised by the Government; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) to (c) The Duty Entitlement Passbook Scheme is intended to neutralise the incidence of Customs Duty on the import content of the export product. The DEPB rates are revised when the import duty undergoes revision. Therefore, no need has been felt to undertake study on the impact of DEPB revision on exports.

(d) and (e) The draft New Export Facilitation Scheme is under consideration and yet to be finalized by the Government.

World Spices Congress, 2006

2578. SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Eighth World Spices Congress, 2006 was recently held in Chennai;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the officials participated in the said Congress;

(c) the agenda discussed in the Congress;

(d) the extent to which Indian Spices industry is likely to be benefited by the said Congress?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. The Eighth World Spice Congress 2006 was held in Chennai during 27 to 29 January, 2006. The Congress was attended by 105 overseas delegates from 28 countries and 234 delegates from India. 22 Official delegates attended the Congress. The agenda discussed in the Congress was 'Food safety in spices—challenges and opportunities' and Spices Crops and Markets.

The World Spice Congress is an ideal forum for interaction between importers and exporters. It offers an opportunity to the Indian spice trade to showcase its process technology, quality, and food safety compliance system. It also provides an opportunity to the foreign delegates to visit Indian spice farms and processing units and get the first hand information about production and processing in India.

Free Education to Female Students

2579. SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is considering to launch a new scheme to provide free higher education to the female students;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has decided to provide funds in full to the State Government under this scheme;

(d) if so, the details of plan chalked out in this regard;

(e) whether the Government also propose to impart free non-professional education to girls up to the graduation level in the country; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.A.A. FATMI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (f) Do not arise.

Modernisation of Sanskrit Education

2580. SHRI B. MAHTAB:
SHRI SUBHASH SURESHCHANDRA
DESHMUKH:

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

(a) whether the Union Government has received some proposals from State Governments for providing funds for the modernisation and improvement of Sanskrit education;

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

(c) the time by which the said proposals are likely to be accorded approval?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.A.A. FATMI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The details of the proposals received from the State Governments for modernisation and improvement of Sanskrit education during the current financial year *i.e.* 2005-2006 are as under:

Sl.No.	State Government	Amount approved
1.	Orissa	33,48,000/-
2.	Tripura	5,50,000/-
3.	Himachal Pradesh	2,69,40,000/-
4.	Rajasthan	83,17,000/-
5.	Madhya Pradesh	6,38,00,000/-
6.	M.P. Sanskrit Board	27,00,000/-
7.	Chattisgarh Sanskrit Board	25,36,000/-
8.	U.P. Sanskrit Sansthan	8,00,000/-
9.	Haryana	5,28,000/-
10.	Sikkim	46,13,760/-

(c) All the above proposals have since been approved.

Encroachment in Salt-Pan in Mumbai

2581. SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the total land under Salt-Pan in Mumbai;

(b) the details of areas of Salt-Pan land given on lease and under encroachments by slum dwellers/others;

(c) the area of Salt-Pan land under disuse;

(d) whether there is a proposal/policy of the Central Government about the use of Salt-Pan land under disuse at present; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL POLICY AND PROMOTION, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR): (a) to (c) The details of salt-pan land in district Mumbai and district Mumbai Suburban are as below:

Status	Area in acres
Land under lease in Bhandup Salt Factory area	1852
Land under encroachment in the areas of Wadala, Kanjur, Bhandup, Nahur, Chembur, Ghatkopar and Goregaon villages	462
Land under disuse (lying fallow)	1379
Other lands (Open lands, Creeks, etc.)	1685
Total	5378

(d) and (e) Government have taken an 'in-principle' decision to use the salt-pan land to cater to the *bonafide* needs of Government departments, to implement urban infrastructure projects and for public purposes.

Export Share of Horticulture Produce

2582. SHRI SUGRIB SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the export of horticulture produce during each of the last three years and thereafter alongwith foreign exchange earned therefrom, country-wise;

(b) whether India's share in the international market is negligible with regard to export of horticulture products;

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

(d) the steps taken by the Government to give special emphasis on export of horticulture produces and enhance export share in the International market?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) Details of the export of horticulture produce to the major importing countries is given below:

(Quantity in metric tons: Value: Rupees in lakhs)

Country	2002-03		2003-04		2004-05	
	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value
Bangladesh	146537.14	11750.16	456138.92	40126.32	478596.57	41096.05
United Arab Emirates	178755.78	19291.10	179105.05	22548.25	177212.84	19864.58
Malaysia	160097.22	12165.51	178077.92	16159.63	163162.31	12441.12
United Kingdom	19648.04	8059.01	16308.20	7401.69	17502.37	7957.51
Sri Lanka	138600.65	8438.73	114858.40	9239.30	105776.86	6914.09
Nepal	44678.63	2075.96	128146.93	6413.86	124498.61	6574.73
Netherlands	9925.06	3849.95	9059.27	3792.89	10830.87	5420.25
Saudi Arabia	37422.11	5050.16	33437.66	5275.14	26141.25	4506.75
Baharain	33524.32	2758.56	34009.95	3466.11	27766.21	2745.28
United States of America	25833.25	5689.26	13148.52	3589.69	7517.92	2379.46

(Source: APEDA)

(b) and (c) India's share of horticulture produce in the international markets is about 1%. Lack of quality, infrastructure, market access and low productivity are among the reasons for the small share in the international market.

(d) The steps to enhance export share of horticulture produce in the international market include financial incentives of exporters through the schemes of Agricultural and Processed Food Products Exports Development Authority for Infrastructure Development, Market

Development, Quality Development, Research and Development and Transport Assistance. Agri Export Zones to promote export of horticulture have also been set up in different States.

[*Translation*]

Awards under Pratibha Unnayan Yojana

2583. SHRI KRISHNA MURARI MOGHE: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of awards given to Scheduled Tribe students studying in classes 9th to 12th under the Pratibha Unnayan Yojana in Madhya Pradesh;

(b) whether the Government has received any proposal from Government of Madhya Pradesh for increasing the number of awards under this scheme;

(c) if so, details thereof; and

(d) the time by which the said proposal is likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION (SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH): (a) Under the scheme of Upgradation of merit a total number of 1480 awards for students in classes 9 to 12 have been distributed among all the concerned States in the ratio of tribal population of the respective States. On the basis of this distribution, a total of 172 awards have been allocated to the State Government of Madhya Pradesh.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

Recovery of Hand Grenades

2584. PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR:
SHRI RASHEED MASOOD:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the police has recovered hand grenades from the Golden Temple premises as reported in the *Dainik Jagran* dated January 11, 2006;

(b) if so, whether the Government has received any report from the State Government;

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

(d) whether any terrorist has been arrested following the said incident;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the steps taken by the Government to check the activities of terrorists?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The Government of Punjab has informed that a police party of Amritsar, on getting some input, visited the site and recovered 114 hand grenades in the rusted form which appeared to have been buried for long. A case FIR No. 4 dated 10.1.2006 u/s 4/5 Explosive Substances Act, was registered in this regard.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

(f) Security forces in the State are fully geared up to meet any unforeseen situation.

[*English*]

Indo-Australia Cooperation in Mining Sector

2585. SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether extending the level of bilateral cooperation India and Australia have identified the Mining Sector as a priority area;

(b) if so, whether India and Australia have forged alliance in order to encourage their company to form joint ventures;

(c) if so, whether both countries have signed MoUs in the field of Mining;

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

(e) the steps being taken to implement such agreements?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY): (a) and (b) The India-Australia Joint Working Group on Energy and Minerals was established for enhancing bilateral co-operation in the energy and minerals sector and also to stimulate the development of commercial relationships to the benefit of India and Australia. The India-Australia Coal and Mining Forum was held in New Delhi on 1st and 2nd February, 2006 to enhance the collaborative relationship between India and Australia in the mining sector and to further facilitate information exchange and joint projects.

(c) A Memorandum of Understanding has been signed on 25th May, 2005 between the Ministry of Environment and Forests, Ministry of Mines and Federation of Indian Mineral Industries from the Indian side and the Department of Industry and Resources and the Department of Conservation and Land Management, Government of Western Australia and the Chamber of Mineral and Energy of Western Australia concerning 'Cooperative Staff Development related to Environment Governance and Mine Rehabilitation'. The duration of the MOU is five years.

(d) The objective of the MOU is to establish a basis for cooperation in the fields of staff development and mutual beneficial exchange of information on good environmental governance and mine rehabilitation and *inter-alia* includes; (i) Exchange of staff, specialist and delegations, (ii) Cooperation in Training and Development, (iii) Exchange of Scientific and Technical Information, (iv) Joint Organization of Symposia, Workshops and Lectures, and (v) Other forms of cooperation as mutually arranged between the parties.

(e) A five member delegation from Western Australia visited India during 24th to 30th November, 2005 to familiarize themselves about the problems and issues associated with mine rehabilitation.

Gold Mining

2586. SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether MMTC is negotiating with the Government of Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan in respect of gold mining;

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

(c) the status of negotiations as on date?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) to (c) MMTC is exploring the possibility of mining gold only in Uzbekistan. Discussions are in the critical stages.

Setting up of Computer Training Centres for STs

2587. SHRI TAPIR GAO: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Computer Training Centres set up for the STs in the country particularly in the State of Arunachal Pradesh during the last three years, State-wise; and

(b) the number of such Computer Training Centres proposed to be set up in Arunachal Pradesh during 2005-06 ?

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION (SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH): (a) The Computer Training Centres funded during last three years in various States including Arunachal Pradesh, along with their names and amounts given to them are contained in the Annual Report of the Ministry for the year 2004-05 which has already been laid in the Parliament.

(b) During the year 2005-06, an amount of Rs. 8.94 lakhs has been released to Voluntary Organisations for maintenance and running of 4 Computer Training Centres in Arunachal Pradesh.

Aerial Survey for Mining

2588. SHRI SUGRIB SINGH: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has given permission to the States to conduct aerial survey for valuable minerals;

(b) if so, the names of the States and Districts where survey of minerals is likely to be conducted;

(c) whether some States have sent their proposals to the Central Government;

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

(e) the details of the funds allocated for such surveys, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY): (a) and (b) Details are given in the enclosed Statement.

(c) and (d) Proposals from 11 State Governments seeking prior approval of the Central Government for grant of Reconnaissance Permits have been received.

(e) The surveys are carried out by the private companies/public sector undertakings out of their own resources. Hence, no funds have been allocated by the Central Government to the State Government for aerial survey operations.

Statement

Sl.No.	Name of State	Districts
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	Kurnool, Anantapur, Prakasam, Cuddapah, Chittoor, Nellore, Mahaboobnagar, Ranga Reddy, Guntur, Krishna and Nalgonda
2.	Haryana	Bhiwani and Rohtak
3.	Karnataka	Chitradurga, Devanagere, Raichur, Gulbarga, Tumkur, Bellary, Mysore, Chamrajnagar, Hassan, Kolar, Bagalkot, Koppal, Gadag, Haveri, Dharwad, North Kanara, Shimoga, Belgaum, Mandya, Koppal and Chikmaglore.
4.	Chhattisgarh	Dhamtari/Raipur, Rajnada, Mahasamund, Kanker, Jaspur, Durg, Raigarh, Janjgir and Dantewada
5.	Rajasthan	Sikar, Jaipur, Jhunjhunu, Dausa, Dungarpur, Udaipur, Sirohi, Bhilwara, Ajmer, Tonk, Nagaur, Bharatpur, Alwar, Sawai Madhopur, Karauli, Banswara, Pali, Rajsmand and Chitorgarh
6.	Uttar Pradesh	Jhansi, Lalitpur, Chitrakut, Mahoba, Hamirpur and Banda
7.	Jharkhand	East Singhbhum, Gumala and Simdega
8.	Orissa	Nawarangpur, Nuapada, Bolangir, Kalahandi, Bargarh, Deogarh, Dhenkanal, Keonjhar, Sambalpur, Sundargarh, Mayurbhanj, Jajpur, Bhadrak, Angul, Kandhamal, Koraput and Malkangiri

1	2	3
9.	Madhya Pradesh	Narsinghpur, Hoshangabad, Chhindwara, Chhattarpur, Sagar, Damoh, Tikamgarh, Shahdol, Umaria, Jabalpur, Katni, Sidhi, Panna, Satna, Betul, Rewa, Shivpuri, Datia, Guna, Gwalior and Balaghat
10.	West Bengal	Midnapur and Purulia
11.	Gujarat	Bhavnagar, Ahmedabad, Surat, Bharuch and Vadodara
12.	Kerala	Palakkad.

[*Translation*]

Construction of Hostels for STs

2589. SHRI KRISHNA MURARI MOGHE: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a proposal involving Rs. 724 lacs for construction of hostels (buildings) for the students belonging to schedule tribes is pending with Union Government; and

(b) if so, the time by which it is likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION (SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH): (a) and (b) The Ministry of Tribal Affairs have received proposals for release of grants-in-aid for construction of Boys/Girls Hostels from various State Governments. These proposals are for different amounts. In so far as the proposal of Rs. 724.00 lakh is concerned, it apparently relates to Government of Madhya Pradesh. This amount has already been sanctioned to the State Government.

[*English*]

Promotion of Languages

2590. SHRI M. APPADURAI:
SHRI M. SHIVANNA:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has any proposal to include Awadhi Language in the eighth schedule;

(b) if so, the measures taken/being taken by the Government to promote Awadhi as well as Tribal Languages;

(c) whether the committee set up to evolve criteria for inclusion of more languages in the Eighth Schedule has given its report;

(d) if so, the details of the report;

(e) whether the Government also propose to subsidy production of feature film in Tribal Languages as a means of protecting the language; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) to (d) A Committee was set up under Shri Sitakant Mohapatra to evolve a set of objective criteria for inclusion of more languages in the Eighth Schedule. The Committee as submitted its report and recommended the following criteria:-

- (i) whether the language concerned is spoken by a substantial number of speakers with the number increasing decennially;
- (ii) whether it is already in use as a Medium of Instruction in at least up to school education and preferably in the Universities.
- (iii) whether it has been put to writing for a period of 50 years or more—whatever be the script, its own or the regional language script or the Devanagari etc.;
- (iv) whether the Sahitya Akademi promotes literary activities in the language.
- (v) whether it is spoken in a geographically contiguous area where it also acts as a link language evidenced by its place in the Census bilingualism table as a second language.

The Committee also recommended that the Eighth Schedule be frozen for at least a period of thirty years from now and all representations by considered only after the first Census report after the year, 2035 is available. A view on the recommendations is yet to be taken and accordingly decision on the pending demands for inclusion of languages in the Eighth Schedule, including Awadhi will be taken thereafter.

The Central Institute of Indian Languages (CIIL), Mysore undertakes several programmes for the promotion of Indian Languages. The Institute has not undertaken any work on Awadhi Language so far. The Institute has studied the tribal & border languages in the country and based on linguistic studies, materials such as grammar, dictionary, phonetic reader, report on dialect survey, instruction material, teacher's handbook and video tape teaching/learning material are developed.

(e) and (f) The National Film Development Corporation, *inter alia* finances films in various languages after examining the scripts. However, there is no specific Scheme for subsidizing production of films in any language.

[Translation]

Diamond Trade with Canada

2591. SHRI ASHOK KUMAR RAWAT: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the present status of trade with Canada;

(b) whether the Government has recently signed any agreement with Canada for the mining of diamond as reported in *Dainik Jagran* dated February 23, 2006;

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

(d) the steps taken by both the countries to boost the trade?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) According to the figures released by 'Statistics Canada', diamond exports from India to Canada during 2005 amounted to 98.997 million Canadian dollars, while Canada's exports of diamonds to India during 2005 amounted to 7.917 million Canadian dollars.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Efforts are being made by the Gem and Jewellery Export Promotion Council and the High Commission of India to boost the trade in diamonds, including the visit by an Indian delegation to discuss the possibility of

cooperation in diamond mining and direct procurement of rough diamonds.

Report on WTO

2592. DR. CHINTA MOHAN:
SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN:

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

(a) whether the World Development Indicator, 2005 report published by the World Bank has observed that the common man in the developing countries has not been benefited by the World Trade Organisations;

(b) if so, the details of the objections made in the said report; and

(c) the reaction of the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) to (c) The 2005 World Development Indicators published by the World Bank, basically contains the statistical tables regarding different development indicators on different countries and regions. The Foreword to this Publication by the President of the World Bank notes that since the articulation of the UN Millennium Development Goals, the World Development Indicators-2005 has reported on progress towards each goal. The Millennium Development Goals are, *inter alia*, about meeting the most basic needs of people worldwide for education, health care and clean air & water. It notes the progress towards the Millennium Development Goals, though it also adds that progress in some places has been offset by setback in others and that there is no room for complacency. The indicators mentioned in this Publication have been noted by the Government.

[English]

Industrial Gross Development Product

2593. SHRI K.S. RAO: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the industrial gross domestic product (GDP) during each of the last five years;

(b) the steps taken to increase in the rate of growth in gross domestic product (GDP);

(c) whether the Government proposes reduction in taxes, incentives for research and development and labour reforms to obtain higher growth per annum in industrial sector which would help generate employment for a large number of labour force; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL POLICY AND PROMOTION, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR): (a) The Gross Domestic Product (by industry of origin) at constant (1999-2000) prices from industrial sector during the last 5 years was as follows:

(Rs. in crore)

Year	GDP from Industrial Sector
2000-01	441731
2001-02	454217
2002-03	485228
2003-04 (P)	523323
2004-05 (Q)	569839

P—Provisional, Q—Quick Estimate

Source: Central Statistical Organisation (CSO).

(b) The steps taken to increase the rate of growth in Gross Domestic Product (GDP) *inter-alia* include raising investment as a proportion of GDP, attracting Foreign Direct Investment (FDI), rationalization of taxes, lowering of import duties on capital goods and inputs & better infrastructure support.

(c) and (d) In order to achieve higher industrial growth and generate employment opportunities, Government has taken a number of policy decisions including providing tax deduction/incentives for undertaking Research & Development (R&D), lower import duty for the equipments used for R&D, training and skill upgradation for labour etc. Government has also proposed a reduction of import duty from peak rate of 15% to 12.5% for industrial products in the Union Budget 2006-07.

*[Translation]***Investment under Industrial Sector**

2594. DR. DHIRENDRA AGARWAL:
SHRI JIVABHAI A. PATEL:
SHRI SUBRATA BOSE:

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

(a) the total amount of investment made by the Government in industrial sector during each of the last three years and thereafter, State-wise;

(b) whether there is huge disparity in the investment made in the industrial areas in various parts of the country;

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

(d) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to promote industrial development and remove regional imbalance in industrial sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL POLICY AND PROMOTION, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR): (a) to (d) Information on industrial investment by the Government of India is not centrally maintained. Based on the Industrial Entrepreneur Memoranda filed and Letters of Intent/Direct Industrial Licences issued since April, 2002, the proposed investment in various states is shown at Statement. From the investment proposed in various States some degree of imbalance is noticed.

Under the liberalised economic environment, investment decisions, including the choice of location, are taken by entrepreneurs based on their techno-economic considerations, which in turn depend on the initiatives of the State Governments in creating conducive environment by way of providing infrastructure facilities and other facilitative measures. The Government of India has been undertaking a number of initiatives to facilitate industrial development, particularly of disadvantageous areas, to supplement, to the extent possible, the efforts of the State Governments under various schemes, *viz.* Growth Centre Scheme, Industrial Infrastructure Upgradation Scheme, Special Package for the North-Eastern region; Sikkim; Jammu and Kashmir; Uttaranchal and Himachal Pradesh.

Statement

*State-wise Proposed Investment in the non-SSI Sector from April 2002 to January, 2006
(Based on IEMs filed and LOIs/DILs issued)*

Name of the State/UT	Investment (Rs. Crore)			
	2002-2003	2003-2004	2004-2005	2005-2006 (upto Jan.)
1	2	3	4	5
Andhra Pradesh	8721	16527	16596	12996
Arunachal Pradesh	89	68	51	23
Assam	372	163	430	737
Bihar	3	27	314	979
Chandigarh	0	0	1	0
Chhattisgarh	12388	16155	47602	34228
Dadra and Nagar Havell	1860	4137	834	1876
Daman and Diu	275	390	418	725
Delhi	39	14	20	20

1	2	3	4	5
Goa	743	325	171	244
Gujarat	10038	32341	29875	68719
Haryana	858	8372	2737	4884
Himachal Pradesh	524	1149	3384	1526
Jammu and Kashmir	795	774	2719	1774
Jharkhand	343	1861	10539	28928
Karnataka	2168	14074	10969	12607
Kerala	84	417	294	474
Madhya Pradesh	1520	1616	8541	180180
Maharashtra	21498	8878	13256	18185
Manipur	3	0	0	7
Meghalaya	817	99	215	434
Nagaland	1	16034	2	0
Orissa	3477	17718	45565	32393
Pondicherry	545	252	263	303
Punjab	692	1844	4190	5153
Rajasthan	713	1096	2162	4748
Sikkim	0	18	243	548
Tamil Nadu	1506	2898	54481	9195
Tripura	47	2	251	0
Uttar Pradesh	1843	2179	21768	26889
Uttaranchal	592	1334	2441	4934
West Bengal	8584	7637	15144	10880
Location in more than one State	18	9	2	0
Total	81156	158408	295478	302489

*[English]***Opening of Engineering Colleges**

2595. SHRI KIRTI VARDHAN SINGH;
SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE;
SHRI V.K. THUMMAR;
SHRI JIVABHAI A. PATEL:

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

(a) the criteria for setting up of Engineering/Technical Colleges in the country;

(b) whether the Government has received some proposals from various State Governments for opening of new Engineering/Technical Colleges in the country during 2005-06 till date;

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

(d) the reasons for pendency;

(e) the time by which these proposals are likely to be cleared;

(f) whether the Government propose to set up more Engineering Colleges in view of shortage of Engineering Colleges in the country particularly in Gujarat; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.A.A. FATMI): (a) to (g) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Border Management

2596. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the terrorist infiltration and illegal migration is continuing unabatedly due to lack of need of border management;

(b) if so, the details of the countries offering land marine time surveillance and security system;

(c) whether the Government has signed any agreement with these countries;

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

(e) the extent to which such steps will improve the border security?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) No Sir. Infiltration from across the border takes place clandestinely. It is not possible to determine the precise magnitude of infiltration. However, the Government have taken adequate measures to curb infiltration from across the border.

(b) to (e) It is expected that each country adopts their security measures as per their need. The Government have not signed any agreement with other countries. However, the issue of illegal cross border activities is discussed in bilateral talks with the neighbouring countries so that the border security may improve.

Import Duty on Soda Ash

2597. SHRIMATI JAYABEN B. THAKKAR:
DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA:

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

(a) the present rate of import duty on Soda Ash;

(b) whether the State Government of Gujarat has requested against further reduction of import duty of Soda ash; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) Soda Ash at present attracts customs duty at the rate of 12.5% *ad valorem*.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. Department of Revenue received a request from Government of Gujarat for maintaining the then prevailing rate of import duty. The request of the Government of Gujarat was considered in the present Budget exercise and it has not been found possible to accede to their request.

[*Translation*]

Fencing of Border

2598. PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR:
SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH:
SHRI ASHOK KUMAR RAWAT:
SHRI KAILASH NATH SINGH YADAV:
SHRI RAGHUVVEER SINGH KOSHAL:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has reviewed the fencing/flood lighting work along international borders;

(b) if so, the total length in kilometers of various States with neighbouring countries;

(c) the total length in kilometers along the border where fencing and lighting work have been completed, State-wise;

(d) the expenditure incurred so far on the fencing work alongwith the time by which the fencing work is likely to be completed, State-wise; and

(e) the extent to which the illegal activities/infiltration have been checked by such fencing, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) to (d) The

Government have undertaken the construction of fencing and flood lighting on India-Pakistan and India-Bangladesh borders. The progress of these works are regularly reviewed by the Home Secretary and also during High Level Empowered Committee meetings. The State-wise details of the fencing & flood lighting completed, expenditure incurred and likely schedule of completion of balance work are as under:

INDIA-PAKISTAN BORDER

Fencing

Name of the State	Total length of border (in Kms)	Total length of border to be fenced (in Kms)	Length of the border fenced so far (in Kms)	Remaining length of the border proposed to be fenced (in Kms)	Expenditure incurred (Rs. in crores)	Expected year of completion of balance work
Punjab	533	461	462.45*	—	90.49	work completed in 1993
Rajasthan	1037	1056.63	1048.27*	—	193.40	Work completed in 1999
Jammu and Kashmir	210	180	177	3	48.29	2006-2007
Gujarat	508	310	100	210	276.65	2006-2007
Total	2308	2007.63	1787.72	213	608.83	

*Length varies due to topographical factors/alignment of fencing.

Floodlighting

Name of the State	Total length of border (in Kms)	Total length of border to be floodlit (in Kms)	Length of the border floodlit so far	remaining length of the border proposed to be floodlit (in Kms)	Expenditure incurred (Rs. in crores)	Expected year of completion of balance work
Punjab	553	460.72	460.72	—	59.00	Work completed in 1993
Rajasthan	1037	1022.80	1022.80	—	208.24	Work completed in 1999
Jammu and Kashmir	210	195.80	87	108.80	19.06	2006-2007
Gujarat	508	310	98	212	85.87	2006-2007
Total	2308	1989.32	1668.52	320.80	327.17	

INDIA-BANGLADESH BORDER

Fencing

Name of the State	Total length of border (in Kms)	Total length of border to be fenced (in Kms)	Length of the border fenced so far (in Kms)	Remaining length of the border proposed to be fenced (in Kms)	Expenditure incurred (Rs. in crores)
West Bengal	2216.70	1528.00	1141.26	386.74	253.06
Assam	263.00	223.81	170.411	53.399	189.99
Meghalaya	443.00	399.06	303.88	95.18	253.06
Tripura	318.00	736.00	543.708	192.292	166.58
Mizoram	856.00	400.00	28.18	371.82	914.98
Total	4096.70	3286.87	2187.439	1099.431	2409.57

The entire fencing works excluding certain stretches of Mizoram sector is scheduled to be completed by December, 2006.

A pilot project for flood lighting along 277 kms. has been taken up in West Bengal on India-Bangladesh border out of which 123 Kms. has been completed till February, 2006.

(e) Fencing and flood lighting of the borders have resulted in checking the infiltration, smuggling and other illegal activities from across these borders to a great extent.

[English]

Indo-Russia Trade

2599. SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO:
SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL:

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

(a) whether India and Russia has signed a protocol on Moscow's accession to the World Trade Organisation;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any agreement has been signed to facilitate higher import of Indian tea and tobacco;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether Russia has also agreed to open market for bovine meat; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. India and Russia signed on 6 Feb. 2006 a Bilateral Agreement in the context of Russia's accession to the World Trade Organisation. The Agreement covers Russian Market Access offers in Goods and Services and an Understanding on Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures.

(c) and (d) No, Sir.

(e) and (f) India and Russia have signed an Understanding on Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures according to which the Russian side will review its current sanitary measures on imports of bovine meat originating from India with a view to bringing them in conformity with relevant international standards, guidelines and recommendations.

Grant-in-aid to NGO's

2600. SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL:
SHRI JUAL ORAM:
SHRI ANANTA NAYAK:

Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of various schemes offered to Non-Governmental Organizations;

(b) the criteria for selection of NGOs for provision in grant-in-aid;

(c) the number of schools managed by the NGOs in the Scheduled areas of Orissa and Gujarat;

(d) whether Government has stopped grants to these NGOs for running the school;

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

(f) the details of grant-in-aid given to NGOs of Orissa and Gujarat during each of the last three years;

(g) whether the Government proposes to launch some special schemes for the tribal of hilly areas of the country;

(h) if so, the details thereof; and

(i) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION (SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH): (a) The Ministry has been implementing various schemes through Voluntary Organisations in tribal areas for the socio-economic development of Scheduled Tribes. These are Grant-in-aid to Voluntary Organisations, Coaching and Allied, Award for Exemplary Services, Educational Groups and Vocational Training Centres.

(b) The Ministry has evolved a decentralized procedure for receipt, identification, scrutiny and sanction of proposals of Voluntary Organisations from the current financial year. In accordance with the new procedure, the allocation for each State/Union Territory is fixed on the basis of the Scheduled Tribe population and intimated to them. The State/UT Governments are required to constitute a "State Committee for Supporting Voluntary Efforts" to examine the new as well as ongoing project proposals of NGOs and recommend only the most essential projects in service deficient tribal areas within the earmarked allocation made in favour of the States/UTs in order of priority under each scheme. After receipt of the complete proposals along with the recommendation of the State Committee, the project proposal of the NGO is considered.

(c) to (e) As per the decentralized procedure stated above, the State Governments of Orissa and Gujarat have recommended 16 and 5 ongoing schools respectively. The cases have been considered within the available State-wise funds and as per the priority list furnished by the respective State Governments.

(f) The details of grant-in-aid given to NGOs of Orissa and Gujarat during each of the last three years have already been given in the Annual Report (2004-05) of the Ministry, which has been laid in the Parliament.

(g) to (i) No new scheme has been proposed. The existing schemes of the Ministry are open for all tribals including those in hilly areas.

12.00 hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

[English]

THE MINISTER OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI A.R. ANTULAY): I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Detailed Demands for Grants (Hindi and English versions) of the Ministry of Minority Affairs for the year 2006-2007.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 3906/2006]

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI SIS RAM OLA): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Detailed Demands for Grants (Hindi and English versions) of the Ministry of Mines for the year 2006-2007.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 3908/2006]

[English]

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION (SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH): I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Detailed Demands for Grants (Hindi and English versions) of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs for the year 2006-2007.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 3909/2006]

THE MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Detailed Demands for Grants (Hindi and English versions) of the Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs for the year 2006-2007.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 3910/2006]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): Sir, on behalf of Shri Kamal Nath, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Detailed Demands for Grants (Hindi and English versions) of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry for the year 2006-2007.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 3911/2006]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI BIJOY HANDIQUE): Sir, on behalf of Shri Sontosh Mohan Dev, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Detailed Demands for Grants (Hindi and English versions) of the Ministry of Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises for the year 2006-2007.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 3912/2006]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI BIJOY HANDIQUE): Sir, on behalf of Shrimati Ambika Soni, I beg to lay on the Table a copy each of the following Detailed Demands for Grants (Hindi and English versions):-

- (1) Ministry of Tourism for the year 2006-2007.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 3913/2006]

- (2) Ministry of Culture for the year 2006-2007.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 3914/2006]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU): Sir, on behalf of Shri Chandrashekar Rao, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Detailed Demands for Grants (Hindi and English versions) of the Ministry of Labour and Employment for the year 2006-2007.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 3915/2006]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI BIJOY HANDIQUE): Sir, on behalf of Shri Praful Patel, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Detailed Demands for Grants (Hindi and English versions) of the Ministry of Civil Aviation for the year 2006-2007.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 3916/2006]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SURESH PACHOURI): I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Detailed Demands for Grants (Hindi and English versions) of the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions and Union Public Service Commission for the year 2006-2007.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 3917/2006]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI BIJOY HANDIQUE): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Detailed Demands for Grants (Hindi and English versions) of the Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers for the year 2006-2007.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 3918/2006]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table—

- (1) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under section 10 of the National Highways Act, 1956:—
 - (i) S.O. 1744(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 10th December, 2005 regarding acquisition of land for public purpose of building (four-laning or six-laning) of National Highway No. 25 in the State of Uttar Pradesh.
 - (ii) S.O. 1501(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 19th October, 2005 regarding acquisition of land for building (widening) of National Highway No. 25, including construction of bypasses or realignments, in the State of Uttar Pradesh.

- (iii) S.O. 1645(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 24th November, 2005, regarding acquisition of land for public purpose of building (widening) of National Highway No. 28 (Lucknow-Uttar Pradesh/Bihar Border section), in the State of Uttar Pradesh.
- (iv) S.O. 1655(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 25th November, 2005 regarding acquisition of land for building of National Highway No. 76, including construction of Kota Bypass, in the State of Rajasthan.
- (v) S.O. 1656(E) and S.O. 1664(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 25th November, 2005 regarding acquisition of land for public purpose of building of different stretches of National Highway No. 76, in the State of Rajasthan.
- (vi) S.O. 1665(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 25th November, 2005 regarding acquisition of land for public purpose of building (four-laning) of National Highway No. 76, in the State of Rajasthan.
- (vii) S.O. 1816(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 27th December, 2005, authorising the Special Land Acquisition Officer, Gorakhpur, Uttar Pradesh to acquire land for building (widening) of National Highway No. 28 (Uttar Pradesh/Bihar Border section), in the State of Uttar Pradesh.
- (viii) S.O. 35(E) and S.O. 36(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 22th January, 2006, regarding acquisition of land for building (widening) of different stretches of National Highway No. 28 (Lucknow-Uttar Pradesh/Bihar Border section), in the State of Uttar Pradesh.
- (ix) S.O. 49(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 18th January, 2006, regarding acquisition of land for building (widening) of National Highway No. 28 (Lucknow-Uttar Pradesh/Bihar Border section) in the State of Uttar Pradesh.
- (x) S.O. 105(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 30th January, 2006 regarding acquisition of land for building (widening) of National Highway No. 11 (Agra-Jaipur section) including construction of bypasses or realignments, in the State of Rajasthan.
- (xi) S.O. 126(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 1st February, 2006, regarding acquisition of land for building (widening) of National Highway No. 28 (Lucknow-Uttar Pradesh/Bihar Border section) in the State of Uttar Pradesh.
- (2) Four statements (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at item Nos. (i to vi) (1) above.
- [Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 3919/2006]
- (3) A copy of the Notification No. S.O. 116(E) (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated the 31st January, 2006, entrusting the stretch mentioned therein of National Highway No. 117 to the National Highways Authority of India, issued under section 11 of the National Highways Authority of India Act, 1988.

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the 38th Annual Assessment Report (Hindi and English versions) regarding Programme for accelerating the spread and development of Hindi and its progressive use for the various official purposes of the Union and its implementation for the year 2004-2005.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 3921/2006]

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Central Industrial Security Force, Assistant Commandant (Junior Administrative Officer) Recruitment Amendment Rules, 2006 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 73(E) in Gazette of India dated the 21st February, 2006 under sub-section (3) of section 22 of the Central Industrial Security Force Act, 1968.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 3922/2006]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.A.A. FATMI): I beg to lay on the Table—

(1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Institute of Foundry and Forge Technology, Ranchi, for the year 2004-2005, alongwith Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Institute of Foundry and Forge Technology, Ranchi, for the year 2004-2005.

(2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 3923/2006]

(3) A copy of the Council of Architecture (Minimum Standards of Architectural Education) (Amendment) Regulations, 2005 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. F. No. CA/5/2005 in weekly Gazette of India dated the 7th January, 2006 under sub-section (3) of section 45 of the Architects Act, 1972.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 3924/2006]

(4) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Mizoram University, Aizawl, for the year 2001-2002, together with Audit Report thereon.

(5) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (4) above.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 3925/2006]

(6) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Assam University, Silchar, for the year 2002-2003, together with Audit Report thereon.

(7) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (6) above.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 3926/2006]

(8) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Mahatma Gandhi Antarrashtriya Hindi Vishwavidyalaya, Wardha, for the year 2001-2002, alongwith Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) of the Government of the working of the Mahatma Gandhi Antarrashtriya Hindi Vishwavidyalaya, Wardha, for the year 2001-2002.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 3927/2006]

(i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Mahatma Gandhi Antarrashtriya Hindi Vishwavidyalaya, Wardha, for the year 2002-2003, alongwith Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) of the Government of the working of the Mahatma Gandhi Antarrashtriya Hindi Vishwavidyalaya, Wardha, for the year 2002-2003.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 3928/2006]

(i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Mahatma Gandhi Antarrashtriya Hindi Vishwavidyalaya, Wardha, for the year 2003-2004, alongwith Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) of the Government of the working of the Mahatma Gandhi Antarrashtriya Hindi Vishwavidyalaya, Wardha, for the year 2003-2004.

(9) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (8) above.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 3929/2006]

(10) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Mizoram University, Aizawl, for the years 2001-2002 and 2002-2003.

- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) of the Government of the working of the Mizoram University, Aizawl, for the years 2001-2002 and 2003-2004.
- (11) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (10) above.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 3925/2006]

- (12) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi, for the year 2003-2004, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) of the Government of the working of the Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi, for the year 2003-2004.

- (13) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (12) above.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 3930/2006]

- (14) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi, for the year 2004-2005.
- (ii) A copy of the Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Government of the working of the Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi, for the year 2004-2005, together with Audit Report thereon.
- (iii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi, for the year 2004-2005.

- (15) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (14) above.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 3931/2006]

- (16) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Maulana Azad National Urdu University, Hyderabad, for the year 2004-2005.

- (ii) A copy of the Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Government of the working of the Maulana Azad National Urdu University, Hyderabad, for the year 2004-2005, together with Audit Report thereon.

- (iii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Maulana Azad National Urdu University, Hyderabad, for the year 2004-2005.

- (17) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (16) above.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 3932/2006]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Detailed Demands for Grants (Hindi and English versions) of the Parliament, Secretariats of the President and Vice-President, for the year 2006-2007.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 3933/2006]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL POLICY AND PROMOTION, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR): I beg to lay on the Table—

- (1) A copy of the Indian Boller (Fourth Amendment) Regulations, 2005 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 423 in Gazette of India dated the 24th December, 2005 under subsection (2) of section 28 of the Indian Boilers Act, 1923.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 3934/2006]

- (2) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Productivity Council, New Delhi, for the year 2004-2005, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Productivity Council, New Delhi, for the year 2004-2005.

- (3) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (2) above.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 3935/2006]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): I beg to lay on the Table—

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Footwear Design and Development Institute, Noida, for the year 2004-2005, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Footwear Design and Development Institute, Noida, for the year 2004-2005.
- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 3936/2006]

- (3) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Sports Goods Export Promotion Council, New Delhi, for the year 2004-2005, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Sports Goods Export Promotion Council, New Delhi, for the year 2004-2005.
- (4) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (3) above.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 3937/2006]

- (5) A copy of the Tea (Amendment) Rules, 2006 (Hindi and English versions) published in the Notification No. G.S.R. 228(E) in Gazette of India dated the 20th February, 2006 under sub-section (3) of section 49 of the Tea Act, 1953.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 3938/2006]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): I beg to lay on the Table—

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Himachal Pradesh Primary Education Society, Shimla, for the year 2003-2004, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Himachal Pradesh Primary Education Society, Shimla, for the year 2003-2004.
- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 3939/2006]

- (3) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Bal Bhavan, New Delhi, for the year 2004-2005.
- (ii) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Government of the working of the National Bal Bhavan, New Delhi, for the year 2004-2005, together with Audit Report thereon.
- (iii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Bal Bhavan, New Delhi, for the year 2004-2005.
- (4) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (3) above.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 3940/2006]

- (5) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Karnataka Mahila Samakhya Society, Bangalore, for the year 2004-2005, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Karnataka Mahila Samakhya Society, Bangalore, for the year 2004-2005.

- (6) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (5) above.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 3941/2006]

12.02 hrs.

MESSAGE FROM RAJYA SABHA

[*English*]

SECRETARY-GENERAL: Sir, I have to report the following message received from the Secretary-General of Rajya Sabha:-

"In accordance with the provisions of rule 127 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha, I am directed to inform the Lok Sabha that the Rajya Sabha at its sitting held on the 11th March, 2006 agreed without any amendment to the Khadi and Village Industries Commission (Amendment) Bill, 2006 which was passed by the Lok Sabha at its sitting held on the 27th February, 2006."

12.03 hrs.

COMMITTEE TO INQUIRE INTO ALLEGATIONS OF IMPROPER CONDUCT ON THE PART OF SOME MEMBERS IN THE MATTER OF IMPLEMENTATION OF MPLAD SCHEME

Report

[*English*]

SHRI V. KISHORE CHANDRA S. DEO (Parvatipuram): I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Committee to inquire into allegations of improper conduct on the part of some members in the matter of implementation of MPLAD Scheme.

MR. SPEAKER: I am very sorry to say that the contents of this Report have come out in the papers. This is the grossest type of breach of privilege. I hope,

in future all of us would be more circumspect in this matter. This is a matter of great sorrow for me. Whoever is responsible has not done credit either to himself or to this great institution.

12.04 hrs.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON URBAN DEVELOPMENT

Statement

[*English*]

MD. SALIM (Calcutta-North East): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing Action Taken on the observations/recommendations contained in the 12th Report (14th Lok Sabha) of the Standing Committee on Urban Development in pursuance of the Seventh Report (14th Lok Sabha) pertaining to Demands for Grants (2005-2006) of the Ministry of Urban Development.

12.05 hrs.

OBSERVATION BY THE SPEAKER

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, for your information, I want to briefly recapitulate the main items of business transacted by the House during the last week.

Out of the 100 Starred Questions admitted, only 23 could be answered orally. Replies to the remaining Starred Questions alongwith the replies to 773 Unstarred Questions were laid on the Table.

During the period, as many as 68 matters of urgent public importance were raised after the Question Hour. Also, 74 matters of urgent public importance were raised after the Question Hour. Also, 74 matters were raised under Rule 377.

The House took up one Calling Attention regarding "situation arising out of the inaction on the part of the Government to solve the problems being faced by the

residents of Delhi due to massive demolition drive being undertaken in NCT Delhi" raised by Prof. Vijay Kumar Malhotra.

The Prime Minister replied to the Short Duration Discussion raised by Shri C.K. Chandrappan under Rule 193 on 27th February, 2006 on the "Statement made by the Prime Minister on 17.2.2006 regarding India's vote in the IAEA on the issue of Iran's Nuclear Programme."

The House also discussed for about 4 hours and 43 minutes one Short Duration Discussion under Rule 193 on the "Statement made by the hon. Prime Minister on 7.3.2006 regarding civil nuclear energy cooperation with the United States, in the context of the recent visit of the President of USA" raised by Shri C.K. Chandrappan. The discussion was concluded.

As regards the Legislative Business, the House had a combined discussion for about 4 hours and 12 minutes on the Statutory Resolution moved by Shri Prabodh Panda disapproving the National Commission for Minority Educational Institutions (Amendment) Ordinance, 2006 (No. 1 of 2006) promulgated by the President on 23 January, 2006 and the National Commission for Minority Educational Institutions (Amendment) Bill, 2006 as passed by Rajya Sabha before the Statutory Resolution was negated and the Bill was passed.

We spent over 13 hours and 7 minutes on the discussion on the Budget (General) for 2006-07, Supplementary Demands for Grants (General) for 2005-06; the Demands for Excess Grants (General) for 2003-2004, before passing the same alongwith the related Appropriation Bills.

The House also passed without discussion the Demands for Grants (Railways) 2006-2007 alongwith the related Appropriation Bill.

During this period, two Action Taken Reports and one Report on Bill were presented.

The House also sat one day extra on Saturday, 11 March, 2006 to transact the essential items of business.

During the last week, we lost 10 hours and 31 minutes of valuable time due to interruptions and adjournments. I request the hon. Members to ponder over it.

The House, however, sat late and worked extra for as many as 6 hours and 9 minutes to transact essential items of business.

Out of the 6 hours and 9 minutes for which the House sat late, 1 hour and 17 minutes were devoted to raising matters of urgent public importance after the normal business of the House was over. Hopefully and I am sure everybody will cooperate.

I wish to convey my thanks to the hon. Members for their co-operation in the conduct of the proceedings.

12.08 hrs.

STATEMENTS BY MINISTERS

- (I) **Status of Implementation of recommendations contained in the 19th Report of the Standing Committee on Finance on Demands for Grants (2005-06) of the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation**

[English]

*THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI G.K. VASAN): Sir, I beg to lay this statement on the implementation status of the recommendations contained in the Nineteenth Report of the Standing Committee on Finance in pursuance of Direction 73A of the hon. Speaker, Lok Sabha.

The Standing Committee on Finance examined the Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation for the year 2005-06 and presented their Nineteenth Report to Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha on 20th April, 2005. There are 20 recommendations made by the Committee in the said report where action is called for on the part of the Government. The major recommendations mainly relate to:

- (i) Setting up of National Statistical Commission through a Bill rather than through an administrative order;

*Laid on the Table and also placed in Library, See No. LT 3942/2006

- (ii) Amendment of Collection of Statistics Act which will bestow more powers on the Ministry with regard to Collection of Statistics;
- (iii) Provisioning of funds only for those schemes/projects which have either commenced or are likely to be taken up during that particular year;
- (iv) Introducing a separate head in the Demands for Grants of the Ministry for Information Technology;
- (v) Implementation of Tier-I of "Modernisation of Statistical System in India/India Statistical Strengthening Project" expeditiously;

The present status of implementation of the various recommendations made by the Committee is indicated in the Annexure to my statement which is laid on the Table of the House. I would not like to take the valuable time of the House to read out the contents of the Annexure. I would request that this may be considered as read.

12.09 hrs.

(II) Status of implementation of recommendations contained in the 7th report of the Standing Committee on External Affairs

[English]

*THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED): Sir, I am making this statement on the status of implementation of recommendations contained in the Seventh Report of the Standing Committee on External Affairs in pursuance of the Direction 73A of the hon. Speaker, Lok Sabha.

The Standing Committee on External Affairs examined the Demands for Grants of the Ministry of External Affairs for the year 2005-06 and presented its Seventh Report to the Lok Sabha on April 26, 2005. The Report included 50 recommendations. I am happy to note that the Government's response to 31 recommendations has been accepted by the Committee; in 4 other cases too the Committee is satisfied and has decided not to pursue those matters further. We are grateful to the Committee for its kind words of appreciation for numerous initiatives taken by the Government to further improve and

strengthen our relations with the neighbouring and other countries.

The Committee has made recommendations asking us to draw a long term plan for construction of Government-owned office and residential building for our diplomatic missions, passport offices and their staff, reorientation of our publicity work, filling up of vacant posts, regularization of temporary posts in passport offices, opening of new passport offices, setting up of Advisory Committees and opening of new regional offices of ICCR and constitution of the governing body of ICWA and expedite the construction of Videsh Bhawan.

I am happy to inform you that the foundation stone to start the construction of the Videsh Bhawan was laid by the hon. Prime Minister on February 14, 2006. We have made progress in acquisition/construction of office/residential buildings for our missions abroad and passport offices in India. Our External Publicity Division is now producing both country and issue-specific documentaries and other publicity material to help our missions in projecting the achievements of our country in various fields. The Investment and Trade Promotion Division of the Ministry has produced brochures, CD-ROMs, films and took out supplements in leading international economic publications like Euro and Asia Money to promote and project India as a favourable investment destination.

12.11 hrs.

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER in the Chair]

An Indian Cultural Centre has become operational in Tokyo since December 2005. We are making earnest efforts to implement the other recommendations made by the Committee. But in certain cases where the action is contingent upon the prevailing situation in foreign countries, *i.e.* availability of suitable land or buildings for accommodation of our missions abroad, we are constrained by the local factors. With such imponderables in our favour, I wish to assure this House that the MEA will make every effort to do a much better job next time in implementing rest of the Committee's recommendations.

The present status of implementation of the recommendations is detailed in the Annexure, which is laid on the Table of the House. I would not like to take the valuable time of the House to read out all the contents, but would request that these may be considered as read.

12.12 hrs.

(iii) **Statement Correcting Reply to Unstarred Question No. 1068 Dated 29.11.2005 regarding UNDP Report 2005**

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.A.A. FATMI): Reply to Part (d) may be substituted as under:-

- (d) Following steps have been taken by the Government to improve the Human Development Index:

National Literacy Mission (NLM) was set up to achieve a sustainable threshold level of 75 per cent literacy by 2007. A number of steps have been taken by NLM to enhance adult literacy in the country which include revision of NLM parameters and enhancement of financial norms; integration of phases of Total Literacy and Post Literacy; delegation of powers to State Literacy Mission Authorities; enlarging the scope of Continuing Education; strengthening of Jan Shikshan Sansthanas and extending their activities in rural areas; revitalizing State Resource Centres for preparation of better teaching materials and improved quality of training.

In principle approval of the Planning Commission has been solicited to implement the 'Scheme of Universal Access and Quality at the Secondary Stage' with the objective to make secondary education of good quality available, accessible and affordable to all young persons.

Several steps have been taken by the Government to reduce the infant and under five mortality rate which includes, strict implementation of Child Marriage (Prevention) Act, Pre-Natal Diagnostic Technique (Regulation, Prevention and Misuse) Act; raise awareness on the reduced sex ratio by creating efforts through media campaigns; expansion of Integrated Child Development Scheme (ICDS) to all blocks of the country with increased component of nutrition and immunization and other health programmes by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.

12.13 hrs.

ELECTION TO COMMITTEE

Post-Graduate Institute of Medical Education and Research, Chandigarh

[English]

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS): I beg to move:

"That in pursuance of section 5 (g) read with sub-section 4 of section 6 of the Post-Graduate Institute of Medical Education and Research Act, 1966, 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 Post-Graduate Institute of Medical Education and Research, Chandigarh *vice* Shri Pawan Kumar Bansal appointed as Minister and Shri Suresh Chandel who ceased to be a Member of the House."

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

"That in pursuance of section 5 (g) read with sub-section 4 of section 6 of the Post-Graduate Institute of Medical Education and Research Act, 1966, 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 Post-Graduate Institute of Medical Education and Research, Chandigarh *vice* Shri Pawan Kumar Bansal appointed as Minister and Shri Suresh Chandel who ceased to be a Member of the House."

The motion was adopted.

12.13½ hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE—Contd.

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI BIJOY HANDIQUE): Sir, on behalf of Shri Ram Vilas Paswan, I beg to lay on the Table a

copy of the Detailed Demands for Grants (Hindi and English versions) of the Ministry of Steel for the year 2006-2007.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 3907/2006]

12.14 hrs.

CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

**Situation arising out of alleged brutal attack
and killing of Adivasis by Police in
Kalinganagar in Orissa**

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: We will now take up item No. 29. Shri Basu Deb Acharia.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura): Sir, I call the attention of the Minister of Home Affairs to the following matter to urgent public importance and request that he may make a statement thereon:

"Situation arising out of alleged brutal attack and killing of Adivasis by Police in Kalinganagar in Orissa."

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon. Members, please take your seats.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY (Dhenkanal): Sir, this matter is *sub judice*. *...(Interruptions)*

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Sir, I would request you to control the House, control them. How can I raise my matter amidst such interruptions? *...(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon. Members, please sit down.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: It has already been admitted. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now, the hon. Minister has to make the statement.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon. Members, please sit down. The hon. Minister is on his legs.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: No. Please sit down.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: This matter relates to the tribals, the Adivasis. You can ask questions. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I would request the hon. Minister to make the statement.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Why are they objecting to it? The Adivasis are being killed there. They are objecting to this matter being raised here. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon. Minister, please make the statement.

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL): Can I read like this? *...(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon. Members, please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Firstly Minister will lay his statement after that you will allowed to speak.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN (Deogarh): Sir, I am on a point of order.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: What is your point of order?

...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRASANNA ACHARYA (Sambalpur): The matter is before the Commission headed by a sitting Judge of the Orissa High Court. The matter is already *sub judice*. How can it be discussed here? *...(Interruptions)*

[Shri Prasanna Acharya]

The Kalinganagar incident is under judicial inquiry. The inquiry is being conducted by a sitting Judge of the Orissa High Court. He is looking into the matter. So, how can it be discussed here? ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please listen to him.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Nothing should be recorded except the speech of the hon. Home Minister.

...*(Interruptions)**

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI): Sir, I would like to submit that before the House begins, if any Member finds that any business, which is printed in the List of Business of the day, is not in order, then, he has a right to intimate to the hon. Speaker in this regard. In the absence of that and even if he writes so, the tradition of the House is that it is for the hon. Speaker to decide whether something should be there in the List of Business or should not be there. But since this matter is now in the List of Business without any dispute and since the hon. Speaker has admitted it, nobody can question the authority of the hon. Speaker insofar as the List of Business is concerned. ...*(Interruptions)* Therefore, I would submit that the hon. Member has the right to raise this issue and the hon. Minister has to respond to it. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRASANNA ACHARYA: As I said earlier, the matter is before the Commission headed by a sitting Judge of the Orissa High Court. It is nearly three months since this incident took place. In this case, adequate steps have been taken by the State Government. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Under what rule are you objecting to it? ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, Shri Prasanna Acharya is a distinguished senior leader. I respect him. I respect the Members of the BJD also. I can give you umpteen number of examples including the Nanavati Commission on the Gujarat incident when those incidents were discussed in the House. The House has every right to discuss the business subject to the Speaker agreeing to it. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRASANNA ACHARYA: It is now nearly three months since the incident took place. Now, things are returning to normalcy. All the steps have already been taken by the State Government. The matter has also been referred to the State Human Rights Commission. Adequate compensation has been offered. So, what is the point in discussing this point, Sir? What is the purpose when things are returning to normalcy? ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV (Jhanjharpur): There cannot be point of order on it. No one can challenge decision on Mr. Speaker. Under which rule they are doing this. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon. Speaker has decided it. I have only given the chance to speak on it.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV: House has parliamentary gesture, under which rule will be taken rule. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: That has been decided by the hon. Speaker. Please sit down. I cannot do anything.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Nothing should be recorded except the speech of Home Minister.

...*(Interruptions)**

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please sit down.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon. Speaker has already decided it. Please sit down.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Nothing is going to be recorded.

...*(Interruptions)**

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Nothing is going on record.

...(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Minister of your party are standing.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: I do not understand why the Members are so upset. Let it be taken up. If you have any question you can ask the Deputy Speaker. Why are you obstructing? You cannot obstruct somebody's speech....

[Translation]

SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN: Your party people are speaking in between. ...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Yes, I am getting to it. ...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You please sit. Minister of your party is about to speak and you are speaking in between, this is not good, Mr. Speaker has already decided on this issue. Whichever hon. Member wants to speak or has any objection, will be given the opportunity to speak. I will allow you all to speak by turn. Hence I think that since it has been decided by Mr. Speaker, and we are questioning it, this is not good. Now I wish that hon. Minister should speak.

[English]

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL): On 2nd January, 2006 an estimated crowd of 1000 agitators armed with bows and arrows had assembled at Kalinga Nagar, Jajpur district, Orissa to prevent the construction of boundary wall by TATA Steel

Ltd., which was being done with the support of district administration on land acquired by the Industrial Development Corporation (IDCO), Government of Orissa and allotted to industrial houses for setting up industrial complexes.

The agitation took a violent turn resulting in assault of police force at the site. The displaced persons have been agitating for some time against the low compensation rate given by the State Government as compared to the sale price charged from the industrial houses benefited by land allotment. The agitation was also directed against the Government and the companies for not having delivered on the promised rehabilitation package, including employment to one eligible person per family losing the land.

According to the report of the State Government, 13 persons (one police Havildar and 12 agitators) were killed in police firing, three of them while undergoing treatment at the hospital.

Immediately, after the incident, the State Government announced an *ex-gratia* payment of Rs. One lakh, which was subsequently raised to Rs. Five lakh. The State Government also offered an aid of Rs. 50,000 and free specialized treatment for the injured and employment of one member of each of the affected families. The Union Government also announced a payment of Rs. Five lakh as *ex-gratia* from Prime Minister's National Relief Fund to the next of kin of all the 13 persons killed.

Payment of *ex-gratia* could not be made because the next of kin of the persons killed in police firing on 2.1.06 have not given their bank account number despite all efforts made by the officials of the State Government.

The State Government of Orissa has set up an Inquiry Commission consisting of a sitting Judge of Orissa High Court under the Commission of Inquiries Act, 1952 to submit report within six months.

The State Government has also constituted a Group of Ministers (GoMs) on 5.1.2006 to review the rehabilitation package to the displaced persons and come up with a revised rehabilitation policy.

The State Government has requested the Orissa State Human Rights Commission to enquire into the allegation of the mutilation of private parts of the deceased persons and submit their report.

*Not recorded.

[Shri Shivraj V. Patil]

Both the Collector and SP of Jajpur District were transferred on 5.1.2006.

The Government of Orissa and Jharkhand have been advised to take all steps to prevent Kalinga Nagar type incidents in future and check possible increase in militant activity in areas where tribals are likely to be affected by the influx of MNCs/private corporate houses.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, this is not a question of Orissa or Jharkhand or West Bengal or Bihar or of any other State. Our experience is, whenever a big project comes up, the tribals are at the receiving end, be it a mining project or irrigation project. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: We will give you opportunity, Now your nothing in going on records.

...*(Interruptions)**

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I have already said that I would allow you to ask questions. Please do not disturb him now.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Sir, in his statement, the Minister has stated that the tribals were agitating for quite some time as they were not getting proper compensation for the land which was acquired from them. There was a big gap in the compensation that they got and the price at which that land was sold to the industrial houses. The tribals got only Rs. 36,000 per acre whereas that particular land was sold to the industrial houses at the rate of Rs. 3.36 lakh per acre.

Sir, we are not against industrialisation. Orissa is minerally rich. We all want that industrialisation should come up in the State of Orissa, in the State of Jharkhand. But for industrialisation, the tribals should not be affected. The tribals demand for proper rehabilitation and resettlement because what they have found is that after acquisition of the land, their livelihood is at stake. What will they do with a sum of Rs. 36,000 for an acre after acquisition of the land?

Sir, in the UPA Government's Common Minimum Programme, it has been committed and quote:

"The Government will immediately review the overall strategy and programmes for development of tribals areas to plug loopholes and to work out more viable livelihood strategies. In addition, more effective system of relief and rehabilitation will be put in place for tribals and other groups displaced by development projects."

Why has this been incorporated in the National Common Minimum Programme? This is not only the problem with one State, but everywhere we have seen that the tribals are at the receiving end.

What happened o 2nd of January 2006? Never in the history of Orissa, in the post-Independent period, such a number of tribal people were killed in police atrocities. Sir, this is an unprecedented genocide which took place in order to evict the tribal people forcibly from their home and agricultural land. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Salim, Your Party leader is speaking. Why are you disturbing him?

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: They have the tragic experience when thousands of people were evicted from Hirakud Dam. There are a large number of project affected people. The Dam was constructed many years back, but still proper resettlement and rehabilitation of the project affected people has not been done.

What is happening today? The Government, instead of taking people into confidence and properly negotiating with them, resorted to unilateral bureaucratic declaration of packages. ...*(Interruptions)* asking people to accept and surrender the land. The tribal people have no option. Their land is being acquired before the announcement of the package. These project affected people are not taken into confidence. This is not the one incident in Orissa itself.

In December 2000, a similar incident took place where four tribals were killed at Maikanch in the district of Raigarh, Shri Gamang's district. They were resisting acquisition of their land for construction of an aluminium industry.

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY (Berhampore, West Bengal): In West Bengal also, tea garden workers have been killed by police. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: No running commentary, please.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Nothing will be recorded except the speech of Shri Acharia.

...(Interruptions)*

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: The Government of Orissa and Jharkhand have been advised to take all possible steps to prevent Kalinganagar type of incidence in future, and take steps against possible increase in the militant activities in the areas where tribals are likely to be affected, influx of MNCs and private corporate houses.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Acharia, you are requested to conclude your speech.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: When in the National Common Minimum Programme, the UPA Government has committed for proper rehabilitation and resettlement of the tribal people, why the Ministry of Home Affairs of the Government of India is advising only two particular States?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Put your question.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: We do not have any National R&R Policy today in our country which is uniformly being followed by all the companies or in all the States. That is not mandatory. Mr. Gamang, that is not mandatory. It is a guideline.

Recently, Sir, Coal India Ltd. has adopted a policy where Coal India Ltd. is refusing to provide employment for acquisition of land.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please conclude now.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Land will be taken away; land will be acquired. Only a few thousand rupees will be paid to the tribal people or to the land oustees, but employment is not being given, which was there earlier.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: No running commentary, please, keep silence.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: It is because it is not an isolated issue, it is related with the policy which is being pursued today, the liberalisation and opening of our country. There is a need for a proper rehabilitation policy. Proper rehabilitation and resettlement should be done of the tribals who have been affected the evicted from their land, from their home State land, and agriculture land. The Central Government cannot shirk its responsibility. In a Central Public Sector Undertaking like Mahanadi Coalfields Ltd. (MCL), I have seen in one area, in Vasundhara area, land of 500 tribal people was acquired and not a single employment was given in the Mahanadi Coalfields Ltd. ...(Interruptions) This is the responsibility of both the Central and the State Governments.

I would like to know whether the Government of India will formulate a national R&R policy so that all the State Governments and all the companies—private as well as Government companies—will follow that.

Sir, the tribals have been adversely affected because of certain projects. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the Government will review the Rehabilitation and Resettlement Policy and take concrete steps for their proper rehabilitation and resettlement as it has been promised in the National Common Minimum Programme.

Sir, when a Memorandum of Understanding is signed, as it has been done in the case of POSCO, with the Government of Orissa, rehabilitation and resettlement of the tribals has not been incorporated in that Memorandum of Understanding. Today I have seen that POSCO is now considering to reduce 1,000 acres of land. They are to acquire 5,000 acres of land. Two thousand families, mostly tribals, would be affected. Sir, no package for rehabilitation and resettlement of the project affected people has been incorporated. ...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please conclude now. I have given you more than the sufficient time. Please sit down.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Sir, I will put my last question to the Minister. I want to know from the Minister whether the rehabilitation and resettlement package will be incorporated in future in all the Memorandum of Understandings, and also whether the Government will see to incorporate the rehabilitation and resettlement of land oustees in the Memorandum of Understanding itself.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon. Members, as you know, as per Rule 197(2), only those hon. Members whose names are mentioned in the List of Business can be allowed to ask questions. But the matter is so serious. Therefore, I am allowing only four hon. Members to ask a single clarification.

Now, Shri Dharmendra Pradhan.

[Translation]

SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN (Deogarh): Sir, I will ask specific question. There are few fake things in hon. Minister's reply. I am not giving any classification from State Government's side, but trying to tell which is true. After this I will ask my question. It has been said in this that less compensation has been paid to displaced people. Land was acquired in 1992-93. The present compensation which is taken from company, is not a compensation but it was a fee for developing infrastructure. In spite of that there was a talk to give compensation of rupees one lakh. Second thing is that this incident took place because employment was not provided to anyone under rehabilitation package. I would like to present this fact that Kalinga Nagar has biggest Nilanchal Steel Corporation Limited. This is Government of India's joint venture company. ...*(Interruptions)* Nilanchal Steel Corporation Limited is Government of India's Company and we had no objection if it had paid compensation. I would like to ask 3-4 specific questions. The incident which took place on 2nd January. ...*(Interruptions)* that incident took place at Tata's site. What was the relation of contractor with leader of ruling party in legislative assembly? This incident was organized for blaming State Government by Congress Scheme. Now, Shri Basudeb Acharia has mentioned about National Rehabilitation Policy in Common Minimum Programme.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You can seek only clarifications.

[Translation]

SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN: I want clarification only. Some two years ago a National Rehabilitation Policy was formed in the year 2003. It was a very good policy. I do not oppose of it, with their support the Government had been in power there for two years. But as to why that policy is lying in the form of draft only. Will the

Hon'ble Minister of Coal be pleased to state whether there is any guarantee in that policy to provide jobs because he had gone to Orissa to wipe the eyes of tribal people and show them his own tears. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Silence please. Please sit down.

[Translation]

SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I can say with claim that Rehabilitation policy of Orissa is one of the best Rehabilitation policies. The company, about which hon. Basu Deb Acharia mentioned, has got approximate 10 thousand genuine claimants who want to get employment in it. Will the hon'ble Minister of Coal or the Hon'ble Minister of Home Affairs on behalf of Minister of Coal be pleased to state as to when they will be given jobs. More than 50 years have passed in regard to Rourkela Steel Plant till date compensation has not been provided to them. The claims pertaining to providing employment to tribal people have not been settled till date. Such kind of situation is in Neelanchal Steel Corporation; it is only the Central Government, which does not approve of Rehabilitation Policy of the Government of Orissa. Due to wrong policies the Central Government does not approve of Rehabilitation Policy of Government of Orissa. Now, the social order in Orissa is under tension Well the hon. Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state to what kind of relations that contractor has with Shri J.B. Patnaik. The social order in Orissa, which is under tension, is being created under the leadership of Congress. These communists. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: That should not be recorded.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: No, that is not going on record.

...*(Interruptions)**

*Not recorded.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now, Shri Giridhar Gamang.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Sir, the remarks made by him should not go on record.

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Acharia ji, I have told that this is not going on record please take your seat.

[English]

SHRI GIRIDHAR GAMANG (Koraput): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, it is a very serious issue. ...(Interruptions) Regarding the Tribal people, the responsibility will be the Centre and the State as per the Constitution. Therefore, the Speaker has rightly admitted this. But the outcome of this incident definitely will focus on the rehabilitation of the people who were displaced and the policy to be framed by both the State and the Centre. We have already got the rehabilitation policy of the Centre. It should be backed with law but this was not discussed. The policy should be framed in such a way so that it can be extended with an Act of Parliament to the State and the State will have to adopt the policy frame as per the rehabilitation policy.

Definitely, this issue shows as if the Tribal people are anti-development. We are not anti-development. On the one side, there is growing demand for development in the country and on the other side, there is growing discontentment because of displacement of the people. If there is development, there will be definite displacement. Unless you have displacement, there will be no development. Therefore, we have to have a policy frame by which development will take place.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You put your clarification. You are a seasoned Member. You put the clarification.

SHRI GIRIDHAR GAMANG: Sir, this is regarding displacement and rehabilitation. If this issue is about the law and order situation, then this Calling Attention would not have been admitted. Therefore, I would request the Government to look at the Constitutional provisions relating to the Fifth Schedule, Sixth Schedule areas, the issue of the Tribal people and all the Central and State Acts. Both the State and the Centre's policy should be reviewed

in such a way so that it will be extended with the modification of the law. Unless that is done, there will be more discontentment and development will be hampered.

Sir, this issue is a very serious issue. Yesterday, I raised this issue. But the question is this. Why my friends are opposing this? ...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: There should be no running commentary please.

SHRI GIRIDHAR GAMANG: If we have the rehabilitation policy, then why has this happened? ...(Interruptions) I will conclude. Had they consulted the tribals, this incident would not have happened. ...(Interruptions) They should have convinced, without compelling them. Then this thing would have been avoided. But they have not done this thing before and after. So, let the hon. Minister explain the position. ...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI JUAL ORAM (Sundergarh): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, we do not oppose if the industries are established but if they are established to give trouble to the people is not a right thing. It should not happen. In the interest of people. ...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You are allowed to put only one question, not two or three questions.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI JUAL ORAM: I am putting a question. How many families or people have been displaced in the country till date? For your kind information I tell you that when the Hirakund Dam was built 40 villages of Madhya Pradesh and 250 villages of Orissa, that is, 290 villages were displaced. The Rourkela Steel Plant about which Shri Dharmendra Pradhan Spoke, comes under my constituency and I am also agitating time and again. How many population will be there in 19 thousand families holding Accounts and 30 villages. We have been agitating for the same for 50 years. There can be number of projects like Rainaku Dam and Bokaro. I would like to ask the Hon'ble Minister about the number of people

[Shri Jual Oram]

displaced due to this so called developmental work that is irrigation, projects or industrial projects along with their data, their position and their life style. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please put your question.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: No, please. Only one clarification is allowed.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI JUAL ORAM: I would like to ask only two-three questions. ...*(Interruptions)* The second question is that whatever you will make the law and Central Act in regard to the Rehabilitation and Resettlement (R&R) Policy of the Centre because the State Governments make their own policy document on being available with R&R policy document and due to this no one can go to the court or can do anything else. So, we had tried to revive R&R policy during the regime of our NDA Government. You have an R.G. Department. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please sit down.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI JUAL ORAM: I am putting a valid question and not beating about the bush. So, will you get it revived for this and try for better rehabilitation? Express Highway has been going on jammed since 2nd to this date and there, has been no movement of traffic on it. Due to this sorry state of affairs the State Government have deputed Ministers to heighten its level. Some people are going but the Congress Government is confused and the Congress Party is also confused. You are trying to show sympathy with one type of tribals. But since yesterday it has been figuring in the newspaper that if the Congress party does not allow the traffic from the jammed way, we will jam the other remaining routes. Why is it so?

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please sit down.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI JUAL ORAM: My fourth question is this that there was firing in the tea garden of Assam and also a firing in West Bengal but when there was a firing in

Orissa, Smt. Sonia Gandhi were there but she did not go to Assam why? I want to ask you as to why you did not take Sonia Gandhi to Assam. So, there should not be any politics in this policy. The situation, which occurred with tribals in Kalingnagar is pitiable and our party while remaining in the Government has demanded Hon'ble Chief Minister for the same and he himself has complied with it and given compensation for such things. But what kind of action should be initiated on behalf of Central Government for this so that there can no such occurrence in future. The economic problem occurred 3-4 times in Rourkela Steel Plant and Hirakund Dam but you are not giving rehabilitation that is why my mention will not serve the purpose here. You will have to pay attention to this as to how the real tribals are rehabilitated. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Satpathy ji, please sit down.

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR DUBEY (Dhanbad): There was a major incident in Jharkhand so the issue of Jharkhand should also be taken up. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPPAN (Trichur): Sir, this is a question that should not be taken as a party matter or as an issue from one State to another. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Only one clarification is allowed.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPPAN: Sir, I am only trying to seek clarification. Considering the fact that we could not do justice to the tribals, whether they belong to this State or that State for all these years after Independence, now a Bill is under consideration, proposing in future as to how we will re-settle the tribals.

Now, a Bill is under consideration to decide as to how we will re-settle them in future. We should realise that with inhuman brutality the tribals are suppressed whenever the question of constructing any dam or a factory or a highway or a project etc. was taken up. The Act will come. That is a different matter. The work of the Narmada dam is about to take place for raising height and it would displace thousands of tribals. I want to know whether the Government would now consider this and whether that will be stopped and whether similar such

projects which are taking place in different parts of the country would be put on hold to for the time being until and unless the rehabilitation and resettlement package is announced for the tribals who are likely to be displaced.

Lastly, on the kind of brutality, the hon. Minister himself and in his statement that they not only killed the tribal but his dead body was mutilated. If that kind of brutality is perpetrated, I want to know whether exemplary action would be taken against those who are responsible to this or not. I would like to have an answer from the Government on this point.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Tathagata Satpathy to put the question. This will be the last clarificatory question.

SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY (Dhenkanal): Sir, it is a pity that the 'Red' in this House is turning green with envy and intolerance. I would like to set the record straight. Kalinganagar was not a place. In 1994 some land in Jajpur district was earmarked for industrial estates. That was named Kalinganagar. The land at that time was valued much less than what it is valued today. An amount of Rs. 36,000 per acre was given by the Government. The land was taken and the tribals were supposed to leave possession. But since there were no industries coming in at that time, the tribals enjoyed and fruits of that land from 1994 to February, 2006.

So, what I would like to submit is when you acquire land in 1994 and sell it in 2006, it is obvious that the price will go up. But the original owners of the land did get the price that they deserved although none of them had land records. This must go on record. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please put your question.

SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY: When you are creating infrastructure for industries, you need to invest. So, that investment on the part of the Government could be done only with the sale of the land. ...(*Interruptions*) Sir, I would like to bring one thing to your notice. It is very sad that in this House there is a very concerted effort by a certain group of people from one particular neighbouring State of Orissa to create a feeling of tribals and non-tribals. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Sir, this is very objectionable. This should not go on record. ...(*Interruptions*)

MD. SALIM (Calcutta—North East): Sir, what he is saying is not correct. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: He has not named any State.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY: Sir, they are always doing this. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Sir, this should not go on record. Why are you allowing it? ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record except the speech of Shri Tathagata Satpathy.

...(*Interruptions*)*

SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY: Sir, one particular group in the past raised all industrial issues of Orissa. That particular group is intolerant of the development of Orissa. They are not interested that Orissa should be industrialised. ...(*Interruptions*) Their capital, their State had its heydays and the golden era. These are the same people who destroyed that State now. ...(*Interruptions*) When Orissa's turn has come to prosper, they are intolerant of that.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You please put your question.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Sir, what he is saying is not correct. Why are you allowing it? ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please sit down.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY: Sir, they are the ones who are encouraging left wing extremism to enter Orissa. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Sir, why are you allowing this? ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: He has not named any State.

...(*Interruptions*)

*Not recorded.

13.00 hrs.

SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY: Sir, in Orissa, the Communist Party organised a *Rath Yatra* with the ashes of the cremated tribals and took it around various parts of tribal-dominated Orissa, intending to foment trouble. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Put your question.

SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY: Sir, I am coming to the question. Will the Federal Government consider a composite rehabilitation and resettlement plan that can be modified by every State according to its needs? This is the first thing. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Now, hon. Home Minister.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now, nothing will go on record.

...*(Interruptions)**

SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY: Anti-social elements were creating a divide in Orissa society by telling that these are the tribals and these are the non-tribals. It is a pity. There is no difference between the tribals and the non-tribals. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Now nothing should go on record.

...*(Interruptions)**

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please sit down now.

[Translation]

Satpathy ji, now nothing will go on record.

...*(Interruptions)**

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon. Home Minister.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please sit down now. Nothing is going on record.

...*(Interruptions)**

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You all please sit down.

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: No, I will not allow anybody else.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please go to your seat first. Nothing is going on record.

...*(Interruptions)**

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: At first you send your people at the back.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I will tell them only when the people of your party are silent.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: You all go to your seat. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Nothing is going on record.

...*(Interruptions)**

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please sit down. Hon. Minister is on his legs.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, you are so nice to give chance to others to speak and put on question each—BJP, BJD and CPI(M). I would humbly appeal to you to listen for a minute or two one Member from JMM also. Then, the Hon. Home Minister may reply. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Hemlal Murmu.

[Translation]

SHRI HEMLAL MURMU (Rajmahal): Satpathy ji, you have spoken much. So, you please sit down. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI HEMLAL MURMU: Sir, the incidents involving barbarity on the tribal people have been taking place throughout the country. Incidentally these take place in those areas whether it is mineral or setting up of remaining enterprises or undertakings in the name of development. ...*(Interruptions)*

Sir, in Kaling Nagar. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Satpathi ji. I have given you time more than requirement. So, Please sit down.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please put your question to the Hon'ble Minister.

...*(Interruptions)*

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI HEMLAL MURMU: Mr. Deputy Speaker, the barbarous treatment meted out to the tribals in Kalinga district of Orissa. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Nothing should be recorded except the speech of Shri Hemlal Murmu.

SHRI HEMLAL MURMU: Sir, this is the important question whether it is Orissa, Jharkhand or Chhattisgarh. Even in Jharkhand recently 9 tribals were. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now will you put your question or just go on lecturing?

...*(Interruptions)**

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please, sit down.

[English]

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI HEMLAL MURMU: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, barbarity on the tribals in Kalinga district of Orissa is indeed a shameful incident.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please sit down. This is not to be recorded. Please sit down.

...*(Interruptions)**

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please sit down. It is not related to this issue.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hemlalji, please put your question instead of delivering a speech.

[Translation]

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI HEMLAL MURMU: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am speaking in the same context. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI HEMLAL MURMU: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would urge the Government to frame a National Policy on rehabilitation so as to ensure justice for tribals throughout the country and there is a need to have a debate on this. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You can put question only.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now, I would request the hon. Home Minister to respond.

...*(Interruptions)*

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY: Sir, it is not an issue that is related to the BJP or NDA Government. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Shailendra Kumar ji, Please sit down.

[English]

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: Sir, I would like to thank you, Shri Basu Deb Acharia, and other hon. Members who have created an opportunity for all of us to discuss this important issue in the House. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please maintain silence in the House.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: This discussion was allowed on the floor of the House rightly without following the rules and by using inherent power. This discussion was allowed by understanding the importance of the issue, and it is as it should be.

The tribals are living in the forest areas, and they are the poorest of the poor in the country. They generally depend on the lands, and the usufruct of the forest. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY: It is not a forest area.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: But when the land is taken away from someone who is a farmer or a tiller of a land, then he feels bad, and he is agitated. Even the big landlords, who lose their land, feel agitated and unhappy. If a poor man having a small piece of land is losing his land, then he is bound to feel unhappy. Therefore, it is the duty of all of us—the entire society, the Union Government as well as the State Government, and those who are establishing the industry—to assuage his feelings. We should do something to help him when he is losing his land or means of livelihood, and give an assurance so that he would survive. This matter has to be dealt with in a very compassionate, just and correct manner. If it is not dealt with in a compassionate and correct manner, then it is not possible to ask those who really suffer not to feel agitated. It is not possible, and therefore, it has to be taken care of by all of us. ...*(Interruptions)*

Sir, a question was asked whether the Government of India would formulate a rehabilitation policy. All the hon. Members in this House know that we do have something that can be called as a rehabilitation policy. Still, it is realised by all of us that this policy is not really helping those people who are deprived of their properties, and those who are deprived of the opportunities to support themselves. They are asking for a better policy; for a better approach; for better rules; and, if possible, a law also to rehabilitate them.

Now, this is a very big issue, and this issue is a very important issue, and the Government of India would certainly look into it. But these policies have to be made not only by the Government of India, but the State Government also have to cooperate in it because industrialisation and acquisition of land is done by the State Government. Whenever land is acquired, it is not acquired by the Union Government, it is acquired through the State Government officials. The Compensation Act provides as to how the land has to be acquired and as to how the compensation has to be given.

I remember, Sir, in Mrs. Gandhi's time, this issue was discussed at a great length and the law had provided that the market value should be given to the person whose land acquired. At that time, a momentous decision was taken that market value is not sufficient and so it was decided that 35 per cent more should be added to the market value and that should be treated as compensation and should be given to the person whose land is acquired.

Yet, Sir, in some States, when the land is acquired, the people are not satisfied because they are all the time dependent on the land and it is not possible for them to take up any other avocation, start industry or join trade. That is why, they feel very, very unhappy, and that is why the agitations are going on at all places where the land is acquired and land is used for constructing dams or developing the industry.

Sir, if it is necessary, this matter can be considered by the Government of India and by all the parties which are with the Government, and all the parties which are in the Parliament, in order to make a policy and in order to give that policy in the form of a statute to the country. I am not giving any assurance, but this is the right approach and we will certainly keep that in mind.

The second thing which has to be borne in mind by us is that for agriculture, we shall have to construct the irrigation dams. If irrigation dams are not constructed, then the land is not irrigated, the water is not available for agriculture development. On one hand, some farmers are likely to lose land, and on the other, some farmers are likely to get water. That is why, a proper compensation should be given to those who lose lands, and benefit should be given to these people. This is applicable to the industry also. If industry has to be developed, it has to be developed somewhere or the other. If the industry has to be developed, if the land has to be acquired and if the land is acquired in the areas where there is no irrigation facility or where there is no industry, I think, that is a good thing to happen to that area. But at the same time, I would like to say that the poor tribals who are uneducated, ignorant and are not in a position to help themselves, they feel very much agitated, and that is why, it is the duty of the industry which is going there, it is the duty of the State Government which is responsible for it, and I would say that even the industries of the Union Government should indirectly or directly support that and do it. So, what has to be done in these cases?

We are very, very sorry that 14 lives have been lost—13 were killed at that time. One of them was a policeman, and later on, one person died in the hospital, and the number has gone to 14. We are very sorry about that. That is exactly why, Sir, Madam Sonia Gandhi and we all went there. We sent there in a very responsible manner. We did not criticise the Government or the officers. We did not incite anybody. We wanted to share the grief and sorrow of the people who had actually suffered. It was with the intention we had gone there. Suppose, for some reason or the other, it has not been possible for the members of the Government in Orissa to go there, people might be thinking that they are responsible for this, we did understand, but we did not even mention it. She went there, she shared their grief, and she talked to the persons who had lost their dear and near ones. Even talking to them was giving a lot of relief of them. That was a psychological relief which has to be given, which has been done. We have all to be in a responsible manner understand this problem and help these poor destitute and weaker sections of the society.

We all have to behave in a responsible manner, understand this problem and help these poor, destitute and weaker sections of the society. At the same time,

we should take steps to see that if something has to be acquired for developmental purposes, that is acquired.

In this case what has actually happened was that land was acquired. The compensation given for one acre of land acquired was in the vicinity of Rs. 60,000. That value in these days is a little less. Maybe the land was acquired long back and yet that value is nothing compared to the actual market value of the land. That is why, when the same land was given to the industry at a price of Rs. 3.5 lakh, people felt that justice was not done to them. If they felt so, instead of going against themselves, it would have been necessary for all of us to understand their problem and to see that the compensation is given.

I am told that the Government has appointed a Committee of Ministers in order to look into the problem and decide as to what kind of compensation, in addition to the compensation which is already given to them, can be given to the oustees. I would say that the Ministers would look into it in a proper manner. I would say that they should try to do justice, they should try to see that the present market value, after deducting some amount of money which has been spent for development of infrastructure like roads, lights, etc., is given. At the same time, this aspect has to be taken into consideration.

Those who had lost their land were promised that employment to at least one person in a family would be given. Some hon. Members got up and said that a public sector undertaking is there and the public sector undertaking has also failed in giving employment to the members of the families. If that is there, we would certainly request our colleagues to look into it and see that they do something in this matter. At the same time, it would be necessary for the Government of Orissa and the industry going there also to see that the people there want that there is a continuous flow of funds in their houses so that they can sustain themselves for which they want employment. This aspect of providing employment has to be looked into in a proper manner. The Government, it seems, has appointed a Committee and they are looking into it.

One of the things which were brought to the notice of Shrimati Sonia Gandhi and myself and the officers who had gone there is that the dead bodies were mutilated, some hands and feet were mutilated. It was very difficult for us to believe that it could be done. If it has been done, it is too much. It has to be looked into and severe punishment has to be given to those officers

[Shri Shivraj V. Patil]

or doctors or anybody who had done this. It should be done after an inquiry, not before in inquiry, but it has to be done. I would like to say that for anything, for developmental purposes or for anything, we shall have to conduct ourselves in a manner which does not divide the entire society.

We shudder at the idea of *Rath Yatra*. If *Rath Yatra* is started with ashes and it becomes divisive it is not good. ...*(Interruptions)* I would say that it has to be avoided. *Rath Yatra* for any religious purpose also should not be undertaken. ...*(Interruptions)* We are only appealing and urging. If you take out *Rath Yatras* and if you have religious obligations, you do not know what kind of pressure you are putting on the police machinery, on the law and order machinery. They have to be vigilant every moment. If something happens in some matter, the entire society suffers. That is why we are not saying, 'Do this thing or do that thing'. We are leaving it to the judgement of the people who are involved in it. But we can certainly be allowed to request to them to see to it that whatever they do does not become a divisive aspect in our society.

If it becomes, it is going to be critical. I would like to say that the hon. Prime Minister was very kind to say on behalf of the Government of India and that I should announce that each of these people should be given in *ex-gratia* compensation of Rs. 5 lakh. We are in the process of giving it. But, I think, those who have suffered, have no bank balance and they have no bank account. We would like to deposit the money in the bank account and we would like to fix it in the bank in such a manner that every year they get some money. They will get money for their education, etc. We would like to do that. At the same time, those brothers and sisters who are helping there, we should like to request them also to please do not stop from doing it. If they want to talk to the Government of Orissa, we would request the Government of Orissa. I am sure the Government of Orissa will understand it. We would request them to talk to you. If you have any problem, the same can be discussed and solved. We would ask them to do it. If you want some assistance from the Government of India, we would certainly do it. But this is a problem which has to be dealt with in a compassionate, understanding and humane manner. If we do not do it, it will be a mistake. If we swing from one extreme to the other extreme and say that nothing has happened, nothing has to be done, it is wrong. If we do not understand the issue of taking steps to see that the area develops agriculturally,

industrially and from the point of view of education, we would have committed the mistake.

Wisdom, balance and compassion are required here. I hope that the Government of Orissa is capable of doing it. They would do it. We, from here, will do. We would request that erring people should be punished and we would request the compensation should be given to them. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon. Members, please listen to me.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: No, please sit down.

Hon. Members, today, we have to discuss the Demands for Grants related to the Ministry of Agriculture. There shall be no lunch break also. I think, the hon. Members would agree to that.

Today, there will be no 'Zero Hour'.

13.22 hrs.

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Matters under Rule 377, listed for the day, may be treated as laid on the Table of the House.

(I) **Need to take steps for continuance of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands Forest and Plantation Development Corporation Limited**

SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA (Andaman & Nicobar Islands): Sir, I would like to draw the attention of this House that the Andaman and Nicobar Islands Forest and Plantation Development Corporation Limited has approximately 2000 employees on its roll and the monthly wages bill comes to around Rs. 1.00 crore only. After the restrictions on timber harvesting, the Government of India on the directives of the hon. Supreme Court appointed a one man Commission, which recommended closure of the Corporation. But the Ministry of Environment

*Treated as laid on the Table.

and Forests has taken the decision to continue the Corporation by restructuring and down-sizing the manpower. Accordingly, M/s Tata Consultancy Services was engaged and they, after detailed spot study, submitted their report to the Ministry of Environment and Forests which projected two proposals, namely, (i) closure of Red Oil Palm and Rubber Plantation and reduction of manpower by 82.5 per cent and keeping 17.5 per cent for harvesting of timber; and (ii) closure of Rubber Plantation and reduction of manpower by 60 per cent and keeping 40 per cent for Red Oil Palm Plantation and harvesting of timber. I strongly oppose the proposal at (i) and recommend that the proposal (ii) be implemented adding the eco-tourism activities which has great potential in Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

(ii) Need to construct Kalka-by-pass in Himachal Pradesh on priority basis

[Translation]

DR. COL. (RETD.) DHANI RAM SHANDIL (Shimla): There is heavy traffic on Shimla Kalka National Highway in Himachal Pradesh as it connects the state capital Shimla. On one hand convoys of army jawans and vehicles with army logistics pass through it while the movement of public transport, the tourist and VIP vehicles take place on the other. Also the heavy trucks loaded with agro products, vegetables particularly apple and potatoes have to use this highway.

Sir, the greatest inconvenience is caused when a traffic jam takes place between Kalka and Surajpur and the situation worsens to such an extent that it is difficult to cross the highway from one end to the other for hours together.

Sir, there is only one solution to deal with the situation and that is the construction of Kalka by-pass in such a way that a road is constructed near Surajpur along the Koshalya River and it is connected to the Kalka-Shimla Highway near Parvanu.

Sir, I would urge upon the Government to commence the construction work for Kalka by-pass at the earliest in view of the importance of the NH-22 and larger public interest.

The Government of India has recently granted permission for cultivation of Red Oil Palm Plantation in the State of Tripura to circumvent the edible oil shortage in the country.

I, therefore, urge the Government of India not to take any step for closure of ANIFPDCL.

(iii) Need to review the policy for import of Vanaspati from Sri Lanka and Nepal

[English]

DR. KARAN SINGH YADAV (Alwar): The duty free import of Vanaspati from Sri Lanka and Nepal has resulted into closure of more than hundred units and large number of Vanaspati units are facing threat of closure. These closures effects the jobs of thousands of labours on one hand and on the other hand the oil seed producing farmers are suffering the most. The prices of mustard oil seed has come down in recent years. In Rajasthan itself, large quantity of mustard seed is lying in godowns of FCI, NAFED and TILHAN SANGH. There is no storage space for new crop which has already started coming in the market. Fees Trade Agreement to import Vanaspati from Sri Lanka and Nepal is totally against the interest of Indian Vansapati industry. It is, therefore, submitted that hon. Minister for Commerce and hon. Minister for Agriculture should have a re-look at this Agreement with Sri Lanka and Nepal.

(iv) Need to operate international flights from Madurai, Tamil Nadu to Singapore, Kuala Lumpur and Gulf countries

SHRI N.S.V. CHITTHAN (Dindigul): Madurai, a pilgrimage city in Tamil Nadu is the only Airport left without any international operation. People from Madurai and South Tamil Nadu are settled in Singapore and Kuala Lumpur and carrying out business and their families very frequently travelling between these stations and many people work in Gulf countries.

All passengers travelling to International stations are taking their flights to Chennai for onward connecting flights are facing lot of difficulties. If this facility is made available at Madurai it will reduce the hardship faced by International passengers and groups of foreigners travelling to Madurai during season timings.

An International operation will engender a speedier economic growth of South Tamil Nadu and also will help foreign tourist visiting world renowned Madurai Meenakshi Temple, Kodaikanal, Rameswaram, Thekkadi, Kumill, Kanyakumari and Tuticorin Port and the tourism will also improve. Perishables like vegetable and fruits for export

[Shri N.S.V. Chitthan]

are being carried by road to Chennai or Trivandrum which is a time and cost consuming factor.

Indian Airlines is operating a flight with A-320 aircraft daily from Madurai to Chennai carrying International Passengers Chennai-Singapore, Chennai-Kuala Lumpur and Chennai-Gulf sectors.

The present infrastructure facilities available at Madurai Airport are sufficient to handle the A-320 aircraft comfortably.

I urge upon the Hon'ble Minister of Civil Aviation to operate an International Flight from Madurai thrice in a week to Singapore/Kuala Lumpur or Gulf countries with A-320 Aircraft being operated by Indian Airlines, as there is a full set up staff/office and all infrastructure facilities/equipments available at Madurai Airport at present.

(v) Need to implement Urban Development Schemes in towns of Amreli Parliamentary Constituency, Gujarat

[Translation]

SHRI V.K. THUMMAR (Amreli): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Central Government have undertaken schemes aimed at providing infrastructural facilities in small cities and towns but the towns in my constituency Amreli, Rajula, Sawarkudla, Damnagar and Bagsara are some of the small and big towns which still do not have sewerage system leading to insanitation in street drains, thereby spreading a disease like malaria. The State Government of Gujarat have not forwarded any proposals to the Central Government for implementing Central Schemes in these towns. The Central Government should take initiative for availability of basic facilities in these towns.

The Government is requested through this House that Urban Development Schemes of the Central Government should be implemented in these towns so that basic facilities can be made available to the local people of the area.

(vi) Need to check mass exodus of tribals from Bastar region of Chhattisgarh due to Naxal violence in the region and provide interim relief to them

[English]

MS. INGRID MCLEOD (Nominated): Due to the naxal terrorism in Bastar Region of Chhattisgarh, thousands of

tribals are fleeing their homes. These poor, homeless and innocent tribals are escaping due to naxal violence in a desperate bid for survival. It is estimated that about 50 thousands tribals have already fled their villages. The fleeing tribal women and children especially have no hope for the future. Poverty stricken, with little or no personal belongings, and no help from the State Government, these fleeing tribals are doomed. The exodus is bound to create irreversible harmful conditions of social, cultural, and economical, degradation in the life of the Bastar tribals. A permanent shift from the original tribal background will cause havoc to their culture. I request the Honourable Home Minister to take an immediate census of the affected tribal population in Bastar, to facilitate their rehabilitation, and to provide interim relief to them.

(vii) Need to ensure effective implementation of labour laws in Border Roads Organisation

[Translation]

SHRI AVINASH RAI KHANNA (Hoshiarpur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, now-a-days labourers are being exploited, for example, lakhs of labourers working in the Border Roads Organisation are being deprived of the protection of the labour laws. Even they do not get the minimum wages. The Chief Labour Commissioner in the Ministry of Labour who detects theft of minimum wages by doing inspections under the Minimum Wages Act, 1948. Payments worth crores of rupees are lying deposited in the Government exchequers or orders regarding payment of the minimum wages are confined to the files only due to which earning of lakhs and crores of labourers earned with hard work is not reaching them due to fault on the part of the Government. The Government officials who violate labour laws are not being proceeded against. Permission is not being granted to prosecute them under section 197 of the IPC. Uniform criteria are not being applied to the non-Government and Government officials who violate labour laws. Therefore, there is a great resentment among labourers over this exploitation.

I demand from the Central Government to take appropriate action in this regard.

(viii) Need to take steps for providing relief to the paddy growers whose crops have been affected due to natural calamities in Maharashtra

PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR (Chimur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, in Maharashtra in view of the loss of paddy

crops due to draught, continuous rise in the cost of inputs used in paddy cultivation, and no proportionate rise in the cost of paddy; the rising burden of loans on the farmers; and spurt in the incidences of suicides by farmers, following measures should be taken up to solve these problems:-

1. The loans of paddy grower farmers should be waived off.
2. Rate of interest should be reduced to 6%.
3. Subsidy should be increased to reduce the cost.
4. Bill of electric motors for the last three years should be waived off.
5. Power load shedding should be stopped.
6. Rs. 2 lacs should be given to the bereaved family of farmers who committed suicide.
7. One member of the family of those farmers who committed suicide should be given job in Government.
8. Rate for irrigation should be reduced for paddy growers farmers.
9. Price of paddy should be fixed on the basis of the cultivation cost of paddy.

(ix) **Need to provide canteen and other facilities to the para-military personnel after their retirement**

[Translation]

SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT 'BACHDA' (Almora): The personnel of para military forces are provided canteen, medical, housing facilities etc. at par with the personnel of Indian army. Most of the para military forces are deployed at military positions, remote border areas where they do their duty in a very dedicated manner.

But after retirement, the personnel of paramilitary forces are deprived of canteen, medical and housing facility. This has caused disappointment and frustration among them. Assam Rifles, BSF, ITBP are as good as military forces and their sacrifice for the country is in no way less than that of military personnel. But still they are not getting facilities at par with the military personnel as they come under the Ministry of Home Affairs. It is a very serious matter. Several organizations of retired

paramilitary forces time and again have been requesting for granting above mentioned facilities but no action has been taken so far on their request.

I, therefore, urge upon the Government that all facilities such as canteen, medical, housing etc., which are admissible to the retired personnel of military forces should also be extended to the retired personnel of para military forces of the country.

(x) **Need to develop 'Dandi Yatra' route as a heritage project in Gujarat**

[English]

SHRI KASHIRAM RANA (Surat): Last year, the Government of Gujarat requested the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India for making improvement and preservation of the Dandi Marg as heritage project. On 6th April, 2005, Hon'ble Prime Minister also announced that this Dandi Yatra route would be developed as a heritage route. The project involves improvement of the existing state and Panchayat roads constructing new bridges across the river Narmada, Mahi and Tapi, new construction of around 41 Kilometers. The estimated cost is Rs. 344 crore inclusive of land acquisition and walkways along the entire route.

Considering the importance of Dandi Marg in the history of our independence movement. I urge up on the Government to kindly consider improvement and preservation of this route as a heritage project immediately.

(xi) **Need to upgrade Medical College at Gorakhpur, Uttar Pradesh with a view to provide better medical facilities to the people in the region**

[Translation]

SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY (Maharajganj, U.P.): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the medical college at Gorakhpur Uttar Pradesh is very old but it has not made any progress over such a long period. Serious patients have to go elsewhere for treatment due to lack of proper medical facilities in it. Hence for treatment they have to spend heavy amount and waste lot of time. Poor patients are not able to get treatment. However, many buildings and lot of land is available with the medical college. Therefore by upgrading the medical college, sufficient medical facilities can be made available there.

[Shri Pankaj Choudhary]

So, I request the Government that they may conduct a comprehensive survey of the Gorakhpur medical college and upgrade it so that many serious ailments, such as spinal injury, cancer, heart disease, encephylitis can be treated there.

- (xii) Need to suitably amend forest laws for facilitating the development of tribal areas in Bharuch Parliamentary Constituency, Gujarat**

SHRI MANSUKHBHAI D. VASAVA (Bharuch): Mr. Speaker, Sir, tribal people live in the hilly areas of Gujarat, particularly in my parliamentary constituency Bharuch and Narmada district which is devoid of basic facilities like schools, hospitals and roads. Tribal people have no irrigation facilities to irrigate their farms. Electricity is not available there. Drinking water is not available to them. People are compelled to drink unclean water resulting in spread of different type of illness to the local tribals. If somebody falls sick, he has to be carried 12 to 14 km. away for treatment. Developmental works can not be started there as that region falls in forest reserve area. Other forest related laws also hinder the development of hilly areas. People of these areas call these laws as black laws.

I, request the government through this house that the laws which are hampering the development works in the tribal areas should be withdrawn.

- (xiii) Need to expedite construction of Barjora-Tajpur, Hatashuri—Godardihi and other pending road projects in Bankura and Burdwan districts in West Bengal under Pradhan Mantri Gramin Sadak Yojna**

[English]

SHRI SUNIL KHAN (Durgapur): It is a matter of regret that the sanctioned roads under Pradhanmantri Gramin Sadak Yojana in the district of Bankura, West Bengal, have not yet even started. The roads were sanctioned four years ago, some-roads are completed, like Maliara to Metali and others are under Sonamukhi and Saltora Panchayat Samiti area. Out of nine roads, three have been completed in three assembly segments of my constituency in Bankura district and four assembly segments of Burdwan district of my constituency are also pending. Within the entire area of the Bankura district, the PMGSY in the month of September 2005, I met with an engineer who is engaged in the office of PMGSY of

Bankura district alongwith a Zila Parishad member, he told me that the road from Barjora to Tajpur and Godardihi could be started from November, 2005. But the reasons unknown to me that Barjora to Tajpur section has not been considered for tendering.

I would like to know from the Ministry how many roads were sanctioned at that time and how many are completed and the reasons for not completing that sanctioned roads.

So, I urge upon the Union Government to complete Barjora to Tajpur Hatashuri to Godardihi road, Maliara to Nandapur road and other pending roads under PMGSY of Bankura and Burdwan districts.

- (xiv) Need to grant special package for the development of ravines in Etawah Parliamentary Constituency, Uttar Pradesh**

[Translation]

SHRI RAGHURAJ SINGH SHAKYA (Etawah): Mr. Speaker, Sir, through this House I would like to draw the kind attention of hon. Minister towards the basic problems of Etawah Parliamentary Constituency. On account of its proximity to Chambal Valley, its 40% land is ravine and water level has also gone down there considerably. This area is dacoit infested too, due to its proximity to Chambal. Government of Uttar Pradesh have demanded from the Hon. Minister a package worth Rs. 50 crore for improving the land in ravines. I had raised this problem earlier also in the House. Hon. Minister had also given assurance to give special package. There eight per cent people are dependent on agriculture. Agriculture is the main source of livelihood in my parliamentary constituency.

Union Government is, therefore, requested to give special package for my parliamentary constituency so that problems of farmers of that area could be solved.

- (xv) Need to check pollution caused by the effluent released by Shri Shadi Lal Chemicals Works Plikhani, Saharanpur, Uttar Pradesh**

SHRI RASHID MASOOD (Saharanpur): Hon'ble Speaker, the effluent released by Shri Shadi Lal Chemicals Works, Plikhani in Saharanpur district of Uttar Pradesh is polluting the environment. Due to which the farmers and the people of that area are facing a lot of problems. There the underground water has become red

and is not safe for drinking purpose. The people of the area have made complaints in this regard several times. The base depot of Indian Air Force is also located there. The health of the most of the officers living in that base depot is also deteriorating due to unsafe drinking water, unfiltered polluted underground water is being released for irrigating fields which is damaging the crops. There is an urgent need to take steps to solve this problem.

(xvi) Need for construction of National Highway linking Patna, Bihata and Aara in Bihar

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV (Patna): Hon'ble Speaker, Sir, there is no National Highway linking Patna, Bihata and Aara in Bihar. Recently, Government conducted a survey for constructing a highway there but thereafter no further action has been taken. People use the railway department's private road for going to Bihata and Aara. A road of department of defence is also there for going to Aara via Danapur but on this road vehicles can be driven only at the speed of 5 km per hour and that with lot of inconvenience and difficulties. The people of my constituency and Aara are facing lot of difficulties in the absence of road facility there.

I, therefore, through this august House request the hon'ble Minister of Road Transport to take steps without any further delay to start construction of proposed National Highway linking Patna Bihata and Aara.

(xvii) Need to review the decision to construct a dam on Paalar river in Andhra Pradesh by the State Government

[English]

SHRI D. VENUGOPAL (Tiruppattur): The ancient perennial rivers of Tamil Nadu glorified by Mahakavi Subramania Bharati, like Kaveri, Thenpennai, Paalar, are not having enough water these days. River Paalar which originates in Karantaka and passes through Andhra Pradesh for just 21 kilometres and flows into Tamil Nadu crossing a stretch of about 200 kilometres is a Tamil Nadu river traditionally. Wherever it flows, it remains to be the primary water resource for both drinking and irrigation purposes. Vellore, the Northern District in Tamil Nadu and places like Thiruvannamalai and Thiruppathur that come under my Lok Sabha constituency are fully dependent on Paalar. This river passes through three different States. In Andhra Pradesh, the stretch of river Paalar is very short, but still the Government of Andhra

Pradesh has planned to construct a dam across river Paalar near Kuppam in the Tamil Nadu-Andhra border. The area that has been identified by the Andhra Pradesh Government comes under Reserve Forest Area that is well within the jurisdiction of the Union Government. The unilateral decision of the Andhra Pradesh Government to construct a dam across the river Paalar causing damage to environment and ground water potential is a wrong measure. This also violates the River Water Agreement signed as early as in 1892. Hence, I urge upon the Union Government to stop the venture by the Government of Andhra Pradesh that will cause a serious impact on the agricultural activities in Northern districts of Tamil Nadu. I reiterate that this calls for negotiations, agreement and formal permission.

(xviii) Need to expedite repair and four laning work of National Highway No. 28 between Rudali and Basti in Uttar Pradesh

[Translation]

SHRI MITRASEN YADAV (Faizabad): Hon'ble Speaker, Sir, National Highway No. 28 passing through the prominent cities of Uttar Pradesh Lucknow-Faizabad-Gorakhpur is a very important highway. Among Rudali-Raizabad-Ayodhya-Basti stretch of this highway had been damaged by heavy rains during the last year. Keeping in view the importance of this National Highway the government has drawn a plan to widen this highway by converting it into a four lane highway and the work has been started on this plan by the Hindustan Construction Company Ltd. But the pace of repairing and widening work of this road is very slow. If the repairing work of this highway is not completed before the next rainy season. The traffic on it will be badly affected.

As the repair and four laning of the National Highway no. 28 is being done in a very tardy manner, I request the Government to take effective steps to accelerate the pace of work on this highway in public interest.

(xix) Need to allot Iron Ore Deposits in State of Chhattisgarh or Orissa for the use of Vishakhapatnam Steel Plant, Andhra Pradesh

[English]

SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU (Srikakulam): One of the main inputs (raw material) to produce Steel is Iron Ore and another is Coal. Due to lack of Iron Ore deposits

[Shri Kinjarappu Yerrannaidu]

in Andhra Pradesh our Visakhapatnam Steel Plant is purchasing Iron Ore of 6.5 million tonnes per year from NMDC and purchasing Coal of 5.0 million tonnes from Australia. Till date Visakhapatnam Steel Plant has no single Iron Ore and Coal captive mine except depending on NMDC. NMDC is supplying Iron Ore at the rate of about 1800 per metric tonnes. NMDC though had an MOU with VSP to supply the whole Deposit No. 5 material to VSP only but till last three months no single tonne of Iron Ore from Deposit No. 5 was supplied to VSP and on the other hand the Iron Ore material of Deposit No. 5 has been supplied to Private Industries like SR Gujarat, Nippon Denso Ispat and Raipur Alloys, and some material is being exported amounting to breach of contract/ understanding. Almost all the Steel Plants in India have their own captive mines of Iron Ore and Coal, whereas only for VSP no such captive mines are provide as yet.

I, request the Union Government to allot Iron Ore Deposits available in Chhattisgarh or Orissa for the Vishakhapatnam Steel Plant in Andhra Pradesh.

(xx) Need to evolve a clear policy for the protection of tigers in Sunderbans Tiger Reserve

SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL (Joynagar): I wish to bring to the notice of the Government regarding the population as well as the plight of tigers—our National Animal—in the country. Though there are a number of Tiger Reserves in the country, they are likely to be empty reserves in the coming years if the Government shall not adopt clear policies and methods in saving the tigers.

It is reported that census of tigers are undertaken from time to time. But the procedure being adopted for these census are not bearing fruitful results as these results would not lead to save the tigers. First of all, Tiger Reserves are of national importance bringing foreign exchange through visiting foreign tourists as well as from tourism point of view. Sunderbans is also one of such Tiger Reserve wherein the census of tigers was held recently.

Therefore, I demand the Government of inform the correct position of Tigers in Sunderbans and the steps being taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to protect the Tigers in Sunderbans through laying down clear policies and census methods.

13.23 hrs.

MESSAGES FROM RAJYA SABHA

[English]

SECRETARY-GENERAL: Sir, I have to report the following message received from the Secretary-General of Rajya Sabha:-

- (i) "In accordance with the provisions of sub-rule (6) of rule 186 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha, I am directed to return herewith the Appropriation Bill, 2006, which was passed by the Lok Sabha at its sitting held on the 10th March, 2006 and transmitted to the Rajya Sabha for its recommendations and to state that this House has no recommendations to make to the Lok Sabha in regard to the said Bill."
- (ii) "In accordance with the provisions of sub-rule (6) of rule 186 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha, I am directed to return herewith the Appropriation (No. 2) Bill, 2006, which was passed by the Lok Sabha at its sitting held on the 10th March, 2006 and transmitted to the Rajya Sabha for its recommendations and to state that this House has no recommendations to make to the Lok Sabha in regard to the said Bill."

13.24 hrs.

STATEMENTS BY MINISTERS—contd.

- (iv) **Incident of Hijacking of Mughalsarai-Barkakana Passenger Train No. 628 at Hehegara Station by Naxalites in Jharkhand on 13th March, 2006**

[Translation]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura): Sir, the entire train had been hijacked and the hon'ble Minister would like to make statement on it. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, in today's morning meeting, we

have decided that 'Zero Hour' will be dispensed with today. Several Members wanted to know the fate of train which was hijacked by the naxalites. I was advised to convince the Railway Minister in this regard. If he is ready to make a submission, he may be allowed to make a statement.

[*Translation*]

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI LALU PRASAD): Sir Naxalite gave a call for Jharkhand Bandh on dt. 13.3.2006. Mugalsarai-Barkakana Passenger Train No. 628 was stopped on 13.3.2006 around 7:10 p.m. at Haihaigad Railway station by armed naxalities and the driver was threatened not to drive the train, otherwise he would be killed. The rail engine was slightly damaged. When the train could not reach to the Kumandi Railway Station on schedule time. The drive of goods train going to that direction was sent to trace the said trace. When the goods train reached on the spot where incident had taken place, the militants started pelting stone on that train as well. After that, DRM stopped the trains running on both the rail lines and at 8:30 pm District administration was informed, on 14.3.06 a big troop of CRPF and RPF personnels was reached Kumandi station at 6 AM. By that time the Militants had left the station. No passenger or railway employee was injured in that incident and in the morning passenger train left the station and again the trains started running on that route as usual became by that time no police personnels had reached that place. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN (Firozabad): Deputy Speaker, Sir, it is a very serious problem. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record.

...(*Interruptions*)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You first go to your seat.

...(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You please listen to me for a minute

*Not recorded.

[*English*]

Please listen to me there is a procedure to discuss everything.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record. You first go on record. You first go to your seat.

...(*Interruptions*)*

[*Translation*]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. Vallabhabhai Katheria you may speak.

...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

SHRI K.S. RAO (Eluru): The National Fisheries Development Board must be kept in Andhra Pradesh. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Nothing is going on record.

...(*Interruptions*)*

13.28 hrs.

GENERAL BUDGET—DEMANDS FOR GRANTS—2006-2007

Ministry of Agriculture

[*English*]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The House will now take discussion and voting on Demand Nos. 1 to 3 relating to the Ministry of Agriculture.

Hon. Members present in the House whose cut motions to the Demands for Grants have been circulated may, if they desire to move their cut motions, send slips to the Table within 15 minutes indicating the serial numbers of the cut motions they would like to move. Only those cut motions will be treated as moved.

A list showing the serial numbers of cut motions treated as moved will be put on the Notice Board shortly thereafter. In case, any hon. Member finds any discrepancy in the list, he may kindly bring it to the notice of the Officer at the Table immediately.

Dr. Vallabhbhai Kathiria.

*Not recorded.

[Translation]

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA (Jaipur): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, time has been allotted till 4 O'clock. Is this not injustice with agriculture? There will be debate in this regard but it has to be finished in two hours. ...*(Interruptions)*

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYARANJAN DASMUNSI): We never stall zero hour. Today all parties have decided this. So, please do not raise this. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Bhargavaji, nothing is going on records.

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Nothing is going on record, Mr. Bhargava.

...*(Interruptions)**

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please sit down.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Silence please.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Tomorrow in Holi and all have to go. They will also have problem. Perhaps a few Hon. Members have to speak. So it was decided that there will be no Zero Hour today.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: All have to leave for their homes to celebrate Holi. So everybody wants that there should be no Zero Hour.

[English]

There is no 'Zero Hour' today.

Now, I would request the hon. Member. Dr. Kathiria to initiate the debate. I am sorry, I had forgotten one thing that

[Translation]

If the Hon. Members want to lay their written speeches then they can lay them. We will be highly grateful.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Tomorrow is Holi and several Hon. Members have to go.

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Motion moved:

"That the respective sums not exceeding the amounts of Revenue Account and Capital Account shown in the Third column of the Order paper be granted to the President of India, out of the Consolidated Fund of India, to complete the sums necessary to defray the charges that will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 2007, in respect of the heads of Demands entered in the Second column thereof against Demand Nos. 1 to 3 relating to the Ministry of Agriculture."

DEMANDS FOR GRANTS—FOR 2006-2007 IN RESPECT OF MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE
SUBMITTED TO THE VOTE OF LOK SABHA

No. & Name of the Demand	Amount of Demands for Grants submitted to the Vote of the House	
Ministry of Agriculture		
1. Department of Agriculture and Cooperation	4969,43,00,000	70,85,00,000
2. Department of Agricultural Research and Education	2160,00,00,000	
3. Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries	1030,72,00,000	15,14,00,000

*Not recorded.

[*Translation*]

DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA (Rajkot): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I rise to present my views on the Demands for Grants of the Department of Agriculture for the Central Budget 2006-07 presented by the Government of India. Everybody knows that India is an agricultural country. 69 percent population of the country depends on agriculture. It is said from the ancient time that agriculture is the base of Indian culture. When Bhishm Pitamaha had gone to reach responsibilities of a king to Yudishtar he asked him whether any farmer is oppressed in his state and whether he looks after the farmers who are bearing the burden of society? All the life on earth is based on agriculture. Are you aware about their problems or not? Whether there is arrangement of adequate number of ponds in your State? If there are ponds whether adequate water is available in them? If drought is there then any arrangement has been made for it or not? Such type of questions were raised at that time also. This, importance had been given to agriculture.

The basis of whole economy is agriculture and 68 percent population depends upon agriculture. The Hon. Minister had put forth two aspects while presenting the budget. He has paid attention towards farmers. I would like to thank him for keeping interest rate of loan at 7 percent for farmers. For loans of less than one lakh rupees a provision of 1700 crore rupees has been made by the next year. I would like to thank the Hon. Minister of Agriculture for these two things. The Hon. Minister of Agriculture belong to a family of farmer. Department of Agriculture belong to a family of farmer. Department of Water Resources and Department of Food Processing are connected with agriculture but their Minister are separate. I am of the view that Agriculture Department, agricultural, Finance Department, department attached to agriculture, Agriculture Law Department and other departments under agriculture should be brought under it. Agro industries, food processing Industries, agro processing for value addition, animal husbandry, cooperatives, biotechnology etc. should be brought under one umbrella. Various type of schemes are formulated. One department does not know what another department does and as a result the benefits are not distributed properly and nobody reaps the benefits properly. I think there is a need to converge all schemes and to bring them under one Department and one Ministry.

13.36 hrs.

[SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN *in the Chair*]

Now I would submit some points regarding budget. First of all I would start from the words written for agriculture-agriculture is 'yagya', it is a religion, it is an

art, it is science, it involves hard work, health and security of nation depends upon it, this work is like the work of a saint, it is a prayer of nature, exploitation of nature, it is service of motherland, it is well being of everybody, it is an alternate of non-vegetarianism, coordination between personal good and universal good, it is priest of nature and protector of environment, it is a prayer of the God, it is a service, it is a prayer and farmer is its priest and nucleus.

I am stating all this because agriculture has not got the desired importance even after so many years of independence. While supporting with data I would like to submit that 68% population of the country is dependent on agriculture but it makes only 25% contribution in GDP and if we will go through the data of the last fifteen years of Eighth, Ninth and Tenth Plan there has been only 1.3% investment in agriculture. Its contribution is 25% but only 1.3% investment has been made and that too by the private sector. If we will exclude private sector investment, the Government has done only 0.3% investments. I think it is very scanty whereas 68% population depends upon agriculture and 56.3% people get employment from it.

In view of the contribution of agriculture in GDP, agriculture should get 7% investment allocation in budget instead of 1.3%. 16 to 17% investment should be made in agriculture in view of employment. If you go through the dependency ratio there should be 21 to 22% investment in agriculture. For making proper investment we must evaluate the incremental capital output ratio because it tells us the duration in which the investment can be recovered. For example if somebody has invested one lakh rupees. In any business then by when he will be able to reap its full return means one lakh rupees. There are data which show that if you will invest money in industry you will get this money back in almost eight years, if the amount is invested in communication recovery will be made in 8.33 years, amount invested in road and transport will return in 5.37 years, the amount invested in mining will return in 7.99 means 8 years, the investment made in railways will return in 14.66 years and the investment in electricity will return in 15 years. However, it is being said that investment made in agriculture can be recovered in 1.99 means in two years, which means its return comes back in less than 2 years. I think agriculture has been neglected. I want to bring why all this is happening even after 58 years of independence? Where agriculture gives maximum return and employment, and it can help in eradicating poverty quickly. I request,

[Dr. Vallabhbai Kathiria]

through you, especially to the hon. Minister for Agriculture to provide for more and more investment in the agro sector in the Budget and if possible, a separate budget for agro sector, should be prepared.

My second point is about the farmer's problem with escalating cost at their end in the last fifty years. On the contrary, their proceeds are too less. This has rendered them to a situation where 78% farming in our land is virtually profitless, means the farmer are on minus side. 78% of them are bearing losses and only a tiny 1.6% of the farmers get profits from their occupation of farming. Most of these are the farmers who hold more than 10 acres of land. Rest of them are at a 'no profit no loss' point. So, 78% farmers are still at loss with their farming business. The Government has to take special measures to handle this situation including provision for a separate Agro-Budget.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, if we look at the plan outlay, there is an allocation of 4.5% of it for agro sector as approved by the Planning Commission. In my view, it should be 25% if we consider this in proportion to the same in our GDP. I am giving here all these figures because our agriculture has not been accorded with that importance which it stands for. It is said that the biotechnology will be the guiding force. It's true to some extent as the farmers now understand the benefits of genetic modification and that has also led to increase production. But we are much concerned about the stagnant productivity and its total quantum which has come to a standstill in last some years. The vehement use of fertilizers is a reason for this which has resulted in less production because if we use fertilizers, crops need more water. We have to consider and make efforts as to how can the production be increased with inclusion of biotechnology and organic farming, still using less quantity of fertilizers.

Sir, I would like to tell the hon. Minister for Agriculture that the Kisan Credit Card Scheme of our Government has been very popular.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: We have very limited time. Several hon. Members from your party have given their names to speak.

[Translation]

DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA: Sir, I am the first one to speak from our side. I am concerned for the

welfare of our farmer-community. The 'Kisan Credit Card Scheme' has proved to be very useful for them.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude.

[Translation]

DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA: Sir, I am telling these figures to help the country's progress. I have just mentioned about 'Kisan Credit Card Scheme' which has benefited about 5,56,00,000 farmers in all by now. Our Government had promised to distribute credit cards to all the farmers in the country by 2007, but looking at the provisions made in this Budget, I don't think you can accomplish this task by 2007.

Sir, my next issue is self-employment. You may be knowing about an innovative step taken by the Government of Gujarat. They proceeded for 'Krishi Rath Yatras' and 'Krishi Mahotsavas' the very last year to awaken the farmers. The 'Krishi Rath' covered 18 thousands villages all over Gujarat. Even the agro-scientists came out of their labs and reached the lands to inform the farmers about scientific methods of farming, drip sprinklers, bio-fertilizers, organic farming etc. I personally feel that other amenities should also be provided to the farmers of the country on the lines of credit cards.

My next point is about fertilizers. We succeeded to evolve 'Harit Kranti' 'Green Revolution' after 1965, but it was, for a good part, dependent upon fertilizers. If we assess the situation with present outlook, we find that the fertilizers are providing to be detrimental for health and otherwise, rather than being benefactor. There also is stagnation of benefits. The movement in vogue is Organic Farming, which allows manufacturing of indigenous fertilizers through wormiculture or cow-dung. I would like to tell the hon'ble Minister that we have a population of 29 crore cattle in the country and if we could use the dung collected from these we can have great quantities of composed organic manure, which will be an alternative for artificial and chemicalized fertilizers and would substantially increase our agro-produce. That is why I think that there is an urgent need to make a 'Cattle Wealth Policy' in the country. As far as water-harvesting is concerned, Gujarat has put forth a very good example. I would like to exemplify how the farmer there have been benefited by water-harvesting. In a place

under my Parliamentary Constituency, Morbishaheer, a showroom of bikes received an order for 1000 Hero Honda bikes in a single day on the eve of diwali last year!

This is a shining example of farmers prosperity out of great yields by adopting the water-harvesting techniques. As I have mentioned earlier, the investment in agro-sector gives you a healthy return within two years and if you adopt the micro-irrigation technique through check-dams, you may get your returns within a period of eight months only. So, I believe that there should be much more investment and budgeting for this sector which can substantially contribute to our GDP. River-linking techniques may be adopted for supply of irrigation-water from a water-rich area to a dry field and the rainwater must be collected and harvested to make proper use of it.

Sir, the time has come to move towards organic farming than using pesticides and artificial fertilizers. A proper marketing system should be evolved to let the farmers earn just prices of their produce, that will save the small farmers of our country. The production of more vegetable, fruits and herbal plants should be encouraged and processing facilities for them may be provided. The farmers should be encouraged to use indigenous machinery for farming and harvesting and this may be subsidized.

Sir, moreover, the *mandis* should be properly computerized in order to inform the farmers well about the current trends of market and agro-world. You have provided Rs. 1700 crore as a waiver of farmer loans. This is an excellent step taken by you. Thank you for this.

Sir, ours is an agro-based economy and that obliges us to help our agro-industry at a large scale. Gujarat has carved out a niche for itself as a role model in this 'Agricultural Revolution.' At present the agro-GDP of Gujarat is 11.1% which we aim to enhance upto 14% by the coming year vis-a-vis the national GDP which stands at only 2.3% in this arena. The successful examples of Gujarat should also be imitated all over the country to make real progress. These successful measures should be taken into consideration while formulating policies on agriculture. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. CHAIRMAN: There are six more speakers from your party. Please conclude now.

[*Translation*]

DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to quote here a saying by the great poet. Thiruvalluwar, who says that if the farmer fails, not even a saint can be successful *viz.*, no great effort can be accomplished without meeting the basic necessities, like food.

If these points are kept in mind then our G.D.P. will increase through farmers and development of the country will go on. Therefore, efforts should be made to allocated most of the Budget and investment in agriculture itself.

[*English*]

*Use of organic manual especially cow-dung and biofertilizer will increase the productivity with healthy produce and will help in positive health & less expenses.

- Subsidy on fertilizer should be given to farmers directly & not to fertilizer companies.
- Developed countries provide 44% subsidy on Agricultural Produce, while we provide only 6% subsidy.
- W.T.O. norm need not be forced to implement on farming-Agriculture.
- Interest rate to Agriculture credit should be reduced to 6% instead of 7% subeidy to be provided for minor irrigation drip and sprinkler system
- Kishan Channel should be telecast in the evening time for two hours at least.
- Organic farming for fruits, vegetables & medicinal plants in the demand of time, which requires more help by Govt.
- For "Shaswat Harit Kranti" it is high time to invest maximum in Agriculture Sector.
- The provision of withdrawal of exemption in IT under Section 80 (P) of IT Act 1961 of Urban Cooperative Bank should be reinstated *i.e.* there should not be any I.T. on Urban Co. Banks, which were passing through crisis.
- Cooperative contract farming should be enclosed instead of multinationals or corporate.
- Today, because of unseasonal rainfall, the majority of crops have failed.

..... This part of the speech was laid on the Table.

[Dr. Vallabhbai Kathiria]

- Crop Insurance in the form of comprehensive Agriculture Insurance Scheme requires to be implemented.
- Remunerative prices should be given to farmers.
- With drip and sprinkler the not irrigated area should be increased upto 100% from 40% at present with atleast two crops in a year.*

CUT MOTIONS

[*Translation*]

SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT 'BACHDA' (Almora):
Sir, I beg to move:

THAT THE DEMAND UNDER THE HEAD DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION (PAGE 1) BE REDUCED TO RE. 1.

Failure to implement the bio-agricultural programme.

Failure to implement the rapid irrigation benefit programme.

THAT THE DEMAND UNDER THE HEAD DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION (PAGE 1) BE REDUCED BY RS. 100.

SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT 'BACHDA':

Need to reduce interest rate on agriculture loans. (86)

Need to include fruits, flowers and vegetables besides other crops in Crop Insurance Scheme in view occasional of damage caused by hailstorms. (87)

Need to fix a time-bound programme for issuance of Kisan Credit Cards. (88)

Need to set up a 'Kisan Call Centre' in every village at Panchayat level. (89)

Need to provide special grants to the farmers growing bio-agriculture products. (90)

Need to construct pucca irrigation canals on the basis of actual water measurement. (91)

THAT THE DEMAND UNDER THE HEAD DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE RESEARCH AND EDUCATION (PAGE 2) BE REDUCED BY RS. 100.

Need to develop technology to upgrade and facilitate the drip irrigation system. (92)

Need to establish a Hill Horticulture University in Almora-Pithoragarh Parliamentary Constituency in Uttaranchal. (93)

Need to make agriculture as a mandatory subject at secondary schools level in the country. (94)

Need to make permanent arrangements for demonstration and training of farmers all over the country at block level. (95)

Need to include every village of the country under Horticulture Technology Mission. (96)

Need to launch a mission for developing advanced varieties of seeds. (97)

THAT THE DEMAND UNDER THE HEAD ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING (PAGE 3) BE REDUCED BY RS. 100

Need to launch programme for developing the advanced breed of cows, buffaloes, sheep, goats, etc. (98)

Need to set up a sheep reproduction centre on the land acquired for the purpose at Nauriyal Village in Champavat district of Uttaranchal. (99)

Need to start work in the sheep reproduction centre set up at Gudlekh in Almora district of Uttaranchal. (100)

Need to upgrade the cold water pisciculture centre at Banlekh in Champavat district of Uttaranchal. (101)

Need to make arrangement for providing funds to the farmers through Kisan Credit Cards for the purpose of setting up a dairy. (102)

Need to adopt the Embryo Transfer Technology to improve the breeds of the cow and buffalo on a large scale. (103)

Need to take an effective action to eliminate the Kurmulla insects at Syalde development block in Almora district of Uttaranchal. (104)

*SHRI V.K. THUMMAR (Amreli): Sir, Mahatma Gandhiji used to say that the soul of India lives in villages

*The speech was laid on the Table.

and it would be madness to think of development of the country until the development of farmers living in villages is not done. Whatever has been thought of regarding change in farming pattern under the leadership of Prime Minister who knows the condition of farmers very well and who knows that the real development is, will certainly change the lot of our farmers.

Achieving the target set for providing loan to farmers during the last two years, shows that our agriculture development is running on right track and. A huge sum to the tune of one lac seventy five thousand crore rupees have been allocated for requirement for coming years and the loan would be provided to farmers on interest rate of 7 per cent which is in the interest of the farmers. But I request the government that rules and regulations be also made for private and foreign banks for providing loans to farmers. It is not right that foreign Bank and private sector banks suffer losses and bear responsibilities. The increase in disbursement of agriculture loan in the current year and increase in loan percentage for farmers for this year in comparison to yester years is a matter of happiness. It is also a matter of pride for UPA Government that loan will be given to 50 lakh new farmers.

Last year the country witnessed many natural calamities in Maharashtra, Gujarat, Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh received heavy rainfall due to which farmers suffered huge loss of crops. Despite that, production of rice has increased by two percent and production of wheat has decreased. The production of wheat has decreased after unseasoned rain, production of Mangoes has been damaged and crops of onion has got ruined due to unseasoned rain despite good production of onion. Import of wheat is being opposed by farmers. The Government should think over it.

It is a matter of satisfaction that rate of growth in agriculture has been 2.3% because our agriculture production has not been up to the mark during the last two to four years. This shows that farmers are satisfied with the policy of UPA Government and are marching on the path of development.

The Government has taken a decision to continue the Crop Insurance Scheme but the State Government and Banks do not fulfill their responsibilities. There are many formalities which farmers find very difficult to fulfil. These formalities should be reduced.

Lacs of families of farmers are dependent on cotton cultivation in many states but they hardly get seeds of

BT Cotton and at places duplicate seeds have been given to farmers as a result; cotton growers commit suicides on large scale. The cotton growers do not get remunerative price in accordance with their labour because they are given less support price as compared to cost of production. The Government should pay attention towards this. The cotton growers of the country pay 14.5% amount as a premium of Insurance and pay 11% interest on loan. Thus, the cotton growers have to pay 24.5% thousand rupees on a loan of one lac rupees on these two items and if the crop gets mined then they will have to commit suicide. I request the Government through the House that Cotton Insurance premium should not be more than 2.5% or 3 percent. Only then we shall be able to save the cotton growers.

Even today, farmers of many parts of the country depend on rain for irrigation of their crops. They get good crop if they have good rain. About 38 irrigation projects are pending in the country which could not be completed on time. But UPA Government has initiated a rapid profit irrigation programme with the help of 4500 crore rupees in this year so that our pending irrigation projects could be completed. Allocation of Rs. 7121 crore have been made for this programme in this Budget. earlier, after laying the foundation stone of irrigation projects the pace of work was as slow as the speed of snail but the pace of irrigation projects have increased from this year. The Government is also requested that pace of completion of drought prone area programme and water shed schemes be increased.

This Government has provided funds for horticulture, animal husbandry and floriculture alongwith agriculture.

[English]

SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL (Kopergaon): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise to support the Budget and I welcome it. The current year's Budget has given a good relief to the farmers in some areas but it needs to have a re-look in a few areas as some difficulties need to be solved. I do agree that one year or two years' time is not sufficient for solving the entire problems of the agriculture or the farmers. One good thing here is that, the Plan outlay has been increased to Rs. 6927 crore from Rs. 5900 crore, which was reduced to Rs. 5559 crore in the revised budget estimates. In the same way, the revised budget estimates of the Department of Consumer Affairs and the Department of Food Processing industries was Rs. 213 crore, which has been increased to Rs. 370 crore.

[Shri Balasaheb Vikhe Patil]

This is a good beginning, but it further requires to be supplemented through subsidy. In the Budget papers I saw that subsidy has a declining trend. Subsidy though is not a good thing, yet there is no other alternative available at present. If the Government could come out with a new mechanism to support the farmers, other than by giving subsidy, then that would be good.

There has been a growth in agriculture from 1.1 per cent to 2.3 per cent. Production of food grains though has not touched a record level, yet there have been production of 209.3 million tonnes of food grains, which is five million tonnes more than last year. Around 60,000 hectares of land is proposed to be brought under irrigation through schemes like AIBP. There has been an increased outlay from an odd Rs. 4,000 crore to Rs. 7121 crore. Fifty per cent subsidy is proposed for drip irrigation and sprinkler irrigation for all big, small and marginal farmers, including farmers who belonging to Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe communities and even for women farmers. The Minister may consider giving 90 per cent subsidy to the small and marginal farmers and also for women farmers and farmers belonging to the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe communities. It is because drip and sprinkler irrigation are expensive modes of irrigation.

Sir, in regard to making available credit to farmers I would, first of all, like to congratulate the hon. Prime Minister in particular and also as the present custodian of the Department of Agriculture and the person who once led the co-operative movement, Shri Sharad Pawar for proposing to increase credit limit three fold and announcing that the credit limit would now be Rs. 1,75,000. I must say, this is a good beginning. At the same time, the Government has announced a package of Rs. 1500 crore for strengthening the co-operative and the banking sector as a whole. But this allocation has been made under the Ministry of Finance and not under the Ministry of Agriculture. Similarly, there is also a proposal to give relief on interest. But that allocation also is under the Ministry of Finance and not under the Ministry of Agriculture. I would also like to congratulate the Government for reducing the interest rate to seven per cent on short-term loans from the coming *Kharif* season. This, in a sense, is a good beginning. As the hon. Minister is aware that small and marginal farmers require capital investment and these categories of farmers would have to sustain a high rate of interest on capital investment. Our appeal to the hon. Minister was to reduce the rate

of interest to four per cent for the small, marginal and farmers belonging to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes community and for women farmers. But it has now been reduced to seven per cent. My congratulations are also due to the Prime Minister for this.

The Common Minimum Programme of the UPA Government talked about strengthening and re-designing of the crop insurance scheme. But the Government has continued with the same crop insurance scheme. I would like to appeal to the Government to bring in a constitutional amendment to make necessary changes in order that the democratic and the autonomous character of the co-operatives are maintained. Apart from this I would also like to suggest that a comprehensive crop insurance scheme should be adopted. There are three types of insurance: One is the farm income insurance scheme for which the Budget allocation in the current year is zero. Two, Technical Insurance Scheme for which the Budget allocation in the current year is zero. Third, Agriculture income insurance Scheme budgeting provision is zero. But the need of the hour is to have a road map as was declared last year's budget. I would be grateful if the hon. Minister, in the course of his reply, would enlighten us as to what kind of a road map he is going to have for the current year so that we could have diversified and value added crops. Why I am talking about this is because import of agriculture products is growing and export is declining. There is no infrastructure for export, for agriculture. I know this subject is being dealt with the Commerce Ministry. There is requirement of one family doctor for total agriculture. We cannot have so many specialist doctors for one Department. We need to have a single window concept. Single Window concept should be introduced in the Ministry of Agriculture. In the corporate sector there is the concept of a single widow. There should be a single window system in the Agriculture Ministry and other related Ministries can co-ordinate with it at the floor level as well as at the top level. This is my humble submission.

I know there are constraints. But I would like to congratulate the hon. Prime Minister for his efforts to improve the condition of the farm sector from the day he has taken over. There is a need for revival of the insurance scheme and various other schemes in the Ministry of Agriculture. I know the UPA Chairperson is concerned about all these aspects. But the point is, Rain-Fed Authority is not created. The Prime Minister has announced from the Red Fort on 15th August about it.

Almost 65 percent of our country is rain-fed area and 40 per cent of our foodgrains are produced there. About nine million people are living in the rain-fed areas. The need of the hour is to create a Rain-Fed Authority. Why I am saying this is because the developed areas in the State is siphoning off the money as they have the capacity to absorb the funds. Rain-fed areas do not have the capacity to do so. Such areas should be monitored. Drought-prone areas, flood-prone areas and cyclone-prone areas are not developed. So, if the Rain-Fed Authority is created, then some problems can be solved.

Regarding research and development, I do not understand the provision given in the Budget. NABARD is to open a line of credit for financing farm production and other activities through self-help groups. Now, where is the professional knowledge? I can understand that if some Krishi Vigyan Kendras are attached to the self-help groups, then it can be worked out. Otherwise, today the banks there are not professionals in PLRs. Then how can these SHG be possible?

About national agricultural project of research, it is in the frontier of agricultural science since July, 2005. I am happy to note that there are three universities concerned with this area. An amount of Rs. 100 crore is given to the Ludhiana University. They have established Rajiv Gandhi Centre for Technology. There are three other universities which have been given Rs. 50 crore for this area. Even the Thanjavur Rice Research Centre will given Rs. 50 crore for this area. Even the Thanjavur Rice Research Centre will develop a full-fledged Rice Research Institute. There is a need for a hybrid Rice Research Institute. What about the position in China? About 5 million hectares come under paddy cultivation. What about our country? We are importing wheat and, the next time, we will import rice also. So, I would request the Government to kindly diversify research to hybrid and give assured good price, good technology and good seeds. Seed Bank was created. Now it is wound up. There was some expenditure incurred for two years and last year, there was nil expenditure in the current year. Quality seed is the need of the hour. There is a need for public and private participation for quality seeds because production of seeds is very expensive. So, there is a need for an intervention in this area by the state.

Regarding rural development, there is one point which I want to make. As far as rural roads are concerned, already Rs. 500 crores are allotted from the Prime Minister's Gram Sadak Yojana, and CRF also is there.

At the same time, for rural infrastructure, Rs. 4000 crores have been allotted by the RIDF for rural roads. There is a mention of this in the Budget. But that is not enough.

Coming to irrigation, without irrigation, how will the farmers work? Irrigation is a major area of concern so far as rural areas are concerned. These are the major issues which I would like to focus my attention on. I think the hon. Minister will look into these issues as he knows better than myself. He is a champion in these areas.

I would highlight some problems which we are facing. Agriculture is the only source of employment in villages. Without agricultural produce, no farm employment will be there. Sustainability of agriculture means rural economy must sustain. Government is now talking about Green Revolution. I want the Minister to convert Green Revolution into Ever Green Revolution and the Minister is capable to doing it. Only then, it will yield good results.

I think everybody would have gone through the Mid-Term Appraisal of the Tenth Five Year Plan. They have given a note on this issue. There is a need to relook about the total strategy of agricultural policy. From 1990 onwards, that is, for the last 15 years, we find that there is a decline in investment in production.

14.00 hrs.

So, there is a need for Government intervention and there is a need for reversing the policy. The Public investment is required. But the major thing is the intervention of the Government is a must.

As far as the irrigation is concerned, long-pending projects which are pending for the last thirty or forty years should be taken up as national projects. In 1992-95, we had taken some projects as national projects. So, some irrigation projects should be taken as national projects because irrigation is the backbone of agriculture. Without irrigation, agriculture cannot be developed. Only islands are developed. The national average is 48 per cent as far as the irrigation is concerned. But what about Maharashtra? It is hardly 15 or 16 per cent. Some States are even below that. The need of the hour is to develop irrigation. I do understand that Ministry of Water Resources does not come under the Ministry of Agriculture. But there should be a family doctor. Who will look after the agriculture, if everybody says that agriculture does not come under his jurisdiction? Then, under whose jurisdiction

[Shri Balasaheb Vikhe Patil]

will it come? The Government is the one. It is the collective responsibility of the Government to do it. This is my humble submission.

There is a need for redesigning the insurance scheme. I have already mentioned that. The Ministry of Agriculture should prepare an agriculture insurance scheme for the small and marginal farmers. I do not know when it will come. I would bring to the notice of the Government, in particular the Ministry of Agriculture, that there is harassment throughout the country as far as the recovery of money from the small and marginal farmers are concerned. So, I would like appeal to the Government that they should not be harassed and they should not be arrested, nor their properties should be confiscated for the purpose of recovery. This message should go to the country.

Then, I come to the suicide of farmers. Everybody is aware of it. I am not making a political speech. The Government of Maharashtra has studied through the Institute called Indira Gandhi Agriculture Development and Research Institute and it has studied this issue. I have the figures with me. For one Starred and Unstarred Question, the hon. Minister has mentioned about the reasons and about the packages given by various State Governments. Some State Governments, like the State Government of Maharashtra, had announced a compensation of Rs. 1 lakh in the package and some other State Governments had announced a compensation of Rs. 50,000. But the point is, should the farmers commit suicide to get the benefit? It is a very sad state of affairs, that too after about 55 years of Independence. So, my humble submission is that

[*Translation*]

the condition of farmers will not improve by providing loan only. To improve the condition of farmers we will have to find the grey areas.

[*English*]

There are a lot of moneylenders. Shrimati Indira Gandhi once announced that there will not be any repayment to moneylenders. The Government should make such announcements once and for all because private moneylenders are exploiting. Their interest rate is around 40 or 60 per cent. When I visited to enquire about the suicide of a farmer, I found that the interest was 96 per cent. They had taken Rs. 44,000 for their

daughter's marriage. But after five years of her marriage, he committed suicide. So, the issue of moneylender is a major concern.

In Maharashtra, cotton area is a very sensitive area for suicide. Why? It is because for the last ten years we are importing cotton heavily. We are lowering our tariff every year. There is no buyer for cotton. There may be monopoly procurement by the Government of Maharashtra. But there is loss. These are some issues which we must address. See their economic condition. They get only farm loans. But what about their education expenses, health expenses and marriage expenses and other expenses? You are only restructuring the loan. What is meant by restructuring?

[*Translation*]

This means that we had to die today but will die tomorrow now.

[*English*]

So, restructuring is not the issue.

I want that Debt Relief Fund should be created. It will give a good relief. For the corporate sector we waive off the loans because the banks are capable. The design of cooperative banks is such that they cannot waive off the money. The only loan that they give is agriculture loan. There is no cross subsidy and commercial loan borrowing. So, I am appealing to the Government on two issues. Our cooperative banks may be allowed multiple activities so that they can sustain and their commercial strength can be increased. I am appealing and suggesting to the Government and in particular to the hon. Minister, Shri Sharad Pawar that he should appoint a Task Force and create one business model for the cooperatives. It is because its design is such that it cannot go for IPO or for commercial borrowing internally or globally.

Unfortunately, the Government has taxed the cooperative banks. One 80(P) was an exemption. So, I am requesting through you and through the House that the Government should withdraw this income tax and 80(P) should continue. If the Government wants to raise something, it can create a business model. You can postpone it for 2 or 3 years till the Task Force submits a report. In all the banking systems, only tax is excluded. Already, all the co-operative banks are on oxygen. All the cooperative banks, the State cooperative banks, are

on oxygen. They are on a dying bed. You say that they will not be taxed. But what about the revival? Okay, the Vaidyanathan Committee is there as far as long term and short term are concerned. But without changing the design, they are difficult to sustain.

The same is the case with Agriculture insurance, the National Agriculture Insurance. It is the single insurance. No company will survive with a single business. They must have been allowed all agriculture related insurance like horticulture or, maybe, animal husbandry or fisheries etc. So, all these issues should be addressed. As regards the national agriculture insurance, comprehensive insurance, is a must. The multiple insurance, there should be multi-discipline.

At the same time, allow the technical transfer technology. It is also required for that. Without that, the increase in production per hectare will not be there. But the cost of production will be more. As on today, 157 per cent is the cost of production and as against this, realization is hardly 51 per cent. How the farmers will survive?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude.

[Translation]

SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL: Mr. Chairman, Sir, that is why they are committing suicide. We will have to do some thing to give something to them for their survival. I do not want to take more time. Farmers are facing many problems. I want to speak about only one or two problems. Under our agriculture insurance ambit only 4 per cent farmers have been covered. What is the benefit of it? 51 percent farmers do not know what is Crop Insurance? When people do not even know about this then how will they benefit from this? They do not even know at what point of time you deduct the premium of Insurance from loan approved to farmers. Therefore, I would request the Government

[English]

that some training is required. I would request not to go for multi dynamic insurance like the tractor insurance, horticulture insurance. When you appoint evaluator for the rest of the areas, then why do you not go for the evaluator for crop cutting. etc.?

[Translation]

Farmers get the amount after one year. What will he do after one year?

[English]

He should get it within time, that is, two or three months. There should a time limit to get the crop insurance amount for that particular farmer.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude.

SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL: Sir, I would request you to please allow me a few minutes. I have not spoken for the last one and a half year.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You have already taken 20 minutes.

SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL: Only today I have spoken from my party. I have not wasted a single minute in the House. Please bear with me for some time.
...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN SINGH (Deoria): You should speak about the problems of farmers in his language. Farmer will not understand what you are talking about in the language you are speaking.

SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL: I am trying to speak in the language of a farmer. Now I want to tell about Kisan Credit Card.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude. You need not answer Shri Mohanji.

SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL: If you do not allow me to speak, then I have to hesitation in sitting down also.

[Translation]

Sir, I want to tell about how many percent of farmers are using Kisan Credit Card. Only one percent farmers using Kisan Credit Card. Only Credit Cards have been given to farmers but have not been activated. When the Credit Cards are not being utilized then by merely giving them will not serve the purpose.

Sir, I have written to Prime Minister yesterday also. At present about 42 percent is for institutional credit only.

[Shri Balasaheb Vikhe Patil]

[English]

Sir, 42 per cent is for institutional credit only and 58 per cent is from the non-institutional credit. What does this non-institutional credit mean? It is moneylenders. In this 42 per cent, Gujarat, Maharashtra and Karnataka hold more than 55 per cent. In Maharashtra, it is 61 per cent just because of cooperative. But during the last two years, the cooperatives are also declining due to drought and defaulters. Now, what about the drought? What are the packages? The Government should think of some packages.

[Translation]

The programme to provide money to farmers is not appropriate. The Government treats the farmers as untouchables. I beg your pardon, farmers should not be treated as untouchables. For this the Government will have to provide Budget and interfere and give money to farmers. Our rate of growth will increase by 10 percent only after farmers' growth of 4 percent.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude.

SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL: Please bear with me two-three minutes.

[Translation]

At present our growth rate is 8 percent in which growth rate of agriculture is only two percent. The reason of non achieving the 10 percent rate of growth is due to below expected production of agriculture. Whereas 64 percent people are employed in agriculture but contribution of agriculture is only 22 percent. Only 4 percent people are employed in Manufacturing sector. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude. There are nine speakers from your party.

SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL: I know of it. They asked me to speak. Of course, some Members from Maharashtra may sacrifice their time. I do agree with you about time constraint.

MR. CHAIRMAN: If you do not conclude, shall I cut short the time of your allies? So, please conclude.

SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL: I do agree with you. Sir, you are talking about coconut. What is the situation regarding coconut? What about spices and coffee? How is their business now?

[Translation]

You know the condition about coconut. Even we are importing that. So, our policy should be such ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: I know that it is such a subject you cannot conclude it so quickly. However, I would request you to conclude.

[Translation]

SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL: One last request I am making that we always say that this much is our production. Sir, we have nothing to do with the production. We have to see how much progress our farmers have made. It should be ensured that there should be some mention about the details of the growth of the farmers alongwith the agricultural growth in the next budget or report. The farmers are not progressing whereas the country is developing. 139 districts have been raided by naxalites and

[English]

it is spreading like a wild fire.

[Translation]

It is blowing like wind, why? Sons of the farmers, agricultural labourers are involved with them. It is happening, because they are not the part of the growth. I am saying this because. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Member, please conclude now so that I can call the next speaker.

SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL: I do agree with you. Within a minute, I am concluding. I do respect you very much.

[*Translation*]

Almost everything is happening in such a way, what ever we see, we get something. The Government is making efforts, I agree.

[*English*]

My point is this. I must tell something about the sugar package. The sugar package is a good package which the Government has given. But there is need to improve it further. Some negative network are there. The affected units gave me this. Some good things are already there. But like a corporate sector, they are also very much sad.

[*Translation*]

Accordingly the farmers must get something.
...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. CHAIRMAN: You have to conclude now.

[*Translation*]

SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL: I shall take one minute. In my district, there 45 villages are such, that per capita income is less than 25 paise a day for the last 20 years, how they would be surviving. The chitali villages, you know Chitali, there are villages named aathgaon, Gomalgaon. Sir, you must be knowing that village. There are 600 villages in my district, the income there is less than 50 paise for over 10 years, how they are surviving. People are migrating, there holding agitation, they are compelled to do so because they are no more farmers, they have become labourers. They are no more agricultural labourers. They are so helpless that they do any job anywhere. So, I hope that more investments would be made in agricultural sector. I had a talk with UPA Government, Prime Minister and the Chairperson of UPA, they are also of the view that concrete steps are being taken for the welfare of the farmers hence the results should be equally fruitful.

I, again, thank you for sugar package, rupees 1500 crore for the co-operatives and loans on lower rates of interest. Apart from that, I would like to say that we instantly need rainfed authority, reformation in insurance sector and debt relief fund otherwise we would be able to progress further. Relief to the farmers should be

extended like waiving off the full interest from the debt relief fund. This practice is also in the corporate sector, similarly, constitution of a debt relief fund would benefit the farmers.

With these words, I support the budget. There are shortcoming in the budget, try to remove it.

*SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA (Jaipur): Sir, Rajasthan has suffered a loss of about 2 billion rupees because of heavy rains and hailstorm. Standing crops of mustard, wheat, barley, gram, lentils have been ruined. Ready crops have also been ruined and their prices have come down. Whole village has not been even considered as a unit under Krishi Bima Yojana. I request the Government that a team may be sent to assess the loss and the full compensation be given to farmers.

Power connection should be immediately given to the wells. The farmers should get loan on the lower rates of the interest from the banks without any discrimination. Rain water harvesting should be made in every field with the assistance from the Government.

The procurement price for the mustard should be fixed and procurement centers should be set up. This arrangement has not been made so far. The farmers should be given electricity supply for at least 8 hours a day. For this purpose, power should be brought to Rajasthan from the neighbouring states. Drip system should be encouraged and grant should be increased for this purpose. The farmers should be provided with good quality seeds and other inputs.

[*English*]

SHRI SUDHANGSHU SEAL (Calcutta-North West): Mr. Chairman, Sir, while supporting the Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Agriculture for the year 2006-07, I would like to make certain points. I would request the hon. Minister to reply to those points at the time of his summing up.

I would like to say that this Budget has failed to address many vital problems faced by the common man, particularly the peasantry and the unemployed people. It is inadequate to meet the goals outlined in the National Common Minimum Programme. Sir, the reduction in the short-term interest rate for farmers and the proposed

*The speech was laid on the Table.

[Shri Sudhangshu Seal]

increase in the farm credit are welcome measures. But, these are limited in relation to the magnitude of the problems. Most of the recommendations of National Commission for Farmers have been ignored.

14.15 hrs.

[SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL *in the Chair*]

Allocations have been reduced for food subsidy instead of extending coverage of the Public Distribution System in the context of the growing number of hunger deaths across the country. There is no concrete proposal to put an end to farmers' suicide and unemployment. There is no creation of a price stabilization fund for agricultural commodities and extension of crop insurance to all farmers and crops. As regards the outlook for agriculture, the economic survey for 2005-06 says that the prospects for the year look reasonably bright because of the good monsoon. But, it also draws attention to the fact that in order to exploit high potential for growth in emerging areas such as horticulture, floriculture, organic farming, genetic engineering and food processing among others, the development of rural infrastructure, rural extension service and agro-based and food processing industries is essential. Sir, as you know that more than 70 per cent of our people in India are rural based. They mainly meet up their livelihood to some extent by engaging themselves in producing various types of agri-horticultural products and other items in their respective villages.

Sir, in the age of liberalisation, privatisation and globalisation, we are getting continuous threats of the capitalist countries. They want to grab the entire global market by their products and their target is always the countries like us. They are doing it for their survival. For our survival, we will have to utilize the huge manpower available in our country. The soil condition and the climatic condition is very much favourable to produce various types of products, which are conforming to the international standards and it is a job oriented sector. For the last three years, we are regularly sending different floriculture products in the global market from West Bengal and from other States also it is being sent. But, we do not have the buffer infrastructure. Hon. Minister knows it that to have the cool chain is the primary condition for doing the floriculture business. We need to have a number of multipurpose cold storages throughout the country for the interest of lakhs and lakhs of growers who are producing it but cannot preserve it due to non-availability of the

infrastructure. The items are perishable. So, if we do not preserve it in cold storage, then it is simply spoiled otherwise. It is learnt that out of the total production, 70 per cent is being wasted due to non-availability of the required infrastructure. So, I would urge upon the Government to please consider this issue seriously. Now, Sir, our hon. Prime Minister, Dr. Manmohan Singhji is correctly saying that we should give priority in exporting agricultural products. But, how will we do it? Where is the infrastructure? While sending potatoes from West Bengal to different Asian countries, we have to import refrigerated containers from Germany. It is really a shame for us. Even after 58 years of independence, we do not have the refrigerated containers in our country. On several occasions earlier, I have met hon. Agriculture Minister and also met our Commerce Minister. They are aware of the fact and I am thankful to our hon. Minister that he has taken keen interest to resolve this issue.

Sir, when we are sending our vegetables or potatoes or flowers or fruits, our experience is that all the giant countries like America, Australia, Holland etc. are providing transport assistance to all their growers. In our country also, the matter was referred to our hon. Agriculture Minister and in the case of potato he was kind enough to sanction transport assistance to compete with these giant suppliers. But the transport assistance was given for only one year which is going to end by 31st March.

Sir, what is our experience? Our experience is that our potato is the best in the world. Earlier, countries like America, Australia, Holland etc. used to supply it to other countries. Still they are supplying it, but when the buyers get our potato, they say that it is the best in the world. So, I would request the hon. Minister that the transport assistance which has been provided to potato growers, as an innovative scheme, under macro mode account, from the fund allocated to the State Governments, should be continued. Since we have started getting bulk orders, we need to have the support from the Central Government. So, I would request the hon. Minister to extend the transport assistance at least for another two years. We are confident that, if it is extended for another two years, by that time we would be in a position to establish our potato in the global market in such a way that we can compete with any country with our produce. The same is the case with flowers.

I would like to bring to the notice of the hon. Minister another problem associated with the storage facility for potato. Potato is a one-time crop. The growers want to

store potato in cold storage immediately after getting their crop. The banks are providing financial assistance for this and a rate has been fixed for this which is Rs. 161 per 50 kg. whereas the market price is Rs. 230 per 50 kg. I had a talk with different bank authorities. They are saying that they cannot increase it since the Government has fixed the rate. But to ensure supplies and to ensure preservation of large quantity of potatoes for export and also for domestic use, I think, the hon. Minister should take up the matter with the bank authorities and see that the farmers get more credit from banks and he should also see that the rate is enhanced from Rs. 161 per 50 kg. which was fixed long back. I think it should be fixed at Rs. 240 per 50 kg. Then only the growers will get some benefit.

As far as fruits are concerned, we are grateful to our hon. Minister that last year, for the first time, he organised an Indian Mango Fair at Singapore and the response was very good. We are very much encourage by this and we are hopeful that we would be in a position to export substantial quantity of mangoes and other fruits to different countries.

Sir, what is the need of the hour? The need of the hour is that the Government should build infrastructure for proper storage of our fruits and the Government should also extend support for export. We are supplying 28 varieties of vegetables to different countries. But our experience is that there are some anomalies in air freight. Though this is not the concern of the hon. Agriculture Minister, I would request that these anomalies should be removed to help our farmers who want to export these vegetables.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Kindly conclude.

SHRI SUDHANGSHU SEAL: I will conclude.

I would like to submit the export of agricultural products would be successful in our country only if we are equipped with international standard packaging. In packaging, we are lagging behind other countries. The Government should take an initiative to improve packaging. There should be a unit in all the States and we should have foreign expertise so that our growers and entrepreneurs can have international standard export packaging system. The Government should extend support to them so that whatever end product is sent to different countries, it conforms to international standard.

Lastly, I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister that there is huge potentiality in terms of supplying vegetables, fruits, potatoes and other items. But what we find is that we do not have sufficient cold-storage facilities and we do not have sufficient infrastructure. So, I believe the hon. Minister will look into this as it would ultimately help lakhs and lakhs of growers in India.

[Translation]

PROF. RAM GOPAL YADAV (Sambhal): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to draw the attention of hon. Agriculture Minister towards the demands for grants of Agriculture Department. Everybody know and you have stated just now that more than 70% people in the country are depended on agricultural and about 63% people earn their livelihood out of agriculture or related industries. Despite this, farming and the farmers are not getting due attention. However, this time, when the Budget was presented all the dailies of the country made it their headlines that the farmers were bestowed upon with wealth. But the reality is that in the total plan budget of the Government of India, the share of Department of Agriculture and Co-operation decreased from 1.90% of previous year to 1.89% this year despite increased allocation. Similarly, allocation for Department of Agricultural Research and Education and ICAR decreased from .54% to .53%. In the same way, the allocation for Department of Animal Husbandary and Dairy and fisheries decreased from last year's .31% to .3%. You can't fiddle with the words. What the farmers are getting actually is to be seen.

This has been emphasized that credit flow is being done on a large scale to the farmers. I would like to say that this is the loan that is compelling the farmers to commit suicide. The interest rate on short terms loan this year is 7% but we have gone to the field and communicated with the people about it, the interest rate was upto 9% to 15% last year and it was equipped with compound interest. You very well know that the farmers are unable to repay the loans and when they are arrested, all the expenses like transportation, food are added to their debt burden.

If a criminal is taken to jail, nothing is charged from him. But when a farmer is arrested, all the expenses, such as expenses of petrol or diesel of the vehicles used for carrying him, food are recovered from him. Due to this, farmers are facing cruel hardhip. I would like to submit that it was a rule in the times of British

[Prof. Ram Gopal Yadav]

Government, if a farmer is unable to repay loan amount, his land would not be auctioned. If his land is auctioned, how he would survive. So, I suggest and demand that the interest levied on the farmers should not exceed the principal amount. If he takes loan of 10,000 rupees and is unable to repay it, then maximum interest on it should not be more than the principal amount. People have been continuously demanding for it.

Sir, the land which we use for cultivation is approx. 17.3 million hectare, which is 46 per cent of country's geographical area. About 23 million hectare land is wasteland. Only one-third part of cultivable land then we will not only become self-reliant but will be able to export grains.

I would like to tell, through you, that Uttar Pradesh Government has introduced a scheme namely, "Bhoomi Sena" to make wasteland as cultivable land. Under this scheme, Government bear all expenses in regard to inputs used for developing that land. The person to whom that land is allotted, works on it and in return he is paid an amount of rate of 60 rupees per day. When the land becomes cultivable, then that land is handed over to him. If any such incentive is there for farmers then large scale wasteland of country can be converted into cultivable land and a big problem of farmers can be sorted out.

14.33 hrs.

[SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN *in the Chair*]

Mr. Chairman, Sir, through you, I would like to draw the attention of Government towards the National Agriculture Insurance Scheme that till now Block is considered as one unit under it. There is a need to implement it to village level also, otherwise farmers are not going to be benefitted under this scheme. Recently, at one place in Lalitpur, the whole crop get damaged in half half parts of two blocks. But, farmers are not going to get benefit under this scheme till the crop of entire block is not get damaged. Hence, there is a need to implement this scheme in villages also.

As far as ICAR or DARE is concerned, these are the departments, to which if assistance is provided in proper manner than good work can be done. Our neighbouring countries have more per hectare production of some crops than us. If proper opportunity is given for research, we can develop useful seeds and medicines. But in the field of research the allocation is less than the

required. our neighbouring Srilanka, Latin American countries and other developing countries are spending 2-3 times more than us in this field. We are spending quite less in this field. The most perturbing factor is that there is shortage of staff in ICAR and 1400 posts of scientist are lying vacant there. Only scientists can do their job and not others can do this. In other Departments, persons can be transferred from one place to another, but only scientists can do research work. When this question is raised then every time it is replied that Finance Ministry is not giving permission, whereas this question is related to country's progress. The Finance Minister should remove this ban.

[*English*]

New recruitment cannot be done. This bar should be removed in the Agriculture Department so far as ICAR is concerned because 1400 posts of scientists are lying vacant for the last so many years. I, as the Chairman of the Standing Committee on Agriculture, have been informed by the Officers of the Department.
...(*Interruptions*)

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): Post of scientists are exempted. They can recruit. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

PROF. RAM GOPAL YADAV: There are 1400 posts lying vacant. The Minister of Finance is saying that there is exemption on the posts of scientists.

[*English*]

Now, I would like to request the hon. Agriculture Minister, through you, Sir, to kindly look into it and see that these vacancies are filled up as soon as possible.

[*Translation*]

I would like to make a request about ICAR. These are so many varieties of flowers. The research is going in field of Horticulture. But now, in new varieties, there is no fragrance in flowers. Tuberose (Rajnigandha) is a beautiful flower. Its fragrance does not last for few hours. I asked the National Horticulture Institute to conduct such research in field of horticulture so that fragrance of flowers remain for longer period only with its beauty. The variety

of roses is good, but their fragrance, does not last for longer period. Such kind of research has no meaning. The research should be there and efforts should be made for maintaining fragrance of flowers.

As far as animal husbandry, dairy and fisheries are concerned, these are important sectors. We know that in agriculture, there is a limit of production inspite of use of good seeds, fertilizer. But this sector has got much potential. Although we are leading in milk production sector, but problems arise due to certain factors and non-processing. It is a separate Department, but it is an integral part of Ministry of Agriculture. Less than two per cent processing is being done in our country. There is no correct assessment is being done of fruits and vegetables. It has come to notice from various sources that vegetable and fruits worth Rs. 50,000 are getting rotten for want of processing. Every year we suffer loss due to it. There is need to allocate more funds to the Department of Food Processing.

I would like to say one thing about milk and meat. We earn that much revenue through milk and meat which we earn through wheat, paddy and sugarcane collectively. There is need to look into this matter. Amul and Milk food brands are popular in the market, but Delhi Milk Scheme is not so popular now. DMS milk and its curd have no taste as other varieties of milk are more tasty. There is also need to look into this matter.

I would like to submit one point about, animal husbandry and dairy. Recently hens were killed on large scale due to bird flu. Smt. Maneka has not made any objection. In this regard, I would like to say that hens die in large number in groups. It seems that there is an international conspiracy behind all this. A company named Rash, which manufacture for temiflu for bird-flu, wanted that everyone should buy medicine from that company. When killing of hens was started, I stopped watching TV. I was thinking that why hon. Smt. Maneka has not given any statement in this regard.

So, I thank you for listening my views, attentively without asking me to conclude. I have always finished my speech before you ask me to finish. With these words, I will request the hon. Agriculture Minister to accept my suggestions. Sir, the farmers are back-bone of the country and if farmers are not healthy, the country will not make progress. With these words I support the Demands for Grant.

[English]

*SHRI AVINASH RAI KHANNA (Hoshiarpur): Sir, the farmers of India is in great pitiable position that he is thinking of leaving this profession. I would like to point out about the farmer of Nadala, district Kapurthala, Punjab who committed suicide while sitting in the grains market and because he could not sell his paddy for 7 consecutive days and ultimately resorted to this ultimate step. I request that the farmers may be rescued from such situations. Providing more loans to farmers is not going to solve the problem but they should be freed from this cycle of loans and interests. Today, farmers are facing a number of problems like loan, electricity, water shortage, fertilizer shortage, seed shortage, adulterated seed and pesticides, marketing problems, pricing problems and many more.

The other important point I would like to draw your attention to is towards the Forests Act which was passed about a century ago and then Punjab Preservation Land Act was passed in 1900, the same continues to this day without any change, and by application of its provisions and clauses the farmer is not able to use his land in a manner they would like to do. Neither they can cut the tree planted on their land. About 470 village of kandi area are facing this problem. If they are not allowed to use their land in a way they want, they should be given compensation.

When the price of the wheat and paddy is fixed, the farmers participation must be assured. The water level is going down. In the year 1955 the water level was 34.8 MFA (million acre feet) but today it is 12.5 MAF and the minimum requirement is 36.5 MAF. Therefore, special provision and budget provisions are required to be made to meet water shortage.

The farmers do not get proper price because of lack of proper marketing facilities to the farmers. I request that proper attention is required to be paid for suitable marketing facilities to the farmers.

In Punjab there is acute power shortage, the farmers who have applied for connection are in the waiting lists since 1992-93. It is 14.15 years along wait which is another cause that is increasing the problems of the farmer. The Government should make provisions in the budget in order that the water and electricity problems of the farmers could be reduced.

*The speech was laid on the Table.

[Shri Avinash Rai Khanna]

The green revolution has had been missed. We have to think it more seriously. Today the farmer is opting suicide a better way than to be a farmer.

In short the problem can only be solved if the government shows courage to implement schemes like Farmers Income Insurance Scheme. When the farmer will be confident about his income he will work more hard to meet the challenges. If once for all the government commits and takes a decision to make the farmer debt-free, it will solve the problem of the farmers.

The decision to import wheat by the Government has created unrest among the farmers. The import wheat by the Government has created unrest among the farmers. The imported wheat will reach the crop of India right at a time when the harvest of Indian farmers will also reach market. Is our farmer in a position to compete with the foreign farmers that too in our domestic market is a question that needs to be decided.

[*Translation*]

SHRI SITA RAM SINGH (Sheohar): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I support the demand for grants of Ministry of Agriculture. Many hon. Members have given their valuable suggestions during discussion. Ours is a agriculture country. As per the statistics, the large part of our country is dependent on agriculture and this large part of our population earns their bread and butter through agriculture. The majority of population in the country is not well to do, their economic condition is also not good, I cannot understand this thing. We all say that our country is making progress. Sir, whenever there is a discussion on the agriculture, I strongly feel that here all of us here been elected through the valuable votes of the farmers. We all make tell promises. The interest of the farmers are not safeguarded, no policy is formed to ensure the welfare of farmers. I am a farmer. I am happy that the Agriculture Minister of this country Mr. Pawar is also a renowned farmer and a great supporter of the farmers. Shri Gopal Babu about the budget has made some remarks. It has been said loans will be given at the rate of 7%. We all support this decision. Farmers have also appreciated this, but how far it would be implemented, it is to be seen in the future. The Cooperation Department also belongs to him. The person who does not merely charge interest but compound interest to such an extent that in the process of paying back the interest he has to sell whole of his land. Gopal Babu has rightly mentioned

that he is aware of the practical aspect of these things. This country has such law that farmers are charged for food in the prisons. In the prison, not to talk of others, even traitors are not charged for their food. Farmers are being charged for food. The capatillists in this country are having millions of rupees, warrants are not issued against them, the police reaches their home with delay, but if the son of a farmer takes loan of one thousand rupees from a cooperative or a block, I am talking about Kisan Credit Card, then police knocks his door after 31st, he is not able to manage his loans even after paying 50 or 100 rupees as bribe to the police and ultimately, he gets buried under the pressure of loan. Now it is well-established fact that burden of loan on farmers are compelling them to commit suicide. It is necessary to give loan to farmers and it should be given. Whether government is not aware about the cost incurred in the cultivation process *i.e.* from ploughing, weeding out, to irrigation, to sowing, then irrigation, and till the crop matures. Whether this is not in the knowledge of the Government? Whether the Government and its officers are not aware of this thing? They are aware of the cost of ploughing per acre of land? The seeds per acre of land? The fertilizer utilized? The condition of irrigation arrangement? If the Government is not facilitating the irrigation, then the farmer himself arranges for a diesel pump set and do the work. What is the cost incurred on this? In view of the above then expenditures why Govt. do not provide remunerative price to farmers? In this country, a nut manufacturer himself fixes the cost of his product, pan vendor himself fixes the price of betel leaves, but the farmers who grows crop, works hard, has no right to fix the price of his crop. The Government fix the price of crop. The trader fixes it. The son of the farmer cannot fix it. What kind of law prevails in this country? What kind of Agriculture policy is this? The State Governments are not aware of this and the Central Government is also a failure in the matter of agriculture policy.

Principles and policies are being formulated but are not being implemented. Sir, my submission is that whatever you have done, is fine, but today the need of the hour is that implementation should be ensured. The Government should take a decision to provide remunerative prices to the farmers for their crop. I feel that this can solve 80% problems of the farmers. Farmers are of the view that remunerative price should be fixed. Keeping in view the cost involved, then only farmer can flourish. They are not bothered about the profit being made by the traders.

Sir, I did not intend to mention it, but the crop is yet to reap. Hon'ble Agriculture Minister has stated that the wheat will be imported. This decision will demoralize the farmer. It will adversely affect the price of their produce. The price of imported wheat would be very high. This decision of the Government is against the interest of the farmers. It is very shameful but the state of Bihar is lagging behind in this matter. We were having sufficient number of sugar mills. These sugar mills were a boon to farmers. I thank the hon'ble Minister to revive the sugar mills in our state and to start a sugar mill in my village Chakiya. Recently just one sugar mill has started functioning. The economic condition of farmers would improve, if all the closed sugar mills are revived in the state. This will also ensure the remunerative price to the farmers.

The third point I would like to make is that the crop raised by farmer with his own resources or by the credit extended by the government is damaged due to natural calamity, the insurance policy is not clear in such cases where as the policy being pursued is imperfect. We talk much about crop insurance but farmers are not getting even a penny. The insurance money given against the crop which was changed last year in Bihar, is going with the cooperative banks, and has not been disbursed among the farmers. What kind of crop insurance is this? The farmers are not being benefitted by the Crop Insurance Scheme. The Government must make a comprehensive policy in this regard. The insurance amount must be directly provided to the farmers.

Credit cards are being launched for the farmers and Banks are also being asked to provide loan to them but farmers are not getting loans through Credit cards. Budget allocation has been made for this purpose. This year, the allocation has been increased. It is strange why it is being diverted elsewhere? Farmers are not getting anything. The Government will have to effectively implement its policies.

As far as irrigation facilities to the farmers are concerned, the Centre and the State Government have different views. Every year allocation is made in the name of irrigation, but the reality is this that the canals which were dug once do not have even a drop of water, neither the State Government nor the Central Government is paying attention to it. The canals through which irrigation was going as they have been filled up with the sand, no where irrigation is going on. Therefore, the Central Government in consultation with the State Government

should make proper arrangement so that farmers are provided with these facilities.

At last, I would like to urge the hon'ble Minister that whatever you are contemplating is in the favour of farmers. It is a very important demand that farmers must get remunerative price. This problem can be solved by ensuring the remunerative price. I support the demand for grants for Ministry of Agriculture.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: I have to announce for the information of the House that I have a list of 30 Members who want to speak. Those who want to lay their written speeches may do so.

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI): Sir, laying of speeches is better. If they lay their speeches, they can put all the inputs which the hon. Minister can study and do research.

MR. CHAIRMAN: It is more useful and practical, but it is left to the discretion of the Members concerned. It will be very much appreciated and quite welcome if you lay the written speeches on the Table of the House so that time can be saved and money can also be saved.

Hon. Members, there is festival of Holi tomorrow. You must realise that we should disperse as early as possible. Otherwise, it will go on like this.

[Translation]

SHRI LALMANI PRASAD (Basti): I rise to support the Demands for Grants presented by the hon'ble Minister of Agriculture through you. India is agriculture dominated country and most of the farmers live in villages. I would like to say that this problem can not be sorted out unless 88% budget is not allocated for farming as well as for the prosperity of the farmers. I must say that it is alarming situation that the farmers are committing suicide in spite of fifty eight years of independence. Why is it happening. This problem would not be solved unless farmers is provided remunerative price for his produce. I will conclude suggesting my points on this occasion that in the event of halstroming as is happening. The farmers must be compensated for his damage by the Insurance Scheme. There is a necessity to promote food processing.

[Shri Lalmani Prasad]

Simultaneously, it is necessary to revive closed sugar mills at the earliest possible. It is imperative to set up cottage industry based on agriculture. Arrangement should be made to ensure appropriate price to the farmers for their produce whenever their crops are ready in their fields. Arrangement should be made to provide loan to farmers at lower interest rate.

Simultaneously Kisan Credit Card Scheme should be introduced in the entire country. The action should be taken against the persons involved in discrepancies while issuing the Kisan Credit card. Sometimes much land holding is shown against the landless farmer for issuance of Kisan Credit Card to him. The implementation of this scheme needs some verification and improvement as well.

15.00 hrs.

Simultaneously appropriate arrangement of irrigation facilities should be ensured. Drought prone areas should be provided irrigation facilities. Fertilizers seed, irrigation facilities and power supply should be ensured to the farmer on time. The poor condition of farmers will not improve unless rural economy of the country would be strengthened. I support the demands for grants presented in the House while inviting attention of the minister of Agriculture towards all these points.

SHRI SURENDRA PRAKASH GOYAL (Hapur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, yesterday is holy festival. All hon'ble Members are repeating the same thing. You just direct the hon'ble Minister to reply in a straightway.

SHRI ANANT GUDHE (Amravati): Mr. Chairman, Sir, the House is discussing on Demands for Grants of Ministry of agriculture. Every year budget comes which is followed by a debate on the budget. The House discuss Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Agriculture alongwith the Demands for Grants of other Ministries. All Members of Parliament has raised the issue of suicides being committed by the farmers. I will not repeat that issue because discussion on this issue has already taken place many a times. But why these suicides are being committed and what is the reason behind it is the moot question to be answered. It is necessary to ascertain the reasons. I will tender only two-three suggestions here.

Sir, backlog of irrigation in the country has increased manifold. I belong to Vidarbha region. Suicides rate is highest in Vidarbha region in comparison to the other part of two country. The farmers of four-five districts of

Vidarbha have committed suicides on large scale. I have state level data for two year of 2004. In this data an amount of 18890 crore of rupees has been earmarked for irrigation in Maharashtra out of which 10032 crore of rupees belong to Vidarbha region. I think this situation will not come to half unless proper irrigation facilities are arranged. We have seen that most of the suicides have been committed in those areas where irrigation facility is not available. A team comprising Shrimati Adarsh Sharma and Dr. Bandhopadhaya from centre visited these regions to take stock of matter. They went there to study the situation and conclude that suicides were being committed those due to backlog of irrigation. It has been reiterated here for many years that the farmers are getting seeds on time but at what price? The price of cotton is two thousand rupees for quintal but when we see the prices of its seed, the price of 400 gm BT Cotton seed is one thousand rupees per quintal *i.e.* its price is two and half lakh rupees per quintal. Price of cotton is two thousand per quintal and price of its seed is two and half lakh rupees. I do not understand whether Government have any control on seed companies or not. Whether Government are paying attention on this issue or not? Our Agriculture universities have responsibilities to provide quality seeds fertilizers and better guidance to the farmers but due to lack of all these things they are committing suicides on large scale.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, when we signed on WTO agreement in the year of 1991 and when GATT agreement accomplished, it was being said at that time that the farmers will be benefited on large scale. The farmers' produce will receive a place in the international market. The farmers produce would be sent to many places of the world but after fifteen years of the agreement it has come to know that the prices in other countries have been coming down due to heavy subsidy being provided to the farmers and here we see that prices have been rising. That's why whenever product of international market comes in our country. Our farmers do not get appropriate prices of their domestic product. So a large number of farmers are committing suicides and agriculture is not moving forward.

15.06 hrs.

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, as per article 371(2) of constitution. His Excellency President had directed to the Government to wipe out the backlog but after lapse of

20 years today we see that the budget provision for the backward area is not being made as it is required. As a result of it a large number of suicide are being committed in his region. Our farmers have been doing the same farming for many years and they do not get the required assistance meant for industries dairy industry, poultry farm based on the agriculture.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I do not understand here one thing that every year discussion on budget takes place here but how much allocation is made for irrigation? If we look into irrigation sector, we find that the fund has been allocated for digging wells but even after seven eights years of construction of these wells the power as required for their operation, is not being supplied. The fund has been spent on the construction of well but without proper supply of power, the farmers are unable to irrigate their fields, they cannot make use of water. It is also necessary to look into facts that whether the schemes, whatever being chalked out for the benefit of the farmers are reaching to them or not. Whatever fund is released to the State Government should reach to the farmers but the farmers are not getting the amount properly. In other words whatever benefits should be enjoyed by the farmers they are not able to do so. That's why suicides are on the rise and our agriculture sector is running into losses.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I know that tomorrow is Holy and as hon'ble Members of Parliament want to go for Holy celebration and so I conclude my speech here.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I think that all hon'ble Members will follow him.

[English]

SHRI PRASANNA ACHARYA (Sambalpur): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the whole House, including the Government, is very anxious to wind up the discussion to prepare for Holi tomorrow. Might be in some part of the country, some farmers may be preparing to commit suicide tomorrow. I can tell you that the day the hon. Finance Minister presented the Budget in the House, four poor farmers have committed suicide in our country. This has come as a news item and I came to know about it while I was reading the newspaper. Anyway, I would try to complete my speech in the shortest possible time.

There is no use repeating the point that agriculture has been a way of life for the vast majority of people in

this country, our Indian society. As you know, it employs around 64 per cent, as has been told by some other Members also, of the country's workforce.

Agriculture gives direct employment to around 60 crore people and indirect employment to around 20 crore people of the country. This is the only sector which contributes maximum to direct as well as indirect employment. However, it has been the history of the country, even during the British days, to neglect this sector, particularly to neglect the farmers.

During the British Raj, the Britishers exploited the Indian agriculture for supplying raw material to the factories in England. They took away the raw material produced by the Indian farmers and brought back the finished products to be sold in India. That was the practice during the British Raj. It is said that the Britishers built up their industrial empire in their own country with the revenue paid by the Indian agriculturists in those days.

Not much importance has been given to this sector even after Independence. Farmers were exploited in the post-Independent India. Farmers are being exploited even now. Farmers are exploited in that they are made to supply raw materials at cheaper rates to the domestic industries. Mr. Chairman, Sir, being a farmer you are very much aware of this practical position in the country.

We talk of Green Revolution. Our Green Revolution aims at achieving self-sufficiency in food grains but not at enhancing the income level of the farmers. As stated by the Government, the Green Revolution has been successful. But I would like to know from the Minister of Agriculture in particular and the Minister of Finance how far the income of the agriculturists gone up in this country during the last 58 years in spite of our repeated references to a successful Green Revolution.

You are aware of the fact that the growth rate of agricultural production in the country is very low. In spite of our claim that we are self-sufficient in food grains, after 58 years of Independence the growth rate in agriculture is hovering around 2.5 per cent, if I am correct. In the Advance Estimate of the National Income for 2005-06 released by the CSO, as has been stated in the *Economic Survey* of this year, a growth rate of around 2.3 per cent for agriculture and allied sectors has been estimated. The reason given for this is low productivity. We boast that we are one of the big producers of paddy in the world. We produce 21.8 per cent of the total global

[Shri Prasanna Acharya]

production of paddy. But, if you take the per hectare yield, we are less than Bangladesh; we are less than Myanmar; and we are much less than a small country like Egypt where there are no better facilities of irrigation. So, in terms of per hectare production of paddy, we are much below the world average. We have to ponder over this point.

Agriculture, as I said, is the base for employment in the country. As you know, unemployment in this country has gone up from 5.6 per cent to 9 per cent. In rural areas it has gone up from 6.7 per cent to 8.17 per cent as per the figures of 2004. There has been discrimination in this country between agriculture and industry. We have never taken agriculture seriously in spite of our boasting. Government after Government—I do not say this Government or that Government—did not hesitate to invest in industrial or corporate sector. But this does not happen so far as agriculture sector is concerned.

I will just cite one example. In the last eight successive Budgets, Rs. 82,000 crore has been invested only in one sector and that is the telecom sector. We boast that after three to five years, every farmer in the country would be holding a cell phone while ploughing his field. But things are not going to improve merely by putting a cell phone in the hands of a farmer.

This is nothing but negligence. We are practically not putting much emphasis to improve the income level of the farmers in this country. The entire investment in agriculture is not even a fraction of the investment being made in industry. There is massive expropriation from the agriculture sector by the State and other agencies. We have to look into as to how much of the income we are getting from agriculture is spent on agriculture.

The major factor is irrigation. Unless we provide food irrigation facilities to farmers, we should not hope that there would be improvement in the condition of agriculture and in the condition of the farmers.

At present, 171 major irrigation projects, 259 medium irrigation projects and 72 extension, renovation and modernisation on-going projects are pending at different stages and around Rs. 75,000 crore is required to complete these projects. I would like to know from the Government as to how much has been provided for irrigation in this Budget. I would say, a very meager amount is provided. We are talking of the AIBP and other programmes. Irrigation is one of the six components

of *Bharat Nirman*. Out of the six components, they have decided to create a new *Bharat*. Under irrigation, they have decided to irrigate 10 million hectares. This has been stated in the Common Minimum Programme. I would like to know from the hon. Minister, as to how much has been provided in this Budget for agriculture, particularly for irrigation.

I was talking of improving the level of the farmers. This has been stated by many of the hon. Members. Firstly, when the Government decides the Minimum Support Price, I would like to know as to what method is adopted by the Government. According to me, the Government is not adopting any scientific method to decide the Minimum Support Price for the produces of the farmers. Profit of farmers of agriculture is static. If I am correct, in the last 20 years, production has gone up; productivity has gone up to a limited extent but the profitability of farmers per hectare has not gone up. If you calculate it scientifically during the last 20 years, it is static. How can we claim there has been improvement in the levels of income of common farmers of this country?

Another problem is distress sale. Every Member of Parliament in this House talks of this year after year in their Budget speeches. What scientific formula and method the Government is contemplating to adopt to check the distress sale of the produces of the farmers? The Government has to be very careful and very specific on this issue.

One important point I would like to make is, as I said, there has been discrimination between the corporate sector and the agriculture sector. Agricultural labourers is not considered as a skilled labourer. What is the income of an agricultural labourer? It is Rs. 40 or Rs. 50 or Rs. 60. How much a peon of this country gets? It is Rs. 300 or Rs. 350 per day. An agricultural labourer puts his labour in the field, toil in the field but how much is he getting per day? How much an industrial labourer is getting? I am not envious of industrial labourer. They should get more than what they are getting at present. Why are we neglecting the agricultural labourers who are putting their hard labour in the agricultural field? Unless we think of those people who are toiling in the fields, we should not dream of development in agriculture. That is one of the vital points which Every Government is forgetting.

I would like to congratulate the hon. Minister for the National Horticulture Programme. No doubt, it is a very

good programme. But, I think, more funds should have been allocated to this because you are not covering all the districts of the country. This is one of the best programmes the Government has ever come out with. I give an example of my own State. In my own State, there are 30 districts but only 16 districts have been covered under this Programme. Though there are agro-climatic conducive conditions in these districts, they have not been covered. Take for example, Deogarh, Dhenkanal, Bargarh. They are backward districts. They have not been covered under the National Horticulture Programme. I would appeal to the hon. Minister to reconsider it and at least include all such districts in the country which are backward. I am not talking of my own State, Orissa only but all such backward districts in other States too should be included in the National Horticulture Programme.

I find that only Mangoes, cashew and banana have been included. *Laschi* has not been included; citrus has not been included. All these items should be included.

My last point is this. Many hon. Members are talking about the credit policy. I do not know what is the credit policy of this Government. Our Finance Minister has been saying again and again that the Government has increased the credit limit manifold. Correct. It has exceeded Rs. 1,00,000 crore this year. As many hon. Members have said, in spite of manifold increase in the credit limit, why are the farmers still committing suicide? Why are farmers made to commit suicide? That is a million dollar question.

The National Farmers Commission, headed by one of the greatest agro-scientists of this country Dr. M.S. Swaminathan, has been constituted by this UPA Government. What are the interim recommendations of this Commission? The first recommendation is to minimise the debt relief provision; next is to bring down the rate of interest to four per cent; and setting up of a fund to stabilise prices. These are all very important recommendations. At the outset, the Government has rejected one of the best recommendations of the Swaminathan Commission of reducing the rate of interest to four per cent. They have proposed to reduce it to seven per cent. It is not sufficient. Hon. Finance Minister is not sitting in the House. The Minister of State for Finance is present in the House. I would like to know as to how much loan is pending with the corporate sector. Farmers are committing suicide because they are not able to redeem their debt burden. How many crores of rupees are pending with the corporate sector? The

Government should come out with a reply as to what action has been taken. The corporate sector owes huge amounts to the banks. It runs into thousand of crores of rupees. What steps the Government is taking to get the money back? I would like to know how many industrialists in this country, how many *crorepatis* who have taken crores of rupees as loan from the banks and not repaid them, have committed suicide in this country. It is only the poor farmers who are being put in jails. As one of the hon. Members was saying, farmers are put in a civil jail which is the most uncivilized thing in this country. It is the most uncivilised thing to put the farmers in jail because they are not in a position to repay the loan. The expenditure borne by the jail authorities is being collected from the farmers. This is the most uncivilised system in a civilised country like India. This has to be taken care of. Instead of harping on the loans of the farmers, let the Government be bold and come out with a policy to realise large amount of money pending with the corporate sector. I know, the Government will not do anything. The Government would shudder to do that.

My last point is about heavy service charges. The law is unambiguous; the policy is ambiguous. It was mentioned that compound rate of interest would not be charged from the farmers. I know there is no time to explain this.

I have got calculations to show how by taking a loan of Rs. 10,000, a farmer has to repay Rs. 20,000 or more because of the compound rate of interest levied on the farmers. This has to be dispensed with. The Government of India and the RBI are guilty of this discrimination. In spite of all these things, this is not a clear cut Budget in so far as agriculture is concerned. The Government should rebuild its mind for improving the lot of the farming community in this country.

SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPPA (Trichur): Sir, I am happy that, through this budget debate, we are trying to understand that the farmers have some serious problems. But, at the same time, probably one has to go a long way in fulfilling the promises made in the Common Minimum Programme.

Sir, I would like to read two lines from it. It says: "The farmers all over the country will receive fair and remunerative price. The terms of trade will be maintained in favour of agriculture." I do not think, we are anywhere near that. The remunerative price is a dream; and about 'the terms of trade' in favour of agriculture also. I do not

[Shri C.K. Chandrappan]

know whether we are anywhere near that or whether there are any proposals in the Budget that promise that we will reach there.

Sir, before going into all that, I would like to cite some of the alarming features of the agriculture. While answering a question last year, the hon. Minister had said that there were 110.70 million cultivators in India in 1990-91, and in 2000-01, their number had come down to 103.63 million. That means, 7.07 million cultivators have vanished. This is an answer which the hon. Minister had given to the Lok Sabha. So, 7.07 million cultivators have vanished into a thin air.

What happened is that a process has been taking place in the Indian agriculture even from the days of the Britishers. That process is pauperisation of the agriculturists; pauperisation of the cultivators. About a farmer, first he becomes a small farmer; then he becomes a marginal farmer; and then he vanishes into the category of an agriculture worker. So, in the course of 10 years—a decade—7.07 million Indian agriculturists have vanished from the scene. This is a reality; and this reality has many other faces also.

According to the latest report of the National Sample Survey the total debt burden of the households in the country was Rs. 1,77,000 crore in 2002. Out of this, what is the share of the agriculturists? They say, it is 63 per cent. So, in absolute terms, it will mean Rs. 1,12,000 crore.

Sir, this is the debt trap in which the Indian peasants are living today. We need not go to any astrologer to know why peasants are committing suicide. They are committing suicides because they are not having an income, which is sustainable; their average household debt burden is Rs. 442. Their income is from selling of their product. Prices of all the agriculture produces are coming down, especially so in the case of commercial crops in Kerala. Our Minister who himself is a good agriculturist; he knows it very well.

So, what would these peasants do when their income is getting reduced? It is continuously being reduced. Anything they buy from the market, be it a pair of shoes or a piece of cloth, the price is very high. The terms of trade is against them; they become poorer; and they cultivate. That is why, the National Sample Survey says that 'only 60 per cent of the peasants told that they would like to continue as agriculturists.'

The rest of them are fed up. They said that it is a good riddance, thank God, we should be out of agriculture. With this kind of a situation, agriculture will not have much future. If it is some other country, it is okay, but India is an agricultural country; most of our people depend on agriculture; agriculture is the mainstay of most of our people. My colleague there was talking about employment. I do not want to repeat all those things. But the difficulties here are such that people do not want to remain in agriculture.

The best criticism made about our agriculture was made by the Prime Minister, while addressing the first meeting of the Planning Commission, which he was presiding over, where our Agriculture Minister was also sitting as a member. What did he say? He said that there is deceleration in agriculture. The rate of growth was near four per cent; but now it is only 1.8 per cent and at that time, he was saying so. With all the efforts that Shri Chidambaram made and our Agriculture Minister made in the field of agriculture, a little advance has been made and it stands now at 2.1 per cent. That is the rate today that they are claiming.

But with that rate, can we sustain the GDP growth rate? The Prime Minister said 'no'. If the GDP growth rate has to sustain at the level of 8-10 per cent, what is necessarily to be guaranteed is that in the field of agriculture, we should attain a minimum of four per cent rate of growth, but we are far behind that.

Anyway, I should congratulate the hon. Minister for appointing Dr. Shri Swaminathan, one of the eminent agricultural scientists as the Chairman of the Commission on Agriculture and he recommended—to escape from this crisis probably—an economic method. He said that we should reduce the rate of interest of agriculture credit to four per cent. Did, you reduce the interest rate to agriculturists to four per cent? But did they agree with that four per cent? No I should say that minimum four per cent simple rate of interest should have been the rate that should have been kept for agriculture. That would have generated enthusiasm in the field; that would have generated wealth in the rural sector.

But if you really want to make miracles to happen in agriculture, I would say that zero per cent interest should have been fixed for marginal and small farmers, for agricultural loans. I am making this suggestion; that is not impossible; it is not a Marxian suggestion; it may be a suggestion based on Keynes economic. Why are we

saying so? In that case, a large section of land which is lying fallow, millions and millions of people who find nothing to do with the land would find farming an occupation and those fallow lands will once again bloom. Indian agrarian wealth would then be pushed much more than the four per cent, the rate of interest which you are sacrificing today. Can you do that? That is a challenge.

Shri Swaminathan made a suggestion about which he said something, but did not explain. It is a very important suggestion. He said that we should create a fund for price stabilisation. I think, it is rejected or it is not accepted or he was silent about it. I say that it should be accepted; only then, what is said in the National Common Minimum Programme can be achieved; and only then, parity of prices in terms of industry and agriculture can come somewhere nearer.

That is why I say that some of these things should be done.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You have taken ten minutes.

SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPAN: One of the trump cards which the Finance Minister, Shri Chidambaram played last year, this year, and even from the first Budget, was that he gave any amount of loan, credit and said that the agricultural credit is increasing but he did not say one thing. I think, being an agriculturist, our Minister will understand very well that even today it is the informal sector, that is usurious moneylenders and not the bank or the cooperative institution that is providing loan to the agriculturists and that is why exorbitant interest is charged. They have all the machinery to harass the peasants. They really torture him and torture him to a position that he will have to commit suicide. If you want to create a new situation in the field of agriculture in the country, which is one of the most important sectors of our economy, I would request you to accept the main recommendations made by Swaminathan Committee. This would make a substantial difference in your attitude, your policy which would benefit the farmer.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I am sorry, you have taken more than 13 minutes.

Next speaker is Dr. Ajnala. Please try to conclude your speech within five minutes.

[Translation]

*DR. RATTAN SINGH AJNALA (Taran Taran): I thank you, Deputy Speaker, Sir, for giving me the opportunity to speak in Punjabi on Demands for Grants pertaining to Agriculture Ministry.

Agriculture is the backbone of India, and Punjab is the granary of India. My colleagues have raised various problems that plague the farmers of our country. The farmers of India are in a miserable condition. If the farmers of India are ruined, India itself will be ruined. The future of crores of farmers is at stake. Farming has become a loss bearing profession. Farmers are giving up farming and turning to other jobs to make both ends meet.

Sir, the farmers of Punjab have played a pivotal role in making India self-sufficient in the production of food-grains. By the dint of their hard labour, they brought about 'Green Revolution' in Punjab. Hunger and starvation became things of the past. But, the present plight of farmers in Punjab is heart-rending. The farmer is finding it difficult to get two square meals a day. He is quitting farming and seeking other avenues. He also has to educate his sons and daughters.

Sir, there is a lot of talk about crop-diversification. The farmers of Punjab diversified into growing sugarcane. Sugar-mills were set-up. But, the farmers did not get the payment for the sugarcane they grew. The present Punjab Government under Capitan Amarinder Singh has not made payment to the farmers for the last four years. As a result, the farmers of Punjab stopped growing sugarcane and most of the sugar-mills closed down.

Deputy Speaker, Sir, farmers of Punjab took to growing potatoes in a big way. But, when the potato crop was damaged, the farmers did not get any compensation.

Sir, the fertilisers and urea used by farmers are being sold in Black Market. How can the poor farmer purchase fertilisers and urea sold in Black Market? As a result, the farmers have suffered immense damage.

Last year, we had approached the Hon. Minister regarding our desire to grow Bt. Cotton. We thank him for his help. This year, Bt. Cotton was grown in Punjab.

*English Translation of the speech originally delivered in Punjabi.

[Dr. Rattan Singh Ajnala]

The farmers of Punjab benefitted from this. However, sub-standard Bt. Cotton seeds are easily available in Punjab now. The farmers are in a quandary. They have to travel to Gujarat and Maharashtra in search of good-quality Bt. Cotton seeds. Sir, I appeal to the Government to make available good quality Bt. Cotton seeds to the farmers in Punjab.

Punjab Government constituted the Johal Committee regarding diversification of crops. But, nothing concrete emerged from its report. In 2002, area under cultivation of wheat was 34.44 lakh hectares. Earlier, the area under paddy-cultivation was 24.89 lakh hectares. In 2002, it increased to 26.14 lakh hectares. There was an increase of 2.75%. Thus, the diversification experiment failed in Punjab. Punjab Government tried to utilise the services of private companies in its effort to make the diversification of crops programme a success. But, they were flogging a dead horse. They failed miserably.

Hon. Minister is present in the House. Horticulture was encouraged in Punjab. We grew 'Kinnu' in Punjab. But, proper marketing of 'Kinnu' was not done. People were not interested in buying 'Kinnu' even at the rate of one rupee per kg. Until and unless we provide adequate marketing facilities for the produce that is grown, the farmers are bound to suffer.

Sir, 4.5 lakh tractors are there in Punjab. Out of 11 lakh farmers in Punjab, 85% farmers have only small holdings of 2 to 5 acres. Only 15% farmers have holdings of acres or more. Cultivation by tractors is helpful only if the holdings are of 15 acres or more. Moreover, farmers who buy tractors, fall in the debt-trap. As a result, a lot of farmers are committing suicide. The investment on tractors is to the tune of Rs. 13,500 crores. Its annual depreciation is Rs. 1350 crores. The farmers of Punjab are suffering.

Deputy Speaker Sir, I appeal to the Hon. Minister to provide remunerative MSP to the farmers. For the last 4 years, Minimum Support Price is being increased by a meagre Rs. 10 per quintal every year. But, the cost of farming is increasing day by day. An increase of Rs. 10 is pea-nuts. Prices of all commodities are increasing. Things are being sold at exorbitant rates. In the last few years, prices of most of the items have increased by 40 to 50%. But, increase in MSP of food-grains is a pittance. Even a small industrialist can himself fix the price of an item he produces. But, farmers cannot fix the price of

their produce. The Government of the day does that. Whether it is fertilisers or paddy or wheat, their price is fixed by the Central Government.

The poor farmers of Punjab are selling off their land and sending their sons to foreign countries as they see no future in farming in India. Travel-agents and middlemen are fleecing these poor farmers. Many young men from Punjab are languishing in jails in foreign countries as they have been duped by these travel agents.

Sir, the water-table in Punjab is going down rapidly. A time will come when we will not get sufficient water for growing paddy and wheat. Every year, we have to bore our tube-wells deeper and deeper. Its cost comes out to be Rs. 80,000 to one lakh. The poor farmers cannot afford this. The farmers of Punjab are in trouble.

Sir, a lot of hue and cry has been raised over the sharing of river-waters. My friend from Rajasthan had raised this issue. We do not have surplus water. Our canals do not have sufficient water. Our tube-wells are drying up as the water-table has, drastically gone down. Hence, we do not have even a drop of water to spare. Sir, due to lack of water, our land is turning barren. We are happy to share river-water with our neighbours if we have surplus water. However, we do not have even a drop of water to spare.

So, I appeal to the Hon. Minister that the interest of Punjab should be safeguarded. Whether it is the issue of river-water, or MSP or plight of farmers, the Central Government must provide justice to Punjab. Only then can glory return to Punjab and Punjab can serve the nation in a better way.

*SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR (Chail): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to give my valuable suggestions on the discussion of demands for grants pertaining to the Ministry of Agriculture for the year 2006-07.

Surkha and Safeda varieties of Guava is grown in abundance in my constituency Chail, Uttar Pradesh, district Allahabad and Kaushambi and Khaga in Fatehpur. One Research Centre and Food Processing Centre for the preservation of fruits should be set up in the district Kaushambi. Even today UPA Government promises to generate additional irrigation capacity to the tune of one crore hectare by the year 2009 but unfortunately there is no water in the canals for the last 40 years in district

*The speech was laid on the Table

Kaushambi under Sirathu Legislative Assembly segment in my constituency. It rendered farmers jobless. Unemployment among farmers spiralled crimes. My constituency is called Dwaba also. This is situated between Ganga-Yamuna riverbed covering an area of 120 Kms. and it provides a rich crop of sugarcane. If irrigation facilities are provided here, farmers will be able to grow a rich crop of sugarcane or if a sugarcane mill is established here, it will generate employment opportunities for the farmers.

To provide loan to the farmers at the rate of 9% is unjustified, when it is 8% for purchasing a car. The National Farmer Commission should be constituted.

[English]

*SHRI A.K.S. VIJAYAN (Nagapattinam): I thank the chair for giving me this opportunity to participate in this discussion on Demands for Grants pertaining to the Ministry of Agriculture. On behalf of Dravida Munnetra Kajhagam I would like to put forth certain points.

The great Tamil Poet-philosopher Tiruvalluvar referred to Agriculture, the ancient and traditional occupation as Uluthu Undu Valthal. It is called tilling for a living. He also referred to Agriculturists as—'Karumam Sidhayamal Kannoda Vallar'—it means, people who devotedly do their job with concern for others. Valluvar also said the world belongs to them. But in this age of globalisation it needs to be asked whether the world belongs to farmers or not.

The UPA Government at the centre led by the alliance of leaders like Smt. Sonia Gandhi and our leader Dr. Kalaignar Karunanidhi would like to change the lives of farmers for the better. That is why farm policies are being given a new thrust by our able Agriculture Minister Shri, Sharad Pawar.

This year's Union Budget talks about increasing the land area for cultivation, renovation water bodies, strengthening agricultural insurance, streamlining cooperative credit structure and increasing the farm credit to Rupees One Lakh and Seventy Five Thousand crores. This is aimed at benefiting Fifty Lakh more farmers and also tenant farmers.

I am happy to note that rate of interest for agricultural loan will now be reduced to seven per cent. I hope as our growth rate increases to ten per cent, the farm credit interest will come down to four per cent as recommended Dr. M.S. Swaminathan.

At this juncture I would like to share my concern for poor farmers. Debt burden resulting in starvation deaths must stop. This year's budget offers to ease some burden from short term loans. We must have long term solution. Long term credits must also get the attention of the planners. Only then farming community can be really helped to help the nation.

In the last four to five years in our Cauvery Delta, the rice granary of South we witnessed at least twenty three starvation deaths. Any civilized government will rush to help to solve the problems including irrigation and input flow. I urge upon the Union Government to lay stress on proper inter-state river water sharing, modern water management techniques, use of healthy seeds and non-harmful fertilizers and manures. We cannot afford to leave it to State Government as Agriculture is a State subject. Our nation is an agricultural country. So, we must evolve National Policy. We must pay more attention towards strengthening Agriculture Research and Development.

I welcome the announcement that the Rice Research Centre in Thanjavur would be upgraded to the status of a Central University.

At this juncture I would like to emphasise the need to evolve alternative strategy. Traditional flow of water in Cauvery is not there now. Water dispute is there. Even after resolving the crisis, water has to be shared. Considering the fact that in Nagapattinam and Tiruvarur that come under my constituency there were 23 starvation deaths, we need to change the crop pattern there.

Indifferent attitude of the State Government has caused great hardships to farmers of Tamil Nadu. That is way I urge upon the Union Government to take up irrigation schemes at a national level. To begin with, the linking of Southern Rivers must be taken up. I hope the UPA Government will go for it from this year.

Farmers must get adequate compensation when they are affected by natural calamities. Effective steps must be taken to improve their economic condition. Because agriculture is an occupation that helps one to feed himself

[Shri A.K.S. Vijayan]

when he toils to earn a living and meet his needs. Concern for social security at the back of his mind must be attended to.

Supply of free electricity for an agricultural purpose is necessary. Traditional agricultural states like Tamilnadu and Punjab insist on this need. When our leader Dr. Kalaignar Karunanidhi was the Chief Minister of Tamilnadu he implemented this scheme to increase food production.

Subsidies on inputs like seeds and fertilizers and compensation package on methods of cultivation and transportation of inputs to fields and the produce from the fields to both warehouses and markets. These basic subsidies must not be compromised with. Our late leader Murasoli Maran reiterated such needs of the developing countries at Doha Summit. Hence, I urge upon the Union Government to have a relook at the farm subsidies and implement it all over the country.

The paamani Fertilizers Unit at Manargudi in my Constituency must be strengthened as it can cater to the needs of Delta farmers. I urge upon the centre to evolve a policy in this regard.

Co-operative Societies in rural areas can be of great help to small farmers. Timely credit needs, supply of agricultural inputs in time, possible storage facility, viable marketing facility are some services that the co-operative sector can provide.

In the last four to five years in Tamilnadu the co-operative sector had to face a great neglect. I urge upon the Government to rejuvenate the co-operative sector. This is necessary to bring about a second green revolution.

The use of bio-fertilisers must be encouraged. In the absence of incentives, aiming at short-term gains farmers avoid bio-fertilisers. Union Government must take efforts to reverse this trend. Ensuring remunerative prices for the agricultural produce will be a big step. Production of animal feed and fodder can help farmers to give importance to bio-fertilisers.

Rain floods caused great damage in Tamilnadu affecting agriculture in a big way last year, ignoring the neglect on the part of state government there, the centre must take up desisting of tanks and canals.

A national policy must be evolved to include these renovation of water bodies and infrastructure building

measures as part of National Rural Employment Guarantee Schemes.

Our leader Dr. Kalaignar during his tenure gave rupees fifty per quintal to the paddy farmers to help them transport harvested paddy from the fields either to storage houses or marketing centres. This incentive which was stopped in the last four years must be revived in Tamilnadu. So let us work untidily. Expressing my support to the UPA Government's effort to help farmers I support this Demands for Grants for Agriculture.

SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI (Pilibhit): Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the Government to the fact that R&D in the agricultural sector in the veterinary or animal husbandry has been paid little or no attention to. This is as important as debt relief or any other matter that will improve the status of agriculture in this country.

Let me take up point by point. Veterinary services in this country do not exist at all. Of the 500 or 600 and odd districts in this country, about 60 per cent do not have veterinary hospitals at all.

They have a building which is technically called the veterinary hospital, but it does not have a vet or anything else. It has two sweepers who pass off as compounders or even as doctors. The average money allocated to the veterinary hospital, which is supposed to service the poor of the districts whose livelihood is their cattle goat or sheep, is Rs. 10 a day and even that money is given grudgingly. For instance, in Uttar Pradesh, there are no medicines in any veterinary hospital. There is no likelihood that this situation is going to change.

Our veterinary colleges are worse than the worst that I have ever seen anywhere in the world, including Bangladesh. The syllabus is old and outdated. The teachers are tired and have nothing to teach. It is heavily animal dissection oriented without imparting any learning. All the experimentation is very old. Since you have become Minister, you have asked for a review of syllabus. This review has been going on for some time. But even in this new syllabus, there is nothing new. There is no small animal medicine, there is no bird medicine, there is no primate-reptile and wildlife medicine. We charge ridiculously low fees. We have, I think, 33 or 34 veterinary colleges, all of which lack basic facilities. They impart no knowledge of poultry or any other disease. For instance, take Bareilly Veterinary College. They do not even know how to do *post-mortem*. They impart no knowledge of

poultry. Their knowledge is completely outdated and we need infusion of proper scientific knowledge. We will have to look abroad to upgrade our centres for the syllabus.

Secondly, I would like to talk about Oxytocin. We have one of the world's most dangerous drugs in all our milk. This injection is called Oxytocin, which is being promoted by the Department of Animal Husbandry, while it has been banned by the Food and Drug Administration and the Ministry of Environment. It is a classic case of the left hand not knowing what is the right hand doing. Three days ago, there was a raid in Haryana in the main government dairy centres. Five-and-half lakh vials of Oxytocin, which is illegally given to cattle, was found. Oxytocin is a drug which is given so that (a) the calves can be sent for slaughter and they do not need a calf to produce milk; and (b) the cow will give milk faster, but not more. In return for this, there is an increase in human breast cancer, in prostate cancer and in importance all over India. There is an increase in progesterone and other hormones in the body. School children have been found to lose their eye sight or weaken their eye sight only because of Oxytocin in the milk. There is only one manufacturer of Oxytocin, who manufactures it in Maharashtra, sells it illegally. He is supposed to do it in blister packs, but he sends it by tonnes to Bihar and to Haryana, to Panchkula, where it is made into *puclias* and sold at pan and cigarette shops. It is illegally taken and injected into cattle. It is the reason why cows and buffaloes have stopped giving milk at the age of four and five. They are abandoned or sent for slaughter. We have repeatedly been asking you to ban oxytocin. This is the main reason for spreading of disease and it is very bad for the dairy industry as well. It is a short-term solution for nothing.

Third point is about slaughter houses. We are giving licences all over the places. Not only this government, but also the NDA Government issued huge number of licences without checking where these slaughter houses are to be based and how they are being run. The licence is given for 200 animals, but not less than 4,000 or 5,000 animals are killed every day. In Deonar, which is the Maharashtra Government's slaughter house, we have a film showing that cows are being milked before being killed and buffaloes are being milked before being killed. There is a huge industry of illegal cow slaughter fuelled by export related slaughter houses. We still continue to give licences for slaughter houses in those places, like Mewar, Rampur and other centres, where you know

nobody will protest because it becomes mafia related activity.

I would like to know whether there is any checking whatsoever of slaughterhouses.

Then, I come to poultry sector, which worries me a lot. Recently, there has been this birdflu scare. This birdflu scare was a complete hoax. I would like to say it was true, because I would like people to stop eating chickens. But, in this case, it was a total hoax. It is not communicable to human beings, as we now realized because all the samples have proved to be negative. The poultry industry, Prof. Ram Gopalji has also said, has had huge die offs. These die offs of thousands of chicken at a time have been due to different diseases, which I will come to later.

As regards birdflu, there is a company called Hetero Drugs. They received the sub-licence from Roche. Roche was given the licence from a company called Gilead. Gilead is owned by Donald Rumsfeld, the US Secretary of Defence. Only after Gilead started falling, the US Government suddenly discovered that Tamiflu was the answer to bird the single drug produced by Gilead. Gilead then sub-contracted to Roche and Roche sent it all over the world. It was suddenly announced that Tamiflu is the cure for a human disease that does not exist. In 8 years, this is the only one of the 15 types of flu that poultry get, in badly run, mismanaged, under-checked and unchecked poultries. Now, in India, this Hetero Drugs company got the sub-licence. When did they get it? They got it in December. Here is a pamphlet spread by them in which they said that you would have a birdflu epidemic by January. That is exactly what we had. They say they will sell the Government a hundred crore worth of drugs. Ultimately, what did we do? The Government bought 11,000 capsules of Tamiflues. It is 12 dollars to 100 dollars per capsule. But, Sir, none of them was ever used because there was no birdflu that human beings could get. Therefore, this is an entire hoax. The company says: "We have committed to delivering one million capsules to the Government of India at \$12 a capsule." That is, we are going to spend \$ 12 million buying this from one company called Hetero for a disease that cannot be given to human beings.

Now, I come back to poultry. Poultry factories has suffered in this country from total mismanagement from the beginning. The problem comes back to inspectors. You are putting a lot of money into debt relief and other

[Shrimati Maneka Gandhi]

horticulture, etc. We are not putting enough money into inspection. You have ISI rules. Is there one poultry in India, including yours, which follows the rule? Do you have poultries anymore? If it is not, well done. We have chickens crowded together and not checked. Sir, 50 per cent of India's antibiotics are being today fed to chickens. Let me give you some examples. Chickens today are being fed with cheap fat of their own birds that die. This is the reason for Mad Cow disease. They are being fed cardboard mixtures, crushed stones and feathers. As a result, they are sick. Every single chicken in this country suffers from either cholera or other disease, and because of that, they are given antibiotics, sulpha drugs, hormones, nitrofurans. Do you know that 90 per cent of Indian chickens are fed arsenic compounds? Two drugs, which are banned from sales because they cause cancer, are used by chicken factory owners to make the yolk of eggs yellower. This is what the Indian Poultry Magazine says, that without these antibiotics the industry cannot maintain its poultries. Do you know that chickens are fed their own faeces?

16.00 hrs.

Fungussed crops like maize which cannot be fed to humans, is fed into the poultry industry. Synthetic vitamins, mineral supplements, antibiotics, deworming medicines, growth hormones are mixed with a known cancer producer called gentian violet. This gentian violet causes cancer in human beings. It is used by every poultry. The yellow of the yolk is not created by nature. It is created in all poultries by feeding a yellow creating chemical called Xanthophyll, zeaxanthin, marigold dye and carotenic acid.
...*(Interruptions)*

Sir, you will have to give me a little more time.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You have taken 12 minutes.

SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI: What I would suggest is this. That you should create a new team of inspectors. What is happening here is that the inspectors go; they take bribe. This is a monthly thing. sometimes, they do not even go. They have no idea what is happening in a poultry. You know that the normal chickens on sale are diseased. What are the number of diseases that they have received in the last ten years? They are fowl cholera, pneumonia, rhinitis, dysentery, enteritis, parasites etc. Practically, 60 per cent of them have some form of cancer before they come to the market. This is your own

figure. Therefore, what you need is to put money into R&D and into an Inspectorate which makes sure that all of your slaughterhouses, piggeries, poultries and cattle are properly inspected as it is done in other countries and that all harmful drugs are taken off the poultry market. I have a long list. I will send it to you.

In Europe, in the last one month—you may probably know—the Netherlands, Belgium and several other countries have faced a crisis in their poultries and piggeries in which they have discovered dioxins in the meat and in the food. Now, dioxins are group of 120 chemicals which are considered so terribly poisonous for the human beings that they have been banned by the Stockholm Convention. Belgium, the Netherlands and other countries have banned dioxins. Their piggeries have been closed down. Their poultries have been closed down by a Government order because of the dioxins.

Here is a report produced on India which says: "Not only do India's chickens have dioxins in them but also every single egg is carrying dioxins." An International Bureau called the International POPs Elimination Network, made of 350 public interest organisations working to eliminate POPs, hunts these chemicals down all over the world. In a recent survey done a couple of months ago, eggs were tested in 17 countries including India. IPEN, which is a conglomeration of this organisation, found that chicken eggs in India contain dioxins and chicken carry the highest level of dioxins in the world. Indian eggs have five-and-a-half times the amount of dioxins permitted by the Government, by the European Union. Indian eggs have five times the amount of dioxins than even those found at the most hazardous places in other countries. All these eggs were tested at a Czech laboratory which tests WHO standards. Unfortunately, there are no standards to determine how poultry factories works, where these can be set up. So, it is set up in dioxin infested sites.

There are guidelines on how the chickens should be kept. I would like one poultry producer to show me whether he has read these guidelines. There are no food inspectors. I would say that this is going to go on. Cholera and the other diseases are going to go on. Bird flu is only one of them. Perhaps, the Agriculture Minister is a forward thinking person. We have signed the Stockholm Convention but we have not ratified it. I would suggest that we should first ratify it.

Secondly, we should have inspectors and an Inspectorate. The third thing is that we should have our veterinary services upgraded so that they recognise the future. Lastly, as you know, I have sent you a letter asking for a Committee just to check the Deonar malpractices in Maharashtra.

The Government is doing these malpractices what to say of these export houses. You said that it is a matter for Environment Ministry. Environment Ministry has now set up a Committee to investigate Deonar. I would be grateful if the Agriculture Ministry could just look at that report and see what is happening in the slaughter house because it results in bad and diseased meat going outside and in the country, which is going to make more people sick.

Sir, the last thing, which I would like to say, is not related to this. It is about Krishi Vigyan Kendras. These Krishi Vigyan Kendras were set up all over India. Not one of them has got anybody there who knows anything about how to help krishis. I have a Krishi Vigyan Kendra in my constituency. It is manned by two clerks. They do not even know the difference between wheat and rice. The question is, if you are going to change us to horticulture practices, if you are going to let our farmers earn a living rather than dying in debt, then we have to get the technical know-how from the Government and Government related organizations on how to change our crops. I may also suggest that R&D should be put into upgradation of Krishi Vigyan Kendras so that my farmers, your farmers can actually learn something.

[Translation]

*SHRI SRICHAND KRIPLANI (Chittorgarh): Sir, I through you, would like to draw the attention of the Government towards the problems being faced by the agriculture sector and problems arose out of hailstorm in my constituency Chittorgarh, Kota and Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh.

Sir, our's is a agriculture dominated country. More than 70% people depend on agriculture for their livelihood but unfortunately after independence not much attention has been paid towards expanding agriculture, solving the problems of farmers and promoting agro industries. I

would like to request in this regard that the farmers can leave a sigh of relief if the Government take following steps:—

1. Agriculture grant should be increased from 25% to 50% in all centrally sponsored schemes.
2. The quota of fertilizer should be made available to the State Governments immediately on their demand because as and when farmers require it, arrangement are not made to provide them fertilizers on time.
3. The agriculture loan given by the Government of India should be increased. I would like to give an example that in my constituency Chittorgarh 150 farmers have been selected for 35 HP tractors but the loan was given to only 53 farmers and the rest of the farmers have been kept deprived of it. This is injustice to them. Arrangement should be made to provide loan to all of the farmers.
4. The upper limit of the support price determined by the Government should be provided to the farmers to facilitate procurement of crops on time and help solve the problem of storage. By this time around there has been a bumper crop of mustard in the Rajasthan and the Government has fixed support price for it but the procurement process is yet to has not been taken place all over the places, so it should also be done soon.
5. The recommendations of the National Farmer Commission should be accepted.
6. This should also be a matter of concern to abate the suicidal tendency among the farmers which has become a regular feature. I also would like to draw the attention towards the loss suffered on account of hailstorm in the Rajasthan and that the farmers may resort to committing suicides if relief is not provided to them. One farmer in Gudamalani of district Barmer bit his tongue after seeing his ruined crops and now he is landed in the hospital. Standing crop on an area covering more than 50,000 hectare has been ruined in Rajasthan hitherto and heavy loss of cattle has also been reported.

Sir, the condition may take a turn from bad to worse if compensation is not given to the farmers immediately

*The speech was laid on the Table.

[Shri Srichand Kriplani]

and relief work is not started. I would like to submit that crops like wheat, Isabgol, mustard, gram, green rajka, cumin have been destroyed. Our main crop opium has been completely destroyed particularly in Chittorgarh, Kota, Bara, Jhalavaad and Neemach and Mandasaur districts of Madhya Pradesh. I would like to request in this regard that the State Government conduct the survey of crops ruined on account of natural calamity while the survey of opium crops is conducted by the Narcotics Department which falls under the Ministry of Finance of the Government of India. I would like to request specially the Agriculture Minister through you who is a very sensitive person, to arrange a meeting with Minister of Finance at the earliest possible time and make arrangement to provide following facilities by conducting the survey of opium crops:

1. To provide compensation immediately.
2. Average cost at which the lease is provided should be reduced and from next time onwards arrangement should be made to provide the lease for opium at zero cost.
3. Increase the prices of opium.
4. To make arrangement for removing the condition of having 55% of concentration immediately.
5. Farmers should be given immediate relief by renewing lease to them a process which has been stalled for several small reasons way back many years, and
6. An arrangement should be made immediately to provide new lease to the farmers for compensating the loss suffered by them.

Sir, I, through you, would like to request the Government of India that the Government of Rajasthan should be given special financial assistance package to bail them out of heavy losses and destruction suffered by them due to hailstorm so that relief work can resume in the State immediately and compensation be given to the farmers.

I would like to request you that the matter concerning farmers has been talked about a lot but no sincere effort has been made to take requisite action in this regard. We never accorded priority to the agriculture sector in budget. If we see in the overall context today we will find that the per capita income has increased in every

field but the income of the farmer has decreased. The cars have become cheaper but the bicycles have become costly. The separate allocation should be made in budget for the agriculture but saying honestly it has not been done. It has always been a matter of discussion that rate of interest on loan for farmers should be curtailed but it has not been done. Had the financial assistance been provided to farmers sincerely after the independence, the incidents of suicides by farmers would not have taken place.

Finally, Sir, I would certainly like to say about Crop Insurance Scheme and thank former Prime Minister, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee who introduced Crop Insurance Scheme to provide relief to the farmers. But if some amendments are made in this scheme then big relief could be provided to the farmers as you must be aware that Ministry of Agriculture had constituted a Joint Group especially to conduct a study to effect the required amendments in the existing Crop Insurance Scheme. The Group submitted a report on 20.12.2004. If the recommendation contained in the report are accepted it may be a great relief to farmers of country. Particularly, I would like to submit that:

1. It has been recommended that the Panchayat Samiti, which is considered a unit area for Insurance on major crops, may be brought down to Gram Panchayat level. I would like to suggest that it should be brought down further even at village level.
2. There is a proposal to make the basis of the highest yield of the five years out of the figures of Minimum/guaranteed yield for the last seven years.
3. The amount of compensation paid due to non-sowing of crop because of adverse weather conditions, should be between 20 to 25 per cent of the insured sum.
4. The network of AIC may be expanded to the District level, and give franchisee to rural and micro insurance agents.

In addition, they have made some other recommendations, if all the recommendations are implemented sincerely, the relief could be provided to the farmers. Besides, efforts should be made to overcome the hardships being faced by the farmers in getting Credit Card. The seeds have an important role in achieving

sustainable growth in agriculture production. The production and distribution of the quality seeds should be done to achieve better yield. The cooperative societies have a very important role in our agriculture sector and rural economy. The cooperative societies are engaged in several economic activities like distribution of agricultural inputs such as seeds, fertilizers, agricultural chemicals, distribution of agricultural produce, storage Management and processing. The cooperative societies enable the farmers to get the good quality agricultural inputs at the reasonable prices and help them to get remunerative prices of their agricultural produce. So, cooperative society should especially be kept in the mind and Government of India should give special economic package to the State Government to construct small barrage and anicuts to arrange the water for irrigation purposes. Such efforts should be made especially in Rajasthan where there is a need to construct anicuts to retain the rain water to increase the facilities of irrigation. There is a need of small irrigation projects. There is a need of financial assistance for such projects and a separate allocation should be made for them.

Sir, before I conclude, through you, I would like to request the UPA Government and the Prime Minister that it is necessary to solve the problems of the farmers for the development of the country. For this, there must be an ideology to work irrespective of political lines. Former Prime Minister of our country, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee constructed the roads on large scale, made the efforts to link each and every village to roads, provided the telecommunication facilities in each village for the development of the country and made serious efforts to strengthen the financial position of the farmers. One of the main schemes of the Government was rolled back by your Government immediately after assuming the power. Had the Scheme of interlinking all the rivers of the country at the cost of Rs. 5.5 lakh thousands been completed, our farmers would have become prosperous and India would have attained top position in the world. If this scheme is completed, then there will neither be famine or drought in the country and nor the crops of the farmers will be damaged by the floods. Water level will be equal in the entire country and water will be available to the field of each and every farmer. It is possible that India might regain its lost glory. We all have to make serious efforts to achieve this target free from all political affiliations.

[English]

SHRIMATI TEJASWINI SEERAMESH (Kanakapura):

Sir, I rise to support the Demands for Grants on Agriculture presented by quite able, experienced and committed Minister. I would like to address Shri Sharad Pawarji's as the champion of the farmers. We have a special respect towards Sharad Pawarji because he is addressing the acute problems of the farmers today. Let me tell the nation in this highest temple of democracy, India's culture is agriculture.

Sir, you are aware that ours is mainly an agro-based economy with 72 per cent of people living in rural areas and 80 per cent of the workforce depending on agriculture. Agriculture is contributing 2.3 per cent of GDP to the overall 23 per cent of the GDP of the nation. I would like to proudly say that during our UPA Government, GDP raised to 2.3 per cent compared to less than 1 per cent during NDA Government. Production in food grains have gone up to 209 million metric tonnes compared to 174 million metric tonnes during 2002-03 in NDA Government. The farmer does not want to live on the mercy of someone. He wants to live on his sweat to increase production in the little land that he has. He only expects the Government to provide him adequate water for irrigation, timely credit at low rate of interest, quality seeds, quality fertilizers, and pesticides. He wants remunerative prices for his produce and protection from the unexpected natural calamities like cyclones, Tsunami, droughts and problems like that. he wants facilities for storage and marketing of his produce.

I heard during the Budget speech our hon. Finance Minister used the word compassion. This Government is having compassion towards farmers. I am very sorry. This nation belongs to the farmers. Sir, 72 per cent of the people living in this nation are farmers. Your policies should be rural-oriented, and farmers-oriented. You are not doing any charity to the farmers. It is their right. It is their privilege. Farmers are not beggars in this nation. They are the backbone of this country. These words were said by the Father of the Nation. Father of the Nation showed the highest respect towards the farmers of this nation. I would like to salute Bapuji in this House. Sir, K.V. Puttappa is a well-known national poet from my State who won the first Jnanpeeth Award out of seven Jnanpeeth awards to the Kannada literature. He dedicated a poem to the farmers. Due to the shortage of time I will translate it. 'Look at the farmer, he is not bothered what you are doing. Let the State emerge, let the State vanish,

[Shrimati Tejaswini Seeramesh]

he is not bothered'. Sir, what are we doing towards these innocent farmers? He is feeding our stomach. You may be having Rs. 100 crore in your pocket but at the time of the hunger you cannot eat that money. So, do not look at the farming sector with the financial outlook.

It should become the culture of our nation that we should all be committed towards the cause of farmers. We should ensure that the children of our farmers get reservation in higher education and in professional colleges. We should also ensure that they get quality seeds, quality fertilisers and stable prices for their produce. They do not want any charity from the Government.

Sir, I am very proud that our UPA Government has taken a lot of measures to address the problems of our farmers. At the same time, I would like to draw the attention of this august House that water is the main input required for agriculture. It is an obligation of the Government to supply water to farmers from rivers, canals and reservoirs. I would like to submit with a painful voice that after Pandit Nehru's regime, we have not taken any action to build big dams and reservoirs to help our farmers with better irrigation facilities. We are lagging behind in building more and more dams, reservoirs and canals in order to provide water to our farmers.

16.11 hrs

[DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY *in the Chair*]

Sir, many times, we raise a hue and cry when free power is given to our farmers. Why is it so? Even though, in-principle I do not agree with this proposal, for the sake of argument, I would like to argue that when our farmers are spending lakhs of rupees to dig borewells to get water to their crops, why can we not provide free power to them? For example, let us take Andhra Pradesh. In Andhra Pradesh, 25 lakh borewells were dug by spending Rs. 20 crore and if we do the same all over India, it would cost us Rs. 80,000 crore which is half of the amount estimated to link our major rivers. So, we must link our major rivers by spending Rs. 1,65,000 crore and we must take up irrigation projects on priority to provide enough water to our farmers.

Then, what are we doing to strengthen the economic condition of our farmers? Rural credit has been doubled in the Budget. It is a very good thing, but only 27 per cent of our farmers are getting Government loans and 22 per cent of our farmers are getting loan from private

moneylenders at interest rates ranging from 18 per cent to 36 per cent. At the same time, 51 per cent of our farmers are not getting any loan and only the rich people are grabbing all the credit facilities. So, the Government should tax the rich people. I heard our Finance Minister talking about taxing a housewife with service tax when she draws her own money through ATM. But why do we not tax rich agriculturists? In the name of agriculture, they are evading tax worth crores of rupees which is due to this nation. I would like to appeal to the Minister that the Government should put a tax of 5 per cent or 10 per cent on these rich agriculturists and utilise that money to address the problems faced by small and marginal farmers.

Sir, another problem being faced by our farmers is that the banks are unwilling to give loans to them at 7 per cent rate of interest because it will be a losing proposition to them. So, why can we not give subsidy to the banks through the Budget? Then only we can address this problem. At the same time, the Government has reduced the interest of rural credit by 2 per cent and this will cost Rs. 1,700 crore, but no bank will come forward to give loans to the farmers at this rate. We may give speeches in this House about this, but the banks will not give loans at this rate. That is the reality. Therefore, agriculture should be treated as an industry and farmers should be treated as entrepreneurs.

I would like to make some suggestions now. We are encouraging jatropa, which is a bio-product, to be mixed with diesel. I would like to appeal to the Government that they should increase mixing of ethanol, which is a by-product of sugarcane, with petrol. Now, we are giving only Rs. 18 per litre of ethanol to our farmers. In Brazil, they mix 40 per cent ethanol with petrol, but in our country we are mixing only 5 per cent. So, the Government should increase the quantity of ethanol which is mixed with petrol and the Government should also increase the price of ethanol, which is nature-friendly, given to our farmers.

Sir, our agriculture universities should be utilised as consultancies for shifting the crops, marketing of agricultural products and also for soil testing. Soil erosion is one of the major problems faced by our farmers and it is reaching dangerous proportions now. Sometimes, due to over-irrigation also, soil erosion occurs.

We must protect the fertility of this soil. Let us utilise, let us use the knowledge of our children who are studying in the agricultural colleges. I am very happy that this

Government has given a sum of Rs. 100 crore to the Punjab Agriculture University. I would like to appreciate this and would like to congratulate this Government because it is really having concern for the agricultural sector.

Even though we have announced a programme for the restoration of water bodies, it is not actually taking place at the ground level. We must implement the rainwater harvesting seriously because underground water level is alarmingly going down. We will be facing a lot of problems if the situation worsens. So, we must address that problems also.

At the same time, fertilisers should be provided to the farmers through coupons. Why? Because whatever subsidy you are giving to the farmers is not reaching them because the fertiliser companies are creating artificial situation where subsidy will reach the fertiliser companies and not the farmers. We must also punish the fertiliser companies who supply spurious and degraded fertiliser. It also degenerates the fertility of the soil and affects the farmers.

Mr. Chairman Sir, sericulture is one of the major subjects where rural women are getting employment. I belong to Kanakapura where sericulture is the main occupation of the people. The Central Silk Board is also there. I appeal to the hon. Minister to take proper care of the sericulture sector.

Cold storage facilities should be established not only at the district level but at the grass root level in every nook and corner of the villages. It must be in the reach of every farmer. We must use the remote sensing mechanism to monitor supply of water to the soil crop as well as the demands.

At the same time, I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister to a very important issue. My area has suffered drought for the last five years. We have time to quarrel and abuse but we do not have time to solve the problems of the farmers. I am very sorry to say this. But I would like to know from the hon. Minister what action plan has been prepared for strengthening the agriculture extension services. Is every farmer in the nation assured of agricultural credit? Whether there is any plan for upgrading soil fertility? Is there any plan for improving seed replacement? Is there any time bound programme to implement the recommendations of the Agriculture Produce Marketing Committee and as has

been asked by the State Governments? Is there any action plan for establishing food processing, value addition, cold storage and warehousing?

The Minimum Support Price suggested by the Commission for Agriculture Cost and Prices, that is, CACP has no relevance with regard to cost of cultivation of crops. Can CACP recommend remunerative price in place of MSP? Whether there is any plan for involving farmers' organisation in the policy making process? I would like to say that farmers should be involved in the policy making bodies. It is not the intellectuals but farmers should be included in the policy making bodies.

All professions are assured of social security. Why is it that farmers and agricultural labourers are not assured of social security? Even though, I appreciate the Government for taking some action, I wanted to draw the attention of the Government to some of these important issues.

*Because of the inadequate credit from banking institutions, exorbitant rates of interest from private money lenders, poor quality seeds, adulterated fertilisers and pesticides coupled with natural calamities, unremunerative prices, farmer is becoming bankrupt thereby committing suicides. This is not good for the nation. Hence it is our paramount responsibility to save the farmer from distress and disheartening.

Now let me deal with in detail of the major issues affecting the farmers:

- (1) I am happy the credit to the farmers through Banks and PACS is being more than doubled in 3 years of UPA Government and reducing the interest rate to 7%. I wish to make a request to the Hon'ble PM & Minister of Agriculture to increase the credit to Rs. 2.00 lakh crores in this Budget and reduce the interest rate to 3%.
- (2) Bring a new legislation for National Seeds Act ensuring the seed supplier responsible for supply quality seeds.
- (3) Imposing heavy penalties and punishments on manufacturers and suppliers of adulterated fertilizers, pesticides, etc.

*...This part of the speech was laid on the Table.

[Shrimati Tejaswini Seeramesh]

- (4) While fixing the prices for industrial goods, the policy of the Governments are to take the interest on loans taken, services rendered by the promoters in fixing the prices of agro products, the investment and services of the farmers and the ever increasing cost of inputs are not being taken. This is crippling the farmer.
- (5) The industrialists and the traders are protected from the losses caused due to fire, arson and other natural calamities by the insurance, but the farmer is not protected from the natural calamities. So a comprehensive crop insurance policy covering all the crops on individual farmer basis is to be evolved and implemented if necessary subsidized by State and Central Governments.

We must take up the linking of rivers to prevent floods and droughts to provide assured water for irrigation to the farmer. This will not only increased working days and wages but also the GDP to the nation. By this increased production we can earn foreign exchange through exports and control the prices in the domestic market.

Sir, we are still lagging behind in our average per acre production in our farmers compared to China, Japan etc. So this requires great encouragement to Research and Development. I am happy that the importance of Research and extension services in Agriculture is realised and higher allocations are made in the budget. In this regard my only request is the system must motivate the really competent, performing scientists with innovative mind and not favouring the incompetent.

Sir, apart from the basic foodgrains, fruits, vegetables, pulses, oilseeds have got great potential of growth if only they are given adequate importance. We must find a mechanism of storage and marketing facilities, encouraging the consumer price index, which is affecting badly the common man we can create huge employment and earn huge foreign exchange.*

SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU (Srikakulam): Mr. Chairman Sir, agriculture sector is the backbone of rural livelihood security system. It is the largest agrarian economy in the world.

Agriculture contributes approximately 25 per cent of the Indian GDP. It contributes 15 per cent of our total

exports. It provides employment to around 65 per cent of the total workforce. You got to the village and see the conditions of the farmers. There are no minimum basic facilities provided to the farming community. There are no earnings. Their security is also very low. That is the conditions of the farmers in India.

The hon. Minister of Agriculture is the champion, there is no doubt about it.

In the present agricultural system, agriculture is dealt by so many Ministries. Take for example the Finance Ministry. Credit, crop insurance, even the Cooperative Banks, Grameen Banks, levying export and import duties come under the Finance Ministry. Even watershed and all other works relating to the rural areas come under the Ministry of Rural Development. Value addition, APEDA, and incentive for exports come under the Ministry of Food Processing. Even the Commodity Boards Export-Import Policy and WTO come under the Ministry of Commerce. Research Universities, production and MSP come under the Ministry of Agriculture. Irrigation comes under the Ministry of Water Resources. Procurement and distribution comes under Ministry of Food and Public Distribution. Bio-technology comes under the Ministry of Environment and Forests. Natural Calamities comes under the Home Ministry. There is no connectivity, even though all the Ministries are looking after Agriculture. So, I would like to request through you to the Agriculture Minister that all these areas be kindly brought under the Ministry of Agriculture. That is why, my demand is a separate Budget for 'agriculture' like Railway Budget. Then only the problems will be solved.

Though we have envisaged 18 per cent credit, yet farmers are not getting 18 per cent credit. I will give you one example. It was published in the newspaper today that 40 per cent of the farmers are taking money from the private money-lenders at the interest rate of 36 per cent to 50 per cent. This fact came to light after a survey was conducted for 200 farmers in Andhra Pradesh in Mahbubnagar and Adilabad districts. So, 40 per cent of the farmers have no access to the credit facilities. Even 43 per cent of the farmers have no access to the enough credit facilities. Only 3 per cent of the farmers have access to the credit facility. This is the observation after the study of the 200 farmers. That is why the farmers are committing suicides now even in Andhra Pradesh. That is why the farmers are committing suicides now even in Andhra Pradesh. That is why, my request is that the credit facilities should be increased. Even the

Swaminathan Commission has given two suggestions. Firstly, the rate of interest should be reduced to 4 per cent. When we get car loan and everything at the interest rate of 4 per cent, why not it be so in the case of agricultural credit? That is why Agriculture Minister should prevail on the Finance Minister—should ask them—to reduce the interest rate to 4 per cent. Secondly, even the Price Stabilization Fund is most important. There should be Price Stabilisation Fund so that the farmers get a Minimum Support Price, otherwise the farmers will suffer a lot and will not get MSP. This year in Andhra Pradesh, even the cotton growers, the chilly growers, and even the tobacco growers are not getting the Minimum Support Price. That is the situation prevailing in Andhra Pradesh. So, I think there should be emphasis on the need for improvement of post-harvesting technologies, processing and everything should be improved. We have to promote in a big way cold-storages, agro-processing, agricultural products value addition. We have to create roadmap for agricultural diversification. That is the most important thing. Production of fruits, flowers, dairy, poultry, fisheries, pulses, oilseeds etc., need to be explored under the Agricultural Diversification Programme. We are producing more fish in Andhra Pradesh. We are supplying fish in West Bengal, Bihar and in North-Eastern States also. Our hon. Agriculture Minister is planning to start Fisheries Development Board in our country. So, I would like to request the Agriculture Minister to start it from Andhra Pradesh. That is my request. You have to announce it in your reply. On behalf of the farmers of Andhra Pradesh, I would like to request, through you, to the Agriculture Minister for the same.

We have to simplify the agricultural insurance scheme. The present scheme is not beneficial to the farming community.

It has to reach the villages. It should be applicable to each farmers and to each crop. Otherwise, there is no use for having the Agriculture Insurance Scheme. We have to modify the scheme immediately. Even the hon. Finance Minister has given an assurance in this regard.

Sir, cooperative institutions are in doldrums. In the General Budget, the Finance Minister wants to amend Section 80(c) of the Income tax Act and by that he wants to levy tax on the cooperative institutions also. Cooperative institutions are lending credit to small and marginal farmers. Levying tax on the cooperative institutions will

be a great loss to the farming community. That is why, I am requesting through you, Sir, the Agriculture Minister to prevail upon the hon. Finance Minister to drop the proposal of levying tax on the cooperative institutions, and that will help the farming community.

These are my suggestions. With these words, I conclude.

SHRI BIR SINGH MAHATO (Purulia): Mr. Chairman, Sir, 70 per cent of our population is dependent on agriculture. Agriculture is the only source of their livelihood. Now, in the agriculture sector, a number of poor and marginal farmers are losing their land and they are becoming landless. The number has become more than ten crores.

The National Employment Guarantee Scheme has been introduced specially for the agriculturists. There is a commitment for bringing a comprehensive agriculture law in the National Common Minimum Programme. I would request the hon. Minister to look into the matter. Besides this, in our country, agriculture gives employment to more than 65 per cent of our population and it contributes more than 25 per cent of the GDP. Previously, when our country got the independence, the contribution of agriculture to the GDP was more than 60 per cent. Now, it is declining.

Sir, agriculture is very much linked with credit. Our Finance Minister, during his Budget speech, has stated that there is a proposal for giving farm credit to the tune of Rs. 1,75,000 crore and that will help 50 lakhs of farmers. He also reduced the interest rate to seven per cent. To some extent, it was a very cheerful announcement but the demand of the agriculturists is that it should be reduced to four per cent.

The Government had already set up a Commission under the chairmanship of Shri Swaminathan. But I am sorry to say that hardly any measure or recommendation of the Commission has been found place in the Budget speech of the hon. Finance Minister.

Sir, loan is the most important component of the farmers. Only 22 per cent of our farmers are depending still on the private moneylenders and only 27 per cent of our farmers have access to our institutional finance. Half of the farmers do not have any access to any sort of financial credit.

[Shri Bir Singh Mahato]

Agriculture is also related with irrigation. During the Budget speech, our hon. Finance Minister has assured that a sum of Rs. 7,120 crore has been proposed for ABP Scheme. There are 20,000 water bodies with a command area of 1.47 million hectares, which have been identified. This is the first phase for repair, renovation and restoration of the water bodies.

Sir, agriculture, as our friend, Shri K. Yerrannaidu has already said, deals with all the Departments, specially the Finance, Water Resources, Rural Development, Planning Commission, Cooperative, Animal Husbandry, Agro Industries, etc.

Sometimes, there is a lack of co-ordination. The hon. Minister of Agriculture should look into this.

The Government gives subsidy. There is also a complaint from the farmers that this subsidy is not going to the farmers. Therefore, the Government should find some mechanism so that the subsidy should go to the farmers.

Regarding Comprehensive and Scientific Crop Insurance Scheme, a number of Members have already said about it. It should be simplified, and all types of crops should come under the Crop Insurance Scheme. It is a fact that the farmers are not getting the minimum support price. They are not getting the minimum support price for most of their agricultural produce. The Agriculture Department should ensure that minimum support price is given to their agricultural produce. The farmers are committing suicide because of not getting the minimum support price.

In some of the States, subsidised power supply is given to the farmers. The Irrigation Department should also see that subsidised power supply is given to the farmers. Incentives for the use of bio-fertilisers should be given, and agro-based industry should also be developed.

[*Translation*]

*CHAUDHARY BIJENDRA SINGH (Aligarh): Sir, I would like to thank you for giving me an opportunity to participate in the discussion on the Demands for grants of the important Ministry like Agriculture for the year 2006-07. India is predominantly an agriculture country. 70 per cent population of our country live in the villages and I

have no hesitation to say that out of 70 percent 50 per cent people depend on agriculture. At the time of independence, a famous poet said that "Uttam kheti madhyam baan, Nishidh chakri, Bheekh Nidaan". Presently, the situation is totally reverse of that. Nowadays, the farmers consider the farming most worthless profession. Now he thinks that it is better to do a petty service than engage in farming.

Sir, through you, I would like to bring some points to the notice of the government. I would like to mention the plight of agriculture and the agricultural labour. Presently, the farmers is on the verge of destruction. The farmer is the back bone of this country who produce foodgrain through hardwork and the same farmer who produce foodgrain to the entire country with his hardwork is not able to earn even his own livelihood. I would like to urge upon the government to give farming the status of industry. The farmer who produce foodgrains for the country has to face many hardships while farming. The farmer is not able to get water, electricity, fertilizers, seeds and other things at time and he also do not get a timely loan. These all factors affect his agro production because of which he is not able to improve his financial position and consequent upon damage of crop the agricultural labour is also affected. All the people who are directly or indirectly dependent on farming, who work with the farmers and earn livelihood for their family and the labourers who are associated with the farmers are also affected due to all these factors. Sir, it is the big irony of this country that after independence, the farming has been dependent on several departments. If there is scarcity of power, it shall affect the farming. If the seed is not available on time, then it affects the production of farmer and if the farmer will not get the water on time it will also affect the farming. No coordination committee so far has made any such provision through which all the concerned department may timely coordinate and make arrangement to provide him all the facilities beforehand at the time of sowing the crop so that agriculture production is not hampered.

I would like to point out one more thing. When a farmer goes to a bank for loan he needs, most of the time he is denied it saying it is not the proper time for a crop-loan. Then, come in the mediators and the farmers faces many vexations in order to get the loan done. Since the agro sector has not still been reckoned as an industry, the farmer faces and fears many natural calamities the most. Even a small businessman does well with his livelihood, he earners to his level with full rest

*The speech was laid on the Table.

and ease, that business being an industry. But the poor farmer who works for day and night, is not even sure of getting the proper price for what he is so engaged to produce. It is because our agriculture sector has not been accorded the status of an industry.

I would like to raise one more point though you, Sir. An industry loan is provided at 7-8% interest rate while the farmer gets it at 13-14%. This rate of interest should be reduced if you want to let him grow economically. You might have also seen that a crop-loan for farmers often comes with an insurance scheme. The rate of insurance is combined with that loan. But when some natural calamity strikes and the crop is spoilt, the farmer does not find an insurance cover throughout the country. I would like to put this request for your cognizance, sir, that a proper amount of insurance should be ascertained while disbursing a crop-loan so that the farmer may get its benefits. It is necessary because if the farmer does not get the compensation for his loss, he is not the only one to suffer but other labourers and working class depending upon the agro-trade also suffer. Under these circumstances, they cannot think for their economic progress.

Sir, I would also like to suggest that necessary items for farming like electric supply, water supply and fertilizers etc. should be provided to the farmer community through a co-ordination committee in time because if they do not get these essentialities on time, they bear losses and it, in turn, adversely affects the nation's agro-production resulting in a national loss.

Sir, many farmers in States of Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Rajasthan and Karnataka, etc. have committed suicide. Come to think of it, why at all someone commits suicide? Be it a farmer or anybody else, when all options of living close on him, one is compelled to take such ultimate step. A farmer grows the crop with his lifeblood, spends all his capital on it and when he does not get any price for it and the burden of loan constantly increases, even his land comes to be put for bidding—what else he could do except going in for ending his life?

Sir, if we want to put stop on cases of suicide by the farmers, we must take initiatives to save them against natural calamities. For this, the Government has to make an action plan to provide relief to farmers during natural calamity and also to upgrade their living conditions. The upgradation of the farmer and farming naturally heads to

the upgradation of agriculture workers. That is why the Government should take speedy measures to protect them against natural calamities. With this, the old parameters of assessing the situation in calamities have also to be revised and new standards are needed to be brought in their place.

Sir, our farmer are the worst victims of innumerable natural calamities. With breakout of a disaster the land recedes, water bodies splashes and create havoc of incurring losses at a large scale and many villages get submerged. The farmer tries hard with his crop and hopes for the best but when a natural disaster strikes, he finds himself so helpless and restless. He may only get a meagre amount of Rs. 250-500 or, all the more, Rs. 1000 per acre as compensation, thanks to the old parameters in this regard. During the discussion on the agro-budget, many of my colleagues said and now I also want to say it to the Government that new standards in the aforesaid regard may be set in place of the old ones, in accordance to the cost of production. Moreover, the new parameters may be set in accordance with the escalated prices of seeds, fertilizers, pesticides, electricity, water and fuel like, diesel, etc. Then only, the amount of compensation may be approved.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, through you I want to draw the kind attention of the Government to the condition of agro-labours too. Unless and until our agro-sector is not recognized as an industry, the labours working in fields won't get their due. So, recognition of the agriculture sector as an industry is now a worthwhile demand. We are an agriculture dominant country, yet we have not enjoyed the quantum of agro-production, as it should have been, the prime solution of this puzzle lies in recognition of this sector as an industry. The small scale and village industries need to be promoted to make the farmer economically strong. Until this is done, the progress of the farmer remains impossible.

Sir, the workers and farmers are coming to metro cities in large number because of unguaranteed livelihood in villages, which is basically dependent on agriculture. They come to seek jobs in cities in utter compulsion. This incidence makes the big cities further polluted, suppressed in terms of employment and all the more populated. If we want to stop this population-drain towards cities, we must have to provide the farmers and working class with means of employment right at their living place. For this, we will have to promote agro-industries like poultry, fisheries and dairy etc. so that the natives could

[Chaudhary Bijendra Singh]

shift towards same side-business in case of some big natural calamity and keep earning their livelihood.

Sir, a native saying tells us "the farmer thrives on green field and the businessman on sweet talk". The farmer never rests till the green crop ripens and is harvested. But as you know, between the cup and the sip, there are too many slips. There are many mediators in the process of sale of the farmer's crop and virtually he is denied the real price of his produce in most of the cases. So, until the price of the produce matches with its cost, the condition of the farmer remains poor. I demand that proper means of selling the produce at a fair price be provided to the farmer so that he may get just reward of his work. The Inter-State stagnations prevailing in the Krishi Mandis may be done away with. The farmer should be set free to go and sell his product wherever he gets the fair price of it. This is required in his favour. I want to mention here something about the Commission on price-fixation. I have no hesitation to say here that those, who have no basic knowledge of agriculture, who know nothing about the crops and their cost, are sitting there to fix the prices of it.

Sir, when some price is fixed according to per quintal quantum of the produce, somebody at least should give a thought to the actual cost of the produce. The farmers should get the price of their product in right proportion of the escalated prices of diesel and fertilizers, etc. There was a time when production of foodgrains was very little in this country and our country was dependent on other countries for foodgrains but after late Shrimati Indira Jee coming to power, production of foodgrains has increased to a great extent. There is no doubt in this.

Sir, there was a time when our farmers did not see tractors but now production of tractors is going on. I would like to submit that efforts should be made to increase subsidy on fertilizers, seeds and other agricultural inputs. Although our government has tried and still trying to do a lot for agriculture in this Budget but I hope that you will keep in mind those points which has been mentioned in this discussion and try to find out solutions to them. This Government is a Government of farmers and labourers and it knows very well about the problems of these sections.

Sir, Shrimati Sonia Gandhi has also mentioned in our manifesto that our country will not become prosperous unless villages, farmers and labourers become prosperous. We hope that you will take concrete steps to improve the conditions of farmers.

Sir, I would like to thank Shrimati Sonia Gandhi, Chairperson of UPA, Dr. Manmohan Singh Ji, and Agriculture Minister for their herculean efforts made by bringing the Agricultural produce remunerative price Bill in this year 2006. As per the provisions in this Bill, a board has been constituted which will consists of a President, a Vice-President and five Members. I humbly request that two well-experienced progressive farmers should also be included in the board. Besides this, I would like to congratulate on following points in which our government has increased budgetary allocations for different plans to encourage the agriculture in Budget 2006-2007. I want to draw attention of the House on those points, which are herculean efforts for the welfare of farmers in comparison to the tenure of NDA Government like.

Under rapid irrigation profit programme, rupees 7121 crore have been allocated in 2006-2007 as against an allocation of rupees 4500 crore in 2005-2006.

Farm loan has been increased to rupees 125,309 crore in the year 2004-05. It is expected that the fixed target of rupees 141,500 crore in the year 2005-06 will be crossed. It is expected that the farm loan will go upto rupees 175,00 crore in the year 2006-07 in which 50 lacs more farmers would be included. Those farmers who have taken crop loan for the kharif and rabi season, 2005-06 from Scheduled commercial banks, RRB and PACS the amount equal to two percent of interest payable to the lender would be deposited in their bank accounts before 31 March, 2006. Rupees 1700 crore have been allocated for this purpose.

Financial assistance will be given to NABARD for providing short term loans to the farmers with the maximum limit of Rs. 300,000 at the rate of interest of 7 percent from the kharif season 2006-07.

Rural Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDFXI) has given approval to the tune of rupees 7301 crore upto January 31, 2006. For RIDF-XII this amount has been increased to rupees 10,000 crore.

National Crop Insurance Scheme will be continued.

A Special purpose Tea fund will be set up. Contribution to the tune of rupees 100 crore is expected in the year 2006-07. 801,000 SHG have been covered under loan facility during the last two years and loan of rupees 4863 crore has been distributed. Other 385,000 self-help groups will be covered under loan facility in the year 2006-07.

Fixing an amount of rupees 1150 crore for this purpose in the 2006-07 and to set up ideal terminal market with the private participation. A Central Gardening Institute would be established in Nagaland under National Gardening Mission.

Sir, private investment in agriculture will increase by liberalized trade for agro products and increased availability of loan for agriculture. There has been considerable increase in private investment for roads and rural employment programmes in villages in the Budget of the year 2005-06. The following measures have been taken for agricultural development: An outline for diversification of agriculture has been prepared by concentrating on Gardening, Floriculture, animal husbandry and Pisciculture. National projects have been made for strengthening the infrastructure relating to agro marketing, for repair works, renovation and rejuvenation of water bodies. To focus on small irrigation, Micro Finance, Micro Insurance and providing loans for villages. Establishment of a knowledge centre in every village. Establishment of a national fund for important agricultural research. Providing urban facilities in rural areas through creation of new bases of development.

There is a great scope for the development of emerging areas of agriculture like Gardening, Floriculture, Bio-Farming, Genetic Engineering, food processing, Branding and packaging and future trade: Development of rural infrastructure, extension of rural expansion services and industries based on agriculture and food processing are much needed to tap this potential. Indian agriculture suffers losses due to per hectare low production, instability in production and a great difference in productivity of crops in various areas. Domestic production of pulses and oil seeds is still short of required domestic needs. Deformation have crept in system and means of agriculture due to outdated foodgrains and there is a need to improve it. Agro produce market has been very much dependent on government procurement and distribution systems. To have a change in government procurement and existing minimum support price and to develop alternate product markets is very necessary for bringing diversity in crops and for agricultural development on a large scale.

Congratulate the government for steps being taken by the Government for the period upto 2009 under Bharat Nirman, which are as under:

Target of new irrigation in one crore hectare area, ten times increase in drip irrigation and sprinkle irrigation in 1.28 hectare till the year 2012. Review and expansion

of rural structure development fund. Increase of 43 percent in rural loan availability in the year 2004-05 and high target of 22 percent fixed for the year 2005-06. Loan facility has been provided to 5.57 lac self help groups in one and a half year. Package of 13596 crore rupees for reinforcement of short-term rural cooperative structures creation of integrated market under VAT. To prepare states to repeal agriculture produce marketing committee act. To abolish agro produce export duty. Expenditure on agriculture research and expansion has been increased to 375 crore rupees i.e. 48 percent in two years. New Schemes relating to expansion, agricultural education, construction of Godowns, marketing and structure have been launched. Clearance of main portions of old dues of sugarcane producers.

Sir, in the end, I conclude my points with giving support to the demands for grants of Ministry of Agriculture.

SHRI SHISHUPAL PATLE (Bhandara): Hon'ble Chairman, Sir, I would like to draw attention towards agriculture in the Budget-2006-07 presented by the Finance Minister. A number of hon'ble Members have raised the issue of suicides committed by farmers during the discussion held today in the House. Suicides by farmers in this predominantly agricultural country is indicative of a serious malaise and if this indication is not taken seriously 58% of the unemployed labourers who are dependent on agriculture will be ruined.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, in the country the largest number of cases involving suicides by farmers have occurred in Maharashtra and the Government of Maharashtra has arrested money lenders there who are responsible and one of the reasons for the above crisis. I think that the moneylenders are not responsible for this. The policies of our Government are responsible for compelling our farmers to commit suicide. We have put the moneylenders behind the bar after holding them responsible. I understand that our banks don't provide credit to our farmers at the right time and that is why our farmers wanted to take the help of moneylenders to meet their requirements in time. We have done a bit of injustice to the people of our India by taking actions against the moneylenders who helped the farmers in the time of their need. If farmers and moneylenders have relations with each other and owing to such relations they want to lend money it is all right otherwise nobody will lend money and come to the help of farmers.

[Shri Shishupal Patle]

I think it is injustice to the people of Maharashtra and the moneylenders that the Government of Maharashtra have held the money lenders responsible for suicides by the farmers. Most of the farmers in Maharashtra grow paddy and thus produce rice and foodgrains for the country to eat. But they are not getting the cost for their produce in real terms and consequently they are compelled to suffer a loss in raising their crop.

One of our Members of Parliament from Bihar has cited a very good example that there is no industry or factory in the country whose owner does not include in the total cost the expenditure even on the smallest things like a button or a needle which cost only 5-10 paise. Only after taking in his calculation each and every aspects of expenditure he determines the prices. But agriculture is the only industry wherein the farmer grows crops but the right to fix its prices rests not with him but with the Government. It is the most unfortunate thing for us in this agricultural country. I think the farmer had a suffer a loss of Rs. 250 per quintal on the crop of paddy. The Maharashtra Commission for Agriculture had recommended a price of Rs. 915 per quintal for paddy but the Central Government fixed it at Rs. 5.60 per quintal. There is no comparison between the rates of Rs. 915 and 560 per quintal. At present our farmer is suffering losses in agriculture. That is the reason he is not able to repay his debt. He commits suicide on being debt ridden. It seems that the Government did not view the suicides committed by farmers in the right perspective. While preparing the agricultural budget we, therefore, are moving away from farmers. We have not been able to take any measure aimed at ameliorating the lot of farmers. The Agriculture Minister of our country is from Maharashtra but the number of farmers committing suicides is the highest in Maharashtra. Therefore, greater attention is required to be paid to the farmers of Maharashtra. The farmer who is selling his paddy at a loss of Rs. 2.50 per quintal is required to be paid Rs. 400 as bonus. It is hoped that the Minister will include the above in the agriculture budget.

Mr. Chairman, sir, I would like to mention pig insurance scheme for the farmers of Maharashtra. It is a fact that farmers are benefited by the pig insurance scheme but the farmers are not able to derive benefits due to lack of awareness. Contrary to this under the

insurance scheme if there is a famine in more than 50% villages of the Revenue Centre but there is crop, the farmer will not get benefit of the Pig Scheme. In such centres if famine prevails in less than 50% villages and there is successful crop in 8 villages out of 15, the farmer will not get the benefit of the scheme. It is a sort of injustice to the farmers. The insurance scheme, therefore, needs improvement. The farmer who takes out premium of pig insurance from the agricultural income should be provided an independent insurance cover because in the event of natural calamity pigs are destroyed. Therefore, the farmer should get the benefit of full insurance scheme. I would request the hon'ble Minister of Agriculture to pay adequate attention to the same.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, our Agriculture Minister belongs to Maharashtra. Our Government had implemented the horticulture scheme in Maharashtra but the districts of Vidarbha region have been excluded. Our hon'ble Minister had visited Gondia and he had made an announcement there. Bhandra, Gondia, Chandrapur and Garhchirouli districts of Maharashtra have been deprived of the Horticulture scheme. I would request to kindly include the above districts also in agriculture budget.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, the Government have imposed tax on the cooperative banks. Farmers will be adversely affected by the imposition of tax on cooperative banks. The Government have imposed tax on the agricultural markets which will also affect the farmers. On close scrutiny we will find that a lot more is being taken from the farmers than what they are being given. It is requested that the cooperative Banks should be spared from the tax. The share market has not been taxed. That has been spared. You can increase production through imposition of tax on the share market. Production can be increased if a tax to the tune of Rs. 50-60 thousand crores collected. In this way the Government would be able to do something for farmers. I would request the Government to pay attention in this direction also.

Moreover, 60% of our agriculture is dependent on nature. A provision of Rs. 7721 crore has been made in the present budget. The Rajiv Gandhi Sagar Project in our district alone accounts for Rs. 4500 crores for which not a single penny has been allocated during the past ten years. It is lying pending as a backlog also. How many of such projects will you be able to complete in

the country with an amount of Rs. 7721 crores only? In our country agriculture is such an industry which has an immense potential for removal of unemployment but we have not thought about this. Persons cannot be employed in factories in large numbers. Similarly persons in large numbers cannot be provided with Government jobs. The agriculture sector will have to be given importance if we are to remove unemployment. Here, we can do a lot by giving importance to agriculture. New technology needs to be introduced into agriculture. If we see the other countries we will find that America has augmented its production capacity of rice the most. The per hectare yield of paddy in America is 67 quintals per hectare while in respect of China, Japan and India it is 64, 63 and 29 quintals respectively. India has been continuing with its traditional methods of agriculture since ancient times but through them we have not been able to increase our production capacity. Consequently, our agriculture is lagging behind. It requires upgradation. The farmers are required to be given more incentives by bringing in new technology and imparting training to them in its application.

At least, I would like to reiterate that India is an agricultural country and in view of the increasing unemployment in the country the Government should provide to a separate budget for agriculture by according the status of industry to the agriculture. It is my submission to the Government.

SHRI JAI PRAKASH (Hissar): Hon'ble Chairman, Sir, I rise to speak in support of demands of grants presented by Minister of Finance. It is true that India is an agriculture dominating country where 70 percent people do the farming. Our colleagues will have to accede to this fact that over the two years our UPA Government have made a provision of substantial Budget to the agriculture sector to increase agriculture production than that of previous governments.

There had been such a government in power here for the last six years under the regime of which only 40 percent land had remained under irrigation and the rest 60 percent had remained unirrigated which had to depend upon rainfall. I would like to give some suggestions to the hon'ble Minister of Agriculture in this regard. I understand that many hon'ble Members are sitting here to speak and Holi is also being celebrated today.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, agriculture is the only means to redress the problem of unemployment in the country. We should attract the people towards it. It will not only grow the agriculture production but will also make the agriculture profit earning. Obviously, the country will make much more progress due to it. My suggestion is that these four and five measures are necessary to grow the agriculture production.

First of all canal water is necessary. There are many disputes among various states over this issue whether be it Cauvery dispute; SYL dispute between Rajasthan and Punjab or be it Yamuna dispute between Delhi and Haryana. An agreement was signed in 1954. There was a Memorandum of Understanding regarding Renuka Kesui Laksar Vyas Dam Project, which was signed in 1994. If it is executed it will directly benefit the people of Haryana. Rajasthan and Delhi and problem related to the potable water will also be redressed through this.

My second suggestion is that a tribunal at national level be set up. Some states, which do not share the water with other states by the protect of a riparian state should be wholly regulated by the Central Government in this regard so as to irrigate the fields in a comfortable way. Water should be shared with states.

Second issue is related to power. It is necessary to make a provision of irrigation to grow the agriculture yield because the cost price of agriculture produce depends on power. I would like to give an example of Haryana to the hon'ble Minister. We have so many areas where ground water alongwith canal water is very good. If the farmers of Haryana are provided cheap diesel and power, they will be able to irrigate their fields through Tubewell and pumps. Haryana is such a state where there is no hydle project and there is no coal mine. We have provided the power to the farmers at the cheap rate by purchasing it on higher rates from other states. Our Government provides power to the farmers at the cheap rate. Haryana is the only state in the country, which provides power to farmers at the cheap rate. Therefore, I would like to request the hon'ble Minister that he should make a provision so that a package can be given to Haryana and it can also generate more and more power. Or the farmers should be provided the power at the cheap rate by giving them subsidy like other states.

Third, point is about the fertilizers. It is also necessary for agriculture. The farmers have begun to use more fertilizers, urea and DAP for the last 10 to 15 years. It needs more water. If a farmer grows his crops with the

[Shri Jai Prakash]

help of manure (made from dung) its cost should be given separately. It will promote competition among the farmers. Therefore, you should fix price of crops grown with the help of manure (made from dung) to the tune of Rs. 900 to 1000 and fix only Rs. 900 for those crops which are grown with the help of other manures.

Fourthly, I would like to tell the hon'ble Minister regarding seeds. As the issue of wheat is going on today and our hon'ble Prime Minister has also said that he will import wheat so that poor people can get it at the cheaper rate. Our Agriculture University of Haryana has developed a zero drill seed which is quite effective for production it sown it in the field after harvesting of paddy on in barren land. Our Agriculture University had bagged prize in the whole world. I am not against Punjab but I can say with heavy heart that an amount of Rs. 100 crores was doled out there for an agriculture university. Similarly the morale of our scientists and farmers should also be boosted up and the Agriculture University of Haryana, which has been named after Late Chaudhary Charan Singh, should also be given special grants so that wheat, mustard and Kenu's production under horticulture could be promoted. Our agriculture university has improved a variety of good crops. Haryana tops the ranking one not only in India but in the whole world in terms of Murra breed. A project regarding murra is under consideration of Hon'ble Minister of Agriculture. That package should be given as early as possible so that while revolution alongwith green revolution can be brought about in the country.

The fifth thing is related to loans. The condition of the farmers should be improved by providing them loans. I would like to suggest that loans are provided to the farmers at the interest rate of 12 to 14 percent for purchasing tractors and it becomes very costly for them to return it because agriculture is a business running into loss. It is my suggestion that profit must be fixed while fixing the prices of his produce and subsidy must be given to him. Today, the farmers should be provided the rate of wheat to the tune of Rs. 900 per quintal. The Chief Minister of Haryana has given more price for sugarcane to the farmers in comparison to the other states of the country because the sugarcane cultivation in the state had dwindled in an alarming way. But due to its high prices, its cultivation is increasing day-by day. I would like to make a request about the limit of loan facilities being extended to the farmers through cooperative banks at the interest rate of 7 percent and it is upto Rs. 3 lakh only. Whereas the Golden Card allows 4 lakh as a limit. The limit of loan should be increased and more than 3 percent interest rate should be changed from the

farmers. Shri Ram Kripal Yadav has also rightly mentioned that that the farmers who are unable to pay for the loan, are sent to the jail and they are not released from the jail till he pays for the expenditure whatsoever incurred on him during his imprisonment. Government of Haryana celebrated its anniversary on 5th March. Our Hon'ble Chief Minister is the first Chief Minister in the country who has announced that farmers and labourers will not be sent to the jail for non-recovery of loans.

Mr. Chairman, sir, some other method should be adopted in this regard and he should not be sent to the jail in any situation. Some such type of attitude should be adopted so as to prevent him from going to jail. Similarly, whatever loan is granted by co-operative banks and other institutions to the farmers, the interest should not be recovered from them on that behalf more than the principal amount at any cost.

Sir, so far the matter of diesel is concerned, its rates are different in various parts of the country. Rates are different in Maharashtra, Haryana and West Bengal. Since I am a member of the Standing Committee of the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas. I am fully aware of the discussions that farmers have to face more difficulties due to increasing rates of diesel. Therefore, I request the Minister of Agriculture that guidelines from his Ministry should be given to all State Governments of the country to reduce sale-tax in their respective states particularly for making diesel available to the farmers at cheaper rates for smooth agricultural activities.

Sir, today every citizen of the country knows that agriculture has become a business running into loss and if this trend of migration is continued, that day is not far off when India will be relegated to the position of the years of 1968 and 1970 when we used to import wheat from outside. Talks about stopping subsidy to the farmers are on not only in India but all over the world. In this connection I am of the opinion that it should continue. Have a glimpse at the world as many numbers of developing countries are providing subsidy to the world are also doing the same. Even in developed countries like America subsidy is given to the farmers. Therefore, it is necessary to give subsidy to the farmers even in India in order to prevent them from increasing loss.

[*Translation*]

The present honourable Minister of Agriculture has fought a long fight for farmers. Therefore, I would request him to continue subsidy for farmers to provide them remunerative prices, and for the poor, people to make them available foodgrains at subsidized rates.

Sir, I request you to announce support price for crops before the sowing season so that farmers and the country could benefit. If you announce the price of IRA paddy at 900 rupees per quintal, then it would be convenient for them to sow paddy. The support price of not only paddy but mustard seed, Narma and rape seed should also be announced in advance.

Sir, our UPA Government has formulated very encouraging schemes for agriculture and today the whole country is listening that in the rule of UPA government farmers of our country would prosper and they will get remunerative prices for their crops and agriculture would become a profitable job. So, I would request the honourable Minister of Agriculture, through you, Sir, to continue subsidy to provide remunerative prices to farmers. I thank you for giving me this opportunity to speak.

(English)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you. Next speaker is Shri Varkala Radhakrishnan. I would like to inform all the hon. Members that there are 15 more hon. Members, who have to speak on this issue. Therefore, I would request all the hon. Members to please be as brief as you can while giving your speech. All the hon. Members should try to conclude their speech within five minutes to seven minutes each.

*DR. K.S. MANOJ (Alleppey): Thank you sir, for giving me the opportunity to take part in the discussion on demands for grants for Ministry of Agriculture. I support the demands for grants.

Sir, India is an Agricultural Country. Nearly 70% of populations depends on agriculture for livelihood. Indian economy growth depends on Agriculture too. But agriculture and allied activities become through loss nowadays. Agriculture become unproductive and loss. Many abandoned agriculture as their occupations and many stick on to it because of the cultural attachment to agriculture. Many are in debt trap. Many have committed suicide. Nearly 50,000 farmers have committed suicide in last 4-5 years. There are several reasons for the crashing for agriculture. Since this have been discussed in this august House several times before, I would not go into the details of it. Anyway it is the duty of the Government to take adequate steps to support and promote agriculture.

The most common cause of farmers suicide in debt trap. It is a welcome measure that UPA Government has taken measure to double the credit to farms sector. At the same time, the interest rate of agricredit still high (7%), even though the Hon'ble Finance Minister has brought it low. It has to further be brought down to 4%. Not only that strict monitoring and vigilance should be undertaken to assure that Banks and other financial institutions are providing credit to the poor farmers.

Lots of researches are going on in our research laboratories and huge amount is spending on it. But only minimum is coming out. Minimum is reaching the real farmers. The distribution chain from Researches to farmers should be strengthened.

In our Country SHGs are functioning very properly SHGI need to be promoted to come forward to agriculture and necessary financial assistance and technological assistance should be provided.

National Agriculture Insurance Scheme (NAIS) NAIS coverage is only for Kharif and Rabi. It is a long pending demand, that NAIS should be extended to more crops. I urge upon the Ministry to extend NAIS coverage to cash crops in Kerala too.

Subsidies to seed, fertilizer, manure and electricity should be continued.

I express my protest and anguish in reducing the allocation for fisheries department. Even through the Finance Minister has proclaimed that National Fisheries Development Board would be formed, no budget allocation is there in the budget, not only that budget allocation has been reduced. As per the Annual Report marine fish production has been decreased during 2004. But in 2005-06 it might have decreased further because of the impact of Tsunami. Post Tsunami, tremendous changes have occurred in marine ecosystem. No serious studies have been conducted on the impact of Tsunami on marine fishery. Kerala is a Tsunami affected area. It is heart breaking to see that, all the researches institutions in Kerala is under the threat of closure or merger. CMFRI Research Centre at Vizhinam CIFRI Research Centre which is the only Inland Fishery Research Centre in Kerala at Alappuzha and CMFRI Research at Calicut come under this closure. I urge upon the Hon'ble Minister to retains all these centres in Kerala in view of the fact that Kerala has a long coastal margins that to affected by Tsunami, no post Tsunami studies have been conducted and Kerala have a very good number of lakes and backwater system.

* The speech was laid on the Table.

[Dr. K.S. Manoj]

After Tsunami, Fishermen of Kerala were met with phenomenon, that of puffer fish that have damaged the fishing gears. No studies were conducted on the appearance of this puffer fish. And no assistance were given to the fishermen whose nets were damaged by puffer fish. Financial assistance should be given to these poor fishermen.

Traditional fisherman was given subsidised Kerosene for their outboard engines. But the quantity provided is not adequate. So I request the Hon'ble Minister to provide separate quotes of kerosene for traditional fishermen. Fishermen has to pay Road Cess (Rs. 1.50 per litre) for the diesel they are using with fishery boats. Even though they were not using the roads. Sir this should be withdrawn.

Sir, In view, of depletion in marine fishing the number of fishing crafts in a specified area of fishing should be controlled and no further license should be given to the deep sea fishing trawlers. And those sanctioned should not be renewed after the expiry of their current license.

Special attentions should be given to Ornamental fishery. Small farmers and SHGs should be promoted in ornamental fisheries.

With these few words I support the demands for grants for Ministry of Agriculture.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN (Chirayinkil): Sir, while supporting the demands for agriculture, I have to mention some realities with regard to the ground situation. The agriculture sector, as a whole, is facing a crisis. This is not an exaggerated statement, but it is a reality.

I come from the State of Kerala, which is the land of coconut. Kerala denotes coconut. Coconut is grown not only in Kerala, but even in its neighbouring States, namely, Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh. This is the main agricultural crop as far as these States are concerned. The said crop is now facing a crisis for decades. The crisis came after India became a signatory to the World Trade Agreement.

We are attending the Doha Conference. In that very context I would like to make a mention that in the World Trade Agreement we have committed certain omissions or mistakes. We all know that Kerala is producing 90 per cent of the natural rubber produced in the country.

These are the major crops, so far as these Southern States are concerned, particularly Kerala. Now, natural rubber is primarily an agricultural product, but unfortunately, when we put our signature to the World Trade Agreement, rubber became an industrial product. Nobody will believe that natural rubber is purely, *cent per cent*, an agricultural product. But it became an industrial product when we reached the Doha Conference on World Trade Agreement. It became an industrial product, and the net result is that all the subsidies given to the rubber growers were stopped because there is an Agreement in which no subsidy should be given to the industrial product. So, all the subsidies which the small rubber growers in the State were enjoying was withdrawn. Not only that, all the tariff restrictions which were in force were also withdrawn. Due to stiff competition, the rubber growers are facing acute crisis in the State. Nobody can save them, unless and until the Government of India takes the initiative of amending the World Trade Agreement and making the natural rubber an agricultural product. If you take the developed countries in the world, Soyabean farmers are given subsidy by the United States of America, and even the wheat growers are getting subsidies in Australia. Unfortunately, the rubber growers in Kerala are denied that.

In the case of copra, copra is a direct coconut kernel, it is now termed as an industrial product by the World Trade Agreement. The net result is that all the concessions and all the tariff protection enjoyed by the coconut growers in Kerala as well as in other States of South India is no longer available and they lost all those subsidies. We have to face stiff competition. Even tariff protection was withdrawn as a result of the Agreement entered into between the developing countries through the World Trade Agreement. This is the situation. No sensible man will think that copra would be termed as an industrial product or natural rubber would be termed as an industrial product.

Unfortunately, our people put in their signatures without taking into consideration the realities of the situation and withdrew these concessions. However, people in other countries were cautious enough to see that Soyabean farmers, wheat growers enjoy subsidies and tariff protection, when all these are denied to the agricultural products in the Southern States. This is one reality. We will have to change the World Trade Agreement, otherwise we will have to face stiff competition from Malaysia, Philippines and even Sri Lanka.

The coconut growers will not survive. There are about 26 lakhs of poor coconut farmers in Kerala holding a land below one hectare. These poor people are left to starve and they may even commit suicide because of these drastic and unthinkable situation which arose after the World Trade Agreement.

So, I would request the hon. Minister and the Government of India to see that some changes are made in the World Trade Agreement and save these poor farmers of South India, especially coconut farmers, from starvation and suicides, and so also in the case of rubber growers. This is one thing.

Some time back, in the last week, some widows came here to Delhi and offered *Satyagraha* near Parliament Street. I can understand that after a war, there may be widows; after some natural calamity or catastrophe, there may be some widows, but here is a case where widows of farmers, who have committed suicides in hundreds, have come for a demonstration in the national's Capital.

17.00 hrs.

This is the situation now prevailing in the country. We should think of it seriously and do something to save these farmers from their difficulties.

Another thing I would like to point out in this context is the plantation crops. Tea is a plantation crop, cardamom is a plantation crop. They are in a complete crisis from which there is no escape for the farmers. Take the case of arecanut. Kerala and other States are growing arecanut trees in large numbers. You will find arecanut trees in every household in Kerala. They are also facing a crisis because of the agreement. We do not get any protection. People can import as much as they require of coconut produce into the country. The net result is, the arecanut farmers in the State of Kerala have got into a very difficult situation. This is the picture now as far as southern States are concerned.

The hon. Minister is aware of all these things. He is an expert in all these matters. I think he will take some decision to save the farmers who are reeling under starvation. With these words, I support the Demands for grants.

[*Translation*]

*SHRI M. SHIVANNA (Chamrajanagar): Mr. Chairman Sir, I thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak on

Agriculture on behalf of my party (JD)(S) I support the Demands for Grants 2006-2007 pertaining to the Ministry of Agriculture.

More than 75% of the people in our country are agriculturists. Agriculture is the back-bone of our economy. Unfortunately the condition of the farmer is pathetic and this back-bone is breaking and that is why the farmers are committing suicide even after 58 years of Independence.

The Union Government says that the farmer has to pay only 7% interest on their loans I say that the farmers cannot pay even this percentage of interest also. This must be reduced. In fact, some loans of very small farmers must be waived along with the interest. Such a direction should go from the Centre to NABARD, Banks and other cooperative financial institutions.

In Karnataka a number of irrigation projects are pending for the last several decades. Upper Bhadra project is pending and the people in that area are agitating and taking out procession regularly. KABINI project and other irrigation projects have to be expedited without any further delay.

Substantial funds must be allocated to provide drip irrigation, facility in rural areas at least. Tanks all over Karnataka require to be desilted. Now, the tanks will be full during rainy season and after two months they will dry up. Therefore to provide water to farmers throughout the year we have to desilt all tanks and Centre should provide funds to Karnataka State.

Linking of rivers is another important issue. This alone can save the farmers of the country. It may involve huge amount of money but it is the only permanent solution for the progress and all round development of our country.

I therefore urge upon the Union Government to take up the dream project of linking Ganga and Kaveri. Linking other small rivers should also be taken up periodically.

The farmers are not getting remunerative price even today. The price of industrial products have gone up many fold. But unfortunately agricultural produces are not getting proper support-prices. Hence, coffee growers are in great trouble. The cotton growers and weavers are also in trouble and some of them have already committed suicide in Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and Maharashtra.

*English Translation of the speech originally delivered in Kannada.

[Shri M. Shivanna]

Subsidy facility to fertilizers should continue. Some companies are earning huge money by selling adulterated pesticides, insecticides and fertilizers. This should be checked and the culprits should be punished by the Government.

Tractors and other equipments that are used by the farmers should be made available to them at cheaper rates. Sericulture in my state is also in bad shape. Import of Silkyam from China should be stopped immediately. Turmeric, coconut, Sugarcane are the major crops of my constituency, Chamarajanagara. The Centre should come to strengthen the hands of Karnataka to help the growers of the above mentioned crops.

I, on behalf of my constituency plead the Union Government and the Hon. Minister of Agriculture to help us to set-up a Bulk Milk Scheme in Chamarajanagar such that the milk producers can go ahead with the production of Ice-cream, Chocolate and other milk products. I am also demanding the Centre to give us Cold Storages to preserve vegetables and fruits. Today tomato is being distributed freely in southern parts of Karnataka as there are no takers. This situations is arising every two years and the Centre cannot by a silent spectator to this crisis. Earlier, in Kolar district farmers were throwing tomato on the roads. Therefore, storage and marketing facilities should be provided to farmers. The farmers should get at least Rs. 300 for planting a coconut tree as a replacement to a diseased coconut tree.

Water table has gone down. Tube wells particularly in my constituency have dried up. There is the problem of drinking water also. I therefore, I urge upon the Hon. Minister of Agriculture to come to the rescue of farmers in Karnataka and to help them in a big way such that the future our democracy can usher into a new era of progress and prosperity.

Once again I thank you Sir, and with these words I conclude my speech.

DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY (Mandsaur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, we are discussing demands of Agriculture Ministry. It is true that agriculture is the foundation and backbone of the economy of our country. Almost 70 per cent of our population earn their livelihood from agriculture. Therefore, more concern regarding agriculture is natural.

The Minister of Finance has mentioned 2.3 percent growth rate for agriculture in his budget speech. But if we go through the mid-term appraisal of the Tenth Five Year Plan, we will find that total national foodgrain production has declined in our country during the year 2004-05. Earlier, it was 212.6 million metric tones but now it is 206.39 million metric tonnes. On these basis, we can say that our production has decreased. So this concern is natural.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, various mid-term appraisals have been made in regard to Tenth Five Year Plan. I do not want to go in details. It has been mentioned in this appraisal that there is decline in various fields of agriculture department whether it is animal husbandry or any other field. Concern in this regard is natural. I would not discuss as to how agriculture has become non-productive and non-profitable. Due to unprofitable crop farmers are committing suicides. The number of the farmers who have committed suicides in various states has been given in the House. Discussions have been held a number of times in the House in this regard. I do not want to go in its detail but concern in this regard is natural that why all this is happening. Working of marketing societies and agriculture markets is required to be streamlined.

I would like to give some example regarding the reasons for decrease in production of cotton, sugarcane, the reasons for closure of all sugar mills in Madhya Pradesh, Bihar and Uttar Pradesh. Concern in this regard is natural. I know that honourable Sharad Pawar ji belongs to Maharashtra. Maharashtra has big sugar factories but during the recent times we have seen that the target fixed for sugar production could not be achieved. Why sugar prices are increasing. It is natural to be worried in this regard. We have constituted Cotton Corporation. But has this corporation been providing proper support price to cotton growers or whether they are concerned about them? Proper storage and marketing arrangements should be made.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would conclude after making two-three points. I am giving suggestions only. You may see as to how it is possible. You should pay attention to support price for farmers produce. Support price should be fixed on the basis of production cost otherwise production of all crops would decline. You can see that

the prices of onion, orange, cotton, garlic etc. have decreased. Today farmers are facing problems due to unprofitable production. They are not getting proper loan facility. Farmers Credit Cards are not available.

I would conclude after giving some suggestion. The Minister of Power is expressing his concern is providing electricity to farmers but your concern is also natural. Means of irrigation should also be provided. Therefore, along with the State Government, Union Government and Water Resources Department should also pay attention in this regard because there are several rivers with dams constructed on these rivers but inter-state agreements are not there. Due to lack of inter-state agreements, our canals could not pass through the forestland. There are several factors due to which we are not able to provide maximum benefit or irrigation to farmers, the Union and the State Government should formulate a plan in this regard. Recently various natural calamities occurred. Just now you have mentioned about crop agriculture insurance. Crop agriculture insurance should be made more effective because heavy losses are caused by natural calamities. You can take the example of Madhya Pradesh. Soyabean, Isabghol, Orange and other crops have suffered loss. Same is the case of opium. Opium is directly connected to Ministry of Finance, Narcotics but it is produced by farmers. But farmers have faced heavy losses due to production of opium. Special arrangements should be made for complaining this loss and the loss caused by natural calamities. I would also like to draw the attention of the honourable Minister towards chemical fertilizer and seeds. I would draw the attention of the honourable Minister towards availability of chemical fertilizer and its adulteration, which should be stopped. Good quality organic fertilizer and its adulteration, which should be stopped. Good quality organic fertilizer and seeds should be made available. At present there are several distribution center but they are not working properly. Various research centers working under agriculture research council should be made more effective. Krishi Vigyan Kendras should be provided more resources.

In the end I would request the honourable Minister that horticulture has wide scope in our country. Horticulture University has been established in Himachal Pradesh only. But Madhya Pradesh is a very suitable place for this. Ujjain, Ratlam, Neemuch, Mandsoor, etc. and parts of Rajasthan constitute the Malwa region, which has a huge potential for horticulture. I urge the government to set up an Agriculture University in Mandsoor,

which is centrally located in the Malwa region. This would certainly be of immense help for horticulture sector. The farmers in place of traditional crops like wheat, jowar, bajra, barley, etc. would go in for cash crops like fruits and other crops. I request you to consider this suggestion. I hope you will deliberate upon it and will take effective steps in this regard. Efforts should be made to grow coconuts and cultivate chillies, spices, tea, coffee, etc. and to give a fair price to the producers.

The Government should pay attention to animal husbandry also. Going by the report of the Standing Committee on agriculture the government is not seized of the matter. Implementing the suggestions made in the report would help agriculture sector a lot. It is also necessary to increase the production of oilseeds and pulses. We should not be dependent on imports as is the case of wheat.

With these suggestions I conclude my speech and thank you for having given me the opportunity to speak.

*DR. THOKCHOM MEINYA (Inner Manipur): Hon'ble Chairman, Sir, I am taking part in the discussion of General Budget 2006-2007 pertaining to the Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Agriculture. Sir, I fully support the Demands of the Ministry of Agriculture. At the outset, I would like to draw the attention of the Hon'ble Minister for Agriculture as well as the Hon'ble Members of this August House that India is primarily an agricultural country. Rural India is the dominant part of the country and it plays a very crucial role in our economy. Therefore, we should discuss the rural economy and farmers issues seriously. If we do not take care of the rural sector, we cannot make progress in our economy. It is right time to remember once again the words of Prof. M.S. Swaminathan, the father of India's first green revolution that new scientific techniques and technologies must be inducted in our agricultural sector and also in other activities of our farmers and farm labourers. Food security is a must for the country. The country will prosper only when we have food security.

In order to solve the problems of our farmers, we need to bring in novel scientific technologies. A kind of synergy is to be created. Such a step will certainly make great progress in our agricultural sector. We should also

*English Translation of the speech originally delivered in Manipuri.

[Dr. Phokchom Meinya]

make our farmers aware of the electronic revolution that is taking place now.

While deciding the price of agricultural produce, it is necessary to take into account all relevant factors. At the same time, we should have transparency in deciding the remunerative prices of agricultural products. The need of the hour is that our youths should be attracted to this sector. The agricultural professions must be made attractive for our younger generation. To achieve this, we also need to encourage the activities of self-help groups. But unfortunately, our self help groups cannot reach throughout the nook and corner of the country. Another perennial problem of our agriculture is the non-availability of essential components of agriculture like seeds. We need to educate our farmers we need to make them aware of the new technologies. The UPA Government has set up the Agricultural Coordinating Committee under the Chairmanship of Hon'ble Prime Minister. Under this said Committee, the National Development Council is having a Committee under the Chairmanship of Hon'ble Agriculture Minister. The endeavour of this Government is to bring about four per cent growth rate in agriculture. I firmly believe that our UPA Government will achieve this target. For achieving this growth rate of four per cent, we need to give priority to the farm labourers and farmers. We have to take care of their health, we have to provide basic education to them.

The future of our agriculture lies in, first, sustaining the gains already achieved; second, extending them to rainfed areas; third, new gains through diversification and value additions.

Finally, I would like to say that now the first green revolution is weakening. So, under this UPA Government, it is high time to bring about a second green revolution. Hon'ble Prime Minister is also talking about the second green revolution. We should support him. As mentioned earlier, apart from the minimum support price we should try to achieve the target fixed for remunerative prices for farm produce. I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister to this produce.

Lastly, I would thank the hon. Minister for sanctioning a National Institute of Horticulture for Nagaland. At the same time, we have one Central Agricultural University in Manipur where I propose to the hon. Minister to support rice and cotton research as well as research on Muga and Tussar, by providing more funds to that University.

I would request the hon. Minister to look into the matter and sanction some more money so that the youth, the younger generation who are otherwise jobless and going astray from the mainstream may get some jobs.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Dr. Senthil. You may take only five minutes.

DR. R. SENTHIL (Dharmapuri): Sir, I would not even need five minutes because I listened to my colleagues who have spoken extensively on various aspects of the problems of the farmers in this country.

One thing is sure—everybody knew what a farmer wants. The farmer needs high-yielding seed varieties at affordable costs; he needs credit so that he could plough his land; he needs adequate water facilities so that he could use it for good purposes; he will make use of the water conservation measures also; and he needs good marketing system and a good price for his produce after harvesting. Everybody said that more than 60 per cent of our population is agriculturists. They need to have full attention. Everybody in the House, cutting across party lines, even those who have not done anything for the farmers in the last five years, seem to know the problems of the farmers. But then, why has that not been converted into action, is the main question.

I rise, on behalf of the Pattali Makkal Katchi, to support the Demands for Grants pertaining to the Ministry of Agriculture. The direction of the Budget has to fulfil the promises that we have in our National Common Minimum Programme. This Budget is definitely towards that goal and I congratulate the hon. Minister who has done his best to keep up our promises to the farmers of this country. I thank the hon. Minister for making an allocation of Rs. 1,000 crore for National Horticulture Mission. I would like to request the hon. Minister to concentrate and distribute this money more to those areas where water availability is less, because horticulture has to be in those areas where water is scarce; he also has to make special provisions for floriculture.

I want to mention here that we have fulfilled another promise given in the NCMP, that is, Jute Technology Mission has been set up. This is another promise that is made in the NCMP. Micro irrigation is the future of irrigation in India and also in the world. I thank the hon. Minister for giving full importance for this project and

allocating sufficient fund for this. We have doubled our budgetary allocation for agriculture from the previous Government's allocation.

In spite of this increase, the expenditure on agriculture remains at a meagre 1.4 per cent of our total expenditure, which is a bare minimum. This is injustice, taking into account that 60 per cent of our population live on agriculture. Sir, we have to more aggressively consider converting our words into action. The total capital expenditure is again a very meagre figure of Rs. 265.14 crore and it has been decreasing over the years. It is more than what was there during the BJP period but still in the last three years it is showing a decreasing trend.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude.

DR. R. SENTHIL: Sir, I have spoken only for two minutes.

MR. CHAIRMAN: What can I do? You have got only five minutes to speak.

DR. R. SENTHIL: Sir, I have spoken only for two minutes. I want to make only one point. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: You need not argue with me. I am not a person yielding to argue. It has already been decided by the Party. Please conclude.

DR. R. SENTHIL: Sir, we have been talking about reviving the cooperative system. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Dr. Senthil, you are a young man. You should conclude.

DR. R. SENTHIL: Everybody in the House has talked about reviving the cooperative system. I wonder we can ever do it because it is already dying. We have made one mistake by attaching the cooperative system with growth and politicising it. I spoke to one farmer and asked him how the Special Officer put by the Government is helping him. He told: "We are milking the cows and the Special Officer is milking the society". That being the case, I think we should clean up the cooperative system and leave it to the farmers. The better way would be, it is my humble submission, the self-help groups have brought revolution in rural economy and rural development. We must change our concept into funding self-help groups—both men and women—so that they do whatever is necessary for the village.

Many Members spoke about the provision of packaging material. It is a very-very relevant point. In the modern day there is a big gap between the farm produce and the packaging material available. We should evolve a policy where the packaging material is made available at an affordable cost.

Secondly, organic farming has come in a big way. We are having problem with regard to certification. We have the shops selling the organic product but what is the mechanism for verifying it. We should evolve the certification and verification system.

I again request the Minister to consider the recommendations of M.S. Swaminathan Commission. Many Members have talked about it and I reiterate it.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The next speaker is, Shri Munshi Ram. I will be very strict. You will have to conclude within three minutes.

[Translation]

SHRI MUNSHI RAM (Bijnor): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise to speak briefly on Demands for Grants relating to the Ministry of Agriculture for the year 2006-2007. All the Hon. Members have rightly pointed out that the farmers should get remunerative prices. Also, good quality seeds, fertilizers and other resources should be made available to them. I belong to western Uttar Pradesh. Farmers there do not get power for even 3-4 hours. To save their crops they have to use diesel run generators for irrigation. Diesel costs Rs. 34-35 per litre. First of all I would request the Minister of Agriculture to provide power to the farmers for longer duration and at subsidized rates.

Canals can irrigate only one-third of the land under cultivation. However, out of these canals, more than half are dry. Keeping in mind the crores of rupees spent on the construction of these canals, the government should undertake a survey to determine the number of canals, which are without water. The farmers should get full price for their produce.

The government have made a provision of Rs. 24,000 crores subsidy for foodgrains and Rs. 17,000 crores for fertilizer subsidy. But it is a matter of regret that, the farmers do not benefit directly. The foodgrain subsidy is cornered by the officials through the FCI. Either this subsidy finds its way to the pockets of the officials through the FCI or the fertilizer producers. But the farmers do

[Shri Munshi Ram]

not get the benefit. Hence, the subsidy should directly benefit the farmers. When the farmers find agriculture unremunerative they turn away from it.

During last week's Question Hour the hon. Minister had said that if the farmers are paid Rs. 150 per quintal for cane, then the sugar price will shoot upto Rs. 2700 per quintal. The farmers are paid only Rs. 115-120 per quintal for their cane. The sugar content is 10 percent and the sugar sells for more than Rs. 2000 per quintal. Baggase sells for Rs. 150 per quintal, froth for Rs. 100 per quintal and molasses, having no value sells for Rs. 300-500 per quintal. Sixty-five to seventy percent molasses is produced from cane. It is not right to deprive the farmers from getting the price for baggase and froth. Even if we pay the farmers for the molasses, it comes to Rs. 200 per quintal. Why should the farmer tolerate this loss? The government should fix its price. Subsidy should reach the farmers directly. It is my request to the government that subsidy should not benefit the officials and the capitalists.

[English]

*SHRI RAVICHANDRAN SIPPAPARAI (Sivakasi): Sir, the father of the nation, Mahatma Gandhi, said that India lives in the villages. Most of the villagers in India are agriculturists, and they are the lifeline of our nation. Every year, in India, there is a two per cent increase in population. At this rate, our population would reach 140 million by the year 2020, and we will have to grow at three per cent in agriculture production. But this year, there is only 3 million tonnes increase in food production.

In the year 1950-1951, 80 per cent of the people were agriculturists, and 55 per cent of the GDP came from agriculture itself. But in the present scenario the things have changed. I mean to say that only 56 per cent people are involved in doing agriculture. Therefore, the share of agriculture in India is reducing every year. The share of agriculture to the total GDP is also between 20 per cent and 21 per cent only.

I would like to state four points in order to improve the condition of the farmers in our country, namely, agriculture inputs and research, farm credit, market support, and irrigation.

There are more than 49 agriculture universities all over India, and many scientists are doing research work

in various disciplines. But there is no outcome from it since the time of Green Revolution. The rural farmers are depending on the multinational companies for their seeds, and they are purely money-minded. In addition, the seeds produced by these companies are also failing in many parts of the country resulting in the farmers to fall in debt traps. There is no clear-cut pricing policy, and subsidy policy regarding fertiliser, which is going to expire in the coming months.

In the year 2006—2007 the Government of India had announced Rs. 1,75,000 crore to be disbursed through banks at the rate of 7 per cent interest. But these loans mainly meet the short-term loans of the farmers. As regards long-term agriculture credit, the hon. Finance Minister did not say anything, which is mainly for land reforms, purchase of agriculture tools and machines.

In the Budget, there is no mention about the M.S. Swaminathan Committee recommendations, especially, with regard to the market stabilisation fund.

In the year 2005-2006 the Government has announced pilot projects to de-silt and restore water bodies. But no concerted steps have been taken for the implementation of the same.

Every year, more than 6,000 agriculture graduates pass from the agriculture universities and colleges, but employment opportunities for them are very remote. We should make use of them for increasing agriculture production in India, and we should use their skills for the same. The private entrepreneurship has also to be developed by way of giving credit facilities to them.

India is number one among the leading countries in horticulture and vegetable production. We need a better food processing industry. Every year, thousands of crores are lost as a result of wastage of agricultural produce. I would also like to suggest that value addition must be encouraged to get better prices for agricultural products.

[Translation]

SHRI BALESHWAR YADAV (Padrauna): Hon'ble Chairman, Sir, India is an agrarian country and it contributes 24 per cent to country's GDP. However, it is regrettable that in spite of this, agriculture has been allotted only one percent. Late Chaudhary Charan Singh used to say that prosperity of the country depends on the prosperity of the villages. Majority of the population

*The speech was laid on the Table.

live in villages. Landless agricultural workers and farmers constitute the majority. If the farmers and workers do not prosper the country too cannot prosper.

I would like to remind the hon. Minister that the country's prosperity depends on the prosperity of the farmers and the agricultural workers. The farmers will not prosper if remunerative prices are not paid for their produce.

NABARD is a government agency, which determines prices for agricultural produce. Its members are government officials, IAS officials and the capitalists who know nothing about agriculture and the cost price of agricultural inputs. Only the weaver knows where the shoe pinches. Without knowing the pain and efforts put in by the farmers, they fix the support price. Unless the farmers are paid the right support price, their plight will not improve. And if their condition does not improve, the nation cannot progress.

Central and State agencies own agricultural farmers. The condition of the farmers would improve if 10 percent is added to the cost price of such farms to determine the agricultural prices. The country cannot prosper without improving the lot of the farmers. A false campaign has been launched to paint a rosy picture regarding the progress made by the country. However, in my view, the country cannot prosper by neglecting the farmers. Canada, America, France and England give fifty per cent subsidy to their farmers. We are being pressurized through WTO and World Bank to do away with subsidy provided to farmers here. And its Government is slowly moving towards this end.

[English]

SHRI M. RAJA MOHAN REDDY (Narasaraopet): Sir, I rise to support the Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Agriculture and also to express my opinion on this subject.

Dr. Sarvapalli Radhakrishnan, our former President, once said that agriculture is the culture of our country. That is true. Our farmers are the backbone of our country. They constitute two-thirds of our population. They are the people who are toiling throughout their life and feeding the rest of the population. But unfortunately, their condition is very miserable.

I come from a tiny village of a very rural and upland area. I know the conditions of the small and marginal

farmers there. It is not only that men work day and night but women and children also work day and night. But they do not have minimum facilities. They are not able to meet their demands and the minimum basic necessities also. They do not have proper housing, they do not have proper medical care. To educate their children is a big problem and to perform the marriage of their daughters is a Herculean task.

Sir, I compliment the Government for increasing credit facilities from Rs. 52,000 crore in 2001-02 to Rs. 7,75,000 crore in this current Budget. But that will not be sufficient. A study conducted by the National Institute of Agriculture of Hyderabad says that only 24 per cent of our farmers have access to borrow money from the banks and the other 76 per cent have to borrow from money lenders. In my constituency, in the mandal headquarters of Natchiappalli, a farmer has committed suicide 20 days back. He was growing cotton and picking the leaves. But his crop failed and he committed suicide. He has got a widow and two small children. Their condition is very pathetic.

Every hon. Member has expressed the same plight of the farmers. They have said that they have to provide all necessary inputs. The basic necessities of the farmers have to be addressed. It is not out of place to mention here that the State Government headed by Dr. Rajashekhar Reddy had toured extensively by foot for about 1500 kilometres in mid-summer. He knows the plight of the people. The moment he took charge, he waived off Rs. 1200 crore worth of electricity bills of the farmers. It is not only that. He is continuing to give free power to them even now. He has taken up many irrigation projects. He has said that 60 lakh hectares of land will be brought under irrigation and our Prime Minister has announced to bring one crore hectares of land under irrigation. The Government of Andhra Pradesh alone is trying to get 60 lakh hectares of land under irrigation.

The State of Andhra Pradesh produces a lot of fish. Around two-third of the fish is produced in Andhra Pradesh as it has got a long coastal line which produces sea water fish and also sweet water fish. The Government has declared to establish National Fisheries Development Board and our State is suitable to establish that Board. I request the hon. Minister to announce very categorically in his reply on this point. All the farmers of the country are looking at Shri Sharad Pawar on their saviour and is believed to be the champion of farmers. I would request him to please address these problems of the farmers.

[Shri M. Raja Mohan Reddy]

The hon. Minister has all the scientists, experts and administrators at his command. So, kindly address these problems of poor farmers and try to solve them. People of our country will remember you for ever.

[*Translation*]

SHRI BHANU PRATAP SINGH VERMA (Jalaun): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I thank you for giving me the opportunity to express my views on Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Agriculture. India is pre-dominantly an agricultural country. As long as the farmers of the country are not powerful and strong, the country cannot be powerful and strong. When the farmer gets ready to sow their seeds, he does not get water on time due to adverse weather conditions. In such a situation, he is unable to sow the seeds. I am a farmer's son. There are no rains around September and October and the farmer's condition becomes miserable at that time. There are other sources of irrigation constrained to but we are unable to make available the farmers. The farmer faces problem in irrigation before sowing the seeds. When the field is ready, small farmer acquires seeds from the society. He has to take 50 kg. of seeds as subsidy from the society, but the Secretary and the Chairman give him 50 kg. seeds on the condition that he would procure 3 quintal seeds from their society. A small farmer needs 50 Kgs of seeds while 3 quintal seeds are put to his credit. He sows the seeds and he needs good quality urea, Ammonia which is not available. He gets substandard manure. He uses it, and somehow, crops grow. Then he needs water, and canals have scarcity of that. Again, he uses the engine to irrigate his fields, but he gets diesel at a high price. When the crops are ready, he does not get a remunerative price. See the today's scene. We are sitting here. We can see that there are rains while the crops are ready to be harvested. Now, the farmers are crying all over. The farmer is in a pitiable condition because he doesn't know when he would get money to pay for the seeds, the manure and the diesel? Facilities are provided to the farmers, but if the policy is formulated is in the right direction, the farmers can take its benefit directly and he will not be forced to commit suicide.

There is an abjuration called KRIBHCO that is Krishak Bhartiya Co-operative Limited Company. The company took over a Shahjahanpur based company, Oswal Chemical and Fertilizer in Uttar Pradesh sometimes back. It has taken over in collaboration with a private company, while the buzz is that KRIBHCO could have managed to

buy it at their own, but the Chairman and the officials of the company took it over in collaboration with a private company. It could have been purchased at just Rs. 1 crore. Thereafter, the deal was negotiated for Rs. 1500 crore and finally, the deal was settled at Rs. 1900 crore.
...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Nothing will go on record.

...(*Interruptions*)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Your speech will not be recorded. You are creating noise.

...(*Interruptions*)*

[*Translation*]

SHRI TUFANI SAROJ (Saidpur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, you have given me the opportunity to participate in this discussion. ...(*Interruptions*) you gave me the opportunity to participate in the discussion on the Demands for Grants introduced by hon. Minister of Agriculture. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. CHAIRMAN: You must realize that all the parties have taken their entire time. You are all additional speakers. For the sake of convenience, I am reminding you to conclude within three minutes. That is only a concession.

[*Translation*]

SHRI TUFANI SAROJ: Mr. Chairman, Sir, the Prime Minister have repeatedly said that it is necessary to have 4 percent growth rate in agriculture sector to achieve desired economic growth rate. But it is very clear from the budget that it is almost impossible to achieve 4 percent growth rate in agriculture sector during the tenth Five Year Plan. It is possible only when thrust is given on power generation. No provision for special package of power generation has been made in the current budget. As long as power arrangements are poor, and the power generation is not increased, it is impossible to even think of growth in agriculture sector.

*Not recorded.

Today, the farmer is not able to manage irrigation for his crops despite having tube wells. They have to depend upon diesel. The diesel is Rs. 35 to 40 per litre now. The farmers pay exhibitor price for diesel, but do not get remunerative price for their produce. He is forward to commit suicide in these circumstances. It is a matter of great sorrow that the farmers who feeds 100 crores bellies, considers farming a loss making exercise. This is a matter of great concerns, that he is taking it as a making price. The agriculture industries feeds to 100 crore months is now in need. In our country, the total cultivable land is 17,770 lakh hectares. Out of which 970 lakh hectare land is solely dependent on rain for irrigation. If it rains, crops grows, if it does not, crops withers, crops can be grown only if it rains. How long a farmer would depend his luck?

The farmer makes use of chemical fertilizers to increase production. But, at the same time, it decreases the fertility of the land and it is hateful for health. I, therefore, request the hon. Minister of Agriculture that attention may be paid to product bio-fertilizers. The Chief Minister of Haryana has said recently that such a policy should be adopted with regard to animal waste manure (dung), which force the farmers to use that manure for their crops. When such a policy is formulated, people would pay attention towards animal husbandry. When they would pay attention towards animal husbandry, agriculture production as well as health of the people will improve, along with these words, I conclude my speech.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: That is good.

Now, Shri W. Wangyuh Konyak. You are from Nagaland. You can speak for five minutes. But for others, it is just three minutes.

SHRI W. WANGYUH KONYAK (Nagaland): Thank you, Sir, for allowing me to participate in the discussion on Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Agriculture for 2006-07. I want to highlight a few points on the development of agriculture in the country with special reference to Nagaland. In fact, I had congratulated the Minister when I participated in the Budget speech, for setting up a Central Institute of Horticulture in Nagaland. Once again, I congratulate him.

Sir, you are fully aware that in Nagaland, we do not have any land problem. No farmer in Nagaland has ever

committed suicide. Land is in surplus. Sir, 95 per cent of the population of Nagaland is fully dependent on agriculture. But, Sir, nowhere in the hon. Minister's speech or in the Demands for Grants has it been mentioned about the Jhum Cultivation. Nagaland is practising shifting Jhum Cultivation every year. It affects the environment and we cannot rear any animal anywhere because of this shifting cultivation and burning of jungles.

Let me cite one example which happened just recently on 28th February, 2006. One village was burnt due to Jhum Cultivation without informing the neighbouring village. It burnt the Jhum field and the fire came to one village called Yemrap village in Tuensang district, Nagaland. In the fire incident, 180 houses were burnt to ashes and only one house is there. All the greeneries including animals and three human lives were lost. This is the result of Jhum Cultivation happening in Nagaland. The State Government has given, as relief payment, Rs. 1 lakh each of the bereaved families. It gave relief materials.

I would, therefore, request that all the allied Ministries like Ministry of Home Affairs, Agriculture Ministry to send a team to ascertain the facts how and why it has happened there. Moreover, I would request the Central Commission for Farmers to critically examine how to stop the Jhum Cultivation by conducting seminars or by sending experts team to Nagaland.

Sir, I have only two more points to make. Many Directorates are there in the Ministry to look after the specific matters whereas no Directorate has been created in the Ministry to look after the affairs of Jhum Cultivation. In the North-East, except Assam, all are practising Jhum Cultivation, the shifting cultivation. But nowhere has it been mentioned about Jhum Cultivation, the shifting cultivation in the Demands for Grants. Still, we are a primitive society practising this cultivation system in this scientific generation.

Coming to the Demand on Animal Husbandry, Diary and Fisheries, I would submit that nowhere has it been mentioned about rearing of Mithun. The hon. Minister is going to Nagaland very soon. He will see the Mithun. It is a very rare species animal available in the North-Eastern Region. Most of the North-Eastern people require Muthun as a most precious animal. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude. As a special case, you have been given time.

SHRI W. WANGYUH KONYAK: At least, you should give us time. I am the lone Member from Nagaland. Many Members from other parties have spoken.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I cannot give you more time. You have been given only five minutes because you are the only Member from Nagaland.

SHRI W. WANGYUH KONYAK: Please give me ten minutes. I will conclude.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I cannot give you more time. Please conclude.

SHRI W. WANGYUH KONYAK: Mr. Minister, you had mentioned about many Breeding Centres for other animals but you have forgotten to mention about Mithun.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You can lay the rest of your speech on the Table of the House.

SHRI W. WANGYUH KONYAK: I am not reading my speech. Therefore, I would request the hon. Minister to give special assistance to ICAR, Meghephema in Nagaland to have proper study on Mithun and survey should take place. At least one or two Mithuns should be there in the Delhi Zoo so that the other people also may know about Mithun.

MR. CHAIRMAN: My friend, I tell you one thing. Tomorrow is Holi. All the staff have to go home.

SHRI W. WANGYUH KONYAK: I know tomorrow is Holi.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Do you want all these people to be retained here?

SHRI W. WANGYUH KONYAK: Let me conclude within few minutes. I know that tomorrow is holiday.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I cannot retain all these people here. Please conclude. You understand the position. Tomorrow is Holi. All these staff members have to go home.

SHRI W. WANGYUH KONYAK: I know it. I have a few points only. I will conclude within two minutes.

I would like to say something about fish. North-Eastern people eat fish coming from West Bengal, Kerala

and Tamil Nadu. They reach Nagaland after a gap of two-three weeks and eating that kind of fish is unhygienic. I would, therefore, request the hon. Minister to encourage the North-Eastern people, particularly, Nagaland to have their own production of fish by giving financial assistance by the Ministry. Otherwise, the Government can also assist feasibility and encourage people for more and more improvements in fisheries.

Lastly, I would like to inform the House that the Government of Nagaland has declared 2006 as the year of years in order to encourage the farmers. I would request the hon. Minister to give sufficient amount earmarked under Major Head 2552, that is Rs. 439.50 crore for the North-Eastern Region.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You may please lay it on the Table.

SHRI W. WANGYUH KONYAK: Sir, I cannot speak because of the time constraint. So, while you reply, kindly announce your policy towards the people of Nagaland.

[Translation]

SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN (Deogarh): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak I would like to give only two suggestions to the hon. Minister. A declaration has been made in the Budget speech recently that a Fishery Development Board is about to be set up in India. Whether the Minister boped set it up in Bhubaneswar. My other suggestion is that a National Fishery Development Board should be set up in Bhubaneswar for the development of fishing in eastern sector, as Dr. Prasanna Acharya had just mentioned consultants of the horticulture mission of the Government who visited Orissa had left several genuine districts, particularly Angool, Dhenkanal, Deogarh—

[English]

these are the natural horticultural zone of India.

[Translation]

The Government is implementing a good scheme. I submit that the headquarters of the Fishery Development Board may be set up in Bhubaneswar, as district infrastructure already exists there. I submit that these three districts which I have just mentioned should be included in the Horticulture Board.

[*English*]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri R.L. Jalappa, you are a very learned and experienced hon. Member. So, please conclude within three minutes.

SHRI R.L. JALAPPA (Chikballapur): Sir, because I am experienced, give me five minutes. Mr. Chairman, Sir, you were just now mentioning that tomorrow is Holi. I am now speaking on behalf of those hapless farmers who cannot celebrate Holi because of poverty. I have a few points to make. We have one of the able administrators as well as able Minister as our Agriculture Minister. If he cannot give some relief to the farmers, nobody else can give it. I am happy that our Government have provided Rs. 1,75,000 crore as loan for the next year out of which Rs. 1,42,000 crore is for the renewals. I want the hon. Minister to hold at least a sample survey as to how many farmers, who have been borrowing money for 15-20 years, how many of their lot has improved. I would like to know whether they are able to stand on their legs.

Sir, we are happy that our Government, for the first time, have reduced interest to 7 per cent for crop loans. This 7 per cent is also high. It has to be reduced to 4 per cent. What about other loans, mid-term loan, long-term loan and consumption loan, if he wants to purchase a tractor and if he wants to borewell to be drilled?

18.00 hrs.

If he takes a loan to construct a dwelling house in his farm, even that loan also should be charged only 4 per cent interest. I would request the hon. Agriculture Minister to bear this in mind.

MR. CHAIRMAN: It is already 6 o'clock now. I have a list of a few speakers and the Minister has to reply to the debate. So, I would like to take the sense of the House for extending the time of sitting by one hour.

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS: Yes, Sir.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The time for the sitting of the House today is extended by one hour.

Mr. Jalappa, you may continue now.

SHRI R.L. JALAPPA: Then, I would request the hon. Minister to merge all the streams of short-term, medium-

term and long-term loans given to farmers so that we can avoid additional expenditure being incurred. This is very important.

Further, I would request the Minister to direct all the States not to nominate any Members on the board of any cooperative institutions in the country. In my State, the cooperative movement is ruined. I was the President of the District Central Cooperative Bank in my district in Karnataka and, unfortunately, I was also the Minister of Cooperatives in my State. But with the present-day happenings, the entire cooperative movement is completely ruined now. So, the hon. Minister should kindly see that these nominations are abolished as early as possible. Even Dr. Vaidyanathan Commission's Report also recommended that there should not be any politicisation of the cooperative movement in our country. Therefore, the Minister must direct all the States not to nominate any politicians in their Board. Otherwise, the Government should tell the States that the Central Government would not give any NABARD loan to them.

I would like to make another point regarding dairy farming. It is very sad that dairy farming is being subjected to income tax now. I would request the Government that it should be removed immediately.

Then, we should encourage horticulture in dry lands instead of growing food crops there which is not at all economical. Instead, mangoes, chikoo or some other fruits should be grown there.

Finally, as I have already said, if our Agriculture Minister does not help our farmers now, they will never be helped in future. So it is high time that he should help our farmers. He has got a lot of experience. He was the Chief Minister of Maharashtra and he has handled many portfolios in the Central Cabinet also. Therefore, I request Shri Sharad Pawarji that for Heaven's sake he should take all these things into consideration and help the farmers of our country.

SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI (Dharwad North): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to make some specific suggestions with regard to agriculture. The farmers in our country are still committing suicide and they are facing a lot of problems. My State, Karnataka suffered due to drought for three or four years consecutively. After a lot of thinking, crop insurance scheme has been introduced in our country to help our farmers, but the position of crop insurance scheme is very bad now. In Karnataka,

[Shri Pralhad Joshi]

farmers have participated in a very big way in the crop insurance scheme, but unfortunately even the dues of 2003-04 has not yet been settled and thousands of names have been left out. They have paid their premium, but they have not yet got the insurance award. The Agriculture Insurance Corporation of India (AICI) is working with such an intention that it first decides not to give the insurance award. This is the situation. From Bidar, Hubli and Dharwad districts, if the farmers have to talk to the officers of Agriculture Insurance Corporation of India, they have to go all the way of Bangalore which is more than 400 kms. away. I would request the hon. Minister to kindly instruct the officers of AICI to sit with an intention to award their insurance dues. I would also request that more regional offices should be established. I would request the hon. Minister to establish a regional office at either Hubli or Dharwad.

Secondly, after the introduction of Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana, there is connectivity to all our villages. But as far as farmers' fields are concerned, there is absolutely no connectivity and so they cannot bring their produce from their fields to village and taluk centres.

Some special scheme has to be made for the connectivity to their fields.

Thirdly, the Government is proposing to set up Agri Export zones in 60 cities. In Karnataka, Dharwad Agriculture University is one of the oldest universities in the country. The DCH cotton is named after Dharwad. It is one of the oldest universities and is having so much of infrastructure.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude now. Your name was not there and I have given you this chance as a special case.

SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI: Sir, I am concluding.

I would request the hon. Minister to include Dharwad as also one of the Special Economic Zones.

As far as the cooperative banking income is concerned, recently there is a proposal to bring it in the purview of the income tax. The hon. Minister of Agriculture is the champion of the cooperative sector. Most of the cooperative banks are extending loans to the farmers and are catering to the needs of the farmers. I cannot elaborate further because of paucity of time. The hon. Minister knows this situation. So, I would request him to

look into this and see that it comes out of the purview of the income tax.

MR. CHAIRMAN: When I came to the Chair, there were 16 hon. Members to speak on this. Please excuse me for being strict because of paucity of time.

[*Translation*]

*SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN (Palani): Mr. Chairman, Sir, at the outset I would like to thank you for giving me this opportunity to speak on the Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Agriculture.

This country, with a population of 110 crores of people, has got more than 75 per cent taking up agriculture as their occupation and livelihood. But it is a sorry state-of-affairs that both the agriculturists and the agricultural labour are not breathing free.

Farmers are not able to get quality seeds and that continues to be a major problem that affects the agricultural sector as a whole. Fertilizers are also not up to the mark and still wanting in quality. Even though we have Pesticide Act in place, we are not able to get quality pesticide that can help overcome the problem of crops perishing. Pesticides and insecticides are being sold and used even after the date of expiry. These are the main problems the farmers are faced with. Due to these lacunae in the system, agriculturists could not get good yield and they cannot increase the production, though they put in extra labour.

In case of farmers manage to get good yield enhancing the production, they could not get remunerative price for their agricultural produce. The other major problem that affects the farmers is debt burden. Farmers go for loan to take up their cultivation and they take loans from cooperative societies. When they take such loans, it becomes a conditional loan in the sense that they are forced to spend at least Rs. 1,000 out of every loan of Rs. 5,000 that they take on fertilizers and pesticides that are thrust on them. Such fertilizers and pesticides are usually not of good quality and they remain either adulterated or out-dated.

With the mounting loans and the mounting pressures on them, they have to somehow continue with their tolling and molling. To take up cultivation of next crop or to

*English Translation of the speech originally delivered in Tamil.

spend on any agricultural need, they have to go to the moneylenders in the open market and they have to pay higher rate of interest, more than 20 per cent and beyond. Since the credit facilities are not streamlined, both in the cooperative and public sector financial institutions, farmers are forced to take loans from the moneylenders at exorbitant rates. Thus they are sucked into the whirlpool of debt burden.

Since there is no viable mechanism to ensure remunerative price for the agricultural produce, farmers' debt burden seldom ease out. They are forced to commit suicide and agricultural labourers are driven to meet their ends with starvation deaths.

Our Agriculture Minister Shri Sharad Pawar is himself a farmer. He has felt the pulse of the farming community and knows thoroughly the prevailing condition there in farming activity. He alone can champion the cause of farmers. He must strive to ensure supply of quality seeds and quality fertilizers that would help the farming community to augment food production.

While their main occupation is being ignored, their diversified occupation, that is, their off-season activities like running poultry farms and dairy farms are not getting the needed support from the Government. Both in Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu, these agro-based or agriculture-related enterprises were considered to be fully part of agricultural sector. Now we find both poultry and hatchery removed from Section 80-JJ of Income Tax Act. Thus, those who are taking up these subsidiary agricultural activities have been put under tax net. This affects the farming community in a big way because they are neither here nor there, but are seriously affected by the burden on them caused by the taxmen. They should have some relief from the income tax. Hence, I urge upon the hon. Minister of Agriculture to save the farmers who have taken up poultry and hatchery.

In the farming community, we find vegetable growers whose condition end up mostly as pitiable one. The State Governments, are not providing them with quality seeds and necessary pesticides and insecticides. Not all of them could get extension services from the respective Agriculture Departments in the States. Oddanchathram in my constituency is famous for vegetable growers, especially those who cultivate brinjals which are transported to several parts of the country. Drumsticks are also grown in a big way in this area and are sent to many parts of the country. They get just one rupee

for 10 drumsticks, whereas in Delhi one drumstick costs Rs. 10. This is unfair and the poor vegetable farmers are unfortunate.

It is necessary to raise adequate infrastructure facilities to benefit the farmers, especially the vegetable growers. If cold storage facilities are established, the vegetable-growing farmers can get remunerative prices by way of systematically releasing for sale their agricultural produce. During the time when there is no Minimum Support Price or no remunerative price, farmers must be provided with subsidies.

Abundant water in the North affects crops, but in the South serious drought affects crops. So, the Government must attach importance to systematic irrigation and effective water management. The only way-out before us would be to nationalise all the rivers and link them. Linking of rivers must be first with the linking of Southern rivers. For instance, we have a sight of relief after the Supreme Court's intervention in the dispute between Tamil Nadu and Kerala which has given a favourable direction permitting to raise the height of water level in Mullai Periyar Dam which will augment irrigation facilities in the Southern Districts of Tamil Nadu without disturbing environment and without causing ecological imbalance. Its height has to be increased from 136 ft. to 142 ft.

The agricultural occupation is basically a humanitarian job in the sense that the toiling farmer puts in labour only to benefit his fellow human beings. According to the great Tamil Saint Thiruvalluvar.

*"Uzhudhundu vazhvaare vazhvaar matrellam
thozhudhundu pin selbavar."*

This means that those who resort to farming alone lead a life of their own whereas all others have to go behind them.

Sir, expressing my support to the Demands for Grants I conclude my speech.

*SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN (Khurja): Today in India 72% people are engaged in the farming and our country is an agriculture-dominated country but in spite of that today the condition of the farmers is worst of all. May it be from the economic point of view or may it be the standard of living. Mr. Speaker, if a farmer avails a loan

*The speech was laid on the Table.

[Shri Ashok Pradhan]

from a Government institution and his crop is damaged by natural calamity, then the Government financial institution compel him to commit suicide otherwise his land, his house and his household articles even his reputation is also attached. He is sent to jail after that he has to pay the loan amount also. On the other hand if the big industrialist is making losses he stays comfortable, Sir we should consider this aspect as well.

Sir, the crops of the farmers must be insured and this insurance scheme should be simplified so that every farmer can get his crop insured. Sir, before the regime of our NDA Government, Banks, financial institutions used to provide loans to farmers and its rate of interest used to be 14 percent, 16 percent but at the same time when any industrialist invest in any industry, may it be car, vehicle or any other thing then he had to pay lesser interest rate. Hon'ble former Prime Minister Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee ji had said that the rate of interest of the farmer should also be brought down and it was reduced to 7 percent. Sir, this rate of interest should be 3 or 4 per cent or it should be reduced to negligible so that farmer can repay their loans easily.

During the regime of NDA Government, Agriculture Science Centre were set up. Farmers were provided credit cards, they were given due importance in society. The minimum support price of wheat and sugarcane was also increased.

Sir, training should be imparted for agriculture through latest techniques so that they can grow fruits, flowers and vegetables and other things also. Farmers should be provided reasonable minimum support price for sugarcane and production of ethanol should be promoted so that the farmers should grow sugarcane and we also save the foreign exchange which is spent on the import of diesel, petrol and farmers as well as the country can also prosper.

Sir, subsidy for farmers should be increased and that should be kept steady as we should not yield to the pressure of America and other countries as the farmers in those countries are given more subsidy.

Sir, UPA Government says different thing and do different thing. They have just reduced the rate of interest by merely one per cent and our NDA Government reduced it from 14 per cent to 7 per cent and provided other facilities too, which I have just mentioned.

Sir, We will have to do something for farmers, their condition will have to be improved. We must stop them from committing suicide by providing them facilities and giving them due respect. Today Agriculture itself is providing employment to the young people and citizens of the country. I would just say that if the land of the farmer is acquired, may it be for any work or scheme, the market price of the farmer's land which is acceptable there or the Government approved rates, the institution should pay price according to that rate, the rate of the land should be fixed in consultation with the farmer as per the agreement made. One thing more, the possession of the land should not be taken unless the price of the land is not fixed.

In my constituency Khurja in Noida, the Greater Noida Authority and UPSIDC are acquiring land and are exploiting the farmers. These institutions or at market prices like a builder. If you get it surveyed then you would find that farmers are being immensely exploited. For this purpose a parliamentary committee should be constituted so as to find out if any injustice is committed to farmers and after that some justice should be done with the farmers.

Such kind of authorities should also have elected representatives of the people. The State Government should be directed so that when the farmer's land is acquired then appropriate compensation is paid to him. The dependents of farmers should get employment in those institution/industries and their villages should be developed. All these things should be considered.

At last, I would say that unless the farmer is not prosperous our country cannot prosper. Great India is known by its farmers and agriculture. Thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, the hon. Minister may reply.

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): Sir, the Demand for Grants of Agriculture Department are before the House and on this occasion the hon. Member have given good suggestions and have also made good suggestions before the house where improvement is

needed. I thank all the hon. Members of the House because the decision of whole discussion was not political but whole discussion was based on protecting the interests of the farmers. The year 2005-2006 was not a good year in terms of agriculture. The weather has undergone drastic changes. In the beginning rains were normal and especially coarsegrains and pulses in the kharif crop were hit badly. Afterwards many states were flooded. It resulted into damaged. Then the condition of air was quite unexpected. Especially in Rajasthan and Haryana, a kind of cold wave prevailed which resulted into a bad affect on mustard and other crops. After that the era of horrible summers came which affected the crop of wheat and you can see that during the last few days due to rains, hailstorm and the excessive humidity in air have more or less affected the crops. Especially the hailstorm and rains had a bad affect on the crop of wheat, Gram and at some places had a bad effect on orange, mango, grapes. Having been these kinds of circumstances I am proud that the Indian farmers had a great contribution to meet the demand of the foodgrains of the country through their hardwork and skills. In 2005-06 the total foodgrain production has been 209.30 million, tonnes, which was five million tonnes more than the last year's production. If we took at the oilseed production then it is 26.37 million tonnes, which is a record production. The sugar cane production increased to 15 per cent. Last year the country's total sugar production was 1,20,000 tonnes and the country's total requirement is above 80,000 tonnes.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am confident that during the current year the sugar production would be around 1,85,000 tonnes. If we look at it then it shows that India's sugar cane farmers have bear the responsibility to fulfill the country's sugar needs quite effectively.

Sir, as far as pulses are concerned, the production of pulses in the country have increased by 7.6 per cent. The production of Horticulture sector has grown at the rate of seven per cent and I am happy to inform the country through this House, as many of our Hon'ble members have also stated as to what is the overall growth of our country.

[English]

Taking into account the overall growth in each segment of the agriculture sector the country is going to realise growth of around 3.4 per cent in agriculture GDP as against 2.3 per cent given in the advanced estimate of the Central Statistical Organisation during June 2006.

[Translation]

Sir, I would like to raise an issue before the House that agricultural production has not increased more than 1.3 percent during the last 3 consecutive years and this is the first year when our agricultural production has increased by around 3.4 percent. Therefore, the figures show that we are close to the target of 4 per cent. The credit of this achievement goes to our farmers. They have done hard work, so they should be given full credit for their contribution.

Sir, there are several problem especially before the farmers and agriculture sector of the country. In this connection, several hon'ble members have mentioned about the state-of-affairs prevailing in their respective region and State. There is the need to improve the situation and prepare a new strategy. In this regard, we are trying to prepare a new strategy for the last one and half year in consultation with several members, scientists and the officers in the administration.

[English]

It has diversity more towards the commercial agriculture, improve productivity, provide market access and increase credit cover.

[Translation]

I believe that this will be somewhat helpful in increasing the production of this sector and improving the condition of the farmers.

Sir, while expressing their views several hon'ble members have said in the House that overall provisions for this sector have been reduced. I think that there is a need to improve the situation and to increase the allocation for this sector. But you must have observed.

[English]

The total plan allocation in my Ministry for the year 2006-07 is Rs. 6,927 crore, that is an increase by 15 per cent. Over the last year, it was Rs. 5,998 crore. Out of that, Agriculture Research increased by 17.4 per cent; Animal Husbandry is stepped up by 16.1 per cent; and the Department of Agriculture and Cooperation is raised by 14.9 per cent.

[Shri Sharad Pawar]

[*Translation*]

Sir, whenever we talk about the agricultural sector, always a demand is made for increasing the provisions. I think that we should take the decision keeping in view the provisions we have made for the agriculture and cooperative departments.

Sir, several hon'ble members have suggested that agriculture should also have a separate budget like Railways. I think that this will not be beneficial to make a separate budget for agriculture, as the budget for agriculture is not restricted for agriculture alone. Presently, many other departments make provisions for agriculture and those provisions directly benefit the agricultural sector, the farmers and the villages. If separate budget provisions are made for agriculture, the farmers and the villages shall be deprived of several such benefits. I would like to submit some figures before the House. There is a provision of Rs. 6926 crore for this Ministry, through, there is a provision of Rs. 7121 crore for the irrigation. The farming sector is going to be benefitted from the irrigation. Presently, 60 percent of our farming is dependent on monsoon and remaining 40 percent of our farming land is irrigated. We need to improve this situation by increasing the provisions for irrigation and the problems of the farmers many be solved. I am happy to note that such a big provisions of Rs. 7121 crore has been made this year for irrigation. A provision of Rs. 4481 crore has been made for the repair of water bodies and a provision of Rs. 3000 crore has been made under the Rajiv Gandhi Electrification and Rural Electrifications Programmes to meet the requirement of power of the farmers. A provision of Rs. 5225 crore has been made under the 'Pradhan Mantri Gramin Sarak Yojana' in this budget as unless there are well constructed roads in the rural areas which may provide the farmers an easy access to the market he will not be in a position to get a remunerative price of his hardly earned agriculture produce and there are no roads in rural areas of many states. In addition, the nationalized and the other Banks are supposed to grant 18 per cent of their total loans for agriculture and if they do not fulfil this responsibility, then the remaining amount is transferred to NABARD. The total amount of around 10 thousand crores of RIDF fund this year is to be utilized only for the projects of irrigation, Road and agriculture received the NABARD from all the states. Altogether, if you work out this amount then there is a provision of Rs. 29,827 crores has been received through indirect mediums. Out of this, a provision of Rs. 6926 crores is

for the ministry and a total provision of Rs. 36,753 crores has been made for the other departments which assist the agriculture sector as has been shown in this estimate sheet.

Besides, we cannot ignore this fact that a provision of Rs. 18 thousand crores has been made for fertilizer and probably an amount of Rs. 4-5 thousand crores more shall be required for this. This amount of Rs. 18 thousand crores will ultimately be utilized to benefit the farmers by lowering the prices of the fertilizers. So, presently there is a scheme to utilize this amount for the benefits of the farmers. The total subsidy being provided on water and electricity both, to provide the irrigation facilities in all the states works out to be around Rs. 40 thousand crores. Keeping in view these estimates we can say that in this budget. Provisions for huge amount has been made directly or indirectly for the welfare of the farmers. Probably, you must have noticed that after the presentation of the budget in the House it was published in all the newspapers next day that weightage has been given to agriculture in this budget. Such a report was published in all the newspapers of the country and this fact was also brought before the people.

Despite being all this, we still need to make more provisions in many sectors. I am fully agree with what the Hon'ble Members have said. Presently, we want to pay more attention on irrigation. The incidents of suicides have been raised here. If we observe the cases of suicides then it becomes clear that except Kerala, in the remaining states the non-availability of the agricultural credit has been the main reason for such incidents and the another problem which has been the main reason for these suicides is of non-availability of assured water for agriculture. Therefore, as long as the farmers will remain dependent on the monsoon in many states, we are required to do something in this regard. As on date 360 irrigation projects have been pending over the years. If the concerned State Governments take some concrete steps on urgent basis with the help of Central Government to complete these 360 projects then I am sure that percentage of irrigated land could be increased in the country and it will be helpful in bringing stability in the life of farmers and the foodgrain production of the country will also be increased. Alongwith it we should also have to think how to use water. At many places we see that water is not properly being used, due to which land is getting wasted. Punjab and Haryana have been mentioned, since many years in Punjab and Haryana

rotation farming of wheat and paddy is being done. This requires more water. Today in Punjab and Haryana we are facing problem of some stagnation in the production at wheat and rice. This is affecting quality structure of the land. At many places water logging is taking place, which is affecting that area. There is need to change pattern of sowing. Only two crops time and again and there is need to improve use of water. We need to have some new technique for water utilisation. Maximum benefit comes from drip irrigation and sprinkle irrigation. Water can also be saved through this. In this technique water is directly given to roots, plants, due to this cultivation cost also goes down, production increases and water is also saved. We can do more irrigation by saving this water. A provision has been made in this budget of rupees 520 crore for increasing water irrigation, drip irrigation and micro irrigation. It will have 50 percent subsidy. Out of it, 40 per cent will be given by Centre and state will give 10 per cent subsidy. 40 per cent loan will be available from banks and 10 per cent will be farmer's contribution. One such scheme has been made. I have strong belief that this will help in long way we will also have to make efforts. Today many states have water problem. Rajasthan's is biggest problem is water. If we are able to sort out water problem then Rajasthan's farmer will be able to become self-reliant. Many states have such problem due to improper use of water. We will help on all such related programmes we wish to give priority to them.

Credit has also been discussed here. After water the next problem the farmer faces is that of agriculture credit, whether it is crop loan or term loan, long term investment. It is for the first time that a very good decision has been taken in this budget. Earlier crop loan to farmers was given at 12-13 per cent, now it has been brought down to seven per cent and I remember.

[English]

last year when we were discussing about the Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Agriculture, this particular subject was raised and I had mentioned that farmers were asking me that you can get at eight per cent rate of interest for buying a Maruti car or for buying an apartment, but farmers are not eligible to get at same rate of interest or similar treatment being given to them. Today they have to pay somewhere between 12 and 14 percent.

[Translation]

This is being discussed again and again. It has also been discussed in UPA. I would like to thank Finance

Minister and Prime Minister that for the first time an important decision of lowering down interest of farmers is taken in this budget and interest rate has been brought to seven per cent. Today we have brought it at seven per cent, I would like to assure the House that due consideration will be given to lowering it.

As this year agriculture credit loan has been brought to seven per cent similarly all those farmers who took money last year, a decision of paying 2 per cent amount of their interest has been announced in this budget. I am to announce that before 31 March, 2006 two per cent amount is of rupees 1700 crore. All farmers of the country having accounts in primary society or district central co-operative bank, nationalized bank or scheduled bank wherever last year term loan, crop loan has been given, government has paid 2 percent amount. This is not an announcement only. On 9th March, 2006 a message has been sent to scheduled banks of country and other all banks that this amount may be deposited in every account before 31st March and whatever amount bank pays. Reserve Bank of India will make arrangement for paying them back. All banks of the country have been given such order by Finance Ministry. This problem has also been told that the farmers who are under clutches of private moneylenders are paying interest of 25% to 50%. They should be freed from this. For this how to expand credit scope should also be considered.

After doing all this as a farmer and also as country's Agriculture Minister, I am happy. It is not such because even today 60 per cent farmers are not in credit zone. Until we provide for them, they will go to private moneylender and will be looted. When weather is not conducive there crops get wasted or they don't get right price, they are unable to return money, due to which at times they commit suicides. To remove this there is need of providing agriculture credit at cheap rate. There is need to bring all farmers of country into it. This government has priority in this area.

A lot has been said here about farmer's suicide. This is a serious matter. In India, after independence till 1972, when population was around 60 crore. Then foodgrains were imported on large scale. Today when India's population is 106 crore, and it is able to sort out its food security problem, entire credit goes to farmers of India. After India's farmers have done such a big thing.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPAN: But you are importing wheat. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: I will just tell you. This is a simple thing. I will explain it. In fact, I think time has come and I would like to discuss one thing in detail in the Parliament, whether we should accept a rigorous import and export policy. If there is a market we should export. We should maintain the international market. We should establish ourselves in the international market. If there is a shortfall here, we should import. We have to protect the interests of the domestic population also. We have to take pragmatic efforts in this area. At some other time, definitely I will be happy to speak on this.

[Translation]

But today the problem of suicide is coming. Farmers who die in fulfilling country's need are today moving on the track of suicide. It is not a good thing for all; it is a serious matter. There is a need to look more seriously on it. When I look at figures, I get disturbed. In Andhra Pradesh in 2004-05, I know that Shri Yerennaidu will say that these figures are not correct, but according to figures given by the Government to us

[English]

the figures which are referred to form the State Government of Andhra Pradesh are like this. In the years 2004-2005, from 14th May, 2004 to 11th November, 2005 the Government of Andhra Pradesh has communicated to me that 1,068 farmers have committed suicide. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU: Sir, that is official figure. The unofficial figure is more than 3,000. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: I said that it is the official figure. Even the figure of 1,068 itself is a very big figure. It is not a small figure.

The official figure communicated by the Karnataka Government for the year 2000-01 is 2,630, for the year 2001-02 it is 2,505 and for the year 2002-03 it is 2,340. These are the figures reported by the Karnataka Government. Such is the pathetic situation which we are seeing in this particular State also.

If we go to Maharashtra, the figure which has been communicated to me by the Government of Maharashtra for the year 2004 is 554 and for the year 2005 it is 142. It has come down in Punjab. The official figure communicated by the Government of Kerala for the year 2002 is 44, for the year 2003 it is 40, for the year 2004 it is 96 and for the year 2005 it is 21. These are the figures which have been communicated by the Kerala Government. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI LALU PRASAD): Kindly tell about Bihar also.

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: We do not have Bihar's figure with us.

SHRI LALU PRASAD: Just see how good our state is.

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: A big injustice has been done with you. There they have no records, hence your condition will always remain good. Truly I have seen that farmers of Bihar and Orissa have problems but they are not following the path of suicide. Now Rajasthan gets maximum drought but their farmer's never choose the path of suicide because their situation is so bad that they have become habitual of it. Where conditions are good and, if some problems creep in, then, may be, farmer of that area can choose the path of suicide.

[English]

When I was trying to carefully study the district Waynad of Kerala, I found that these were all plantation crops—rubber, coffee, cardamom, coconut and pepper. These are all important crops, and irrigation is no problem in that district or nearby that district, but still there are a number of cases. One hon. Member has rightly mentioned that one delegation of widows come here and they met me here. What they had explained to me depicted the pathetic situation which they are facing there.

The reasons are different. There are a number of produces. Take the case of pepper. We have some agreements with some of the SAARC countries. They are exporting sizeable quantity of pepper at a cheaper rate to India. That is why, our farmers are not in a position to compete with that. Similar is the situation with regard to coffee and rubber. These agreements have

really disturbed the balance of the southern India's farming community, especially those who have taken to plantation crops. That is why, I myself, at my level, had a detailed meeting with my colleague, the Minister of Commerce and we had decided to take up these issues with our neighbouring countries. We have no objection to their exporting to us and we want to keep extensive relationship with our neighbouring countries, but if the neighbouring countries have started collecting material from some other country and exporting that to India, which is ultimately affecting Indian farmers, Indian agriculture and district after district, then I think, time has come to give a serious thought to it and re-open this particular subject, and we have decided to open it.

[Translation]

The State Government extended help to several organisations after so many incidents of suicide. The Union Government helped several organisations like Manage Organisation of Hyderabad, Indira Gandhi Institute of Development Research, Tata Institute of Social Science, Yashodha, etc. We tried to go into its detail. What is proved by it?

[English]

Analysis of all these reports makes clear that the agrarian scenario of the rain-fed districts is indeed tenous. These problems are essentially more in four States and 30 districts. These States are Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Kerala.

I would like to read the names of these districts because the hon. Members should also know about the same. In Maharashtra, the names of the districts are Akola, Wardha, Amravati, Buldhana, Wasim, and Yavatmal. These are in the Vidarbha region. In Karnataka, the names of the districts are Belgaum, Hasan, Chitradurga, Chikmagalur, Kodagu, and Shimoga. I cannot understand the reason for a district like Belgaum being included here because substantial irrigation as also lot of sugarcane crops are there, but still there are cases of suicide. In Kerala, the names of the districts are Wayanad, Palakkad, Kasaragod. These are essentially commercial crop areas, and the problem explained by me seems to be the problem here also. In Andhra Pradesh, the names of the districts are Prakasam, Guntur, Nellore, Chittoor, Ananthapur, Kurnool, Adilabad, Karimnagar, Khammam, Mahbubnagar, Medak, Nalgodna, Nizamabad, Rangareddy, and Warrangal. These are the 15 districts from the State

of Andhra Pradesh. These are the 30 districts where there seems to be quite a serious agrarian problem. Therefore, the farmers at these places are, ultimately, taking such an extreme step of committing suicide.

As regards Kerala, the problem of successive year of drought has led to damage of plantation crops, waste due to disease in crops like coconut, arecanut, pepper and others. Most of the districts have high incidents—around 13 in number—of farmers committing suicide. They also share increase in certain common problems such as indebtedness, crop failure, decline in profitability due to production cost not being commensurate with yield, marketing constraint, inadequate risk cover, weak extension and delivery, social and economic security, absence of non-farm employment opportunities, etc. These are the issues, which seem to be the basic reason for it.

As regards the agrarian situation, the Central Government is drawing up a package for these 30 districts, which will address their credit, insurance, irrigation and subsidy-income needs through dairy, poultry and horticulture. We are going to prepare this package practically within a month's time, and I will definitely come before this House when we meet after the interregnum, and we would like to give it. A multi-disciplinary team will be constituted in the Ministry of Agriculture to supervise the implementation of these packages, and we have decided to concentrate on all these 30 districts with substantial financial and all other support. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL (Kopergaon): The situation should also be improved in other districts affected by suicide cases.

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: Yes, there is a possibility provided the hon. Member gives me some more information about the places where such types of unfortunate cases are occurring. I have no hesitation to accept and include those districts also.

There are certain States, which have taken a lot of action with regard to this issue. Every State has taken certain number of actions, but the Government of Maharashtra has recently taken a number of actions with regard to this issue. They have decided that the farmers would not be required to repay the loans and interest thereon advanced to them by non-licensed moneylenders. There are a number of non-licensed moneylenders, and the Government of Maharashtra has taken the decision,

[Shri Sharad Pawar]

and advised the farmers not to repay to these non-licenced moneylenders. These non-licenced moneylenders have no right to provide money and loot the farmers. All other States should also take this type of a decision. I am going to write to all the hon. Chief Ministers that they should also accept these decisions.

Secondly, all outstanding crop loans up to the limit of Rs. 25,000 will be rescheduled in these districts. The rescheduled loans will bear an interest rate of 9 per cent. Now, we have ourselves taken this decision of 7 per cent, and it will come down. If such loan is paid, as and when due, there will be an interest concession of up to 4 per cent. This is one of the decisions that have been taken by the State Government. Furthermore, if any farmer is willing to pay during the moratorium period, then he will get a further interest concession of 2 per cent, which means he will have to pay an interest of only 3 per cent.

The State Government has also decided to make all farmers—big and small—eligible for a credit limit of Rs. 25,000 from the banks through the Kisan Credit Card at the rate of 9 per cent. Now, they are going to reduce it by another 2 per cent without even asking for the collateral security. If such loans are repaid in time, a farmer would get interest free amount of 4 per cent.

Further, no farmer—who has taken a loan from the co-operation bank—would be required to pay the interest more than the principal. They have taken this type of a decision. In addition to this, they have decided to provide a sizeable financial support also to the farming community.

Therefore, the Andhra Pradesh Government, Karnataka Government, Kerala Government and the Maharashtra Government have taken a number of decisions. We are quite grateful to all the hon. Chief Ministers and respective Governments that they have taken the criticalness of the matter seriously. I would like to assure them that we will also support these particular States to resolve such a serious situation.

[Translation]

Several hon. Members have given suggestion of Agriculture Insurance with regard to suicide by farmers. As per our present insurance system, we treat block as a unit be there 50 villages 100 or 150 villages therein however, if two villages of a block are affected by hailstorm and rest of the villages of the block is unaffected

then we cannot extend any help to these two villages. It is a problem and there is a need to take same creative measures therein. Today we are going to make some changes in it.

[English]

Instead of block, we have decided to take Panchayat as the base. That type of collective action will be taken. We will definitely start the implementation of this modified Agricultural Insurance Scheme as early as possible.

SHRI K.S. RAO (Eluru): Will it be done within a month, Sir?

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: I have to go to the Finance Ministry. The Finance Ministry has already agreed in principle.

SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU: Please help the farmers. If you do it before the next Kharif season, we will be happy.

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: These decisions should be taken before the next Kharif season, that is Kharif season in 2006, and there are no two opinions on that.

[Translation]

Another submission made by hon. Shri Bala Saheb Vikhe Patil ji, he has a lot of experience in this regard as well, is about revival of Credit Institutions. It is correct that the Cooperative System or Movement have been adversely affected; there have also been some irregularities, the interference of the Government has increased, it happens when there is a change of regime. The entire cooperative is dissolved and there is much interference by the administration in their routine work. At several places even their cooperative workers have erred. It has been suggested that some constitutional protection should be given to the cooperative Movement like they should have proper and timely elections, their members should be more empowered and there should be minimum interference of the Government machinery. For this purpose our work at Ministry level to make amendment in the constitution is complete. We should concentrate more on strengthening the cooperative movement through empowering the cooperative institutions, giving them protection by streamlining their election system and fully empowering their members, which I believe can be done by bringing a constitutional amendment in the next

session. Besides, some of the cooperative Banks have been declared defaulters through a notice issued under section 11. They cannot give agricultural credit to farmers. There was a lot of discussion regarding this situation last year at that time the Hon. Finance Minister stated in his speech that an expert committee under the Chairmanship of Shri Vaidyanathan had been constituted to study this matter. The committee has submitted its report and a Prime Minister level meeting of all the state Chief Ministers was convened in this regard. I am glad that consensus was reached in this matter during that meeting the assistance to the tune of Rupees sixteen thousand crore would be given to the village cooperative societies and District Cooperative Banks who were declared defaulters and served notice. Out of this amount of Rs. 12 thousand crore would be given by the Central Government, Rs. 2 thousand crore would be given by the State Government whereas the remaining Rs. 2 thousand crore will be given by the District Central Cooperative National Bank. All the Chief Ministers of the States have accepted this package. It will be made effective from this year itself so that the health of the District Central Cooperative Banks and village cooperative societies could be improved and the work of giving credit to the farmers could be streamlined. I feel that the Government of India has given a kind of last tonic or oxygen to these languishing institutions. The Cooperatives will be held entirely responsible if they fail to function properly and if everything starts functioning properly then the farmers over there would be benefited.

DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY (Mandsaur): Sir, I would like to know that what is his proposal regarding the merger of land development bank and cooperative banks or the steps being taken by him to make them operational.

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: I am coming to this point. The amount of Rs. 12 thousand crore has been invested to strengthen the District Central Cooperative Banks and Village Cooperative Societies. When we observed the cases of suicide minutely, then the problem of term loan appeared to be of even greater magnitude than the one of crop loan. The land development bank used to provide them the credit for digging the well, laying a pipeline or installing electricity meter. Today the machinery of entire land development bank is out of order, it needs to be revived. Prof. Vaidyanathan was entrusted the task of forwarding the revival proposal of land Development Bank giving long-term credit. I am glad that report has been submitted yet final decision on that has not been taken

thereon. I would like to give an assurance that we will definitely ponder over it. Unless we solve the problem of term loan, the problem of farmers will not be solved. That is why Land Development Bank needs to be strengthened. We shall fully concentrate on it.

Several hon. Members spoke regarding subsidy on fertilizers. The Government shall maintain its policy on existing subsidy, but I spoke to several farmers and I felt that the farmer is not hungry for subsidy. If arrangements of proper seeds, electricity, water are made and proper processing of his yield and marketing are made he is given proper remuneration then he does not need anything else. But since this does not happen he is given subsidy. Today subsidy is given on fertilizer. It is necessary and it will continue. But some problems are cropping up. We give subsidy to farmer on fertilizers. We ask the farmers to use 4.2:1 ratio of NPK fertilizer whereas 5.7, 2.2:1 ratio of NPK fertilizer is used in the country. It harms the land and spoils the texture. Therefore, some changes are needed to be made in the present scenario. I think the suggestion of giving subsidy on fertilizer should be slightly modified. The farmer should use fertilizer in balanced manner and whether proper subsidy can be given on it are all the issues being thoroughly studied in the Ministry.

CHAUDHARY LAL SINGH (Udhampur): The oxen are no longer in use. Small farmers are no longer there. So we should also think about them.

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: We will send a proposal about this to the Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers after we receive the report in this connection.

As far as water conservation is concerned, Shri Bala Saheb Vikhe Patil has suggested for a Rainfed Area Authority. This is true that we cannot establish irrigation projects at each and every place. Wherever they cannot be established, we are considering the techniques of rainwater harvesting and other measures like ducting, construction of percolation-tanks and watershed concepts. These kind of measures have been worthfully implemented in Gujarat and some other States, we are also looking for those to be implemented in other states also. But the water-conservation affairs are presently seen by more than one ministries like, Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Rural Development, Ministry of Environment and Forests and Ministry of Water Resources. They know nothing about the current state of affairs at each other's ends and this situation has to be improved. That is why the Prime

[Shri Sharad Pawar]

Minister spoke of a Rainfed Area Authority while delivering his Independence Day speech from the Red Fort. Therefore, each of the aforesaid ministries is given weightage one-by-one in making of a rainfed Area Authority. I would like to assure you that it will be done expeditiously and due weightage will be given to the Total Water Conservation Programme all over the country. We have started National Rural Employment Scheme and we will use its platform to give more weightage to the water-conservation programme so that the farmers may be helped to grow more. An hon. Member from Haryana told of diversification. The Horticulture Department had already suggested for such diversification and some Members heartily welcomed this proposal. We have initiated the National Horticulture Programme to the length and breadth of the country in which there is a separate policy for hilly and NE-States. We have taken up a comprehensive plan as 'Horticulture Mission' and an amount of Rs. 2300 crore has been allocated for that, alongwith subsidy upto 60%. Shri Acharya and some other Members have complained of selecting less number of districts in Orissa for this purpose, I would like to tell them that initially 12 districts were identified in Orissa but later, when the State's Chief Minister suggested to select of 16 districts of the State, we accepted and provided for the same.

I can assure the hon. Members of Orissa that after having been informed of the ground position in Orissa, I do feel that it can play miracles in the arena of horticulture. It has a vast population of small farmers and we will be emphasizing on providing upto 60% subsidy in those states where small farmers are in large number, e.g. Bihar, Rajasthan, Orissa or any other State.

CHAUDHARY LAL SINGH: Count Jammu and Kashmir also, Sir.

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: We have provided full support to J&K. So, we will consult the Chief Ministers of the respective States and will add four more districts to these 16 districts. We have given Rs. 630 crore to the States for this purpose in this very year.

[English]

This has resulted in the expansion of 2400 additional hectares.

[Translation]

We have taken up the work of rejuvenation of fold orchards covering a total land of 18100 hectares, also

setting up of 806 Nurseries and 1791 post-harvest management units with developing 1080 markets. We have also provided funds to the State Governments required for this. When the production of horticulture produce and vegetation will increase, proper marketing and management of it will be needed. As the laws regulating the markets are not enough to match with the times and trends, they need to be suitably amended. I took a *suo-motu* initiative in this direction and called for a meeting of all the market ministers and co-operative Ministers in the country and mooted a suggestion to make amendments in the Marketing Act, which was welcomed by all.

I am happy to note that at least 21 states and UTs have gone for completely or partially amending the APMC Act. Rest of them have assured us to take suitable action in this regard within a span of 3 months. We will provide help to those states in opening up new markets which have made amendments in the APMC Act. We will also promote private sector markets. Both public and private markets will be functioning side by side, the farmer will sell his produce where he gets remunerative price. In this way, we have let in the much-needed competitiveness within the market and are setting up new terminal markets at 7 places for which an amount of Rs. 150 crore has been allocated in the Budget.

A lot has been told about the extension services. We have set up an organisation named Agriculture Technology Management Agency (ATMA) in several districts of the country during last 3-4 years to remove the shortcomings in this area. This agency is helping provide the extension services. I had an opportunity to meet a club of farmers of Danapur district near Patna in Bihar in person in this regard.

19.00 hrs.

For no reason it is said that such work is not done in such areas. But when I assessed the situation myself, I found that the farmers of these areas were in a positive mood to accept this scheme. Then we decided to take up this ATMA—Scheme in 252 districts of the country and the due recognition for this purpose has also been granted. This will comprehend the extension services, this I want to assure you. ... (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Is it the pleasure of the House to extend the time till the passing of the Demands for Grants on Agriculture?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Yes.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: The time of the House is extended till the passing of the Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Agriculture.

[Translation]

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: As far as the Krishi Vigyan Kendras are concerned.

[English]

under the Tenth Plan, we are supposed to set up 586 Krishi Vigyan Kendras in the entire country. Out of that, 500 KVKs are already sanctioned.

[Translation]

The work under this programme is going on satisfactorily as on date. For the first time it was done that I called for a conference of Heads of all KVKs in the country and tried to sort out the problems. Some points were raised here about during and fisheries industries. ...*(Interruptions)*

CHAUDHARY LAL SINGH: There is tax even on milk in our territory. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: When we studied the cases of suicide by the farmers, we noted a point. Wherever the farmer can have means of supplementary income through dairy etc., even in the circumstances of famine, there are no cases of suicide. That is why the dairy industry has to be strengthened to enable the farmers earn a supplementary income. I have two things to tell you. One, we have to pressure good breeds of milk-animals as we have Jersey breed. We have in hand a programme centred on this section like, local poultry farming, to genetically upgrade the livestock breed. We have also paid attention on the point as to how the crossbreed can be more qualitative. I am happy to say that now India is the biggest milk-producing country in the world.

My second point relates to fisheries. We have a long coastal area and also we have many irrigation products and reservoirs through which we can promote aquaculture in our country on a large scale.

The total export of fisheries last year was to the tune of Rs. 6,647 crore. We were expecting some repercussions because of Tsunami. I must say and I would like to congratulate the fishermen community there is no repercussion, there is no impact of Tsunami. We could achieve whatever was our normal export. We do not want to stay there. We do not want to stop there. We want to expand this programme because this is the additional food also. And this fish, whether through aquaculture or marine or through any other means, will definitely give additional income to a number of districts. That is why, we have provided in the Budget Rs. 777 crore for fisheries. The House might be aware that when the Finance Minister was delivering his Budget speech, he had announced about the National Fisheries Development Board. We have provided Rs. 151 crore for that as an initial provision.

About the business of milk, this is because of the Operation Flood in milk. In fact, late Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri had set up the National Dairy Development Board. Because of this NDDB, we have seen a lot of improvement today in the country in the area of milk. Exactly, on similar pattern, the Government has decided to set up the National Fisheries Development Board. There was a lot of request about where we should set up its headquarters. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: Please allow me to speak. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Members, please take your seats.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU: It should be set up at Hyderabad. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY: It should be set up at Bhubaneswar. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: There was a request from West Bengal; there was a request from the hon. Chief Minister of Orissa; there was a request from the hon. Chief Minister of Maharashtra. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI K.S. RAO: But we are suffering a lot. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: There was a request from a hon. vocal Member of Parliament from Andhra Pradesh along with his Chief Minister. ...*(Interruptions)*

We have applied our mind. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Members, please. Let him conclude. Tomorrow is a holiday.

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: Sir, we have seen that the Indian Council of Agricultural Research has set up one of the research expansion organisations, which is working in the area of fisheries near Bhubaneswar. One project is already set up there. In Mumbai also, ICAR has set up one project. In West Bengal also, ICAR has set up one project. So, these States are already supported by the Government of India.

Andhra Pradesh is a State where substantial fish production is there; aquaculture has been improved, and the contribution of Andhra Pradesh in the area of export in fisheries sector is the highest in the country. That is why I am happy to announce that the headquarters will be in Andhra Pradesh. But we will not neglect any other States. All the States will be looked by the headquarters, which will be set up in Andhra Pradesh. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Nothing will go on record except the speech of the hon. Minister.

...*(Interruptions)**

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: Poultry is also one of the very important lines for us. Unfortunately, we have been reading in the newspapers for the last several days that there is a problem of avian influenza in the places called Navapur and Uchchal. Uchchal is under Surat district, Gujarat; and Navapur is about 4 kilometres away from Uchchal, in the Nandurbar district, Maharashtra. Immediately, after we got that information on the 18th February, 2006, effective operations were carried out. All poultry within the radius of 10 kilometres from the infected areas were culled, and 4.08 lakh poultry were culled out of which 3.18 lakh birds were in 52 farms in Maharashtra and 90,000 birds were in five farms in Gujarat. In addition, 14.78 eggs were also destroyed.

Compensation of Rs. 1.34 crore was paid to the farmers for the culled birds.

About 8,500 tonnes of feed was stocked in these farms. This feed had to be destroyed as an effective control measure. The State Government's request to compensate farm owners by sharing the cost between the Central and State Government is under active consideration.

Sir, whatever actions which we were supposed to take, we have taken. Unfortunately, Media has created a havoc in this country. This problem was restricted in some areas. Country like India is a huge country. I can understand, if there is a problem in Italy; that is a small country or France, which is also a small country. If that problem is there in Italy or France, entire Europe or Western Europe is not affected because of this. But here, in a country like India which is such a huge country, the particular problem was restricted to 10 to 15 kilometres of area of Gujarat and Maharashtra. But we have seen in the Media how they have sensitised it. Suddenly, the entire poultry industry has been facing very serious problem. Practically, the Industry is losing about Rs. 200 crore a day. These types of losses are there. This is the industry, which has the turn over of nearly Rs. 20,000 crore, which is providing jobs to a substantial number of people in the rural India. There is growth by about 17 per cent every year, and that is poultry is a very important line, which is supporting agriculture in this country. That is the reason why we would like to appeal to the people of India, our own countrymen, not to worry about that. If we honour our normal practice of cooking, there is no problem. There is not a single case of human being getting affected because of Avian Influenza. We have taken a number of steps.

There was a request from many States that we should have some relief measures for the poultry farmers. Industry has requested the Government of India to provide relief in the form of moratorium of one year on repayment of existing term loans and interest due, rescheduling of term loans, conversion of working capital loans into term loans, replenishment of working capital, etc. The Government of India, in consultation with the Reserve Bank of India, NABARD and Commercial Banks, will work out a scheme under which relief could be granted to the poultry industry, that includes hatchery also, in the matter of rescheduling of loans and replenishment of working capital. It will also be ensured that they do not suffer from lack of liquidity to rehabilitate their own business. This particular decision will be executed as early as possible. ...*(Interruptions)*

*Not recorded.

MR. CHAIRMAN: He has exhaustively covered all the points. Do not drag it on.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: He has exhaustively covered all the points satisfactorily. Why should you intervene?

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Minister is not yielding. Nothing will go on record. The hon. Minister can complete his reply.

...(Interruptions)*

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: So, that particular problem was only near Navapur taluka.

Now, we have got some disturbing information. There are four villages—Hated village of Chopada Taluka, Sawada village of Raver Taluka, Salve village of Dharangaon Taluka and Marul village of Yaval Taluka—in a district called Jalgaon District of Maharashtra. We had some information that some birds had died. We have collected the samples in the month of February. These samples were sent to Bhopal and unfortunately yesterday only, I have got a report which said that some of the samples collected from these our places, are affected because of H5, which is Avian Influenza.

But one should not worry about this. This is in a restricted area; these are small places. Except one, there is not a single big poultry. All these chickens are kept by farmers and one should not worry about that. Control and containment operations will be undertaken in the 10-km. radius of the four villages. The poultry in the 10-km. zone will be killed by Rapid Response Teams of Veterinarians of the State Government of Maharashtra. The estimated poultry size in the 10-km. radius is a little more than 50,000 birds, mostly in the backyard sector, which are largely reared for personal use. Only one commercial farm located in Raver Taluka with an estimated poultry of about 3000 birds fall within the operational area. About 118 villages of Jalgaon district will be covered in the area of operation.

So, this particular problem has been brought to our notice yesterday. This is in restricted area. Secondly, there

is no big poultry. There is no marketing of eggs or chicken in any other market. They are using it for their own personal use. So, one should not worry about this.

One more question was raised. Recently American President visited India and prior to that, our Prime Minister visited US. At that time, the Prime Minister of India and the President of the US issued a Joint Statement on 18th July 2005, which *inter alia* included US-India Knowledge Initiative in Agriculture. Pursuant to that, a Board of Indo-US Knowledge Initiative was constituted. DG, ICAR is the Co-Chairman of this Board with the representatives drawn from ICAR, State Agricultural Universities, MEA and the Department of Agriculture and Cooperation, and also the private industries.

This knowledge initiative will focus initially on the human resource, on capacity building, agri-processing, emerging technologies and national resources management. The Board held its first meeting in Washington in December 2005 and the second meeting was held in New Delhi on 13th and 14th of February 2006.

This is a new era which has been opened between India and America. This is the exclusive cooperation and understanding in the area of agricultural research, education and agro-processing industry. I am quite happy that such a decision has been taken and I do expect that there will be perfect cooperation from the scientific community of the United States of America to help India. We are preparing ourselves for the second green revolution and I am confident that this action will be very useful.

[Translation]

Here it has been asked as to why you decided to import wheat? I want to make it clear that the position of stock of wheat in the country today is sufficient to fulfil the needs of food security of whole country. There is sufficient wheat in our stock and there is no shortage of it. New season of procurement in Madhya Pradesh will begin from about March, 15. Procurement of Wheat in Punjab, Haryana and U.P. will commence after Baisakhi and we have that much of stock which is needed till that time in the country. But I want to tell you why we have taken this decision.

[English]

There is no problem. There is no shortage but our buffer stock has gone down because there are certain

*Not recorded.

[Shri Sharad Pawar]

States, like Rajasthan, Maharashtra, Karnataka, which faced last year some problem because of floods.

[*Translation*]

We had to supply more quantity of wheat, which has affected our buffer stock. We should keep in mind that situation in any state can deteriorate all of a sudden. It may happen anytime. Anything may happen in such a large country. If a situation arises where we don't have foodgrain at that moment, then such situation should not arise. Therefore, the decision to import this 5 lac tonne of wheat and this whole quantity will be imported for Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh only, where wheat is not produced. Impact of this import will not be on Haryana, Punjab, Western U.P. and Madhya Pradesh where wheat is produced whatever quantity of wheat the farmer will take from market on the price which is fixed for import purpose, we have done full preparation for procuring that quantity and we are sure that farmers will not suffer any loss due to this.

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, some hon'ble members have placed many problems before the House. In these, Shri Ram Gopal Yadav had said that there are some laws to arrest the farmers who are defaulter. A discussion had been held in this regard a few days back. The law in Uttar Pradesh provides that if a farmer does not repay the loan then the Government has right to arrest him/her. That farmer is sent to jail after arrest. If he/she has been kept in jail for two or four months then there is a provision in law to recover the amount spent during his/her detention. I had written a letter to the Chief Minister of U.P. regarding abolition of this provision of law. Having this kind of provision in law in today's situation is neither good for farmers nor for the country. But still this provision exists there. Therefore, we will write again about this to the C.M. But to have this kind of provision in law is not in interest of any state.

Shri Prasanna Acharya, hon'ble M.P. from Orissa stated about distress cell in the House. We have taken care so that situation of distress cell does not arise. Last year, situation of mustard production became bad and a situation of distress cell arose before the Government. I am happy to say

[*English*]

that last year, the Government of India had procured mustard worth Rs. 3,000 crore. Prior to that, the total

procurement during NDA rule was only worth Rs. 300 crore. We have procured worth Rs. 3,000 crore because our total approach is not to allow distress sale in any State.

[*Translation*]

Sir, Shri Chandrapal ji placed a very serious problem here.

[*English*]

saying that the farmer community is vanishing. He has quoted certain figures. In fact, this is one of the subjects where time has come to discuss it in detail.

[*Translation*]

It is very simple thing that population of India was about 35-37 crore at the time of independence. Then 80 percent population was dependent on agriculture. Today our population is 107 crore and 70 per cent people are dependent on agriculture. Number of cities are increasing and expansion of villages are also going on.

New projects like Industry, School and College are coming up. Since these projects are for non-agricultural purposes therefore land area is shrinking and pressure on land is increasing. If such a situation arises then there will be fragmentation. Our holding is decreasing because of this and the farming is getting irregular day by day. Therefore we will have to think over it if there may be shifting of pressure from agriculture to any other sector like service sector or fisheries sector so that load on land may become less and farming may be viable. We have to take care of that. The problem which hon'ble Member has placed, we don't know in farming sector. Some people had given suggestions that exit policy should be adopted for this purpose. We have not considered about this but there is a need to think over it.

Sir, Maneka Gandhi ji has given some suggestions regarding veterinary sector. She said that no change has been made in the syllabus of veterinary courses. This is not true. Veterinary Council of India has changed the total syllabus and change of syllabus of Post Graduation is still on progress. She has also stated about another problem. I will inform her about study of Dyaxin after consulting with experts. ...(*Interruptions*)

Sir, Dr. Laxmi Narayan Pandey spoke about closure of sugar Mills in U.P., Bihar and in Madhya Pradesh also, there was a problem regarding this. New sugar Mills are opening in U.P. and closed Mills are being revived. In Madhya Pradesh there is a little problem. We will have a discussion with Government of Madhya Pradesh regarding method of revival of sugar mills there and how the production of sugarcane can be increased. We will have a special programme on this. ...(*Interruptions*)

I assure him that we will help them through sugar development funds.

[*English*]

MR. CHAIRMAN: You need not refer to every hon. Member.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Except the speech of the hon. Minister, nothing would go on record.

...(*Interruptions*)*

[*Translation*]

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: Income tax is not my subject. ...(*Interruptions*)

There is a need to think about tax imposed on the profit of Urban Cooperative Banks, district cooperative Banks. Such suggestions have been received from many states. In this regard, in next few weeks

[*English*]

the Prime Minister, the Finance Minister and myself will sit together and would take an appropriate decision to protect the interests of the farming community. That will be applicable to all the cooperative institutions including the milk cooperatives.

I hope the House will accept this Demand. I have tried my level best to explain the position.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Nothing would go on record.

...(*Interruptions*)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Only one hon. Member, Shri Bachi Singh Rawat has moved his cut motion to the Demand for Grants relating to the Ministry of Agriculture. I find that he is not present in the House.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: I shall now put all the cut motions together to the vote of the House.

The cut motions were put and negatived.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I shall now put the Demands for Grants relating to the Ministry of Agriculture to the vote of the House.

The question is:

"That the respective sums not exceeding the amounts on Revenue Account and Capital Account shown in the Third column of the Order Paper be granted to the President of India, out of the Consolidated Fund of India, to complete the sums necessary to defray the charges that will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 2007, in respect of the heads of Demands entered in the second column thereof against Demand Nos. 1 to 3 relating to the Ministry of Agriculture."

The motion was adopted.

MR. CHAIRMAN: My best wishes for a happy and joyful Holi to all the hon. Members who are here and also the entire staff of the Lok Sabha Secretariat.

The House now stands adjourned till 11.00 a.m. on Friday, March 17, 2006.

19.25 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Friday, March 17, 2006/Phalgun 26, 1927 (Saka)

ANNEXURE I

Member-wise Index to Starred Questions

Sl.No.	Member's Name	Question Number
1.	Shri Adsul, Anandrao V.	341
2.	Dr. Agarwal, Dharendra	335
3.	Shri Athawale, Ramdas	329
4.	Shri Chandrappan, C.K.	340
5.	Shri Gangwar, Santosh	322
6.	Shri Gowda, D.V. Sadananda	330
7.	Shri Jalappa, R.L.	324
8.	Shri Kriplani, Srichand	339
9.	Shri Mahato, Sunil Kumar	325
10.	Shri Mahto, Tek Lal	329
11.	Shri Nayak, Ananta	331
12.	Shri Oram, Jual	331
13.	Shri Owaisi, Asaduddin	327
14.	Shri Pallani Shamy, K.C.	338
15.	Shri Patel, Jivabhai Ambalal	326
16.	Shri Patel, Kishanbhai V.	336
17.	Shri Prasad, Harikewal	326
18.	Shri Rana, Kashiram	325
19.	Shri Rao, K.S.	322
20.	Shri Rao, Rayapati Samabsiva	336
21.	Shri Reddy, M. Raja Mohan	328
22.	Shri Sai Prathap, A.	328
23.	Shri Saradgi, Iqbal Ahmed	332
24.	Shri Sharma, Madan Lal	338
25.	Shri Shivajirao, Adhalrao Patil	332
26.	Shri Shivanna, M.	323
27.	Shri Singh, Sugrib	334
28.	Shri Surendran, Chengara	341
29.	Shri Tripathi, Chandra Mani	333
30.	Shri Tripathy, Braja Kishore	337
31.	Shri Vallabhaneni, Balashowry	334
32.	Shri Verma, Ravi Prakash	335

Member-wise Index to Unstarred Questions

Sl.No.	Member's Name	Question Number
1	2	3
1.	Shri Athithan, Dhanuskodi R.	2504
2.	Shri Aaron Rashid, J.M.	2523
3.	Shri Abdullakutty	2489
4.	Shri Adsul, Anandrao V.	2487, 2557, 2579, 2599
5.	Dr. Agarwal, Dharendra	2594
6.	Shri Ahir, Hansraj G.	2467
7.	Shri Appadurai, M.	2590
8.	Shri Athawale, Ramdas	2540
9.	Shri Barad, Jasubhai Dhanabhai	2462, 2527, 2573
10.	Shri Barman, Ranen	2509, 2519
11.	Shri Baxla, Joachim	2483
12.	Shri Bhatka, Manoranjan	2555
13.	Shri Bishnoi, Jaswant Singh	2486
14.	Shri Bishnoi, Kuldeep	2468, 2542
15.	Shri Bose, Subarata	2504, 2594
16.	Shri Bwiswmuthiary, Sansuma Khunggur	2499, 2544
17.	Shri Chandrappan, C.K.	2483
18.	Shri Chaure, Bapu Hari	2513
19.	Dr. Chinta Mohan	2592
20.	Shri Choudhary, Nikhil Kumar	2532
21.	Shri Chowdhury, Adhir	2507, 2551
22.	Shrimati Deo, Sangeeta Kumari Singh	2488
23.	Shri Deora, Milind	2455
24.	Shri Deshmukh, Subhash Sureshchandra	2580
25.	Shri Gadakh, Tukaram Gangadhar	2463
26.	Shri Gadhavi, P.S.	2505
27.	Shrimati Gandhi, Maneka	2535
28.	Shri Gao, Tapir	2587
29.	Shri Gowda, D.V. Sadananda	2546
30.	Shri Gudhe, Anant	2514
31.	Shrimati Gulshan, Paramjit Kaur	2522
32.	Shri Hossain, Abdul Mannan	2473
33.	Dr. Jagannath, M.	2494
34.	Shri Jha, Raghunath	2498
35.	Shri Jogi, Ajit	2497

1	2	3
36.	Dr. Kathiria, Vallabhbai	2506, 2597
37.	Shri Khaire, Chandrakant	2524
38.	Shri Khandelwal, Vijay Kumar	2509
39.	Shri Khanna, Avinash Rai	2459
40.	Shri Kharventhan, S.K.	2469, 2494, 2560
41.	Shri Koshal, Raghuveer Singh	2477, 2494, 2598
42.	Shri Kriplani, Srichand	2520
43.	Shri Kumar, Nikhil	2516
44.	Shrimati Mahajan, Sumitra	2543
45.	Shri Mahtab, Bhartruhari	2482, 2562, 2580
46.	Shri Mahto, Tek Lal	2550
47.	Shri Mandal, Sanat Kumar	2521
48.	Shrimati Mane, Nivedita	2524, 2595
49.	Dr. Manoj, K.S.	2512
50.	Shri Masood, Rasheed	2471, 2483, 2584
51.	Ms. Mcleod, Ingrid	2506
52.	Dr. Mediyam, Babu Rao	2489
53.	Shri Meghwal, Kailash	2472, 2515, 2543
54.	Shri Moghe, Krishna Murari	2509, 2552, 2575, 2583, 2589
55.	Shri Mohite, Subodh	2464, 2548, 2572
56.	Shri Nayak, Ananta	2528, 2600
57.	Shrimati Nayak, Archana	2492, 2559
58.	Shri Oram, Jual	2573, 2600
59.	Shri Owaisi, Asaduddin	2543, 2547, 2570
60.	Shri Pallani Shamy, K.C.	2514, 2531, 2561
61.	Shri Panda, Prabodh	2508
62.	Dr. Pandey, Laxminarayan	2461, 2486, 2535, 2567
63.	Shri Pannian Ravindran	2483
64.	Shri Parste, Dalpat Singh	2511
65.	Shri Patel, Jivabhai Ambalal	2594, 2595
66.	Shri Patel, Kishanbhai V.	2534, 2578, 2586, 2600
67.	Shri Patil, Balasaheb Vikhe	2518
68.	Shri Patil, D.B.	2479
69.	Shri Patle, Shishupal	2483, 2484, 2517, 2553, 2576
70.	Shri Pingle, Devidas	2500
71.	Shri Pradhan, Dharmendra	2567
72.	Shri Rajendran, P.	2474
73.	Prof. Ramadass, M.	2476, 2530
74.	Shrimati Ranjan Ranjeet	2563
75.	Shri Rao, K.S.	2593
76.	Shri Rao, Rayapati Sambasiva	2541, 2568, 2585, 2599

1	2	3
77.	Shri Rawale, Mohan	2456, 2564
78.	Shri Rawat, Ashok Kumar	2517, 2591, 2598
79.	Shri Reddy, G. Karunakara	2521
80.	Shri Reddy, M. Raja Mohan	2545
81.	Shri Saradgi, Iqbal Ahmed	2506, 2558, 2596
82.	Dr. Sarma, Arun Kumar	2536
83.	Shri Saroj, D.P.	2480, 2503
84.	Shri Saroj, Tufani	2494, 2497
85.	Satheedevi, (Shrimati) P.	2481
86.	Dr. Shandil, Col. (Retd.) Dhani Ram	2461, 2470
87.	Shri Sarma, Madan Lal	2561
88.	Shri Shivajirao, Ahdalrao Patil	2525, 2566, 2581
89.	Shri Shivanna, M.	2537, 2569, 2590
90.	Prof. Shiwankar, Mahadeorao	2493, 2553, 2576, 2584, 2598
91.	Shri Sidhu, Navjot Singh	2510
92.	Shrimati Sikdar, Jyotirmoyee	2466, 2533
93.	Chau. Singh, Bijendra	2485, 2539
94.	Shri Singh, Chandra Bhushan	2501
95.	Shri Singh, Chandrabhan	2457
96.	Shri Singh, Dushyant	2465, 2554
97.	Shri Singh, Kirti Vardhan	2524, 2595
98.	Shri Singh, Kunwar Manvendra	2510
99.	Shri Singh, Mohan	2496, 2499, 2547
100.	Shri Singh, Prabhunath	2495, 2515, 2598
101.	Shri Singh, Sitaram	2502
102.	Shri Singh, Sugrib	2538, 2574, 2582, 2588
103.	Shri Singh, Uday	2507, 2551
104.	Shri Subba, M.K.	2551
105.	Shri Sugavanam, E.G.	2458, 2529
106.	Shri Suman, Ramji Lal	2592
107.	Shri Surendran, Chengara	2475, 2483
108.	Shrimati Thakkar, Jayaben B.	2460, 2526, 2565, 2597
109.	Shri Thomas, P.C.	2478
110.	Shri Thummar, V.K.	2488, 2595
111.	Shri Tripathy, Braja Kishore	2490, 2577
112.	Shri Veerendra Kumar, M.P.	2559
113.	Shri Verma, Ravi Prakash	2487, 2556
114.	Shri Yadav, Baleshwar	2515, 2571
115.	Shri Yadav, Kailash Nath Singh	2484, 2493, 2549, 2598
116.	Shri Yadav, Ram Kripal	2480, 2483
117.	Shri Yerrannaidu, Kinjarapu	2491

ANNEXURE II

Ministry-wise Index to Starred Questions

<i>Agro and Rural Industries</i>	
<i>Commerce and Industry</i>	324, 325, 331, 335, 340, 341
<i>Development of North Eastern Region</i>	
<i>Home Affairs</i>	326, 327, 330, 336
<i>Human Resource Development</i>	322, 323, 328, 339
<i>Mines</i>	
<i>Small Scale Industries</i>	334, 337, 338
<i>Tribal Affairs</i>	329
<i>Women and Child Development</i>	332, 333

Ministry-wise Index to Unstarred Questions

<i>Agro and Rural Industries</i>		2464, 2469, 2492, 2494, 2521, 2525, 2531, 2548, 2556
<i>Commerce and Industry</i>		2455, 2462, 2471, 2475, 2477, 2486, 2493, 2495, 2496, 2500, 2503, 2508, 2510, 2517, 2519, 2528, 2535, 2538, 2543, 2560, 2561, 2566, 2568, 2570, 2577, 2578, 2581, 2582, 2586, 2591, 2592, 2593, 2594, 2597, 2599
<i>Development of North Eastern Region</i>		2536
<i>Home Affairs</i>		2459, 2466, 2467, 2468, 2473, 2474, 2478, 2480, 2489, 2490, 2498, 2499, 2501, 2504, 2511, 2515, 2516, 2529, 2542, 2544, 2546, 2547, 2551, 2555, 2562, 2565, 2567, 2572, 2584, 2590, 2596, 2598
<i>Human Resource Development</i>	:	2456, 2457, 2458, 2463, 2470, 2472, 2476, 2481, 2483, 2484, 2488, 2491, 2502, 2505, 2506, 2507, 2514, 2518, 2520, 2522, 2523, 2524, 2527, 2530, 2532, 2533, 2539, 2553, 2557, 2558, 2559, 2563, 2564, 2571, 2573, 2576, 2579, 2580, 2595
<i>Mines</i>	:	2460, 2465, 2497, 2512, 2526, 2534, 2541, 2545, 2549, 2569, 2585, 2588
<i>Small Scale Industries</i>		2485, 2540
<i>Tribal Affairs</i>		2479, 2513, 2537, 2550, 2552, 2554, 2574, 2575, 2583, 2587, 2589, 2600
<i>Women and Child Development</i>		2461, 2482, 2487, 2509.

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