

# LOK SABHA DEBATES

## (English Version)

**Ninth Session**  
**(Fourteenth Lok Sabha)**



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# LOK SABHA DEBATES

## LOK SABHA

## Statement

Thursday, November 30, 2006/Agrahayana 9, 1928 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock.

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I cannot do it, please go through the rules.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Question 122—Shri Mohammad Tahir—Not Present

Shri Mohan Rawale—Not Present

Question 123—Shri Prabhunath Singh

### ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

#### Low Budget Hotels

+  
\*123. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH:  
SHRI K.S. RAO:

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether middle class tourists are experiencing difficulties in locating economy class accommodation at places/cities of tourist interest; and

(b) if so, the steps proposed to be taken to make available low budget tourist hotels?

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE:  
(SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI) (a) and (b) A statement is laid on the table of the House.

(a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Due to the paucity of hotel rooms in the budget category, tourists may sometimes face some difficulty in finding accommodation in this category. However, the Ministry of Tourism has asked all the State Governments and other land owning agencies including Indian Railways to allocate land for building hotels especially in the budget category. Ministry of Tourism also has a scheme "Incentive to Accommodation Infrastructure" under which subsidy of 10% of the principal loan is given to the hotel of budget and low-budget categories, subject to a maximum assistance of Rs. 25 lakh for one star hotels; Rs. 50 lakh for 2 star hotels and Rs. 75 lakh for 3 star hotels. Further, in order to increase the number of rooms in the budget category, Ministry of Tourism has a scheme for the approval of Guesthouses and Incredible India Bed & Breakfast establishments. The State Governments have been advised to follow investor friendly land policies and single window approach for promoting hotel projects and also for allotting sites on revenue sharing basis, granting extra FSI/FAR for hotels, permitting extra commercial usage in the hotels etc.

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, tourism industry is very crucial for the economic development of the country. If we keep in mind the commercial importance, along with historical importance of tourist places, then tourism industry may be a good financial source for the Government. Most of the tourist places are neglected by the Government ... (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: You suggest change of rules. At the moment, I cannot do anything.

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Due to these reasons tourists are not attracted and the Government get comparatively less revenue, and there is no facility especially for the middle class. However, the hon. Minister has accepted 'A' and 'B' and in her reply she has stated that the State Governments have been advised to adopt investor friendly land policy and single window approach system for promotion of hotel projects, allotment of destination on the basis of revenue sharing, sanction to additional F.S.I./F.A.R. for hotels, granting permission for

additional commercial use of hotels etc. Through you, I would like to ask from the hon. Minister the number of State Governments that have sent proposals to the Government on the basis of advice given to them and whether any proposal has been sent particularly by Bihar Govt. if so, the names of the places in respect of which proposal has been received. Please give the details in this regard.

SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI: Sir, it is true in today's context that when tourists in a large number are coming to India, it is felt that there is acute shortage of hotel rooms. We have to make some extra efforts to increase the number of budget hotels. It is a fact that even after I took over as Minister in 2005, I have sent several letters to the Chief Ministers of the States requesting them to identify the destinations

*[English]*

They should identify plots for construction, especially of budget hotels and other hotels.

*[Translation]*

Several States adjoining Delhi have sent very encouraging responses and identified about 34 destinations.

I have also written to the Government of Bihar and they have assured me and in the meantime, I myself visited Patna. The Chief Minister of Bihar assured me that the places like Bodhgaya, Rajgir, Nalanda, Vaishali and other places where the tourists visit in large numbers and such other places ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA: You have forgotten Sitamarhi which is the birth place of Maa Janaki ...*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Raghunath Jha, your important matter will not be given permission.

*[Translation]*

SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI: I do not intend to omit any place. I am just taking these names as an example. But for each and every place where the tourists are expected to arrive, he has assured me of providing Hotels,

Yatri Niwas and Budget Hotels there. Apart from this, I would like to tell the hon. Member that the Incredible India Bed and Breakfast Scheme inaugurated a month ago will include Bihar too in the coming days. To begin with we have launched this scheme only in Delhi. In this scheme, in every household which is owned by the person himself one can provide one to five rooms to the tourists arriving in the city. It has two benefits. The persons who are arriving from abroad will get an opportunity to know about our culture and culinary habits while staying with an Indian family. The housewife will also get some monetary benefits from it. We want to implement this Bed and Breakfast scheme all over India and in the coming days we want to place it on the website of the Ministry of Tourism. Apart from this, we have requested Ministry of Civil Aviation, Ministry of Defence and Ministry of Railways to provide land available with them where Budget hotels can be constructed. Especially, the railways have hundreds of such sites where budget hotels can be constructed. I am happy to inform that they have announced about twenty such sites where budget hotels would be constructed before the Commonwealth Games to be held in the year 2010 and will be available to tourists.

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Sir, it is evident from the hon. Minister's reply that the Government of Bihar has given only assurance but no proposal has come from there. I would like to say something about the places like Rajgir and Bodhgaya mentioned by the hon. Minister ...*(Interruptions)* that they are famous places for ages where the tourists arrive, but there are some places in Bihar towards which the tourists do not get attracted because of lack of proper publicity and propagation whereas they are very important historical, religious and ancient places. Places like Sonapur famous for legendary fight between 'Gaja' and 'Grah' and the famous temple of Gautam Rishi situated at Gautam Sthan in Reevalganj where Devi Ahilya believed to be got salvation, Arya Temple, Rani Sthan etc., Come under this category. In view of the above facts I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether her Ministry would like to take measures to attract tourists to these places by obtaining proposal from the State Government in this regard for establishing tourist centres there?

SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI: Sir, I have no objection in accepting the suggestions of the hon. Member but if we go by our way of working then it is the duty of the State Governments to popularize the tourist destinations. Every year, our Ministry selects three such important places or

circuits where we provide some funds to the concerned State Government. I will definitely convey the hon. Member's suggestions to the Chief Minister but I suggest that the hon. Member should also raise his points before the Government of Bihar. Then we will definitely be able to develop the places of tourist interest be Madhubani or something else of hon. Member's choice.

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: Including Santiniketan.

SHRI K.S. RAO: Sir, we are very happy that wherever we go outside the country, a lot of citizens are expressing a desire to come to India, which is a good thing. As my colleague has said, the potential of tourism is enormous in the country. We are also happy that India is now said to be the fourth most preferred tourist destination for all the foreigners. Its potential for earning foreign exchange is around twelve billion dollars. Its contribution to the GDP is about six per cent. Its employment potential is about 40 million jobs. In this background, the emphasis that is to be given must be extensive and this sector should not be dealt with in a normal way. I wish to know from the hon. Minister, keeping in view the potential of medical tourism, whether she would like to extend the same incentives to medical tourism also so that the country's earnings can be doubled in less than four years.

SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI: While the hon. Member has spoken very important and correct things about the expansion of tourism today, I would to state here that medical tourism is not exactly in this question. But I would like to inform the hon. Member that the Minister for Health & Family Welfare and myself have inaugurated formally a scheme for making India a number one destination for medical tourism. But it all depends on our infrastructure support we give to these important segments which would attract tourists of different kinds to the country. We have conducted a survey and we have found out that there is a shortage of 1,50,000 rooms in all categories. Till 2010, we have to fill up that shortage. We are short of good hospitals. While we want to encourage medical tourism, we are taking efforts to do that, we do not want that the weaker sections of Indian population suffer as a result of our treading the outside high-end tourists. Hence, we are trying to keep a balance between the two. While we create new hospitals to attract foreign patients to come and get treated in our state-of-the-art hospitals by our best doctors, I would like to inform that we are second

to none in the world that we are also taking care of the fact that in our desire to expand this field, we do not neglect our own weaker sections of the public.

SHRI NARAYAN CHANDRA BORKATAKY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to put a specific question to the hon. Minister. Has he made any programme for Assam also because Assam and the North-East Region have a lot to attract tourists. Due to lack of good air communication and proper hotels, tourists are not willing to visit these places. Hence, I would like to ask this. Is there any programme in the Ministry for taking up any hotel programme with the association of Railways in Assam?

SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI: I would like to inform the hon. Member that both Assam and West Bengal are being given tremendous amount of weightage by the Union Ministry of Tourism for tea tourism. This is a high-end tourism which is ecologically acceptable and we have a lot of forests lodges, PWD guest houses, erstwhile houses of the Tea Management Companies. We are upgrading these facilities. We are preparing for a big inflow of high-end tourists to take advantage of our tea testing sessions and seasons and to take advantage of living in homes which earlier belong to the Tea Management Authority. Besides this, we are going in a very big way to develop river cruise tourism in Assam. This is proving very popular in Guwahati itself. River tourism has become a very popular tourist destination. We are encouraging cruise team to use travel in the Brahmaputra for a two or three day cruise to give a different experience to the people who are going to Assam.

*[Translation]*

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: Mr. Speaker, Sir the hon. Minister has replied that for two and three star hotels Rs. 50 lac and Rs. 75 lac are required respectively and we provide this amount to them. I would like to say that earlier Government had taken a decision it and sold several important hotels. In Bihar a hotel at Patna and hotel at Gaya was proposed to be sold. The hotel at Gaya has already been sold while the hotel at Patna is yet to be sold. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether he has any policy to sell that hotel or the proposal has been shelved? Domestic as well as foreign tourists visit Patna. Is any other hotel I proposed to be constructed there in view of the dire scarcity of accommodation there.

SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI: Mr. Speaker, Sir it is true that sometime ago several hotels were sold. The matter was widely debated and controversy arose. It was also said that these hotels were not sold at the prices on these should have been sold. But it is a matter of past. I would like to tell the hon. Member that Hotel Patliputra Ashoka, Patna is one of the hotels which is still under ITDC, which is a public sector company under the Ministry of Tourism. I have suggested, and given a directive that all our hotels, whether they are three star, four star or even two star, should be upgraded. They should be upgraded to their proper level and thereafter the Government will take whatever decision they want to take.

So far as the hotel at Patna is concerned, I visited that hotel and saw that the situation has totally changed there. Earlier the hotel looked deserted whereas now a days its halls remain booked for marriages and reception parties for two months. I hope the rest of hotels would also make similar progress.

SHRI REWATI RAMAN SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the reply of hon. Minister is very disappointing. Just now the Minister stated only about the hotels being built in and around Delhi in view of the Commonwealth Games. I would like to know from hon. Minister the number of hotels that were there last year; the number of the tourists that checked into these hotels and the number of tourists who are likely to visit these hotels during the current year. I would also like to, two star and three star hotels. Has the hon. Minister received any proposal from Uttar Pradesh Government. If no proposal has been received then there are several places like Agra, Varanasi and Allahabad which attract a large number of tourists. Ardhha Kumbha Mela is to take place in Allahabad where crores of domestic and foreign tourists will come. ...*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: You have put your question; please let her answer now.

*[Translation]*

SHRI REWATI RAMAN SINGH: Will the hon. Minister give an assurance as to when she will get it done?

SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am sorry to say that I have replied questions in detail with lot of data which I still have with me in response to queries made by other members. ...*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: No, not now. You may send it to him.

SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI: I have written a letter to the Government of Uttar Pradesh. They have replied that several locations in NOIDA have been identified and hotels will be built there in near future under public private partnership. Hon. Member knows that all these powers are vested with the State Governments. At Central level our Ministry only plays the role of a facilitator and coordinator. We are just advising them. Hon. Member has asked about the number of tourists. Last year it was 3.92 million and it has gone above 4 million in the current year. I am expecting a 14% increase in the number of tourists. I am not talking of constructing hotels around Delhi only. ...*(Interruptions)* I am not talking about the year 2010 also. But the Commonwealth Games which are to be held in 2010, are very important. AFRO-ASIAN games are to be held in 2014 and we are going to bid for Olympic Games. Now the shortage of one lac fifty thousand rooms is not related to Delhi only but it is in the context of entire India. The 20 hotels which are being built by Railways are not confined to Delhi only, these are being built all over India. These are being built in Agra also.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Ajoy Chakraborty. Please put a very specific question. We cannot have the whole tourism policy discussed here.

SHRI AJAY CHAKRABORTY: Sundarbans is one of the biggest forests of our country. In Sundarbans, we have the man-eater, world famous Royal Bengal Tiger. Two-thirds of Sundarbans belong to Bangladesh and one-third belongs to our country. Bangladesh Government has made arrangements for very good hotels for staying at night, and moving around the Sundarbans area. But we have no arrangement for staying at night; we do not have any hotels; and we do not have any arrangements for moving around the Sundarbans, though a large number of people are coming.

MR. SPEAKER: Okay. Mr. Minister, he wants to know whether you have any provision for that.

SHRI AJAY CHAKRABORTY: May I know whether the Government of India has any proposal under

consideration to make arrangements to establish hotels in the Sundarbans so that people and tourists can stay at night right in the Sundarbans and move around the Sundarbans at night, to see the maneater Royal Bengal Tiger?

SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI: The hon. Member is quite right that the Sundarbans have the potential of attracting tourists in great numbers. But we must also remember that it is ecologically a very sensitive area. I must inform the House that in my visit to West Bengal, my own delegation which comprised of hoteliers, landscapists, environmentalists and travel agents, we had a very good interactive session with the Chief Minister of West Bengal who is extremely keen and very pro-active in developing ecologically sensitive tourism part of Sunderbans, which comes under West Bengal. In pursuance to his request, we have put in touch with the West Bengal Government two or three very eminent environmentalists, designers and those who will landscape Sunderbans according to the concerns of the environmentalists for exploiting its potential within the reasonable limits. All these plans are cleared by the Ministry of Environment. I am confident that hotels will come up in areas which are cleared by the Ministry of Environment.

MR. SPEAKER: Please be very brief and specific. We cannot have a discussion on tourism policy.

SHRI P. KARUNAKARAN: Sir, the hon. Minister has explained the arrangements made by the Tourism Department for promotion of tourism. The expenditure for the State of Kerala, which is really a tourists' State, is less compared to many other States. Will the Government consider promoting and also projecting the tourism facilities to other countries?

MR. SPEAKER: Already, we have a lot of tourists there. The hon. Member is asking as to whether the Central Government will further encourage tourism in Kerala.

SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI: I must say that today because of the work done in the last few years, Kerala is emerging as one of the top destinations in our country. For wellness tourism, Ayurveda, natural cures, naturopathy, people are flocking to Kerala. For back water tourism also people are going to Kerala. About 300 new house-boats have been built by tour operators and tourism developers in Kerala. Recently, a Kerala Tourism Mart was inaugurated by me. All the stays in those 300 house-

boats were sold within a few hours. Besides this, we are popularizing homestay in Kerala. Those people who do shrimp farming, crab farming, fish farming and live near the backwaters are being encouraged to create one or two rooms in their homes to welcome the foreigners. I have myself gone and seen those rooms which they have made. They earn up to 40 to 50 pounds a night for one couple to stay in their own homes. So, tourism is today seeing the results, flowering of the last five years of work.

MR. SPEAKER: Let us have a discussion on this.

*[Translation]*

SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I think that we should give due importance to domestic tourists also alongwith foreign tourists. Private sector companies are expanding their business every year in this sector. I would like to know whether the Government company ITDC propose for expansion in small religious destinations and tourist places like Ujjain, Chanderi etc? Secondly, as for subsidy, which has been discussed here, I would like to know the number of persons who have availed subsidy.

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: You should put one supplementary.

*[Translation]*

SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI: Sir, I do not have the figures regarding the number of persons who availed the benefit of subsidy during the last one year but I would like to tell the hon. Member that we have plans to give subsidy. People are intersted to take benefit of it but as long as land is not available, they are not able to avail this benefit. We are trying to create land banks so that land is made available to built hotels of all categories.

So far as domestic tourism is concerned. I think that when I became Minister of this department the challenge before me was how to ensure that foreign tourists visiting our country are accorded due importance and domestic tourism also flourishes and people of one State visit other States which may strengthen national integration. Though we say

*[English]*

We have got nearly 400 million tourists.



MR. SPEAKER: It seems a popular subject. Let there be a discussion on this. I do not mind that. Please give notice for that. Now no more supplementaries can be allowed on this question. We have already taken 25 minutes for one question.

**City Gas Distribution Network**

+  
\*124. SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY:  
SHRI UDAY SINGH:

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

(a) whether the Government has finalized the policy for laying natural gas pipelines and setting up of the city gas distribution network;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has allowed companies to have monopoly in retailing natural gas to households for a limited period; and

(d) if so, the details thereof alongwith the details of the companies which have shown interest for such investments?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MURLI DEORA) (a) to (d) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

**Statement**

(a) to (d) The Government is in the process of finalizing the policy for development of Natural Gas Pipelines and City or Local Natural Gas Distribution Network. The broad objective of the policy is to promote investment in natural gas pipelines and city/ local natural gas distribution networks, to promote competition among entities, thereby avoiding any abuse of the dominant position by any entity, and to secure consumer interest in terms of gas availability and reasonable tariff.

The Policy is being finalized in consultation with all the stakeholders. Views and comments of various stakeholders were invited on the draft pipeline policy. Meetings have also been held with the stakeholders in the months of June, July and October, 2006.

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY: Sir, it is a good news for us and the people of my country as a whole that in

the wake of benign intervention by our hon. and beloved leader, Madam Sonia Gandhi, the Government has been persuaded to slash down the prices of oil. It will have a salutary effect on our economy because it will help a lot to contain the spiraling inflation.

In pursuance of Oil and Natural Gas Exploration Policy, our country has been yielding huge quantities of natural gas and the surplus could be provided to the urban household sector for domestic purposes.

MR. SPEAKER: These are suggestions for action.

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY: Sir, keeping in view the emerging scenario of oil and natural gas sector, may I ask the hon. Minister whether the Government is contemplating giving the natural gas and oil sector the infrastructure status?

MR. SPEAKER: The question is about policy.

SHRI MURLI DEORA: Sir, the Piped Natural Gas is the best fuel which can be used especially in the household. The hon. Member's question is whether the infrastructure status can be given for laying such pipelines. We have applied to the Ministry of Finance and they are considering this.

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY: Sir, from the reply, it is assumed that the Government is keen to promote competition among entities and also take special care to see the consumer interest in terms of gas availability and the reasonability of tariff. In this regard, I would like to know whether the Government is pondering over to constitute any Regulatory Board. It is because without having any kind of monitoring mechanism, I think the interest of the common consumers could not be protected. Therefore, I would like to know whether the Government is considering constituting any Regulatory Board and if so, what shall be the template supposed to be fixed for the constitution of Regulatory Board?

MR. SPEAKER: The policy is being determined. It is not yet finalized.

SHRI MURLI DEORA: Sir, it is a very big reply. If you want I can lay it on the Table of the House.

MR. SPEAKER: No. You give a short reply.

SHRI MURLI DEORA: Sir, the main reply is that the Regulatory Board will regulate the refining, processing,

storage, transportation, distribution, marketing and sale of petroleum and petroleum products and natural gas so as to protect the interest of the consumers and entities engaged in specified activities related to petroleum and petroleum products and natural gas to ensure uninterrupted and adequate supply of petroleum products and natural gas in all parts of the country and to promote competitive market and matters connected thereto.

MR. SPEAKER: It is a policy which is still being determined. If you have any suggestions, you send them to the hon. Minister.

SHRI UDAY SINGH: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir. I crave your indulgence. I will take a moment to formulate my question.

In our quest for looking for alternative fuels for vehicles which should be cleaner, cheaper and which should be abundantly available, LPG and CNG offer to be the two most promising products. Now of the two, CNG is known to be cheaper, cleaner and more importantly, it is known to be safer because LPG stays where it leaks and CNG disappears very fast.

MR. SPEAKER: Put your question.

SHRI UDAY SINGH: Yes, Sir. That is why, I said that I will take a moment to do this.

Is the Government contemplating making a policy of favouring either of the two fuels and passing on this message or advisory or directive to the automobile manufacturers and the oil marketing companies to ensure that the gas pipelines in the cities are either carrying LPG or CNG ?

It is because if it is LPG based, then, Mr. Minister, it is a nightmare staring at you because then the vehicle users will dip into your subsidized domestic LPG which is the case happening with the targeted PDS kerosene. What is the policy of the Government—whether it prefers CNG or whether it prefers LPG for automobile propulsion?

SHRI MURLI DEORA: Sir, the hon. Member is right. But I would like to remind him and say that one should look at the example of Delhi where there was so much of pollution created by the vehicles and now, thanks to the introduction of CNG, thanks to the order of the Supreme Court that there is a marked improvement in the pollution levels of Delhi. The hon. Member is right in

saying that the cost of CNG is two-thirds of that of LPG. Today we are providing Rs. 7,700 crore subsidy to the LPG and I accept the suggestion made by the hon. Member and whatever we can do we will do to promote the use of CNG.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Abdullakutty, please be very brief. I would not allow more than three supplementaries.

SHRI ABDULLAKUTTY: Sir, I think, Kochi was included as one of the cities to be covered under the proposed city gas pipeline distribution network. But work is yet to start for this project. I would like to know from the hon. Minister the reasons for the delay in starting the work on this project in Kochi.

MR. SPEAKER: This has nothing to do with the question.

Mr. Minister, have you got any information on this? You may send the information in writing to the hon. Member.

Smt. Paramjeet Kaur Gulshan. I may tell you that the Question is on policy matter and not on what is happening in one's constituency.

*[Translation]*

\*SHRIMATI PARAMJIT KAUR GULSHAN (Bhatinda) Sir, there is an acute shortage of LPG in the country. Moreover, there has been a steep hike in the price of LPG. It is the woman in the family who bears the brunt of this price-rise and dearth of LPG. When we visit the villages, people ask uncomfortable questions regarding the shortage of LPG, and the rise in prices of LPG. I would like to ask the Hon'ble Minister the reasons behind the shortage and rise in prices of LPG. Will there be an improvement in the situation in future?

SHRI MURLI DEORA: The hon. Minister should name the places where there is shortage of LPG so that we can take appropriate action.

*[English]*

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: Sir, there is always a gap between promise and performance.

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\*English translation of the speech originally delivered in Punjabi.

MR. SPEAKER: This is on all sides.

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: The hon. Minister is saying that LPG is available everywhere and if a particular case was brought to his notice, then he would do the remedy. I must say, he is too much generous.

Hon. Speaker, Sir, I may tell my friend, the hon. Minister that there is a scarcity of LPG everywhere in the country. He takes pride in saying that it is available everywhere, but it is non-performing and there is a long queue for it. If he wants any specific case, then I may tell him that in my constituency I had to run after his officers to get opened a small outlet. Therefore, let us not take pride in that.

MR. SPEAKER: You should be proud that there is a larger demand everyday and our people are able to purchase.

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: There is a larger demand and the hon. Minister must not take pride in the performance of his Ministry. He has to confirm that he will take up the matter with the Ministry and ensure that the shortages and bottlenecks are removed as quickly as possible.

MR. SPEAKER: Give the hon. Minister some compliment.

SHRI MURLI DEORA: The hon. Member should invite me to see what is happening there.

MR. SPEAKER: He will consider your suggestion.

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: Sir, I seek your protection. I never wanted it for my constituency. I only asked what steps the Government proposes to take for removing the bottlenecks.

SHRI MURLI DEORA: I take seriously what the hon. Member has said. We will find out where there are shortages and we would see that these shortages are met.

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: There is a shortage everywhere.

MR. SPEAKER: Q. 125—Shri Dalpat Singh Parste—  
Not present.

Shri Pallani Shamy.

### Promotion of Intercaste Marriages

+  
\*125 SHRI K.C. PALLANI SHAMY:  
SHRI DALPAT SINGH PARSTE:

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

(a) whether the Union Government proposes to provide attractive incentives to encourage inter-caste marriages as reported in The Times of India dated September 14, 2006;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the State Governments have also been taken into confidence before introducing such scheme;

(d) if so, the details thereof alongwith the role and contribution of the Union Government and State Governments in the proposed scheme;

(e) Whether the Union Government is also planning any scheme to provide education to Dalit Children in coveted schools as reported in the said news-item; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MEIRA KUMAR): (a) to (f) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

#### Statement

(a) and (b) The Minister for Social Justice and Empowerment addressed the Chief Ministers on 28.02.2006 to consider increase in the incentive amount for intercaste marriages to Rs. 50,000/- of which 50% would be by way of central assistance, as inter-caste marriages are an effective instrument of combating the evil practice of casteism.

(c) and (d) The protection of Civil Rights Act, 1955 and the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989 are being implemented by the State Governments and Union Territory Administrations. Under the Centrally Sponsored Schemes central assistance is provided mainly for strengthening of administrative and judicial machinery, incentives for inter-caste marriages where one of the spouses belongs to the Scheduled Castes, awareness generation and relief and rehabilitation to the affected persons. The funding pattern of the Scheme is such that 50% of the total

expenditure incurred by the State Governments over and above their respective committed liability is met by central assistance. The Union Territory Administrations get 100% central assistance. As regards incentive for inter caste marriages, it is seen that the amount of the incentive in sixteen States varies between Rs. 2,000/- to Rs. 50,000/-.

(e) and (f) Action has been initiated to introduce a new Scheme for providing Top Class Education.

*[Translation]*

\*SHRI K.C. PALLANI SHAMY: In Tamil Nadu, for more than fifty years now, from the early decades of this century, due to the efforts of leaders like E.V.R. Periyar and the emergence of Dravidan movement, self respect marriages have come in to vogue. Self-Respect Marriages promote and give a boost to inter-caste marriages as a movement against casteism. But self-respect marriages are yet to get legal validity at All India level. Through the efforts of our leaders and the present Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Dr. Kalaingar Karunanidhi, self-respect marriages have got legal validity in Tamil Nadu. I would like to know from the Hon. Minister whether Centre would legislate in this regard to give legal validity to self-respect marriages.

*[English]*

SHRIMATI MEIRA KUMAR: Sir, so far as I know, all the marriages which take place have a legal status.

MR. SPEAKER: They are marriages which take place lawfully.

SHRIMATI MEIRA KUMAR: I am sure that the hon. Member has referred to the marriages which take place in Tamil Nadu. They are all legal marriages and have a legal status. In 1955, we enacted a law called the Protection of Civil Rights Act and, in 1989, we enacted another law called the Prevention of Atrocities on Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Act. Under these Acts, rules were formulated and notified, and as one of the components, they have inter-caste marriages to combat the social evil of casteism and untouchability. Under that scheme, from the Centre, we give 50 per cent of the incentive amount to all the inter-caste marriages where one of the spouses belongs to a Scheduled Caste in the case of the States and 100 per

\*English Translation of the speech originally delivered in Tamil.

cent in the case of Union Territories. Recently, in February this year, I have written to all the Chief Ministers that this amount should be enhanced. Earlier, it varied from Rs. 2000 to Rs. 50,000. But I have told all the Chief Ministers to make it Rs. 50,000 and in the case of the State Governments we will be meeting half of this amount.

*[Translation]*

\*SHRI K.C. PALLANISHAMY: Whether it is self-respect marriages or Inter-caste marriages, all the couples who enter into wedlock need encouragement in the form of job opportunities and educational facilities also apart from incentives and that must be available both to the couples and their children. Whether such incentives and schemes as provided in Tamil Nadu would be extended by the Centre to people in other States also.

SHRIMATI MEIRA KUMAR: Yes, Sir. Apart from the incentive amount that we give, we have a Centrally-sponsored scheme for education of children belonging to the Scheduled Castes. ...*(Interruptions)*

\*SHRI K.C. PALLANI SHAMY: Sir, when it comes to Inter-caste marriages, it must go beyond Scheduled Caste Communities. I would like to know whether all those who go for inter-caste marriages would be encouraged with job opportunities and educational facilities in recognition of their contributing to a Casteless Society. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI MEIRA KUMAR: This question is about inter-caste marriages between Scheduled Castes and non-Scheduled Castes and that is why, I am replying to your point. The incentive amount is also meant for these kinds of inter-caste marriages.

So far as providing assistance for education is concerned, we have a number of Centrally-sponsored schemes for Scheduled Caste students and we also have training programmes for Scheduled Caste youths. I can send all the details to the hon. Member.

SHRIMATI MINATI SEN: Hon. Speaker, Sir, I am afraid that the proposal of the Government to provide incentives for inter-caste marriages will encourage some people to opt for inter-caste marriage only for money and throwout the bride thereafter.

I would like to know the following from the Government. Is it not a fact that the very word "inter-caste" boosts the menace of casteism in the society?

\*English Translation of the speech originally delivered in Tamil.

What action is the Government taking to eradicate the social evil of casteism from the Indian society?

MR. SPEAKER: It is too big a matter.

SHRIMATI MEIRA KUMAR: Yes, it is a very wide subject. I am very happy that the hon. Member has raised it. But it will require a proper discussion.

To reply briefly about it, I would say that inter-caste marriages are a very important measure to eradicate the social evil of casteism.

As far as her concern and apprehension about the misuse of these incentives are concerned, I would say that any measure is likely to be misused by a few. Just because that might happen, it does not mean that we should not introduce such measures.

*[Translation]*

MR. SPEAKER: Send them to jail for ten years.

SHRIMATI KRISHNA TIRATH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to know whether our constitution already provides that a person belonging to 'A' category shall marry a girl of 'A' category only and person belonging to 'B' category shall marry a girl of 'B' category only? If as per the provision of the constitution an individual is free to marry in any community provided he has attained the marriageable age of 18 years, then what is the necessity of making a provision that if a person marries with a girl of SC/ST he would be paid Rs. Fifty thousand. What kind of allurements is it? It does not seem that an individual will marry an SC or ST counterpart just for the sake of money, and it is difficult to imagine what kind of social embarrassment he will have to face later.

When our constitution strongly provides this kind of freedom then where from the idea of paying Rs. 50000 has come as they will be doomed for social boycott. It may be politically motivated because the offspring of such marriages may claim the benefits available to dalits. But such couples may have to face social boycott even in their own houses. Has any safeguard been provided for them?

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: You are showing the same concern.

*[Translation]*

SHRIMATI MEIRA KUMAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have already replied to the concern expressed by the hon'ble Member. The hon'ble Member had earlier also asked similar question, therefore, I would not like to repeat the reply. But I would surely like to clarify that some people may misuse the provisions basically provided to do away with social inequality and casteism. But if with a fear of misuse, we do not take such steps, it will be wrong.

The law provides freedom for intercaste marriage. But our society dislikes it. That is why we are making provisions to bring such people to the mainstream of the society. Such provisions came into effect in 1955 when law against untouchability was framed and it is not a new provision. Therefore, it is envisaged to provide incentives to the persons entering into inter-caste marriage as a token of appreciation.

SHRIMATI KRISHNA TIRATH: Sir, through you, I would like to clarify that my family . ...*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: Now, nothing can be done. Please give a notice. I will allow the discussion even tomorrow. You can also bring a Bill for abolition of casteism. These are the things which can be done.

...*(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

SHRI KIREN RIJJU: Mr. Speaker, Sir, intercaste marriages are very important in the society. I would like to state that not only Scheduled Castes but Scheduled Tribes also are being exploited to a great extent in central India. Not only SCs but STs also should be covered under the proposed scheme. I visited several places in central India, why it is not implemented there? It should apply to intercaste marriages also.

I, too, have married in other tribe. So its benefit should be extended to me also.

MR. SPEAKER: You put question and avoid the tendency of making arguments.

*[English]*

SHRIMATI MEIRA KUMAR: There is a Ministry of Tribal Affairs. Either the hon. Member can direct his

question there and make his request or I can also on his behalf speak to my colleague, Shri Kyndiah.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister, you are very kind.

SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA: Sir, as Shrimati Krishna Tirath has already expressed her concern, in the same way my apprehension is and I wanted to express the same to the hon. Minister. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You need not put the same question.

SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA: No. Sir, I wanted to give a suggestion to her. Actually, through the scheme, it is a very good achievement to put together for the inter-caste marriages. But there is a minus point also, viz., whether the money will be misused or not. But, through the scheme, what is allotted to a particular inter-caste marriage is that the girl can enjoy the money before she goes to the in-law's place and that money should be secured for her and it should not be transferred to her in-laws or husband. That should be used only for herself and for the children. Then, only that can be secured and the misuse can be avoided.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister, it is a good suggestion. You can consider this good suggestion.

SHRIMATI MEIRA KUMAR: I will consider your suggestion.

Sir, I am very glad that you have also welcomed it and you have appreciated the scheme.

*[Translation]*

SHRIMATI JYOTIRMOYEE SIKDAR: I would like to thank the hon'ble Minsiter for having written a letter to the Chief Minister on 28.2.2006 and for providing funds for incentives. All hon'ble Members who have spoken preceding me said that merely providing money would not do the purpose. Though the said law was enacted in 1955 we find that in states like Haryana and Rajasthan marriages between lower caste and upper caste may even lead to murder. The parents of such couples kill their childrens.

I would like to ask the hon'ble Minister that in addition to fiscal incentive what other steps the Government would like to take? Apart from law we need social awareness also. Though the law permitting inter-caste marriages was enacted in 1955, yet, even today the parents kill their son or daughter if they opt for it.

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: There should be no repetition. Hon'ble Minister, these are good suggestions coming to you.

SHRIMATI MEIRA KUMAR: This also is a good suggestion. I will look into it. Let me just say one thing, Sir, that she has pointed out the element of violent when there is an inter-caste marriage. I would say that we encourage more and more young people to go in for inter-caste marriages. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Lal Singh, you are losing your chance.

*[Translation]*

SHRIMATI MEIRA KUMAR: Sir, the more we encourage the youth for inter caste marriages, the more cordial atmosphere will be created in the society and it will reduce violence. With this objective in mind, the Government are implementing this scheme.

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: I am giving notice that from next Monday, it will be only three supplementaries whether you are or not. I do not mind it.

*[Translation]*

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Government are encouraging inter caste marriages with a view to abolish the caste system. I too have entered into inter-caste marriage. I married a Brahamin girl. Inter-caste marriages can establish unity in the society. I would like to say that the incentive for inter-caste marriage may be increased from Rs. 50,000 to Rs. 1,00,000 and one spouse may be provided a job. I would like to know how many people opt for inter-caste marriage every year in the country. Inter caste-marriages may establish social equality, therefore, the BJP workers need to be trained about it. As it may eradicate caste system, So the Government should encourage it.

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: It is a suggestion for action.

SHRIMATI MEIRA KUMAR: Yes, Sir, Hon. Member, I thank you for your suggestion.

[Translation]

**Navratna Status to PSUs**

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\*126. SHRI BHUVANESHWAR PRASAD MEHTA:  
SHRI KASHIRAM RANA:

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

- (a) the details of the 'Navratna' and 'Miniratna' public sector companies (PSUs) at present;
- (b) whether some PSUs have applied for grant of 'Navratna' and 'Miniratna' status;
- (c) if so, the details of these PSUs; and
- (d) the decision taken by the Government thereon?

[English]

THE MINISTER OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV)  
(a) to (d) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

**Statement**

(a) Presently, there are 9 Navratna Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs). As per available information from the Departments, there are 51 Miniratna CPSEs. List of Navaratna and Miniratna is given in the enclosed Annexure.

(b) and (c) The proposals for grant of Navratna status to 9 CPSEs have been received through concerned administrative Ministry/Department. Those are as follows:—

- (i) Bharat Electronics Limited
- (ii) Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited
- (iii) Hindustan Aeronautics Limited
- (iv) National Mineral Development Corporation Limited
- (v) National Aluminium Company Limited
- (vi) Power Finance Corporation Limited
- (vii) Power Grid Corporation of India Limited
- (viii) Rural Electrification Corporation Limited and
- (ix) Shipping Corporation of India Limited.

The Miniratna status is granted by the concerned administrative Ministry/Department after they satisfy themselves that particular CPSE fulfills the laid down criteria in this regard.

(d) The proposals received for grant of Navratna status are under consideration of the Government.

**Annexure**

*List of Navratna CPSEs*

- (i) Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited
- (ii) Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited
- (iii) GAIL (India) Limited
- (iv) Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited
- (v) Indian Oil Corporation Limited
- (vi) Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited
- (vii) National Thermal Power Corporation Limited
- (viii) Oil & Natural Gas Corporation Limited
- (ix) Steel Authority of India Limited

*List of Miniratna CPSEs*

As on 31.10.2006

**Category-I**

1. Bharat Dynamics Limited
2. Bharat Electronics Limited
3. Bharat Earth Movers Limited
4. Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited
5. Bongaigaon Refineries & Petrochemicals Limited
6. Central Warehousing Corporation
7. Chennai Petroleum Corporation Limited
8. Container Corporation of India Limited
9. Dredging Corporation of India Limited
10. Engineers India Limited
11. Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers Limited

12. Hindustan Aeronautics Limited
13. Hindustan Latex Limited
14. Hindustan Newsprint Limited
15. Housing & Urban Development Corporation Limited
16. India Tourism Development Corporation Limited
17. IRCON (International) Limited
18. Kochi Refineries Limited
19. Kudremukh Iron Ore Company Limited ,
20. Mazagaon Docks Limited
21. MMTCL Limited
22. MSTCL Limited
23. National Aluminium Company Limited
24. National Fertilizers Limited
25. National Mineral Development Corporation Limited
26. Neyveli Lignite Corporation
27. Numaligarh Refinery Limited
28. Oil India Limited
29. Power Finance Corporation Limited
30. Power Grid Corporation Limited
31. Rashtriya Chemicals & Fertilizers Limited
32. Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Limited
33. Rural Electrification Corporation Limited
34. RITES Limited
35. Shipping Corporation of India Limited
36. State Trading Corporation of India Limited
37. Telecommunications Consultants (India) Limited

*List of Miniratna CPSEs*

**Category-II**

38. Balmer Lawrie & Co. Limited
39. Educational Consultants (I) Limited

40. Engineering Projects (I) Limited
41. Ferro Scrap Nigam Limited
42. HMT (International) Limited
43. Hospital Services Consultancy Corporation (I) Limited
44. India Trade Promotion Organisation
45. Indian Medicines Pharmaceuticals Corporation Limited
46. Manganese Ore India Limited
47. MECON Limited
48. National Film Development Corporation Limited
49. PEC Limited
50. Rajasthan Electronics & Instruments Limited
51. Water & Power Consultancy (India) Limited

*[Translation]*

SHRI BHUVANESHWAR PRASAD MEHTA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, in the reply received, a proposal has been made to include 'Navratna' separately. ...*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV: Sir, this particular information is not available with me. I will lay it on the Table of the House.

MR. SPEAKER: Hon'ble Member, your question does not relate to this Question.

*[Translation]*

SHRI BHUVANESHWAR PRASAD MEHTA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you as for as Navaratna and Miniratna 51 is concerned, I would like to know from the hon'ble Minister as to how much investment has been made in the Navratnas and how much of profit has been earned during the last three years.

*[English]*

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV: All the Navratnas are earning profit. They are earning a substantial profit. They have been given more liberal power. They can invest



without coming to the Cabinet up to rupees one thousand crore if they have their own funds to invest.

*[Translation]*

SHRI BHUVANESHWAR PRASAD MEHTA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, can he say this much as to whether they are earning profit or not? Through your, I would like to know from the hon'ble Minister that, as has been reported in newspapers from time to time and in view of Navratnas and 51 Miniratnas which are earning profit, do the Government propose to go for private investment in the Navratnas and if so, what are the reasons therefore? Has any secret agreement been entered into with the WTO in this regard?

*[English]*

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV: It is the liberty of the Navratnas to decide about the joint venture that they want to have. There is no restriction. The Board has to approve it.

*[Translation]*

SHRI KASHIRAM RANA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, has the Government got any monitoring system to monitor the growth of performance of those PSU or CPSU's whom the status of Navratna or Miniratna is awarded? I would also like to know whether the Minister has come across any complaint that parameter of status is changed frequently. Has the Government any system to check the recurrence of such complaints; so, how many times the parameters have been changed? Did it make any impact on the companies and is there any monitoring system for that, if so, what are the details in this regard.

*[English]*

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV: Sir, mini ratnas and nava ratnas are monitored comparing them with their MoU performance. If their MoU performance can be achieved and if they do better, they are given recognition for that. Recently we have started monitoring it and very soon fresh marking will be given to them according to the points that they scored as nava ratnas.

As the hon. Member rightly stated, some changes may be made this time, but it is not yet decided. This will be done by the Committee of Secretaries and it will be done for their betterment because today our nava

ratnas are really nava ratnas as they have earned very good profits. Consequently, the Government have appreciated that our navratnas have done well and I am sure more nava ratnas may be taken now. We have got nine petitions pending with us now. This will first go to the Inter-Ministerial Committee and then to the Apex Committee which is chaired by the Cabinet Secretary decision of which will be sent to the Ministry thereafter. If they have no difference, it is all right, but if they have any difference, I, as the Minister, will interfere. If it is not decided there also, it will then go to the Cabinet. The system is synchronized. That process was started during the previous Government. We have accepted it and that is a good process.

SHRI LALIT MOHAN SUKLABAIDYA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, North-East is industrially backward and I belong to the North-East. The Government of India is committed to develop the North-East equally with other regions by removing the economic disparities. May I know from the hon. Minister of Heavy Industries, through you, as to how long the people of the North-East will have to wait for their economic and industrial development so that they can also have an industry with nava ratna status.

MR. SPEAKER: This does not arise from the main question.

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV: Sir, the North-East has got all the petroleum sector companies and many of them are nava ratnas. Not only that, we are getting a good report about the tea industry also. The Government is giving a package to it. If more companies come, definitely they will be considered.

MR. SPEAKER: Q. 127—Mr. Ajoy Chakraborty.

Mr. Ajoy Chakraborty, please go to your seat. Are you interested in putting your question? Do you know that there is a question in your name?

*...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: There has to be promise and performance on all sides.

**Conference on State Minorities Commissions**

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\*127. SHRI AJAY CHAKRABORTY:  
SHRI TUKARAM GANGADHAR GADAKH:

Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) Whether a conference of State Minorities Commissions was held in New Delhi recently;

(b) if so, the issues discussed therein and the outcome thereof;

(c) whether there were demands to provide fair share to minorities in the Government jobs;

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

(e) the steps being taken for the socio-economic development of minorities?

THE MINISTER OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI A.R. ANTULAY) (a) to (e) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

#### **Statement**

(a) to (c) The National Commission for Minorities convened the 5th Annual Conference of State Minorities Commissions at New Delhi on 2nd November, 2006. Amongst the issues discussed in the Conference were the following:

- (i) Minorities should feel safe and get a fair and reasonable share of development. The benefits of various Government schemes should flow equitably to the minorities and a certain proportion of development projects be located in minority concentration districts.
- (ii) Communal peace and harmony should be maintained.
- (iii) Special tribunals should be set up to deal with communal offences.
- (iv) The victims of communal carnage should be given adequate financial support for rehabilitation.
- (v) Minorities should get a fair share in Central and State Government jobs. The minority youth should be provided with skills to get their legitimate share in employment, both in the public and private sectors.
- (vi) The main factor responsible for the socio-economic backwardness of the minority communities, particularly the Muslim community, is the lack of access to the common school

system. This is particularly true in the case of Muslim girls. Therefore, concrete schemes for setting up secondary and higher secondary schools in the blocks and districts having a predominantly Muslim population, should be implemented for Muslim girls. Widening of access to professional and technical education should be a priority area in educational programmes.

- (vii) Government should monitor implementation of the Prime Minister's New 15 Point Programme for the welfare of minorities.
- (viii) The scholarship schemes funded by the Maulana Azad Education Foundation should be enlarged to cover the post-matric level also.
- (ix) The Wakf Board properties should be utilized to open educational institutions.
- (x) The status of the National Commission for Minorities should be raised to a constitutional body.

(d) and (e) The Prime Minister's New 15 Point Programme for the Welfare of Minorities, announced in June, 2006 addresses many of these concerns. The objectives of the Programme are (a) enhancing opportunities for education; (b) ensuring an equitable share for minorities in economic activities and employment, through existing and new schemes, enhanced credit support for self-employment, and recruitment to State and Central Government jobs; (c) improving the conditions of living of minorities by ensuring an appropriate share for them in infrastructure development schemes; and (d) prevention and control of communal disharmony and violence. The programme envisages, wherever possible, earmarking of 15% of targets and outlays for minorities under schemes included in the programme. At the Central level, the implementation of the programme is to be monitored, once in six months, by a Committee of Secretaries and thereafter a report has to be submitted to the Union Cabinet. The State Governments have also been advised by the Prime Minister to set up a similar mechanism at the State level so that the implementation of the programme receives due attention at the highest level. Detailed guidelines have been sent to the State Governments and Union Territory Administrations including constitution of State and District level Committees for monitoring the implementation of the programme.

Apart from the above, the corpus fund of the Maulana Azad Education Foundation is being enhanced from Rs.100 to Rs.200 crores so as to enable it to enlarge its activities.

The Constitution (One hundred and third Amendment) Bill, 2004, to confer constitutional status on the National Commission for Minorities, has already been introduced in the Lok Sabha in December, 2004.

Government have already introduced the Communal Violence (Prevention, Control and Rehabilitation of Victims) Bill, 2005 in Rajya Sabha on 5th December, 2005.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Chakraborty, you have time for one supplementary.

SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to know whether the Government is ready to implement the Report of this Committee.

MR. SPEAKER: Which Committee?

SHRI A.R. ANTULAY: Sir, I have not followed his question. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: That is our culture. If anything is to be done, we appoint a Committee.

SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY: Sir, I want to know whether there is any scheme. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Is there any scheme for the improvement of the minorities? I am framing that question.

SHRI A.R. ANTULAY: I am indeed thankful to you, Sir. There are many schemes for the improvement of the lot of the minorities.

SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY: Sir, I would like to know whether the Government has fixed any stipulated date or time to implement all the schemes for the welfare of the minorities.

SHRI A.R. ANTULAY: Yes; it will be done during the stipulated time.

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: Sir, I have not heard him.

MR. SPEAKER: I cannot suggest that everybody should get their ears checked. If the microphone system is not working, then I can understand.

The Question Hour is over. Mr. Chakraborty, thank you for your cooperation.

## WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

*[Translation]*

### Funds For Modernisation and Expansion In Railways

\*122. SHRI MOHD. TAHIR:  
SHRI MOHAN RAWALE:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have made any assessment regarding requirement of funds for modernisation and expansion programmes for the Eleventh Five Year Plan;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of the major projects/schemes proposed to be executed during the Eleventh Plan period?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI LALU PRASAD) (a) and (b) No, Sir. The Railways Programmes and requirement of funds for the 11th Five Year Plan period are still under preparation.

(c) The major projects and schemes for 11th Plan include construction of Dedicated Freight Corridors and other new lines, Gauge Conversion, Electrification, augmentation of capacity by doubling and providing additional lines and procurement of rolling stock involving new technology induction.

### Reservation in Private Sector

\*128 SHRI ANANT GUDHE:  
SHRI CHENGARA SURENDRAN:

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

(a) whether the Group of Ministers (GoM) constituted to examine the issue of reservation in jobs for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in the private sector has submitted its report to the Government;

(b) if so, the recommendations made by the GoM and follow-up action taken by the Government thereon;

(c) whether the Government has constituted now another panel/committee on private sector reservation as reported in *The Times of India* dated October 17, 2006;

(d) if so, its composition, terms of reference and likely time of submission of its report; and

(e) the progress made so far in regard to reservation in jobs for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in the private sector?

THE MINISTER OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MEIRA KUMAR) (a) and (b) As a part of the Government's dialogue with industry, the Group of Ministers held extensive discussions with Chambers/Federations of industries. The industry broadly accepts the desirability of affirmative action though it is opposed to the concept of reservation as prevailing in government.

(c) to (e) To take forward and supplement the ongoing endeavours on this issue for a fruitful national dialogue leading to a time bound action programme, a Coordination Committee has been constituted on October 9, 2006. The Committee is chaired by the Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister and comprises Secretaries of Ministry of Personnel and Training, Tribal Affairs, Social Justice and Empowerment and Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion as its other members. The Secretary, Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion is the convenor of this Committee. The Chairman of the Committee may also co-opt other members of official as well as non-official, if considered necessary. The Committee is expected to submit its interim report within six months followed by a final report within one year. The terms of reference of the Coordination Committee are as follows:

- (i) to ensure time bound examination of the suggestion and action points received from various stakeholders;
- (ii) to evolve/identify the concrete steps arising out of (i) and their implementation;
- (iii) to suggest ways and means of Government assistance and support to the implementation process.

In course of these interactions with the industries, a distinct attitudinal shift on this issue is being noticed. The earlier emphasis on merit, global competitiveness and noninterference in the right of management seems to be giving way to a recognition on the part of the industry that merit is not a natural phenomenon but is shaped by social circumstances. They are now acknowledging the need for social equity and a more constructive role on the part of the industry for complementing the ongoing efforts of government towards achieving it.

The industry has reiterated its support for voluntary affirmative action with a thrust on enhancing employability of the SC and ST candidates. A multi-pronged strategy with PPP model is being advocated through support to selected schools, vocational training measures, scholarships, skill and entrepreneurship development among others. The Associations are also in favour of preparing their own Code of Conduct on Affirmative Action and evolving their monitoring mechanisms to ensure observance by the members.

#### Private Airlines

\*129. SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR:  
SHRI KIREN RIJJU:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the private airlines operating in the country at present;

(b) whether most of the private airlines had not fulfilled the conditions and norms specified by the Government at the time of obtaining licence;

(c) if so, whether these airlines have been ignoring the conditions/norms despite repeated warnings by the Government from time to time; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor alongwith the action taken by the Government against the erring airlines?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL) (a) At present, the following 9 private scheduled airlines are operating in the country including one cargo airline:

- (1) M/s. Jet Airways (2) M/s Sahara Airways (3) M/s Air Deccan (4) M/s Kingfisher Airlines (5) M/s Spicejet

(6) M/s Indigo Airlines (7) M/s Paramount Airways  
(8) M/s Go Airlines (9) M/s Blue Dart Aviation (Cargo).

(b) No, Sir. NOC for Scheduled Air Transport Operations is given by the Government only to the applicants who fulfil the prescribed conditions & criteria.

(c) and (d) Whenever any operator is found to be not following the laid down conditions or criteria, they are penalised by Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) as per the shortcomings.

*[English]*

#### **Monitoring of Activities of Defence Agents**

\*130. SHRI SAMIK LAHIRI:  
SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of persons booked and prosecuted for their involvement in defence deals during the last five years;

(b) whether the Government proposes to monitor the activities of defence agents as reported in *The Times of India* dated October 15, 2006,

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

(d) whether any mechanism is being devised for this purpose;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the manner in which the Government would fix the role of agents in defence deals?

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

(a) to (f) No person has been booked and prosecuted by CBI for his involvement in defence deals during the last 5 years.

On the basis of Ministry of Finance's instructions issued on 31st January, 1989 relating to Indian Agents of foreign suppliers for all the Ministries/Departments under the Government of India, supplementary instructions were issued by the Ministry of Defence in April, 1989 and in November, 2001 to regulate authorized Indian representatives/agents of foreign suppliers. The instructions provide for the regulation of representational arrangements

through a system of registration, categorical and open declaration by the foreign suppliers of the services to be rendered by their authorized representatives/agents and the remuneration payable to them by way of fees, commission or any other method. So far no authorized Indian Representative/Agent has been registered by the Ministry of Defence in terms of these instructions.

Defence Procurement Procedures provide for direct dealing with Original Equipment Manufacturers (OEMs) or Authorized Vendors or Government Sponsored Export Agencies (applicable in case of countries where domestic laws do not permit direct export by OEMs). In addition, the other salient features of the Defence Procurement Procedures are as under:—

- (i) An 'Integrity Pact' between the Government department and the bidder for all contracts above Rs. 100 crores.
- (ii) Enhanced transparency in the conduct of field trials.
- (iii) Pre-bid meetings with the vendors.
- (iv) Prohibiting the use of undue influence by the seller for obtaining any contract with the Government.
- (v) Prohibiting the engagement of any individual or firm to recommend to the Government the award of a contract to the seller, and the payment of any amount in respect of any such recommendation.

Further, these procedures *inter-alia* incorporate provisions for penalties being imposed if any seller engages any individual or firm, whether Indian or foreign whatsoever, to intercede, facilitate or in any way recommend to the Government of India or any of its functionaries, whether officially or unofficially, to the award of the contract to the Seller.

The Defence Procurement Procedures have been placed on the website of Ministry of Defence ([www.mod.nic.in](http://www.mod.nic.in)) to ensure wide publicity and complete transparency.

#### **Unmanned Level Crossings**

\*131. DR. R. SENTHIL:  
SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of unmanned level crossings in the country as on date, zone-wise;

(b) the guidelines/norms formulated by the Railways for manning the unmanned level crossings;

(c) whether the Railways are aware that the accidents at the unmanned level crossings are increasing;

(d) if so, the number of accidents occurred at the unmanned level crossings during each of the last three years and the current year; and

(e) the steps taken/being taken by the Railways for manning of these unmanned level crossings in order to prevent accidents there?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI LALU PRASAD) (a) Number of Level Crossings over the Railway Zones is determined as on first day of the Financial Year. Number of unmanned level crossings as on 01.04.2006 (Zone-wise) is as under:

S.No.	Railway	Number of Unmanned Level Crossings*
1.	Central	503
2.	Eastern	379
3.	Northern	2021
4.	Northeastern	1729
5.	Northeast Frontier	1092
6.	Southern	1333
7.	South Central	1373
8.	South Eastern	964
9.	Western	2901
10.	East Central	879
11.	East Coast	985
12.	North Central	625
13.	North Western	1414
14.	South East Central	821
15.	South Western	913
16.	West Central	365
Total		18297

\*Excluding Canal Crossings & 'D' Class Cattle Crossings.

(b) Guidelines/Norms Formulated for Manning of the Unmanned Level Crossings are:

As per extant rules, in case an unmanned level crossing provided initially and maintained at the cost of the railways needs manning/upgrading/posting of additional gatekeeper due to increase in road traffic, the cost both initial as well as recurring and maintenance has to be borne by the State Government /Road Authority concerned. However, keeping in view the grave consequences of accidents at unmanned level crossings, Railways have decided to man vulnerable level crossings based on the traffic volume and visibility conditions at the unmanned level crossings.

The revised criteria of manning are based on traffic volume and visibility conditions at the level crossing. The details of the criteria arrived at is as under.

- Category-I - Clear visibility level crossings where Train Vehicle Unit(TVU) is more than 6000 and Road Vehicles more than ( > ) 180
- Category-II - Restricted visibility level crossings where TVU is more than (>) 6000 and Road Vehicles > 120
- Category-III - Restricted visibility level crossings where TVU is between 3000 - 6000

Further, it has been decided that no manning of any unmanned level crossing shall be done if motor vehicles do not ply regularly.

Manning of Category-III will be considered once manning of first two categories is over. Priority to be followed will be route-wise, 'A' route followed by 'B', 'C', 'D' Spl., D, 'E Spl.' and 'E'.

If any unmanned level crossing gets involved in more than 3 accidents in 3 years, it should be manned immediately irrespective of the category to which it belongs.

(c) and (d) Railways closely monitor the figures on yearly basis. The number of consequential train accidents at unmanned level crossing during the last three years and up-to October 2006 are given below:

Type of Accident	2003-2004	2004-2005	2005-2006*	2006-2007* (upto October 2006)
Unmanned Level Crossing Accidents.	86	65	65	50

(\* Figures are provisional)

(e) Study of causes of accidents at unmanned level crossings reveal that most of such accidents take place due to negligence of road users in following the provisions of Motor Vehicle Act. The steps taken to prevent accidents at unmanned level crossings in furnished below:

Steps Taken by Railways to Prevent Accidents at Unmanned Level Crossings:

The following steps have been taken to prevent accidents at Unmanned level crossings:—

- (1) Proper Road Signs have been provided on the approaches to level crossings so that the road vehicle drivers are made aware of the existence of level crossings.
- (2) Speed breakers/rumble strips have been provided on the approaches to level crossing gates so that the road vehicle drivers are reminded to reduce their speed.
- (3) Whistle Boards are also provided alongside the rail track on approach to level crossings. The train drivers are required to whistle right from the whistle board till such time the train crosses the level crossings gate in order to warn the road users about the approaching train. Periodic drives are launched for checking whether the drivers are whistling from such Whistle Boards.
- (4) To educate the road drivers about safety at unmanned level crossings, publicity campaign is launched through various media like quickies on TV, cinema slides, posters, talks on radio, newspaper advertisements and street plays.
- (5) Since accidents at unmanned level crossings take place due to negligence of road users, the State Governments can help by exercising strict checks while issuing driving licenses, specially to drivers of trucks, buses and other heavy vehicles. All Chief Secretaries have been requested to co-operate in educating the road users.

(6) Road users must realize that a train traveling at 90 KMPH covers 25 metres per second. Thus, although to the road users, the train appears to be 200 metres away, in terms of time it is only 8 seconds away. This message is being conveyed to them progressively by various publicity measures.

(7) Joint ambush checks with civil authorities to nab errant road vehicle drivers under the provisions of Motor Vehicle Act, 1988 and the Railways Act, 1989 are being intensified.

(8) Village panchayats are involved in their public awareness programmes.

(9) The Safety posters are being put up at level crossings and Village Panchayat Offices progressively.

(10) The Safety posters are being put up progressively at retail fuel pumps.

(11) The level crossing gates are progressively being manned in a phased manner where justified.

(12) Retro-reflective boards are being provided on the level crossings for improving the visibility during the night-time.

#### Training to Personnel of Foreign Countries

\*132. DR. K, DHANARAJU: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the college of Military Engineering, Pune, provides training to personnel of the Corps of Engineers of the Armed Forces;

(b) if so, whether it also provides training to the personnel of foreign countries;

(c) if so, the number of personnel of the Indian Armed Forces and foreign countries imparted training during each of the last three years and the current year;

(d) the reasons for giving training to personnel from the foreign countries;

(e) whether the Government proposes to review the policy regarding imparting of training to personnel from the foreign countries, and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K ANTONY)

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The number of personnel of the Indian Armed Forces and foreign countries who have been imparted training during each of the last three years and who are undergoing training during the current year is given in the Statement enclosed.

(d) Training to the personnel of the Armed Forces of foreign countries is being imparted with a view to promote defence cooperation and good international relations.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) Does not arise in view of (e) above.

#### **Statement**

Training Year	Number of Indian Armed Forces Personnel trained	Number of personnel from foreign countries trained
2003-2004	2445	28
2004-2005	2408	58
2005-2006	3534	51
2006-2007	2290*	34

\* This is a provisional figure.

#### **International Flights from Smaller Airports**

\*133. SHRI KIRTI VARDHAN SINGH:  
SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to operate international flights directly from some of the smaller airports in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which these flights are likely to be operated?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL) (a) to (c) Government has adopted a very liberal approach towards

granting traffic rights for international flights to/from the smaller airports in the country. While the operations by airlines against the available traffic rights is guided by commercial judgement, actual operations by Indian and foreign carriers on international routes is already taking place to/from 16 non-metro cities namely Ahmedabad, Amritsar, Calicut, Cochin, Coimbatore, Gaya, Goa, Guwahati, Jaipur, Lucknow, Nagpur, Pune, Trivandrum, Trichy, Varanasi and Mangalore.

#### **Report of Task Force on Health Tourism**

\*134. SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY:  
SHRI PANNIAN RAVINDRAN:

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Task Force constituted to assess the opportunities for promoting India as a health tourism destination has submitted its report to the Government;



(b) if so, the salient features thereof;

(c) the follow-up action taken by the Government thereon; and

(d) the steps taken to promote and publicise health tourism through its India tourism offices abroad?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI) (a) and (b) A Task Force, headed by Secretary (Health) with Senior Officials of Ministry of health & Family Welfare, Ministry of Tourism and experts in the medical field has brought out the opportunities available both for the Government and private industry for promoting India as a health tourism destination.

The Sub-Committee on accreditation and price banding constituted by Ministry of Tourism has submitted its reports with the accreditation norms and price banding worked out for identified hospitals and identified specialized medical services. Indian Healthcare Federation, a Non-Governmental Organization affiliated to the Confederation of Indian Industry, on advice by Government, has prepared a guide on select Indian hospitals of the country, which could be used for health tourism purposes.

(c) and (d) To attract more foreign tourist to the country Ministry of Tourism has already taken the following measures to promote Medical and health Tourism:

- (i) The Guide prepared by the Indian Healthcare Federation has been placed on Ministry's website, [www.incredibleindia.org](http://www.incredibleindia.org) for wider publicity.
- (ii) Brochure, CDs and other publicity materials to promote Medical and health tourism have been produced by the Ministry of Tourism and widely circulated through its India tourism offices abroad for publicity in target markets.
- (iii) Medical and health tourism has been specifically promoted at various international platforms such as World Travel Mart, London, ITB, Berlin.

(iv) A new category of 'Medical Visa' has been introduced for patients and their attendants coming to India for medical treatment.

(v) Guidelines prepared by the Department of AYUSH for accreditation of Ayurvedic and Panchkarma Centres have been circulated to all State Governments for implementation. The same has been placed on Ministry of Tourism's website [www.incredibleindia.org](http://www.incredibleindia.org) for wider publicity.

(vi) Yoga/Ayurveda/Wellness has been promoted over the last two years in the print, electronic, internet and outdoor medium under the Ministry of Tourism's "Incredible India Campaign".

(vii) Brochures & CDs on Body, Mind and Soul covering the traditional system of medicine have been produced and circulated extensively by Ministry of Tourism through its India tourism offices abroad.

#### **Sale of Goods/Services by PSUs to Government Departments**

\*135. SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) the volume of sale of goods / services made by the Public sector Undertakings. (PSUs) to the Government department during each of the last three years;

(b) whether the goods/services purchased by the Government department from PSUs are available in the open market at cheaper rates; and

(c) if so, the reasons for purchasing the same at higher rates from PSUs?

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

(a) The volume of total sale of goods/services of operating Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSÉs) as per Public Enterprises Survey 2004-05 (PE Survey) is generally reflected in turnover. The same for 2002-03, 2003-04 and 2004-05 for which information is available, is as follows:

	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05
No. of CPSEs	226	230	227
Turnover/Operating Income (Rs. Crore)	5,34,001	5,87,052	7,00,862

The sales/services of CPSEs to different customers including Government Departments relates to day-to-day activities of these enterprises. Information regarding specific sale to individual customers or group of customers is not maintained centrally.

(b) and (c) The Government Departments/Organizations/CPSEs may make purchases from the open market as per competitive prices by following the laid down procedures, if any, in this regard. However, in order to provide level playing field or enabling the CPSEs to utilize the created capacities by them particularly by loss making/sick enterprises the Government has introduced a Purchase Preference policy under which the Government Departments/Organizations/CPSEs are required to make purchases from CPSEs at lowest valid bid price (L1 price) if the price quoted by the supplying CPSE is within 10% of the L1, other things being equal.

*[Translation]*

#### Health Tourism Centres

\*136. DR. DHIRENDRA AGARWAL:  
SHRI TUKARAM GANPAT RAO RENGE  
PATIL:

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the rules/norms regarding setting up of health tourism centres;

(b) whether the Government has set up/proposes to set up health tourism centres in some States for promoting health tourism in the country;

(c) if so, the details alongwith the locations thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor and the time by which these are likely to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI) (a) The Department of AYUSH (Ayurveda, Yoga & Naturopathy, Unani, Sidha and Homoeopathy) of the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare

have prescribed guidelines for accreditation of Ayurveda and Panchkarma centers. The objective of these guidelines is to ensure that Panchkarma and Ayurveda therapy is administered as per standard operating procedures and certain minimum prerequisites of infrastructure availability is complied with by every centre. The guidelines have laid down standards for Gold leaf and Silver leaf categories classification based on availability of infrastructure and facilities at these centres.

(b) and (c) Health care centres are set up by State/ UT Governments or Private Sector at various locations in the country. Ministry of Tourism has taken steps to promote the centres of excellence in overseas market through, brochure, CDs, films and other publicity materials as well as through specific promotion at various international travel fairs such as World Travel Mart, London and ITB Berlin etc. The Guide prepared by the Indian Healthcare Federation for accreditation of health care establishments in the Private sector and Price banding of their services has been placed on Ministry's website, [www.incredibleindia.org](http://www.incredibleindia.org) for wider publicity.

(d) Does not arise.

*[English]*

#### Revenue Generated from Tourism Sector

\*137. SHRI AJIT JOGI: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the revenue generated from the tourism sector during each of the last three years and the current year;

(b) the amount allocated to the State Governments for development of tourism during the above period, State-wise; and

(c) the details of the major projects taken up for development of tourism during this period, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI) (a) Foreign exchange earnings in rupee terms from tourism sector during each of the last three years and the current year are as under:

Year	Foreign Exchange Earnings (Rs. in crore)
2003	16429
2004	21603
2005	25172
2006 (upto October 2006)	22743.17

(b) and (c) Development of tourism is primarily the responsibility of the State/UT Governments. Ministry of Tourism extends Central Financial Assistance to State/UT Governments for development of major tourism projects like Circuit/Destination development, Rural tourism projects, Information Technology projects, Events, Fairs and Festivals etc. based on the specific projects prioritized in consultation with them. The amount sanctioned for such tourism projects, State-wise during the last three years and the current year is in the statement enclosed.

### Statement

#### *State-wise Tourism Projects Sanctioned During the Tenth Five Year Plan*

Sl.No.	State/UT	2003-04		2004-05		2005-06		2006-07	
		No. of Project Sancd.	Amount Sancd.	No. of Projects Sancd.	Amount Sancd.	No. of Projects Sancd.	Amount Sancd.	No. of Project Sancd.	Amount Sancd.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1.	Andhra Pradesh	6	946.50	16	2827.19	7	2,615.82	1	468.63
2.	Assam	3	313.46	8	986.03	10	2,140.00	1	454.28
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	6	1044.60	9	1325.50	10	2,240.16	4	760.90
4.	Bihar	6	1019.42	7	1901.43	3	1,212.23	0	0
5.	Chhattisgarh	6	1005.00	6	1117.94	7	1,775.59	7	876.38
6.	Goa	2	36.76	3	110.00	1	10.00	0	0
7.	Gujarat	8	920.51	2	138.93	5	2,011.58	5	347.73
8.	Haryana	16	1215.38	6	693.55	7	639.71	3	25.00
9.	Himachal Pradesh	4	182.32	12	2680.00	6	1,645.00	4	285.00
10.	Jammu & Kashmir	5	895.00	5	819.25	22	6,656.01	13	2826.32
11.	Jharkhand	2	1109.00	2	945.91	5	1,227.27	0	0
12.	Karnataka	14	932.66	12	2461.76	8	1,706.52	1	226.88
13.	Kerala	6	608.50	10	2283.63	13	4,858.88	5	416.39
14.	Madhya Pradesh	10	621.90	11	1595.19	12	3,047.39	3	903.10
15.	Maharashtra	10	931.83	10	1620.62	9	2,075.04	7	580.38
16.	Manipur	1	82.44	0	0.00	2	49.80	5	788.29

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
17.	Meghalaya	2	40.22	2	963.30	1	5.00	2	15.00
18.	Mizoram	5	567.70	6	1086.35	10	2,273.41	0	0
19.	Nagaland	4	711.00	7	2250.69	9	2,528.97	5	468.94
20.	Orissa	5	419.55	8	1320.74	10	2,309.61	8	477.12
21.	Punjab	2	96.00	7	724.68	5	1,437.67	5	814.45
22.	Rajasthan	14	1644.81	13	2516.61	7	2,591.87	8	653.39
23.	Sikkim	8	1151.09	8	660.81	14	2,844.56	0	0
24.	Tamil Nadu	14	1339.82	7	1308.92	19	4,264.62	6	625.63
25.	Tripura	6	450.17	1	20.00	3	716.26	1	4.15
26.	Uttaranchal	4	230.44	7	2199.98	13	2,738.00	6	528.99
27.	Uttar Pradesh	7	1115.80	9	1044.93	18	3,905.23	5	2441.90
28.	West Bengal	10	717.44	10	513.04	5	989.35	4	952.36
29.	Andaman & Nicobar	0	0	0	0.00	1	6.25	0	0
30.	Chandigarh	2	10.00	3	467.00	1	13.70	0	0
31.	Dadar & Nagar Haveli	0	0	0	0.00	2	29.79	0	0
32.	Delhi	17	3316.28	8	628.85	2	20.00	3	20.00
33.	Daman & Diu	1	265.07	0	0.00	4	262.28	0	0
34.	Lakshadweep	0	0	0	0.00	0	0	0	0
35.	Pondicherry	1	245.17	2	451.00	2	469.39	0	0
<b>Total</b>		<b>207</b>	<b>24,185.84</b>	<b>217</b>	<b>37,663.83</b>	<b>253</b>	<b>61,316.96</b>	<b>112</b>	<b>15961.21</b>

Note—This includes the projects relating to Circuits, Destinations, Large Revenue Generating, Projects, Rural Tourism (Software and Hardware) Projects, IT, Event, Fair & Festivals Projects.

#### Upgradation of Flying Institutes

\*138. SHRI SARVEY SATHYANARAYANA:  
SHRI GANESH PRASAD SINGH:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of flying institutes functioning in the country;

(b) whether most of the flying institutes in the country are based on old technology;

(c) if so, whether the Government proposes to upgrade these institutes with the modern technology; and

(d) if so, the steps taken or proposed to be taken in this direction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL) Statement referred to in the Lok Sabha Starred (\*) Question No. 138 for 30.11.2006.

(a) Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has approved 41 institutes for imparting flying training, out of which 20 institutes are actively engaged in training upto Commercial Pilot Licence (CPL) level.

(b) and (c) No, Sir. DGCA guidelines are being regularly updated for maintaining standards. Most of the flying clubs have aircraft given to them by Government of India through Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) and Aero Club of India (ACI) or procured themselves/through State Governments. Aero Club of India (ACI) and DGCA have been providing aircraft to the flying clubs operating, on no profit no loss basis, subject to availability.

(d) In the Annual Plan 2006-07, Government has made a provision of Rs. 12.79 crores for releasing as Grants – in Aid to ACI for procurement of aircraft to be allotted to identified needy flying clubs, approved by DGCA for conducting flying training for Commercial Pilot Licence. Government have decided to upgrade and modernise the training infrastructure at the premier flying training institute namely Indira Gandhi Rashtriya Uran Akademi (IGRUA) to enhance its training capacity from 40 to 100 pilot cadets per annum. A world class flying training institute is planned as a Joint Venture under the aegis of Airports Authority of India, at Gondia, Maharashtra.

*[Translation]*

#### **Freight Corridor Projects**

\*139. SHRI RASHEED MASOOD:  
SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have estimated total cost of building dedicated freight corridor projects;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Railways have invited private players to Build, Operate and Transfer segments of the freight corridor projects;

(d) if so, the details of such segments alongwith private companies selected for this purpose;

(e) whether works on different segments of the projects have started;

(f) if so, the progress made so far in this regard and the expected time of completion;

(g) whether the Railways propose to constitute a separate company for freight corridor projects;

(h) if so, the details thereof; and

(i) the time by which it is likely to be constituted?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI LALU PRASAD) (a) and (b) The Feasibility Study done by RITES, a public sector enterprise under the Ministry of Railways in January, 2006 for development of Dedicated Freight Corridor on Eastern and Western routes had estimated the cost of the project as Rs. 22,000 Crore.

(c) and (d) The project will be executed by a mix of Engineering Procurement Contract and Public Private Partnership through bidding. No private players have been invited at this stage to Build, Operate and Transfer segments of the freight corridor projects.

(e) and (f) Work has not started on any of the segments of the project.

(g) to (i) A new Public Sector Undertaking named Dedicated Freight Corridor Corporation of India Limited (DFCCIL) has been incorporated under administrative control of Ministry of Railways on 30th October 2006 to implement Dedicated Freight Corridor Projects. The Company has been entrusted construction of Eastern and Western Corridor worth Rs.22,000 Crore.

#### **Complaints Regarding Rail Reservation**

\*140. SHRI HARISINH CHAVDA:  
SHRI SUNIL KUMAR MAHATO:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of complaints received regarding computerized rail reservation particularly during vacation/peak seasons and the activities of touts in important cities during the current year; and

(b) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Railways to remedy the situation ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI LALU PRASAD) (a) and (b) 916 complaints on rail reservation issues including computerized reservation have been

received during the current year 2006-07 (upto September '06). Regular and surprise checks are conducted in association with Vigilance and Security departments to curb the activities of touts in and around reservation offices. During peak rush periods such checks are intensified. Persons so apprehended are prosecuted as per provisions of law. Strict disciplinary action is taken against the staff found conniving with touts in such malpractices. During the year 2006-07 (upto September, 06), 766 persons were prosecuted under relevant provisions of the Railways' Act, 1989 for unauthorisedly carrying on business of procuring and supply of Railway tickets.

[English]

#### Heritage Cities

\*141. SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to declare more ancient cities in the country as heritage cities;

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

(c) the steps taken by the Government for protection and conservation of historical monuments?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI) (a) and (b) The Central Government does not declare cities as heritage cities as there is no such provision in the Ancient Monuments & Archaeological Sites and Remains Act 1958.

(c) Government has enacted the Ancient Monuments & Archaeological Sites and Remains Act 1958 to provide for preservation of ancient and historical monuments and archaeological sites. Under Section 4 of this Act, ancient and historical monuments are declared as of national importance and so far 3667 monuments and sites in the country have been declared as of national importance.

The conservation, preservation, structural repairs and environmental development of the protected historical monuments are undertaken by the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) in accordance with the archaeological norms. Government allocates budgetary provisions for the above purpose and such funds are augmented through Public Private Partnership under the National Culture Fund. For physical protection of the monuments, the ASI

has deployed watch and ward staff and private security guards, besides CISF in respect of the Taj Mahal and Red Fort.

#### Reduction in Annual Tuition and Boarding Fees

1261. SHRI SHRINIWAS DADASAHEB PATIL: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state.

(a) the annual tuition fees and boarding fees at Sainik School in Satara District of Maharashtra;

(b) whether many eligible students are not able to join this school due to high tuition and boarding fees,

(c) if so, whether a request to reduce the fees has been received from parents and other sections of the society; and

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

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

(a) The annual tuition fees and boarding fees in Sainik School Satara are Rs. 37,203/- and Rs.20,575/- respectively for the current academic session 2006-2007.

(b) No such instance has been, brought to the notice of the Government.

(c) & (d) Yes, Sir. Requests for reduction in fees and providing financial assistance to the cadets of Sainik Schools have been received. With a view to reduce the financial burden on parents, the Government has introduced a scheme to subsidise tuition fee and dietary charges of the cadets to an extent of Rs. 9500/- per cadet per year. In addition to this, the annual hike in tuition fee has now been linked to the inflation index instead of a fixed 10% annual increase with effect from the academic session 2006-2007. The State Governments have also been requested to suitably enhance the scholarship entitled to the cadets.

#### Wakf Properties

1262. SHRI AVINASH RAI KHANNA: Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Wakf properties come under the purview of the definition of public premises;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, whether the Government propose to bring any amendment to bring the Wakf properties under the definition of public premises; and

(d) if so the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI A.R. ANTULAY) (a) and (b) Presently wakf properties are not included in definition of public premises under the Public Premises (Eviction of Unauthorized Occupants) Act, 1971.

(c) and (d) There is no such proposal.

*[Translation]*

#### Visit of Defence Officers to USA

1263. MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of USA have invited serving defence officers to visit that country;

(b) if so, the purpose of such visit;

(c) whether the naval Chief has raised any objections on such visit; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY) (a) and (b) The Government of United States of America (USA) invites serving defence officers of India to visit the USA as part of their IMET programme (International Military Education and Training) and bilateral defence cooperation programme. Such visits are for the purposes of training and bilateral reciprocal visits.

(c) and (d) The Chief of Naval Staff had not raised any objections on such visits by defence personnel to the USA.

#### Supply of Fertilizers for Farmers

1264. SHRI V.K. THUMMAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is considering to increase the number of rake points for proper transportation of fertilizers for farmers at Lilia and Rajula railway stations of Gujarat;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Union Government proposes to accord sanction of rake points in commensurate with the demand; and

(d) if so, the time by which a decision is likely to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU) (a) and (b) Full rake handling goods shed is available at Rajula railway station. Presently, there is no such proposal to develop loading/unloading facilities at Liliya Mota station.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

#### New Railway Line in Rajasthan

1265. SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the existing figures in regard to the rail network in the country, State-wise;

(b) whether the rail network in Rajasthan is too short as compared to other States;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether any survey, regarding the proposals of new rail lines included in the rail budget for 2005-2006 and 2006-2007, is being conducted;

(e) if so, the details thereof and the time limit fixed for the above survey; and

(f) the new rail lines completed so far in Rajasthan and likely to be completed during the current year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU) (a) The State-wise length of rail network (route kilometres) in the country as on 31.3.2006 (latest available) is given below:—

S.No.	Name of State	Route Kilometres
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	5185
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	1

1	2	3
3.	Assam	2284
4.	Bihar	3330
5.	Chhattisgarh	1186
6.	Delhi	204
7.	Goa	69
8.	Gujarat	5283
9.	Haryana	1595
10.	Himachal Pradesh	285
11.	Jammu and Kashmir	138
12.	Jharkhand	1955
13.	Karnataka	3002
14.	Kerala	1050
15.	Madhya Pradesh	4903
16.	Maharashtra	5528
17.	Manipur	1
18.	Mizoram	2
19.	Nagaland	13
20.	Orissa	2282
21.	Punjab	2134
22.	Rajasthan	5838
23.	Tamil Nadu	4171
24.	Tripura	64
25.	Uttar Pradesh	8546
26.	Uttaranchal	345
27.	West Bengal	3911
<i>Union Territories</i>		
1.	Chandigarh	16
2.	Pondicherry	11
Total		63332

Note: The remaining States/Union Territories have no rail line.

(b) No, Sir. The State of Rajasthan ranks second in Railway route kilometres (first being Uttar Pradesh) amongst all States. Out of a total route kilometres of 63,332 of Indian Railways, Rajasthan accounts for 5,838 kilometres.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) and (e) The details of the surveys included in budget 2005-06 & 2006-07 are as under:

- (i) Ajmer-Kota (210 kms.) new line
- (ii) Anupgarh-Jaisalmer (485 kms.) new line
- (iii) Rail link to Tonk-Devli (172 kms.) new line
- (iv) Anupgarh to Kolayat (175 kms.) new line

The survey of Ajmer-Kota (210 kms.) new line is likely to be completed during the current year and the balance in the next year.

(f) During 10th Five Year Plan, Kolayat-Phalodi (111 kms.) new line has been completed but yet to be commissioned.

*[English]*

#### Revival of non-Strategic PSEs

1266. SHRI SUBRATA BOSE: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has categorized its Public Sector Enterprises (PSEs) into strategic and non-strategic PSEs;

(b) if so, the details of PSEs in each of the categories;

(c) whether the Government has decided to sell out most of the non-strategic PSEs;

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

(e) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to revive the non-strategic PSEs?

THE MINISTER OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV)  
(a) and (b) Government had on 16th March, 1999,



classified Public Sector Enterprises into strategic and non-strategic areas for the purpose of disinvestment. It was decided that the Strategic Public Sector Enterprises would be those in the areas of:

- Arms and ammunitions and the allied items of defence equipment, defence air-crafts and warships;
- Atomic energy (except in the areas related to the generation of nuclear power and applications of radiation and radio-isotopes to agriculture, medicine and non-strategic industries);
- Railways transport.

All other Public Sector Enterprises were to be considered non-strategic.

(c) to (e) The present policy on Public Sector is governed by National Common Minimum Programme (NCMP). The policy provides that while every effort will be made to modernize and restructure sick public sector companies and revive sick industry, chronically loss-making companies will either be sold-off, or closed, after all workers have got their legitimate dues and compensation. The UPA will induct private industry to turn-around companies that have potential for revival. Government had constituted Board for Reconstruction of Public Sector Enterprises (BRPSE) in December, 2004 to undertake task of strengthening, modernizing, reviving, and restructuring of public sector enterprises. BRPSE has given its recommendation in respect of 36 cases of CPSEs. Based on the same Government has approved revival plans of 20 CPSEs.

#### Vacant Posts in PSUs

1267. SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI:  
SHRI KASHIRAM RANA:  
SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY:

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

- (a) the details of the Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) not having administrative heads for quite some time;
- (b) the reasons for delay in filling up such posts;
- (c) the procedure followed in such appointments; and

(d) the time by which these posts are likely to be filled up?

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

(a) As per available information, posts of Chief Executives in 8 Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs), viz. Bharat Bhari Udyog Nigam Limited, Braithwaite & Company Limited, Central Cottage Industries Corporation of India Limited, Heavy Engineering Corporation Limited, National Jute Manufacturers Corporation Limited, National Hydroelectric Power Corporation Limited, Oil & Natural Gas Corporation Limited and Richardson & Cruddas (1972) Limited were lying vacant for more than six months.

(b) The reasons for delay in appointment to such posts include, delay in obtaining vigilance clearances/ approval of competent authority, delay in taking over of charge by the appointee, sudden vacancies, posts kept in abeyance as conscious decision by the concerned Ministries, court cases etc.

(c) and (d) The appointments of Chief Executives in CPSEs are made by the concerned Administrative Ministry on the basis of recommendations of the Public Enterprises Selection Board (PESB) after obtaining the approval of the competent authority. The Government has issued detailed guidelines indicating the defined time frame for filling up such posts in CPSEs so that the PESB recommendations should be made at least 6 months in advance of the date of occurrence of vacancy and are sent to the concerned Ministry/Department for completing other formalities.

#### Prices of Petrol and Diesel

1268. SHRIMATI JAYABEN B. THAKKAR:  
SHRI JASHUBHAI DHANABHAI BARAD:

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

- (a) the ex-refinery and company price of petrol and diesel at Ahmedabad, Delhi, Patna, Kolkata and Chandigarh;
- (b) the elements of difference between the company price and ex-refinery price;
- (c) the portion of this difference which is attributable to freight charges only in cases of (a) above; and

(d) the policy of the Government regarding equalization of freight charges on these products?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL) (a) The Ex-refinery and company price (basic selling price) of petrol and diesel effective 16.11.2006 are given in the Statement enclosed.

(b) The elements of difference between company price and ex refinery price are:

- Under recoveries incurred by oil marketing companies
- Equalization of freight on all India basis
- Marketing costs, return on working capital and normal margins.

(c) Currently, all India weighted average freight of Rs.322.75/KL of Petrol & Rs.406.73/KL of Diesel is considered to compute the desired selling prices and the margins/under-recoveries on these products.

(d) There is freight equalization on all India basis.

#### **Statement**

*The Ex-refinery and company price (basic selling price) of petrol and diesel effective 16.11.2006*

(Rs/KL)

City	Port Linkage	Petrol		Diesel	
		Ex-refinery Price*	Company Price**	Ex-refinery Price*	Company Price**
Ahmedabad	Kandla	17,963.07	23,368.54	21,673.59	22,966.75
Delhi	Kandla	17,963.07	23,368.54	21,673.59	22,966.75
Patna	Haldia	18,062.97	23,148.54	22,005.39	22,966.75
Kolkata	Haldia	18,467.47	23,368.54	22,184.00	22,966.75
Chandigarh	Kandla	17,963.07	23,148.54	21,673.59	22,966.75

\* Ex-refinery price applicable for the linked port

\*\* Company price (basic selling price) for BS II/Euro III grades applicable for respective Cities

*[Translation]*

#### **Inclusion of Communities in Minority Category**

1269. SHRIMATI BHAVANA PUNDLIKRAO GAWALI:  
SHRI BAPU HARI CHAURE:  
SHRI SANJAY DHOTRE:

Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) Whether there is any proposal for inclusion of more communities under the minority category;

(b) if so, the communities proposed to be included in the said category; and

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

THE MINISTER OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI A.R. ANTULAY) (a) Not at present.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

*[English]*

#### **Rail Line Connecting Hazira Port**

1270. SHRI JASHUBHAI DHANABHAI BARAD: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to refer to reply given to Unstarred Question No.483 on July 27, 2006 regarding Railway connectivity of Hazira Port with Mumbai-Delhi Railway route and state:

(a) the present status of project and the progress made so far to link Hazira Port to its hinterland;

(b) whether the Railways propose to extend the side track of KRIBHCO up to Hazira; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the time bound programme for completion of the project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU) (a) Final Location Survey (FLS) of the project was completed and bankability under Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) structure established with viability gap funding. The project is yet to be processed for sanction, as there are no definite plans for development of container port at Hazira.

(b) As per the techno-economic feasibility survey, the new line is proposed parallel to the existing KRIBHCO siding.

(c) The construction will be taken up on completion of the project development, agreement of strategic partners in financial participation and sanction of the project. The construction of the project is expected to take about three years after sanction.

#### **Railway Chair at IIM, Ahmedabad**

1271. SHRI E.G. SUGAVANAM: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to set up 'Railway Chair' at IIM, Ahmedabad and other prestigious institutions in the country;

(b) if so, the details and its functions thereof; and

(c) the time by which it is likely to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU) (a) to (c) A proposal to set up 'Railway Chair' at Indian Institute of Management (IIM), Ahmedabad is under consideration at present. The details are being worked out.

#### **Railway Station at Old Goa**

1272. SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a full fledged railway station is not functioning in Old Goa and stoppage of trains is also not there;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the remedial measures proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU) (a) A full-fledged Railway station named "Karmali" is functioning in Old Goa and six pairs of trains are stopping at this station.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

#### **National Commission for De-Notified Tribes, Nomadic and Semi-Nomadic Tribes**

1273. SHRI HARIBHAU RATHOD: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal for extension of tenure of National Commission for De-notified Tribes, Nomadic and Semi-Nomadic Tribes;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government proposes to make this Commission a permanent Commission, providing Constitutional right to this Commission and increase its strength; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

#### **Investigation into Sinking of INS Prahar**

1274. SHRI L. RAJAGOPAL: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the report of the Board of Inquiry (BOI) constituted to investigate into the circumstances leading to the sinking of INS Prahar off the coast of Goa has been examined;

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

(c) if not; the time by which examination of the report is likely to be completed?

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

(a) to (c) The Board of Inquiry in its report has indicted 15 Naval personnel for their acts of omission and commission. The Commanding Officer has been severely reprimanded by a Court Martial and dismissed from the Naval service. Court Martial has been initiated in respect of the other indicted officers.

#### Foot Over-Bridge in Karnataka

1275. SHRI G.M. SIDDESWARA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether foundation stone for foot over bridge near the railway gates in Davangere Cotton Mills and at Harihar in Karnataka was laid in December, 2003;

(b) if so, the present status of the project alongwith the reasons for delay in completing the project;

(c) the time by which the project is likely to be completed; and

(d) the amount allocated/released for the project during the last two financial years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU) (a) No foundation stone was laid for any Foot Over Bridge (FCB) in Devenagere Cotton Mills and at Harihar. Instead foundation stone was laid in December 2003 for a Road Over Bridge (ROB) at Level Crossing (LC) No.208 near Harihar and Road Under Bridge (RUB) at LC No. 197 near Devenagere Cotton Mills.

(b) Both these works were sanctioned in 2000-01. For ROB at LC No. 208, Government of Karnataka in June 2004 decided to construct RUB instead of ROB. But later on in June 2006 they have again switched back to ROB, Estimate for which is being revised.

For RUB at LC No. 197 near Devenagere Cotton Mills, Estimate has been received recently which is being examined by the Zonal Railway. After it is accepted by State Government, further action will be taken.

(c) Both these works will be completed by June, 2009.

(d) Amount allotted to these works is as under

	2005-06	2006-07
	Rs. in lac	Rs. in lac
1. ROB at LC No. 208, Km. 337/2-3 near Harihar	100	50
2. RUB at LC No. 197, Km. 322/8-9 near Devanagere Cotton Mills	200	100

#### Passenger Train between Haridwar and Bhiwani

1276. SHRI KULDEEP BISHNOI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to introduce a direct passenger train between Haridwar and Bhiwani;

(b) if so, detail thereof; and

(c) the time by which the said train is likely to be introduced?

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

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

#### Foreign Companies in Oil and Gas Exploration

1277. SHRI HITEN BARMAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether oil exploration programme with the participation of foreign and private firms is facing serious problems;

(b) if so, whether some foreign firms which have been awarded contracts have backed out from signing the deal during the last two years;

(c) if so, the details thereof alongwith reasons therefor, company-wise; and

(d) the likely impact on the oil exploration programme in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL):

(a) No Sir,

(b) No Sir, no foreign company has backed out from signing the contract awarded under the fourth and Fifth round of New Exploration Licensing Policy, concluded in 2004 and 2005 respectively.

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

#### **Railway Hospitals**

1278. SHRI NAVEEN JINDAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways propose to open new Hospitals in various zones;

(b) if so, the details thereof; location-wise and the number of Railway-men likely to be benefited from these hospitals; and

(c) the total amount proposed to be spent and the time by which these hospitals are likely to be functional?

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

(b) At Patna—East Central Railway (Railway Population served 3,60,000)

At Agra—North Central Railway (Railway Population served 42,000)

At Nanded—South Central Railway (Railway Population served 25,000)

At Raipur—South East Central Railway (Railway Population served 63,000)

Total number of Railway-men likely to be benefited from these hospitals is 4,90,000.

(Rs. In crores)

(c)	Patna	36.33
	Agra	2.95
	Nanded	2.95
	Raipur	2.00
	Total	44.23

These hospitals are likely to be functional in another 1 to 2 years.

#### **Revenue from Freight Traffic and Wagon Project**

1279. SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the revenue from freight traffic in Railways has increased tremendously during the year 2005-2006 in comparison with previous years;

(b) if so, the details thereof during the last three years;

(c) whether the Railways propose to intensify investment in wagon projects;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to further improve the earning both by passenger and freight traffic in the coming years?

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

The details of Freight Earning during the last three years is as under:

	(Rs. in crore)		
	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06
Freight Earning	27617.96	30778.40	36286.97

(c) and (d) During 2005-06, 18681 wagon (in four wheeler units) (including container wagon manufactured by Southern Railway's workshop/Golden Rock) were procured at the cost of Rs.1262.10 crores and for 2006-07 the Budgetary provision for procurement of 25000 wagon (in four wheeler units) has been made at the cost of Rs. 1814.12 crores.

(e) In order to increase the Passenger and Freight traffic, railways have taken a number of steps, which include running of special trains, attachment of additional coaches for clearing waitlists, intensive ticket checking, implementing Passenger Profile Management (PPM) Project etc. A scheme namely Wagon Investment Scheme (WIS) was launched in 2005 to cater to increasing demand of wagons. Under the scheme private investors are encouraged to invest in general pool railway wagons.

[*Translation*]

**Modernisation of Railway Station at Mehsana**

1280. SHRI JIVABHAI A. PATEL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the rules and criteria for developing a railway station as a model railway station;

(b) whether the Railways propose to develop railway station at Mehsana district of Gujarat as a model railway station;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU) (a) While presenting the Railway Budget 1999-2000, the then Minister of Railways declared that all efforts will be made to make at least one station in each division as model station where higher level of passenger amenities will be provided. Consequent upon the announcement so made, 61 stations were initially selected as model station. Later on, more model stations were added from time to time. Now as per the announcement made during the presentation of Railway Budget 2006-07, all 'A' and 'B' category stations have been selected as model stations.

(b) and (c) Mehasana railway station was recently identified as model station for the purpose of providing upgraded passenger amenities and instructions in this regard were issued on 29.05.2006.

(d) Does not arise.

**Stoppage of Gorakhpur-Durg Express**

1281. SHRI HARIKEWAL PRASAD: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have received any proposal to provide stoppage of Gorakhpur-Durg Express at Belthara Road and Salempur stations;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Railways thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU) (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Some representations including one from the Hon'ble MP have been received regarding stoppage of 8201/8202 Durg-Gorakhpur Express at Belthara Road and Salempur stations. These were examined but not found feasible for implementation due to operational constraints.

[*English*]

**Development of Satellite-Based Surveillance and Reconnaissance Programme**

1282. SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether DRDO and ISRO are jointly developing the Satellite-based surveillance and reconnaissance programme as reported in the *Times of India* dated September 18, 2006,

(b) if so, the facts thereof;

(c) the estimated expenditure to be incurred and the actual expenditure so far incurred on the said project; and

(d) the time by which the said project is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY) (a) to (d); Any comment on the Question may not be in the interest of National Security.

**Extension of Prashant Nilayam and Amaravati Express**

1283. SHRI PARSURAM MAJHI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have any proposal for extension of Prashant Nilayam and Amaravati Express upto Bhubaneswar; and

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU) (a) to (c) It has been announced in Railway Budget to extend 8563/8564

Bangalore-Visakhapatnam Prasanti Express upto Bhubaneswar and 2847/2848 Vasco-Vijaywada Amravati Express upto Howrah via Bhubaneswar during 2006-2007.

#### **Flight Schedules of Domestic Airlines**

1284. SHRI SUGRIB SINGH: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has allowed domestic airlines to change flight schedules without any prior permission as reported in the Times of India dated November 6, 2006;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether such freedom will not affect the interest of passengers as well as social responsibilities of domestic airlines operating in the country; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (d) Directorate General of Civil Aviation (CA) issued Air Transport Circular No. 2 dated 31st October, 2006 stating that DGCA will grant approval, to avoid inconvenience to the travelling public, for mid-season schedule changes on the basis of NOC from the concerned airports without reference to any other agency, provided the airline has given genuine reasons for making such changes. These changes will be subject to review at the Coordination Committee Meeting in the mid-summer schedule and mid-winter schedule and will not bestow any right on the concerned airline for the changed slot.

However, scheduled domestic airlines will continue to meet the mandatory requirements as contained in the Route Dispersal Guidelines issued by the Government.

#### **Extension of Bangalore-Visakhapatnam Express**

1285. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have any proposal for extension of Bangalore-Visakhapatnam express upto Bhubaneswar; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the time by which the said train is likely to be extended?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R.VELU) (a) and (b) It has been announced in Railway Budget to extend 8563/8564 Bangalore-Visakhapatnam Prasanti Express upto Bhubaneswar during 2006-2007.

#### **Construction of Bridge Over River Ravi**

1286. CHAUDHARY LAL SINGH: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has approved a project to construct a bridge over river Ravi at Basohli in Jammu & Kashmir;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the funds earmarked/released/utilized for the purpose; and

(d) the time by which the construction work is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY) (a) to (d) Government have approved the project to construct 572 meters long cable stayed bridge at Kilometer 14.74 on Dunera-Darban-Basohli-Bani-Bhadarwah road in Jammu & Kashmir at the approximate cost of Rs. 70 crores. Tender documents for the bridge, based on the feasibility study have been finalized. Work on bridge is planned to be completed by December 2008. A sum of Rs.39.00 lacs has been spent on feasibility study of the bridge till 2005-2006. Rs.63.83 lacs have been earmarked for the bridge during 2006-2007.

#### **Railway Line between Muzaffarpur-Darbhanga**

1287. SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have conducted any survey of Muzaffarpur-Darbhanga Railway Line;

(b) if so, the details of the survey conducted;

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

(d) whether the Railways propose to lay the projected railway line from Chhapra to Muzaffarpur via Darbhanga;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the time by which the work on said projects are likely to be started?

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

(b) A survey for Muzaffarpur-Darbhanga new line had been completed in 1996-97. As per the results of the survey, cost of the 66 km. long line had been assessed at Rs.118 crore at the then prevailing price level. The project could not be taken up for consideration owing to its unremunerative nature, heavy throwforward of ongoing projects, coupled with the resource constraints.

(c) Does not arise as the project is not sanctioned.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) and (f) Do not arise.

#### **Belur and Halebid Temples, Karnataka**

1288. SHRI MILIND DEORA: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a team from UNESCO visited Belur and Halebid temples in Hassan District, Karnataka to include the two temples in the heritage list;

(b) if so, the time by which it is likely to be implemented;

(c) whether the team from UNESCO held an interaction with the Commissioner of Tourism;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI) (a) and (b) A team from UNESCO had visited Belur and Halebid temples, in Hassan district, Karnataka in order to promote cultural tourism and not for the purpose of including these temples in the World heritage list.

(c) to (e) UNESCO team interacted with the Commissioner of Tourism, Govt. of Karnataka to provide technical support to the State Tourism and Culture Ministry

to develop Karnataka Heritage Itinerary which could eventually form part of the Heritage Passport programme, which was launched in September 2006 by UNESCO New Delhi office in co-operation with the Ministry of Tourism and Culture. The final report of UNESCO team is awaited.

*[Translation]*

#### **Railway Line**

1289. SHRI ILYAS AZMI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether survey for laying new 67 km. railway line from Gola Gokaran Nath to Shahjahanpur via Mohammadi was conducted in 1997;

(b) if so, the date on which the said survey report was sent to Planning Commission alongwith the decision taken thereon by the Planning Commission; and

(c) the time by which the work on this project is likely to be started?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU) (a) Yes, Sir. An updating survey for new line from Gola Gokarn Nath to Shahjahanpur via Muhamadi (67.121 Kms.) was completed in October, 2004 as per which the cost of construction was assessed as Rs. 172.38 crore.

(b) In view of its unremunerative nature, constraint of resources and heavy throwforward of ongoing projects, the proposal was not considered further.

(c) Does not arise.

*[English]*

#### **Air Service from Palla Airport**

1290. SHRI RAVIPRAKASH VERMA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received any proposal to start air traffic operation from Palla Aerodrome in Lakhimpur-Kheri district in Uttar Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof;



(c) the action taken by the Government thereon; and

(d) the time by which the air traffic operation from Palia Aerodrome is likely to be started?

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

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

#### UNESCO Convention

1291. SHRI BALASHOWRY VALLABHANENI: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has ratified UNESCO convention on protection and promotion of diversity of cultural expression;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) its impact on cultural expression?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI) (a) The Government have approved the proposal for ratification of the UNESCO Convention on the Protection and promotion of Diversity of Cultural Expressions. The process of ratification has begun.

(b) The Convention on the Diversity of Cultural Expressions urges the State parties to promote and protect the diversity of cultural expressions, which is defined as the common heritage of humanity, including traditional knowledge system and cultural and linguistic diversity. It is manifested in artistic expressions and cultural values that result from the creativity of individuals, group and societies, having a cultural content.

(c) Under this Convention, the member States agree to adopt measures aimed at protecting and promoting the diversity of Cultural expressions within its territory. This may be regulatory and promotional including financial assistance and other measures. It is also incumbent on the national governments to create an environment, which encourages individual and social groups to create and disseminate their own cultural expression and to have access to diverse cultural expressions within their territory as well as from other countries of the world. It aims to create the conditions for cultures to flourish and to freely interact in a mutually beneficial manner.

#### Realisation of Revenue from Commercial Complexes

1292. SHRI SUNIL KHAN:  
SHRIMATI SUSMITA BAURI:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any specific law or Government order that allows defence wings to realize revenue from commercial complexes located in Government buildings/lands;

(b) if so, whether it is mandatory for defence officials to credit the revenue amount in Government account;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps taken/proposed to be taken against certain IAF units, which have realized Rs.1.77 crore during January, 2001-March, 2003 as revenue from: commercial complexes located in Government buildings/lands but did not credit the amount in Government account?

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

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c); Yes, Sir. It is mandatory to credit the revenue amount to the Government account as per the Defence Shopping Complexes (Maintenance and Administration) Rules, 2006. The prescribed Guidelines/Rules relating to crediting of the revenue in Government account are as follows:

- (i) The shopping complexes where building assets have been created from non-public funds of the Regiment or Welfare Fund of the Services and the land belongs to the Government, 50% of the net revenue generated shall be credited to the Government Treasury and the balance 50% to the Regimental Funds/Welfare Fund of the respective Service concerned.
- (ii) In the case of shopping complexes created by re-appropriation of Government building, 100% of net revenue will be credited to the Government Treasury.
- (iii) In the case of shopping complex created by constructing assets using non-public funds as well as re-appropriation of Government building (mixed complexes), 100% of net revenue will be credited to the Government Treasury.

(d) As informed by the Air Headquarters, Rs. 11.77 Crores realized as rebate for running businesses during January, 2001 to March, 2003 was not from commercial complexes but from the regimental shops and the same was credited to the respective non public funds as per policy. However, license fee and allied charges in respect of these shops was recovered as per the extant Government policy and credited to the Public Funds.

**National Policy of Public Library  
and Information Services**

1293. SHRI BADIGA RAMAKRISHNA: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the D. P. Chattopadhaya Committee had recommended for formulating a National Policy on Library and Information System (NAPLIS);

(b) if so, whether the Government has implemented the recommendation;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps taken to formulate the NAPLIS?

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

(b) and (c) No formal declaration of the National Policy on Library and Information System has been made so far. As a follow up measure, an Empowered Committee was set up to formulate an action plan on the National Policy on Library and Information System alongwith a working group to suggest actions on the decisions of the Empowered Committee. Some of the recommendations

made by the Chattopadhaya Committee have already been initiated under various schemes of the Ministry e.g. Modernization of Public Libraries, Development of Rural Libraries, Assistance for development of Children's Section and Children's Corners in public libraries and technological upgradation of Libraries under the Ministry of Culture.

(d) As the Chattopadhaya Committee report was finalized more than twenty years ago, it may not be feasible to declare a national policy on Library & Information System based on these recommendations, considering the sweeping changes that have taken place in this sector in the last two decades.

*[Translation]*

**Projects undertaken by BRO**

1294. SHRI ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the projects undertaken by the Border Roads Organisation (BRO) in the area from Karel to Macchel in Kupwara district during the last three years and the current year, and

(b) the funds allocated and spent thereon on the projects during the said period?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY) (a) and (b) As per BRO records there is no location/town with the name as Karel. However there is place called Keren located on road axis Parkian Galli-Dat Bridge. The Keren is 4.5 Kms. beyond Dat Bridge. The details of the works undertaken in this area in last 3 years along with funds allocated and spent is given below:—

S.No.	Name of road Sectors	Cost of sanctioned Improvement works (Rs. in Lacs)	Fund allocated and spent (Rs. in Lacs)			
			2003-2004	2004-2005	2005-2006	2006-2007 (Only allocation)
1.	Dat-Bridge-Parkiangali	1007.54	135.26	155.26	118.46	250.12
2.	Karalpara-Kupwara	685.08	23.22	80.82	247.66	103.69
3.	Kupwara-Kalaruch	98.86	36.12	-	-	-
4.	Kalaruch-Hazibal	153.83	15.42	9.68	-	31.50
5.	Hazibal-Z Gali-Machhal	1401.82	146.66	41.91	162.65	159.23
		3347.13	356.68	287.67	528.77	544.54

**Construction of Roads along Indo-China Border**

1295. SHRI PARAS NATH YADAV:  
SHRI EKNATH MAHADEO GAIKWAD:  
SHRIMATI NIVETDITA MANE:  
SHRI KIRTI VARDHAN SINGH:  
PROF MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR:  
SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has decided to construct roads along the Indo-China border keeping in view the infrastructural development by China along the bordering areas as reported in the 'Navbharat Times' dated October 24, 2006;

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

(c) the expenditure likely to be incurred on the road projects; and

(d) the time by which the roads are likely to be constructed?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY)  
(a) to (d) The Government has decided to undertake phase-wise construction of 27 road links totaling 608 Kms in the border areas along the India-China border in the States of Jammu & Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Uttaranchal, Sikkim and Arunachal Pradesh at an estimated cost of Rs. 912.00 crores. The project is expected to be completed by the year 2012-13.

**Operation by Army against ULFA**

1296. SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA:  
SHRI SUGRIB SINGH:  
SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government had given assurance to ULFA that army would not take any action against them till 13th August for restoration of peace in the North-Eastern Region;

(b) if so, whether the Army had urged the Government not to give more time to them and it was back to hunting down ULFA Cadre in Assam;

(c) if so, the facts thereof;

(d) whether such move of Indian Army has affected the peace process,

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

(f) the steps taken by the Government to bring peace in the North-Eastern Region?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY)  
(a) to (f) Three rounds of talks with Peoples' Consultative Group (PCG) set up by the United Liberation Front of Asom (ULFA) have been held. The Government had agreed favourably to consider the request of ULFA for release of five ULFA detainees in consultation with the Government of Assam provided ULFA made a formal approach to Government of India/Government of Assam for holding direct talks, nominated the delegation for these talks, indicated the time frame and abjured violence in all forms including extortions, notices etc. Efforts with Peoples' Consultative Group representatives for holding these talks were continued even after three rounds through mutual initiatives. Government had also declared unilateral suspension of operations by Army against ULFA from 13.8.2006 to 20.9.2006 with a view to create a conducive atmosphere for holding peace talks. Since there was no direct response from ULFA and reports were received of regrouping, new raisings, violence and extortion by ULFA cadres, operations against ULFA have been resumed.

The Government is open to talks with any militant group provided they shun violence. However, Government is duty bound to protect the lives and property of its citizens.

**Construction of Railway Bridges in Uttar Pradesh**

1297. SHRI BHAL CHANDRA YADAV: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the railway overbridges constructed or repaired in Uttar Pradesh during the last two years;

(b) whether the Railways propose to construct more railway bridges in Uttar Pradesh; and

(c) if so, the time by which such bridges are proposed to be constructed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU) (a) Following four works of Road Over Bridges (ROBs) were completed during the last 2 years, however, no bridge required repair during this period.

1. ROB at Rampur in lieu of Level Crossing (LC) No. 403 A in 2006.
2. Jajua ROB at LC No. 478A in December 2004 Delhi-Jhansi Sectitm.
3. Hathras ROB at LC No. 45-A, Ghaziabad-Kanpur Section in October 2005.
4. ROB at LC No. 3A between Lucknow-Aishbagh.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) There are 41 works of Road over/under bridges sanctioned on cost sharing basis in Uttar Pradesh which are at different stages of planning and execution. Railways construct bridges proper (across tracks) and approaches are constructed by State Government Hence, completion depends upon completion of approaches. Railways make all out efforts to complete their portion of work simultaneously with the work of approaches.

[English]

#### VRS in PSUs

1298. SHRI HITEN BARMAN: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Voluntary Retirement Scheme (VRS) offered for employees of Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) has been losing its attraction;

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

(c) the number of employees in PSUs opted for VRS during each of the last three years; and

(d) the steps being taken by the Government to make VRS more attractive?

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

(a) to (d) The Voluntary Retirement Scheme (VRS) for Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs) is in operation since 1988. In order to make it more attractive, the

guidelines on VRS have been modified in May, 2000 and November, 2001. Ex-gratia payment in respect of Industrial Dearness Allowance (IDA) pattern employees on pay scales at 1.1.87 and 1.1.92 levels, computed on their existing pay scales in accordance with the scheme of year 2000, shall be increased by 100% and 50% respectively. This benefit was subsequently extended to Central Dearness Allowance (CDA) pattern employees who are on 1986 pay scales by enhancing 50% w.e.f. 26.10.2004.

As per available information, year-wise number of VRS optees from 2002-03 to 2004-05 is given as under:

2002-2003	63741
2003-2004	45125
2004-2005	22698

#### Barak Missile Deal

1299. MS. INGRID MCLEOD:  
DR. RAJESH MISHRA:  
SHRI J.M. AARON RASHID:  
SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA:  
SHRI HEMMAL MURMU:  
DR. M. JAGANNATH:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government's approval on the Barak Missile deal with Israel Aircraft Industries has been opposed by the Indian scientists;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has taken action against the persons found involved for committing irregularities in the Barak Missile deal; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY)  
(a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) In view of certain allegations regarding procurement of Barak-I Anti Missile Defence (AMD) systems, the case was referred to CBI for investigation. The CBI has filed an FIR at New Delhi on 9.10.2006 in this regard.

**Vacuum Pipe Cutting**

1300. SHRI BRIJBHUSHAN SHARAN SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways are aware of the large number of incidents of vacuum pipe cutting in the Bhagalpur Mandar Hill Railway stations and Gonda Jn.-Balrampur-Nautanva Railway section;

(b) if so, the details of such incidents reported during the last two years;

(c) whether the basic amenities/facilities at the above stations are not available to the passengers;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the remedial measures proposed to be taken by the Railways in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU) (a) and (b) No, Sir. As only one case of vacuum pipe cutting came to notice in Gonda in Balrampur-Nautanva Railway Section during 2005-06 on 23.03.2006 where train No. 5321 suffered detention for 12 hours in between Uska Bazar-Naugarh Railway Station. No such incident has come to the notice from Bhagalpur Mandar Hill in Malda Division of Eastern Railway so far.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) Joint raids by Railway Protection Force, Government Railway Police and Commercial Department are organized. First Information Reports are lodged by train Guards/Station Masters.

*[Translation]*

**Maintenance of Historical Temples in Pakistan**

1301. SHRIMATI SANGEETA KUMARI SINGH DEO:  
SHRI KASHIRAM RANA:

Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of India and Pakistan have allocated funds for the construction and maintenance of temples of historical and archaeological importance located in Pakistan;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of these temples and the nature of work carried out so far;

(d) whether the work pertaining to restoration of these temples is being carried out satisfactorily; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI) (a) to (e) The Government of India has not allotted any funds for the construction and maintenance of temples of historical and archaeological importance located in Pakistan. However, on the request of Pakistan Government, an ASI expert visited the Katasraj Temple Complex from 29th Aug. to 2nd Sept. 2005 and a report has been submitted to the Government of Pakistan in Jan. 2006. The restoration work of this temple is being carried out by the authorities in Pakistan. India has offered to provide further technical assistance, if required.

*[English]*

**Introduction of Garib Rath Trains**

1302. SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA:  
DR. M. JAGANNATH:  
SHRI PARSURAM MAJHI:  
SHRI K.C. SINGH "BABA".  
SHRI HARIBHAU RATHOD:  
SHRI K.C. PALLANI SHAMY:  
SHRI CHANDRABHAN SINGH:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have started operation of 'Garib Rath' trains in the country;

(b) if so, the details alongwith the routes on which these have been started;

(c) whether the Railways have conducted any study to assess the response of passengers on these routes;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Railways have received demands from various quarters for introduction of these trains on other routes; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU) (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. In the Rail Budget 2006-07, it has been proposed to run fully air-conditioned Garib Rath trains between Saharsa-Amritsar, Delhi-Patna, Delhi-Mumbai and Delhi-Chennai. Out of these, 2203/2204 Saharsa- Amritsiir Garib Rath via Hajipur-Chappra-Gorakhpur-Sitapur Cantt-Moradabad-Saharanpur-Ambala Cantt.-Jalandhar City has been introduced w.e.f. 04-10-2006.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) and (f) Requests for introduction of trains including Garib Rath trains are received continuously from various fora at various levels viz. Board level. Headquarter level, Division level and Station level. This voluminous data is not compiled. However, action as feasible and justified is taken on these demands.

#### **Special Purpose Vehicle for Paradip-Haridaspur Railway Line**

1303. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased state:

(a) whether nine companies including Rail Vikas Nigam Limited (RVNL) have formed a consortium in the Rs. 590 crore Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) to develop the Paradip-Haridaspur railway line;

(b) if so, the facts in details;

(c) whether they have signed shareholders' agreement;

(d) if so, the details of equity picked up by these companies;

(e) whether laying Paradip-Haridaspur railway line is cost effective;

(f) if so, whether Railways have examined the viability of the project line of its own;

(g) if so, the details thereof; and

(h) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU) (a) to (d) Rail Vikas Nigam Limited (RVNL) and 8 other partners have signed a Shareholders Agreement on 11.10.2006 to contribute equity of Rs. 275 crores altogether and construct the new line between Haridaspur and Paradip at a hard project cost of Rs. 456 crores. The details of equity contribution is as under:

	Subscription Amount (Rs. in Crores)
(i) Rail Vikas Nigam Limited	133.20
(ii) Government of Orissa	01.80
(iii) Paradip Port Trust	27.50
(iv) Steel Authority of India Ltd.	05.00
(v) Essel Mining & Industries Ltd.	30.00
(vi) Rungta Mines Limited	30.00
(vii) Jindal Steel and Power Limited	05.00
(viii) POSCO India Private Limited	27.50
(ix) MSPL Limited	15.00
Total	275.00

(e) to (h) The project under Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) structure is a cost-effective option. The project Internal Rate of Return (IRR) is 15.5% at hard project cost of Rs. 456 crore.

#### **Upgradation of Delhi and Mumbai Airports**

1304. SHRI P.C.THOMAS:  
SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR:  
SHRI SURESH PRABHAKAR PRABHU:  
SHRI M. RAJA MOHAN REDDY:  
SARI M. SREENIVASULU REDDY:  
SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY:  
SHRI TUKARAM GANGADHAR GADAKH:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Delhi International Airport Pvt. Ltd. (DIAL) has submitted the master plan to the Government for modernisation of Indira Gandhi International Airport

as reported in the Hindustan Times, dated November 8, 2006;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the time by which the work on the project is likely to be started and completed; and

(d) the estimated expenditure likely to be incurred in implementing the said master plan?

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

(b) In the first phase, a new passenger terminal building to handle 37 million passengers per annum would be constructed by the year 2010 and a new runway compatible for operations upto A-380 type of aircraft would be constructed by the year 2008.

(c) The construction of first phase will start in January 2007 and is likely to be completed by March 2010.

(d) The cost of first phase of development is Rs. 6750 crores approximately.

#### **Freight and Passenger Fares**

1305. SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways are considering to make reduction in freight and passenger fares;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that due to decrease in international oil prices the Railways may have to compete with road cargo sectors; and

(d) if so, the views of the Railways in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU) (a) and (b) No, Sir. There is no such plan at present.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. Railways have already launched various incentive schemes to compete with the road sector.

#### **Vigilance Machinery in PSUs**

1306. SHRI JOACHIM BAXLA: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the vigilance machinery of public sector undertakings has been strengthened;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether some special facilities have been provided to the officers involved in this task;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(a) and (b) Government have already issued guidelines to strengthen vigilance machinery at corporate and regional level offices of Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs) which provide for model vigilance set up with skilled and trained vigilance personnel.

(c) to (e) Chief Vigilance Officers (CVOs) working in Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs) have been given the status equivalent to the Functional Directors or key officers with accommodation, transport and other admissible facilities, depending upon the categorization of CPSE and the level of Officer holding the post of CVO.

#### **Seismic Survey for Gas Hydrates**

1307. SHRI NAVJOT SINGH SIDHU: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) Whether the Government proposes to take up seismic survey on gas hydrates along the east and west coast of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether India has the technology to exploit gas hydrates; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL): (a) and (b) Yes Sir.

Directorate General of Hydrocarbons, under this Ministry, have plans to carry out specialized survey known as "Q-Marine" for mapping for gas hydrates in Krishna Godavari Area in the year 2007.

(c) and (d) Technology for exploitation of gas hydrates is not available presently any where in the world including India.

[Translation]

#### Impact of Terrorism on Tourism

1308. DR. RAJESH MISHRA: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the number of foreign tourist coming to India has decreased due to recent bomb explosions at Malegaon, Mumbai;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the percentage decrease in the number of tourist during the last six months, especially after the explosions?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The foreign tourist arrivals to India during January to October 2006 are estimated at 34.10 lakh, up from 30.15 lakh during the corresponding period of the previous year, showing a growth of 13.1%. During the last six months, i.e. May-Oct 2006, the foreign tourist arrivals are estimated at 18.58 lakh, up from 16.59 lakh during the corresponding period of the previous year, showing a growth of 12.0%. Month-wise estimated foreign tourist arrivals to India for the period January-October 2006 are given in the following table:

*Table: Foreign Tourist Arrivals to India (in lakh)*

Month	2005	2006	% change over previous year
January	3.86	4.44	(+)15.1
February	3.70	4.07	(+)10.1
March	3.52	3.91	(+)11.0
April	2.48	3.10	(+)24.7
May	2.25	2.59	(+)14.7
June	2.47	2.73	(+)10.6
July	3.08	3.49	(+)13.3
August	2.74	3.03	(+)10.5
September	2.57	2.81	(+) 9.3
October	3.48	3.94	(+)13.3
Total(Jan-Oct)	30.15	34.10	(+)13.1

[English]

#### Platform In Kharagpur Division

1309. SHRI RUPCHAND MURMU: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have approved to raise the level of platform at Jhargram Railway Station in Kharagpur Division of South Eastern Railways;

(b) if so, whether construction work at the said station has been started;



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

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

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

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

#### **Revival of HCL**

1310. SHRI PRABODH PANDA: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has prepared any plan to revive the Hindustan Cables Ltd. (HCL);

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Department of Telecommunications is agreed with the proposal to tie-up with BSNL or MTNL to provide a bulk order to overcome the present crisis in HCL; and

(d) If so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF HEAVY INDUSTRY, MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH): (a) and (b) The Draft Revival Scheme in respect of Hindustan Cables Ltd. (HCL) was prepared by the Operating Agency (OA) appointed by the BIFR. Further, studies were conducted by IIT Kharagpur and Tata Consultancy Services (TCS).

A note on future of HCL was examined by the Board for Reconstruction of Public Sector Enterprises (BRPSE) in its meeting held on 11th September, 2006. BRPSE recommended that a further holistic study of HCL, unit-wise and company as a whole, should be commissioned through IIT, Kharagpur.

(c) and (d) The requirement of BSNL and MTNL for Polyethylene Insulated Jelly Filled cables (PIJF) the main product of HCL, has come down drastically due to the usage of new technology like WLL (Wireless in Local Loop), GSM (Global Service for Mobile), Internet and CDMA (Code Division Multiple Access). For BSNL, the requirement of cables has come down from 583 LCKM

(Lakh Circuit Kilometer) in 2000-01 to 120 LCKM in 2003-04 and 2004-05. No tender was floated for the year 2005-06. The tentative requirement of cables by BSNL for current financial year 2006-07 is about 70 LCKM. BSNL and MTNL have not placed any order with HCL for last three years.

#### **PATA Conference 2007**

1311. SHRI D. VITTAL RAO: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has confirmed Hyderabad as the venue for Pacific Asia Travel Association Conference 2007;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, by which the venue will be fixed?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI) (a) The Pacific Asia Travel Association Travel Mart will be held in Hyderabad in 2008.

(b) and (c) The Pacific Asia Travel Association Travel Mart, organized annually, is an important tourism marketing event designed to bring international buyers from around the world and sellers from the Pacific Asia Region together, to interact, promote and sell, with the objective of increasing tourist arrivals to the region. Hosting of the event will provide a major promotional opportunity to India as it will enable international buyers to experience first hand the tourism products and services of the country and interact with Indian Sellers.

*[Translation]*

#### **Construction of New Railway Station at Jodhpur Cantt.**

1312. SHRI JASWANT SINGH BISHNOI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry of Defence have demanded for a new railway station at Jodhpur Cantt.;

(b) if so, the time by which the construction of the said railway station is likely to be started;

(c) whether the Ministry of Defence have deposited the funds for the above railway station; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R.VELU) (a) No, Sir. However, work of construction of new crossing station between Rai-Ka-Bagh and Banar has been taken up.

(b) The preliminary works have been completed and land acquisition paper submitted to State Government.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

#### **Setting up of Heavy Industries/ Public Enterprises**

1313. SHRI SURAJ SINGH:  
SHRIMATI SANGEETA KUMARI SINGH  
DEO:

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

(a) the number of Heavy Industries/Public Enterprise<sup>^</sup> set up/expanded in backward States of the country during the last three years, State-wise; and

(b) the details of new Heavy Industries/Public Enterprises likely to be set up in the country during the Eleventh Five Year Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF HEAVY INDUSTRY, MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH) (a) There is no formal classification of Industries as "Heavy". However, so far as the Department of Heavy Industry is concerned, no new Public Sector Enterprises (PSE) has been set up in the country during the last three years. Expansion/diversification in the existing PSEs is a continuous process depending upon the market demand/viability etc.

(b) There is, at present, no proposal to set up any new Public Sector Enterprise, so far as the Department of Heavy Industry is concerned.

#### **Child Labour Engaged in Gauge Conversion**

1314. SHRI D.B. PATIL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the time by which the gauge conversion of Mudkhed-Adilabad rail line under the Nanded Division is

likely to be completed alongwith the time by which the train announced is likely to be started;

(b) whether child labour has been engaged for this work and the quality of work is also very poor;

(c) if so, the action taken by the Railways in this regard;

(d) whether a child labour had died falling down the bridge during this work in the first week of November, 2006; and

(e) if so, the action taken against the persons found guilty in this case?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU) (a) Work of gauge conversion of Mudkhed-Adilabad has been completed. Trains to be run in the newly gauge converted section, as announced in the Budget are proposed to be run in the current financial year.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise

(d) No, Sir. Only one villager not connected with railway work, who was trespassing on Bridge No. 110 between Bhodadi Bujrug and Dhanora stations had died on 1.11.2006.

(e) Does not arise.

*[English]*

#### **Package for Minority People**

1315. SHRI ANWAR HUSSAIN: Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) Whether the Government of Assam has submitted any proposal for a package for the minority people;

(b) If so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Union Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI A.R. ANTULAY)

(a) No, Sir

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

*[Translation]*

#### **Electrification of Indore-Ujjain Rail Line**

1316. SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways propose to electrify Indore-Ujjain railway line in Madhya Pradesh; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R.VELU) (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Electrification work of Ujjain-Indore & Dewas-Maksi/section has been included in the Supplementary Demands for Grants (Railways) 2006-07, at an anticipated cost of Rs. 48.35 crore and targeted for completion by December, 2009.

*[English]*

#### **Security at Airports**

1317. SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR:  
SHRI SURESH PRABHAKAR PRABHU:  
SHRI EKNATH MAHADEO GAIKWAD:  
SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE:  
SHRI KIRTI VARDHAN SINGH:  
SHRI KAILASH NATH SINGH YADAV:  
SHRI SHISHUPAL PATLE:  
PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received threat/warning of Al Qaeda attack on various airports in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL) (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Intelligence inputs were received regarding a plan to hijack an aircraft by suspected Al Qaeda operatives during the month of Ramzan. An anonymous letter was also received regarding the plan of Al Qaeda operatives to blast some airports in the South;

(c) An alert was issued immediately by the Bureau of Civil Aviation Security (ECAS) to all agencies concerned at the airports in the country to take all precautionary measures to prevent any unfortunate incident.

#### **Barrier Free Environment for Disabled Persons**

1318. SHRI G.V. HARSHA KUMAR: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the representatives of disabled persons from Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu have narrated their experiences and wanted a barrier-free environment in place by 2010 and requested to adopt more comprehensive and inclusive United Nations definition of disability;

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

(c) whether they have sought 50 per cent allocation for disabled women in poverty alleviation programme, inclusion of agriculture for the benefit of disabled farmers and ensure of the clause 'within economic capacity'; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN) (a) to (d) Suggestions received for amendment to the Persons with Disabilities Act have been noted. United Nations (UN) convention for Persons with Disabilities has not been adopted by the UN General Assembly.

*[Translation]*

#### **Maintenance and Renovation of Protected Monuments**

1319. SHRI MOHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has proposed cleaning of all the monuments in the country;

(b) if so, the names of monuments which are identified for the purpose, State-wise, particularly in Tamil Nadu;

(c) the funds allocated for this purpose;

(d) whether the government is aware of the concern expressed by Conservationists on the issue;

(e) if so, the action taken by the Government thereon; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) No, Sir. Only limited number of monuments are selected every year for cleaning and chemical preservation.

(b) The names of the monuments, State-wise, identified for the above (including Tamil Nadu) for 2006-07 are given in the Statement enclosed.

(c) The funds allotted for chemical preservation for the current financial year is Rs. 502.15 lakhs.

(d) to (f) Yes, Sir. The Science Branch of Archaeological Survey of India is taking every possible care for proper safeguard of the monuments by applying time tested methods and materials for conservation. The chemical preservation process generally comprises cleaning, strengthening, biocidal treatment and hydro phobization.

#### Statement

#### *The Name of the Monuments (State-wise) Identified for Chemical Preservation including Tamilnadu for the Year 2006-07*

Sl. No.	Name of the Monuments	Locality	District	Provision for 2006-07
1	2	3	4	5
<b>Andhra Pradesh</b>				
1.	MR CT &P to Alwar Mandapa, Cloisters and other Mandapas, Sri Chintala Venkataramana Swamy Temple	Tadipatri	Anantapur	3,00,000
2.	MR CT &P to Group of Temples	Pushpagiri	Cuddapah	2,50,000
3.	MR CT &P Somavara Mandapa, South and West Gopurama, Sri Bheemeswara Swamy Temple	Draksharama	East Godavari	2,00,000
4.	MR CT &P to Bastion No. 1, Beach Ghantki Buruzu, Kurnool	Kurnool	Kurnool	2,00,000
5.	MR CT &P to Sri Buggeramalingeswara Swamy Temple	Tadipatri	Anantapur	50,000
6.	MR CT &P to Buddhist Remains, Guntupalli (Integrated Development)	Guntupalli	West Godavari	1,00,000
<b>ASSAM</b>				
1.	MR CT &P to Talatal Ghar (Integrated Development)	Joysagar	Sibsagar	3,00,000
<b>BIHAR</b>				
1.	MR CT &P to Mundeswari Temple	Ramgadh	Bhabhua	1,80,000
2.	MR CT &P to Excavated site	Kulhua	Vaishali	2,50,000

1	2	3	4	5
3.	MR CT &P to main entrance gate, Monk's room and adjoining structure of Vikram Shila University	Antichak	Bhagalpur	1,00,000
<b>DELHI</b>				
1.	MR CT &P to Isa Khan Tomb	H. Tomb	Delhi	2,50,000
2.	MR CT &P to Firuz Shah's Tomb (Big dome) Hauz Khas	Hauz Khas	New Delhi	50,000
<b>GOA</b>				
1.	MR CT &P & Consolidation of exterior wall (North) of Basilica of Bom Besus Church	Old Goa	Panaji	8,00,000
<b>GUJARAT</b>				
1.	MR CT &P to South East & North, West gate & remaining subsidiary shrine, Dwarkadhish Temple, Dwarka	Dwarka	Jamnagar	1,50,000
2.	MR CT &P to Raolekha Chhatri, Bhuj	Bhuj	Bhuj	2,50,000
<b>HIMACHAL PRADESH</b>				
1.	MR CT &P of paintings and stucco figures in ante-Room of Duwang Gumph	Tabo	Lahaul & Spiti	35,000
2.	MR CT &P of Murl paintings, Phoo Gumph	Tabo	Lahaul & Spiti	45,000
3.	MR CT &P and Consolidation of Rock cut Temple	Masrur	Kangra	10,00,000
<b>JAMMU AND KASHMIR</b>				
1.	MR CT&P of painting Manjusree Monastery	Alchi	Leh	1,00,000
<b>KERALA</b>				
1.	MR CT&P to paintings and wooden carvings of Sri Vadakkunathan Temple	Trichur	Trichur	18,000
<b>KARNATAKA</b>				
1.	MR to Installation of weather & Air Pollution Data Instrument around Gomateswara Statue	Gola	Hassan	50,000
2.	MR CT&P to paintings, Ahmed Shah Wali, Tomb	Asthur	Bidar	25,000
3.	MR CT&P to paintings, Asar Mahal	Bijapur	Bijapur	25,000

1	2	3	4	5
4.	MR CT&P to Kedaraswara Temple Complex	Balligavi	Shimoga	4,50,000
5.	MR CT&P to Rameswara Temple	Kudli	Shimoga	1,00,000
6.	MR CT&P to paintings, Virupaksha Temple	Hampi	Bellary	10,000
7.	MR CT&P to Kalyan Rai Temple	Toda Rai Singh	Tonk	1,50,000
8.	MR CT&P to Pipali Temple	Toda Rai Singh	Tonk	1,50,000
9.	MR CT&P to Mandleshwar Mahadev Temple	Arthuna	Banewara	2,20,000
<b>TAMIL NADU</b>				
1.	MR CT&P to Musical Inscription, Sikanatha Swamy Temple, Kudumiyamalai and Rock cut Jain Temple, Sittannavasal	Sittannavasal	Pudukkottai	45,000
<b>UTTAR PRADESH</b>				
1.	MR CT&P to R. C. Cemetery	Agra	Agra	3,90,000
2.	MR CT&P to Wall paintings, Hakim Hamam	F. P. Sikri	Agra	95,000
3.	MR CT&P Khusro Bagh Tomb (Integrated Development)	Allahabad	Allahabad	10,80,000
4.	MR CT&P to Makdoom Jahania tomb	Kannauj	Kannauj	2,74,000
5.	MR CT&P to Sadat Ali Tomb & Murshid Jadi	Lucknow	Lucknow	13,50,000
6.	Running of AAQMS & Electric supply Solar Energy supply	Taj Mahal	Agra	42,000
7.	MR CT&P to Lalkhan Tomb	Varanasi	Varanasi	2,00,000
<b>UTTARANCHAL</b>				
1.	MR CT&P to Group of Temples, Sun Temple	Katarmal	Almora	2,50,000
2.	MR CT&P to Mrityunjay Group of Temples (Integrated Development)	Dwarahat	Almora	1,22,000
3.	MR CT&P to Group of Temples, Gopinath	Gopeshwar	Chamoli	2,50,000
4.	MR CT&P to Mahasu Temple	Hanol	Dehradun	1,45,000
5.	Procurement of laboratory Equipment and chemicals for scientific studies and Analytical works	O/o the Director (Science) Dehradun	Dehradun	5,00,000

1	2	3	4	5
<b>WEST BENGAL</b>				
1.	MR CT&P to Museum objects of Hazarduari Palace, Murshidabad	Murshidabad	Murshidabad	50,000
<b>PLAN (NEW WORKS)</b>				
<b>ANDHRA PRADESH</b>				
1.	ME CT&P to Buddhist Rock Cut Stupas, Caves etc	Sankaram	Visakhapattanam	1,50,000
2.	ME CT&P to Interior of Sri Mukhalingeswara Swamy Temple	Srimukhalintam	Srikakulam	2,00,000
3.	ME CT&P to Papanasi group of temples	Alampur	Mahboob Nagar	2,00,000
4.	ME CT&P to Sri Bhavanarayana Swamy Temple	Bapatla	Guntur	1,50,000
5.	ME CT&P to Museum objects of Reserve Collection	Amaravathi	Guntur	1,00,000
<b>ASSAM</b>				
1.	MR CT&P to Joy Sagar Group of Monument includes (Devidol, Sivdol, Vishnudol, Ghansyam house)	Sibsagar	Joyasagar	3,00,000
<b>BIHAR</b>				
1.	MR CT&P to Hasan Shah Suri Tomb	Sasaram	Sasaram	3,00,000
2.	MR CT&P to Monastery Complex No. 8	Nalanda	Nalanda	3,00,000
<b>CHHATTISGARH</b>				
1.	MR CT&P to Harsh Gupta Vihara (Integrated Development)	Sirpur	Mahasamund	2,50,000
<b>DELHI</b>				
1.	MR CT&P to Three sided Rampat wall under flag mast facing Chandni Chowk, (Integrated Development)	Red Fort	Delhi	3,00,000
2.	MR CT&P to Main Humayun's Tomb and enclosures	Humayun's Tomb	Delhi	5,00,000
3.	MR CT&P to Safdarjung Tomb	Jor Bagh	Delhi	5,00,000
4.	MR CT&P Monuments at Qutb Complex	Qutb	Delhi	5,50,000
<b>GUJARAT</b>				
1.	MR CT&P to Citadel wall of Fort, Pavagadh	Pavagadh	Godhra	3,50,000

1	2	3	4	5
2.	MR CT&P to Baba Man Mosque, Pavagadh	Pavagadh	Godhra	2,50,000
3.	MR CT&P to Sat Kaman Pavagadh	Pavagadh	Godhra	1,00,000
4.	MR CT&P to Mansar Talav Shrines, Viramgam	Viramgam	Surendra Nagar	6,00,000
5.	MR CT&P to Galteshwar Mahadev Temple, Galteshwar	Galteshwar	Kheda	3,00,000
<b>HARYANA</b>				
1.	MR CT&P to consolidation of red sand stone, treatment & preservation wooden structures, khwaza Khizr's Tomb	Sonepat	Sonepat	95,000
2.	MR CT&P to Lat Ki Masjid	Hisar	Hisar	1,80,000
<b>HIMACHAL PRADESH</b>				
1.	MR CT&P to Gauri Shankar Temple	Dasal	Kullu	2,50,000
2.	MR CT&P to Rani Mahal and West side fortification wall of Ruined Fort, Nurpur	Nurpur	Kangra	2,50,000
<b>JAMMU AND KASHMIR</b>				
1.	MR CT&P to paintings, Hemis Monasteries	Himis	Leh	75,000
2.	MR CT&P to Shankaracharya Temple	Sri Nagar	Sri Nagar	2,50,000
<b>KARNATAKA</b>				
1.	MR CT&P to Pranaveswara Temple and inscribed Pillar	Talagunda	Shimoga	1,50,000
2.	MR CT&P to Museum objects Bijapur Museum	Bijapur	Bijapur	50,000
3.	MR CT&P to Gomateswara Statue	Sravana-belgola	Hassan	1,50,000
4.	MR CT&P to Hafta Gumbaz	Gulberga	Gulberga	1,00,000
5.	MR CT&P Painting, Tipu Sultan Palace	Bangalore	Bangalore	40,000
6.	MR CT&P to Bhuvamaha Temple	Halsi	Belgaum	1,00,000
7.	MR CT&P to Tirumurthyaraya Temple	Bandalke	Shimoga	1,00,000
<b>KERALA</b>				
1.	MR CT&P to Bekal Fort, Pallikara (Integrated Development)	Pallikara	Kasargode	4,00,000
2.	MR CT&P to Bhaktavatsala Temple	Cheranmahadev	Thiruveveli	1,50,000



1	2	3	4	5
<b>MADHYA PRADESH</b>				
1.	MR CT&P to wall paintings of Cave No. 4 and maintenance of mounted panel of paintings, Bagh, Caves	Bagh	Dhar	50,000
2.	MR CT&P to North western face of Kandariya Mahadev Temple	Khajuraho	Chhattarpur	7,50,000
3.	MR CT&P to Exterior of Eastern & Southern walls & Domes of Jami Masjid	Mandu	Dhar	7,50,000
4.	MR CT&P to Raisen Fort (Integrated Development)	Raisen	Raisen	4,00,000
<b>MAHARASHTRA</b>				
1.	MR CT&P to Stone/Sculptures of Sabna Mandap of Main Temple Cave No. 16, Ellora	Ellora	Aurangabad	8,00,000
2.	MR CT&P to Stone/Sculptures of Facade (exterior) Cave No. 10, Ellora	Ellora	Aurangabad	4,00,000
3.	MR CT&P to Metal Plates of doors of Bibu-Ka-Maqbara	Aurangabad	Aurangabad	3,00,000
4.	MR CT&P to Stone/Sculptures of Aurangabad Caves Gr.II	Aurangabad	Aurangabad	4,23,000
5.	MR CT&P to stone surface in different Caves. No. 4, 13, 26 & 27 Ajanta Caves	Ajanta	Aurangabad	2,50,000
6.	MR CT&P work of removal of preservation coatings & accretions from East & West painted wall surface Cave No. 17	Ajanta	Aurangabad	2,00,000
7.	MR CT&P to West aisle ceiling painting of Cave No. 2 & 16 Ajanta Caves	Ajanta	Aurangabad	2,00,000
8.	MR CT&P to Ethyl Silicate consolidation work on stone surface in Cave No. 1, 4, 5, 9, 19, 26 & 27 Ajanta Caves	Ajanta	Aurangabad	3,50,000
9.	MR CT&P to fixing/filleting work on painted plaster in various Caves Nos. 2, 6, (Upper Cave) 9, 10, 11, 15 & 16 Ajanta Caves	Ajanta	Aurangabad	3,00,000
<b>ORISSA</b>				
1.	MR CT&P to Barabati Fort & Gate	Cuttack	CTC	1,00,000
2.	MR CT&P to Chandrasekar Temple, Kapilash	Kapilash	Dhenkanal	2,00,000

1	2	3	4	5
<b>TAMIL NADU</b>				
1.	MR CT&P to Sculptures Group of Monuments, Mahabalipuram	Mahabalipuram	Kanchipuram	2,00,000
2.	MR CT&P to Group of Temple on the hill Sankagiri (Integrated Development)	Sankagiri	Salem	2,00,000
3.	MR CT&P to Sri Subramaniya Swamy Temple, Jain Cave, Valimallai	Vallimallai	Vellore	2,00,000
4.	MR CT&P to Siva Temple, Vallikantapuram	Valikantapuram	Perambalur	2,50,000
5.	MR CT&P to Keralantak Gopuram and paintings Sri Brihadiswara Temple	Thanjavur	Thanjavur	2,50,000
6.	MR CT&P to Venkata Ramana Temple	Gingee	Villupuram	2,00,000
<b>UTTARANCHAL</b>				
1.	MR CT&P to Group of temples, Adi Badri	Kamprayag	Chamoli	1,50,000
2.	MR CT&P to Baleshwar Group of temples	Champawat	Champawat	1,50,000
<b>NON-PLAN (ON GOING WORKS)</b>				
<b>ANDHRA PRADESH</b>				
1.	MR CT&P to paintings on the ceiling of Vishnu Shrine, Sri Veerabhadra Swamy	Lepakshi	Anantpur	1,25,000
2.	MR CT&P to Inner Prakara wall bearing inscriptions and sculptured pillars of Natya Mandapa, Sri Veerabhadra Swamy Temple	Lepakshi	Anantpur	1,50,000
3.	MR CT&P to Golconda Fort	Hyderabad	Hyderabad	1,50,000
4.	MR CT&P of Ambient Air Quality around Charminar	Hyderabad	Hyderabad	2,00,000
5.	MR CT&P to Kush Mahal and Loose Sculptures	Warangal Fort	Warangal	1,50,000
6.	MR CT&P to Interiors of Swargabrahma and outer Prakara of Bala Brahmeswara Temple	Alampur	Mahboob Nagar	75,000
<b>ASSAM</b>				
1.	MR CT&P to Shivdol Temple	Nighertign	Sibsagar	50,000
<b>GOA</b>				
1.	MR CT&P to Main Altar of Se Cathedral Church, Old Goa	Old Goa	Panaji	1,00,000

1	2	3	4	5
2.	MR CT&P to Fumigation of St. Francis of Assisi Church Old Goa	Old Goa	Panaji	5,50,000
<b>GUJARAT</b>				
1.	MR CT&P to Sikandar Shah Tomb, Halol	Halol	Godhra	2,50,000
<b>MADHYA PRADESH</b>				
1.	MR CT&P to Stone sculptures & architectural fragments of Jordian Museum	Khajuraho	Chhattarpur	4,00,000
2.	MR CT&P to Babu Temple	Gwalior Fort	Gwalior	5,00,000
3.	MR CT&P to Interior of Hindola Mahal	Mandu	Dhar	5,50,000
4.	MR CT&P to Koshak Mahal	Chanderi	Ashok Nagar	7,00,000
<b>MAHARASHTRA</b>				
1.	MR CT&P to Stone/Sculptures of Markandadev Temple, Markanda	Markanda	Gadchiroli	7,10,000
<b>ORISSA</b>				
1.	MR CT&P to Jagmohan, Bhogmandap & Natmandap of Lord Lingaraj Temple	Bhubaneswar	Khurda	3,50,000
<b>PUNJAB</b>				
1.	MR CT&P to Haji Jamal Tomb	Bakodar	Jalandhar	2,00,000
2.	MR CT&P to Gateway of the Old Sarai	Amanatkhan	Amritsar	2,50,000
<b>RAJASTHAN</b>				
1.	MR CT&P to Somnath Temple, Dev Somnath	Dev Somnath	Dungarpur	3,00,000
2.	MR CT&P to Temple with inscription	Kansua	Kota	4,00,000
3.	MR CT&P to Bisal Dev Temple	Bilaspur	Tonk	3,50,000
4.	MR CT&P to Ghat with inscription and Chattries	Nav Chowki	Rajsamnad	3,80,000
<b>TAMIL NADU</b>				
1.	MR CT&P to sculptures on main Vimana, Brihadeswara Temple	Thanjavur	Thanjavur	3,00,000
2.	MR CT&P to sculptures, Jalakandeswara Temple, Vellore	Vellore	Vellore	1,73,000

1	2	3	4	5
<b>UTTAR PRADESH</b>				
1.	MR CT&P to Moti Masjid	Agra Fort	Agra	7,10,000
2.	MR CT&P to Marble Roof Top Portion	Sikandra	Agra	7,40,000
3.	MR CT&P to Hiram Minar	F. P. Sikri	Agra	2,10,000
4.	MR CT&P to Hathi Pole gate & water tank	F. P. Sikri	Agra	5,00,000
<b>WEST BENGAL</b>				
1.	MR CT&P to painted ceiling & walls of two royal rooms Koochbehar Palace	Koochbehar	Koochbehar	50,000
<b>NON-PLAN (NEW WORKS)</b>				
<b>ANDHRA PRADESH</b>				
1.	MR CT&P to Rani Mahal and other structures	Golconda Fort	Hyderabad	1,00,000
2.	MR CT&P to Loose sculptures Ghantasala Museum	Ghantasala	Krishna	50,000
3.	MR CT&P to Museum objects Chandragiri Museum	Chandrigiri	Chittoor	50,000
4.	MR CT&P to Mandapas and other structures, Sri Uma Maheswara Swamy Temple	Yaganti	Kurnool	1,00,000
<b>CHHATTISGARH</b>				
1.	MR CT&P To Ratanpur Fort	Ratanpur	Bilaspur	1,00,000
<b>DELHI</b>				
1.	MR CT&P to Dome and three side walls (exterior) of Qila-I-Kuhna Mosque	Purana Qila	Delhi	2,50,000
2.	MR CT&P to Khirkee Mosque	Khirkee Village	Delhi	2,50,000
<b>GUJARAT</b>				
1.	MR CT&P to Shivai Mata Temple	Sunak	Mehsana	2,00,000
2.	MR CT&P to Siddi Sayed Mosque	Ahmedabad	Ahmedabad	2,00,000
3.	MR CT&P to exposor of paintings in Mahatma Gandhi Birth Place	Porbandar	Porbandar	1,00,000
<b>KARNATAKA</b>				
1.	MR CT&P to Someshwara Temple	Bandalke	Shimoga	2,00,000

1	2	3	4	5
2.	MR CT&P to Huchappayya Temple	Aihole	Bagalkot	2,00,000
3.	MR CT&P to Ibrahim Rouza	Bijapur	Bijapur	1,00,000
<b>KERALA</b>				
1.	MR CT&P To St. Angelo fort	Kannur	Kannur	1,00,000
<b>MADHYA PRADESH</b>				
1.	MR CT&P to Garhi Padawali	Padawali	Morena	1,00,000
2.	MR CT&P to Group of Temples	Bateshwar	Gwalior	1,00,000
<b>MAHARASHTRA</b>				
1.	MR CT&P to Stone/Sculptures of Kanheri Caves, Borivali, Mumbai	Borivali	Mumbai	4,57,000
2.	MR CT&P to photo documentations of Ajanta Caves No. 17, 18, 19 & 20 Ajanta Caves	Ajanta	Aurangabad	1,00,000
3.	MR CT&P to stone surface of Sangameshwar Temple, whole outer surface of the temple (the temple is under Ajanta Caves Jurisdiction)	Ajanta	Aurangabad	2,00,000
4.	AR work to routine removal of dust & dirt from painted surface & sculptures from cave No. 1 to 30	Ajanta	Aurangabad	1,00,000
5.	AR work to spraying of insecticide on unpainted surface, in Ajanta Caves	Ajanta	Aurangabad	2,00,000
6.	AR work to Diurnal recording of temperature and RH in painted caves, Ajanta	Ajanta	Aurangabad	2,00,000
7.	AR work to maintenance & running of regular experimental & analytical works at field laboratory, Ajanta Caves	Ajanta	Aurangabad	2,00,000
<b>ORISSA</b>				
1.	MR CT&P to Natya Mandapa in Sun Temple Complex	Konark	Puri	4,00,000
2.	MR CT&P to Jambeswar Temple	Bhubaneswar	Khurda	3,00,000
3.	MR CT&P to Group of Temples in LLT Complex	Bhubaneswar	Khurda	2,00,000
4.	MR CT&P to Jagannath Temple,	Jajpur	Jajpur	2,00,000
5.	MR CT&P to Kedarswar Temple	Chowdwar	Cuttak	2,00,000

1	2	3	4	5
<b>PONDICHERRY</b>				
1.	MR CT&P to Shiva temple, Sethur,	Sethur	Karalkal	1,00,00
<b>PUNJAB</b>				
1.	Chemical conservation of antiquities/objects of Ropar Museum	Ropar	Roop Nagar	50,000
<b>Tamilnadu</b>				
1.	MR CT&P to Sculptures, Rock-cut Siva & Vishnu temple	Thirumayam	Pudukkottai	1,00,000
<b>Uttar Pradesh</b>				
1.	MR CT&P to Jain temple (exterior)	Deogarh	Lalitpur	1,00,000
2.	Annual maintenance contract for Solar energy supply	Taj Mahal	Agra	4,50,000
	Procurement of instruments & chemicals for stone conservation	Agra Fort	Agra	1,70,000
4.	MR work to general maintenance	Taj Mahal	Agra	1,00,000
<b>Uttaranchal</b>				
1.	Restoration of Art & Collection objects of Taj Museum	O/o of the Director(Sci)	Dehradun	1,00,000
<b>West Bengal</b>				
1.	MR CT&P to Bigunia group of temple	Brakar	Vardhman	1,00,000
	MR CT&P to Gopal Ji temple	Kalna	Vardhman	1,00,000
	MR CT&P to Chandidas temple	Nanoor	Birbhumi	1,00,000

*[English]***Maintenance of Golconda Fort**

1320. DR. M. JAGANNATH: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that the damage being caused to the historic Golconda Fort located in Hyderabad, Andhra Pradesh by the film crews using the premises of the fort for shooting of films as reported in the *Deccan Chronicle*, dated September 27, 2006;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the quantum of amount earned annually by the ASI from that Fort;

(d) the amount spent annually on the maintenance of the monument; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to protect and maintain this Fort?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI) (a) and (b) No damage has

been caused to the historic Golconda fort due to film shooting as reported in the Deccan Chronicle dated 27.9.2006. However, during filming operation, a foot light, which was erected by the Andhra Pradesh Tourism, has been damaged.

(c) The amount earned annually from the Golconda fort for the last two years is as under:

Year	Amount
2004-05	Rs.52,62,790
2005-06	Rs. 56,44,530

(d) The amount spent annually on the maintenance of the monument during the last two years is as under:

Year	Amount
2004-05	Rs. 49,67,422
2005-06	Rs.31,99,365

(e) For the protection and maintenance of Golconda Fort, 20 regular watch and ward staff have been engaged. In addition, 17 private security guards have been employed for enhancement of security.

Structural conservation work is being taken up on a continuous basis. Some of the important work taken up recently are conservation of Nagina Bagh, structural repairs to Rani Mahal, Camel Stable and Naya Quila. For environmental development, horticulture activity is also taken up in the monument. Continuous assessment of the state of preservation is taken up in order to facilitate required measures for structural conservation, chemical preservation, etc.

#### **Realization of Tourism Potential**

1321. SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO:  
SHRIMATI PRATIBHA SINGH:  
SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI:  
SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA:  
SHRI ANANDRAO VATHOBA ADSUL:

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Prime Minister has expressed concern over the under realization of country's tourism potential as reported in *The Times of India* dated September 24, 2006;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons for under realization of tourism potential;

(c) whether the PM has set up a group of Ministers to tackle infrastructure issues;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the time by which this group is likely to start its functions;

(e) whether the PM has also reviewed the on-going projects;

(f) if so, the shortcoming noticed therein; and

(g) the steps taken by the Government to rectify these shortcomings?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) to (g) The Prime Minister reviewed the tourism sector on 21st September, 2006. Ministry of Tourism made a presentation giving an overview of its activities, opportunities that have been explored by the Ministry and constraints that held back the sector. The presentation highlighted the contribution tourism can make to substantially increasing GDP and employment if constraints are removed. It was recognized that tourism is essentially a multi-sectoral activity and requires action across several Ministries.

It has been decided that tourism will be included under the National Infrastructure Committee chaired by the Prime Minister. This Committee will review the progress of infrastructure components of the tourism sector.

#### **Railway Projects in Maharashtra**

1322. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of ongoing railway projects in Maharashtra and progress thereof till date;

(b) the amount spent on them till date, project-wise;

(c) the funds required for completion of pending projects and the cost overrun in each project;

(d) the time by which these projects are likely to be completed; and

(e) the steps being taken by the Railways for their early completion ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (d) The details are given in the Statement enclosed.

(e) A number of initiatives have been taken in the past few years for generation of additional resources through project specific funding for National Projects, state sharing, funding from Ministry of Defence, Public/Private Partnership and non-budgetary initiatives for National Rail Vikas Yojana.

#### **Statement**

The details of ongoing projects alongwith anticipated cost, expenditure incurred, outlay for the year 2006-07, status and targets wherever fixed are as under:

(Rs. in crore)

S.No.	Details of the ongoing Projects	Km	Anticipated cost	Expenditure upto March, 2006	Outlay during 2006-07	Status and targets wherever fixed
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
<b>New Lines</b>						
1.	Ahmednagar-Beed-Parli Vajinath	261.25	462.67	15.06	10.00	Final location survey completed. Land acquisition completed in 1 km length (Ahmednagar-Narayandoh section) where 71% earthwork, 3 major and 10 minor bridges completed.
2.	Amravati-Narkhar	138	284.27	148.55	15.00	Section from Amravati to Chandur Bazar (44 kms) completed.
3.	Baramati-Lonand	54	138.48	16.11	7	Final Location Survey completed. Land papers for Lonand-Phalton (27 kilometres) submitted to State Government. 16 minor bridges completed.
4.	Panvel-Karjat	28	137.96	134.82	1	Work completed and commissioned.
5.	Puntamba-Shirdi	16.6	48.78	34.07	10.05	Final Location survey completed. Earthwork, bridges etc. taken up. The work is likely to be completed during 2007-08.
<b>Gauge Conversion</b>						
1.	Akola-Purna	210	245.22	66.01	26	The work has been taken up for earthwork, bridges etc. The section is targeted for completion during 2007-08.



1	2	3	4	5	6	7
2.	Jabalpur-Gondia including Balaghat Katangi	285	524.88	167.45	57.40	Gondia-Balaghat (42 km) section commissioned. In Balaghat-Jabalpur including Balaghat-Katangi earthwork and bridge work taken up.
3.	Miraj-Latur	374	515.57	329.95	44	The work is being progressed in phases. Kurduwadi to Pandharpur (52 km) and Latur-Latur Road (33 km) completed. Earthwork and bridges taken up between Kurduwadi-Latur and Miraj-Pandharpur.
4.	Mudkhed-Adilabad	162	199.06	226.57	29.98	Completed, yet to be commissioned.
5.	Secunderabad-Mudkhed & Jankhampet-Bodhan	269	382.69	345.65	10.00	Completed and commissioned.
6.	Solapur (Hotgi)-Gadag.	282	342.7	291.90	20	Solapur-Hotgi-Bijapur-Bagalkot completed. The balance section is planned for completion during 2007-08.
7.	Chhindwara-Nagpur	149.22	383.79	0.74	45.00	Land acquisition taken up. Earthwork and bridgeworks taken up.
<b>Doubling</b>						
1.	Diva-Kalyan 5th and 6th line	11	70	56.67	5.50	Earthwork and bridgework etc. in progress and targeted for completion during 2006-07.
2.	Pakni-Mohol	17	42.73	10.08	30.01	This work is entrusted to Rail Vikas Nigam Limited (RVNL). Earthwork, bridgeworks etc. taken up. Work likely to be completed during 2007-08.
3.	Pakni-Solapur	16.28	38.52	7.83	20.50	This work is entrusted to Rail Vikas Nigam Limited (RVNL). Earthwork, bridgework etc. taken up. Work likely to be completed during 2007-08.
4.	Panvel-Jasai-JNPT	28.5	53.25	22.62	8.0	Completed and commissioned.

**Development of Tourist Complex**

1323. SHRI PRASANTA PRADHAN:  
SHRI N.S.V. CHITTHAN:

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether some State Governments have submitted proposal for development of tourist complexes in their States to the Union Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise during each of the last three years and current year; and

(c) the funds provided during the last year and proposed to be provided during the current year for development of infrastructure at important tourist centres, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) to (c) Development of Tourism is primarily the responsibility of the State/UT Governments. The Ministry of Tourism extends Central Financial Assistance to States/UTs for development of tourism infrastructure projects which are prioritized in consultation with them. A *Statement* showing the funds sanctioned by the Ministry of Tourism for various tourism projects including tourist complexes in States/UTs during the last three years and the current year is enclosed.

**Statement****State-Wise Tourism Projects Sanctioned During The Tenth Five Year Plan**

(Rs. in Lakhs)

Sl.No.	State/UT	2003-04		2004-05		2005-06		2006-07	
		No. of Project Sancd.	Amount Sancd.	No. of Projects Sancd.	Amount Sancd.	No. of Projects Sancd.	Amount Sancd.	No. of Project Sancd.	Amount Sancd.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1.	Andhra Pradesh	6	946.50	16	2827.19	7	2,615.82	1	468.63
2.	Assam	3	313.46	8	986.03	10	2,140.00	1	454.28
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	6	1044.60	9	1325.50	10	2,240.16	4	760.90
4.	Bihar	6	1019.42	7	1901.43	3	1,212.23	0	0
5.	Chhattisgarh	6	1005.00	6	1117.94	7	1,775.59	7	876.38
6.	Goa	2	36.76	3	110.00	1	10.00	0	0
7.	Gujarat	8	920.51	2	138.93	5	2,011.58	5	347.73
8.	Haryana	16	1215.38	6	693.55	7	639.71	3	25.00
9.	Himachal Pradesh	4	182.32	12	2680.00	6	1,645.00	4	285.00
10.	Jammu aand Kashmir	5	895.00	5	819.25	22	6,656.01	13	2826.32
11.	Jharkhand	2	1109.00	2	945.91	5	1,227.27	0	0
12.	Karnataka	14	932.66	12	2461.76	8	1,706.52	1	226.88
13.	Kerala	6	608.50	10	2283.63	13	4,858.88	5	416.39
14.	Madhya Pradesh	10	621.90	11	1595.19	12	3,047.39	3	903.10

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
15.	Maharashtra	10	931.83	10	1620.62	9	2,075.04	7	580.38
16.	Manipur	1	82.44	0	0.00	2	49.80	5	788.29
17.	Meghalaya	2	40.22	2	963.30	1	5.00	2	15.00
18.	Mizoram	5	567.70	6	1086.35	10	2,273.41	0	0
19.	Nagaland	4	711.00	7	2250.69	9	2,528.97	5	468.94
20.	Orissa	5	419.55	8	1320.74	10	2,309.61	8	477.12
21.	Punjab	2	96.00	7	724.68	5	1,437.67	5	814.45
22.	Rajasthan	14	1644.81	13	2516.61	7	2,591.87	8	653.39
23.	Sikkim	8	1151.09	8	660.81	14	2,844.56	0	0
24.	Tamil Nadu	14	1339.82	7	1308.92	19	4,264.62	6	625.63
25.	Tripura	6	450.17	1	20.00	3	716.26	1	4.15
26.	Uttaranchal	4	230.44	7	2199.98	13	2,738.00	6	528.99
27.	Uttar Pradesh	7	1115.80	9	1044.93	18	3,905.23	5	2441.90
28.	West Bengal	10	717.44	10	513.04	5	989.35	4	952.36
29.	Andaman and Nicobar	0	0	0	0.00	1	6.25	0	0
30.	Chandigarh	2	10.00	3	467.00	1	13.70	0	0
31.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	0	0	0	0.00	2	29.79	0	0
32.	Delhi	17	3316.28	8	628.85	2	20.00	3	20.00
33.	Daman and Diu	1	265.07	0	0.00	4	262.28	0	0
34.	Lakshadweep	0	0	0	0.00	0	0	0	0
35.	Pondicherry	1	245.17	2	451.00	2	469.39	0	0
<b>Total</b>		<b>207</b>	<b>24,185.84</b>	<b>217</b>	<b>37,663.83</b>	<b>253</b>	<b>61,316.96</b>	<b>112</b>	<b>15961.21</b>

Note—This includes the projects relating to Circuits, Destinations, Large Revenue Generating, Projects, Rural Tourism (Software and Hardware) Projects, IT, Event, Fair & Festivals Projects.

#### Installation of X-ray Machines at Stations

1324. SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether taking into consideration the security aspects, the Railways propose to install X-ray machines at the New Delhi, Delhi and Nizamuddin railway stations to scan and monitor the luggage;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the expenditure to be incurred thereon; and

(c) the time by which these machines are likely to be installed at the stations?

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

(b)

Station	Nos.	Amount (in crore) Approximate
New Delhi	11	10.58
Delhi Main	09	8.66
Hazarat Nizamuddin	05	4.60

(c) It is expected that the installation of these machines will be completed within six months.

[Translation]

#### **New Communication Network for Defence Forces**

1325. SHRI MAHESH KANODIA:  
SHRI BHUPENDRASINH SOLANKI:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a new communication network has been developed for the Defence Forces as reported in *The Hindustan Times* dated September 15, 2006;

(b) if so, the facts and the salient features thereof, and

(c) the estimated expenditure incurred on such communication network?

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

(a) Yes, Sir. An Optical Fibre Cable (OFC) based communication network has been planned for Defence Forces. The Network has not been completed as yet and the work is under progress.

(b) The salient features of the proposed network are:

(i) It will provide link of sufficient capacity between Defence Point of Presence (PoP) and Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL)PoP.

(ii) Satellite and Radio based redundancy to operationally critical locations.

The project is being executed by BSNL/MTNL based on the orders by the Services.

(c) As per Project Definition Team Report, the estimated cost of the Project would be approximately Rs. 3051 crore.

#### **Time Schedule of Revanchal Express**

1326. SHRI GANESH SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways are aware that change in timing of the Revanchal Express running between Reva and Bhopal has been causing great inconvenience to the passengers;

(b) if so, whether the Railways proposes to restore the time schedule of the train; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) In order to speed up the train, the departure time of Rewa-Bhopal Express via Katni (tri-weekly) and Rewa-Bhopal Express via Jabalpur (4 days in a week) has been changed to 19.40 hrs. and 21.15 hrs. respectively. However, the departure time of both the trains is being changed to 19.50 hrs. from 01.12.2006.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

[English]

#### **National Overseas Scholarship Scheme for SC Students**

1327. PROF. M. RAMADASS: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the overall progress made by the National Overseas Scholarship Scheme for Scheduled Castes Students for higher studies abroad;

(b) whether there is wide disparity in the budgetary allocation made and utilisation of funds under the scheme;

(c) if so, the details thereof during each of the last three years and the reasons therefor;

(d) the reaction of the Government thereto;

(e) whether the scheme was not implemented during some of the years;

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

(g) whether out of the total candidates selected under this scheme from 1993-94 to 2004-05 only five were women; and

(h) if so, the reasons for such low and under representation of women in the scheme and the reaction

of the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) Under the Scheme of National Overseas Scholarship, a total of 114 candidates have been selected during the period from 1993-94 to 2005-2006.

(b) to (d) The budget provision and allocation is as under:—

Year	Budget Allocation	Expenditure	(Rs. in lakhs) % age utilization
2003-04	100.00	70.00	70
2004-05	100.00	90.00	90
2005-06	100.00	160.00	160

The expenditure depends upon receipt of bills from the Indian Embassies.

(e) and (f) Yes Sir. The selection was not made, during the years 1995-96 to 1997-98 and 2000-01 to 2003-04, as the scheme was non functional during these years for want of approval of Competent Authority.

(g) and (h) Yes, Sir. Non-receipt of sufficient applications from women candidates is one of the important reasons.

#### Wild Life Tourism Projects

1328. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Wild Life Tourism Projects sanctioned by the Government during the last three years, State-wise;

(b) the allocation of funds made so far for these projects till date project-wise; and

(c) the achievements made in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) to (c) Development of Tourism is primarily the responsibility of the State/UT Governments. The Ministry of Tourism extends Central Financial Assistance to States/UTs for implementation of tourism infrastructure projects, including wildlife tourism projects, which are prioritized in consultation with them. A statement showing the central financial assistance extended to States for wildlife tourism projects during the last three years is enclosed.

#### Statement

(Rs. in lakhs)

Sr.No.	State/UT	Year	Project	Amount sanctioned	Amount released
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Arunachal Pradesh	2005-06	Development of Dibrugarh-Passighat-Daying Ering Wildlife Sanctuary	299.00	239.20

1	2	3	4	5	6
2.	Assam	2005-06	Development of Adventure Tourism in Kaziranga	44.95	35.90
	-do-	2005-06	Development of Manas-Guwahati-Kaziranga	781.00	624.80
3.	Karnataka	2003-04	Development of Attiveri Bird Sanctuary	60.00	18.00
	-do-	2004-05	Development of Bandipur Tiger Reserve	195.70	156.56
4.	Tamil Nadu	2003-04	Setting up of Eco-Tourism Cum Bird Centre at Rameshwaram	43.00	34.00
	-do-	2004-05	Development of Eco-Tourism at Point Calimere wild life sanctuary Muthupet	368.00	294.40
	-do-	2005-06	Setting up of Eco-Tourism cum-Bird Centre at Rameshwaram	42.50	34.00
5.	Uttar Pradesh	2005-06	Development in Dudhwa National Park	312.60	250.08
	-do-	2005-06	Development of Kateniaghat wildlife sanctuary	105.00	84.00
6.	Uttaranchal	2005-06	Development of Nainital-Almora-Ranikhet (Binsar Sanctuary, Corbett Museum)	697.51	558.00
7.	Orissa	2005-06	Development of Chilka Lake as a Tourist Destination	389.05	311.24
Total:				3338.31	2640.18

**PSUs Under the Ministry of Tourism**

1329. SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the details of PSUs under his Ministry;

(b) the performance of each of the PSUs during the last three years; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken to improve the performance of these PSUs?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) The Ministry of Tourism has two Public Sector Undertaking viz. (i) India Tourism Development Corporation and (ii) Kumarakruppa Frontier Hotels Pvt. Ltd.

(b) The details of the performance of Public Sector Undertaking during the last three years are as under:

## (i) India Tourism Development Corporation

(Rs. in Crores)

	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06
Turnover	290.65	363.49	377.25
Operating Profit	5.14	37.87	56.79
Net Profit (Before Tax)	2.86	31.16	52.61

## (ii) Kumarakruppa Frontier Hotels Pvt. Ltd.

(Rs. in Crores)

	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06
Turnover	5.90	8.48	10.55
Operating Profit	5.03	7.68	9.68
Net Profit (Before Tax)	5.03	7.68	9.68

(c) ITDC is focusing on the following steps to improve its performance:—

- \* Aggressive marketing and promotional efforts to tap new market.
- \* Ensuring better customer services.
- \* Renovation and refurbishment of hotel properties
- \* Adding new customer facilities/services.
- \* Renting out space available in some of the hotels for setting up Fast Food Outlets/ Restaurants in collaboration with reputed national/multinational Food Chains.
- \* Human Resource Development to improve service standards of the hotels.

**International Terminal Complex at  
Ahmedabad Airport**

1330. SHRI HARIN PATHAK:  
SHRI JASHUBHAI DHANABHAI BARAD:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to refer to Unstarred Question No. 1875 on August 10, 2006 regarding "Construction of International Terminal Complex at Ahmedabad Airport" and to state:

(a) whether the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) has given clearance for the construction of a new international terminal building complex at Ahmedabad Airport;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL) (a) to (c) A note seeking approval of the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) to the proposal for construction of a new international terminal building complex at Ahmedabad has been prepared and being sent to CCEA for consideration.

**Financial Assistance to PSUs**

1331. SHRI RANEN BARMAN: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether financial assistance has been provided by the Government to some Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) for smooth operation; and

(b) if so, the details of the financial assistance provided to these PSUs during each of the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV) (a) and (b) As per available information in Public Enterprises Survey 2004-05, during the last three years i.e. during 2002-03, 2003-04 and 2004-05, an amount of Rs. 5313.91 crore, Rs. 5014.46 crore and Rs. 5090.24 crore respectively were provided as Budgetary Support (in terms of equity and loans) to Central Public Sector Enterprises.

*[Translation]*

#### **Dependency on Import**

1332. SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR :  
SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA :  
SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO:  
SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL:

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

(a) whether the World Bank has asked India to reduce dependence on oil import as higher prices are a major concern;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reaction of the Union Government thereto; and

(d) the steps suggested by World Bank to reduce dependence on oil import?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL): (a) No, Sir.

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

*[English]*

#### **Guidelines for COCO Pumps**

1333. SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL:  
SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO:  
SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA:

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

(a) whether the Union Government has issued a set of guidelines for company owned company-operated (COCO) petrol pumps;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether these guidelines will effect a change in dealership across the country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Ministry has issued broad guidelines on 6.9.2006, on the basis of which Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) have been requested to frame their own guidelines for operation of Company-Owned-Company-Operated (COCO) retail outlets. These broad guidelines inter-alia include operation of permanent COCO retail outlets by the officers of OMCs and phasing out the existing temporary COCO ROs within a timeframe.

(c) and (d) COCO ROs are the ROs which are being operated by OMCs themselves without appointment of regular dealers. The broad guidelines will enable OMCs to phase out temporary COCO ROs by appointment of regular dealers in a transparent manner.

In terms of the broad guidelines the temporary COCO ROs may first be offered and handed over to pending Letter of Intent (LOI) holders under Special Scheme (Operation Vijay-Kargil) the Kargil allottees, Discretionary Quota Scheme, Corpus Fund Scheme and other categories as prescribed in marketing plans, in the same order. The remaining temporary COCOs, if any, will be converted into regular dealerships in a transparent manner through advertisement and interviews of eligible candidates.

#### **Tuticorin Rail Overbridge**

1334. SHRI M. APPADURAI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the construction work of Tuticorin Overbridge has been stopped/postponed;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;



(c) the steps proposed to be taken to complete the construction of the above over bridge; and

(d) the time by which the construction work is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R.VELU): (a) to (c) No, Sir. Sub-structure is complete. Contract for super-structure work had to be terminated due to poor progress. Now contract has been awarded and work is progressing.

(d) Railway portion of the work is likely to be completed by June, 2007.

#### **Revival Package for BHPV**

1335. SHRI BADIGA RAMAKRISHNA: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of scheme of revival package for Bharat Heavy Plates and Vessels (BHPV);

(b) whether BHEL and EIL have also taken the responsibility to assist BHPV; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF HEAVY INDUSTRY, MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH): (a) to (c) Government of India has been making efforts for revival of Bharat Heavy Plate & Vessels Limited (BHPV) and a package was initially submitted to the Board for Reconstruction of Public Sector Enterprises (BRPSE) on 21.10.2005. Meanwhile, Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL), Engineers India Limited (EIL) and Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL) evinced interest in BHPV and sought permission from the Government for conducting due diligence study of the company, which were granted. These companies are conducting their due diligence studies of BHPV.

The BRPSE considered the proposal for revival of BHPV on 26.05.2006 and directed that a proposal may be submitted to it on receipt of the report of due diligence exercise. Once final due diligence study report is received from these companies, BRPSE will be requested for a recommendation in this regard.

#### **Strengthening of Coast Guards**

1336. SHRI DUSHYANT SINGH: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to strengthen the country's Coast Guards;

(b) if so, the details of weapons and other equipment proposed to be provided to Coast Guards;

(c) whether there is a need to step up aerial and sea surveillance to make the country's coastline more secure; and

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

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY) (a) and (b) Augmenting the strength of Indian Coast Guard is a continuous process being undertaken according to the identified roles that the organization is required to perform. Presently, new assets are being procured to augment the capabilities of Coast Guard.

(c) and (d) The surveillance over the country's coast line and island territories has been augmented by establishing new Coast Guard stations and inducting various kinds of platforms/vessels. Some of the items being acquired include Advance Offshore Patrol vessels, Fast Patrol vessels, helicopters etc.

*[Translation]*

#### **Incidents of Shelling on Borders**

1337. SHRI RAGHURAJ SINGH SHAKYA:  
SHRI BRAJESH PATHAK:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of incidents of shelling on the Indo-Pakistan and Indo-Bangladesh borders occurred during the last six months;

(b) the number of civilians and army personnel killed and injured in these incidents and the loss of property therein;

(c) the quantum of compensation given to the dependents of the affected villagers; and

(d) the action taken or proposed to be taken to protect the life and property of the people living in these border areas?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY):  
(a) to (d) During last six months, there have been no incidents of shelling on the International Border of India with Pakistan. However, on Indo-Bangladesh border, Bangladesh Rifle (BDR) troops resorted to heavy firing and shelling on Border Security Force (BSF), Border Out Posts (BOPs)/Indian Villages on one occasion i.e. on 9th August, 2006. The BSF troops adequately responded to the firing. There was no loss or casualty of BSF personnel. However, two women were reportedly killed and a child critically injured in the incident. BSF has no provision to pay compensation in such cases. Strong protest was lodged with the Bangladesh authorities for firing on Indian civilian houses. Flag meetings were also held between BSF authorities and their counterparts to normalize the situation.

#### **Review of Armed Forces Headquarters Cadre**

1338. SHRI KULDEEP BISHNOI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 37 years have passed after the establishment of Armed Forces Headquarters Cadre but no review has been conducted in respect of this cadre till date,

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government for immediate review and re-fixation of this cadre?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY):  
(a) and (b) No, Sir. A review of Group 'A' posts of the Armed Forces Headquarters Civil services was conducted in 1986.

(c) A Committee was constituted for the restructuring of the Armed Forces Headquarters Civil Service and the Armed Forces Headquarters Clerical Service. The Committee submitted its report in September 2005. The report is under examination. The inter Ministerial consultation is in progress.

*[English]*

#### **Manufacturing of MIG-20 Fighter Aircraft**

1339. SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether India proposes to manufacture MiG-20 fighter aircraft with the help of Russia;

(b) if so, the details of agreement signed with Russia;

(c) the details of production cost of RD-33 MK jet engine in comparison to import cost from Russia; and

(d) the time by which the project is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (RAO INDERJIT SINGH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) No decision has been taken to productionise RD-33 MK engine.

*[Translation]*

#### **Air Services for Bilaspur Chakrabhata**

1340. SHRI PUNNU LAL MOHALE: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government, proposes to introduce air-services for Bilaspur Chakrabhata;

(b) if so, whether any representation has been received by the Government in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) Indian Airlines have no plans to introduce air services to Bilaspur. Further, Bilaspur airport is not operational and there is no firm commitment from any scheduled airline operator to operate through that airport.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) An advocate from Bilaspur, Chhattisgarh had served a notice on behalf of his lady doctor client calling upon this Ministry to increase the number of flights, starting facilities not existing and for ensuring development of Chakrabhata runway within two months.

(d) The Government has laid down route dispersal guidelines with a view to achieve better regulation of air transport services of different regions of the country including North-East region. It is, however upto the airlines to provide air services to specific places depending upon the traffic demand and commercial viability. As such, the airlines are free to operate anywhere in the country subject to compliance of route dispersal guidelines issued by the Government.

#### **Remnants of Ancient Civilization**

1341. SHRI KAILASH NATH SINGH YADAV:  
SHRI SHISHUPAL PATLE:

Will the MINISTER OF CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether remnants of several civilizations has been found in excavation in various parts of the country as reported in *Rahtriya Sahara* dated October 09, 2006;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the names of areas in various States where such remnants of old civilization have been found;

(c) whether the Government has been reported regarding theft of such remnants; and

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

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Remains of Harappan Civilization have been found at Bhirrana (Haryana), Baror and Tarkhanawala Dhera (Rajasthan), Juni Kuran and Dholavira (Gujarat) and Sanauli (Uttar Pradesh) in the recent excavations.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. A broken copper bangle was found missing from the excavated site at Sanauli, district Baghpat (Uttar Pradesh). The Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) has reported the incident to police who are investigating into this.

#### **Commission on setting up of New Airports**

1342. SHRI BAPU HARI CHAURE:  
SHRIMATI BHAVANA PUNDLIKRAO GAWALI:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to adopt a new mechanism for giving approval to new airports in view of requirement of new airports in various parts of the country;

(b) if so, whether the Government proposes to constitute a commission in this regard; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) and (c) Do not arise

*[English]*

#### **Upgradation of Hubli Airport**

1343. SHRI MANJUNATH KUNNUR: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of aircraft are flying to and fro from Hubli Airport;

(b) whether the Government proposes to upgrade the Hubli Airport;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL) (a) At present, Air Deccan operates two flights daily to Hubli.

(b) Yes, Sir,

(c) and (d) State Government of Karnataka has been requested to provide 390 acres of land free of cost and free from all encumbrances for upgradation of runway and associated facilities at this airport. Finalisation and initiation of Development plan is subject to receipt of required land from the State Government and demand

from scheduled airlines to operate higher category aircrafts through this airport.

#### **Litigations in Railways**

1344. SHRI P. KARUNAKARAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways are aware that the progress of a number of railway works has been affected due to litigations;

(b) if so, the reasons for such litigations; and

(c) the action taken by the Railways for quick disposal of such cases ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (c) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

#### **Rail Overbridge between Mangalore to Shornur**

1345. SHRIMATI P. SATHEEDEVI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of rail overbridges between Mangalore to Shornur railway stations where construction work is going on;

(b) whether the Government is aware that the construction of Nandi Railway over-bridge is running behind schedule;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the time by which the said work is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) 10 numbers of road over bridge works have been taken up for construction, out of which 6 already completed and 4 are in progress. In addition remaining 20 numbers are in planning stage.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Work of Nandi Road Over Bridge is being executed by M/s. Roads and Bridges Development Corporation of Kerala (M/s. RBDCK) as a Single Agency. Work is in progress. 1st spsn on approach portion completed, 2nd is in progress. After completion of

approaches, spans work on Railway portion will be taken up by M/s. RBDCK.

(d) The work is likely to be completed by March, 2007.

*[Translation]*

#### **New Advertisement Policy of Railways**

1346. SHRI RAKESH SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways propose to introduce a new advertisement policy to increase its revenue;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether with a view to boost tourism, the Railways propose to earmark some space in these commercial advertisements for propagation of the tourist places situated in different railway zones; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) No, Sir. However, some modifications have been made recently to increase the revenue and now an entire division and train can also be given for bulk advertising rights to a single firm. This scheme is being implemented on a pilot project basis. Zonal Railways have also been advised to exploit areas like tickets, announcements etc. for commercial advertising.

(c) and (d) There is no such proposal. The commercial advertisements, however, can be tourism related.

#### **Construction of airport in Moradabad**

1347. DR. SHAFIQR RAHMAN BARQ: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to construct an airport/airstrip in Moradabad;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) At present there is no such proposal.

*[English]*

**Operation of Small Aircraft to Hilly Regions**

1348. SHRIMATI PRATIBHA SINGH: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government considers to increase the services of small Aircraft (80 seaters) on regular basis in various States of the country particularly in Himachal Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details along with the time by which these services are likely to be operated;

(c) Whether some private operators are not willing to start their services in the hilly regions; and

(d) if so, the action taken/proposed to be taken against such operators?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) In order to encourage operators of small aircraft to regional/smaller airports, Government is offering concessions in airport charges to small aircraft and in parking charges at select airports, reduced taxation on ATF for turboprop aircraft, liberalizing the regulatory regime for employment of foreign pilots/engineers etc. Some of these measures will help in providing connectivity to secondary cities and smaller airports. However, each airline is free to determine its own business plan, routes and tariffs as per its commercial judgement. At present Air Deccan is operating daily scheduled air service on Delhi-Chandigarh-Kullu and return sector with ATR 42 (50 seater) aircraft. In addition, M/s Jagson Airlines Ltd. is also operating on Delhi-Kullu-Delhi, Delhi-Shimla-Delhi and Delhi-Gaggal-Delhi sectors depending upon traffic demand.

(c) and (d) The Government has laid down route dispersal guidelines with a view to achieve better regulation of air transport services taking into account the need for air transport services of different regions of the country including North-East region. It is, however, up to the airlines to provide air services to specific places depending upon the traffic demand and commercial viability. As such, the airlines are free to operate anywhere

in the country subject to compliance of route dispersal guidelines issued by Government.

**Bird Hit Incidents**

1349. SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI:  
SHRI DUSHYANT SINGH :  
SHRI PARSURAM MAJHI:  
SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA:  
SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of bird hit incidents reported during the current year;

(b) whether the Airports Authority of India (AAI) has identified the airports which are most prone to bird hit;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the remedial measures taken or being taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) During the current year and upto the month of October, 2006, 142 bird hit incidents were reported to Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA).

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. The Airports Authority of India (AAI) have identified Ahmedabad, Hyderabad and Vadodara airports as most prone to bird hits.

(d) Airfield Environment Management Committees have been constituted at those airport where scheduled flights operate to identify the sources of bird attraction and take remedial steps for prevention of such incidents. To reduce bird hits inside and outside the airports, AAI, with the help of local authorities have taken steps for proper disposal of garbage, prevention of water logging, coverage of garbage dalaos, establishment of modern abattoirs and scaring/shooting of birds etc.

**Private Companies to Run Passenger Trains**

1350. SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA:  
SHRI N. JANARDHANA REDDY:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased state:

(a) whether the Railways propose to allow private companies to ply passenger trains and to construct their own locomotives, coaches and tracks;

(b) if so, the details of the plan and its impact on Railways run trains;

(c) whether any comprehensive study has been made to assess the workability of the plan;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) There is no such plan at present.

(b) to (e) Do not arise.

*[Translation]*

#### **Rail Coach Factories**

1351. SHRI RAJNARAYAN BUDHOLIA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Rail Coach Factories in the country have not been able to manufacture coaches as per the demand;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the number of coaches manufactured by each rail coach factory during each of the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) Production Units have generally been exceeding their targets set by the Ministry of Railways, based on Plan forecasts. However, a shortage of Coaches is now anticipated due to recent spurt in traffic demand.

(c) The number of coaches manufactured by rail coach factories during the last three years are as under:

Year	ICF (Integral Coach Factory)	RCF (Rail Coach Factory)
2003-04	1070	1201
2004-05	1119	1201
2005-06	1175	1263

*[English]*

#### **Replacement of Rail Engines**

1352. SHRI A. SAI PRATHAP:  
SARDAR SUKHDEV SINGH LIBRA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of rail engines which have outlived their life; and

(b) the steps taken by the Railways to replace them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) The position of overaged diesel locos as on 31.03.2006 is as under:

Broad Gauge	Metre Gauge	Narrow Gauge
260	119	03

Electrical locos – NIL

(b) Replacement of overaged locomotives is planned on year-to-year basis through Rolling Stock Programme. However, it is clarified that codal life is only indicative and actual condemnation is done on the basis of age cum condition of locos. Railways make sure that even locos running after achieving their codal life are kept in good mechanical fettle. Safety of train operation is not compromised under any circumstances.

#### **Cess Paid by ONGC to OI&D**

1353: SHRI P.S.GADHAVI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) total amount of cess paid by Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) to Oil Industry Development Board during last three years;

(b) the purpose for which Oil Industry Development Board utilize the said cess amount; and

(c) the extent to which the Board has succeeded in achieving the target?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL) (a) ONGC pays cess to the Central Government. It has paid Rs. 11941.53 crore cess to Central Government in the years 2003-04 to 2005-06.

(b) to (c) Central Government has not allocated any cess amount to Oil Industry Development Board (OIDB) during the above period. OIDB provides funds for organizations engaged in development programmes of oil industry for securing self-reliance in petroleum.

*[Translation]*

#### **Electronic Identity Cards to Passengers**

1354. SHRI VIJAY KUMAR KHANDELWAL: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is considering to issue electronic identity cards to the passengers of domestic flights for security purpose;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

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

(b) & (c) Do not arise.

#### **Earnings of AI**

1355. SHRI BRAJESH PATHAK: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of international flights operated by the Air India (AI) during the last one year;

(b) the details of the revenue earned annually by the AI from its flights to those countries, country-wise; and

(c) the details of the annual expenditure incurred by the AI through operation of those flights?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL) (a) During the last one year, Air India had operated a total of 9184 international flights.

(b) The information is being collected.

(c) The operating expenses incurred by Air India during 2005-06 was Rs. 9233.30 crores.

*[English]*

#### **Training to SCs/STs and OBCs**

1356. SHRI K.S. RAO: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the commitment made in the draft on its 'code of conduct' prepared by the industry in confirmation of their commitments made to the Prime Minister regarding opportunities to be provided to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes;

(b) the nature and extent of training provided by the industry to SCs & STs for entrepreneurship and skill enhancement;

(c) whether the Government proposes to regulate the internal audit of human resources in industrial units and encourage the industry to expand its training programme to all the States and UTs for the benefit of SCs, STs and OBCs; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) to (d) two Associations of Industries have circulated a code of conduct on affirmative action to their members. A Co-ordination Committee has been constituted on 9 October 2006 under the Chairmanship of Principal Secretary to Prime Minister to take forward and supplement the ongoing endeavours in order to ensure a fruitful national dialogue leading to a time-bound action programme.

#### **Development of Mysore Airport**

1357. SHRI C.H. VIJAYASHANKAR: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the present status of the Mysore Airport Development project; and

(b) the time by which work at the said airport is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL) : (a) and (b) Airports Authority of India (AAI) has taken up works relating to development, of infrastructure facilities at Mysore airport at an estimated cost of Rs. 69.3 crores.

Tender process has been initiated and the work is likely to be awarded by December, 2006. The work is expected to be completed within two years.

[Translation]

#### Railway Reservation Counter at Parshvanath

1358. SHRI TEK LAL MAHTO: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Railway Reservation Counter at Parshvanath railway station on Delhi-Gaya-Gome railway line has been set up by Railways;

(b) if so, the total number of full-time and part-time employees/officers posted in this office alongwith their daily working hours; and

(c) the steps being taken by the Railways to augment/enhance the reservation facilities at this famous Jain pilgrimage keeping in view the difficulties faced by the pilgrims?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Yes, Sir. Computerised Passenger Reservation Centre is functional at Parshvanath(Parasnath) railway station.

(b) At Parasnath, one computerised reservation counter is in operation from 0800 hours to 1400 hours daily (except Sunday). One Enquiry and Reservation Clerk is posted at this center.

(c) To augment/entrance the reservation facilities and for facilitating Jain pilgrimage, railway has opened computerised Passenger Reservation System (PRS) at Madhuban which is in close proximity of the place of Jain pilgrimage.

[English]

#### Terminal Facilities

1359. SHRI B. MAHTAB: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased state:

(a) whether the terminal facilities available in various zones is far from satisfactory;

(b) if so, whether the Government proposes to enhance the terminal facilities in some zones; and

(c) if so, the details thereof, zone-wise?

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

(b) Improvement to existing terminals for better handling of passengers and freight is being planned on a continuous basis. Proposals for enhancing the terminal facilities get appraised and sanctioned in the Works Programme on need basis.

(c) The details of works sanctioned in 2006-07 Pink Book (already presented in the Lok Sabha with the Railway Budget) are as under.

Zonal Railway	Number of Works	Estimated Cost (Rs. in Crore)	Total Outlay for 2006-07 (Rs. in Crore)
1	2	3	4
Central Railway	9	188.7946	12.7416
Eastern Railway	37	225.2424	32.4645
East Central Railway	16	47.8350	14.6928
East Coast Railway	17	53.7524	15.8826
Northern Railway	28	297.8588	20.5131
North Central Railway	5	10.0188	2.9593
North Eastern Railway	6	100.2635	8.5535
Northeast Frontier Railway	11	42.1155	14.8804



1	2	3	4
North Western Railway	3	21.1200	2.2000
Southern Railway	14	86.9635	8.1254
South Central Railway	9	58.4597	10.7020
South Eastern Railway	10	41.9801	15.8216
South East Central Railway	9	18.7609	7.8562
South Western Railway	4	28.0553	2.8994
Western Railway	12	114.7695	8.6783
West Central Railway	10	21.4861	8.4022

### Rajkot Airport

1360. DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Airports Authority of India (AAI) proposes to acquire land from railway authority for the upgradation of Rajkot Airport;

(b) if so, whether the railway authority has agreed to give land to the AAI;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the time by which the AAI proposed to complete the work of upgradation at Rajkot Airport?

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

(b) and (c) Airports Authority of India (AAI) has sent a proposal to Railway Authorities; for transfer of 14.7 hectares of Railway land for extension of runway. AAI and Railway Authorities are negotiating the cost of land.

(d) Commencement of upgradation work is subject to handing over of the required land by Railway Authorities to AAI and diversion of Rajkot-Jamnagar Highway by the State Government.

### Jobs on Compassionate Grounds

1361. SHRI CHENGARA SURENDRAN: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to provide jobs to the family members of the Army personnel killed in the recent earthquake in Jammu and Kashmir on compassionate grounds;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the jobs are likely to be provided by the Government?

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

(a) to (c) As per the existing policy 5% of Group 'C' & 'D' direct recruitment vacancies approved by Screening Committee are available to be filled through compassionate appointment of dependents of both civilian and service personnel who die while in service.

All requests for compassionate appointment including those from the family members of Army personnel killed in the recent earthquake in Jammu and Kashmir are considered subject to the fulfilment of the following conditions:

- (i) The family is indigent & deserves immediate assistance for relief from financial destitution.
- (ii) Regular vacancies for the purpose are available.
- (iii) The candidate possesses essential educational and technical qualifications and experience required for the post.
- (iv) Compassionate appointment is ordinarily not granted after a lapse of three years.

**Construction of Bridges in Gujarat**

1362. SHRI VIKRAMBHAI ARJANBHAI MADAM: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of road over bridges and under bridges constructed during the last three years in Gujarat; and

(b) the number of road over bridges and under bridges proposed to be taken up for construction during the current year and next year in the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) One Road Under Bridge in lieu of Level Crossing No. 11 between Sabarmati and Gandhidham has been completed in 2004-05, during the last three years period.

(b) One work of Road Over Bridge (ROB) will be taken up for construction during 2006-07 and 7 works in the next year.

*[Translation]*

**CNG Filling Stations in Delhi**

1363. CH. MUNAWAR HASSAN:  
SHRI BRAJESH PATHAK:

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

(a) the number of Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) filling stations in Delhi;

(b) whether the Government is aware that there are long queues at the filling stations and the vehicles have to wait for hours for filling of CNG;

(c) whether the Government has received requests for providing CNG facility at various places in Delhi;

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

(e) whether the Government would consider to set up more CNG filling stations in Delhi; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and the time by which these are likely to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL): (a) There are 144 CNG filling stations in Delhi.

(b) Indraprastha Gas Limited (IGL) and Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) have been providing comfortable CNG fuelling all over Delhi. However, the queue formation is generally observed during peak office hours in morning and evening for the non-bus segment and during night for the bus segment. This is due to a recent increase in the number of CNG vehicles, as also the customers preferring a certain time to get the vehicles filled.

(c) and (d) No, specific request has been received.

(e) and (f) An action plan for setting up additional CNG stations has been launched by IGL. The company has requested Delhi Development Authority (DDA), Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD), Land & Development Office (L&DO) and Airports Authority of India (AAI) for additional land for this purpose and the number of proposals pending with these agencies are 29, 5, 4 and 1 respectively.

Normally, installation of a new CNG station takes about 8 to 9 months after the land is allotted and its possession is taken. However, in the intervening period, IGL is making efforts to overcome the problem of overcrowding to some extent by enhancing the existing infrastructure and adding new OMC outlets.

**Compensation to Mumbai Train Bomb Blasts Victims**

1364. SHRI VIJOY KRISHNA:  
SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways had made any announcement for giving compensation to the victims of Mumbai train bomb blast;

(b) if so, whether the compensation as announced by the Railways has been disbursed to the victims and their families;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor along with the number of persons who have not been received any compensation so far; and

(e) the steps taken by the Railways for disbursement of compensation to them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Provision already *exists* in the Railways Act, 1989 for Railways to pay compensation to passengers who become victims of train accidents or other untoward incidents such as bomb blasts. Maximum amount payable as compensation is as follows.

Death:	Rs. 4 lakhs
Injury:	Rs. 32,000 to Rs. 4 lakhs (depending upon the gravity of injury)

(b) to (d) Compensation is paid only after a decree is awarded on a claim filed in the Railway Claims Tribunal by the victims or by dependents of the deceased passengers. Upto 23.11.2006, 272 compensation claims have been filed. No claim has so far been decreed by the Tribunal. However, Railways have disbursed ex-gratia at enhanced rates, the details of which are as follows:

Classification	No. of cases	No. of cases in which ex-gratia paid	Rate of ex-gratia	Amount paid (Rs. in crores)	No. of cases pending	Reason for delay
Death	187	186	Rs. 5 lakhs	9.30	1	Body unidentified
Grievous injury	540	531	Rs. 50,000	2.65	9	Addresses of the injured not available.
Simple injury	327	315	Rs. 10,000	0.315	12	-do-
<b>Total</b>	<b>1054</b>	<b>1032</b>	—	<b>12.265</b>	<b>22</b>	

(e) Following steps have been taken by the Railway to ensure expeditious settlement of claims:

- (i) Claims application forms have been distributed to the claimants and necessary assistance is being provided for filing claims in Railway Claims Tribunal.
- (ii) Booths for giving guidance to the claimants were opened at several stations like Borivill, Matunga Road, Mahim, Jogeshwari, etc.
- (iii) A Special Bench has been set up at Mumbai to deal exclusively with compensation cases of Mumbai serial bomb blasts.
- (iv) Railways have been advised to ensure that cheques are issued and dispatched to the claimants within a period of 15 days of the receipt of decree.

[English]

#### Statutory dues of Employees of PSUs

1365. SHRI K.C. PALLANI SHAMY: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the pending wages/bonus to employees of many of the Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) has not been released by the Government so far;

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

(c) whether the Government proposes to set up Index Review Committee to compensate them adequately;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government for payment of statutory dues to the employees of PSUs?

THE MINISTER OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) and (b) Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs) are expected to pay the wages and salaries to their employees regularly out of their own resources. Government, however, sometimes provides financial assistance by way of non-plan loan to certain CPSEs to supplement their efforts for payments of wages/salaries when they are unable to generate enough resources.

(c) and (d) The Government *vide* order dated 17.11.2006 has constituted an Index Review Committee, a non-statutory body to advise the Government on matter arising out of issues pertaining to Consumer Price Index

Number for Industrial Workers (CPI-IW), New Series (Base 2001).

(e) As per available information, during the last 3 years Government sanctioned Rs. 2024.50 crore for payment of salaries and wages and outstanding statutory dues to 35 CPSEs having 81978 employees.

#### Competition of IA with Private Airlines

1366. SHRI KASHIRAM RANA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of private operators operating on Indian skies at present;

(b) the total revenue earned by the Government during the last three years from private operators;

(c) whether the Indian Airlines is losing passengers due to private operators; and

(d) if so, the steps to augment Indian Airlines to attract more passengers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) At present, there are 9 private scheduled airlines operating in the country including one cargo airline.

(b) The information is being collected.

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

*[Translation]*

#### Lack of Platforms between Delhi to Saharanpur

1367. SHRI RASHEED MASOOD: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there are no platforms at most of the railway stations falling on the route between Delhi to Saharanpur *via* Shamali; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the measures being taken for constructing the platforms?

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

(b) Does not arise.

*[English]*

#### List of Denotified Tribes, Nomadic and Semi-Nomadic Tribes

1368. SHRI HARIBHAU RATHOD: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be please to state:

(a) whether the Government has declared or finalized any list of Denotified Tribes, Nomadic and Semi Nomadic Tribes community so far;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has taken up the matter for special budget provision for Denotified, Nomadic and Semi Nomadic Tribes in Eleventh Five Year Plan; and

(d) If so, the details thereof?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

**Notice to Railway by Pollution Control Board**

1369. SHRI SHRI NIWAS DADASAHEB PATIL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Maharashtra Pollution Control Board has served show cause notices to the General Managers of Central and Western Railways for their failure to keep main line and suburban stations clean; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government to keep the stations and mainline clean in Mumbai?

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

(b) In order to keep the stations and mainline clean in Mumbai, various steps have been taken like provision of waste collection bins to enable proper disposal of waste to nearest identified waste collection locations, regular announcements through Public Address System to educate the commuters, awarding of rag picking contracts at major stations, cleaning of railway tracks by machines along with special gang of safaiwalas, etc. Washable aprons are also being provided at important stations in a phased manner. Besides, regular inspections are being conducted by the railway officials to monitor and identify weak areas and take remedial measures as and when required.

[Translation]

**Promotion of Culture in Maharashtra**

1370. SHRI TUKARAM GANPAT RAO RENGE PATIL: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has taken any measures to protect and to promote the culture in Maharashtra:

(b) if so, the details thereof and the amount spent on it during the last three years; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(b) and (c) Some of the important measures taken, *inter-alia*, are as follows:-

Maharashtra is a participating State in the West Zone Cultural Centre and South Central Zone Cultural Centre.

Both these ZCCs organize a number of programmes regularly which, *inter-alia*, include programmes to protect the folk dance and music traditions of Maharashtra.

There are 285 centrally protected monuments under the jurisdiction of Archaeological Survey of India in the State of Maharashtra.

During the last three years, following expenditure has been incurred on the centrally protected monuments in Maharashtra:

Year	Amount Spent (Rupees in lakhs)
2003-04	536.53
2004-05	448.04
2005-06	516.25

A Scheme for financial assistance for "Promotion and Strengthening of Regional and Local Museums" is also operated. The grant released to the State of Maharashtra under this Scheme for the last three years is as under:

Year	Amount Spent (Rupees in lakhs)
2003-04	11.65
2004-05	16.23
2005-06	25.85

Raja Rammohun Roy Library Foundation renders assistance to promote the public library movement and service in Maharashtra. Details of amount spent on it during last three years are as under:

Year	Amount Spent (Rupees in lakhs)
2003-04	91.30
2004-05	193.89
2005-06	203.43

Steps have been initiated to set up an Multipurpose Cultural Complex at Nanded, Maharashtra.

Release of assistance under various other Schemes of the Ministry is also considered on the basis of proposals received from the State from time to time.

**Inclusion of Cities in UNESCO Eco-City Project**

1371. SHRI KULDEEP BISHNOI: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has proposed some cities of the country to be included in the Eco-City project of UNESCO.

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

(c) the further action taken by the Government for inclusion of these cities in the said Eco-City project?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) to (c) The Ministry of Culture and the Archaeological Survey of India do not have any Eco-City project of UNESCO. However, the Ministry of Environment and Forests is implementing the Eco-City project which is not related to UNESCO. During the 10th Five Year Plan, the Ministry of Environment and Forests has taken up the Eco-City Project in six selected small and medium towns listed below.

1. Vrindavan (Uttar Pradesh)
2. Ujjain (Madhya Pradesh)
3. Puri (Orissa)
4. Tirupati (Andhra Pradesh)
5. Thanjavur (Tamil Nadu)
6. Kottayam (Kerala).

The overall objective of the Eco-City Project is identification of the environmental problems through participatory approach, designing and detailing the prioritised environmental project and creation of environmental landmarks that show visible environmental improvement in the selected cities and towns. The project is being implemented with a total budget of about Rs. 15 crores.

*[English]*

**Concrete Sleeper Plants**

1372. SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Railways propose to set up 15 new concrete sleeper plants;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any concrete sleeper plant is proposed to be set up in Karnataka;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the time by which such work is likely to be completed?

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

(b) The locations identified for setting up Concrete Sleeper Plants in the country are as under:

- (i) Chak Sikandar (East Central Railway)
- (ii) Dauram Madhepura (East Central Railway)
- (iii) Wena (East Central Railway)
- (iv) Sitamarhi (East Central Railway)
- (v) Roza (Northern Railway)
- (vi) Sultanpur (Northern Railway)
- (vii) Dhillwan (Northern Railway)
- (viii) Kathua (Northern Railway)
- (ix) Aunrihar (North Eastern Railway)
- (x) Bhangra (North East Frontier Railway)
- (xi) Palghat (Southern Railway)
- (xii) Bitragunta (South Central Railway)
- (xiii) Harihar (South Western Railway)
- (xiv) Mandagere (South Western Railway)
- (xv) Yelahanka (South Western Railway)

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Three Concrete Sleeper Plants have been approved to be set up at the following locations in Karnataka.

- (i) Harihar (South Western Railway)

(ii) Mandagere (South Western Railway)

(iii) Yelahanka (South Western Railway).

(e) As per tender conditions 18 months time will be allowed for setting up the new sleeper plant after the necessary order is placed. The tender for setting up 13 plants, are in advance stage of finalization and work is in progress in 2 plants viz. Chak Sikandar and Dauram Madhepura.

#### Visa on Arrival Scheme

1373. SHRI S. K. KHARVENTHAN: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has proposed any scheme 'Visa on Arrival' for the growth of tourism in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Ministry of Tourism had mooted a proposal regarding Visa

on Arrival Scheme for select countries. The Ministry of Home Affairs has not agreed to this scheme due to the prevalent security scenario.

(c) Does not arise.

#### Railway Projects under Rail Vikas Nigam Ltd.

1374. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the list of the ongoing projects under Rail Vikas Nigam Ltd.;

(b) the estimated cost of those projects (project-wise) and the allocation of fund made for those projects as on date;

(c) whether the Government is taking steps to complete those projects within the target dates;

(d) if so, the details of the target date set; and

(e) the progress of each project as on date ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (e) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

#### Statement

*Details of ongoing projects is as under*

Sl.No.	Name of the project and Plan Head	Anticipated Cost (Rs. in crore)	Expenditure upto March, 2006 (Rs. in Crore)	Outlay 2006-07 (Rs. in Crore)	Status and target wherever fixed
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Panvel-Jasai-JNPT Doubling	53.25	22.62	8	Completed.
2.	Diva Kalyan doubling of 5-6 line Doubling	70	48.7	5.5	Earthwork, blanketing, minor bridges, tracklinking, ballast supply taken up. Overall physical progress 74%. Target: 2006-07.
3.	Pakni-Solapur Doubling	38.52	7.01	20.5	Earthwork, minor bridges, major bridges, blanketing, ballast supply, tracklinking taken up. Overall physical

1	2	3	4	5	6
					progress 95%. Likely to be completed during 2007-08.
4.	Pakni-Mahol Doubling	42.73	10.08	30.01	Earthwork, blanketing, minor bridges and ballast supply taken up. Overall physical progress 25%. Target: 2007-08.
5.	Barauni-Tilrath Doubling	15.37	12.52	2.36	Work has been completed from Barauni to Tilrath except bypass line at Barauni for which land acquisition has been taken up.
6.	Gurap-Shaktigarh 3rd line	54.14	71.91	0.5	Completed and commissioned.
7.	Aligarh-Ghaziabad 3rd line	230.73	65	85.5	Land acquisition is in progress. Earthwork taken up. Target: 2008-09.
8.	Palwal-Bhuteshwar 3rd line	214.68	0.01	150	Earthwork and bridges, etc. taken up. Target: 2008-09.
9.	Tughlakabad-Palwal 4th line	83	0	10	Preliminary works have been taken up including drawings, designs, etc.
10.	New Delhi-Tilak Bridge 5th & 6th line	53.14	22.01	14.5	Earthwork, minor bridges and platform retaining wall taken up. Overall physical progress 58%. 6th Line (3.4 kms) is targeted for completion during 2006-07.
11.	Delhi-Rewari 2nd line Gauge Conversion	143.88	100	40	Completed.
12.	Ajmer-Phulera-Ringus-Rewari Gauge Conversion	469.1	0.01	270	Earthwork, blanketing, ballast supply taken up. Target: 2007-08.
13.	Bhildi-Samdari Gauge Conversion	244.74	8.72	115	Earthwork, minor bridges, major bridges taken up. Overall physical progress 30%. Target: 2007-08.
14.	Renigunta-Guntakal Railway Electrification	182.55	75.78	7	Railway Electrification work completed on existing lines between Renigunta and



1	2	3	4	5	6
					Nandalur. Overall physical progress 38.73%. Preliminary works on Nandalur-Guntakal have been taken up.
15.	Obulavaripalle-Krishnapatnam New Line	426.34	0	10	An MoU signed among Krishnapatnam Port, Govt. of Andhra Pradesh, National Mineral Development Corporation and RVNL for creation of SPV for execution of the project. Shareholders' Agreement signed on 13.10.06. Final Location Survey completed. Proposal for acquisition of land submitted to concerned authorities. Target: 2010-11.
16.	Raichur-Guntakal Doubling	145.81	0	57	The project is being executed by through Asian Development Bank (ADB) funding. Final Location Survey completed. Land acquisition taken up. Tenders have been processed. The project is targeted for completion by 2007-08.
17.	Balapalle-Pullampet Phase-1 of Gooty-Renigunta Doubling	85	84.02	1	Completed and commissioned.
18.	Gooty-Renigunta-Patch doubling	305.95	38.2	68.4	The work is being executed through ADB funding. On Pullampet-Bakarapet earthwork, major bridges, minor bridges taken up. On Cuddapah-Muddanuru and Kondapuram-Rayalacheruvu contract for roadbed, bridges and tracks awarded on 07.07.06. Signaling contract awarded on 30.06.06. The work has been taken up. The project is targeted for completion by 2008-09.

1	2	3	4	5	6
19.	Hospet-Guntakal Doubling	268.23	210.37	60	Guntakal - Tornagallu (81 Kms) completed and commissioned. Torangullu-Hospet (32Kms) is targeted for completion during 2006-07.
20.	Bilaspur-Urkura Doubling	375.42	138.62	28.5	Dagori-Bhatapara section commissioned. Bhatapara-Urkura section is being executed through ADB funding. Contract awarded for formation works. Target: 2008-09.
21.	Thanjavur-Villupuram Gauge Conversion	231	94.3	100	Thanjavur-Kumbakonam and Kumbakonam-Mailadurai commissioned. Works on balance section taken up. Likely to be completed during 2007-08.
22.	Cuddalore-Salem <i>via</i> Vriddhachalam Gauge Conversion	469.1	0.01	80	The work is being done on cost sharing basis with State Govt. (50.50) and being executed by RVNL. Vriddhachalam-Cuddalore (57km) section completed and commissioned. Overall progress 50%. Vriddhachalam-Salem is targeted for completion during 2006-07.
23.	Attipattu-Korukkupettai 3rd line	70.56	37.55	21	Work on Korukkupet-Ennore (6kms) section is in advanced stages and targeted for completion during 2006-07. Earthwork, bridgework and Ennore-Creek bridge in progress on Ennore-Attipattu.
24.	Pattabiram-Tiruvallur 4th line & tiruvallur-Araskkonam 3rd line	71.94	36.9	28.5	Pattabiram-Thiruvallur (16Kms) 4th line has been commissioned. The work of Tiruvallur-Arakkonam 3rd line has been taken up and construction contract awarded. Target: 2007-08.

1	2	3	4	5	6
25.	Arasikere-Hassan-Mangalore Gauge Conversion	417.45	326	0.01	Completed and commissioned.
26.	Gandhidham-Palanpur Gauge Conversion	344.62	226.95	65	Completed and commissioned.
27.	Bharuch-Samni-Dhej Gauge Conversion	165.66	0	10	Final Location Survey (FLS) completed. The project is to be executed through a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) which is under finalization.
28.	Daitari-Banspani New Line	913.87	583.48	155.85	The section from Banspani to Keonjhar (57.44 kms) has been completed and commissioned. The works on Keonjhar-Tomka are in advanced stages. Target: 2006-07.
29.	Talcher-Cuttack-Paradeep (2nd Bridges on Mahanadi & Birupa) Doubling	109.45	21.06	39.9	2nd bridge on Birupa completed and 2nd bridge on Mahanadi River is in progress. Earthwork, concreting, well sinking and structural steel work in girders taken up. Overall physical progress 32%. Target: 2008-09.
30.	Khurda Road-Barang 3rd line	200.28	0.11	46.6	Final Location Survey completed. Contract awarded for roadbed, major bridges, track and OHE. Target 2008-09.
31.	Cuttack-Barang Doubling	127.13	0	40.15	Final Location Survey completed. Contract awarded for roadbed, major bridges, track and OHE. Target: 2008-09.
32.	Angul-Sukinda Road New Line	344	0.88	20	Preliminary works have been taken up.
33.	Rajatgarh-Barang Doubling	178.98	1.36	72.7	Land acquisition taken up. Contract awarded for roadbed, major bridges, track and OHE. One major bridge completed. Target: 2008-09.

1	2	3	4	5	6
34.	Haridaspur-Paradeep New Line	594.34	29.51	44	The work is being executed by Haridaspur-Paradeep Railway Company Limited (HPRCL), an SPV created by RVNL. Shareholders' Agreement signed on 11.10.06. The work on long lead item of Mahanadi and Luna bridge is already in progress.
35.	Kharagpur-Bhubaneswar including Talcher-Paradeep Railway Electrification	406.51	359.85	35	Completed except Cuttack-Paradeep.
36.	Tikiapara-Santragachi 4th line	46.79	7.51	22.5	Earthwork, bridgeworks taken up. Likely to be completed during 2007-08.
37.	Bhubaneswar-Kottavalasa Railway Electrification	322.71	288.97	4	Completed and commissioned.
38.	Panskura-Haldia PH-I Doubling	35.02	28.68	0.5	Completed and commissioned.
39.	Salka Road-Annupur doubling with flyover at Bilaspur	319	0	11	The work has been transferred recently to RVNL for execution.

Steps have been to complete the projects within the targets wherever fixed.

#### **New Railway Line In Punjab**

1375. SHRI AVINASH RAI KHANNA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Hoshiarpur (Punjab) which is gateway to Himachal Pradesh has remained backward due to no direct rail link between Hoshiarpur and other parts of the country;

(b) if so, whether the Railways are planning to extend, railway line from Hoshiarpur to Phagwara or Jajjon Doaba or Tanda;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Hoshiarpur is connected with a Broad Gauge line to Jalandhar Cantonment which is located on the main trunk route of Delhi-Jammu Tawi.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

#### **Goanywhere Oyster Card**

1376. SHRI MILIND DEORA: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that the Mayor of London has announced a new scheme by which the Goanywhere Oyster Card will be put up for sale in India in rupees enabling tourists and others to save on foreign exchange;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government also proposes to introduce a scheme on similar lines to attract foreign tourists to India; and

(d) if so, the time by which a final decision in this regard is likely to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Transport for London (TfL) in partnership with Visit Britain Tourism Organisation has introduced an electronic smart card, which enables tourists to travel in the underground or buses in London.

(c) and (d) No, Sir.

#### **Retail Outlet Dealership by IBP**

1377. SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the retail outlet dealerships were appointed by IBP Company Ltd. on the basis of its policy dated October 08, 2002 during the year 2002-2003, State-wise;

(b) whether the Government has decided to terminate all the above mentioned appointments;

(c) if not, whether all the cases of award of dealerships conducted by all the four oil companies specially by IBP for this category have been honoured by the Government; and

(d) if not, the action taken/proposed to be taken by the Government on this issue?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL): (a) A total number of 307 (three hundred & seven) retail outlet dealerships were appointed by IBP Co. Ltd. during the year 2002-03 on the basis of its policy dated 8-10-2002. The State-wise details are given in the Statement enclosed.

(b) to (d) After dismantling of the Administered Pricing Mechanism in the petroleum sector with effect from 1.4.2002, the Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) have been given commercial freedom to frame their own guidelines for selection/termination of dealers / distributors based on certain basic parameters framed by the Government. However, if any complaint against violation of these guidelines is received by the Government, the same is examined as per extant procedure/guidelines in the matter.

#### **Statement**

*State-wise details of Retail Outlet dealerships appointed by IBP Co. Limited during the year 2002-03*

S.No.	States/Union Territories	No. of ROs allotted during 2002-03
<b>A. States</b>		
1.	Andhra Pradesh	48
2.	Bihar	20
3.	Gujarat	30
4.	Haryana	34
5.	Himachal Pradesh	01
6.	Jharkhand	04
7.	Karnataka	13
8.	Kerala	20
9.	Madhya Pradesh	12
10.	Maharashtra	19
11.	Meghalaya	01
12.	Orissa	01
13.	Punjab	14
14.	Rajasthan	06
15.	Tamil Nadu	18
16.	Uttaranchal	04
17.	Uttar Pradesh	49
18.	West Bengal	10
Total (A)		304
<b>B. Union Territories</b>		
19.	Delhi	02
20.	Pondicherry	01
Total (B)		03
Grand Total (A+B)		307

**Medical Tourism**

1378. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI:  
SHRI NAVEEN JINDAL:

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the medical tourism is growing rapidly in India;
- (b) if so, the rate of growth during the last three years;
- (c) the measures initiated by his Ministry to promote medical tourism;
- (d) the disciplines which attract the largest number of people for treatment from abroad; and
- (e) the foreign exchange earned through medical tourism during each of the last three years?

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

(b) The Ministry of Tourism does not collect separate information for medical tourists visiting India.

(c) To attract more foreign tourist to the country the Ministry of Tourism in collaboration with the Ministry of Health has already taken the following measures to promote Medical Tourism:

- (i) Indian Healthcare Federation, a Non-Governmental Organisation affiliated to the Confederation of Indian Industry, on advice by Government, has prepared a guide on select Indian hospitals of the country for health tourism purposes. It has been placed on Ministry's website [www.incredibleindia.org](http://www.incredibleindia.org) for wider publicity.
- (ii) Brochure, CDs and other publicity materials to promote Medical and health tourism have been produced by the Ministry of Tourism and have been widely circulated for publicity in target markets.
- (iii) Medical and health tourism has been specifically promoted at various international platforms such as World Travel Mart, London, ITB, Berlin.

- (iv) A new category of 'Medical Visa' has been introduced, which can be given for specific purpose to foreign tourist coming to India for medical treatment.
- (v) Guidelines for accreditation of Ayurvedic and Panchkarma Centres have been circulated to all State Governments for implementation. These have been placed on the Ministry of Tourism's website [www.incredibleindia.org](http://www.incredibleindia.org) for wider publicity.
- (vi) Yoga/Ayurveda/Wellness has been promoted over the last two years in the print, electronic, internet and outdoor medium under the Ministry of Tourism's Incredible "India Campaign".
- (vii) Brochures & CDs on Body, Mind and Soul covering the traditional system of medicine have been produced and circulated extensively by the Ministry of Tourism.

(d) and (e) The Ministry of Tourism does not collect information separately about foreign exchange earned through visits of medical tourists.

*[Translation]*

**Rail Link with Asian Countries**

1379. SHRI MOHD. TAHIR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased state:

- (a) whether the Railways have received proposals of railway link routes from certain Asian countries during the last three years and the current year;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the action taken or being taken by the Railways thereon;
- (d) whether any negotiations are going on with any Asian country for establishment of rail links; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (c) Surveys have been taken up for providing rail connectivity in 5 locations each in border areas of Nepal and Bhutan.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

*[English]***Multi-Purpose Travel Cards**

1380. SHRI DALPAT SINGH PARSTE:  
SHRI REWATI RAMAN SINGH:  
SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways are planning to introduce multi-purpose travel cards as reported in 'The Times of India' dated October 23, 2006;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Railways have examined the financial feasibility of the project;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (e) A proposal has been received from Central Railway for implementation of a scheme of issuing smart card which will be valid for travel in suburban trains as well as BEST (local buses in Mumbai area). The proposal is at preliminary stage of examination.

*[Translation]***Setting up of Independent Investigation Agency**

1381. SHRI BHUVANESHWAR PRASAD MEHTA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to set up an independent investigation agency at various airports;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which it is likely to be set up?

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

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

**In-Flight Services in IA**

1382. SHRI ANANT GUDHE: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the contracts given by the Indian Airlines (IA) for providing, in-flight facilities to the air passengers during the last three years:

(b) the total expenditure incurred in this regard during the above period;

(c) whether the Government has received letter of Expression of Interest from some other contractors/suppliers for providing in-flight services to the passengers;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) During the last three years, Indian Airlines has awarded contracts to M/s. Ambassador Sky Chef (Delhi, Mumbai), M/s. Taj Air Caterers (Delhi, Chennai), M/s. Chefair Flight Kitchen (Delhi), M/s. Pradeep Hotel (Varanasi), M/s. Hotel Pradeep (Lucknow), M/s. Hotel Royal Castle (Amritsar), M/s. Airport Restaurant (Jammu, Patna, Nagpur), Muthoot Sky Chef (Thiruvananthapuram), Jenney's Residency (Trichirapalli), Malabar caterers (Calicut), LSG Sky Chef (Bangalore, Hyderabad, Kuala Lumpur), Grand Ashok (Bangalore), Casino Hotel (Cochin), The Manohar (Hyderabad), M/s. Taj Sats (Kolkata, Mumbai), MBD Hotels (Kolkata), M/s. Hotel Prachi Resorts (Bhubaneswar), M/s. Hotel Paradise Restaurant (Guwahati), M/s. Airchef Pvt. Ltd. (Guwahati), M/s. Annapurna Cafeteria (Port Blair), M/s. Sky Gourmet (Mumbai), M/s. Airport Plaza (Goa), M/s. Deccan Park (Pune), M/s. Cama Park Plaza (Ahmedabad), M/s. P.K. Hospitality (Ahmedabad), M/s. Soaltee Crown Plaza (Kathmandu), Kuwait Aviation Service (Kuwait), Oman Aviation Service (Muscat), Bahrain Aviation Service (Bahrain), Albeit Abella (Sharjah), Emirates Flight Catering Company (Dubai), SATS (Singapore), Thai Airways International Public Company (Bangkok) for providing in-flight facilities to the air passengers. The total expenditure incurred on in flight food services and other pax amenities during the last three years was approximately Rs. 470 crores.

(c) No, Sir,

(d) and (e) Does not arise.

**Revival of Closed PSUs**

1383. SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR:

SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN :

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

(a) the numbers of public undertakings/enterprises in the country;

(b) whether the Government has closed any enterprises/undertaking out of them during the last few years;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government proposes to revive the closed undertaking/enterprises;

(e) if so, the details of the plan formulated by the Government in this regard; and

(f) the details of the closed PSUs whose properties have been sold by the Government during the same period?

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

(a) As per Public Enterprises Survey 2004-05, there were 227 operational Central Public Enterprises (CPSEs) as on 31.3.2005.

(b) and (c) As per available information the details of CPSEs closed during the last three years i.e. in 2002-03, 2003-04 and 2004-05 are given in the Statement enclosed.

(d) and (e) As per National Common Minimum Programme (NCMP) of Government, while every effort will be made to modernise and restructure sick public sector companies and revive sick units, chronically loss-making companies will either be sold-off or closed after all workers have got their legitimate dues and compensation. Government has constituted a Board for Reconstruction of Public Sector Enterprises (BRPSE) in December, 2004 to undertake task of strengthening, modernizing, reviving, and restructuring of public sector enterprises. The concerned administrative Ministries/

Departments make reference to BRPSE for consideration of proposals for revival of sick/loss making CPSEs under their control.

(f) Disposal of assets of CPSEs is one of the options after the closure. However, assets if any, are disposed of by the Liquidators of concerned CPSEs.

**Statement***CPSEs closed during last three years***Name of CPSE****2002-03**

1. Bharat Gold Mines Ltd.
2. Bharat Breaks And Valves Ltd.
3. RBL Ltd.
4. Cownpore Textiles Ltd.

**2003-04**

1. Tea Trading Corp. Ltd.

**2004-05**

1. Bengal Immunity Ltd.
2. Manipur State Drugs & Pharmaceuticals Ltd.
3. Maharashtra Antibiotics & Pharmaceuticals Ltd.
4. Smith Stanistreet & Pharmaceuticals Ltd.
5. ET & T Ltd.
6. National Industrial Development Corporation Ltd.

*(English)***Setting up of Food Processing Units**

1384. DR. K. DHANARAJU: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the food processing units presently functioning in the country, State-wise;



(b) the profit/loss position of these units during each of the last three years;

(c) the steps proposed to be taken to make those units profitable which are incurring loss;

(d) whether in view of heavy growth of vegetables and fruits in different parts of the country the Government proposes to set up more food processing units during 2006-07; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) to (c) Ministry of Food Processing Industries does not set up food processing industries on its own. Food Processing units are set up both in the organized and un-organized sectors. As such, the data regarding food processing units are not centrally maintained in the Ministry.

(d) and (e) The Government does not set up food processing units on its own for production, etc. of processed food items. However, the Government has implemented a plan scheme for establishment/technology up gradation/modernization of food processing industries in the country. Under the Scheme, financial assistance is extended for Technology Upgradation/Modernization/ Establishment of food processing units in the form of grant-in-aid to all implementing agencies @ 25% of the cost of plant and machinery and technical civil works subject to maximum of Rs.50 lakhs in general areas or 33.33% subject to a maximum of Rs.75 lakhs in difficult areas such as Jammu & Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Uttaranchal, Sikkim and North Eastern States, Andaman & Nicobar Islands, Lakshadweep and ITDP Areas. Under the Mini Mission-IV of Technology Mission for Development of Horticulture, in difficult and high horticultural potential areas, assistance at still higher rates @50% of the cost of plant and machinery and technical civil works subject to a maximum of Rs.4 crore is available for processing of horticultural produce. A statement on financial assistance provided, State-wise, to food processing units during 2006-07 is enclosed.

### **Statement**

*Funds released for Food Processing Units during current year (2006-07) as on 28.11.2006*

(Rs. in Lakh)	
State/UT	Total
Andhra Pradesh	479.21
Assam	319.64
Delhi	11.77
Goa	22.58
Gujarat	226.59
Haryana	108.75
Himachal Pradesh	95.93
Jharkhand	25.00
Jammu and Kashmir	29.26
Karnataka	175.68
Kerala	283.57
Madhya Pradesh	70.42
Maharashtra	612.39
Manipur	14.77
Meghalaya	13.85
Orissa	25.00
Punjab	253.50
Rajasthan	284.11
Tamil Nadu	331.28
Uttar Pradesh	282.66
Uttaranchal	66.48
West Bengal	242.44

### **Village, Medical and Shipping Tourism Project**

1385. SHRI KIRTI VARDHAN SINGH:  
SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE:  
SHRI EKNATH MAHADEO GAIKWAD:  
SHRI CHENGARA SURENDRAN:

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has formulated any project whereby village, medical and shipping tourism will be promoted and given a new shape;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the total cost involved in the project; and
- (d) the time by which it would be made operational?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) Ministry of Tourism is giving special thrust to tourism product development in niche areas such as Rural tourism, Medical tourism and Cruise tourism.

(b) and (c) Ministry of Tourism's promotional activities in these areas are as follows:-

- (i) **Rural Tourism:-** The creation of infrastructure in Rural areas having tourism potential is being supported under the existing scheme of Product/ Infrastructure Development for Destination and Circuit of Ministry of Tourism, while community participation and the capacity building including upgradation of skill in rural areas are being supported through GOI-UNDP Endogenous Tourism Project and Capacity Building for Service Providers scheme of the Ministry.
- (ii) **Medical Tourism:-** A Task Force, headed by Secretary (Health) with Senior Officials of Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Ministry of Tourism and experts in the medical field has brought out the opportunities for promoting India as a health tourism destination. The Sub-Committee on accreditation and price banding constituted by Ministry of Tourism has submitted its reports for consideration. Indian Healthcare Federation, a Non-Governmental Organization affiliated to the Confederation of Indian Industry, on the advice by Ministry of Tourism, has prepared a Guide on select Indian hospitals of the country.
- (iii) **Cruise Tourism:-** Ministry of Tourism extends financial assistance for tourism infrastructure development of specified tourism projects in coastal areas such as beautification of beaches, monuments and tourist spots of States/Union Territories and procurement of cruise vessels, boats, etc. as well as issuing No Objection Certificate to private operators to operate their cruise vessels for the purpose of cruise tourism promotion.

(d) In addition Ministry of Tourism does promotion in overseas market and produces brochure, CDs, films and other publicity materials. Besides specific promotion at various international travel fairs such as World Travel Mart, London and ITB, Berlin, etc. is undertaken. The above information has been placed on Ministry of Tourism's website [www.incredibleindia.org](http://www.incredibleindia.org) for wider publicity.

[Translation]

#### Petroleum Projects

1386. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether several petroleum schemes/projects from the State Governments during the last one year are lying pending with the Union Government;

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

(c) the reasons for the delay in according approval to these projects/ proposals; and

(d) the steps taken or proposed to be taken for according approval to these projects/proposals early?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL): (a) No, Sir. No scheme/project received from the State Governments is pending for approval of this Ministry.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

#### Export of Rail Coaches

1387. SHRI AJIT JOGI:  
SHRI RAJNARAYAN BUDHOLIA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways propose to export rail coaches;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the foreign exchange likely to be earned by the Railways from the export of railway coaches?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) The Production units—Integral Coach Factory (ICF) and Rail Coach Factory

(RCF) do not generally export coaches directly. RITES/IRCON sometimes obtain orders for Railway coaches from foreign countries and they in turn place orders for their manufacture on ICF/RCF.

(b) Details of orders placed by RITES/IRCON on ICF/RCF for export of coaches, in the recent past and those under execution at present, are as follows:

S.N	Type of coach	Country	Quantity	Cost	Year
<b>RCF</b>					
1.	Metre Gauge (MG) Coach & Spares	Myanmar	36	19.72 Cr.	2005-06
2.	MG Coach & Spares	Senegal	20	11.67 Cr.	2006-07
3.	MG Coaches	Senegal & Mali	50	35.8 Cr.	10 Coaches— 2006-07 40 Coaches— 2007-08
<b>ICF</b>					
1.	2nd class day & other coaches	Angola	56	55.59 Cr.	2006-07

(c) The payment terms between ICF and M/s. RITES is in Indian Rupees amounting to Rs. 55.59 Crore. Similarly, the cost of export orders of RCF is Rs. 67.19 Cr.

[English]

#### **Diesel-Run Commercial Vehicles at IGI Airport**

1388. SHRI SARVEY SATYANARAYANA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether in spite of court, order to ban diesel-run commercial vehicles in Delhi, the Airports Authority of India (AAI) continues to ply diesel-run commercial vehicles at Indira Gandhi International Airport;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken to stop using diesel vehicles by the AAI at IGI Airport?

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

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

#### **Gauge Conversion of Somnath-Kodinar Railway Line**

1389. SHRI HARISINH CHAVDA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal regarding gauge conversion of Somnath-Kodinar railway line;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the work on the project is likely to be started ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) No, Sir as no line exists between Kodinar-Somanth.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

#### **'Sabari Rail' from Angamali**

1390. SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have accorded necessary sanction for the works of the proposed 'Sabari Rail' from Angamali;

(b) if so, the present status of the works undertaken;

(c) whether the Railways have received any request for extension of the 'Sabari Rail' to Thiruvananthapuram, via Punalur and Nedumangad; and

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

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

(b) Final location survey has been completed. Land acquisition papers for 470.86 hectares out of 516.42 hectares have been submitted to State Government. However, no land is handed over to Railways.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Survey for construction of new line from Erumeli (proposed station on Angamali-Sabarimala (Azhutha) new line project) to Trivandrum via Punalur & Nedumangad has already been completed in October, 2005. As per the survey report, cost of construction of 136 Kms long new line has been assessed as Rs. 698.48 crore with a rate of return of (-) 1.514%.

#### Foreign Naval Ships in Indian Ocean

1391. MS. INGRID MCLEOD: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been an increasing presence of foreign naval ships in the Indian Ocean recently;

(b) if so, the facts thereof; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to safeguard India's legitimate interest in the region and to ensure that the international water of the Indian Ocean remains essentially a region of peace?

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

(a) and (b) There has been an increasing presence of foreign Naval ships in the region post Operation Enduring Freedom, which commenced in October 2001. The Naval ships are part of the US-led Multinational Naval Forces operating in the Indian Ocean Region (IOR), mainly the North Arabian Sea, the Persian Gulf, the Red Sea and the Horn of Africa region.

(c) The presence of foreign war ships in the Indian Ocean does not pose any credible threat to the safety of

either the International Shipping Lanes (ISLs) or Indian and foreign merchant marine using these ISLs for legitimate trade. The deployment of foreign warships is not close to Indian Coast and is concentrated more in the North Arabian Sea, the Persian Gulf, the Red Sea and the Horn of Africa region. The Indian Navy, in addition to regular fleet deployments in India's area of operations, undertakes frequent Presence-cum-Surveillance Missions (PSMs) aimed at monitoring the IOR and safeguarding the interests of the country in its region of interest. The Indian Coast Guard too conducts regular surface/aerial surveillance within the Exclusive Economic Zone.

#### Foreign Exchange Earned from Tourism

1392. SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA:  
SHRI M. RAJA MOHAN REDDY:  
SHRI MILIND DEORA:

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of foreign exchange earned by the Government from tourism during each of the last three years;

(b) the number of foreign tourists visited India during the first half of the current year and how the figure compared with the corresponding period of the previous year; and

(c) the steps being taken by the Government to attract foreign tourists?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) The estimated foreign exchange earnings from tourism during the years 2003, 2004 and 2005 are as follows:

(In Million US\$)		
Year	Foreign Exchange Earnings	% change over previous Year
2003	3533	20.9
2004	4769	35.0
2005	5731	20.2

(b) During the period January-June 2006 an estimated 20.84 lakh foreign tourists arrived in India as compared

to 18.29 lakh in the corresponding period of the previous year, showing a growth of 13.9%.

(c) The steps being taken by the Government to attract more foreign tourists to India include:-

- Development of tourist spots under its various schemes of infrastructure development for tourist circuits and destinations;
- Focusing on growth of hotel infrastructure particularly budget hotels;
- Enhancing connectivity through augmentation of air capacity and improving road infrastructure to major tourist attractions;
- Direct approach to the consumers through Electronic and Print media through the "Incredible India" Campaign;
- Creation of World Class Collaterals;
- Centralized Electronic Media Campaign;
- Direct co-operative marketing with the Airlines, tour operators and wholesalers overseas;
- Greater focus in the emerging markets particularly in the region of China, North East Asia and South East Asia;
- Participation in Trade Fairs & Exhibitions;
- Optimize Editorial PR and Publicity;
- Use of Internet and web marketing;
- Generating Tourist Publications; and
- Re-inforced hospitality programmes including grant of air passages to invite the media personnel, tour operators on familiarization tour to India to get first hand knowledge on various tourism products.

*[Translation]*

#### **Incentives to Food Processing Industries**

1393. SHRIMATI SANGEETA KUMARI SINGH DEO:  
SHRI V.K. THUMMAR:

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

(a) the installed capacity of Food Processing Industries (FPI) in the country at present;

(b) the percentage of fruits being processed in the country at present;

(c) the percentage of fruits and vegetables that go waste;

(d) whether the Government proposes to provide incentives to the food processing industries in order to give boost to FPI sector; and

(e) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) Ministry of Food Processing Industries does not set up food processing industries on its own. Food Processing units are set up both in the organised and un-organised sectors. As such the data regarding installed capacity of food processing units are not centrally maintained in the Ministry.

(b) The level of processing of fruits and vegetables in the country is estimated at 1.4% in the organized sector and 0.8% in the unorganized sector.

(c) According to a study, current wastages in fruits and vegetables are estimated at about 35%, the value of which is approximately Rs. 33,000 crores annually.

(d) and (e) The Government has already been implementing various Plan schemes for promotion and development of food processing industries. Under these schemes financial assistance in the form of grant-in-aid is provided for Technology upgradation/Modernization/ Establishment of food processing units, Development of Infrastructure, Human Resource Development, Promotion of Quality Assurance, Codex Standards R & D besides for other promotional measures to encourage development of the food processing industries.

Further, fruit and vegetable processing units are already exempted from payment of excise duty. Further, in the year 2004-05, Government has allowed under Income Tax Act, a deduction of 100% of profit for five years and 25% of profits for the next five years in case of new agro processing industries set up to process, preserve and package fruits and vegetables. Excise duty of 16% on dairy machinery has been fully waived for

promotion of dairy processing industries. Excise duty on meat, poultry and fish products has been reduced from 16% to 8%. Excise duty on food grade, hexane used in edible oil industry has been reduced from 32% to 16%. In the Budget of 2005-06, excise duty of Rs. 1.00 per kg on refined edible oil and Rs. 1.25 per kg on Vanaspati were abolished. Customs duty on refrigerated vans was reduced from 20% to 10%. In the budget 2006-07 the Government has waived excise duty on condensed milk, ice cream, preparations of meat, fish and poultry, pectins, pasta and yeast. Excise duty on ready to eat packaged foods and instant food mixes, like dosa and idli mixes have been reduced from 16% to 8%. Excise duty on aerated drinks has been reduced from 24% to 16%. NABARD is to create a refinancing window with a corpus of Rupees one thousand crore for agro processing infrastructure and market development. The Government has also enacted The Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006 which has been passed by the Parliament on 02.08.2006 and notified on 24th August, 2006. The objective of the Act is to bring a single statute relating to food and establish the Food Safety and Standards Authority.

[English]

#### SCA for SC

1394. SHRI JASHUBHAI DHANABHAI BARAD: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of Special Central Assistance (SCA) allocated and released by the Government for implementing Special Component Plan for Scheduled Castes during each of the last three years and the current year, State-wise/UT-wise;

(b) the details of utilization of Special Central Assistance by the States/UTs during the said period;

(c) whether complaints regarding misutilisation or low utilization of SCAs by the States/UTs have come to the notice of the Union Government during the said period;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the corrective action taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) and (b) A Statement showing State-wise details of Special Central Assistance released and its utilization is enclosed.

(c) to (e) The expenditure under the scheme is monitored by the Ministry through quarterly progress reports and annual progress reports submitted by the State Governments. The progress in utilization is slow in case of States/UTs such as Bihar, Jharkhand, Goa, Punjab, Kerala and Chandigarh. The issue of slow utilization is taken up by the Ministry with concerned State Governments/UTs at different levels.

#### Statement

*Details of Special Central Assistance released and utilised during 2003-04 to 2006-07*

(Rs. In lakhs)

Sl.No.	States/UTs	2003-04		2004-05		2005-06		2006-07
		Release	Utilisation (including out of unspent balance from previous years)	Release	Utilisation (including out of unspent balance from previous years)	Release	Utilisation (including out of unspent balance from previous years)	Release*
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1.	Andhra Pradesh	6222.90	5595.74	4362.72	5449.43	4532.05	3495.69	1525.91
2.	Assam	625.21	305.76	800.00	731.14	623.82	728.71	320.49

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
3.	Bihar	933.00	596.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	811.36
4.	Chhattisgarh	408.29	382.60	339.05	297.75	400.01	278.78	449.99
5.	Gujarat	644.46	996.88	705.82	573.45	797.50	339.66	412.79
6.	Goa	0.00	0.59	0.00	0.05	0.00	0.10	0.00
7.	Haryana	1434.00	835.45	560.14	2119.52	1483.7	848.24	379.98
8.	Himachal Pradesh	248.66	348.87	587.471	583.16	566.62	339.00	320.02
9.	Jammu and Kashmir	148.46	90.00	495.08	453.82	142.15	91.74	145.53
10.	Jharkhand	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	413.40
11.	Karnataka	2124.76	2124.76	2951.8	2951.80	2322.63	1838.62	1105.77
12.	Kerala	0.00	231.3	0.00	198.69	0.00	0.00	109.32
13.	Madhya Pradesh	2955.43	3277.34	2506.90	3491.56	2627.28	1942.37	1246.75
14.	Maharashtra	1991.36	2881.63	2924.36	3638.68	2511.20	1364.46	1161.06
15.	Manipur	4.42	1.90	3.82	7.99	22.47	0.00	6.86
16.	Orissa	779.30	779.30	345.70	728.64	1576.33	1324.33	1015.16
17.	Punjab	680.03	380.28	0.00	112.56	0.00	659.16	212.44
18.	Rajasthan	2984.25	3698.47	2366.68	3366.02	3328.75	2921.27	1296.80
19.	Sikkim	1.12	1.55	15.44	15.44	17.73	0.00	15.68
20.	Tamil Nadu	3800.74	5123.08	4327.89	6270.12	4306.62	6322.15	1481.36
21.	Tripura	76.80	178.91	1198.20	242.94	243.98	955.26	111.29
22.	Uttar Pradesh	7817.94	12372.59	9737.98	11642.39	11007.30	7655.77	4288.56
23.	Uttaranchal	407.74	538.34	476.08	512.74	806.48	608.48	328.16
24.	West Bengal	3994.68	3753.66	4672.27	5516.45	3294.38	1327.51	2222.70
25.	Chandigarh	12.50	3.13	0.00	0.00	25.00	0.00	0.00
26.	Delhi	99.37	99.37	41.87	41.87	79.51	42.08	53.27
27.	Pondicherry	3.13	3.13	7.35	6.26	20.49	2.75	6.10
<b>Total</b>		<b>38398.55</b>	<b>44600.59</b>	<b>39426.62</b>	<b>48952.47</b>	<b>40736.00</b>	<b>33096.13</b>	<b>19440.75</b>

\*As on 22.11.2006

### Revival of Sick Enterprises

1395. SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Board for Reconstruction of Public Sector Enterprises (BRPSE) for revival of sick CPSEs has recommended for hiring a pool of officers including superannuated persons who have the potential to revive sick enterprises for implementation of revival schemes;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Government thereon?

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

(a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The Board for Reconstruction of Public Sector Enterprises (BRPSE) for revival of sick CPSEs has recommended for hiring a pool of officers including superannuated persons who have the potential to revive sick enterprises for implementation of revival & reconstruction schemes. The recommendations of the Board are being considered as part of recommendations in the Report of the Adhoc Group of Experts in the Group of Ministers.

*[Translation]*

### Black Marketing of Petroleum Products

1396. SHRI SUNIL KUMAR MAHATO:  
SHRI HARIKEWAL PRASAD:

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

(a) whether the Government is taking stringent steps against black marketing and adulteration of petroleum products since August 1, 2005;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with guidelines issued in this direction;

(c) the action taken so far for violating the guidelines along with the results thereof, company-wise; and

(d) the reaction of the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL): (a) and (b) To check adulteration and black marketing in petroleum products, Government has asked Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) to take various steps, including revising the Marketing Discipline Guidelines (MDG) 2001. MDG 2005 provide relatively more stringent punitive action against erring dealers. They were made effective from 01.08.2005. MDG, 2005 *inter-alia* provide termination in the first instance itself for serious malpractices like adulteration, tampering of seals, unauthorized fittings/gears in dispensing units, unauthorized storage facilities within the premises of Retail Outlets (ROs), unauthorized sales/purchase/exchange of Petrol/Diesel (MS/HSD) and selling of normal MS/HSD as branded fuel etc. Some malpractices which were not covered under MDG 2001, have also been brought under the purview of MDG 2005. These are totaliser seals found tampered, additional/unauthorized fitting/gears found in the dispensing unit, detection of storage facility outside licensed premises with interconnection into the RO premises, selling of normal MS/HSD as branded fuels, refusal by dealer to allow drawal of sample and/or carrying out of inspection, etc. The details of others steps taken recently by OMCs to curb adulteration of petrol/ diesel and streamlining the PDS kerosene distribution are given in Statement-I enclosed.

(c) and (d) OMCs undertake regular and surprise inspections of Retail Outlets and also take action under Marketing Discipline Guidelines (MDG) and Dealership Agreements against those indulging in adulteration and malpractices. The details of inspections carried out by the OMCs for the period August 2005 to September, 2006 is in Statement-II enclosed.

### Statement I

#### *Steps Taken to Check Adulteration of Petrol/Diesel and Streamlining PDS Kerosene Distribution*

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

1. **Automation of Retail Outlets:** In order to monitor the activities at retail outlets by adopting



the latest technological improvements, automation of retail outlets is being implemented. MOP&NG has directed the oil marketing companies (OMCs) to complete automation of retail outlets selling more than 200 KL per month by March 2007.

2. **Third Party Certification of Retail Outlets:** OMCs have been directed to complete third party certification of all the retail outlets selling more than 100 KL per month by March 2007.
3. **Monitoring of movement of Tank Trucks through Global Positioning System (GPS):** In order to prevent adulteration during transportation, OMCs have been directed to install GPS to complete monitoring of the movement of all the company owned/dealer owned/contractor owned tank trucks by March 2007.
4. **Jan Kerosene Pariyojna:** To streamline the PDS Kerosene distribution system and contain diversion of kerosene for adulteration and other unauthorized usages, Jan Kerosene Pariyojna (JKP) has been launched initially for 6 months

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

5. **Smart Card Scheme:** With the objective of ensuring that the benefit of the subsidy reaches the targeted consumers in an efficient and cost-effective manner and to prevent any leakages, this Ministry is considering introduction of Smart Card System for distribution of PDS kerosene. The scheme is proposed to be introduced initially on an experimental basis in three districts - Latur in Maharashtra, Nalanda in Bihar and Nainital in Uttaranchal in 2007. In the Pilot project, subsidized kerosene through Smart Card is proposed to be available to BPL families while all other ration card holders would be given non-subsidized kerosene. An independent agency will be engaged to monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of the Pilot. Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) would ensure adequate availability of PDS as well as non-subsidized kerosene during the entire period of implementation of the Pilot.

**Statement II**

*Details of number of inspection carried out by the OMCs and action taken during the period 01.08.2005 to 30.09.2006*

Type of Malpractices	IOC	BPCL	HPCL	IBP
1	2	3	4	5
<b>Number of Inspections</b>	50876	41561	23048	12094
1. Discrepancy in stock	102	39	35	52
2. Suspected product adulteration	91	78	52	20
3. Overcharging	5	1	0	1
4. Unauthorized sale	6	0	2	4
5. Short delivery	309	265	224	76
6. Others	419	877	204	288
<b>Total</b>	<b>932</b>	<b>1260</b>	<b>517</b>	<b>441</b>

	1	2	3	4	5
<b>Action Taken</b>					
1. Termination		39	17	34	8
2. Suspension of sales and supplies		217	209*	247	135
3. Explanation called for/ show cause issued or warning letters issued		502	784	171	147
4. Fine imposed		174	*	56	36
5. Others		0	250	9	115
<b>Total</b>		<b>932</b>	<b>1260</b>	<b>517</b>	<b>441</b>

\*Include fine imposed.

[English]

#### Under-measurement of Petrol

1397. SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn towards the news-item captioned, 'Less petrol for your money' as reported in *The Times of India* dated October 25, 2006;

(b) if so, whether recent inspections at petrol pumps have revealed that many petrol pumps were dispensing less petrol than what they were charging from consumers; and

(c) if so, the details of pumps which were checked and the steps taken by the Government to set right such petrol pumps?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) have reported that the Weights & Measures (W&M) Department, Government of Delhi inspected 234 number of retail outlets (ROs) involving 4210 dispensing units (DUs) of public sector OMCs during the period April - September, 2006, out of which 25 number of ROs involving 29 DUs were found to be delivering Motor Spirit (MS) and High Speed Diesel (HSD) short between 15 ml to 45 ml per 5 litres, which is beyond the permissible

limit of 15 ml per 5 litres. Sales from the DUs delivering short were suspended and the DUs were got recalibrated by W&M Department. Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL) has reported that out of the 56 ROs involving 1063 DUs which were inspected by W&M Department, no case of short delivery of MS/HSD was noticed. W&M Department noticed short delivery in respect of 3 ROs out of which 2 ROs involved short delivery of Lube Oil and 1 RO involved short delivery of 2T premix.

In cases where ROs were found delivering short beyond the permissible limits, the offences have been compounded & fines imposed. Sales have been resumed after recalibration of DUs by W&M Department.

OMCs undertake regular and surprise inspections of Retail Outlets and also take action under Marketing Discipline Guidelines (MDG) and Dealership Agreements against those indulging in adulteration and malpractices. MDG provide for termination of dealership. In the 1st instance itself for serious malpractices like adulteration, tampering of seals, unauthorized fittings/gears in dispensing units.

In order to monitor the activities at retail outlets by adopting the latest technological improvements, OMCs have been directed to introduce automation of retail outlets. They have been directed to complete automation of retail outlets selling more than 200 KL per month by March 2007. OMCs have been directed to complete third party certification of all the retail outlets selling more than 100 KL per month by March 2007.

**GAIL-HPCL Joint Venture for City Gas Projects**

1398. SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether GAIL (India) Ltd. and HPCL have planned to float joint ventures for city gas projects in Gujarat and Rajasthan as appeared in Business Line on October 13, 2006;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken/proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL): (a) Yes, Sir. GAIL and HPCL have planned to float Joint Ventures for city gas projects in the states of Gujarat and Rajasthan.

(b) GAIL and HPCL have signed an MoU on 16.11.2005 for formation of Joint Venture Companies to implement City Gas Distribution Projects in the cities of Rajasthan and Gujarat, along the model of M/s Indraprastha Gas Limited (IGL). For Rajasthan, GAIL has prepared the Detailed Feasibility Report for the city of Kota.

In Gujarat, GAIL is supplying CNG in Vadodara and HPCL is supplying CNG in Ahmedabad. Further, GAIL has carried out the Market Survey and Demand Study in the cities of Rajkot and Surendranagar.

The downstream project implementation activities shall be taken up by the respective Joint Venture Companies, subject to gas availability and economic viability of the projects.

(c) Action for incorporation of the Joint Venture Companies shall be taken after signing the Joint Venture Agreements.

*[Translation]*

**De-Addiction Centres**

1399. SHRIMATI BHAVANA PUNDLIKRAO GAWALI:  
SHRI PUNNU LAL MOHALE:

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

(a) whether the Government proposes to set up more de-addiction centres to solve the problems of drug addiction and alcoholics in the country;

(b) if so, whether proposals for opening of de-addiction centres have also been received from various State Governments and NGOs;

(c) if so, the details of the proposals received from the State Governments and NGOs in this regard during 2005-06 and 2006-07; and

(d) the decision taken by the Union Government thereon alongwith location of the proposed centres?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) to (d) Yes Sir. Unserved districts are identified for opening of new centres. The proposals recommended by State Governments from time to time are scrutinized and considered and it is a continuous process.

*[English]*

**Privatisation of PSUs**

1400. SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government had received any proposal to privatise some of the Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs);

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government also proposes to allow private equity participation in most of the PSUs; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) to (d) As per National Common Minimum Programme (NCMP) of Government, the Government is committed to a strong and effective public sector whose social objectives are met by its commercial functioning. The Government is pledged to devolve full managerial and commercial autonomy to successful public sector enterprises and profit-making companies will not be privatized. All privatisation will be considered on a

transparent and consultative case-by-case basis. The Government will retain existing "navaratna" companies in the public sector, although these companies raise resources from the capital market. While every effort will be made to modernise and restructure sick public sector companies and revive sick industry, chronically loss-making companies will either be sold-off or closed after all workers have got their legitimate dues and compensation. The Government will induct private industry to turn around companies that have potential for revival.

#### **Profit/Loss of Public Airlines**

1401. SHRI NAVEEN JINDAL:  
SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI:  
SHRI BALESHWAR YADAV:  
SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA:  
SHRI KASHIRAM RANA:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the national air carriers which have been earning profits for years have begun to incur losses during the first two quarters of the current year;

(b) if so, the profits and losses incurred during each of the last three years and the current year so far alongwith the reasons for the losses; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to overcome the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) The details of profit/(loss) of Air India Limited and Indian Airlines Limited during the last three years are as under:

Year	Air India (Rs. in crores)	Indian Airlines
2003-04	92.33	44.17
2004-05	96.36	65.61
2005-06 (Prov.)	14.94	49.50

During the first quarter of the current year i.e. April-June, 2006, Air India has incurred an estimated loss of Rs. 195.91 crores (after depreciation and interest) and Indian Airlines has incurred an estimated loss of

Rs. 138. 55 crores (after depreciation) during April-September, 2006. The reasons for these losses are mainly stiff competition on the routes, declining yields, increase in interest cost and steep increase in fuel prices.

(c) Both the airlines have taken various steps to curtail losses viz: (i) Dry leasing of aircraft; (ii) Acquisition of new aircraft; (iii) Refurbishment of the existing aircraft; (iv) Launching of special promotional schemes; (v) Closing of uneconomical offices and downsizing; (vi) Re-deployment of staff from non-operational to operational areas, and (vii) Outsourcing of non-core activities to subsidiary companies.

#### **Release of Funds to Karnataka**

1402. SHRI G.M. SIDDESWARA:  
SHRI M. SHIVANNA:  
SHRI D.V. SADANANDA GOWDA:  
SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY:

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

(a) whether the Union Government has received any proposals from the State Government of Karnataka for sanction and release of funds under Centrally Sponsored Scheme for scholarship to Post-matric level students belonging to Other Backward Classes during 2005-06 and 2006-07;

(b) if so, the details of the proposals;

(c) the amount sought by the Government of Karnataka and released by the Union Government;

(d) whether the utilization certificate for the amounts released during previous years has already been sent by the Government of Karnataka; and

(e) if so, the time by which the balance grant is likely to be released to the Government of Karnataka?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) to (c) Government of Karnataka had submitted a proposal for an amount of Rs. 3010.61 lakh for Post-matric scholarship for the year 2005-06. No grant-in-aid was released to the State Government during the year 2005-06 since utilization certificate in respect of the grant-in-aid released during the year 2004-05 was not received in time. In the year

2006-07, the Government of Karnataka had submitted a proposal for an amount of Rs. 3010.61 lakh for the Post-matric scholarship and the Government of India has released an amount of Rs. 539.66 lakh.

(d) and (e) The State Government has since submitted utilization certificate in respect of the grants-in-aid released during the year 2004-05. It is not possible to indicate a definite time-frame.

#### **Ticketless Travellers in Trains**

1403. SHRI NAVJOT SINGH SIDHU:  
SHRI E.G. SUGAVANAM:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways conduct surprise raids in trains to check ticketless travellers;

(b) if so, the details of such raids conducted and the number of passengers caught travelling without tickets during 2006, zone wise;

(c) the amount of penalties recovered therefrom during such raids, zone-wise;

(d) whether the Railway officials/TTEs are also found responsible for not checking without ticket passengers and carrying unbooked luggage during such raids;

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

(f) the steps taken to check the recurrences of such lapses by the railway staff and curb ticketless travelling in trains?

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

(b) and (c) A statement is enclosed:

(d) to (f) No, Sir. However, the working of ticket checking staff is monitored at various levels and suitable disciplinary action is taken against the defaulting staff. Regular and surprise checks are conducted in association with Railway Magistrates and Police to curb the incidents of ticketless travelling in trains.

#### **Statement**

##### *Ticketless travellers in Trains*

Railways	No. of raids (including surprise raids) conducted on trains to check ticketless travelers (in lakhs)	Number of passengers caught travelling without ticket (in lakhs)	Amount of penalties recovered therefrom, (in crores)
1	2	3	4
During the period January, 2006 to September 2006			
Central	2.45	4.22	18.31
Eastern	0.38	2.56	7.70
East Central	0.04	2.01	7.36
East Coast	0.08	0.57	2.33
Northern	0.95	7.74	31.71
North Central	0.61	3.17	13.73

1	2	3	4
North Eastern	0.20	2.09	7.74
Northeast Frontier	0.15	0.94	4.31
North Western	0.32	1.43	6.11
Southern	0.98	1.40	7.39
South Central	3.76	3.74	14.53
South Eastern	0.33	0.87	3.64
South East Central	0.07	0.66	2.41
South Western	0.01	0.72	3.01
Western	0.70	4.58	17.64
West Central	0.29	1.97	7.90
<b>Total</b>	<b>11.33</b>	<b>38.67</b>	<b>155.82</b>

**Rampant Building Activities on Kalka-Shimla  
Rail Route**

1404. SHRI SUGRIB SINGH:  
SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL:

Will the Minister of RAILWAY be pleased to state:

(a) whether rampant building activities have led to cracks in Kalka-Shimla Railway tunnels;

(b) if so, whether the Railways have identified the construction due to which these tunnels have been affected/damaged;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps taken by the Railways for safety of these tunnels?

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

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

(d) The State Government have been requested to take necessary action to prevent construction activities noticed in the vicinity of railway area, which may in future, pose threat to the safety of these tunnels.

**Scanning of Baggage at Airports**

1405. SHRI PRABODH PANDA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is considering to scan all baggage thoroughly and reduce physical verification to the minimum, at all upcoming airports in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government plans to install of state-of-the-art equipment at all these airports;

(d) If so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Instructions have been issued by the Bureau of Civil Aviation Security (BCAS) to install online X-ray baggage screening system at all the airports serviced by civil commercial flights, in a phased manner by the airport operators. Initially all international airports will be provided with online X-ray baggage screening system.

(c) to (e) Yes, Sir. State-of-the-art equipment like X-ray Baggage Inspection System (X-ray BIS), Door Frame Metal Detector (DFMD), Hand Held Metal Detector (HHMD) etc, have already been deployed at the airports in the country. It has further been decided to install equipments like Bio-metric Access Control system, Explosive Detection Equipment, Closed Circuit Television (CCTV), Perimeter intrusion Detection system etc. at all the major airports in the country.

#### **Aircraft Maintenance Base**

1406. SHRI PANNIAN RAVINDRAN. Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the status of work on the proposed Aircraft Maintenance Base project;

(b) whether the land required for the project has already been taken over by Air India;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the estimated expenditure of the proposed project; and

(d) the expected date of completion of the project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) Air India has plans to have Aircraft Maintenance Base at Thiruvananthapuram and Delhi. As far as Thiruvananthapuram is concerned, the tendering process for Project Management Consultant (PMC) is in progress. The PMC will be appointed by the end of December, 2006. For Delhi, the process for appointment of PMC is in progress.

(b) In Thiruvananthapuram., the possession of 15 acres of land has been taken over by Air India and compound wall is being built. In Delhi, the land is already in possession of Air India.

(c) The estimated expenditure for construction of hangar and apron area for parking & access at Thiruvananthapuram is approximately Rs.50 Crores. In Delhi, the cost of construction of hangar and apron area for parking and access is in the process of evaluation.

(d) The expected, date of completion of the project at Thiruvananthapuram is March, 2008.

#### **Performance of HEC**

1407. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) the present position of purchase orders with Heavy Engineering Corporation (HEC), Ranchi;

(b) the details of profit/losses of HEC during each of the last three years;

(c) whether HEC has made any improvements in its working;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the other steps proposed to be taken to improve the performance of HEC?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF HEAVY INDUSTRY, MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH): (a) Company has secured orders worth Rs. 516.28 crore as on date.

(b) The details of the losses incurred by the company during last three year are as under:

(Rs. in crore)	
Year	Net Profit (+)/Losses (-)
2003-04	-132.68
2004-05	-285.02
2005-06	-86.89

(c) and (d) The performance of the company has improved. The gross turn over of the company during 2003-04, 2004-05 and 2005-06 was Rs. 123.23 crore, Rs.159.08 crore and Rs. 178.18 crore respectively.

(e) Efforts are on for up-gradation of facilities which will improve productivity and efficiency of equipments; streamlining the production process to reduce cycle time; improvement in productivity of manpower through training & production linked incentives.

The company has also initiated the process of networking of various activities using computers.

**Extension of Freight Corridor Project**

1408. SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased state:

(a) whether the Railways propose to extend the freight corridor project to Eastern parts of the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Dedicated Freight Corridor on Eastern Route will be extended to the proposed Port in Kolkata area considering the possibility of increase in freight traffic on account of proposed Deep Sea Port.

[Translation]

**Cold Storage Facility**

1409. SHRI HARIKEWAL PRASAD:  
SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO:  
SHRI JIVABHAI A. PATEL:

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

(a) whether the Government has formulated any scheme to enhance food processing and cold storage capacity in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the total losses incurred due to the poor storage facilities in the country during each of the last three years; and

(d) the funds allocated for improvement of storage facilities during each of the last three years, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) to (d) The Ministry of Food Processing Industries, under its different plan schemes provides financial assistance in the form of grant-in-aid to various implementing agencies, for the overall development of Food Processing Industry. The Ministry provides financial assistance in the form of grant-in-aid up to 25% of the cost of plant & machinery and technical civil works subject to a maximum of Rs. 50 lakhs in general areas and up to 33.33% in difficult areas subject to a maximum of

Rs. 75 lakhs in difficult areas for Technology upgradation/ Establishment/Modernization of Food Processing Industries. Assistance upto 25% of the cost of plant & machinery and technical civil works in general areas and 33.33% in difficult areas with a common ceiling of Rs. 75 lakhs is admissible for Cold Storages for non-horticulture produce and special type of cold storage with controlled atmosphere/modified atmosphere facility to all implementing agencies. Besides Cold storages which are an integral part of processing units or part of common facilities in Food Parks are also assisted. The Ministry does not set up projects on its own and assistance is considered under plan schemes on the basis of viable proposals received. A statement showing details of financial assistance approved by the Ministry for stand alone Cold Storages, state-wise during the last three years is given in the *Statement* enclosed.

According to the Vision-2015 report prepared by Rabo India Finance Pvt. Ltd, wastage of the agricultural food items is estimated to be of the order of 22% in case of Fruits & Vegetables and about 10% in case of grains, occurring at various stages of handling after harvesting due to lack of adequate post harvest infrastructure, lack of cold chain facilities, transportation, proper storage facilities, etc.

**Statement**

Sr. No.	State	Year-wise financial assistance approved during last three years (2003-04, 2004-05 & 2005-06) (Rs. in Lakhs)
1.	Andhra Pradesh	6.78
2.	Delhi	75.00
3.	Goa	16.542
4.	Gujarat	44.20
5.	Haryana	28.69
6.	Maharashtra	99.926
7.	Uttar Pradesh	9.055
8.	West Bengal	35.81
Total		316.003



**Detachment of Bogies in A.P. Express**

1410. SHRI GANESH SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways are aware that some bogies of A.P. Express coming from Hyderabad to Delhi were detached near Betal and Ghodadogri station of Madhya Pradesh at the midnight of 24th October;

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

(c) whether the Railways' have conducted any inquiry into the said incident; and

(d) if so, the details and outcome thereof and the action taken against the officials found guilty?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Yes, Sir. A case of parting of 2723 Dn A.P. Express took place at 20.25 hrs. between Ghodadogri and Barbatpur stations of Amla and Itarsi section, Nagpur Division of Central Railway on 24.10.2006. The affected coach was worked out with the same train after re-marshalling.

(b) 2723 Dn A.P. Express passed through Ghodadogri station at 20.40 hrs. and got uncoupled between 13th & 14th coach from the train engine while running in the block section between Ghodadogri and Barbatpur stations as the coupling had given away. After bringing front and rear portion of affected train at Barbatpur, the culprit coach was remarshalled in the rear and worked by the same train upto its destination. There were no loss of lives or property in this incident.

(c) and (d) The incident of train parting in Train No. 2723 A.P. Express has been inquired into. The coaches of this rake have been equipped with Center Buffer Coupler (CBC) as against screw coupling in the conventional coaches. The uncoupling of coupler body in one coach of this rake occurred owing to shearing of carrier plate bolts and subsequent falling down of the carrier plate and the coupler pin.

Maintenance guidelines for CBC require examination of the mounting bolts of the carrier plate assembly after every trip during maintenance of the rake and ensure torquing of bolts, if found slack.

Staff of Maintenance Depot, Hyderabad were primarily held responsible for not complying with the above mentioned maintenance guidelines. Action under Discipline and Appeal Rules has been initiated against them.

*[English]*

**Freight Terminals**

1411. PROF. M. RAMADASS: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be please to state:

(a) the number of existing freight terminals at Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata and Chennai;

(b) the steps taken to develop these terminals;

(c) whether there is any regular mechanism to monitor these terminals; and

(d) if so, the steps being taken to reduce congestion and pollution at these terminals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) The existing freight terminals at the following 4 cities are as under:

Delhi -13

Mumbai -32

Kolkata -37

Chennai - 17

(b) Most of the terminals are full rake terminals. Several works like top wiring of goods shed, augmentation of capacity, extension/development of wharf, adequate lighting arrangement and approach road facilities are being provided to terminals dealing with sufficient freight traffic. Covered Warehouses are under construction by Central Warehousing Corporation (CWC) at Shakurbasti for storing cement and other commodities.

(c) Yes, Sir. Information about freight terminals has been fully computerized in the FOIS (Freight Operations Information System) format. The complete detentions rake-wise are monitored from time of arrival to actual placement, from placement to release and from release to actual time of rake dispatch. The detention to arrival to final despatch which exceeds 24 hours are monitored at the Railway Board level. Also, number of rakes loaded

for the terminals, their movement in pipeline is also monitored closely through Pipeline Monitoring Mechanism.

(d) The terminal congestion as indicated in Freight Operations Information System is reviewed daily and input for corrective action constantly provided to ensure that these detentions are controlled progressively and brought down. As far as possible, air-polluting commodities like coal, iron ore etc. are being planned at isolated terminals, away from urban population. Further, depending on local conditions, water sprinkling and other precautionary measures are taken by railway customers at loading/unloading ends.

#### **Rail Land Development Authority**

1412. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL:  
SHRI P.S. GADHAVI:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have constituted the Rail Land Development Authority;

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

(c) the details of modalities likely to be adopted by this authority in identifying and developing the unused land under Railways especially around railway stations?

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

(b) The Rail Land Development Authority (RLDA) has been constituted, through an amendment to the Railways Act, 1989, with effect from 1.11.2006. The Authority will consist of Chairman, Vice-Chairman and four Members including one from outside (i.e. non-Railway member) who will be an expert in real estate.

(c) The authority will take up such vacant land for commercial development which is not required by Railway for its operational use as entrusted to it by the Ministry of Railways. RLDA will also take up provision of modern amenities for railway users through commercial development of vacant land and air space at nominated stations.

#### **Public Sector Undertakings**

1413. SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a number of Public Sector Undertakings are running under his Ministry;

(b) if so, the details about the performance of each of the PSUs during the last three years; and

(c) the measures taken by the Railways to improve this performance?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Yes, Sir. There are 10 (ten) Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) under the administrative control of Ministry of Railways namely (i) IRCON International Limited, (ii) RITES Limited., (iii) Indian Railway Finance Corporation Limited, (iv) Container Corporation of India Limited, (v) Konkan Railway Corporation Limited, (vi) Mumbai Railway Vikas Corporation Limited (vii) Indian Railway Catering & Tourism Corporation Limited (viii) Raitel Corporation of India Limited (ix) Rail Vikas Nigam Limited, and (x) Dedicated Freight Corridor Corporation Limited.

(b) The performance of these PSUs during the last three years i.e. 2003-04, 2004-05 and 2005-06 are given below:

(Rs. in crores)

#### **(i) IRCON International Limited:**

S.No.	Particulars	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Paid up capital			
	(i) Government	4.94	4.94	9.89
	(ii) Others	0.01	0.01	0.03

1	2	3	4	5
2.	Net Worth	712.33	777.71	829.29
3.	Total Income	792.23	1014.39	1112.79
4.	Profit Before Tax	78.74	107.75	110.88
5.	Dividend Payment—Government	18.75	20.23	25.73
6.	Income per employees	0.49	0.61	0.64

**(II) RITES Limited:**

1.	Paid up capital			
	(i) Government	4.00	4.00	4.00
	(ii) Others	Nil	Nil	Nil
2.	Net Worth	283.36	310.91	387.26
3.	Total Income	285.42	240.30	426.42
4.	Profit Before Tax	72.32	67.60	132.97
5.	Dividend Payment—Government	11.67	12.00	20.00
6.	Income per employees	0.11	0.09	0.16

**(III) Indian Railway Finance Corporation Limited:**

1.	Paid up capital			
	(i) Government	232.00	232.00	232.00
	(ii) Others	Nil	Nil	Nil
2.	Net Worth	2578.60	2392.91	2095.76
3.	Total Income	1894.35	1958.97	2019.69
4.	Profit Before Tax	410.43	503.36	503.98
5.	Dividend Payment—Government	110.00	115.00	150.00
6.	Income per employees	126.29	130.60	100.98

**(IV) Container Corporation of India Limited:**

1.	Paid up capital			
	(i) Government	41.00	41.00	41.00
	(ii) Others	23.99	23.99	23.99
2.	Net Worth	1377.24	1698.76	2091.17

1	2	3	4	5
3.	Total Income	1807.40	2043.33	2489.16
4.	Profit Before Tax	498.72	609.60	670.13
5.	Dividend Payment—Government	51.25	59.45	73.80
6.	Income per employees	1.93	2.01	2.34

**(v) Konkan Railway Corporation Limited:**

S.No.	Particulars	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06
1.	Paid up capital			
	(i) Government (including State Governments)	789.06	789.06	803.06
	(ii) Others	Nil	Nil	Nil
2.	Net Worth	(1558.39)	(1859.18)	(2080.31)
3.	Total Income	245.54	425.82	630.23
4.	Profit (Loss) Before Tax	(357.72)	(305.47)	(241.85)
5.	Dividend Payment	Nil	Nil	Nil
6.	Income per employees	0.06	0.07	0.08

\* Accounting policy for computing income from projects has been changed from 2004-05 onwards.

**(vi) Mumbai Railway Vikas Corporation Limited:**

S.No.	Particulars	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06
1.	Paid up capital			
	(i) Government (including State Govt.)	25.00	25.00	25.00
	(ii) Others	Nil	Nil	Nil
2.	Net Worth	31.57	42.11	56.23
3.	Total Income	6.27	10.94	19.99
4.	Profit Before Tax	2.82	6.66	14.16
5.	Dividend Payment	Nil	Nil	Nil
6.	Income per employees	0.03	0.08	0 10

**(vii) Indian Railway Catering & Tourism Corporation Limited:**

1.	Paid up capital			
	(i) Government	20.00	20.00	20.00
	(ii) Others	Nil	Nil	Nil
2.	Net Worth	27.46	31.78	47.22

1	2	3	4	5
3.	Total Income	69.58	127.09	267.98
4.	Profit Before Tax	6.42	7.94	31.83
5.	Dividend Payment—Government	1.00	1.00	4.00
6.	Income per employees	0.05	0.05	0.04

**(viii) Railtel Corporation of India Limited:**

1.	Paid up capital			
	(i) Government	234.40	234.40	234.40
	(ii) Others	Nil	Nil	Nil
2.	Net Worth	234.40	270.12	234.40
3.	Total Income	11.34	32.86	60.44
4.	Profit (Loss) Before Tax	(15.75)	(19.50)	(10.27)
5.	Dividend Payment	Nil	Nil	Nil
6.	Income per employees	0.09	0.22	0.23

**(ix) Rail Vikas Nigam Limited:**

1.	Paid up capital			
	(i) Government	500.00	977.35	1150.02
	(ii) Others	Nil	Nil	Nil
2.	Net Worth	500.00	977.35	1151.26
3.	Total Income	0.33	4.06	12.15
4.	Profit (Loss) Before Tax	Nil	(0.65)	1.89
5.	Dividend Payment	Nil	Nil	Nil
6.	Income per employees	0.04	0.09	0.08
7.	Number of projects completed	-	1	6
8.	Financial Expenditure by RVNL	258.67	401.96	788.31

**(x) Dedicated Freight Corridor Corporation of India Limited:**

Dedicated Freight Corridor Corporation of India Limited (DFCCIL) has been incorporated recently on 30.10.2006.

It may be seen that the performance of Railway PSUs is showing improvement in terms of turn over and profits.

Konkan Railway Corporation Limited is having losses on account of debt servicing of the loans taken by the Corporation during the construction phase. However, Corporation is able to generate resources to meet with

the operating expenditure and depreciation. Financial Restructuring of the Corporation is under consideration of the Ministry.

Railtel Corporation of India Limited has been incorporated in September, 2000. The company has been showing losses till 2005-06 due to formative state of the company. In the financial year (2006-07), due to improvement in operating results and the effects of modification in agreement in 'right of way' charges, the company is expected to turn around and make profits.

(c) The performance of Public Sector Undertakings under the administrative control of Ministry of Railways (MOR) is being reviewed regularly at the highest level i.e. by the concerned Members of the Railway Board.

Ministry of Railways is providing necessary technical know how and manpower to its PSUs as per their requirement.

*[Translation]*

#### **Inclusion of Patients in Disabled List**

1414. SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is considering to include patients afflicted with Haemophilia, Thalassemia and Sickle cell in the list of the disabled persons;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

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

(d) whether any proposals in this regard has been received from the State Governments; and

(e) if so, the action taken by the Union Government thereon?

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

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

(d) No Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

*[English]*

#### **Revival of HPF**

1415. SHRI M. APPADURAI: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has allotted Rs.10 crore to Hindustan Photo Films (HPF), Ooty, Tamil Nadu to clear the VRS dues to their employees;

(b) if so, whether the employees of HPF have been forced to take VRS;

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

(d) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to revive HPF?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF HEAVY INDUSTRY, MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH): (a) to (c) The Government has been receiving representations from Company as well as employees associations of HPF for opening of VRS in the Company. In due consideration of the request of employees Associations, a decision has been taken by the Government for opening of VRS in HPF for which Ministry of Finance have allocated a sum of Rs.10 crores. The scheme is purely voluntary and there is no compulsion on the part of employees. Only those persons who will opt for the VRS will be considered for release after settling their dues in terms of DPE guidelines.

(d) Hindustan Photofilms Manufacturing Company Limited (HPF) was referred to the Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) in 1995. BIFR recommended its winding up on 30th January 2003. Appeals were filed by various agencies before Appellate Authority for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (AAIFR) against winding up order of BIFR. AAIFR dismissed these appeals. However, Madras High Court has granted an 'interim stay' on the proceedings of AAIFR and BIFR orders on the basis of appeals filed by Trade Unions.

So far as the revival issue is concerned, earlier a Techno-Economic Feasibility Study of the Company was conducted by appointing M/s. A.F. Ferguson as consultant.

This study could not suggest a viable option for revival on sustainable basis for the Company. Subsequently, M/s. Ernst & Young has been engaged for further study of the Company on the basis of recommendations of the Department Related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Industry (Rajya Sabha).

**Holding of Cultural Events on Protected Monuments.**

1416. SHRI BADIGA RAMAKRISHNA: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the guidelines relating to usage of specific areas of protected monuments and sites and holding cultural events;

(b) the details of cultural events conducted in the protected monuments and sites during the last three years; year-wise;

(c) whether any new monuments have been identified or excavated in Andhra Pradesh during the last three years; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) A copy of the guidelines issued vide O.M. No. 17/37/2004-M dated 14.01.2005 indicating therewith the list of monuments/sites where cultural events could be permitted is enclosed as *Statement*.

(b) to (d) The information is being collected from field offices and would be placed on the table of the House.

***Statement***

*Details of the Guidelines Issued Vide O.M. No. 17/37/2004-M dated 14.01.2005 Indicating therewith the List of Monuments/Sites where Cultural Events could be Permitted*

1. As a matter of course, the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) will not like to permit the use of monuments and land attached to such monuments for holding functions/events. The circles may, however, permit such use only as an exception if the DG, ASI/SA, Circle is fully satisfied that the function/event is unlikely to cause any damage, whatsoever, to the monument, its land and other built structures standing thereon.
2. The circles would accord permission in only those monuments, which are identified for holding cultural events. They will also delineate the area/parts of the monument where such events can be held.
3. The DG, ASI / SA, circle may refuse permission to hold functions in the identified monuments/sites in case ASI had undertaken recent renovation/beautification works and the holding of such event may interfere with the work / damage the renovations.
4. If a monument is not listed for allowing the holding of cultural events, the DG, ASI may grant such permissions after calling for a report from the concerned SA. The DG, ASI however reserves the right to disallow any such request. His decision will be final.
5. Permission can be granted for holding cultural events of a high standard, preferably classical. For this purpose, cultural events would mean classical music, dance and drama. In deciding whether an event is a cultural event or not, the decision of the DG, ASI would be final.
6. No permission would be granted for any function/event where the admission is regulated by sale of tickets or by levy of admission charges.
7. No permission would be granted for any event which involves any commercial/religious activity like sales, exhibition-cum-sales, etc.
8. Permission for holding functions would be granted only to Government departments and public bodies. No permission would be granted to private individuals, private bodies or other commercial organizations. In deciding whether the requests for holding a function is from a public body or not, the decision of the DG, ASI would be final. While considering the requests from public bodies, the DG, ASI/SA, Circle would consider the previous history and activities of the organization the purpose for which the event is being held and the nature and duration of the cultural event.
9. Permission issued will be valid only for one day except in exceptional cases, where for reasons to be recorded, such permissions may extend to more than one day. All temporary structures

must be constructed and removed within the same day by 11 p.m. All function must conclude by 10 p.m. No music or loudspeaker etc. will be allowed thereafter. Any violation will lead to a police complaint by ASI officials.

10. No construction activity of any type will be permitted except for putting up a temporary rostrum or stage, which can be moved away. In putting up such temporary structures there will be no masonry activity.
11. As the conduct of the event within the monuments or its precincts is likely to cause damage to the built infrastructure and its environs, the ASI would levy the following charges for usage:-
  - (a) For conducting an event in the land attached (outside) to a protected monument Rs. 25000 per day and where a part of the built monuments (inside) is also likely to be used along with the land Rs. 50000 per day would be charged, (in select monuments in Delhi).
  - (b) In other circles for conducting cultural event, Rs.10000 would be charged per day (for one day only) for using the area attached (outside) to a protected monument and where a part of the protected monuments is also likely to be used, Rs. 25000 per day would be charged.

D.G., ASI may decide if other differential needed.

In addition to the above, ASI would also demand a refundable security deposit of Rs. 50,000 per day in all monuments in Delhi. In other circles, this refundable security deposit would be Rs. 30,000. This security deposit would be refunded within a week after the function after deducting expenditure, if any that the ASI has incurred in clearing the area of litter/garbage, etc. or in repairing damages, if any.

The ASI would be free to impose appropriate conditions on various aspects like parking, maximum number of visitors, noise and luminous levels etc. to ensure that the monument and its environs are protected and preserved and the conduct of the event would not cause any damage to the monument (physically) or its cultural integrity.

A list of monuments where cultural events could be permitted is at Annexure. This list is not exhaustive and the ASI may amend this list as and when required.

The above guidelines will come into immediate effect and will remain valid until further orders.

### **Annexure**

#### *List of Monuments where Cultural Events could be permitted*

#### 1. AGRA CIRCLE

- i. Ram Bagh
- ii. Akbar's Tomb (outside)
- iii. Diwan-i-Aum (Agra Fort)
- iv. Kankali Tila, Mathura
- v. Open area outside Badshahi Gate, Fatehpur Sikri

#### 2. AURANGABAD CIRCLE

- i. Lawns of Bibi-Ka-Maqbara, Aurangabad
- ii. Open area in front of Rock-cut caves, Ellora
- iii. Open area Fort, Daulatabad

#### 3. BANGALORE CIRCLE

- i. Open area Elephanta Stable, Hampi
- ii. Open area Vithala Temple Complex, Hampi
- iii. Open area east of Keshava Temple, Somnathpur
- iv. Open area Hoysaleswara Temple, Halebidu
- v. Open courtyard, Chenna Keshva Temple, Belur
- vi. Open area and cloistered court of Bahubali statue, Shravana Belgola
- vii. Open area surrounding the Bahubali statue, Karkala
- viii. Open area Fort, Chitradurga
- ix. Open lawns, Tipu's Palace, Bangalore
- x. Open area surrounding Tipu's Tomb, Srirangapatna
- xi. Open area- Daulatabad Bagh Palace, Srirangapatna



- xii. Shri Harihareshwara Temple, Harihara
  - xiii. Eshwara temple, Arasikere
  - xiv. Fort Devanahalli
  - xv. Someshwara temple, Kolar
  - xvi. Open area Group of temples, Nandi
  - xvii. Anantapadmanabha Temple complex, Karkala
  - xviii. Fort, Bellary
  - xix. Open area around monuments, Hampi
4. BHOPAL CIRCLE
- i. North of Chitragupta temple, Khajuraho
  - ii. Tansen Tomb, Gwalior
  - iii. Open area around Sas Bahu temple, Gwalior
  - iv. Open area to the west of Shiva temple, Bhojpur
  - v. Open area Jahaz Mahal, Mandu
5. BHUBANESHWAR CIRCLE
- i. Open area around Raja Rani Temple, Bhubaneswar
  - ii. Open area Mukteshwar temple
  - iii. Parashu Rameshwar Temple
  - iv. Open area Sun Temple, Konarak
  - v. Sita Bhanji
  - vi. Haripur Garh
  - vii. Site at Ratnagiri
6. CHANDIGARH CIRCLE
- i. Open area surrounding Jal Mahal, Narnaul
  - ii. Fort, Nurpur
  - iii. Open area, Kangra Fort
  - iv. Dakhni Sarai
  - v. Fort Bhatinda
7. CHENNAI CIRCLE
- i. Brihadishwara temple, Tanjavore
  - ii. Brihadishwara temple, Gangaikonda Cholapuram
  - iii. Aravateshwara Temple, Darasuram
  - iv. Group of temples, Rock cut caves, Mahabalipuram
  - v. Open area Group of temples, Moovar Koil
  - vi. Fort area Sadras
8. DELHI CIRCLE
- i. Arab ki Sarai (Humayun's Tomb Complex)
  - ii. Outer lawn isakhan Tomb (Humayun's Tomb Complex)
  - iii. Jahaj Mahal
  - iv. Roshnara Garden
  - v. Open area Qutb Minar Complex
  - vi. Lawn and outer open area, Purana Qila
  - vii. Open area Quila Raipithora
  - viii. Open area Red Fort (area of Ram Lila and inside)
9. DEHRADUN CIRCLE
- i. Rudranath Temple Complex, Gopeshwar, Distt. Chamoli
10. DEHRADUN CIRCLE
- i. Open area Durga Temple complex, Aihole
  - ii. Open area Jyotirling Group of Temples, Aihole
  - iii. Open area north of temples, Pattadakal
  - iv. Open area between Group of temples, Ashtur
  - v. Open area within the Fort Gulbarga
  - vi. Open area Mahmud Gawans Madarasa, Bidar
  - vii. Open area surrounding Gol Gumbaz, Bijapur
  - viii. Lawns of Imbrahim Rauza, Bijapur
  - ix. Open area, Navaraspur
  - x. Open area Group of monuments, Lukkundi
  - xi. Open area around Mahadevi Temple, Ittagi
  - xii. Open area towards west of Siddeshwara Temple, Haveri

- xiii. Madhukeshwara temple complex, Banavasi
- xiv. Mukteshwara temple, Chandadanpur
- xv. Open area Fort, Souda

## 11. GOA CIRCLE

- i. Open area within the Fort, Aguda
- ii. Mahadev temple complex, Tambdi Surla
- iii. Open area Safa Masjid, Ponda

## 12. HYDERABAD CIRCLE

- i. Area within Golconda Fort
- ii. Siddhout Fort, Cuddapah
- iii. Sankaram, Vishakhapatnam
- iv. Ramappa Temple, Palampet
- v. Area within the Fort, Warangal
- vi. Open area around transplanted monument Nagtarjunkonda and Anupa (during day only)
- vii. Area surrounding Amaravati, the stupa site

## 13. JAIPUR CIRCLE

- i. Anna Sagar, Baradari
- ii. Ancient Site at Bhangarh
- iii. Deeg Palace, Deeg, Distt. Bharatpur
- iv. Fort, Bayana
- v. Group of temples, Badoli
- vi. Mahanal Temple, Menal
- vii. Group of temples, Bijolia
- viii. Fort, Chittaurgarh
- ix. Fort, Kumbalgarh
- x. Fort, Ranthambore
- xi. Fort, Jaisalmer
- xii. Archaeological Site, Ludrava
- xiii. Ghat/Jahangiri Mahal, Pushkar

## 14. KOLKATA CIRCLE

- i. Open area in front of Cooch Behar Palace
- ii. Open area surrounding Bishnupur Group of temples, Bishnupur

## 15. LUCKNOW CIRCLE

- i. Residency Lucknow
- ii. Open area Fort, Jhansi

## 16. MUMBAI CIRCLE

- i. Open area Elephanta
- ii. Fort Raigarh
- iii. Palace complex Shaniwarvada, Pune

## 17. PATNA CIRCLE

- i. Archaeological Site, Samath
- ii. Archaeological Site, Nalanda
- iii. Open area Sher Shah Tomb, Sasaram

## 18. RAIPUR CIRCLE

- i. Group of monuments, Sirpur

## 19. RANCHI CIRCLE

Nil

## 20. SHIMLA MINI CIRCLE

- i. Open area Vice Regal Lodge, Shimla

## 21. SRINAGAR CIRCLE

- i. Palace Ramnagar
- ii. Open area of the Fort, Ramnagar

## 22. TRISSUR CIRCLE

- i. Open area within the Fort, Bekal
- ii. Area within Fort St. Angelo, Kannur
- iii. Fort at Pakkad

## 23. VADODARA CIRCLE

- i. Open area/Garden around Sun Temple, Modhera
- ii. Open area within the citadel, Pavagarh

- iii. Fort, Diu
- iv. Fort area, Moti Daman
- v. Fort area Nani Daman
- vi. Area around step well, Patan.

#### **Non-Viable Refineries**

1417. SHRI DUSHYANT SINGH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the policy with regard to the establishment of oil refineries;

(b) whether Government has identified some oil refineries as economically non-viable and proposes to close down those refineries;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the measures taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to make those refineries economically viable?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL): (a) The refineries sector has been delicensed since June, 1998 and a refinery can be set up anywhere in India by Private or Public Sector Enterprises depending on the promoters' assessment of its viability. It is not the Central Government but Public and Private Sector Enterprises who consider proposals for setting up refineries.

(b) to (d) Government has not identified any Public Sector Oil refinery as economically non-viable and does not propose to close down any refinery.

To enhance the economic performance of refineries, Modernization Programmes, Integrated Gap Reduction Programme etc. have been undertaken in some refineries.

*[Translation]*

#### **Contract for Supply of Mineral Water**

1418. SHRI RAGHURAJ SINGH SHAKYA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the rules under which contract for supply of mineral water at railway stations and in trains is awarded alongwith the term for which it is awarded;

(b) whether testing of such mineral water is done regularly;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the Railways have received any complaints regarding supply of contaminated mineral water during the last two years; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) 'Rail Neer' produced and supplied by Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC), is the exclusive brand of packaged drinking water procured and sold by the departmental units and non-departmental private catering licensees on the premises of Indian Railways including trains. Private licensees are free to procure supply from available BIS (Bureau of Indian Standards) approved brands of packaged drinking water as notified by BIS., where 'Rail Neer' is not available.

(b) Regular checks are conducted by collecting samples of packaged drinking water.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) and (e) 44 complaints of unsatisfactory quality of packaged drinking water have been reported during the last two years. Action like, warning, imposition of fine etc. have been taken on the substantiated cases.

*[English]*

#### **Strategy to Get More Revenues**

1419. SHRI M. SREENIVASULU REDDY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Railways have staged a "dramatic turn around" with the same employees and assets;

(b) whether any strategy has been adopted by the Railways to get more revenues once again to become engine of growth for the Nation; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) Railways have an effective monitoring system of watching performance by using techniques for reduction in cost of operation.

(c) Railways strategy is to get more revenue by increasing wagon availability, rationalization in freight rates, identifying to and fro freight loading to avoid empty wagon movement, make the system transparent by effective Freight information and operating system.

#### **Procurement of T-90 Main Battle Tanks**

1420. SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TPIPATHY: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to produce more T-90 main battle tanks for the Indian Army;

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

(c) the estimated cost of the project in comparison to import cost from Russia; and

(d) the time by which these tanks are likely to be handed over to Army?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (RAO INDERJIT SINGH): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. Heavy Vehicle Factory (HVF), Avadi has so far produced 181 tanks and supplied to Indian Army. India had signed a contract with Russia in 2001 for license production of 1000 T-90 tanks and an initial order of 300 tanks has been placed on HVF, Avadi. The supply to Army against this order will commence from the year 2007-2008.

While the T-90 tanks were procured directly from Russia at the cost of Rs.11.00 crore in 2001, the issue price of indigenous tanks for the current year is Rs. 12.00 crore.

#### **Production Capacity of BHEL**

1421. SHRI L. RAJAGOPAL: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) the annual capacity of Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL) in producing power equipment;

(b) the annual requirement of power equipment in the country;

(c) whether there is a proposal to increase BHEL's annual equipment turnover to meet the local demands of the country;

(d) if so, whether the BHEL is also planning to increase the production of power equipment so as to achieve the target of 60,000 MW in near future; and

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

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

(a) to (e) The annual capacity of BHEL for manufacturing Power Plant Equipment has been 6,000 MW from Sixth Five Year Plan onwards. Out of the original Tenth Plan capacity addition target of 41,110 MW, BHEL was entrusted with a responsibility of commissioning 20,621 MW which is around 50% of the plan. Thus, the capacity utilization of BHEL during Tenth Five Year Plan was around 67%. As per the latest projections of Ministry of Power, a capacity addition of 30,642 MW is likely to be achieved during Tenth Plan in which BHEL's contribution is likely to be 19,291 MW which is about 62% of the added capacity. BHEL's manufacturing capacity of 6,000 MW per annum is more than adequate to meet the requirement for manufacturing power plant equipments during Tenth Plan.

The capacity addition programme, which is under finalization for Eleventh Five Year Plan envisages capacity addition of around 60,000 MW in 5 year period. Out of the envisaged 60,000 MW of Power generation capacity addition, about 12,000 MW has been so far ordered on BHEL and about 14,000 MW on other suppliers. As per the overall share of BHEL of 65% in power sector, BHEL is likely to get orders of 39000 MW during Eleventh Five Year Plan period i.e., around 7800 MW per annum. BHEL is presently implementing projects to expand its annual capacity from 6,000 MW per annum to 10,000 MW per annum. The expansion will be completed by 2007.

#### **New Rail Line in Kerala**

1422. SHRIMATI P. SATHEEDEVI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railway Ministry has sanctioned any new proposal for construction of new Railway lines providing inter-State travelling facilities to Kerala and neighbouring States;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the funds allocated by the Railways to start the work of proposed Thalassery Mysore Railway line;

(c) the nature of the construction of IRCTC;

(d) whether the Railways have any control on its functions; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) to (e) Indian Railway Catering & Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) is a company registered under Company's Act 1956. 100% shares of the company are owned by the Ministry of Railways. The company is managed by the Board of Directors. Control of Railways on the functioning of IRCTC is as per Government instructions for the functioning of any Public Sector Units.

*[Translation]*

#### **Imposition of Superfast Charges on Trains**

1423. SHRI RAKESH SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways are aware that the MST holders of Mahakoshal Express and Dayodaya Express trains under the West Central Railway are forced to pay the double fare due to the conversion of these trains into Superfast trains in spite of the fact that the running time of these trains remained the same; and

(b) If so, the steps taken by the Railways to remove this anomaly and withdraw the superfast charges imposed on such trains?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Certain trains whose average speed on the entire run in both Up & Dn directions is minimum 55 kmph on Broad Gauge and 45 kmph on Metre Gauge are designated as superfast. A nominal surcharge of Rs. 10 per passenger is levied for travel in second class by such trains. The charges for monthly superfast surcharge ticket is equivalent to 15 single journey superfast charge. As Mahakoshal Express

and Dayodaya Express trains qualify the required speed criteria, they come under the category of superfast trains.

(b) there is no proposal to withdraw this surcharge.

*[English]*

#### **Heavy Discount on Loading**

1424. SHRI HEM LAL MURMU: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have announced heavy discount for loading in empty returning goods trains and on parcel items;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the target achieved by each of zonal Railway for loading empty returning goods trains and parcel trains; and

(d) the steps being taken by the Railways to provide better service to the mail/express and passenger trains users for loading and booking of the goods?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Railways have announced freight concession for loading in notified traditional empty flow direction for goods traffic. 30% freight discount in lean season and 20% freight discount in busy season is granted on incremental traffic under the Incentive Scheme for Traditional Empty Flow Direction. Commodities are booked at composite class rate of LR-2 in lean season and class-100 in busy season when moved under Freight Forwarder Scheme in traditional empty flow directions. Concession under these schemes are subject to fulfillment of certain terms and conditions.

(c) No target was fixed as such.

(d) Additional Parcel vans are being attached as per demand and availability.

#### **Accidents of Civilian Planes**

1425. SHRI P. KARUNAKARAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of accidents of civilian planes in the country during the last three years;

(b) whether any inquiry has been conducted to establish the reasons of these accidents;

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

(d) whether there is any permanent and independent Inquiry Commission to inquire into such accidents; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) During the last 3 years from 2004 till date, 14 accidents of Indian Civil Registered aircraft have been reported by Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA), of these 7 were in 2004, 3 in 2005 and in 4 in 2006.

(b) and (c) These accidents were investigated by the "Inspector of Accidents" appointed by DGCA under Rule 71 of Aircraft Rules, 1937. The findings broadly attributed these accidents to human error, mechanical failure, non adherence to standard operating procedure, bad weather conditions, etc. The safety recommendations of the investigation authority are mandatorily implemented by the concerned agencies. DGCA also ensures safety in aviation operation by regular monitoring, inspections and airworthiness checks.

(d) No, Sir,

(e) Does not arise.,

#### **Amendment In PWD Act, 1995**

1426. SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to amend the Persons with Disabilities Act, 1995;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which it is likely to be amended?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) to (c) Two meetings with the stakeholders seeking suggestions for amendment of PWD Act, 1995 have been held at Patna and Chennai. It is not possible to indicate a time frame.

*[Translation]*

#### **Rail Line between Delhi-Katra**

1427. PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the progress made so far on the construction of Delhi-Katra railway line;

(b) the expenditure incurred on the project;

(c) the time schedule for completion of the said project;

(d) whether the construction work of the said route has been delayed;

(e) if so, the percentage of cost over run assessed on the said route;

(f) whether the Railways propose to run Shatabadi trains on this route; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) Railway line already exists from Delhi to Udhampur. Work for new rail line between Udhampur-Katra (25 kms.) is in progress as part of Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla rail link national project. The expenditure on the Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla project upto March, 2006 is Rs. 2986 crore and an outlay of Rs. 1700 crore has been allocated for the year 2006-07.

(c) to (e) Udhampur-Katra is targeted for completion by March, 2007 but likely to get delayed due to geo-technical problem being faced in one of the tunnels. The cost over run on this account has not been assessed.

(f) No, Sir.

(g) Does not arise.

*[English]*

#### **Use of Aluminium in Automobile Industry**

1428. SHRI HITEN BARMAN: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to constitute a study group to implement substitution of conventional material like iron, wood with aluminium in automobiles;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any research has been conducted on the substitution by aluminium in automobile industry; and

(d) if so, the details alongwith the findings thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF HEAVY INDUSTRY, MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH): (a) and (b) A Core-group on automotive R&D (CAR) has already been constituted as a collaborative effort between the Department of Science & Technology, Department of Heavy Industry and Department of Information Technology. The Technology Roadmap drawn by CAR has suggested increased use of aluminium as it would result in lightweight automobile bodies saving fuel, although currently the raw materials cost is high.

(c) and (d) The Department of Science and Technology and the Ministry of Mines have established a centre of excellence in semi-solid forming. The CSIR is also conducting research on increased applications of aluminium under its Advanced Manufacturing Technology (AMT) mission programme. Jawahar Lal Nehru Aluminium Research Development & Design Centre at Nagpur is known as center of excellence for aluminium and has conducted research on development of new aluminium alloys for general purpose and engineering industries. In private sectors, R&D center in M/s. Hindustan Aluminium Company (Hindalco) is also doing research in substituting conventional materials by aluminium alloys. Aluminium based composite components like cylinder liner, brake discs, brake drums etc. have been put to field trial by major automobile manufacturers like M/s. TVS Motors, M/s. Mahindra & Mahindra, etc.

*[Translation]*

#### **Inscriptions on Historical Monuments**

1429. SHRI VIJAY KUMAR KHANDELWAL: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government takes any measure to make the people follow the instruction mentioned on the notice boards outside the protected monuments;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Under Rule 8 of the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Rules 1959, there is a prohibition of certain acts within the centrally protected monuments whereby no person shall within a protected monument:

- (1) do any act which causes or is likely to cause damage or injury to any part of the monument; or
- (2) discharge any fire-arms; or
- (3) cook or consume food except in areas, if any, permitted to be used for that purpose; or
- (4) hawk or sell any goods or wares or canvass any customer for such goods or wares or display any advertisement in any form or shall take a visitor round or take his photographs for monetary consideration, except under the authority of, or under, and in accordance with the conditions of, a licence granted by an archaeological officer; or
- (5) beg for alms; or
- (6) violate any practice, usage or custom applicable to or observed in the monument; or
- (7) bring, for any purpose other than the maintenance of the monument,
  - (i) any animal; or
  - (ii) any vehicle except in areas reserved for the parking thereof.

In addition except the recognized religious functions consisting of congregations, receptions, parties, conferences or entertainment of the religious nature, all other meetings and conferences, etc., have been prohibited except with the written permission of the Central Government.

With a view to ensure strict adherence to the above, under the provision of Rule 9 of the AMASR Rules, 1959, penalties have been provided for persons violating the provisions of the Rules.

In order to create awareness among the general public for the strict adherence of the provision of the above Rule, awareness programme are being organized at the sites/monuments.

The watch and ward staff and security guards deployed at the centrally protected monuments/sites do keep constant vigil on the visitors to ensure that the instructions as contained in the notice boards provided outside the monuments are not violated. Complaints are lodged with the local police, wherever it is needed.

#### **Aerodrome at Jharsuguda**

1430. SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government, proposes to develop the aerodrome at Jharsuguda in Orissa a full-fledge airport;

(b) if so, the details alongwith the funds allocated for the said purpose; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No airline operator has shown interest to operate scheduled flights through Jharsuguda airport. Therefore, there is no plan to renovate/develop this airport.

#### **Assistance from Foreign Financial Institutions for Railway Projects**

1431. SHRI BRAJESH PATHAK: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of ongoing railway projects financed by foreign financial institutions and the estimated cost likely to incur thereort;

(b) whether the Railways have utilised the said funds;

(c) if not, whether the Railways have paid the commitment charges to these foreign institutions; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) The details of Railway projects for which foreign assistance is being received, their estimated cost, external aid received and utilized (up to 31.3.2006) are as below:

(i) Mumbai Urban Transport Project (MUTP), which has both road and rail. components, is being partly funded by World Bank. The estimated cost of the rail component is Rs. 3125 crore. A loan of US Dollar 463 million has been extended by International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) and a credit of Special Drawing Right (SDR) 62.5 million has been extended by International Development Association (IDA). The IBRD loan and IDA credit earmarked for the rail component are US Dollar 304.5 million and SDR 42.13 million respectively. An amount of US Dollar 44.628 million and Special Drawing Right (SDR) 29.489 million has been utilized from the IBRD loan and IDA credit respectively for the Rail portion.

(ii) Project of Modernisation of Signalling between Ghaziabad and Kanpur is being partly funded by Kreditanstalt fur Wiederaufbau (KW), Germany. The estimated cost of the project is Rs. 425 crore. The loan amount is DM 185 million (Euro 94.5 million). An amount of Euro 3.761 million has been utilized.

(iii) The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has extended a loan to finance the Railway Sector Improvement Project with the objective of enhancing capacity of the rail network and improving operational efficiency/safety. The sub-projects to be funded from the loan are principally in the Golden Quadrilateral and its Diagonals and Port Connectivity projects. The estimated cost of the Project is US\$ 579.2 million. The loan amount is US Dollar 313.6 million. An amount of US Dollar 1.485 million has been utilized.

(c) and (d) The amount of commitment charges paid upto 31.3.2006 are given below:

ADB		Rs. 3.91 Crores paid by Ministry of Finance
World Bank	IBRD Loan	Rs. 16.82 Crores paid by Ministry of Finance



World Bank IDA Credit Rs. 1.86 Crores paid by Ministry of Finance

KFW Loan A total amount of Rs. 10.90 crore of which Rs. 8.29 Crores paid by Railways and rest by Ministry of Finance.

*[English]*

**Railway Line between Gopalpur-Rayagada In Orissa**

1432. SHRI PARSURAM MAJHI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state;

(a) whether the Railways have a proposal to take up the survey of Gopalpur-Rayagada line in Orissa;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the amount sanctioned for the survey of that proposed line; and

(d) the time by which the survey is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (d) A Reconnaissance Engineering-cum-Traffic Survey for construction of a new broad gauge railway line between Rayagada and Gopalpur (180 Kms) has recently been sanctioned at a cost of Rs. 12.15 lakh. The target date of completion of the survey has not yet been fixed.

**Railway Project Linking Asia and Europe**

1433. SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has refused to join the railway project linking 28 nations in Asia and Europe; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) No, Sir. Ministry of Railways were involved in the discussion for Trans-Asian Railway Network, an initiative of UN-ESCAP (United

Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific)

*[Translation]*

**Railway Lines**

1434. CH. MUNAWAR HASSAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the railway lines in Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Maharashtra, Karnataka for which survey has been done for doubling and electrification during the last three years;

(b) whether several rail lines in regard to which survey report was negative have been included in the list of lines selected for doubling and electrification;

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

(d) the measures being taken by the Government for doubling of Saharanpur-Shamli-Delhi line in Uttar Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) The following surveys in Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Maharashtra and Karnataka have been done/completed for doubling and electrification during the last three years i.e. 2003-04, 2004-05 and 2005-06:

Sl.No.	Section	State(s)
<b>DOUBLINGS</b>		
1.	Panvel-Pen-Roha	Maharashtra
2.	Pune-Miraj-Kolhapur	Maharashtra
3.	Kiul-Nawadah-Gaya	Bihar
4.	Bhagalpur-Barharwa	Bihar/Jharkhand
5.	Panki-Mugalsarai 3rd line	Uttar Pradesh
6.	Barabanki-Chapra	Uttar Pradesh/Bihar
7.	Khurja-Hapur-Meerut	Uttar Pradesh
8.	Meerut-Saharanpur	Uttar Pradesh
9.	Udhna-Jalgaon	Gujarat, Maharashtra
10.	Virar-Ahmedabad	Gujarat, Maharashtra
<b>ELECTRIFICATION</b>		
1.	Barabanki-Chhapra-Barauni	Uttar Pradesh and Bihar

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) At present there is no proposal for doubling of Saharanpur-Shamli-Delhi Shahdara railway line.

#### **Rail Koshi Mahasetu**

1435. SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether target for completion of Rail-Koshi Mahasetu on the Koshi river in Bihar is fixed for March, 2009;

(b) whether inauguration and foundation laying stone ceremony of the said Mahasetu was done in August, 2005 but none out of the 40 pillars proposed to be erected for the said Mahasetu has been constructed so far;

(c) whether one of the pillar constructed at that time has tilted now;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

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

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

(b) Well foundations for six piers have been taken up.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e) Do not arise.

#### **Dacoity In Trains**

1436. SHRI VIJOY KRISHNA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of incidents of rail dacoities in Jharkhand and Bihar during each of last three years;

(b) whether casualties have also been suffered during such incidents;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps taken by the Railways for safety and security of the passengers and their belongings?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) The number of dacoities reported in trains in Jharkhand & Bihar during the last three years i.e. 2004, 2005 and 2006 (upto September) is as under:-

Year	No. of dacoities reported	
	Jharkhand	Bihar
2004	13	58
2005	22	28
2006 (upto September)	14	45

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. A Statement giving brief details of number of persons killed in these incidents during 2004, 2005 and 2006 (upto September) is attached.

(d) According to Entry No.2 of the State List of the Constitution of India, 'Police' (including Railways and village Police), is a State subject. Registration of cases, their investigation and maintenance of law and order in Railway premises as well as on running trains are, therefore, the statutory responsibility of the State Police. The State Police have a separate wing called the Government Railway Police (GRP) for dealing with all matters relating to law and order on the Railways. Thus, the Railways have to largely depend on Government Railway Police (GRP) for controlling crime on Railways.

Despite the above fact, the Railway Protection Force (RPF) staff are being deployed to escort many trains and also on access control duties in the passenger area to effectively supplement the efforts of the State Governments in controlling crime on the Railways. RPF has also been empowered to deal with the minor offences affecting the train operations such as alarm chain pulling, roof travel, touting, ticketless travel, unauthorized entry into coaches earmarked for ladies etc. (except Sabotage related offences under Sections 150 to 152) with the amendment to the Railways Act, 1989 w.e.f. July 2004, From 01.07.2004 to September 2006, RPF has arrested and prosecuted 22.84 lakhs offenders under the Railways Act with realization of fine Rs 45.39 crores. This has positively helped in making Railways as a safer mode of transport.

**Statement**

Year	Railway/State	Brief Details of the Case	
1	2	4	
2004	East Central Railway	Bihar	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. On 27.5.2004, about 10 armed criminals committed dacoity in trains No. 3483 Up Farakka Express in between Behiya-Raghunathpur. On being resisted, one passenger named Bhawar Singh, Inspector/BSF traveling in train was shot dead. The Government Railways Police/Ara registered a case <i>vide</i> crime No. 35/04 dated 28.5.2004 under section 396, 398 Indian Penal Code (IPC).</li> <li>2. On 2.6.2004, about 07-armed criminals committed dacoity in train No. 3010 Dn. Doon Express in between Anugrah Narayan Road-Guraru Railway stations. On being resisted, one passenger traveling in the train was shot dead. The Government Railway Police / Sonenagar registered a case <i>vide</i> crime No. 13/04 dated 3.6.2004 under section 396 Indian Penal Code (IPC).</li> </ol>
2005	East Central Railway	Bihar	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. On 5.4.2005, about 10-armed criminals suspected to be MCC, attacked three GRP personnel escorting train No. 507 Jhajha-Patna Passenger in between Jhajha-Kiul Railway stations throwing dry chilli powder on their face. One GRP personnel was shot dead and one injured. Government Railways Police / Jhajha registered a case <i>vide</i> crime No. 9/05 dated 5.4.2005 under section 396, 332 Indian Penal Code (IPC) and 17 CL Act.</li> <li>2. On 20.8.2005, about 8 armed criminals committed dacoity in train No. 3484 Farakka Express in between Barh-Railly English Halt Railway stations. On being resisted, one passenger (retired CRPF jawan) traveling in the train was shot dead. Government Railways Police / Bakhtiarpur registered a case <i>vide</i> crime No. 39/05 dated 21.8.2005 under section 396 Indian Penal Code (IPC).</li> </ol>
2006	East Central Railway	Bihar	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. On 17.4.2006, about 10-15 armed criminals committed dacoity in train No. 530 Dn in between Chamua Halt-Narkatiya Ganj Railway stations. On being resisted, one passenger was shot dead. Government Railways Police/</li> </ol>

1

2

4

Narkatiya Ganj registered a case *vide* crime No. 15/06 dated 17.4.2006 under section 396 Indian Penal Code (IPC).

2. On the night of 23/24.4.2006, about 6-7 armed criminals committed dacoity in train no. 407 up passenger in between Bhairoganj-Khairpokhra Railway stations. On being resisted, one passenger was shot dead. Government Railways Police/Narkatiyaganj registered a case *vide* crime no. 16/06 dated 24.4.2006 under section 396 Indian Penal Code (IPC).
3. On 4.6.2006, about 6-7 armed criminals committed dacoity in train no. 2142 Up between Rajendera Nagar- Patna Jn. Railway stations. On being resisted, one ex.-DIG of Police; traveling in the train, was shot dead. Government Railways Police / Patna Jn. registered a case *vide* crime no. 188/06 dated 4.6.2006 under section 396 Indian Penal Code (IPC).

*[English]*

**Setting up of Aeronautical Science and Training Academy at Sriperumbudur**

1437. SHRI K.C. PALLANI SHAMY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has any proposal to set up Aeronautical. Science and Training Academy at Sriperumbudur, Tamil Nadu;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which it is likely to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (c) There is no proposal with the Ministry of Civil Aviation, to set up an Aeronautical Science and Training Academy at Sriperumbudur. However, State Government of Tamil Nadu has shown interest in setting up of such an institute. The proposal is at a preliminary stage and it is not possible to indicate the time by which this Institute would be set up.

*[Translation]*

**Extension of Train upto Haridwar**

1438. SHRI RASHEED MASOOD: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways propose to extend the 9105/9106 Ahmedabad-Delhi-Ahmedabad Mail upto Haridwar *via* Saharanpur; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) 9105/9106 Ahmedabad-Delhi Mail has been extended upto Haridwar *via* Tapri (a suburb of Saharanpur) with effect from 15.7.2006.

*[English]*

**Investment in Overseas Projects**

1439. SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has made huge investments in oil and natural gas sector in overseas projects;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the quantity of oil and gas explored during the last three years, country-wise;

(c) whether any projection has been made for current decade;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to explore more quantity of oil and gas within the country and from abroad?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL): (a) and (b) To enhance the country's energy security, in keeping with the objectives of the Energy Section of the National Common Minimum Programme, ONGC Videsh Limited (OVL), the wholly owned subsidiary of Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC) engaged in Exploration and Production (E&P) activities abroad, as well as other national oil companies such as Oil India Limited (OIL), Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOC), Gail India Limited (GAIL), Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL) and Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL) have acquired participating interests in oil and gas projects abroad. The details are given in the enclosed Statement-I

Out of the projects indicated in the Annexure, only OVL's Greater Nile Oil Project (GNOP) in Sudan, Sakhalin-I Project in Russia, Vietnam Project (Block 06.1) and Block 24 in Syria in all of which OVL have participating interest, have started oil/gas production. The other assets are at various stages of exploration. The quantity of oil and gas produced from the above four projects of OVL are indicated in the enclosed Statement-II.

(c) and (d) OVL aims to achieve an oil and gas production level of 10 million metric tonne (MMT) of oil

plus oil equivalent of gas (O+OEG) by the year 2010. Regarding other companies, the overseas E&P projects in which they are participating, are in exploration stage and hence the potential for oil and gas reserves/production can be assessed only after discoveries are made.

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

- (i) increasing exploration efforts through the New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP); Under NELP, 110 exploration blocks have been awarded to National Oil Companies, foreign companies and private/joint venture companies through International Competitive Bidding process. This includes 20 Exploration Blocks recently awarded in the fifth round of NELP. Another 55 blocks have now been offered under NELP-VI.
- (ii) improving the recovery factor from existing major fields by implementing Enhanced Oil Recovery (EOR)/Improved Oil Recovery (IOR) schemes in particular. ONGC have taken up 15 fields for this purpose at an estimated investment of Rs. 10,972 crore, which would also help in accelerating oil production from these fields;
- (iii) exploring new areas, especially in deep waters and difficult frontier areas, as also the deeper layers of already producing fields; and
- (iv) developing newly discovered fields speedily and stepping up the use of new technologies for seismic surveys, work over, stimulation operations, drilling of wells etc. in producing areas.
- (v) 26 contracts including 10 contracts under the recent third round have been signed so far for exploration of Coal Bed Methane (CBM).
- (vi) Acquisition of overseas oil and gas reserves through equity or participating interest.

**Statement I***Investments made by national oil companies in overseas E&P projects as on 31.3.2006*

(Rs. crores)

Country	OVL	IOC	OIL	GAIL	BPCL	HPCL	Total
Vietnam	909.76	—	—	—	—	—	909.76
Russia	11412.71	—	—	—	—	—	11412.71
Sudan	5887.49	—	—	—	—	—	5887.49
Myanmar	167.03	—	—	112.24	—	—	279.27
Nigeria	—	51.66	—	—	—	—	51.66
Syria	995.92	—	—	—	—	—	995.92
Libya	92.88	85.1	7.94	—	—	—	185.92
Australia	—	—	—	—	1.5	0.06	*1.58
Oman	—	—	—	0.78		0.22	1.00
Gabon	—	144.90	—	—	—	—	144.90
Iran	43.79	145.36	11.52	—	—	—	200.67
Iraq	4.43	—	—	—	—	—	4.43
Qatar	3.00	—	—	—	—	—	3.00
Cote d'Ivor	—	—	25.69	—	—	—	25.69
Egypt	44.43	—	—	—	—	—	44.43
<b>Total</b>	<b>19,561.44</b>	<b>427.02</b>	<b>45.15</b>	<b>113.02</b>	<b>1.50</b>	<b>0.28</b>	<b>20,148</b>

\*Australia &amp; Oman combined.

**Statement II***OVL's share in production of gas and oil during the last three years*

Sl. No.	Particulars	Year ending Mar' 04	Year ending Mar' 05	Year ending Mar' 06
1	2	3	4	5
1.	<b>Vietnam Project</b>			
	(i) Gas (BCM)	0.523	1.349	1.672
	(ii) Condensate (MMT)	0.022	0.039	0.036

1	2	3	4	5
2.	<b>GNOP Sudan</b>			
	Crude Oil (MMT)	3.323	3.675	3.413
3.	<b>Sakhalin-I Project, Russia</b>			
	(i) Crude Oil (MMT)	-	-	0.178
	(ii) Gas (BCM)	-	-	0.083
4.	<b>APEC, Syria</b>			
	Crude Oil (MMT)	-	-	0.957
	<b>Total (O+OEG)</b>	<b>3.868</b>	<b>5.063</b>	<b>6.339</b>

Note: BCM—Billion Cubic Metres  
MMT—Million Metric Tonne

#### Express Train between Baripada and Visakhapatnam

1440. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have any proposal to introduce an Express train between Baripada and Visakhapatnam *via* Balasore;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the said train is likely to be introduced?

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

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

#### Dal Lake

1441. SHRI MILIND DEORA: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has sought international support for getting World Heritage site status for the Dal Lake in Srinagar;

(b) if so, the details thereof,

(c) whether the Government proposes to provide Rs. 75 million for the conservation of the lake in Srinagar;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the number of cases from India pending with UNESCO for Heritage status; and

(f) the time by which they are likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) and (b) No, Sir. No proposal is submitted by the Government of India to the World Heritage Committee for granting world Heritage status to Dal Lake in Srinagar so far.

(c) and (d) The Government of India has sanctioned Conservation Project of Dal-Nageen Lakes. The cost of the Project is Rs. 298.76 crore. Two installments have been released so far. The first instalment of Rs. 40 crore was released during the year 2005-06 and Rs. 30 crore have so far been released during 2006-07. The project is to be completed by 2010.

(e) and (f) No proposal from India for World Heritage status is pending with UNESCO. There are 20 sites in India's tentative list maintained by the UNESCO, of which India can propose only two sites per year (of which one site has to be a natural site) for consideration of World Heritage status. Red Fort, Delhi is proposed for nomination of World Heritage status in the year 2007 and a decision in this regard will be taken in the next meeting of the World Heritage Committee to be held sometime in June-July, 2007.

#### Sites to LOI Holders

1442. SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has issued some policy to offer the running COCO/available sites to the pending LOI holders of the respective locations;

(b) if so, the number of LOI belonging to corpus fund scheme are still pending for the Faridabad locations;

(c) the number of sites of Government agencies have been offered to HPCL for Faridabad; and

(d) the time by which all such pending LOI holders would be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL) (a) The Ministry has issued broad guidelines on 6.9.2006, on the basis of which Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies have been requested to frame their own guidelines for operation of Company-Owned-Company-Operated (COCO) retail outlets (ROs).

(b) There are eight Letters of Intent (LOI) of Indian Oil Corporation Limited, one LOI of Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL) and one LOI of IBP Co. Ltd belonging to Corpus Fund Scheme, which are pending for commissioning of ROs in Faridabad District.

(c) There are two Government sites in Faridabad allocated to 'HPCL for setting up of ROs.

(d) Commissioning of R.Os under Corpus Fund Scheme require procurement of suitable land from land owning agencies, statutory clearances from various authorities concerned etc. Hence, it is not possible to give a time frame for setting of such R.Os. However, OMCs are making all efforts for early commissioning of the pending ROs.

*[Translation]*

#### **Development of Nagwa Airport**

1443. SHRI BHUVANESHWAR PRASAD MEHTA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that the Nagwa airport in Jharkhand is in a pitiable condition and no funds have been spent for the development of this airport for several years;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether in the absence of proper runways there, aircraft and helicopters are forced to land on ground;

(d) if so, whether the Government has any plan for the development of Nagwa airport; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (e) Nagwa airport in Hazaribagh District of Jharkhand State belongs to the State Government. No proposal has been received from the State Government for the development of this airport.

#### **Creamy Layer in OBCs**

1444. SHRI ANANT GUDHE: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has decided to appoint a Committee to review the norms for determining creamy layer in Other Backward Classes;

(b) if so, the details and composition thereof alongwith its terms of reference;

(c) the time by which the committee is likely to submit its report?

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

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

#### **Bidding of Oil and Gas Blocks under NELP-VI**

1445. SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR:  
SHRIMATI RUPATAI D. PATIL:  
SHRI L. RAJAGOPAL:

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

(a) the details of the oil and gas blocks offered under the sixth round of New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP-VI) alongwith locations thereof;

(b) the details of the national and foreign companies participated in the bidding of these blocks;



(c) the details of the blocks allotted to the national and foreign companies separately; and

(d) the time by which exploration of oil and gas in these blocks is likely to be carried out?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL): (a) and (b) A total of 55 exploration blocks (24 deep water, 6 shallow water and 25 onland) were offered under sixth round of NELP falling in East Coast, West Coast and in the state of Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Mizoram, Rajasthan and Tamimadu. A total of 36 foreign companies and 32 National companies participated in bidding round. 165 Bids were received for 52 blocks in NELP-VI. The details of national and foreign companies which participated in bidding round are at Statements I & II respectively.

(c) The contracts to awardee companies will be signed in January, 2007, after following the due procedure.

(d) The exploration of oil and gas, by the awardee companies will commence after issue of Petroleum Exploration License (PEL) by the Government of India in respect of offshore blocks and by the State Governments concerned in respect of onland blocks.

**Statement I**

S.No.	Name of the Company
1	2
1.	ONGC
2.	OIL
3.	GSPC
4.	BPCL
5.	HPCL
6.	GAIL
7.	EN SEARCH
8.	HERMEC
9.	RIL
10.	ESSAR Oil

1	2
11.	Videcon Industries Ltd.
12.	FOCUS
13.	RNRL
14.	GAMMON
15.	Shivani
16.	Adani
17.	Assam Company Ltd.
18.	Prize Petroleum
19.	Jaiprakash Associates
20.	Nitin fire
21.	Global Steel India
22.	Jubilant
23.	Valdel
24.	Gwallor tanks & Vessels
25.	BG Shrike Construction Tech.
26.	Mercator Oil & Gas
27.	IOC
28.	HOEC
29.	NTPC
30.	Jaycee Plastics
31.	Tata Petrodyne
32.	Hydrocarbon Res. Dev. Co. (HRDC)

**Statement II**

Country	Company(ies)
1	2
U.K.	1. BG
	2. BP
	3. Burren Energy
	4. Cairn Energy

1	2
	5. Premier Oil
	6. Stratum Energy
Australia	1. Beach Petroleum
	2. FINDER Exploration
	3. Santos
	4. Tap Oil
	5. Welspun
	6. Zakros
Canada	1. Brownstone
	2. Canoro
	3. GeoGlobal
	4. Niko Resources
	5. Sabre Energy
France	1. Total
Malaysia	1. M3nergy
	2. Suiwah Corpn.
	3. Petronas
	4. Pearl Energy
Italy	1. ENI
Cyprus	1. Sunterra
	2. Newbury Holding
U.S.A.	1. EOG Resources
	2. JTI
Oman	1. Petrogas
Ukraine	1. Naftogaz
Poland	1. PGNIG
Singapore	1. Singapore Petroleum Corpn.
Kuwait	1. KUFPEC
Panama	1. Hallworthy

1	2
Myanmar	1. Silverwave
Thailand	1. Pan Orient
Monaco	1. Geopetrol

*[English]*

#### Acquisition of Aircraft on Dry Lease

1446. SHRI KIRTI VARDHAN SINGH:  
SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE:  
SHRI EKNATH MAHADEO GAIKWAD:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Airlines has proposed to dry lease certain aircraft for its operation as reported in 'The Times of India' dated October 24, 2006;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Indian Airlines is planning to outsource maintenance and other related activities; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Indian Airlines proposes to take on dry lease basis five A-320 aircraft with CFM engine during January, 2007 - April, 2007 for lease term of three years/three years extendable to five years. Two wide body A330-200 aircraft are also proposed to be inducted in June, 2007 and November, 2007 on lease for a period of 7 years. Indian Airlines' wholly owned subsidiary, Alliance Air, also proposes to induct six 70-seater jet aircraft and six 50-seater ATR-42 turbo-prop aircraft in its fleet on lease.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

#### Financial Assistance to Karnataka

1447. SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY:  
SHRI MANJUNATH KUNNUR:

Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has received any proposal from Government of Karnataka for financial assistance to organize cultural programmes on the occasion of Mahamastakabhisheka 2006;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) and (b) Yes, sir. A proposal for carrying out following works were received from Government of Karnataka:

S.No.	Works
1.	Security services at Vindhyagiri and Chandragiri hill
2.	Railing for visitor's movement in the courtyard in front of tourism office
3.	Sanitation & water supply at Vindhyagiri & Chandragiri hills
4.	Footwear Storage, drinking water facility
5.	Removal of water pipelines, reworking of electrical cables, concealing removal of water tank, relocation of police booth
6.	Parking arrangement

(c) Archaeological Survey of India has spent Rupees 81.09 lakhs on the following conservation and development works:

S.No.	Details of works carried out
1.	Security services at Vindhyagiri and Chandragiri hill
2.	Redesign of entrance gate and paving of entrance area Vindhyagiri hill
3.	Railing for visitor's movement in the courtyard in front of tourism office
4.	Palki arrangement at the base of the hill
5.	Developing seating area and providing benches
6.	Incoming and outgoing signage and directional signage
7.	Redesign of office and redesign of Hundi
8.	Provision of toilets and drinking water.

The Ministry of Tourism received a proposal for payment towards Advertisement for Mahamastakabhisheka -2006 being celebrated in Karnataka. Ministry of Tourism has sanctioned funds to the tune of Rs. 26,22,243.00 on 26.3.2006 for launching a print Media campaign in the domestic market to create awareness about the Mahamastakabhisheka-2006.

[Translation]

### Ring Railways in Delhi

1448. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the estimate number of persons travelled in Ring Rail Service in Delhi during each of the last three years;

(b) the effective measures being taken to increase the efficiency of Ring Railways;

(c) whether the Railways propose to make the Ring Rail Service in Delhi more systematic and efficient with a view to improving the environment and also to reduce the heavy traffic load on the roads in Delhi;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the funds allocated for the development of Ring Rail Service in Delhi and achievements made in this regard during each of the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (d) The year-wise details of passengers travelled in Ring Rail Service in Delhi during the last three years are as under:

2003-2004 = 16.67 lakhs

2004-2005 = 18.12 lakhs

2005-2006 = 18.36 lakhs

Efforts are being made to popularize this service by providing infrastructural development and passengers amenities viz. extension of platforms, provision of booking counters, provision of parking, etc.

(e) An amount of Rs. 84.47 lakhs was allocated for development of Ring Rail Service in Delhi, out of which an amount of Rs. 55.20 lakhs was spent on various developmental activities.

**Touts' Involvement in Tatkal Scheme**

1449. SHRI HARISINH CHAVDA:  
SHRI TUKARAM GANPATARAO RENGE  
PATIL:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways are aware that the Tatkal Scheme is entirely in the hands of touts;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of persons apprehended for black marketing of Tatkal railway tickets during the last two years and the action taken against them; and

(d) the steps taken by the Railways to dismantle the network of touts?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) No, Sir. No incidence of rampant touting activities in Tatkal Scheme has come to notice.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) During the years 2005 and 2006 (upto September), 1215 and 766 touts respectively were prosecuted under section 143 of the Railways Act, 1989 for unauthorizedly carrying on the business & selling of railway tickets. No separate figures are maintained in respect of black marketing of Tatkal tickets.

(d) Regular and surprise checks are conducted in association with Vigilance and Security to curb the activities of touts in and around reservation offices. During peak rush periods, such checks are intensified. Touts so apprehended are prosecuted as per provisions of law. Strict disciplinary action is taken against the staff found conniving with touts in such malpractices.

**Public Sector Undertakings**

1450. SHRI HARIN PATHAK:  
DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a MoU has been signed between RVNL, Gujarat Maritime Board, GIDC, Adani Port Ltd. and ONGC for gauge conversion of Bharuch-Dahej railway line;

(b) if so, the equity contribution for each stakeholder in the project;

(c) whether any public sector undertakings of GoI is willing to invest in equity for the project;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) what is the time frame for planning and implementation of the project ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) has been signed among Rail Vikas Nigam Limited (RVNL), Gujarat Maritime Board and Gujarat Industrial Development Corporation (GIDC).

(b) The proposed equity contribution (in crores) agreed by the shareholders so far is as under:-

RVNL	— 25
Dahej Special Economic Zone (SEZ) Ltd.	— 10
Gujarat Maritime Board	— 10
Gujarat Narmada Valley Fertiliser Company Ltd.	— 10
Adani Petronet (Dahej) Port Pvt. Ltd.	— 10

(c) No such response was received against Expression of Interest floated by RVNL.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) Two years after signing of Share Holders Agreement.

**Overcharging by Pantry Contractors**

1451. SHRI SHRINIWAS DADASAHEB PATIL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether cases of supply of inferior quality of food, over charging etc. by the pantry contractors on trains have come to the notice of the Railways;

(b) if so, the action taken by the Railways against such pantry contractors;

(c) whether the Railways propose to formulate a uniform policy regarding supply of standard quality meals in the Indian Railways as per prescribed rates; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. Some cases of supply of inferior quality of food, over charging etc. by the pantry contractors on trains have come to the notice of the Railways. Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation and Zonal Railways conduct inspection and surprise checks at stations and on trains with a view to ensure that good quality food is supplied through railway catering services. Efforts are also made that licensees do not overcharge for food and do not serve underweight food to the passengers. Moreover, action like, imposition of fine, issuing warning and even termination of contract, are taken in the event of licensees being found at fault. The tariff of tea/coffee, Breakfast and Standard meals is fixed by the Ministry of Railways. This tariff is applicable uniformly throughout Indian Railways.

#### **Railway Package Tours**

1452. SHRI JASHUBHAI DHANABHAI BARAD:  
SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL:  
SHRI EKNATH MAHADEO GAIKWAD:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of railway package tours currently under operation;

(b) whether the Railways have any plan to launch more such package tours for various places in the country;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the proposals in this regard have also been received from various State Governments; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) The Ministry of Railways runs luxury tourist trains viz. Palace on Wheels and the Heritage on Wheels in the Rajasthan Sector and the Deccan Odyssey in Maharashtra Sector; steam safari train - the Fairy Queen on Delhi-Alwar Sector. Besides the above, it also runs the Bharat Darshan trains, which takes the tourists to various important tourist destinations across the country, The Railways also provide berths on regular

trains on demand by Tour Operators for tour packages in different circuits across the country.

(b) to (e) The State Governments of Andhra Pradesh and Punjab have proposed to launch luxury tourist trains. The luxury tourist train of the State Government of Andhra Pradesh proposes to cover Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Kerala and Pondicherry and the Luxury Tourist Train of the Punjab Government proposes to cover Punjab, Himachal Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh and Delhi. The operational feasibility of the above proposals has not been determined.

*[Translation]*

#### **Encroachment on Historical Monuments**

1453. SHRI SUNIL KUMAR MAHATO:  
SHRI ANANT GUDHE:  
SHRI SRICHAND KRIPLANI:  
SHRI HARIKEWAL PRASAD:  
SHRI MILIND DEORA:  
SHRI NAVEEN JINDAL:  
SHRI K.C. SINGH "BABA":  
SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL:

Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of national monuments under the control of the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI); State-wise;

(b) whether the ASI conducts nation-wide surveys of these monuments from time to time;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether a large number of centrally protected monuments in various parts of the country have either disappeared or have been encroached upon;

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

(f) the action being taken to clear the encroachments; and

(g) the time by which all the encroachments will be evicted?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) to (c) There are 3667 centrally protected monuments/sites which have been declared as of national importance, a list of which (State-wise) is at statement I. The monuments under Archaeological Survey of India are being surveyed from time to time by officers of different levels for their upkeep and maintenance and for enforcement of the provisions of the AMASR Act, 1958 and Rules 1959. Conservation, preservation, maintenance and provision of tourist related amenities at these monuments is a continuous process and is undertaken by the Archaeological Survey of India as per requirement subject to the availability of resources.

(d) to (g) 35 centrally protected monuments in the country are reported to have disappeared. The details of 35 centrally protected monuments/sites which are not traceable in the country (State-wise) are given in Statement-II enclosed.

In order to prevent encroachments, in 1992, ASI has issued a notification declaring areas upto 100 metres from the protected limits of centrally protected monument/site as 'prohibited areas' where all construction and mining activities are banned. Another 200 metres beyond this had been declared as 'regulated area' where construction/mining activity is permitted only in accordance with the terms and conditions of a licence issued by the Director General, Archaeological Survey of India.

The Superintending Archaeologist's of Circles have also been vested with the powers of Estate Officer to issue eviction notices/orders to the encroachers under Public Premises (Eviction of Unauthorised Occupants) Act, 1971. They are also authorised to issue show cause notices under the provisions of Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act, 1958 and Rules 1959 followed by an order to the District Collector/Magistrate by Director General of Archaeological Survey of India to remove such encroachment under Section 19(2) of the Act and Rules 38 (2) of the Rule.

Any fixed time frame for eviction of all encroachments cannot be laid as the Archaeological Survey of India requires assistance of the State and District administration for carrying out evictions. Where there are no fruitful results, legal action has to be initiated against the encroachers by filing eviction cases in the court of law.

**Statement I***Centrally Protected monuments under Archaeological Survey of India*

Sl.No.	Name of State	Nos. of Monuments
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	137
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	05
3.	Assam	53
4.	Bihar	70
5.	Chhattisgarh	47
6.	Daman and Diu (U. T.)	12
7.	Goa	21
8.	Gujarat	202
9.	Haryana	90
10.	Himachal Pradesh	40
11.	Jammu and Kashmir	69
12.	Jharkhand	12
13.	Karnataka	507
14.	Kerala	26
15.	Madhya Pradesh	286
16.	Maharashtra	266
17.	Manipur	01
18.	Meghalaya	08
19.	Nagaland	04
20.	N.C.T. Delhi	175
21.	Orissa	78
22.	Pondicherry (U.T.)	07
23.	Punjab	31
24.	Rajasthan	162
25.	Sikkim	03

1	2	3
26.	Tamil Nadu	413
27.	Tripura	05
28.	Uttar Pradesh	742
29.	Uttaranchal	042
30.	West Bengal	133
Total		3667

**Statement II***List of Centrally Protected Monuments/Sites  
which are not Traceable**Name of Monument/Site***Assam**

1. Guns of Emperor Sher Shah at Na-sadia, Distt. Tinsukia

**Arunachal Pradesh**

1. Ruins of Copper Temple near Paya, Distt. Lohit

**Delhi**

1. The Moti Gate of Sher Shah's Delhi, Mauza Babarpur Bazidpur, Distt. New Delhi
2. Pool Chadar, Mauza Chaukri Mubarakabad, Distt. North Delhi
3. Alipur Cemetery, Alipur encamping ground, Distt. North Delhi
4. Bara Khamba Cemetery, Imperial city, Distt. Delhi
5. Tomb of Capt. Me. Barnett & others who falls in an attack on Kishanganj, Kishanganj, Distt. North Delhi
6. Tomb with three domes near railway station, Nizamuddin, Distt. South Delhi
7. Site of Siege Battery bearing the inscription:- "Right Attack, Lieutenant F.R. Mansell, R.E., Directing Engineer, No. 1 Battery-Right, Major James Brind, R.A., Commanding, Armament five 18-pounders: one 18-inch howitzer. To silence

Mori Bastion.", East of the hospital in police line, Distt. North Delhi

8. Site of Siege Battery with following inscription:- "No. II Battery-Right, Major Edward Kaye, R.A., Commanding Armament two 18-pounders; seven 8-inch howitzers, To breach Kashmir bastion.", Compound of Curzon House, Distt. North Delhi
9. Inchla Wali Gumti, village Mubarak pur Kotla, Distt. South Delhi
10. Mound known as Joga Bai comprised in part of Survey plot no. 167 as Jamia Nagar, Distt. South Delhi
11. Shamsi Tallab together with both the platform entrance gates, Mehrauli, Distt. Delhi
12. Nicholson Statue, its platform, its surrounding gardens, paths and enclosure wall, Outside of Kashmiri Gate, Distt. North Delhi

**Gujarat**

1. Ancient Site, Sejakpur, Distt. Surendranagar
2. Historic Site No. 431 to 435, Vadodara, Distt. Vadodara

**Haryana**

1. Mughal Kos Minar, Mujesar, Distt. Faridabad, Haryana
2. Mughal Kos Minar, Shahbad, Distt. Kurukshetra, Haryana

**Jammu & Kashmir**

1. Rock carving of Sitala, Narada, Brahma and Radha Krishna, Basohli, Dist. Kathura
2. Rock Carving of Devi riding a lion, Basohli, Dist. Kathura
3. Visveswara and other cave temple, Basohli, Dist. Kathura

**Karnataka**

1. Pre-historic Site, Kittur, Distt. Mysore.

**Rajasthan**

1. Inscription in Fort, Nagar, Distt. Tonk
2. 12th Cent. Temple, Baran, Distt. Baran

**Uttaranchal**

1. Kutumbari Temple, Dwarahat, Tehsil Ranikhet, Distt. Almora
2. Khera Ki Bandi, Old Cemetery, Tehsil Roorkee, Distt. Haridwar
3. Remains of ancient buildings locally identified with Vairatapattana, Dhikuli, Tehsil Ramnagar, Distt Nainital

**Uttar Pradesh**

1. Closed Cemetery, Katra Naka, Tehsil Banda, Distt. Banda
2. Large ruined site called Sandi Khera, Pali, Tehsil Shahabad, Distt. Hardoi
3. Cemetery, Jalaun (Bus Stand), Tehsil Jalaun, Distt. Jalaun
4. Gunner Burkill's Tomb, Rangaon, Tehsil Mehroni, Distt. Lalitpur
5. Imambara Amin-ud Daula, Lucknow, Tehsil Lucknow, Distt. Lucknow
6. Three Tombs, Lucknow Faizabad Road at miles 3, 4 & 5 Tehsil Lucknow. Distt. Lucknow
7. Cemeteries at miles 6 & 7, Jahraila Road, Tehsil Lucknow, Distt. Lucknow
8. Cemetery at Gaughat, Lucknow, Tehsil Lucknow, Distt Lucknow.

**Allotment of Land for National Regional  
and Rural Hubs**

1454. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have agreed to provide to land private players for national, regional & rural hubs as reported in the Financial Express dated October 24, 2006;

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

(c) whether there has been discussion between private companies and the Railways in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details and outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (d) A policy to promote Agriculture Products collection and distribution outlets with backward integration is under active consideration. A committee has been formed to prepare a concept paper for policy framework. The Agricultural retail chain will be developed on the basis of private public partnership and sparable railway land being offered as per policy.

**Air Services from Delhi to Hill Stations**

1455. SHRI SUGRIB SINGH:  
SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL:  
SHRI E.G. SUGAVANAM:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Airports Authority of India (AAI) is expanding runways at several places to enable Delhites to reach hill stations within a few hours as reported in "The Times of India" dated September 11, 2006;

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

(c) the name of runways likely to be expanded alongwith the estimated expenditure to be incurred on such runways;

(d) the time by which the said work, is likely to be completed; and

(e) the other facilities likely to be made available at these airports?

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

(b) to (d) At Kangra, work of extension of runway by 600 ft. and associated work have already been completed in the year 2004 to cater to operation of ATR-72 type. At Dehradun, work of strengthening, extension of runway from 11.52m to 2134m and several associated works at a cost of Rs.79 crores have been taken up to facilitate operation of aircrafts upto AB-320 type. At Jammu, extension of runway from 6000 ft. to 8000 ft. has been



taken up and the work for resurfacing of existing runway and extension of runway on the southern side by 700 ft. at a cost of Rs. 11.21 crores has been completed. At Pantnagar, work for extension and strengthening of runway alongwith associated surfaces from 1097m to 2143m at an estimated cost of Rs. 11 crores has been taken up. At Kullu-Manali & Shimla, Airports Authority of India (AAI) has entrusted IIT Roorkee to carry out feasibility study for extension of runway. At Pathankot, a new civil air terminal at a cost of Rs. 16 crores with all modern amenities to cater to 300 passengers, built by Airports Authority of India, was inaugurated on 22.11.2006.

(e) After the extension of runways, providing of associated facilities like bigger and modern terminal buildings, extension of car park areas and expansion of apron areas at these airports, bigger and faster aircrafts will be able to operate which will reduce the cost of operation as well as the time taken in transit from Delhi.

#### **Construction of Terminal at Thiruvananthapuram Airport**

1456. SHRI PANNIAN RAVINDRAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to refer to Unstarred Question No. 599 on July 27, 2006 regarding 'Modernisation of Terminal at Thiruvananthapuram and state:

(a) whether Airports Authority of India (AAI) has obtained the approval from Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) for the construction of an international terminal building alongwith other related infrastructure facilities at Thiruvananthapuram airport;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the said work is likely to be started?

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

(b) The new International Terminal Building will be built in two phases at an estimated cost of Rs. 245.58 crores (Phase 1: Rs. 165.58 crores + Phase II: Rs. 80 crores).

(c) The work, is going to commence in January, 2007.

#### **Commercial Activities at Airports**

1457. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE:  
SHRI MAHESH KANODIA:  
SHRI M. APPADURAI:  
SHRI BHUPENDRASINH SOLANKI:  
SHRI ASADUDDIN OWASIS:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether, in a bid to enhance commercial activities at airports, the Government proposes to allow higher use of land for commercial purpose at different airports in the country;

(b) if so, whether the Airports Authority of India has asked Ministry of Urban Development to look at measures to raise commercial use at the airports across the country.

(c) if so, the details plan, chalked out by the Government in this regard; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) Use of land for commercial purpose at the various airports belonging to Airports Authority of India (AAI) is decided as per the provisions of AAI Act and guidelines made thereunder.

(b) and (c) AAI has identified and some lands on the city-side at some important, airports namely Ahmedabad, Amritsar, Guwahati, Jaipur, Udaipur, Trivandrum, Lucknow, Madurai, Mangalore, Goa, Aurangabad, Khajuraho, Rajkot, Vadodara, Bhopal, Indore, Nagpur, Vizag, Trichy, Bhubaneswar, Coimbatore Patna, Port Blair, Varanasi, Agartala, Imphal, Ranchi, Raipur and Dimapur for commercial usage.

(d) The commercial usage of identified airport lands will be implemented in phases beginning from next financial year.

#### **Defence Cooperation Agreements with Israel**

1458. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the IA Chief and Navy Vice-Chief, Vice-Admiral visited Israel to discuss bilateral military relationship with Israel; and

(b) if so, the details of agreements signed between the two countries?

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

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No agreement was signed between India and Israel during the visits of Indian Air Force Chief and Navy Vice Chief to Israel during 2006.

#### **Modernisation of Railway Stations In West Bengal**

1459. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Eastern Railway has taken any steps to modernize various railway stations in West Bengal.

(b) if so, the details thereof including targets set for the last years and the achievements made thereon; and

(c) the progress of the work regarding Canning Railway Station as Model Station and the time by which it is likely to be completed in all respects ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) In order to make perceptible improvement, 14 stations (out of the declared model stations total 41 number) in West Bengal, on Eastern Railway, have been identified to be modernise and given a facelift during the year 2006-07. These stations are Howrah, Bardhaman, Rampurhat, Bolpur, Tarakeswar, Sealdah, Bidhannagar Road, Dum Dum Jn., Barasat, Ranaghat, Malda Town, New Farakka, Asansol and Durgapur.

To modernize various stations and improve passenger amenities, a number of work proposals have been sanctioned over the last three years and are being completed in a phased manner. These are:

2004-05 : 21 works costing about Rs. 8 crore,

2005-06 : 27 works costing about Rs. 12.75 crore, and

2006-07 : 77 works costing about Rs. 30.84 crore.

(c) The work is progressing and planned to be completed by March, 2008.

#### **Performance of PSUs**

1460. SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state;

(a) the details of the public sector undertakings under the Ministry;

(b) the complete details about their performance during the last three years; and

(c) the details of the PSUs which are running in losses during the above period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) The following Public Sector Undertakings are working under the aegis of Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment:

- (i) National Scheduled Castes & Finance Development Corporation (NSFDC)
- (ii) National Safai Karamcharis Finance & Development Corporation (NSKFDC)
- (iii) National Handicapped Finance & Development Corporation (NHFDC)
- (iv) National Backward Classes Finance & Development Corporation (NBCFDC)
- (v) Artificial Limbs Manufacturing Corporation of India. (ALIMCO)

(b) The details are given in the *Statement* enclosed.

(c) No Public Sector Undertaking is incurring losses.

**Statement**

*Details of amount disbursed and number of beneficiaries covered by various Public Sector Undertakings of the Ministry during last three years*

(Rs. In crore)

Year	National Scheduled Castes Finance & Development Corporation (NSFDC)		National Safai Karamcharis Finance & Development Corporation (NSKFDC)		National Handicapped Finance & Development Corporation (NHFDC)		Artificial Limbs Manufacturing Corporation of India (ALIMCO)	National Backward Classes Finance & Development Corporation (NBCFDC)	
	Amount disbursed	No. of beneficiaries	Amount disbursed	No. of beneficiaries	Amount disbursed	No. of beneficiaries	Annual sales	Amount disbursed	No. of beneficiaries
2003-04	113.07	59826	33.98	9444	26.82	5565	41.73	131.09	86320
2004-05	147.13	41489	43.73	9539	17.68	3282	43.90	93.42	61538
2005-06	147.96	53315	51.98	37299	23.44	4765	53.33	97.63	83756

*[Translation]***Census of OBCs**

1461. SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government proposes to carry out a census of OBCs in the country as reported in 'The Times of India', dated October 20, 2006;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Union Government has asked the various States to provide OBCs data;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the criteria adopted by the Government for release of funds for various schemes for the welfare of backward classes without any idea of their exact numbers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) to (d) The State Governments/Union Territories Administrations have been requested to determine the number of OBCs and those amongst them living below the poverty line.

(e) Under the Centrally sponsored schemes, funds are released to the State Governments/UT Administrations as per their requirements subject to budgetary constraints.

*[English]***Cancellation of Flights of Air India**

1462. SHRI M. APPADURAI:  
DR. M. JAGANNATH:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Air India's track record of safety and punctuality is getting worse day-by-day, as is evident from the report published in 'The Hindu', dated October 16, 2006 and 'The Asian Age', dated October 17, 2006;

(b) if so, the facts thereof;

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto; and

(d) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) The performance of an airline is expressed in terms of dispatch, reliability i.e. total number of revenue flight

planned minus total number of delays & technical incidents causing delays by total number of revenue flight expressed as percentage. The dispatch reliability of total fleet of aircraft of Air India during the last six months is 97.07%.

(c) and (d) The aircraft operated by Air India are subjected to continued airworthiness maintenance programme given by the Aircraft manufacturers which are approved by DGCA. Air India has approved in house quality system and the activities of the Air India are regularly monitored by DGCA through spot checks and surveillance checks. Further, the Government have approved the proposal to purchase 68 new Boeing aircraft by Air India Limited (50 aircraft for Air India Limited and 18 aircraft for Air India Charters Limited). These new aircraft are scheduled to be delivered over November 2006 to February 2012. This is expected to substantially reduce the delays and improve the technical dispatch reliability of Air India's operations.

#### PNG Connection

1463. SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether in National Capital of Delhi thousands of households have been registered by the Indraprastha Gas Limited (IGL) for supply of Piped Natural Gas, particularly in those areas with infrastructural facilities;

(b) if so, whether the registered houses are in the waiting list for indefinite period;

(c) if so, the reasons for the delay; and

(d) the time by which the connections would be provided to households?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL): (a) In the areas where pipeline infrastructure already exists, the number of registrations against which connections are to be provided are as follows:

East Delhi	3345
Central Delhi	245
South Delhi	428
*South East	79
North West	556

\*(Colonies along Mathura Road)

Apart from the above, IGL has also received request from CPWD to provide Piped Natural Gas (PNG) connections in 10934 houses in the year 2006-07.

(b) and (c) At the time of registration, the customers are informed about the estimated time frame within which PNG connection would be provided. In some cases, more time may be required on account of non-availability of permissions from land owning agencies, problem of access to customers' premises, customers' preference to have PNG connections installed at a later date, etc.

(d) Normally, a time period of 4 to 6 months is indicated at the time of registration for providing connections subject to obtaining the required clearances.

*[Translation]*

#### Development of Tourist Centres

1464. SHRI RAGHURAJ SINGH SHAKYA: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to develop tourist centres in Delhi and other metrocities on the lines of foreign countries; and

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

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) and (b) Development of Tourism is primarily the responsibility of the State/UT Governments and the Ministry of Tourism extends Central Financial Assistance to States/UTs for implementation of tourism infrastructure projects which are prioritized in consultation with them. As far as the development of tourism in the metro cities are concerned, a project proposal for development of infrastructure in Delhi for Commonwealth Games has been prioritized for the current financial year.

*[English]*

#### Induction of Jets to Alliance Air's Fleet

1465. SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian Airlines proposed to include more jets to its feeder subsidiary Alliance Air as reported in 'The Times of India' dated October 5, 2006;

(b) If so., the facts and details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has considered Alliance Air's objects of low cost, low frills airlines while considering more fleet;

(d) If so, the details thereof; and

(e) the estimated expenditure likely to be incurred thereon?

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

(b) The Board of Directors of Indian Airlines has accorded 'in principle' approval for lease of six 70-seater jet aircraft by Alliance Air and approach its Board for specific approval. A tender for the same was put up on Indian Airlines' Web Site on 13.11.2006 with the last date of receipt of tender by 26.12.2006.

(c) and (d) The airlines are free to lease aircraft as per their operational requirement and commercial judgement.

(e) The proposal is presently at a preliminary stage and the estimated expenditure would only be known after tender finalisation.

#### Purchase of Metal Detector Machines

1466. SHRI HEMMAL MURMU: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have declared high alert recently in each State of the country due to serious threat of extremists/terrorists;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of metal detector machines provided at the railway stations during each of the last three years and current year, zone-wise; and

(d) the amount spent by the Railways to purchase the metal detector machines and other security arrangements during above period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. On receipt of intelligence inputs from the Intelligence Bureau and other sources in regard to serious threat of extremists/terrorists and also after each incident of explosion/attack on Railways by terrorists/insurgents, all the Chief Security Commissioners of Zonal Railways have been advised to take necessary precautionary measures in coordination with local Police/Intelligence Agencies. Railway Administration has also directed that the Railway Protection Force (RPF)/Railway Protection Special Force (RPSF) personnel should be sensitized about this grave danger and put on maximum alert.

(c) and (d)

S.No	Railway	Division	Metal Detector		Total Amount
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Central	Pune	33		Rs. 63,525
2.	Eastern	Howrah-I	56	Howrah-II	34
		Sealdah	47	Asansol	51
		Maldah	22	Chitranjan Loco Works	12
		Metro	40		
			Total	262	Rs. 13,39,000
3.	East Coast	Waltair	11		Rs. 2,14,385
4.	East Central	Mughal Sarai	22	Danapur	11
		Dhanbad	20	Sonepur	28
		Samastipur	07		
			Total	88	Rs. 1,98,000

1	2	3	4	5	6
5.	Northern	Ambala	13	Delhi-I	56
		Delhi-II	6	Ferozpur	65
		Lucknow	17	Moradabad	13
		Rail Coach Factory, Kapurthala	04		
Total				194	Rs. 5,37,863
6.	Northeast Frontier	No Metal detectors were provided		—	—
7.	North East	Izzat Nagar	05	Lucknow	12
		Zonal Hq.	08	Total	25
Total				25	Rs. 62,500
8.	North Western	Ajmer	02	Bikaner	01
		Jaipur	11	Jodhpur	09
Total				23	Rs. 2,65,506
9.	North Central	No metal detector provided		—	—
10.	Southern	Chennai	41	Trichy	63
		Madurai	01	Palghat	04
Total				109	Rs. 3,11,120
11.	South Central	Secunderabad	17	Hyderabad	19
		Guntakal	38	Vijayawada	25
		Nanded	05		
Total				104	Rs. 6,83,077
12.	South Eastern	No Metal detectors procured		—	—
13.	South East Central	No Metal detectors procured		—	—

1	2	3	4	5	6
14.	South Western	Bangalore	18	Mysore	26
			Total	44	Rs. 88,000
15.	Western	Mumbai Central	128	Vadodra	08
		Ahmedabad	15	Ratlam	14
		Rajkot	10	Bhavnagar	04
			Total	179	Rs. 6,21,800
16.	West Central	Bhopal	28	Kota	18
			Total	46	Rs. 2,48,400

In addition, approximately Rupees 4 crore on purchase of wireless sets, Rs. 9 crore on the purchase of vehicles have been spent. It is an ongoing process for which the procurement of various security related equipment will continue in future to strengthen the Railway Protection Force in order to render quick and better services to the traveling passengers. All the General Managers have been authorized to incur Rs. 10 lakhs on the purchase of Hand Held Metal Detectors/Door Frame Metal Detectors. However, expensive equipment (Bomb Disposal Kits and X-Ray Scanner, etc.) shall continue to be procured under "Machinery & Plant" head with approval of Railway Board.

[Translation]

#### **Railway Projects**

1467. PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of railway projects in respect of which the Railways have carried out survey during the last two years;

(b) whether approval has been granted/is being granted for the completion of works of the projects surveyed;

(c) if so, the details of the projects surveyed; and

(d) the total number of survey given-up during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) 160 surveys have been completed during 2004-05 and 2005-06.

(b) to (d) Out of the completed surveys, works have been taken up on certain projects fully/partly including 4 New Lines, 4 Gauge Conversions and 6 Doublings.

#### **Appointments on Compassionate Ground**

1468. SHRI VIJAY KUMAR KHANDELWAL:  
SHRI TEK LAL MAHTO:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry has been appointing one dependent member of the family of its ex-employees on compassionate grounds;

(b) if so, the details of such appointments made during each of the last three years, division-wise;

(c) the number of applications for such appointments lying pending at present, division-wise alongwith the reasons therefor and the time by which these are likely to be disposed of;

(d) whether the Railways also propose to provide employment to atleast one dependent person of its employees who are at the verge of retirement; and

(e) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Yes, Sir. Appointment on compassionate grounds is considered in favour of a dependent family member of a Railway servant dying in harness, missing or who retires on medical grounds as per the guidelines laid down for the purpose.

(b) and (c) The information is being collected and will be laid down on the Table of the Sabha.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

#### **New Railway Lines**

1469. SHRI BRAJESH PATHAK: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased state:

(a) whether there has been a rapid decline in allocation of resources for laying new railway lines during the current plan period;

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

(c) the steps being taken/proposed to be taken by the Railways to ensure allocation of sufficient resources for the said purpose?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) A number of initiatives including public-private partnerships, sharing of costs with State Governments, funding through Central Ministries and funding of national projects by Central Government have been taken to generate additional resources to expedite completion of projects.

*[English]*

#### **Newly Created East-Coast Railway Zones**

1470. SHRI PARSURAM MAJHI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways have reviewed the performance of the newly created railway zones in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof during last three years;

(c) whether the East coast Railway Zone has taken any step to improve the passenger amenities in various railway stations under it; and

(d) if so, the amount spent thereon and the work carried in that regard since its establishment, year-wise and station-wise?

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

(b) The physical and financial performance of the seven newly created Zones during the last three years i.e. 2003-04, 2004-05 and 2005-06 is as under:

(Figures in Rs. Crore)

Particulars	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06
1	2	3	4
<b>East Central Railway</b>			
Passenger	688.71	741.91	847.99
Freight (Goods)	2249.02	2159.67	2607.94
Growth rate of Passenger		7.72%	14.30%
Growth rate of Freight (Goods)		-3.97%	20.76%
Operating Ratio	93.7%	98.90%	82.29%



1	2	3	4
<b>East Coast Railway</b>			
Passenger	301.48	300.2	333.08
Freight (Goods)	2864.41	2970.21	3564.34
Growth rate of Passenger		-0.42%	10.95%
Growth rate of Freight(Goods)		11.48%	20.00%
Operating Ratio	66.6%	61.8%	54.01%
<b>North Central Railway</b>			
Passenger	890.31	1052.87	1157.70
Freight (Goods)	2274.98	2804.78	3164.10
Growth rate of Passenger		18.26%	9.96%
Growth rate of Freight (Goods)		23.29%	12.81%
Operating Ratio	76.3%	66.7%	61.06%
<b>North Western Railway</b>			
Passenger	456.28	492.31	557.41
Freight (Goods)	836.44	880.16	1152.92
Growth rate of Passenger		7.90%	13.22%
Growth rate of Freight (Goods)		5.23%	30.99%
Operating Ratio	106.3%	105.0%	93.94%
<b>South East Central Railway</b>			
Passenger	225.23	262.79	308.24
Freight (Goods)	2468.5	2891.25	3331.66
Growth rate of Passenger		16.68%	17.30%
Growth rate of Freight (Goods)		17.13%	15.23%
Operating Ratio	62.8%	56.1%	49.97%
<b>South Western Railway</b>			
Passenger	464.71	444.76	505.21
Freight (Goods)	621.14	811.12	1146.09
Growth rate of Passenger		-4.29%	13.59%
Growth rate of Freight (Goods)		30.59%	41.30%

1	2	3	4
Operating Ratio	91.4%	86.2%	80.97%
<b>West Central Railway</b>			
Passenger	479.57	557.17	658.92
Freight (Goods)	1917.78	2090.43	2244.43
Growth rate of Passenger		16.18%	18.26%
Growth rate of Freight (Goods)		9.00%	7.37%
Operating Ratio	81.00%	86.5%	82.67%

*Freight loading performance of newly created Zones*

Railway	Freight loading (in million tonnes)			Average percentage growth
	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	
East Central	54.97	58.58	61.92	4.21
East Coast	64.05	70.46	78.05	7.29
North Central	5.57	5.36	5.59	0.11
North Western	9.77	9.07	9.42	-1.19
South East Central	83.02	92.51	98.47	6.20
South Western	25.75	31.74	38.03	15.90
West Central	18.37	20.30	23.81	9.87

(c) and (d) Minimum essential amenities as per norms according to the category of station have been provided at all the stations over East Coast Railway. In addition, a number of important stations have been taken up for modernisation under model station scheme. Station-wise allocation/expenditure of funds are not maintained and separate figures of funds for improvement in the conditions of railway stations are also not maintained. The works

relating to improvement in the conditions of railways stations are carried out mainly under plan head 'Passenger Amenities'. In addition, some works relating to improvement of stations are also carried out as a part of Doublings, Traffic Facility works, Gauge Conversions, Computerization etc. The expenditure incurred under plan head 'Passenger Amenities' during last three years in East Coast Railway is as under:

(Figures in Rs. Crore)

Railway	03-04 Actual Expenditure	04-05 Actual Expenditure	05-06 Actual Expenditure (Prov.)	06-07 Budget Grant
East Coast	3.55	4.16	5.28	13.44

**Diesel Locomotives**

1471. SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have achieved the goal to acquire diesel locomotives during the Tenth Plan;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the present status thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Target for acquisition of Diesel Locomotives in the 10th (current) Plan was for 444 Locomotives. There has, however, been a sharp increase in traffic and the likely acquisition to meet traffic demand shall now be 619 Diesel Locomotives.

(c) 469 Diesel Locomotives have been manufactured till 31.3.2006. 150 more Diesel Locomotives are planned to be manufactured during the year 2006-07.

**Air Ambulance Services**

1472. SHRI G.M. SIDDESWARA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has accorded permission to a few hospitals to launch air ambulance service keeping in view their demand for providing quicker treatment; and

(b) if so, the details alongwith the names of such hospitals?

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

(b) There is no such proposal.

**Exemption from Payment of Dividend**

1473. SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL:  
SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA:  
SHRI KAILASH NATH SINGH YADAV:  
SHRI E.G. SUGAVANAM:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have approached the Union Government for exempting it from paying dividend for five years;

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

(c) the reaction of the Union Government thereto?

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

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

**Chennai-Trichy-Madurai Pipeline**

1474. SHRI K.C. PALLANI SHAMY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has launched Chennai-Trichy-Madurai pipeline;

(b) if so, the estimated cost of the project and the cities/towns which are likely to be benefited under the scheme;

(c) whether there is also proposal to set up LPG terminal in Tamil Nadu;

(d) if so, the details thereof and locations identified for the same and the estimated capacity thereof; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to promote the customer convenience in the State for the conservation of environment?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL): (a) Chennai-Trichy-Madurai pipeline has been commissioned by Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOC) in two phases (i) 'Chennai-Madurai section' in August, 2005 and (ii) 'Sankari Branch Pipeline' in December, 2005.

(b) The estimated cost of the project is approximately Rs. 334 crore. Eleven districts along the pipeline route, namely, Thiruvallur, Kanchipuram, Villupuram, Cuddalore, Perambalur, Trichy, Pudukottai, Sivaganga, Madurai, Salem and Namakkal and also Chennai are benefited.

(c) and (d) IOC has a proposal to set up LPG import terminal at Ennore in Tamil Nadu through its joint venture company, M/s. Indian Oil Petronas Private Limited. The capacity of the LPG import terminal is proposed as 600 Thousand Metric Tonnes Per Annum. The project is expected to be completed by December, 2008.

(e) Implementation of the project by IOCL is subject to all statutory clearances and also subject to abiding by the provisions of those statutes for the conservation of environment.

#### **Lol Holders of SC/ST Category**

1475. SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL) is totally ignoring the pending Letter of Intent (LOI) holders belonging to SC/ST category in the matter of installing their retail outlets on the sites allotted/being allotted to HPCL by Government agencies;

(b) if so, the number of sites have been offered by HUDA to HPCL for installation of petrol pump in Faridabad; and

(c) the time by which the HPCL would take over this site for pending LOI holders of Faridabad?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL): (a) Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL) has reported that there is no delay on the part of the Corporation in commissioning the Retail Outlets (ROs) allotted to SC/ST candidates after the availability of land is finalized and a No Objection Certificate (NOC) is received. The commissioning of the ROs allotted to SC/ST candidates gets delayed in the cases where land is not available or procurement of land is delayed.

(b) and (c) Haryana Urban Development Authority (HUDA) has allotted one site on lease to HPCL for setting up of an RO in Sector 9, Faridabad. However, the possession of the land shall be given by HUDA only after the receipt of NOC by HPCL from the District Magistrate (DM) Faridabad and the Corporation is in the process of obtaining the same.

*[Translation]*

#### **Relief to Employees of closed PSUs**

1476. SHRI RASHEED MASOOD: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to provide relief to the employees of those Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) which are lying closed;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the names of the PSUs proposed to be covered under the aforesaid proposal?

THE MINISTER OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) to (c) As per National Common Minimum Programme (NCMP) of Government, Government is committed to a strong and effective public sector whose social objectives are met by its commercial functioning. While every effort will be made to modernise and restructure sick public sector companies and revive sick industry, chronically loss-making companies will either be sold-off or closed after all workers have got their legitimate dues and compensation. The Government will induct private industry to turn around companies that have potential for revival. Further a central plan scheme for Counselling, Retraining and Redeployment (CRR) of rationalised employees of all Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs) / including closed CPSEs is also in force to provide relief to employees rendered redundant as a result of modernization, technology upgradation, manpower restructuring and closure of CPSEs.

#### **Construction of New Hotels by ITDC**

1477. SHRI BHUVANESHWAR PRASAD MEHTA: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether India Tourism Development Corporation (ITDC) has sold its valuable property at a throw away price and is framing a policy for construction of five star hotels now;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government proposes to refurbish and provide additional facilities in ITDC Hotels; and

(d) if so, the details of the ITDC Hotels, location-wise?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) and (b) In pursuance of the recommendation of the Disinvestment Commission, the Government had decided to disinvest ITDC Hotels. All matters relating to disinvestment of ITDC properties were handled by the then Ministry of Disinvestment (now Department of Disinvestment under the Ministry of Finance). An Inter-Ministerial Group (IMG) under the chairmanship of Secretary (Disinvestment) was constituted

by Government for assisting in the process of disinvestment in ITDC.

As approved by the Cabinet Committee on Disinvestment (CCD), Hotel Ashok, Bangalore was given on a long term lease-cum-management contract, while the other 17 hotel units and an incomplete hotel project at Chandigarh were disinvested through the process of demerger under Section 391 of the Companies Act, 1956 by incorporating a separate company for each hotel property and the sale of the Government shareholding in it through a bidding process.

(c) and (d) Keeping in view, the requirement of additional rooms for Commonwealth Games 2010, India Tourism Development Corporation has prepared proposals to meet this additional demand for hotel rooms. These proposals are presently at the planning stage.

#### Organisation of Workshops/Seminars

1478. SHRI ANANT GUDHE:  
SHRI SRICHAND KRIPLANI:

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

(a) whether the Government provides assistance for organizing workshops, seminars, exhibitions and fairs for creating awareness about potentials and possibilities of

food processing industries and for conducting studies and surveys on such industries;

(b) if so, the amount allocated and spent thereon during each of the last three years, State-wise;

(c) the details of such programmes organized in each State during the last three years; and

(d) the number of persons benefited thereby?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) Yes Sir. The Government provides assistance for organizing workshop, seminar, exhibition and fairs for creating awareness about potentials and possibilities of food processing industries and for conducting studies and surveys on such industries. The pattern of assistance is 50% of cost subject to a maximum of Rs 1.00 Lakh in case of Exhibition/fairs/ Seminar/ Workshop and Rs 3.00 Lakh for Studies/Surveys/Feasibility Reports. When the Ministry sponsors/co-sponsors Exhibition/Fairs/Seminar/Workshop or commissions studies/surveys/feasibility report there would be no ceiling to the financial assistance provided.

(b) to (d) A statement indicating state-wise and year-wise expenditure and numbers of programmes organized is enclosed. Since it is an awareness Scheme, the number of beneficiaries cannot be quantified.

#### Statement

*Financial Assistance Provided for Organising Seminars/Studies/Exhibitions, etc. during the year 2003-04, 2004-05 and 2005-06*

Sl.No.	Name of the State	2003-04		2004-05		2005-06	
		No.	Amount (Rs. lakhs)	No.	Amount (Rs. lakhs)	No.	Amount (Rs. lakhs)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Assam	2	14.20	0	0	0	0
2.	Chandigarh	1	0.60	1	5.00	1	5.00
3.	Pondichary	1	0.25	0	0	0	0
4.	Rajasthan	6	2.33	0	0	0	0
5.	West Bengal	2	10.77	1	30.85	3	11.43

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
6.	Haryana	1	0.35	0	0	1	0.50
7.	Andhra Pradesh	3	4.22	5	2.27	5	2.25
8.	Maharashtra	2	1.79	4	8.77	6	3.75
9.	Kerala	2	6.00	0	0	1	0.50
1.0	Uttar Pradesh	5	7.82	6	17.15	4	12.01
11.	Himachal Pradesh	1	0.14	1	8.76	0	0
12.	Gujarat	1	1.89	3	9.55	4	9.62
13.	Tamil Nadu	7	16.19	6	4.49	9	5.61
14.	Bihar	1	0.42	4	4.34	0	0
15.	New Delhi	26	99.49	21	138.58	33	189.82
16.	Karnataka	0	0	4	2.25	0	0
17.	Jharkhand	0	0	3	3.38	0	0
18.	Jammu and Kashmir	0	0	1	0.49	2	0.59
19.	Madhya Pradesh	0	0	0	0	2	2.00
Total		61	166.46	60	235.88	71	243.08

#### Model Dalit Village

1479. SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR:  
SHRI THAWARCHAND GEHLOT:

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

(a) whether the Government is preparing a scheme to convert the villages with more than 50% population of Dalits into 'Model Dalit Villages';

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith current details of such villages across the country, state-wise;

(c) whether the Government is preparing any special scheme for the said villages;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the funds earmarked for the development of such villages; and

(e) the time by which the scheme is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) to (e) Yes, Sir. Planning Commission is considering a scheme for development of villages having 50 percent and above Scheduled Castes population as Adarsh Dalit Grams. Details have not been finalized.

*(English)*

#### Tourism Projects from Karnataka

1480. SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY:  
SHRI G.M. SIDDESWARA:  
SHRI M. SHIVANNA:  
SHRI MANJUNATH KUNNUR:

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received a number of tourism projects from the Government of Karnataka under Large Revenue Generating Scheme;

(b) if so, the details thereof during the last three years; and

(c) the action taken or proposed to be taken by the Government on each of the above projects?

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

(b) and (c) The Government of Karnataka had submitted three project proposals on 18.11.2004 for establishment of Passenger Ropeway at Chamundi Hills, Jog Falls and Lalbagh Gardens in Karnataka at a total cost of Rs. 3130.75 lakh under Large Revenue Generating Scheme. The projects were not complete in all respects as per guidelines and were not sanctioned for grant of central financial assistance during 2004-05.

No fresh proposal for Chamundi Hills, Jog Falls and Lalbagh have been received from the Government of Karnataka under Large Revenue Generating scheme till date. However, the Ministry of Tourism sanctioned a project proposal for development of Jog Falls for an amount of Rs. 462.59 lakh on 7.11.2005 under the Destination Development scheme.

A project for development of Linganamakki in Jog Falls as an international standard garden, was initially submitted under Large Revenue Generating scheme by the Government of Karnataka on 4.5.2004. Subsequently it was recast and submitted by the State Government on 5.5.2005 under the scheme of Destination Development. The project has been sanctioned for central financial assistance of Rs. 494.98 lakh in the current financial year.

#### **Special In-flight Meals in Airlines**

1481. SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the public sector airlines propose to offer 'Special In-flight Meals' to the passengers based on health, medical or religious factors;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the time by which the said proposal is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (c) Air India and Indian Airlines uplift and provide 'Special In-

flight Meals' to the passengers against specific advance request for such meal on health/medical grounds etc., made at the time of booking of ticket or atleast 24 hours in advance of the scheduled Departure time

[Translation]

#### **Increase in Flights**

1482. SHRI SUNIL KUMAR MAHATO:  
SHRI JIVABHAI PATEL:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the cities wherein number of flights have been increased during last two years;

(b) the names of States which have been benefited by it;

(c) the details of the States which have requested for starting air service during last two years and the number of requests which have been accepted alongwith the number of requests still pending for action; and

(d) the reaction of the Government with regard to the pending requests?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) The details of cities where number of flights have been increased during the last two years are Agartala (Tripura), Guwahati, Dibrugarh, Silchar and Lilabari (Assam), Imphal (Manipur), Ahmedabad, Kandla, Vadodra (Gujarat), Chennai, Coimbatore, Madurai, Tuticorin (Tamilnadu), Mumbai, Nagpur, Pune (Maharashtra), Hyderabad, Vizag (Andhra Pradesh), Amritsar, Pathankot (Punjab), Jammu, Srinagar (Jammu and Kashmir), Cochin, Trivandrum (Kerala), Bangalore, Mangalore, Vidyanagar (Karnataka), Kullu (Himachal Pradesh), Delhi (Delhi), Kolkata (West Bengal), Port Blair (A&N Islands), Dehradun (Uttanchal), Gwalior (Madhya Pradesh), Goa (Goa), Chandigarh (Chandigarh), Varanasi (Uttar Pradesh), Bhubaneswar (Orissa), Jaipur (Rajasthan).

(c) and (d) Requests are received from time to time from almost every state for commencement of new operations, increase in connectivity and rescheduling of current frequencies of air services. These requests had been considered favourably by the Government and as far as possible, new flights have been introduced,

connectivity increased and reschedulings have been carried out depending upon availability of resources with Indian Airline/Alliance Air.

With a view to achieve better regulation of air transport services taking into account the need for air transport services of different regions of the country including North-East region the Government as laid down Route Dispersal Guidelines. It is, however, up to the airlines to provide air services to specific places depending upon the traffic demand and commercial viability. As such, the airlines are free to operate anywhere in the country subject to compliance of route dispersal guidelines issued by the Government.

*[English]*

#### **Under Weight LPG Cylinders**

1483. SHRI SUGRIB SINGH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether HPCL, BPCL and IOC supply gas cylinders that weight less in Delhi;

(b) if so, whether these companies have recently fined for short supply of LPG to consumers;

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

(d) the reasons for short filling of cylinders by these companies in their plants; and

(e) the action taken against the officials found responsible for such lapses in their plants?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL): (a) to (d) On 21.08.2006, Weights & Measures Department of Delhi Government had taken samples of 96 filled LPG cylinders from Madanpur Khadar LPG bottling plant and 64 filled LPG cylinders from Tikri Kalan LPG bottling plant of Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOC). Out of total 160 LPG cylinders, 1 LPG cylinder was found under weight by 190 grams at Tikri Kalan LPG bottling plant due to filling from old Mechanical Carousel. Out of three Mechanical Carousels, two have already been replaced with Electronic Carousels and one is under replacement and is expected to be completed by December 2006.

Similarly, on 22.09.2006, Weights & Measures Department of Delhi Government had taken samples of 96 filled LPG cylinders from Piyala LPG bottling plant of Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL) and 64 filled LPG cylinders from Bahadurgarh LPG bottling plant of Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL). Out of above, 1 LPG cylinder each was found under weight by 250 grams and 585 grams at BPCL's and HPCL's bottling plant respectively due to wrong encoding of tare weights at the Electronic Carousels.

(e) Action against Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) has been taken by Weights & Measures Department of Delhi Government. The Plant Managers and the employees of the bottling plants have been sensitized/cautioned to ensure non-recurrence of such lapses in future.

#### **Fleets for Expansion of Cargo Trade**

1484. SHRI PANNIAN RAVINDRAN:  
SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken by the Government to improve Cargo Trade expansion at the various airports in the country during the last one year;

(b) whether the Government proposes to convert some of their existing fleets into Cargo Aircraft;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether Thiruvananthapuram International Airport will also be a base for Cargo Aircraft; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) Airports Authority of India (AAI) is handling international cargo at 4 metro airports viz. Delhi, Mumbai Chennai and Kolkata and at 4 non-metro airports viz. Nagpur, Guwahati, Lucknow and Coimbatore airports.

At Indira Gandhi International Airport Delhi, infrastructure development such as Air conditioned Public Waiting Hall with working paraphernalia, the Truck Dock Area of Centre for Perishable Cargo (CPC), modification



of cargo terminal with facility to maintain ambient temperature. At Amritsar airport, construction of a Modern Air Cargo Terminal and Temporary Centre for Perishable Cargo (CPC) developed by PAGREXCO have been commissioned. At Kolkata airport, Phase-I of Integrated Cargo Terminal for export operation at a cost of Rs. 49.6 crore has been commissioned.

Web based EDI in the export cargo processing has been implemented on 100% basis at Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata and Chennai airports. X-ray charges has been reduced. 20% discount on export handling charges has been introduced w.e.f. September 2005 for the export cargo by the exporters authorised agencies between 1000-1500 hours. Shifting of export cargo pertaining to 8 countries directly to bonded area has been allowed. M/s Cargo Service Centre (CSC) has been permitted to operate Reefer Dolly for moving perishable cargo loaded in the container from Centre for Perishable Cargo to the Aircraft Bay without levy of any additional charge on airlines/trade by CSC. A new policy has been developed for establishment of Centre for Perishable Cargo (CPC). A policy develop domestic airports for international cargo handling by leasing space/land to interested organizations through open tenders have been formulated.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. Indian Airlines proposes to convert five B-737 aircraft currently being operated by Alliance Air into freighter aircraft. These 5 aircraft are being considered to operate with hub and spoke pattern. Indian Airlines plans to operate these freighter services with Nagpur as a hub and Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata and Chennai *Via* Bangalore & Hyderabad) as originating stations.

(d) and (e) No, Sir. However, if any scheduled airline wishes to make Thiruvananthapuram a base for cargo operation, AAI shall provide all necessary support.

#### **Private Participation In Defence Production**

1485. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI:  
SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the private sector has not yet become a partner in Defence production in the manner visualized by the Government despite industrial licences having been issued to 19 private firms for the manufacture of a wide range of Defence products ranging from bulletproof vests

to aircraft as reported in the '*Hindustan Times*' dated October 13, 2006;

(b) if so, the facts thereof; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to encourage private participation in the defence production for lesser dependence on imported defence products?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (RAO INDERJIT SINGH): (a) to (c) The defence industry sector was opened for Indian private sector participation in May 2001. So far, 29 Letters of Intent/Industrial Licences have been issued to various private sector companies for production of a wide range of defence items.

Government has taken several steps to encourage private sector participation in Defence production. Defence Procurement Procedure ("Make" Category) notified recently as part of Defence Procurement Procedure-2006 addresses the concerns of Indian industry relating to shared development cost and minimum order quantity. Besides incorporating 'Offset' provision in defence contracts, a provision has also been made in the procedures to provide level playing field to the Indian private industry. Selection of tier-I industries in the private sector to assume the role of system integrators is also expected to further encourage their participation in defence production.

#### **Railway Project In Andhra Pradesh**

1486. SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the projects which have been taken up by the Railways in Andhra Pradesh in the current year;

(b) the details and present status of such projects; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (c) The details of new projects which have been taken up in the current year and falling fully/partly in Andhra Pradesh are given as under:

(Rupees in Crore)

Name of Project	Anticipated Cost	Expenditure incurred upto 31.3.2006	Outlay (2006-07)	Current Status
<b>New Lines</b>				
Manoharabad-Kothapalli	378.56	—	3.95	New work included in Budget 2006-07. Preliminary works have been taken up.
Jaggayapeta-Mallacheruvu	53.21	—	0.01	New work included in Supplementary Budget 2006-07. Joint survey with forest officials in forest area has been completed.
Vishnupuram-Janaphar	42.08	—	0.01	New work included in Supplementary Budget 2006-07. Preliminary arrangements for taking up the work have been made.
<b>Railway Electrification</b>				
Karepalli-Bhadrachalem-Manuguru	40.62	—	11.61	New work included in Budget 2006-07. Preliminary works have been taken up.
Lingampalli-Wadi	94.93	—	5.00	New work included in Budget 2006-07. Preliminary works have been taken up.

The target date of completion of above projects has not yet been fixed.

[Translation]

#### Violation of Indian Space

1487. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the incidents of violation of international aerospace norms along the Indo-Pakistan border by the Pakistani fighter planes are increasing;

(b) if so, the number of such incidents of violation took place during the current year, month-wise; and

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

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY):  
(a) and (b) There was no violation of the Indian airspace along Indo-Pakistan border by the fighter planes of Pakistan during the current year.

(c) Does not arise.

[English]

#### Development of Freedom Circuit

1488. SHRI C.H. VIJAYASHANKAR: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of Karnataka has sent a project proposal to the Union Government for integrated development of Freedom Circuit on some sectors in the State;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the present status of the proposal?

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

(b) and (c) Development and promotion of tourism in the country including the State of Karnataka is a continuous process. From the 10th Five Year Plan, the Ministry of Tourism has been providing Central financial assistance to the State Governments/UT Administrations on the basis of project proposals prioritised in consultation with them every year for the following schemes:

- (1) Tourist Circuit
- (2) Destination development
- (3) Large Revenue Generating
- (4) Fairs and festivals.

The State Government of Karnataka had submitted a project proposal on 7.11.2005 at an estimated cost of Rs. 8,02,52,735.00 for integrated development of Freedom Circuit on the sector Srirangapattanna-Shivapura-Ramaswamy (Mysore), which has not been prioritised during the meeting between Ministry of Tourism and the State Government. Besides, the project proposal was not formulated as per guidelines and was, therefore, not sanctioned. The Ministry of Tourism has sanctioned eight projects for an amount of Rs. 1727.70 lakh during the year 2005-06 for the State of Karnataka for other projects of tourist development and promotion.

*[Translation]*

#### Subsidy to Haj Pilgrims

1489. SHRI MOHD. TAHIR:  
SHRI KAILASH NATH SINGH YADAV:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has proposes to increase the number of Haj Pilgrims;
- (b) if so, whether sanction for increase in the number of Haj pilgrims and subsidy for them has been granted;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the number of years for which this facility is being extended to them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. The Government has decided to increase the no. of pilgrims from 1,00,000 to 1,10,000 for Haj operations 2006-II under the Haj Subsidy Scheme. This facility has been extended for this year only.

*[Translation]*

#### Infiltration from J & K

1490. PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR:  
SHRI M. RAJA MOHAN REDDY:  
SHRI SHISHUPAL PATLE:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the infiltration along the border of Jammu and Kashmir has increased recently;
- (b) if so, the details and reasons therefor;
- (c) the details of terrorist attacks on Army Camps and installations during 2006 alongwith the loss of lives and property as a result thereof;
- (d) whether encounters with the terrorists of foreign origin have increased;
- (e) if so, the details thereof alongwith the number of terrorists killed/surrendered before the army during the said period; and
- (f) the additional security arrangements made by the Government to check the infiltration?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY):  
(a) and (b) The estimated infiltration into Jammu & Kashmir (J&K) upto October, 2006 is 515 as compared to 540 during the same period in 2005.

(c) In 2006, in J&K, there have been 9 incidents of grenade lobbying/firing on Army Camps from a stand off distance in which 02 Army personnel were injured.

(d) and (e) All major terrorists groups have foreign terrorists in their ranks. Encounter with these groups entail operations against both local and foreign terrorists. A total of 516 terrorists have been killed and 146 have surrendered upto October, 2006.

(f) The counter infiltration strategy of the Army envisages a multi-tiered arrangement, including a forward tier of troop deployment, deployment of state of art surveillance devices, the Line of Control (LC) fence and a second tier deployment in conjunction with the fence. Such arrangements are reviewed continuously.

12.00 hrs.

### REFERENCE BY THE SPEAKER

#### **Congratulating women boxers who won Gold Medal In World Women Boxing Championship**

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members may recall that I made a reference yesterday congratulating Ms. M.C. Mary Kom on her achievement in winning a gold medal in the recently held World Women Boxing Championship at New Delhi.

In the same championship three other Women Pugnists, Jenny R.L., Lekha K.C. and Sarita Devi also won gold medals.

This achievement by these enterprising sports women has brought laurels to the country.

I am sure the House would join me in congratulating these sports women on their accomplishment.

*[Translation]*

SHRI MOHAN SINGH (Deoria): Our cricket team will get some lesson from it.

*[English]*

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY (Puri): Sir, we are proud of them.

MR. SPEAKER: We are proud of our women boxers. I am sorry, we are not so proud of our cricketers for the time being, but I am sure everyone will join me in sending our best wishes to our cricketers. I am sure they will play better.

12.01 hrs.

### PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

*[English]*

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY):  
I beg to lay on the Table—

(1) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619 A of the Companies Act, 1956:-

(a) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Bharat Earth Movers Limited, Bangalore, for the year 2005-2006.

(ii) Annual Report of the Bharat Earth Movers Limited, Bangalore, for the year 2005-2006, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT—5071/2006]

(b) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Mazagon Dock Limited, Mumbai, for the year 2005-2006,

(ii) Annual Report of the Mazagon Dock Limited, Mumbai, for the year 2005-2006, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT—5072/2006]

(c) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers Limited, Kolkata, for the year 2005-2006.

(ii) Annual Report of the Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers Limited, Kolkata, for the year 2005-2006, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT—5073/2006]

(d) (i) Review by the Government of the working of Goa Shipyard Limited, Goa, for the year 2005-2006.

(ii) Annual Report of the Goa Shipyard Limited, Goa, for the year 2005-2006, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT—5074/2006]

THE MINISTER OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI A.R. ANTULAY): I beg to lay on the Table a copy each of the following papers:—

- (1) Report of the Prime Minister's High Level Committee on Social, Economic and Educational Status of the Muslim Community of India (English version only).
- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for not laying simultaneously the Hindi version of the report mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT—5075/2006]

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MURLI DEORA): I beg to lay on the Table a copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under section 62 of the Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board Act, 2006:—

- (1) The Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board (Salaries, Allowances and other Conditions of Service of Chairperson and Members) Rules, 2006 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 570 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 18th September, 2006.
- (2) The Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board (Salary, Allowances and other Conditions of Service of Secretary) Rules, 2006 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 571 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 18th September, 2006.
- (3) The Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board (Annual Report) Rules, 2006 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 572(E) in Gazette of India dated the 18th September, 2006.
- (4) The Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board (Payment of Compensation) Rules, 2006

published in Notification No. G.S.R. 573(E) in Gazette of India dated the 18th September, 2006.

- (5) The Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board (Procedure for Appointment of a Person or Constitution of an Authority for Conducting Inquiry against Chairperson or a Member) Rules, 2006 published in Notification No. G.S.R.574 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 18th September, 2006.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT—5076/2006]

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): I beg to lay on the Table—

- (1)
  - (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts, New Delhi, for the years 1995-1996 to 1998-1999.
  - (ii) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts, New Delhi, for the years 1995-1996 to 1998-1999, together with Audit Report thereon.
  - (iii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts, New Delhi, for the years 1995-1996 to 1998-1999.
- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT—5077/2006]

- (3)
  - (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts, New Delhi, for the year 1999-2000.
  - (ii) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts, New Delhi, for the year 1999-2000, together with Audit Report thereon.

- (iii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts, New Delhi, for the year 1999-2000.
- (4) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (3) above.
- [Placed in Library. *See* No. LT—5078/2006]
- (5) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts, New Delhi, for the year 2000-2001.
- (ii) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts, New Delhi, for the year 2000-2001, together with Audit Report thereon.
- (iii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts, New Delhi, for the year 2000-2001.
- (6) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (5) above.
- [Placed in Library. *See* No. LT—5079/2006]
- (7) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the West Zone Cultural Centre, Udaipur, 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 West Zone Cultural Centre, Udaipur, for the year 2004-2005.
- (8) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (7) above.
- [Placed in Library. *See* No. LT—5080/2006]
- (9) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the North Zone Cultural Centre, Datia, 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 North Zone Cultural Centre, Datia, for the year 2004-2005.
- (10) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (9) above.
- [Placed in Library. *See* No. LT—5081/2006]
- (11) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Lalit Kala Akademi, 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 Lalit Kala Akademi, New Delhi, for the year 2004-2005.
- (12) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (11) above.
- [Placed in Library. *See* No. LT—5082/2006]
- (13) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Sangeet Natak Akademi, 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 Sangeet Natak Akademi, New Delhi, for the year 2004-2005.
- (14) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (13) above.
- [Placed in Library. *See* No. LT—5083/2006]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Memorandum of Understanding (Hindi and English versions) between the

Indian Airlines Limited and the Ministry of Civil Aviation for the year 2006-2007.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT—5084/2006]

*[Translation]*

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS SHRI NARANBHAI RATHWA: Sir, I beg to lay on the Table—

- (1) A copy of the Indian Railways (permission for operators to move container trains on Indian Railways) Rules, 2006 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. No. 593(E) in Gazette of India dated the 26th September, 2006, under section 199 of the Railways Act, 1989.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT—5085/2006]

- (2) A copy of the Railway Claims Tribunal (procedure) Amendment Rules, 2006 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 498(E) in Gazette of India dated the 23rd August, 2006, under sub-section (3) of Section 30 of the Railway Claims Tribunal Act, 1987.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT—5086/2006]

- (3) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619 A of the Companies Act, 1956.

(a) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the RITES Limited, Gurgaon, for the year 2005-2006.

(ii) Annual Report of the RITES Limited, Gurgaon, for the year 2005-2006, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT—5087/2006]

(b) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2005-2006.

(ii) Annual Report of the Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2005-2006, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT—5088/2006]

(c) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Railtel Corporation of India Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2005-2006.

(ii) Annual Report of the Railtel Corporation of India Limited, New Delhi, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT—5089/2006]

(4) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Indian Railway Welfare Organisation, New Delhi, for the year 2005-2006, alongwith Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Indian Railway Welfare Organisation, New Delhi, for the year 2005-2006.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT—5090/2006]

*[English]*

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): I beg to lay on the Table a copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions):

(1) A copy of the Annual Report of the Office of the Chief Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities, New Delhi, for the year 2004-2005 under sub-section (2) of Section 64 of the Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act, 1995.

(2) Action Taken Report on the Report mentioned at (1) above.

(Placed in Library. *See* No. LT—5091/2006).

12.02 hrs.

## STANDING COMMITTEE ON ENERGY

## Seventeenth Report

*[English]*

SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT (Mumbai North East): I beg to present the Seventeenth Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Committee on Energy on Action Taken on the recommendations contained in Thirteenth Report of the Committee on Demands for Grants of the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy for the year 2006-07.

12.02½ hrs.

## STANDING COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT

## (I) Nineteenth Report

*[English]*

SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN (Indore): I beg to present the Nineteenth Report (Hindi and English versions) on Action taken by the Government on the Recommendations/Observations contained in the Tenth Report of the Standing Committee on Social Justice and Empowerment (Fourteenth Lok Sabha) on the subject "Grants-in-aid to State Tribal Development Cooperative Corporations (STDCCs) for Minor Forest Produce (MFP) Operations" of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs.

## (II) Statement

SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN: I beg to lay a Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing further Action Taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in Thirteenth Action Taken Report of the Standing Committee on Social Justice and Empowerment (2005-2006) (Fourteenth Lok Sabha) on the recommendations contained in Eighth Report (Fourteenth Lok Sabha) on Demands for Grants (2005-2006)—Ministry of Tribal Affairs.

12.03 hrs.

## STANDING COMMITTEE ON HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT

## One Hundred Eighty Third to One Hundred Eighty Fifth Reports

PROF. BASUDEB BARMAN (Mathurapur): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table the following Reports (Hindi and English versions) of Standing Committee on Human Resource Development:

- (1) One Hundred Eighty-third Report on 'Major issues concerning Kendriya Vidyalayas';
- (2) One Hundred Eighty-fourth Report on 'Major issues concerning Navodaya Vidyalayas'; and
- (3) One Hundred Eighty-fifth Report on 'Promotion of Sports in India'.

12.04 hrs.

## ELECTION TO COMMITTEE

## National Board for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises

*[Translation]*

THE MINISTER OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND MINISTER OF AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD): Sir, I beg to move:

"That in pursuance of clause (d) of sub-section (3) of section 3 of the Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises Development Act, 2006, read with rule 3(i) of the National Board for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises Rules, 2006 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 National Board for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises, for a period of two years, subject to other provisions of the said Act and the rules made thereunder."

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That in pursuance of clause (d) of sub-section (3) of section 3 of the Micro, Small and Medium



Enterprises Development Act, 2006, read with rule 3 (i) of the National Board for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises Rules, 2006 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 National Board for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises, for a period of two years, subject to other provisions of the said Act and the rules made thereunder."

*The motion was adopted.*

12.05 hrs.

## STATEMENT BY THE MINISTER

### Constitution of Pay Revision Committee

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: Now, supplementary item of business, statement by the hon. Minister, Shri Sontosh Mohan Dev. I have allowed him.

THE MINISTER OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): Sir, it is regarding constitution of Pay Revision Committee. Sir, shall I read the full statement?

MR. SPEAKER: No, you can lay it. It is a matter relating to the constitution of Pay Revision Committee.

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV: I lay the statement on the Table of the House.

\*For the period beginning 1.1.2007 and for a period of 10 years, the Government have constituted a Pay Revision Committee for the executives and non-unionised supervisors, under the Chairmanship of Mr. Justice M. Jagannadha Rao, Retired Judge, Supreme Court. Dr. Nitish Sen Gupta, Economist and former Member Secretary, Planning Commission, Shri P.C. Parakh, Former Secretary, Department of Coal, Government of India and Shri R.S.S.L.N. Bhaskarudu, Former Managing Director, Maruti Udyog Ltd. and former Chairman, Public Enterprises Selection Board will be members of the Committee. Secretary, Department of Public Enterprises, Government of India will be ex-officio member and Joint

Secretary, Department of Public Enterprises, Government of India will be Secretary of the Committee.

The Committee will give their recommendations on the matter related to pay revision, covering Board level functionaries, below-Board level executives and non-unionised supervisory staff of CPSEs numbering about 3 lakh. The Pay Revision Committee will make their recommendations within 18 months from the date of constitution.

The Terms of Reference of the Committee are broadly as follows:

Examine the principles that should govern present structure of pay, allowances, perquisites, and benefits for executives of Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs).

To make recommendations so as to transform the CPSEs into modern, professional, citizen-friendly and successful commercial entities that are also dedicated to the service of the people.

Work out a comprehensive pay package for promoting efficiency, productivity and economy through rationalization of structures, organizations, systems and processes.

Make recommendations to harmonize the functioning of the CPSEs with the demands of the emerging national and global economic scenario.

Examine the Productivity linked Incentives Scheme and Performance Related Payments.

The Committee will consider the changes that have taken place in the structure of emoluments of employees in CPSEs over the years, and also keeping in view the Policy already finalized related to 7th Round of wage negotiation for unionized workmen in CPSEs due from 1.1.2007 onwards. While submitting the final recommendations to the Government, the Committee shall also take into account the Report of the 6th Central Pay Commission.

Now, with the appointment of the Pay Revision Committee, another major demand of employees in CPSEs has been met. In the dynamic business environment facilitated by liberalization and globalization, this would be a step towards further encouragement by acknowledging performance. The welfare of the employees has been of paramount consideration and importance for

\*Laid on the Table and also placed in Library. See No. LT—5092/06.

the Government and it has always been sensitive towards the same.

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: Now, we come to the matters of urgent public importance, Chaudhary Lal Singh.

*...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Chaudhary Lal Singh, you are not attentive.

*...(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV (Patna): Mr. Speaker, Sir, yesterday we were told that *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: The House is running very smoothly. You please sit down.

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: Mr. Speaker, Sir, yesterday you had told that *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You would be given a chance to speak. Have some patience.

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV (Jhanjharpur): Sir, yesterday you had told that next day, I would be given an opportunity to speak first of all.

MR. SPEAKER: I have become old. So, I forget sometimes.

CHAUDHARY LAL SINGH (Udhampur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, with your permission, I would like to draw the attention of the Union Government towards my State. In my area, the problem of water is becoming complicated day by day because the ground water is getting dried up. The water table has gone down over there and no method is being adopted so far to recharge the same.

Sir, in districts like Kathua and Jammu of my State which share their boundary with Pakistan, the rain water from hilly areas comes down and then it goes to Pakistan straightway. Pakistan is taking benefit of that water. I would like to suggest the Government to adopt measures to recharge that water, because that water is required to be utilized by our side.

Sir, I am only talking about my district. Our ancestors had set up 401 ponds over there so that the water could remain safe. I am talking of one district only. If we take into account the whole state, we will find that there would be thousands of such ponds set up for maintaining high water table as well as moisture inside the earth so that, the people could arrange for irrigation and carry on their cattle rearing profession. Today, these ponds are in a very dilapidated condition. They have got damaged. The Government has not spent any funds on construction of these ponds and rather they are built in private capacity. Today it is the duty of the Government to protect them. Crores of rupees would be required today to construct them. Today we need to save them so that water could also be saved. Alongwith this we would also be able to preserve these traditional things built by our ancestors. If the Government fails to preserve these ponds, then we would lose these traditional ponds built by our ancestors.

Sir, the streams, bawalis and nullahs in our area have dried up because of deforestation which is causing great difficulty in getting water. Therefore, it is my submission to the Government to recharge them and regenerate these sources. If this is not done, then we may have to face a lot of difficulties. We have also submitted a plan in this regard. I want that the Government should sanction that so that these ponds can be repaired and reused. I would like to thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak.

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: Chaudhary Lal Singh, I compliment you for raising a very important issue.

Shri Ram Kripal Yadav. I am sorry, if I have forgotten your name.

12.09 hrs.

## SUBMISSIONS BY MEMBERS

- (1) **Re: News item published in Urdu Edition of Hindustan Express dated 28.11.06 tarnishing secular image of India.**

*[Translation]*

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV (Patna): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak on an important issue. This issue was discussed in the House yesterday and hon'ble Devendra Prasad

[Shri Ram Kripal Yadav]

Yadav ji had also moved an adjournment motion on this in which it was mentioned that a news item was published in the Hindustan Express, the (Urdu Edition, dated 28.11.06 under the heading "Imarte Saraiya dehehat gardo ka mahfooz maskan". In that news item, some comments were made by an official against the organization. I would like to tell that Imarte Saraiya, is a very important organization and has been involved in social, religious and public service works since 1921. You would be happy to know that its foundation was laid under the Chairmanship of hon'ble Abdul Kalam ji and this organisation has been continuously working not only in Bihar, but also in Bengal, Jharkhand and Orissa. People have immense faith in this organization. Crores of people have their faith in it and it is a religious organization.

Since it is in my constituency, Patna, I am familiar with it. As I have been associated with it for the last twenty years, I am aware of its activities. It takes lead in organizing religious and social activities and it is a first footer helping organisation during floods and calamities. I read out the last comment made by the police officer.

[English]

It says:

"Activities of ISI, Lashkar-e-Toiba, SIMI and HUJI from Pakistan and Bangladesh keep visiting Fulware Sharif via Bangladesh border."

[Translation]

It is the last para. It has many other such things that officer has made this comment without making any investigation or inquiry. Is he a RAW Officer or a distinguished officer from vigilance. On what basis this type of allegation was made against Fulware Sharif? This officer is a senior officer from Uttar Pradesh....."

He has framed this charge against it and it has hurt the sentiments of crores of people. He is A.D.G. in the Railways. On what ground he is making this type of allegation without making any investigation?

Through you I would like to say that this case requires investigation and the Government should investigate into it ...*(Interruptions)*

\*Expunged as ordered by the Chair.

MR. SPEAKER: O.K.

[English]

I will allow him.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: Whether any Government or any officer is free to make such allegations against such a distinguished institution and hurt the feelings of crores of people? It is a very serious matter. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: You have drawn the attention of the authority.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: It is a very serious matter. Through you, I would like to urge the Home Minister to order an inquiry into this and I ask you ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Sit down.

[English]

I will look into it. Please do not make any allegation against the State Government.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: I may tell you that I will resign if any allegation against it is found true in the inquiry. I will resign from my post if any charge or allegation made against the institution is found true. It should, therefore be taken seriously. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Devendra Prasad Singh, you are disturbing him.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please cooperate.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record.

...*(Interruptions)*

\*Not recorded.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Devendra Prasad Singh, you raised this issue yesterday. I did not realize that the same issue will be raised today. Now, please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please do not record anything.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please listen to your leader. He is asking you to sit down.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: It is not permitted generally. In view of the matter, I allow you now, not as a precedent.

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN SINGH (Deoria): Hon. Speaker, Sir, I express my thanks to Bhai Devendra Yadavji and Shri Ram Kripal Yadav who jointly raised a very good point yesterday and today. The Chief Minister was here and we also attracted his attention towards this issue. He enquired into it and the Government suspended that I.P.S. officer after finding the truth in this matter and a charge sheet is being filed against him.

... (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: You see, this is the way it has to be done. I appreciate it.

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI LALU PRASAD): I would like to make a submission in this context to avoid confusion. He is not an officer of the railways ....\*\* From the findings of Imarate Sharia Fulwari Sharif case this fact has emerged that he is an I.P.S. Officers of U.P. cadre and he is most communal. We had directed the Ministry of Railways yesterday only that they may ask the UP Government to call back that officer and take whatever action they wanted against him and not send such officer in the Railways.

\*Not recorded.

\*\*Expunged as ordered by the Chair.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Your views are shared by him. That is all right. Now, Shri Hannan Mollah.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I will try to accommodate everybody. I cannot call all Members together. Please cooperate.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH (Uluberia): Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the House to the serious problems faced by thousands and thousands of farmers of Rajasthan. Sir, you know that it is a desert State. Gradually, under the Indira Gandhi Nahar Project, the Bikaner Division got an opportunity to cultivate and create greenery in that area.

You know, Sir, the farmers of this Bikaner division are getting water from Indira Neher Project for the last several years. But recently adequate water is not provided to Phase-I of that project. It is because of that in 2004, there was a serious problem. Thousands of acres of crops were destroyed and peasants were agitating. Six people were killed there. Ultimately, there was an agreement between the Government and the farmers that they would get adequate water. But one year, that is, last year they got water but this year they are not getting adequate water. Thousands of acres of land are in trouble, and *kisans* are in struggle for the last two months.

The Government had not taken care of these peasants.

MR. SPEAKER: You can raise what the Central Government can do.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: What is going on? Sit down. It is not good. It is your issue. You will be given an opportunity to speak.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH: This is what I am saying. The army was deployed. Ganganagar is a border district.

[Shri Hannan Mollah]

The Army and the farmers should have good relations but the Army is being used against the farmers in Ganganagar district. It is a serious matter. I would demand that water should be released and all the farmers who have been arrested should be released. Further, the Central Government should inquire whether Army has been used against the farmers of Rajasthan. I think the Government will take care of the demands of the farmers of Rajasthan.

SHRI ANIL BASU (Arambagh): It is a serious matter.

MR. SPEAKER: I think Mr. Girdhari Lal Bhargava's matter is also the same.

[Translation]

Do you have the same matter? Yours notice is about other matter.

[English]

You just cannot stand up.

[Translation]

You speak patiently.

[English]

I do not speak at the same time when he is speaking. Why are you shouting?

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Speak well. It is a matter pertaining to your constituency. We will give you an opportunity to speak.

[English]

But do not force me to do anything please.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down.

[English]

Do not disrupt the House.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Anil Basu, please sit down. No, I have not allowed you.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: It is not as a precedent. Do not do this. Kindly conclude within a minute.

[Translation]

If you want to speak then you should seek permission.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH BISHNOI (Jodhpur): Hon. Speaker, Sir, Rajasthan canal, which is called Indira canal also, has two phases. An agreement had been reached between the Government of Rajasthan and the farmers as to how much water would be supplied in phase I and phase II. The farmers are getting water as per that agreement. But, farmers from Bikaner, Jodhpur, Nagaur, Jaisalmer, who fall in second phase, should also get water. This is also the demand of these farmers. An agreement had been reached between the Government of Rajasthan and the Government of Punjab in 1981 according to which the Government of Punjab should have given .6 MF water for Rajasthan. But till date Punjab did not allocate water for Rajasthan. Therefore, through you I would like to urge the Union Government that Rajasthan Government should justifiably be given that. 6 MF water.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: You have not given notice.

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA (Jaipur): Sir, I support what Shri Jaswant Singhji has said about western Rajasthan. I would like to make one more point. Western Rajasthan has been ruined completely. It includes Barmer, Banswada, Chittorgarh, Doongarpur, Jaisalmer, Jhalawad, Jalaur, Kota, Pali, Siroi, Rajsamudra, and Udaipur. Sir, I would like to say that this region received heavy rains and due to heavy rains and flood the rivers originating from Pakistan were in spate. Even today Western Rajasthan is inundated because of which the people of Rajasthan are in miserable condition. The roads have broken and malaria and dengue fever has spread there. The Government of Rajasthan made utmost efforts to rehabilitate the people and for this purpose funds were also taken from the MPLAD. But they could not do so in the cities of Rajasthan mentioned by me even after

taking funds from the MPLAD fund. Therefore, I urge upon the Government of India that we should be given a grant of Rs.3284.22 crores by the Government of India from the national calamity fund so that we may rehabilitate people there and reclaim the land from water logging. This is my request to you. I express my thanks to you for giving me an opportunity to speak.

MR. SPEAKER: Dr. Karan Singh Yadav—not present.

SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN (Indore): Mr. Speaker, Sir, for the last three days I have been continually trying to raise the issues related to the poor ...*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: Please do not disturb the House. You are a very respected person.

...*(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

MR. SPEAKER: No one will get chance by disturbing the proceedings.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI JASWANT SINGH BISHNOI: I am requesting you ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: This is not a request.

*[English]*

Sending a notice is a request. Therefore, you do not have to repeat that request.

*[Translation]*

SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, in Madhya Pradesh, I don't know, it may be happening in the whole of the Hindustan. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN: But the wheat being supplied to fair price shops under the public distribution system in Madhya Pradesh, is being said to have been imported from Australia. I have brought the sample of that wheat. That wheat is not suitable for human consumption. I am sorry to say that our farmers were paid lesser prices for their wheat, they got upto rupees seven hundred for a quintal whereas it has been heard that Rs. 1000 per quintal is being paid for imported wheat. Given the quality of that wheat, if one considers to supply

porridge to 'Aanganbaris', it cannot be used even for making porridge. There is no facility for quality check up in our FCI godowns. That is why the substandard wheat has to be accepted. Madhya Pradesh is not getting its due share of wheat. It is getting only 2 lac tones of wheat instead of the requirement of 11 lac tones of wheat, i.e, it is getting wheat less than required and that too of substandard quality.

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: You have made your point.

*[Translation]*

SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN: Hon. Minister of Agriculture has been attending conference here and there. He says that next year production will be better and Government will pay better prices to the farmers. But we have not paid good support prices to the farmers in the current year. I am raising this issue in the backdrop that earlier also we had imported PL 480 wheat which was badly contaminated and that is still causing diseases. Now, again similar type of contaminated wheat is available on the fair price shops of Madhya Pradesh. I would like to draw attention of the Government that action should be taken immediately. This should be stopped as wheat consumption is very high in Madhya Pradesh hence it requires more attention. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You all give your name in writing. I shall associate all those names with her. You people even did not take pains to give notices.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You all give your name in writing. I shall associate all those names with her. You people even did not take pains to give notices.

MR. SPEAKER: Sarvashri Krishna Murari Moghe, Thawar Chand Gehlot, Dr. Ram Laxhan Singh, Virendra Kumar, Ashok Argal and P.S. Gadhvi all are associated with her on this issue.

...*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: You are taking advantage of the matter he is mentioning.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA (Guna): Thank you Mr. Speaker, Sir.

[Shri Jyotiraditya M. Scindia]

The recent Report released by UNESCO draws an alarming picture of the status of education capabilities in our country—be it gender parity, out of school children or dropout rates. There is hardly any count on which the Education for All Global Monitoring Report lauds India's performance. The Report gives India minus 1.7 points in reducing the number of illiterates among the adults above the age of 15 which places us with countries like Ethiopia and Pakistan. Except for a few bright patches in respect of education in Kerala, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu, the Report paints a very grim picture and specially portrays a North-South divide where the Southern States are providing education, have a very low out-of-school dropout rate of 0.5 to 2.1 per cent. The Northern States have an out-of-school dropout rate of close to 8 to 17 per cent. This is a very dangerous trend, Mr. Speaker, Sir, because it can lead to further social unrest in our country.

According to this report, the number of illiterates has only gone down from 27.3 crore to 26.84 crore over the 14-year period from 1990 to 2004. The UNESCO Report also tops India in terms of gender disparity. For every 100 boys out of school we have 136 girls out of school, figures which are comparative to only some Arab States and Yemen and Iraq only fall below India. So, we are number three from the bottom.

MR. SPEAKER: We can have a proper discussion on this.

SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA: But this is a very important issue.

MR. SPEAKER: I have allowed you to raise it.

SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA: Therefore, out of 3.4 crore children in our country in the age of 6 to 13, 1.34 crore are still out of school.

We sanction between Rs. 11,000 crore and Rs. 12,000 crore in our Budget for the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA), therefore it is very important to look at not only the outlays, but also the outcomes. The children are our country's future, and it is important for us to be able to equip them with the right kind of education in this country.

MR. SPEAKER: The other day there was a Question also on this issue in this House.

Shrimati Archana Nayak.

SHRIMATI ARCHANA NAYAK (Kendrapara): Mr. Speaker, Sir, thank you very much. I would like to raise

the following matter for the consideration of the hon. Minister of Agriculture.

Agriculture is the main occupation of our country, and it immensely contributes to the country's growth. Farmers are the backbone of our nation, but they live in utter poverty. Every fourth person of our country is living below the poverty line. It means that 26 crore people of our country are very poor, and majority of them are engaged in farming. But their suffering increases as they are not in a position to work when they attain old age. The majority of the small and marginal farmers do not own much land, and their land holding is also very limited.

It is our duty — when the farmers are contributing so much to our economy — to take care of them in their old-age. Therefore, I request the Government that old-age pension scheme should be introduced for the farmers at the earliest.

MR. SPEAKER: I compliment you. It was a good point made by you.

*[Translation]*

SHRI SUKDEO PASWAN (Araria): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the entire country is tense after the incidence of desecration of the idol of Baba Saheb Bhimrao Ambedkar in Kanpur on 29th November i.e. yesterday. Curfew has been clamped in several areas of Maharashtra. Dozens of people have been injured there. This has worsened the situation in Uttar Pradesh and in the entire country. I would like to know from the Government regarding the factual position? The number of persons hit by bullets and the number of persons injured? Government should give a statement in this regard. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI JUAL ORAM (Sundergarh): Mr. Speaker Sir, this is a very serious matter. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: The Members who wish to be associated on this issue should send their names in writing.

SHRI JUAL ORAM: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I associate myself with Shri Sukdeo Paswan.

This is a very serious issue. ...*(Interruptions)*  
Government should give a statement. ...*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: Now, Chaudhary Bijendra Singh.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Sorry, I have allowed it because of the importance of the matter. Only one hon. Member has taken the trouble of sending a notice on this issue.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY (Puri): Sir, I would like to associate myself with this issue raised by the hon. Member.

MR. SPEAKER: I will allow it if you are associating. Please send names for the same, but do not disturb the House.

...*(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

MR. SPEAKER: Sarvashri B.K. Tripathi, Jwal Oram, Girdhari Lal Bhargav, Dr. Laxminarayan Pandey, Virendra Kumar, Ashok Argal and Bhanu Pratap Singh Verma to associate themselves with him on this issue.

CHAUDHARY BIJENDRA SINGH (Aligarh): Mr. Speaker, Sir, India is an agricultural country. Seventy percent of the population of our country is directly or indirectly involved in agriculture. Uttar Pradesh is a large State. Rabi crop is the main crop of the State. It is the season of sowing Rabi crop. The whole State is facing shortage of fertilizer at present. Thousands of farmer's are ready to buy fertilizer from the cooperative societies but they are not getting fertilizer. In such a situation, farmers are compelled to buy duplicate fertilizer from the private dealers. This will lessen their production and it will harm the country. The most important thing is that their economic situation has worsened to much that they are on the verge of ruin. Supply of fertilizer to cooperative societies is not being done by IFFCO. As on date, IFFCO is not supplying fertilizer. No action on the part of the Uttar Pradesh Government to arrange fertilizer has caused such a situation. Districts that required 28 lac tonnes of fertilizer. ...*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: Please do not make any allegation against any state government as it is not right to do so ...*(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

CHAUDHARY BIJENDRA SINGH: Government of Uttar Pradesh had not made payment to IFFCO on time and hence U.P. did not get fertilizers. At a time When the farmers in Uttar Pradesh are in trouble due to shortage of fertilizer, undeclared power cuts is also being done. It reveals the attitude of the Government that it has no concern for the farmers and no grief for them.

Through you, I would like to bring to the notice of the Government that the production being made by farmers is in the interest of the nation. If the production of the Rabi crop falls then it will cause food crisis in the country. I would like that the government may issue directives for supply of fertilizer so that the problems of farmers could be solved. Also the undeclared power cuts should not be resorted to so that cottage industries can resume their functioning ...*(Interruptions)*

Mr. Speaker Sir, lathi charge was resorted to against the farmers demanding for fertilizers. Farmers were beaten up and put up in lockups. ...*(Interruptions)* This immoral act should be stopped, so that the farmers get facilities and production of foodgrain in the country may increase.

DR. RAJESH MISHRA (Varanasi): Mr. Speaker Sir, I, too associate myself on this issue.

KUNWAR JITIN PRASAD (Shahjahanpur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I too associate myself on this issue.

YOGI ADITYA NATH (Gorakhpur): Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to draw the attention of the Government of India towards the Gorakhpur-Sonauli National Highways which connects Uttar Pradesh and Nepal and an important bridge connecting Gorakhpur to this national highways. This bridge was damaged on 24th or 25th September. It is an extension of the National Highway No. 29 and is the only highway of Uttar Pradesh connecting Nepal.

Sir, on 24th or 25th September this highway was damaged near Mahesara pond. At that time, I myself and other local residents had informed about this to the National Highways Authority of India and to the P.W.D. but the officers of the National Highways Authority of India did not visited that site and after that without making any alternative arrangement this highways had been closed, thereby causing a lot of inconvenience to the lakhs of tourists visiting Nepal and coming to India. This



[Yogi Aditya Nath]

is the only highway connecting Uttar Pradesh to Nepal. In this regard the attitude of the officers of the National Highways Authority of India is indifferent and casual over there. Through you, I request the Minister for National Highways to take action against the officers responsible for this negligence and though the damaged bridge has been repaired for the time being, no arrangement has been made for smooth traffic and the movement of heavy vehicles has not been restored. Alongwith this, I demand that a new bridge should be constructed in addition to the proper repair of the damaged bridge so that movement and traffic on this important national highway of international importance be restored as this is the only national highways connecting Nepal to Uttar Pradesh.

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA (Bettiah): Speaker Sir, through you, I would like to draw the attention of the Government towards a very important subject. The UNAIDS provides assistance for prevention of AIDS in this country and its activists are working in this field, but in the map of India shown on the website of the UNAIDS, Jammu-Kashmir has been excluded. I have a copy of the map of India shown on the website and if you permit me, I would like to lay it on the table of the House.  
.../(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: You forward it to the Minister.

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA: Speaker Sir, I seems that they are indulging in anti-national activities and are trying to weaken the country and conspire to interfere in the political system of the country. Regarding this matter Jack has written letters to the Prime Minister, the Minister of Defence and the Minister of Home Affairs but no notice has been taken of that. It is a very serious matter. I would like to lay this map on the Table of the House for perusal by you and the Government. The Government should take necessary action in this regard and should expel the persons indulged in such activities.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Tek Lal Mahato—Not present.

[English]

SHRIMATI MINATI SEN (Jalpaiguri): Mr. Speaker, Sir, probably you know that on the 20th of November, there was a bomb-blast inside a train compartment at Balakoba Railway Station in Jalpaiguri leaving seven passengers

dead and 40 more seriously injured. The DRM and other officials visited the site of the blast, but I am sorry to say that neither the Minister of Railways nor the Minister of Home Affairs, Government of India, visited the victims and their families. On the other hand, what is most important is, Sir, after the bomb-blast, the rural vegetable vendors are not being allowed to board any train on this route. While demanding adequate compensation for the blast victims, I also demand introduction of vendor compartments in this route.

SHRI SARBANANDA SONOWAL (Dibrugarh): Mr. Speaker, Sir, due to heavy infiltration across the Bangladesh border, the people of Assam who are the *bona fide* citizens of India have been gradually losing their ground. Considering the gravity of the situation, hon. Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh, hon. Home Minister Shri Shivraj Patil, and the Chief Minister of Assam Shri Tarun Gogoi held tripartite talks on Assam Accord with All Assam Students' Union representatives on 5th May 2005 at New Delhi. In that meeting, the hon. Prime Minister and the hon. Home Minister had promised them preparation of a National Register of Citizens (NRC) in Assam through Assam Government within a timeframe to protect the political and cultural identity of the people of Assam. The target date for completion was September 2007.

However, I am very much pained to inform the House that none of the above hon. Ministers has shown interest in the preparation of the said National Register of Citizens in Assam so far. As a result, nothing concrete has happened in this regard. The people of Assam demand that foreigners be detected on the basis of the NRC within the provisions of law. The Central Government cannot solve the problem and safeguard the identity of Assam and its people unless the interest of the country is given priority. NRC is the only option which could serve as the basis, the starting point, for solving the present serious problem relating to detection of foreigners and deletion of their names from the voters' list in Assam.

I strongly feel about the need to implement the commitments and conviction on the part of Central as well as State Governments to bring out basic documents for the people of Assam. For this purpose, modalities for preparation of NRC have to be done immediately and regular monitoring should be conducted by the PMO and the office of the Home Minister.

I, therefore, urge upon the hon. Prime Minister and the Home Minister of India to take all possible urgent and necessary steps to prepare the NRC as per the commitment given to the people of Assam.

*[Translation]*

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE (Pandharpur): Speaker, Sir, four persons belonging to dalits community were murdered in Kharlanji village of Bhandara district of Maharashtra a few days ago and the accused have also been arrested. A CBI inquiry has also been ordered to inquire into this incident. The incidents of atrocity on dalits are increasing. The statue of Baba Saheb Bhimrao Ambedkar has been broken in Kanpur yesterday as a result of which there is resentment among the dalits. I demand the Union Government to seek detailed information about this incident from the State Government and to conduct an inquiry into this to award strict punishment to the persons indulged in damaging the statue of Baba Saheb Bhim Rao Ambedkar. The Union Government should formulate an effective scheme to control atrocities on dalits. For this, the Government of India should constitute a committee under the chairmanship of a retired judge of the Supreme Court of India to see as to how the dalits and their interests be protected.

SHRI BHUVANESHWAR PRASAD MEHTA (Hazaribagh): Speaker, Sir, I belong to the Hazaribagh district. Staff training centre of the Border Security Force was there for the last 30 years. Thousands of persons came to this Centre for training. This training Centre is being shifted to Latur, the constituency of the Hon'ble Minister of Home Affairs Shri Shivraj Patil on the order issued by his ministry 15 days ago. Due to this, there is resentment among the people of this area because thousands of farmers of this area were sustaining themselves by selling vegetables etc. and now they will be rendered jobless. This training centre was functioning well there, for the last 30 year. Not only this but other training centres of customs, income tax and excise departments functioning there had been shifted by the order of the Minister for Finance. Now, the staff training centre of the Border Security Force is being shifted from there. It seems that the Union Government is making discrimination with Hazaribagh, my constituency. I tried many times to meet the hon. Minister but in vain. Through you, I would like to tell, particularly to the Minister of Home Affairs that the residents of this area will not allow to shift the belongings of this training centre if the order

to shift the some is not cancelled and for this they are ready to face bullets also. This staff training centre is functioning for the last 30 years so the Government should take notice of it and take appropriate steps.

MR. SPEAKER: You should stress on peaceful solution of the problem.

*[English]*

SHRI B. MAHTAB (Cuttack): Mr. Speaker, Sir, during 2006, between July and October, as many as 12 low pressures occurred in the Bay of Bengal. It caused heavy rainfall and as a consequence serious flood situation prevailed in 27 out of 30 districts of Orissa. The flood occurred in five phases causing devastation on a unprecedented scale. One hundred and five lives were also lost. The State of Orissa has requested the Government of India to provide Central assistance to the tune of Rs. 2,382.43 crore since mid-September. It has also requested to grant one lakh houses under the IAY as special assistance. But Orissa has received a paltry sum of Rs.25 crore only from the National Calamity Contingency Fund. A sum of Rs.175 crore is provided as advance instalment from Calamity Relief Fund. This has only added salt to the injury. I should not name the Secretary who is to preside.

MR. SPEAKER: You cannot name him.

SHRI B. MAHTAB: But the Ministry of Home Affairs is taking so much time to take a decision. Already two months have passed. Why is it that Inter-ministerial Group Meeting is yet to be convened? Why is this being delayed? The hon. Agriculture Minister is also present in the House. Is it true that the Inter-Ministerial Group has to recommend the case to the high-level Committee, which is headed by the Union Agriculture Minister and only then, funds can be released?

MR. SPEAKER: You have raised the matter. Speculation is not necessary.

*...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You can associate with him. I would associate everybody.

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: It is not a question of just mentioning. ... *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You cannot do that. You know, Shri Tripathy, it is not possible. I have allowed it to be raised because of the importance of the matter and he is raising it very appropriately.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI B. MAHTAB: Several other States have already received National Calamity Relief Fund but Orissa has been left out. ...(Interruptions) Why is this step-motherly or partisan attitude towards Orissa? Restoration and reconstruction work has received a setback. Hon. Prime Minister, during his visit to Orissa, has assured that adequate funds be provided at the earliest. Then why is this delay? I would urge upon the Government and I would request you to ask the Government to intervene to take steps immediately and extend proper assistance to Orissa, which is its due, at the earliest.

MR. SPEAKER: I certainly endorse all such reasonable demands.

Please add the names of the hon. Members who wanted to associate themselves with the issue. Take down the names of the hon. Members who are supporting. Nothing more.

...(Interruptions)\*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Bikram Keshari Deo and Shri Braja Kishore Tripathy are allowed to associate with this issue.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: No, please do not.

Shri P.C. Thomas.

I am sorry. You know very well that I cannot compel the Government to respond. You made your point.

Shri Tripathy, you never bothered to even give a notice. I am sorry. We are disposing of the notices. Still there are many hon. Members who have given their notices. You have not even given the notice.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I have already got your name properly recorded.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: Three or four days back, I have raised this matter. The Government has to respond to it. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: You know that, you were the Minister also, I cannot compel the Government. No Speaker can compel the Minister to make a statement.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing more will be recorded, except the speech of Shri Thomas.

(Interruptions)..."

SHRI P.C. THOMAS (Muvattupuzha): Thousands of agents of Life Insurance Corporation of India are on a demonstration in Delhi yesterday. They were demanding pension, welfare fund, Central Provident Fund, amendment to their gratuity rule, rejection of Narasimhan Committee Report, withdrawal of criteria of 15 per cent lapse, inclusion of these agents in the Sales Promotion Employees Act. Some other demands were also made. LIC is one of the prestigious institutions in the public sector of our nation and we are all proud of it. The strongest pillars of LIC are the agents who are carrying the message of LIC to the people. I would urge upon the hon. Finance Minister to look upon their grievances in a befitting manner, to call them for a conference and also to respond to their grievances in a positive way.

12.45 hrs.

#### SUBMISSIONS BY MEMBERS—Contd.

##### (ii) Re: Arbitrary sealing drive being undertaken in East Delhi

[Translation]

SHRI SANDEEP DIXIT (East Delhi): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to raise a serious matter in the House. Last week you allocated time for a detailed discussion on sealings in Delhi. Yesterday, a bizarre incident took place in my constituency and I would like to draw the attention of the House to this incident. Responding to the debate on sealings, the Minister told that the sealing would not be done now. We have got relief from sealings. Even the Supreme Court had directed that only premises of big fishes will be sealed. As per it, big shops and jewellery

shops come under it. But, yesterday, in an unauthorized colony where\* the poor people live.

MR. SPEAKER: This word should be expunged.

SHRI SANDEEP DIXIT: Sir, I mean the poor. I am talking about the poor, the small shopkeepers. A Member of the Monitoring Committee went to the police station and sat there three for hours and forced the police to take action without any direction from the Supreme Court, even the D.C. of the MCD objected to this and asked under which order he might take action against anyone. Ten or twelve shops were opened in that unauthorized colony and they were sealed. About one hundred and fifty shopkeepers had submitted their affidavits in the court and their shops were sealed in his presence.

For the last three or four months this matter is coming to the fore time and again as these colonies are in front of the residence of the members the monitoring committee. I want to know whether the monitoring committee will implement these directives of the Supreme Court just to satisfy the personal ego of its Members. Some of the colonies are in front of their flats and only because of it, the monitoring committee is following the directives of the Supreme Court in such a manner. We are completely helpless. The shops which should not have been sealed and those which were provided protection by the Supreme Court were also sealed yesterday. I fail to understand as to who will reply to it.

Sir, I think that our becoming an M.P. is meaningless if we cannot protect the interests of these people. We are not able to protect their interests despite the protection provided to them by the court. Sir, through you, I would like to draw the attention of the Government to the mechanism such as the monitoring committees which are being constituted day after day. What is the justification for constituting such committees? What is the composition of such committees? I could have accepted it, if it was for the sake of implementing rules but today due to their personal animosity whosoever is fingered out by them, is proved as a lawbreaker. A person keeps on making request after request, even the officers say that he is right, but the monitoring committee holds its own views and consequently the rule is reversed and the shops of those helpless people are sealed.

I, through you, would like to say that it is a very serious matter.

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\*Expunged as ordered by the Speaker.

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: I hope the Government will look into this matter. This matter should be looked into by the Government.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): I will convey this to the hon. Minister concerned.

*[Translation]*

SHRI SANDEEP DIKSHIT: Sir, even after providing so much relief nothing concrete is coming out.

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SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR (Sagar): Mr. Speaker, Sir, after a long gap work started in the Bina Refinery of my parliamentary constituency. Even during the last session, I raised this matter that due to the indifference of its officers, the construction of the boundary wall was not done properly and it collapsed within a short period of time. Then it was reconstructed. Four labourers have died there during the last one and half months. First time, one labourer died on the 16th of October. Autopsy of his dead body was conducted in the civil hospital. Even the case was registered by the police but the doctor could not detect the reason of death. The fourth labourer died on the 19th of November. The statement of its project manager that the death of two or four labourers is a common thing at a place where two to four hundred labourers work shows the callous attitude of the administration. It seems that their humane feeling has completely faded away. The labour law explicitly provides that the responsibility of providing proper medical facilities, ensuring timely payment of wages to the labourers lies with the institution individual where they work.

Sir, I, through you, would like to make a request to the hon. Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas that a directive should be issued to the Bina Refinery instructing it to find out the reasons of the labourers death and to ensure proper medical facilities for the labourers.

*[English]*

DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA (Lakhimpur): Sir, through you I would like to draw the attention of the Government to a very deteriorating situation in Assam. Because of the break in the on-going talks with ULFA, both the

[Dr. Arun Kumar Sarma]

Government machinery and the ULFA resorted to violent activities in which the innocent common people are the victims. Women and the children are the worst sufferers and the common people are sandwiched, on the one side from the ULFA activities—a series of bomb blasts which are taking place in Assam for the last two years — and on the other side because of the pressure of the Defence personnel the common people are harassed. The people have expectations from the Government. With the initiative of the Government of India, the initial talk with the PCG was very optimistic but the situation after the break down of talk has worsened.

Through you, I would request the Government to again resume the dialogue with ULFA sidelining the conditions which have been put through. Originally, the Government of India declared that it was ready for talks with ULFA without any pre-condition. But now they have put three or four conditions. The Government had agreed to consider favourably the request of ULFA for release of five ULFA detainees in consultation with the Government of Assam provided ULFA makes a formal approach to the Government of India and the Government of Assam for holding direct talks; nominates the delegation of these talks and indicates the time frame and abjures violence in all forms, including extortion notices etc.

Sir, we agree that the Government is keen to find a solution of the problem through political dialogue but so far with these pre-conditions, no talks will be possible. Hence, I appeal to the Prime Minister and also other officials of the Government to relax these pre-conditions and take all steps to hold dialogue with them because political dialogue is the only solution. Thank you.

SHRIMATI C.S. SUJATHA (Mavelikara): Sir, the railway doubling work between Kayamkulam and Mavelikkara is stopped due to the opposition from local people. The present railway gate (L-C. No.29) at Mavelikkara obstructs the movement of the people who live in eastern side of the town. There is a Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe colony and also an educational institution for the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe students is located at this site.

There was a proposal for constructing a subway at this point to avoid traffic blocks and for smooth passage of vehicles and pedestrians. But this proposal found to be not feasible since water logging would be there during rainy seasons. Expert opinion suggests that shifting of the present Railway Gate to few yards to the southern side would help ease out the present problem.

In this situation, I urge upon the authorities to consider shifting of the Railway Gate No.29 to southward and take urgent steps to recommend the doubling work at this stretch.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI RANJEET RANJAN (Saharsa): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I gave notice on the day the session of this House started. A boy namely Sanjay had been levelled with the charge of murdering seven persons which included the mausa and mausi of the murderer itself three months ago on the 13th of July. The crime branch arrested him on 5th of August. He was sent on judicial remand for seven days and the accused was sent to the Tihar jail on 11th August. After three months, on the 10th of November, he committed suicide. I want to raise three points in this regard:—What was the nature of the police investigation? What was the role of the media and the Tihar jail in this respect? After the suicide, five letters were recovered from his house in all of which he explained to the members of his family that he was innocent and during the remand police compelled him to accept the charges and told him that if he did not accept the charges, his family would be tortured. He also told that he would give evidence of his innocence in the court on the coming 29th of that month. This raises three points as to how the police investigation was conducted, Secondly media was showing that it was he who killed the members of his own family. At one place seven persons are killed by a boy and this incident remains known not even to a single person. Did the media know that it was he who had committed murders

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: We cannot comment on media.

SHRIMATI RANJEET RANJAN: Even if he was guilty, then no one has a right to insult him so much so that he is made to commit suicide. He committed suicide while he was in the company of four persons. I would like to request you that the matter should be enquired into by a Commission of Enquiry as the boy was very poor.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I agree that it should be inquired into.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI RANJEET RANJAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, how can we reach on a conclusion that he was a murderer

or not? We cannot reach on any conclusion about it. I request you as it does not seem that anyone will go to the India Gate to lit candles for Sanjay. There are a large number of people who turn dumb and at the same time there are so many things which compel the police to arrest the innocent. I request you to get the matter enquired into.

*[English]*

DR. K. S. MANOJ (Alleppey): Sir, the epidemic of chikungunya is continuing in Southern States, especially in the State of Kerala in spite of the measures taken by the State Government. Many deaths attributed to this disease have occurred. But the medical experts are denying the fact that these deaths are due to chikungunya. Even though they say that genetic changes might have occurred to the virus, no detailed study as to the cause of death has been conducted. In medical jurisprudence, medical autopsy is mandatory to confirm the cause of unnatural death. But no medical autopsy had been conducted in any of the chikungunya deaths. So I urge upon the Minister of Health to constitute a medical team particularly to look into the cause of death in chikungunya cases. Also Sir, the epidemic and its after affects in affected patients had resulted in loss of many working days. In spite of the measures taken by the State Government, it is not yet controlled.

So, I urge upon the Government to give special health package for the districts affected by this menace giving special emphasis on providing investigation facilities, permanent measures for surveillance and control of vectors, namely, mosquitoes and schemes for solid waste management.

*[Translation]*

SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR (Bareilly): Mr. Speaker, Sir, a joint session of both the Houses of Parliament was held on 7th June 2004 in which His Excellency President, addressing the Houses, announced the formation of the Telangana State. Sir, I, through you, would like to draw the attention of the Government towards the fact that much pressure was mounted, lot of things have been said and even a Minister has resigned to get the Telangana State formed. But it is unfortunate that the UPA Government is not making efforts to keep its promise. I would like to bring it to your notice that the people of Telangana region have been demanding a separate Telangana State for the last fifty years. The

population of Telangana region is about three crores. Hyderabad, Rangareddy, Medhak, Karimnagar, Adilabad, Mahaboob Nagar, Warangal, Khammam, Nalgonda and Nijamabad are the districts which altogether form the Telangana region. I would like to say that there are twenty such States whose population will not be more than that of Telangana region. All these districts are backward from the economic point of view and in this regard I do not want to quote the report of the State Organisation Commission but the same has been enumerated in the paras 386, 389, 376 and 378 and one of them reads as follows:

*[English]*

"It will be in the interest of Andhra Pradesh as well as Telangana if for the present the Telangana area is constituted into a separate State which may be known as Hyderabad State."

*[Translation]*

I want to say that poverty has become so alarming that more than 600 people have committed suicide during about five to six months but the Government is not paying attention to it. They are selling their kids in that area. Now it has become necessary for the Government to pay attention to it. Keeping the promise, the Government should announce the formation of a separate Telangana State in the House.

*[English]*

DR. BABU RAO MEDIYAM (Bhadrachalam): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to raise an important matter. An accident occurred in V.K. No.7 Incline underground coal mine of Singareni Collieries Company Limited at Kothagudem area of Khammam District, Andhra Pradesh on 12.11.2006. I happened to be there and I visited the accident spot.

13.00 hrs.

An imported machine called "Continuous Miner" was introduced three months back in this mine. Six workmen were working while the stony roof fell down with seam width of nearly 4 meters. As a result one Under Manager, one over man and two workers were crushed to death. However, two people were rescued by the rescue team. These two people belonged to the Joy Company because they were trained and accustomed to such type of

[Dr. Babu Rao Mediyam]

accidents. The pity is that the mining activity was conducted in an unsafe manner without observing minimum safety precautions. It is said that an hour before the accident the workmen heard some sounds and cautioned the Under Manager.

MR. SPEAKER: You may not give these many details. You may just mention the matter.

DR. BABU RAO MEDIYAM: The roof fell down because of the bolt system without the standard pillar system. I would like to request the Ministry of Mines to order a transparent and proper judicial enquiry and also to suspend the officials there during the period of the enquiry. Secondly, I would like to demand that a compensation of Rs. 15 lakh be paid to each of the families of the deceased and thirdly, I would like to demand that stringent safety precautions should be observed in the mines.

MR. SPEAKER: The rest of the matters would be taken up at the end of the day. After the lunch recess, the House would first take up the Jallianwala Bagh National Memorial (Amendment) Bill, 2006 for about half an hour followed by discussion under Rule 193.

13.02 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned for Lunch till  
Fourteen of the Clock.*

14.04 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha re-assembled after Lunch at four  
minutes past Fourteen of the Clock.*

(MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the Chair*)

[English]

SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE: Sir, I may suggest one thing. As was mentioned by the hon. Speaker in the meeting this morning, the Jallianwala Bagh National Memorial Bill which is a short Bill may be taken up now realizing its importance and significance of 150 years. It will take only 20 to 30 minutes to discuss and pass it. So, this Bill may be taken up now.

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. Speaker has already said it I have been told about it.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now, the House will take up item no. 14. Matters under Rule 377 may be laid on the Table of the House. That will form part of the proceedings.

14.05 hrs.

#### MATTERS UNDER RULE 377\*

- (I) **Need to develop the alternative route from Silchar to, Guwahati for the people of Barak Valley, Assam**

[English]

SHRI LALIT MOHAN SUKLABAIIDYA (Karimganj): I wish to draw the attention of the Government to the fact that Barak valley—an area in Assam having population of 40 lakhs along with a part of Manipur, Mizoram and Tripura remains cut off from the rest of India very frequently during rainy season due to landslide on train tracks and Sonapur area of NH 44, which is the only road connecting Guwahati via Meghalaya having a distance of 360 KM. The journey in normal weather takes about 11 hours. There is strong resentment among the people of the valley for want of easy connectivity through an alternative road which can reduce the distance and time of journey. There is an alternative route from Silchar to Guwahati via Harangajaw, Turuk, Sangbar, Panimor, Umrangshu, Kheroni, and Jagi Road, which is existing but needs development by widening from one lane and metalling upto Jagi Road in order to make it suitable for vehicular traffic. The proposed route is 60 Km shorter than the existing one having less hilly terrain by which people of the valley can reach Guwahati in 7 hours as against 11 hours as at present. I, therefore, urge the Government to consider upgrading this alternative route and relieve the huge population of Barak Valley Manipur, Mizoram and Tripura from their long standing sufferings.

- (II) **Need for early implementation of the agreement entered into between Government of India and Japan Bank on checking the pollution caused in river Ganga**

[Translation]

DR. RAJESH MISHRA (Varanasi): Sir, my parliamentary constituency Varanasi in Uttar Pradesh is

\*Laid on the Table.

a holy religious city. Being situated at the bank of Ganga river its significance becomes greater. But in Varanasi, Ganga is more polluted. Late Rajiv Gandhi in his Prime Ministership had inaugurated the Ganga Action Plan in Varanasi. This action plan was in operation till he was the Prime Minister but after his demitting the office of the Prime Minister, there were no successive Governments who may have reminded of this ambitious plan till date. This is still under completion. Now the Government are taking help from a Japanese firm to make the river Ganga pollution free under the second phase of the Ganga Action Plan and in this regard one agreement has been made with them. The Government have entered into a loan agreement with Japan Bank for international cooperation for checking pollution being caused in the river Ganga in Varanasi. I urge upon the Government of India to implement this agreement at the earliest so that the river Ganga could be made pollution free and the holly 'Gangajal' could be available to the devotees visiting the religious city like Varanasi.

**(iii) Need to Implement Drip Irrigation Scheme in drought prone area of Amrell, Gujarat**

SHRI V.K. THUMMAR (Amreli): Sir, my parliamentary constituency, Amreli is a drought prone area having no proper irrigation facility. The main crops of this area are groundnut sugarcane, maize and millet which are somehow being grown even in lack of irrigation. In this area, there is a scheme running aimed at promoting to purchase drip set but due to lack of power and being its costly, the farmers are not in position to get proper advantage of this scheme. The Ministry of Agriculture are implementing the drip-irrigation scheme under the Macro Irrigation Programme. However, in Gujarat about sixteen thousand and five hundred hectare land has been taken under the drip-irrigation scheme, but my parliamentary constituency is getting no benefit of it at all.

Through the House I urge the Government that the proper implementation of the aforesaid scheme may be ensured in Amreli.

**(iv) Need to complete the ongoing construction work of bridge on river Tapti at National Highway No. 8 in village Kathore, Gujarat**

*[English]*

DR. TUSHAR A. CHAUDHARY (Mandvi): I want to draw the attention of Hon'ble Minister of Shipping, Road Transport and Highways towards delay in construction of

bridge on river Tapti at National Highway No. 8 in village Kathore in Gujarat.

The construction of this bridge is being done by Uttar Pradesh Construction Company. The time limit for construction of this bridge is over and the work is going very slowly. Due to this there is always traffic jam on the Highway which is causing great problem to the people.

I request the Hon'ble Minister to look into the matter and pass necessary orders for completion of the construction work on the bridge at the earliest so that the problem of traffic jam in the area can be solved.

**(v) Need to bring transparency in the working of Social Welfare Boards of States**

*[Translation]*

SHRI ATMA SINGH GILL (Sirsa): Sir, crores of rupees are allocated by the Central Government through the Ministries to various organisations and institutions under the schemes meant for the economical and educational upliftment of each of class of the society and the fund is provided as grant-in-aid to the social service organisations for the implementation of these schemes so that the common people could get benefit of these schemes. Similarly the grant-in-aid is provided to the non-governmental organisations by the Central Social Welfare Board of Women and Child Development Ministry through their social welfare Boards of States for the various schemes of Women and Child Development. A number of organisations submit their applications for getting grants under the various schemes. These organisations have to spend a lot of money in getting all the formalities completed at the time of applying. There are a lot of irregularities found in the Social Welfare Boards of the States. So, the necessary effective measures should be taken to bring transparency in these Boards so that all the people could take adequate advantage of the schemes of the Central Government.

**(vi) Need to reconstruct National Highway No.59(A) from Chichouli Village in Baitul district to Dekna Village in Hoshangabad district**

SHRI VIJAY KUMAR KHANDELWAL (Betul): Sir, about 4 years ago the road from Indore to Betul was declared as a National highway. At present, the National Highway No.59A is in dilapidated conditions. So, there is need to undertake the works of repairing, renovating,



[Shri Vijay Kumar Khandelwal]

widening and strengthening of the Highways. At least, work relating to widening and strengthening of the Highway from Chichouli (village in Baitul district) to Dekna village (in Hoshangabad district) may be undertaken on priority basis.

**(vii) Need to provide adequate power to Madhya Pradesh**

DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA (Ujjain): Sir, due to lack of power in the country the development of Industry including agriculture and the common life of the people are being affected.

So, the Central Government may work out a power generation programme by formulating a time bound action plan on priority basis for the development of power energy sources i.e. thermal hydro and nuclear energy including non-conventional energy sources in the country as well as in the State of Madhya Pradesh. At the same time, the Central Government should supply adequate amount of power in the State of Madhya Pradesh as is required for agriculture in the State.

**(viii) Need to provide financial assistance of Rs. 3200 crore to the Government of Rajasthan for rehabilitation works in the flood affected areas of the State**

SHRIMATI KIRAN MAHESHWARI (Udaipur): Sir, the initial relief has been provided to the people by the State Government by undertaking flood relief and rehabilitation works expeditiously in order to tackle the devastating effects caused by the heavy flood and rains of this year in the border and backward districts of Barmer and Jaisalmer in Rajasthan. The State Government had sought Rs.3200 crores from the Central Government to tackle the natural calamities all over the State in which the Central Government had sanctioned only Rs.100 crores. This assistance is not an adequate amount to be provided as a compensation to the flood victims. Through this House, I urge the centre Government to announce immediate sanction of Rs. 3200 crore for the State of Rajasthan to provide relief to the flood victims and tackle the devastations caused by heavy showers in the State so that the pace of relief and rehabilitation works could be expedited.

**(ix) Need to extend the time limit on excise duty exemption for setting up industries in the earthquake affected Kutch district of Gujarat**

[English]

SHRI P.S. GADHAVI (Kutch): Kutch is a remote dry area with limited infrastructure and scanty rain. The region

is frequently affected by natural calamities. Particularly because of poor infrastructure, setting up a large industry in a limited time is too difficult. The State Government is therefore, representing to the Government of India for extending the time limit for exemption of Excise Duty upto December 2007, as also asking to make applicable, the liberal provisions as have been declared for Uttaranchal, Himachal Pradesh, Jharkhand and Sikkim. With vigorous efforts of the State Government, 180 projects with investment of Rs. 7900 Crores have been commissioned, while 409 projects with total investment of about Rs. 32,000 crores were yet under implantation on 31.12.2005. Though the Government of India has extended the time limit till December 2005, the extension in such a piecemeal way, actually does not help. Extension of time limit till December 2007 and applicability of liberal provisions will give further boost to the economy of this remote dry region, and it will be possible to exploit full benefits of developing infrastructure Central Government did not agree to extend the time limit.

I, therefore, urge upon the Central Government through you to consider the extension of time limit for Excise Duty exemption upto 2007 for setting up the units in earth quake affected Kutch district of Gujarat.

**(x) Need to implement the recommendations of Murari Committee with a view to address the problems being faced by the fishermen community**

SHRIMATI MANORAMA MADHAVRAJ (Udupi): The miserable plight of 10 million strong fishermen community of India, facing depletion of marine resources and ecological disaster along the coastlines due to sea erosion has been further compounded by the apathy of the Government which is yet to act on the recommendation of the Murari Committee.

It is almost a decade and a half since the Committee had given its report containing 21 recommendations to address the problems being faced by the fishermen community. The Committee had recommended complete stoppage of issuing licences to deep sea trawlers operated by MNCs and also cancellation of licences already issued. Despite a Cabinet decision to the effect, the Govt has yet to implement the proposal to make available subsidised fuel (high speed diesel) to fishermen and also additional quantities of Kerosene at subsidised rates.

I urge the Centre to ensure immediate implementation of the Murari Committee recommendations and to consider

creation of a separate Union Ministry for Fisheries to look after the interest of fishery development and welfare of the fishermen community.

- (xi) **Need to extend Tripura-Manu-Agartala railway line upto Subroom, with a view to promote trade and commerce in the North-Eastern region of the country**

SHRI KHAGEN DAS (Tripura-West): The Railway line linking Tripura has come upto Manu. Construction of Railway line from Manu to Agartala is in progress. This Project has been given the status of a 'National Project' and the target date has been fixed on March, 2007 for completion of the project. The State Government and the people of the State strongly demand extension of Railway line upto Subroom. The updated survey report of this sector was sent to Railway Board in early 2005. The project is extremely important for the State as also the North-East Region. Once Subroom is connected, it would be easier to connect Chittagong Port, at a distance of 75 km. through Bangladesh Railway network. It would provide Tripura and other N-E States the much-needed access to a sea port. With this link in position, Tripura can be the Gateway for trade and commerce to a host of South East Asian countries. The expansion of rail network in the region is imperative for socio-economic development apart from strategic relevance. I would, therefore, strongly demand that material modification of the National Project should be approved so that the Railway line is extended upto Subroom as a part of National Project and a token provision be made in the supplementary Railway Budget.

- (xii) **Need to set up an Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) at Basara, district Adilabad, Andhra Pradesh**

DR. BABU RAO MEDIYAM (Bhadrachalam): There is a proposal from the Government of Andhra Pradesh to establish an Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) at Basara. There is an ancient temple of Goddess Saraswathi at Basara. It is situated in Adilabad District of backward Telangana Region. Institute of higher learning like IIT would lead to local area development. Local people may get some jobs. Hundreds of students are going out from Andhra Pradesh in search of higher learning every year. They may be benefited if IIT comes here.

Hence I urge upon the HRD Ministry to set upon IIT at Basara and approve the pending proposal in this regard.

- (xiii) **Need to fix market price of non-PDS Kerosene**

*[Translation]*

SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA (Kheri): Sir, the Government had taken a decision to set up non-PDS Kerosene depots at the district level to curb its black marketing. However, the failure of the Government to fix the price of Kerosene meant for free sale has put the scheme in jeopardy.

Hence, it is requested to the Government to fix the price of Kerosene meant for free sale at the earliest so that distribution related shortcomings may be removed.

- (xiv) **Need to accord clearance to the Detailed Project Reports submitted by the Government of Maharashtra under the Urban Infrastructure Development Scheme**

*[English]*

SHRI SURESH PRABHAKAR PRABHU (Rajapur): As per the Union Government's guidelines for submission of projects under Urban Infrastructure Development Scheme for small and medium towns, the state Government of Maharashtra submitted the Detailed Project Reports of three Municipal Corporations of Maharashtra viz Mumbai, Pune and Nagpur costing Rs. 23418.69 crores, Rs. 2893.28 crores and Rs. 503.38 crores respectively alongwith CDP to the Union Government. However these projects are still pending with the Union Government.

I, therefore request the Union Government for the early clearance of all these projects.

- (xv) **Need to construct a fly-over on the crossing of Lonand State Highway on Pune-Satara section in Maharashtra**

SHRI SHRINIWAS DADASAHEB PATIL (Karad): There is utmost need for a Grade Separator on the crossing of Lonand State Highway on the Pune-Satara section of N.H.-4 at kms. 735.471 in Satara District of Maharashtra.

The National Highways Authority of India had decided in principle to provide Grade Separators between the Lonand State Highway and the N.H.-4, by constructing of a Fly-over on the State Highway.

[Shri Shrinivas Dadasaheb Patil]

A period of almost 3 years has elapsed since the decision for Grade Separator was taken by the NHAI. Almost 50 persons have lost their lives in various accidents at this junction, during the last 3 years. The required Flyover/Grade Separator, be provided immediately.

**(xvi) Need for reconstruction of National Highway No. 28 from Chapva, Bihar to Uttar Pradesh Border**

[Translation]

SHRI KAILASH BAITHA (Bagaha): Sir, the 112 Km. stretch of National Highway No. 28B, from Chapva Bihar to UP border is in a very pitiable condition. It needs to be repaired on a priority basis. This highway apart from connecting Bihar and Uttar Pradesh, also links pilgrimage centres of Buddhist circuits to Kushinagar. This road should be included under bridge C grade, and FDR, to facilitate its constructions at the earliest. A proposal has also to be sent from Japan Bank of International Co-operation, JBIC regarding this highway. The progress even in this regard is not satisfactory.

**(xvii) Need to expedite implementation of inter state infrastructural projects taken up during the 9th and 10th Plan period by N.E.C.**

[English]

DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA (Lakhimpur): I like to draw attention of the Government about delay in implementation of some infrastructure projects taken up during 9th and 10th plan period by NEC due to very long gestation period for feasibility and DPR. Two projects namely 'Construction of Bridges of Lohit and Khabolu River together with Strengthening of the NLKB road' and another 'Strengthening of the Lakhimpur Veterinary College' are yet to get final stage of implementation. On the other hand, feasibility reports for construction of bridge over Lohit Channel of Brahmaputra River between Dhola and Sadiya taken up during early part of 10th plan period is recently submitted to NEC for execution as Joint Venture Central Project. These Inter-State infrastructure projects needs to be prioritized for execution during 11th plan period.

I therefore, urge upon the Ministry of DONER as well as the Planning Commission to ascertain inclusion of these projects in 11th plan of NEC on priority basis

as a matter of policy before taking up any new project. The Planning Commission also needs to be advised to coordinate implementation of the bridge between Dhola and Sadiya with active participation of Defence, Power, MORSTH as well as NEC as a Joint Venture Central Project.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Now, we will take up item no. 15. Shrimati Ambika Soni to move the Bill.

14.06 hrs.

### JALLIANWALA BAGH NATIONAL MEMORIAL (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2006

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, I beg to move:

"That the Bill to amend the Jallianwala Bagh National Memorial Act, 1951, be taken into consideration."

Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, it was felt that a minor amendment needs to be effected in the Jallianwala Bagh National Memorial (Amendment) Act, 1951. A trust was created to pass the National Memorial Act in memory of the martyr's and those injured on 13th April, 1919, on the Baisakhi day. To meet the objectives of the Act, the Trust was provided with all powers. There stalwarts were given life time membership in the trust. They were late Shri Jawahar Lal Nehru, Dr. Maulana Azad and Dr. Saifuddin Kichlu. Besides, provision was also made for the inclusion of President, India National Congress, Governor and Chief Minister of Punjab. After the demise of the aforesaid life long members, three posts became vacant. Without the amendment it is not possible to fill those three vacant posts. With this point in view, the government has come out with proposals of some amendments in the Bill.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, in place of the three deceased life long members, an amendment would facilitate the appointment of the Prime Minister as the President of the Trust, as well as the Leader of Opposition and the Minister of Culture as members. Another amendment would make it possible to get the accounts

of the Trust Audited and certified by the Auditor General of India and there after to present it in both Houses of the Parliament. We have proposed the amendments, Keeping in view not to violate the original objections of the Act of 1951. Apart from this the spirit of the Act would remain intact. We have made sure not to tamper with the original objective of the Act. Proposed amendments seek to fill the three vacancies and to place the accounts of the Trust before both Houses of the Parliament.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, we should recall the Rowlett Act, imposed during the freedom struggle. On that day, the common men, including the rural populace, all over the country, took to the street. At that time, Congress had opposed the Rowlett Act. At that time, two of the stalwarts of the Congress Party, Shri Satpal and Dr. Saifuddin Kichlu who were leading the procession, were arrested. Their arrest sparked a violent protest all over the country. The hon'ble Members from Punjab, as well as all other members are aware that Jallianwala Bagh is surrounded by high walls on three sides. A narrow path leads to the Jallianwala Bagh. On 13th April, thousands of people guttered at Jallianwala Bagh to protest the arrest of Dr. Kitchlu and Shri Satpal. It was the day of Baisakhi. A large number of people had come to Harminder Sahib to take a dip and to have amrit. They also reached there. On General Dyer's order, the police resorted to indiscriminate firing, so as to kill all the children, women and youth. The bullet marks are visible on the walls even today. The aim of this Act was to perpetuate the memory of those martyrs. Keeping this aspect in view we have not made any attempt to temper with this. Nor have we played politics. We are aware that a national committee has been formed, with the Prime Minister at the helm, to commemorate the freedom struggle from the first war of Independence of 1857 till the attainment of freedom, as also to pay homage to the martyrs. Members from all political hues have been accommodated in that committee. Representatives of other civil society have also been included. The aim is to commemorate the 150th anniversary of the first freedom struggle, so as to revive the spirit of sacrifice so that the future generations would be aware of the tremendous sacrifice made to attain freedom. The Jallianwala Bagh is a very important event in this respect. I appeal to the House to pass this amendment unanimously to show solidarity with the spirit of the freedom struggle and the martyrdom of the people who faced the bullets. With this I conclude.

[English]

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Motion moved:

"That the Bill to amend the Jallianwala Bagh National Memorial Act, 1951, be taken into consideration."

[Translation]

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer): Mr. Dy. Speaker, Sir, I strongly support the Jallianwala Bagh National Memorial Amendment Bill moved by hon. Ambikaji.

Actually, when we recollect the Jallianwala Bagh incident, these lines of a song come to our mind—

"Jallianwala Bagh yeh dekho, yahan chali thin goliaym, ek taraf banduken dandan ek taraf thin tolian, mame wale bol rahe the inkalaab ki boliyan."

People were shouting inkalab zindabad. The incident was happened in 1919 in Jallianwala Bagh in the city of golden temple. Amritsar on the land of gurus, Punjab. Britishers had promised us to give independence if we support them in war. But when the first world war ended in 1919, our expectation shattered. British emprialits enforced Rowlett Act. the draconian law on our country. At that time, the national leaders resolved that it would be opposed in the entire country. In the course, a huge march was taken out under the leadership of swami Shradhdhananda in Chandni chowk in Delhi. When Britishers tried to stop the march, he said that first you kill him then kill the other people coming behind him. Similarly, thousands of people gathered together in Jallianwala Bagh to pay floral tributes, make merry on Baisakhi day. A satyagraha movement and a procession under the leadership of our freedom fighter Dr. Kichlu and Satpal ji had to be started from there in protest of the Rowlett Act, the draconian law.

Sir, at that time, it was decided to initiate the procession from Jallianwala Bagh. Preparation for the procession was made. Thousands of people gathered together. As Ambikaji has said, Jallianwala Bagh was surrounded by wall on three sides and had only a narrow passage to exit. The gate was also very small. Thousand of people were present in the Bagh. General Dyer, immediately blocked the exit point and in a way curfew situation was imposed ordered firing by surrounding the

[Prof. Rasa Singh Rawat]

people. "Inkalab Zindabad" vande mataram' and 'Bharat mata ki jal' slogan echoed in the sky. People were shouting slogan, take back the draconian law, British leave India, British empire down-down. Such patriots were fired at. As a result, thousands of people died.

Sir, I have seen the wells of Jallianwala Bagh. Even today when I recollect, my eyes get filled with tears. When firing opened, as the crowd was in large number, people started jumping into the wells to save themselves. The wells got packed with dead bodies. They faced bullets bravely. That is why it is said, "Shahidon ki chitaon par, shahidon ki majaron par shaheedon ke smarko par lagenge har varsh mele, mame walon ka yahoe aakhri nishan hoga". This memorial reminds us that "Na hamen izzat den na hame ajmat den, ya rub watan ke wastey hamen jeene ki himmat den" so that all of us get engaged in nation building.

Sir, I do not have any objection as to what the hon. Culture Minister Smt. Ambika Sonji has said that the Bill was very small and it may be passed unanimously. But I would like to say that this principal Act was enacted in 1951. At that time our National leaders and first Prime Minister Pt. Jawahar Lal Nehru, First Education Minister Maulana Abul Kalam Azad and Dr. Saifuddin Kichlu became its life trustee. This is the law of nature that who is born, will die. In 1964, Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru died and with time other freedom fighters and big leaders also expired. Many governments have changed since then but vacancies for life membership remain unfilled and no attention has been paid by any government to fill these vacancies. Whichever party is in power, they should pay attention to maintain national memorials so that people of the country can get inspiration from that memorial of freedom fighters and pay floral tributes there.

Sir, I am sure, that Culture Minister Smt. Ambika Soni will pay attention to it and as stated now these vacancies will not remain unfilled. Now it has been provided to nominate members for five years instead of life membership on these vacancies. The system may improve after the change of trustees after five years. Prime Minister will be the Chairman, it is a good thing. It will help to take full care of this trust. At the time of struggle for freedom congress party was the only platform from where all the groups whether moderates, hardliners or revolutionists fought the battle of national ideology. It is, therefore, that the President of Indian National Congress has been included in its trustees. Besides, the

leader of opposition in Lok Sabha has also been included in it. Governor and Chief Minister of Punjab have also been included in it. I support this Bill and I believe that this system and the change of trustees will improve it.

Sir, I would like to add one more thing. I have seen Jallianwala Bagh. Its maintenance is not up to the mark. It should be improved further. It will be better if it is maintained properly so that people visiting this place can get inspiration and it can keep reminding us the history. More details of freedom fighters alongwith their names should be inscribed at the place. I have noticed that some names are getting blotted out. I would like that there should be a proper description of details in Hindi, Punjabi and English. Good pictures of freedom fighters should be put. Names of martyrs should be inscribed. The land of Punjab has raised many revolutionists. Blessed in the land of Punjab and its mothers, who gave birth to such fighters who sacrificed their lives to get India free of the chains of slavery. I believe that accounts of the Trust will be maintained properly. The audit of accounts of this Trust will be done by the person appointed by the Comptroller and Auditor General of India.

They will examine it before it is presented in the Parliament. This is a very good thing. We only want that it should be properly managed, the level of inspiration should be maintained and encroachment etc. should not take place. There is a market adjoining to it. As Nowadays, acquiring of land is being done everywhere, it should be developed more by acquiring nearby land and a broad shape is given to it.

I believe that it is and will remain a very good inspirational spot. As long as the universe exist, names of martyrs of India will remain immortal.

With these words, I support the Bill.

\*SHRIMATI PRENEET KAUR (Patiala): Thank you, Deputy Speaker Sir, for giving me the opportunity to speak on "Jallianwala Bagh National Memorial (Amendment) Bill, 2006." On 10th April, 1919, about 50,000 people marched to the office of Deputy Commissioner, Amritsar. They were demanding the release of their beloved leaders Shri Satyapal and Shri Saifuddin Kichlu, who had been imprisoned by the British authorities. However, the police fired on these protesters and about 30 people lost their

\*English translation of the speech originally delivered in Punjabi.

lives in the firing. The Sikhs were seething with anger. Earlier, the wall of Gurdwara Rakabganj Sahib had also been demolished by the authorities. The trial against the 'Ghadarites' had also started. Simultaneously the Authorities banned the entry of Mahatma Gandhi in Punjab on 6th April, 1919—This enraged the people further.

Sensing the anger of the people, the British Government brought General Dyer from Jalandhar to Amritsar on 11th April. He immediately imposed 'Martial Law' in Punjab, although officially, the date of imposition of Martial Law was shown as 15th April. On 13th April, 1919, on the auspicious occasion of Baisakhi, people thronged the Golden Temple to pay obeisance. The local leaders had given a call for a protest meeting to be held at 4.30 in the evening at Jallianwala Bagh. Men, women and children arrived at the Jallianwala Bagh in large numbers. Three resolutions were to be passed in the meeting. Two resolutions, were passed condemning the Rowlette Act and the police firing on protesters on 10th April. As the third resolution against the British Government was being passed, General Dyer appeared on the scene. He ordered the soldiers to open fire without any warning. Shots were fired on the unarmed crowd for twenty minutes. Due to the indiscriminate firing of over 1650 rounds, hundreds of men, women and children were killed. The official death-toll of 379 is grossly incorrect. Hundreds of people were killed and thousands of people were injured.

Pandit Madan Mohan Malviya visited Jallianwala Bagh later to collect information on the number of casualties in the firing. He reported in the Central Legislative Council that over 1000 people had been killed in the firing.

This incident galvanized the entire country. People were seething with rage. As a mark of protest, Nobel Laureate Rabindranath Tagore returned the Knighthood conferred on him by the British Government. He wrote a letter to the Governor-General where he said, "Time has come when badges of honour make our shame glaring in the incongruous contexts of humiliation and I, for my part, wish to stand down of all special distinctions by the side of those of my countrymen who, for their so-called insignificance, are liable to suffer degradations not fit for human beings."

In December, 1919 the annual session of Congress Party was held in Amritsar in which a resolution was passed "To take early steps to establish a fully responsible

Government in India, in accordance with the principle of self-determination."

Sir, today, I can say it with pride in this august House that the place where Jallianwala Bagh is located belonged to my ancestors on my mother's side. After independence, it became a national pilgrimage site. A memorial has been constructed there which reminds us of our martyrs. A committee had been constituted for this purpose. The memorial was inaugurated by Dr. Rajendra Prasad in 1961.

The Jallianwala Bagh massacre fuelled the anger of leaders like martyrs Udharn Singh, Bhagat Singh and Lala Lajpat Rai and they made the supreme sacrifice by laying down their lives for the cause of independence. Revolutionaries were fired up and sought revenge for this heinous act. Hon'ble Minister Ambika Soni Ji has tabled the "Jallianwala Bagh National Memorial (Amendment) Bill, 2006" in the House. I wholeheartedly support this Bill. I hope that this Bill is passed unanimously. It is a national pilgrimage site. We pay our obeisance to the martyrs here.

*[English]*

DR. SUJAN CHAKRABORTY (Jadavpur): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak on such an important amendment Bill. So, I support the Bill. This is a very important requirement. Rather I think that this has come much late. I need not go into the history of our Independence struggle. All of us are very well aware of it.

Sir, the hon. Minister Shrimati Ambika Soni had already referred to the situation in which the incident took place. It can be said as the greatest massacre that the Indian Independence struggle had to bear in a single stroke. So, obviously it has its importance. It must be maintained as a monument and it must be maintained in a much better fashion. It should be the responsibility of the country as a whole, to maintain it well. From that angle, it must be seen with great sincerity.

The freedom movement was initiated and led by Gandhiji. All of us know that during that time, Gandhiji was not a formal leader of the Indian National Congress. He formally took over the leadership of the Indian National Congress in 1920. This incident took place roughly a year before that. But still it was having wide acceptance

[Dr. Sujan Chakraborty]

by the people and the brutality of the Britishers is quite known to all of us. We also know that even Rabindranath Tagore had to protest. He had quit his knighthood. So, it should be seen with that much gravity.

Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru was a member of the trust. He died 42 years back, in 1964. A number of Governments have come and gone in these 42 years. So, a question can be raised as to why nobody took care of this thing. Why was there so much negligence? I would even say that we had not shown that much respect that is needed to be shown. The necessity for this was felt by the Government 24 years back. Then, the proposed amendment was discussed in the Standing Committee three years ago and three years have passed since then. So, I feel that probably we did not attach the kind of respect that this historical thing should have got.

For that purpose, we should feel shameful. That has not been correct on our part. With this grievance, obviously, I would say better late than never. It must be done as early as possible. Today, it must be passed. There is no confusion in it. The Standing Committee has discussed and raised two or three issues. One is that how the three members of trustees will be selected. It must be an important decision. They have discussed whether the Home Ministry should have its involvement in the team. I believe, it should have; it should be national issue and thereby though the Chairman is the Prime Minister, the Ministry of Culture, and the Ministry of Home Affairs, must be involved in it.

Another debatable question was whether the INC President should be one of the Trustees. I feel that probably that is not required. While the Prime Minister himself is the Chairman, while other Ministers are there, the Leader of the Opposition is also there, probably that is not much required. Firstly, the movement was with the initiative of Gandhi ji, when formally he was not the leader of Congress. Secondly, if we can go back to the history of Indian Independence, there are clear instances; obviously the national movement was the most important contribution made by INC. There is no confusion about that; there is no doubt about that. Along with that there was the stream of revolutionaries whom in the history, sometimes we are depicting as terrorists. I feel they should not be termed as terrorists but they should be termed as revolutionaries. And the stream of organized movements which relate students, youths, peasants, workers, altogether, it was the freedom struggle. The

monument should be seen as a national monument and from that end it should be composed as the Standing Committee has proposed. I would prefer that that should be the theme with which we can take it up. The President INC, while the Prime Minister and all others are there, is not an essentiality to be maintained in the trustees.

I would finally conclude by saying that it has been much late, it has shown that we could not attach the amount of respect we could have attached. It has been much late, there is no doubt about it. But, still Jallianwala Bagh is Jallianwala Bagh; it should be seen as a national pilgrimage, a national monument. Simultaneously, along with that, the Chaurie Chaura, Kamagata Maru, Binoy, Badal, and Dinesh, the way they fought, the Writers Building in Kolkata, all this also should be part of monument and not by diminishing the importance of Jallianwala; not at all. Jallianwala Bagh is obviously having the most importance as national monument. But all other kinds of specific affectivity, activity should also be taken into consideration.

With these words I thank you and I would request that the Bill should be passed today.

*[Translation]*

\*DR. RATTAN SINGH AJNALA (Taran Taran): Hon'ble Deputy Speaker Sir, I am grateful to you for giving me the opportunity to speak on the "Jallianwala Bagh National Memorial (Amendment) Bill, 2006".

Jallianwala Bagh massacre is a turning point in the history of our freedom struggle. British Government arrested Dr. Satyapal and Dr. Saifuddin. On 10th April, 1919, thousands of people from Amritsar gathered at the residence of the D.C. of Amritsar as a mark of protest. They demanded the release of their beloved leaders. Many people were killed in the police firing. But the protests continued. On 13th April, 1919, on the auspicious day of Baisakhi, a large crowd gathered at Jallianwala Bagh to participate in a public meeting to denounce the policies of the British Government. In the undivided State of Punjab, Sikhs were celebrating Baisakhi on that day. Lakhs of devotees had turned up at the Golden Temple to pay their obeisance. They also visited Jallianwala Bagh for the public meeting.

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\*English translation of the speech originally delivered in Punjabi.

Suddenly, General Dyer arrived there along with heavily armed troops. He ordered the troops to open fire on unarmed civilians without any warning. About 90 soldiers of Gorkha battalion indulged in indiscriminate firing. According to official estimates, 379 people were killed. It included men, women and children. A few infants were also among the dead. This was a barbaric and inhuman act. Sardar Udham Singh was also present there. He too, was injured. Udham Singh took a pledge to avenge this heinous act. He faced many hardships. But, at last, he succeeded in assassinating the perpetrator of this massacre in England.

Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to quote from the speech of General Dyer. "I think it quite possible that I could have dispersed the crowd without firing but they would have come back again and laughed, and I would have made, what I consider, a fool of myself."— Dyer's response to the Hunter Commission Enquiry.

Sir, the people from Punjab have made a lot of sacrifices for attaining independence. I am proud to say that Punjabis were always at the vanguard in the freedom struggle. A lot of Punjabis were exiled and incarcerated at the cellular jail in Andamans. Many were hanged. Punjabis were second to none as far as making sacrifices for the cause of independence was concerned.

Sir, Hon'ble member Smt. Preneet Kaur mentioned in her speech that the place where Jallianwala Bagh is located, belonged to her maternal ancestors. However, Sir, the family in which Smt. Preneet Kaur has been married, had always sided with the British. Sir, during Maharaja Ranjit Singh's time also, when we were fighting against the British, the ancestors of her in laws had sided with the British.

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I object to his remarks. Extraneous matters are being raised here. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

\*DR. RATTAN SINGH AJNALA: Sir, there was no need to mention that the site of Jallianwala Bagh was the property of the ancestors of the Hon'ble member.

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\*English translation of the speech originally delivered in Punjabi.

[English]

SHRIMATI PRENEET KAUR: Sir, I strongly object to his remarks. I request that these remarks be expunged. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

\*DR. RATTAN SINGH AJNALA: Sir, ancestors of her in-laws were agents of the British. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record except the speech of Dr. Rattan Singh Ajnala. Shri Ajnala, please confine your speech to the Bill under discussion. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

\*DR. RATTAN SINGH AJNALA: Sir, where is the need to include the President of the Indian National Congress as a trustee? Sir, the Indian National Congress ceased to exist after we attained independence. Indian National Congress was the party which played a stellar role in the freedom struggle. The Congress Party today cannot claim to be Indian National Congress. The President of the present Congress Party has nothing to do with Jallianwala Bagh. So, there is no need to make the President of the Congress Party a trustee of "Jallianwala Bagh National Memorial." ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: This should not go on record.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

\*DR. RATTAN SINGH AJNALA: Sir, if the Chief Minister of Punjab has been made a trustee of "Jallianwala Bagh National Memorial", kindly include the leader of opposition of Punjab also as a trustee.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Now, Shri Shailendra Kumar to speak.

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\*English translation of the speech originally delivered in Punjabi.



Chaudhary Lal Singh, you are a senior Member. You are behaving like this. This is not tolerable. Please sit down.

... *(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

\*DR. RATTAN SINGH AJNALA: Sir, the Member of Parliament from Amritsar should also be made a trustee of "Jallianwala Bagh National Memorial." The local Member of Parliament can solve the problems of the area.

Sir, the maintenance and upkeep of the Jallianwala Bagh leaves a lot to be desired. There is no cleanliness over there. I would appeal to the trustees to look into this aspect also. The trustees should ensure that this national monument site is maintained well.

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR (Chail): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I thank you that you have allowed me to speak on Jallianwala Bagh National Memorial (Amendment) Bill, 2006 and I rise to support this Bill.

It will be some sort of ill speaking to say about the amendment Bill introduced by the hon. Minister Smt. Ambika Soni that after the death of Pandit Jawahar Lal Nehru in 1964 when he was a member of this trust, no amendments were brought in this Bill, whereas after that a number of Governments were formed. As Rasa Singh Rawatji said, it is a fact that in our all historical heritages related to national memorials, their maintenance, management of trust and their members are required to undergo periodic evaluation and changes, So it should be done now. Some hon. Members have said that the way this memorial should have been erected there, could not be done. Certain modifications are needed in it. I would like to remind that I had got an opportunity to visit Greece with the hon. Speaker. Sir, Greece is the country of Alexander the Great. There we noted that even a small thing or a thing of historical heritage has very important place among the national memorials. Today there are innumerable national memorials in our country which have the same importance. The hon. Members have just mentioned about some places like Chauri-Chaura and Kakori. Among these places Chauri Chaura is in Gorakhpur and Kakori is in Lucknow, these places too are very places related to our national freedom

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\*English translation of the speech originally delivered in Punjabi.

movement which can not be forgotten. The same kind of revolts and incidents have taken place there too which we must remember today on this occasion. We must see that whether somehow they are neglected or their names are disappearing. The same is the story with the Alfred Park in Allahabad which is now known as Chandra Sekhar park. Earlier, there half size statue of Chandra Shekhar was installed but few years back it has been replaced with a life size statue of Shri Chandra Shekhar.

There are number of such memorial places which we cannot forget. Now it is time to protect them. The Union Government may take special initiatives towards it and see that such places are not neglected and they may also be protected while making them national memorial. There are many great personalities who were born in this country or many such incidents that have taken place here whose memories and memorials are needed to be kept properly because they are our historical heritage. Our future generations will take inspiration from them and they will learn a lot by reading about these historical heritage and thus they will prosper and progress in their lives.

You have effected certain changes in the names of the members of the trustee board of this memorial. I would like to suggest that the Minister of Education and Culture of the state should also be included in it. You have said to keep nine members in this board among which three members will be nominated by the Union Government. I suggest and request that the number of members may be increased from nine to ten and the Minister of Education and culture may also be included in it. This will help in getting his contribution and cooperation in running this trust and time to time the local government will also take care in protecting it.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, while concluding I would like to say that I support this Bill introduced by the hon. Minister and conclude my speech.

SHRI GANESH PRASAD SINGH (Jahanabad): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I rise to speak on the Jallianwala Bagh National Memorial Bill, 2006 introduced by the hon. Minister Shrimati Ambika Soni. As one talks about the Jallianwala Bagh the flesh of the youths of this country creeps. Nowhere such incident like the cruel incident of Jallianwala Bagh have happened in the history. At that time cruel ruler General Dyer and his forces acted very cruelly and in a barbaric manner which is a rare

incident of this kind in the history. The innocent people who were fighting for nation's freedom in a peaceful manner and doing Satyagraha and protesting against the British rule were killed brutally on 13 April, 1919 by indiscriminate firing on them.

The earlier speakers told that a peaceful protest was going on there in the form of Satyagraha and the British rule was being opposed. And there after such a tragic incident happened there, which was just mentioned by our colleagues of Punjab. Not in hundreds but thousands of people lost their life and around one thousand people were injured in that incident. Now for upkeeping the memorial erected on their name and making it look more appealing and beautiful this amendment Bill has been brought to upkeep its management, This amendment should have been brought earlier because this Act was enacted in 1951. At that time, its board of management was having Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru and two other persons as members. Now they are no more in this world but till now no government even bothered to upkeep its management and invite participation of more people in it through amendment.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to say that it is for the first time that the UPA Government has introduced this amendment Bill in the Parliament which is a welcome step. I support this Bill. Alongwith this I want to say one more thing. It has been provided in this Bill that it will be subjected to audit which will be done by the Comptroller and Auditor General of India. This is a welcome step. It has also been said that the eminent persons like our Speaker, President, Indian National Congress (I.N.C.), the Prime Minister, the Leader of the Opposition, the Chief Minister and the Governor will be in this board as members. Alongwith this it is provided that the three distinguished personalities will be nominated in it by the Government of India. I want to suggest that if any senior freedom fighter is alive then he may be nominated among the three persons. Alongwith this it may be provided to keep educationists and historians in it. While supporting this Bill I conclude my speech.

[English]

PROF. K.M. KADER MOHIDEEN (Vellore): Hon. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I am thankful to you for allowing me to participate in the discussion on the Jallianwala Bagh National Memorial (Amendment) Bill, 2006. As we hear the name Jallianwala Bagh, it even now stirs the

feelings of the Indians. This was the greatest event, and the most memorable event, which had taken place in the history of our freedom struggle. It was a struggle of the people irrespective of religion, and they sacrificed their precious lives for the sake of this country. They did this to drive away the imperial and colonial forces out of this great nation. This memorial has been erected, protected and maintained by a Trust in memory of those who have sacrificed their precious lives for the sake of this nation. The step to have a Trust consisting of the hon. Prime Minister; the President of the Indian National Congress (INC); the Minister in-charge of Culture; the Leader of Opposition, Lok Sabha; Governor of Punjab; Chief Minister of Punjab; and three eminent persons to be nominated is the most welcome feature in this Bill.

As regards the issue of inclusion of the President of the INC, the Congress is the only Party that has gone down in the history of this country which fought for this great nation. The history of the Indian freedom struggle cannot be separated from the INC. Therefore, the inclusion of the President of the INC among the trustees is most appropriate, fitting, and most welcome.

The Indian freedom struggle was not of any one particular community, but all the communities joined together, namely, all people and all movements joined together and fought for this nation. Therefore, this Bill is most welcome.

I would like to say one more important point. A lesson on Jallianwala Bagh incident should be written, and it should be included in all the textbooks of this country. It should be taught to children of this country from the very beginning. This step will inspire the people from their very childhood to become patriotic and nationalist, and to be followers of unity in diversity, and also follow all ethos of this nation.

I would like to say one more point. In Tamil Nadu, our great Chief Minister, Dr. Kalam, has made many memorials.

Valluvar Kottam is one of the grandest of the Memorials, and Poompuhar Memorial is another important landmark in Tamil Nadu. I would request the Central Government to liberally make grants for the maintenance of these Memorials. Besides the Jallianwala Bagh National Memorial, all other Memorials in this country should be properly taken care of so that it will help in educating

[Prof. K.M. Kader Mohideen]

the people of this country about our glorious past, and that is how we can preserve these Memorials.

With these comments, I welcome this Bill. On behalf of the DMK Party, I support this Bill.

SHRI PRASANNA ACHARYA (Sambalpur): At the outset, I would like to compliment Madam Minister for bringing in this Amendment Bill. The vacancies have been there for the last so many decades. In the meantime, no Government, I think, tried to bring this Amendment to fill up the vacancies. Therefore, the Minister deserves congratulations.

In the present Amendment, the Prime Minister, the Minister in-charge of Culture, the Leader of the Opposition, the Governor of the State of Punjab, the Chief Minister of Punjab, and three eminent persons to be nominated by the Central Government will form the Jallianwala Bagh Trust. In the original Bill also, the name of the President of the Indian National Congress was there, which is also there in the present Bill. My point is, there is no denying fact that the contribution of the then Indian National Congress Party to the Indian Freedom Struggle is a part of history. Nobody can deny that. The Congress Party of that time is not the same Party as it is today. Today's Congress Party is not the same Congress Party which led this country to freedom. During that time, there were many shades of opinion in the Congress Party; there were many schools of thought in the Congress Party, and that Congress Party represented the whole nation. Besides, there are other sections of people in this country who also participated in the freedom struggle, those who were not members of then Congress Party. There were great revolutionaries; to mention a few of them, there was Shaheed Bhagat Singh, Chandra Shekhar Azad, etc. They were not members of the then Congress Party.

During 1951, when this original Bill was brought to constitute this Trust, at that time, there was a National Government in this country where great nationalists like Shyama Prasad Mukherjee was also a member of that National Government. He was not a member of the Indian National Congress Party. After more than half-a-century, there has been a drastic change in the situation. So, I do not see any justification to continue to include the President of the present Congress Party in this Trust. Please do not make it a statutory provision. The Central Government has taken the power under this Bill to nominate three eminent persons to the Trust. We do not

oppose if the Union Government nominates the President of the Congress Party in that capacity.

Jallianwala Bagh is a National Monument, rather I would say that it has got international attraction. So, do not diminish the image of Jallianwala Bagh by involving political personalities statutorily in the Trust. That is my point. So, let us not limit the purpose by including the President of a particular political party, however big it may be or whatever may be its contribution to the national freedom movement.

As far as the Bill is concerned, the Auditor General of the country will audit the accounts of the Trust. The Government will fund the Trust. It means, it is a Government Trust. When it is a Government Trust, what is the logic of nominating the representative of a particular political party to the Trust? When the Union Government is funding the Trust, it does not sound good. I am not talking about this based on parochial considerations or political considerations, but in view of the national and international importance of this Trust and also in view of the fact that this very place, Jallianwala Bagh, is a part of our national freedom movement, please do not politicise it.

15.00 hrs.

What happened 56 years ago is a different thing. When we have started preparations to celebrate the 150th year of our first freedom struggle, I would earnestly appeal to you let us not confine our thoughts to political considerations.

I take this opportunity to draw the attention of the hon. Minister and the Union Government to another important point. I know the Minister is very keen about these things. There are many other monuments of national importance associated with the freedom struggle which have been neglected. When the Government and the whole nation is preparing to celebrate the 150 anniversary of our first freedom struggle—what the Britishers called the Sepoy Mutiny—we must take measures to construct monuments in those places where they are needed. In this connection, I would particularly refer to one or two places in Orissa.

In Orissa there was a great freedom fighter called Veer Surendra Sai. People say that Nelson Mandela suffered imprisonment for the longest period in the world

and that is for 26 years. You will be astonished to know that this great freedom fighter Veer Surendra Sai was kept in prison for 36 years by the Britishers. In fact he died in the prison in Asurgarh jail which is now in Chhattisgarh. He was blinded by the Britishers. His whole family suffered. However, there is no national monument in his name and nothing has been done to remember his memory.

There is a place in Orissa called Ghess. The whole family of the Ghess Zamindar took part in the freedom struggle. In the year 1857, more than half of the family members were hanged. Hati Singh and Madho Singh of the family were sent to *kaala paani*, to the present Andaman and Nicobar Islands. However, the Central Government has done nothing to preserve the memory of those freedom fighters.

There is another freedom fighter called Jai Raj guru. People say, history says, even Britishers say that Orissa was the last State where the Britishers could put their foot. It happened in 1804. After conquering the rest of the country, only they could conquer Orissa. In the battle of Kurdha, Orissa was defeated and the Britishers captured Puri, Gajapati and the whole State of Orissa. Before that, in 1886, Jai Rajguru was killed so brutally that it was unprecedented in the history. But nothing has been done for his memory. We have been demanding that at least a statue of Veer Surendra Sai should be installed somewhere in the premises of Parliament House as was done in the case of other national heroes. That has not been considered yet.

With these words, I would welcome the Bill that has been brought to fill up the vacancies. However, I once again appeal to the hon. Minister, rising above political considerations, not to push Jallianwala Bagh Trust into politics.

*[Translation]*

SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI: Sir, I have carefully noted what have been stated by Shri Rasa Singh, Chakraborti Sahib, Ajnalaji, Shailendra Kumarji, Ganesh Prasadji and other hon. Members. At the outset, I said that the objective of the amendment was to fill up the three vacancies. This was not possible without bringing this amendment. This initiative was taken not only by me but also the Standing Committee chaired by Nilotpai Basuji had also underscored the need to bring about amendment

in 2003 and thereafter a Bill was introduced in the House. The aims and objectives as stated by the Tourism and cultural Minister in 2003 also state the same thing which follows:

*[English]*

The objective of the Trust over a period of time with the passing away of the trustees appointed for life, the situation has changed. The Government does not have proper representation. Therefore, with a view to filling up the vacancies caused on account of the passing away of the life trustees, it has become necessary to amend this Trust.

*[Translation]*

I mean to say that I have the exact quotation made by Nilotpai Basu. While the matter was under consideration of the Standing Committee. I can read it out but you are well aware of those things. My purpose was not to involve any sort of politics in it. Right at the outset, I said that keeping in view the martyrdom of Jallianwala Bagh, it was explained. A trust was established in 1951 to immortalize the memory of martyr and of what provided impetus to the entire freedom struggle. We have made no attempt at all to bring about any change in the character, emotions and sentiments embedded in it. We tried to provide representation to the political thoughts of the country by filling up these three vacancies. I think that the political thoughts of the nation will get representation by including the Prime Minister and the Leader of Opposition in the trust. I do not think it right nor want to participate in the discussion but whatever I heard cut me to the quick. Today, they say that the Indian National Congress is not what it was in 1951. It may be a matter of long discussion. I can also say about as to what every party it was earlier and what it is today. It will be better for Acharyaji if he does not argue about this matter with me. We all know that ...*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

SHRI B. MAHTAB: How can you guarantee that the Indian National Congress President will not become the Prime Minister of India. The same person can also occupy both the posts. Again, this vacancy will also be there. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI: It has happened in the past. All the Members have spoken about as to why this amendment was not brought about earlier. I really have no defence for that. I agree that amendment should have been brought earlier. But it is possible that many years went by where the Prime Minister of this country was also the President of the Indian National Congress. ... *(Interruptions)* I am not going to stop. ... *(Interruptions)* This is not fair. ... *(Interruptions)* I have heard them. ... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY (Puri): Mahatma Gandhi had advised to dissolve the Congress Party. It was then a movement. After Independence, it has become a political party. You must heed to the advise of the Mahatma Gandhi. ... *(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI: This Bill was brought about in 1951. We are talking about 1951. Now, I appeal to this House, right in the beginning, cutting across political parties in this House and cutting across the political spectrum, touching the north to east and south to west of our country, civil society, political society that everybody is going to commemorate 150 years of our Independent Struggle, paying tributes to all those stalwarts. You mention the names. Please give me the names, in writing. We are planning with the participation of everybody, all the 168 members of the National Committee, with the Prime Minister as chairperson to resurrect memorials, to construct memorials, to commemorate those events which we want posterity to remember, get inspired by and work for the unity and strength of our country, as our ancestors did to make us sit here and have this debate. It is in that larger spirit that I have introduced the Bill. It is in that larger spirit of national patriotism that I appeal to the House to make these amendments only to fill up vacant posts which have been caused by the death of eminent personnel, who were originally on the Trust. It is in that spirit that I ask for passing this Amendment Bill unanimously. I will say that I will personally take care of all the points that you have raised with regard to memorials, while I am in charge of this Ministry and I can assure the House that this Ministry is going to work for celebrating the diversity of our cultural heritage and promoting the strength and integrity of our country, on that basis. The suggestion of every hon. Member will be given due care, irrespective of political label. So, I would request all of you to kindly pass this Bill unanimously so that we can truly commemorate the 150 years of our independence struggle.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The question is:

"That the Bill to amend the Jallianwala Bagh National Memorial Act, 1951, be taken into consideration."

*The motion was adopted.*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The House shall now take up clause by clause consideration of the Bill.

The question is:

"That clauses 2 to 6 stand part of the Bill."

*The motion was adopted.*

*Clauses 2 to 6 were added to the Bill.*

*Clause 1, the Enacting Formula and the long Title were added to the Bill.*

SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI: I beg to move:

"That the Bill be passed."

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Motion moved:

"That the Bill be passed."

*[Translation]*

SHRI MOHAN SINGH (Deoria): I support this Bill as it has been brought in a good spirit. The government should distribute a detailed literature as to why Jallianwala Bagh incident happened, following the passing of this Bill. I think that this was the biggest struggle for civil liberty in the history of India. Mohammad Ali Jinnah, Pt. Motilal Nehru and Pt. Madan Mohan Malviya, everybody altogether strongly protested the Rowlett Act when the same was introduced in the Central Assembly. Our hon. Father of the Nation, Mahatma Gandhi communicated to Pt. Madan Mohan Malviya through telegram that it was a draconian law and hence it should be opposed at any cost. According to me Rowlett Act was even more draconian than POTA, MISA, DIR and Tada. So the people of this country should be aware of how much blood has been shed and how many sacrifices have been made on Indian soil in the protest against such draconian laws. The Government of India should make efforts to make these facts known to all the people of India. With this very suggestion, I support this Bill.

SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI: Your suggestion is very good and I welcome it.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The question is:

"That the Bill be passed."

*The motion was adopted.*

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI ANIL BASU (Arambagh): Sir, a very serious situation has developed. ...*(Interruptions)* One Member of this House has created vandalism in the lobby of the West Bengal Assembly and incited the Members to conduct themselves like that. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: It is a matter of the State Assembly and they can raise it in the State Assembly. It is a State subject.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: No. Please sit down.

[Translation]

The speaker of the State Assembly has the right.

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Nothing is being recorded.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Please sit down. This is a State matter. It will not go on record.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please sit down. Please listen to me.

...*(Interruptions)*

\*Not recorded.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Please sit down. It is a State matter. I cannot allow you.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Shri Topdar, please listen to me.

DR. RAM CHANDRA DOME (Birbhum): Sir, the House should condemn it...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: First you please give notice thereafter hon. Speaker will see the matter.

[English]

How can I allow to discuss a State matter?

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Nothing is going on record.

[Translation]

Nothing has been recorded.

...*(Interruptions)*

15.18 hrs.

## DISCUSSION UNDER RULE 193

### Rise in the prices of essential commodities

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The House shall now take up the Discussion under Rule 193.

DR. CHINTA MOHAN (Tirupati): Sir, we are going to discuss a very important issue of essential commodities and its prices. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR (Bangalore South): Sir, before he begins the debate. I would like to know where is the Finance Minister.

[Translation]

Sir, hon. Finance Minister must be present here ...*(Interruptions)*

\*Not recorded.

SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN' (Bogusaral):  
Hon Finance Minister should be present here  
...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Sharad Pawar ji is sitting  
here.

[English]

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR: We respect him, Sir but  
the Finance Minister generally replies to such a debate.  
It is customary that the Finance Minister should reply to  
the debate. Every time it has happened so... (Interruptions)  
Sir, it seems that the Finance Minister is not bothered  
about the rise in prices....(Interruptions)

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE  
MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR  
BANSAL): Sir, the subject of discussion is, 'rise in the  
prices of essential commodities' and that subject is with  
the hon. Minister for Agriculture and the Minister is present  
here. He is making fuss about nothing.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Moreover, it is the joint  
responsibility.

[Translation]

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: You started telling  
even before speaking. First tell what you would like to  
say and then wait for reply. ... (Interruptions) It shows  
that you do not want to participate in the debate and  
you have nothing to say and you just want to raise  
objection. No sooner did the debate start than you started  
turning old melodies. ... (Interruptions) What has he raised?  
What has he raised and he has not been replied? Please  
speak on your point. ... (Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR: Sir, let them not argue  
...(Interruptions)

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Sir, any matter  
which relates to the Ministry of Finance would be replied  
to. ... (Interruptions) Any relevant matter which is raised  
in the debate will be replied to.

[Translation]

Any question which is related to finance will be replied  
to ... (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Moreover, the cabinet has  
the joint responsibility and Sharad Pawar is here.

DR. CHINTA MOHAN (Tirupati): Sir, today we are  
going to discuss rise in the prices of essential  
commodities. We had discussed it in the month of July  
this year also.

15.21 hrs.

(SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN *in the Chair*)

We had discussed this subject in the month of May  
also. When we were discussing this subject, my friend  
Prof. M. Ramadoss from PMK Party had said that when  
the economy grows the inflation also grows. He is an  
economist and he has got his own opinion. He also said  
that indirect taxes will influence the rise in prices. He  
further said that expenditure of the Government will also  
influence the prices of the essential commodities. A senior  
colleague from CPM, Shri Basu Deb Acharia said that  
because of the weak Public Distribution System, the prices  
of essential commodities are going up. He had also said  
that bringing down the number of essential commodities  
from 70 to 15 has also given rise to the prices. But I  
have my own view about the rise in prices. I would like  
to divide this debate into two parts. I would like to mention  
what the Government is doing and how the standard of  
living of the people in the villages and the urban areas  
has improved. I would also like to touch upon the  
constitutional aspects of this problem. I would like to give  
my views on this.

Madam, under the Public Distribution System, we  
have more than four lakh fair price shops working in our  
country. All these essential commodities like rice, wheat  
and kerosene are supplied through these fair price shops.  
I happened to go to some fair price shops recently. I  
asked a fair price shop dealer what are his problems. He  
said that he is getting a bag full of rice from the Food  
Corporation of India. They told him that this bag contains  
100 kilograms of rice. When he brought it and checked  
it in his fair price shop, it weighed only 80 kilograms and  
20 kilograms of rice was missing. He has to sell cheap  
variety of rice to the poor people for Rs.5.50 per kg. but  
the bag contains only 80 kilograms. He told me that  
since he is a poor man, he cannot raise his voice before  
the District Collector therefore, he wanted my protection.

I also asked him about kerosene. He told me about blue kerosene. He said that he is getting a barrel of 1000 litres and he is supposed to sell it at Rs.9.50 per litre. But when he weighed it, he found that it is only 800 litres and 200 litres were missing from the barrel. He also said that if he raised his voice, they will cancel his fair price shop licence. He said that this is his plight. He also said that if you could do something about this, it would be of great help.

I agree with what had been said by Shri Acharia that the Public Distribution System needs to be strengthened. There are some loopholes in this system. We need to have vigilance on this. It is very difficult for a fair price shop dealer to approach the FCI to give them their full quota of 100 kgs of rice. I would like to request the Government to take note of this point. The Government should see that these small things are rectified as early as possible.

Madam, I would like to move a little away from the scope of this debate and would like to talk about the various programmes and also about the living standards of the people in rural India. Take the case of the *Anganwadi* centres. The Government is spending a lot of money on these centres. In each of these centres two persons have been appointed—one is the teacher and the other is the attendant. The teacher gets a sum of Rs. 1200/- and the attendant gets a sum of Rs. 500/- to Rs. 600/- per month. The Government also has a scheme of providing nutritious food to people through these centres. Now, in reality, if we go to the grassroots we would find that these centres are in a very bad shape.

I would also here like to make a mention about the mid-day meal scheme of the Government. It is a wonderful programme and nowhere in the world has any such programme existed. The Government is providing mid-day meal schemes to around 12 crore children and are also spending Rs. 2/- per child per day. I happened to go and see the mid-day meal programme in the primary schools. The children there are getting their meals but no curry or egg or *sambar* is being given to them with rice. Poor children are eating rice mixing it with water. They are not complaining about it because they are getting at least a meal free of cost and they are sitting their classroom happily. They are not getting little curry to mix it with rice to eat it properly. This is another aspect that I would like to point out here.

The other day the hon. Deputy-Speaker was kind enough to make a mention about the *Sarva Siksha Abhiyan*. Under this scheme, there are about 100 children and there are hardly one or two teachers to take care of the students from Standard I to Standard V. The teachers there are not able to teach properly and the standards of students are going down in spite of so much expenditure by the Government for the scheme.

It is an occasion when we find a bit of opportunity to paint the real picture of rural India. So, my next point is about the primary health centres. We have good primary health centres with good infrastructure. Quality medicines also are available. Nurses are available but doctors in these primary health centres are missing. The nurses are doing the job of the doctors. The patients in these primary health centres are not getting good treatment. The conditions of the primary health centres need to be improved upon.

Madam, I would also like to make a reference here about the Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme. Under this programme we are allocating more than Rs. 200 to Rs. 300 crore to each of the districts. About 200 districts have been selected for this programme. But unfortunately money being allocated under this programme is being diverted. The poor people are not able to get their wages properly. I think, the Government has to think about this aspect.

Madam, finally I would like to speak about the living standards of the people. I happened to visit one of the villages in my constituency when the women were engaged in sowing paddy crop. I went to them and asked them as to what they were doing and what their problems were. They said that they were earning about Rs. 25/- to Rs. 30/- per day for doing this job. I asked them as to how many hours they had to work to earn this money. They said that they had to work for about five hours a day from 8 am in the morning to 1 pm in the afternoon. Then I asked them about their problems and they said that they got a lot of problems. After working for five hours and earning their money when they wanted to go to the market for buying rice, vegetable and oil, their husbands did not allow them to go to market and make necessary arrangements for cooking and instead taking away their earnings. I asked as to what was the problem of their husbands and what did their husbands do with that Rs. 30/-. She said that he snatches away Rs. 30 or Rs. 25 which she has earned and goes to the liquor



[Dr. Chinta Mohan]

shop, drinks, comes back and starts beating her. And so, she is having a lot of problems. She says that if we can solve this problem of liquor, she can live happily. This is what the people are expecting from the Government.

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Please speak on price rise.

DR. CHINTA MOHAN: Finally, I will give my views. Coming to constitutional bodies, there are four pillars of our Constitution. And they are supposed to do their job properly. Recently I happen to visit one city. I do not want to mention the name of the city and the person to whom I talked. After going to the city, I got into a taxi and I asked the taxi driver how is his Chief Minister. He said that his Chief Minister is doing extremely well. Then I asked him about his opinion about the Chief Minister. He spoke only two or three sentences. He said that he is living in a small flat, he is living in the same flat for 27 years and even after becoming a Chief Minister, he is living in a small flat. He also said that his Chief Minister does not have air-conditioner in his bed room. I asked him as to how he knows about all these things. He said that his Chief Minister does not have air-conditioner in his bed room and he is having only a small fan. I again asked him as to how he knows all these things. He replied that though he is a taxi driver not even passed tenth standard, he keeps an eye on the living habits of the Chief Minister. He is even looking into the bed room condition of the Chief Minister!

I went to another State and asked another man about his Chief Minister. He says that his Chief Minister gets up at 1 p.m. I asked, "What is he doing? He replied that he is not able to look into the problems of the common man" This is the type of Chief Ministers we have in our country. He said, "I do not know who has to wake them up even when the Chief Ministers are getting at 1 p.m." ...*(Interruptions)*

Recently, I happened to go to the apex court. I would like to say something about constitutional bodies.

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Please be relevant to the subject under discussion.

DR. CHINTA MOHAN: I had gone recently to an apex court. I went round and talked to some people around there. I asked whether there is anybody concerned about the poor people? In Apex court nobody knows the problems of the poor. I was taken by surprise. One or

two persons sitting in the apex court know the problems of the poor. The rest are belonging to the rich class and not understanding the problems of the poor people of the country.

Coming to bureaucracy, there are about 100 Secretaries in the Government of India. Not even one Secretary represents the poor. Whether this party or that party is ruling, they do not understand the problems of the poor. The Secretaries of the Government of India are not going to the rural areas. All the time, they are going abroad and not knowing anything about the poor and they are taking many decisions. This is the type of bureaucracy we have. We have this type of bureaucrats and this kind of constitutional bodies who are not concerned about the poor man.

Here, I would like to say my view. Last July, we were discussing on a subject and our friends gave their views saying that when economy grows, inflation also grows. The other Member said that when we have a weak public distribution system, these things do grow. ...  
*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR: Madam, I am on a point of order. Rule 356 of Rules of Procedure says:

"The Speaker, after having called the attention of the House to the conduct of a member who persists in irrelevance or in tedious repetition either of his own arguments or of the arguments used by other members in debate, may direct him to discontinue his speech."

...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM CHAIRMAN: I have asked Dr. Chinta Mohan to come to the subject.

...*(Interruptions)*

DR. CHINTA MOHAN: I am giving my views...  
*(Interruptions)* I know what to speak and I know what I am speaking. ...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Nothing will go on record.

...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM CHAIRMAN: I am asking him to conclude.

...*(Interruptions)*

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\*Not recorded.

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Dr. Chinta Mohan, if you do not have anything on the subject, please conclude. You have to speak on the price rise.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN': Madam chairman, I want to ask him whether his government has any commitment, if so then speak on the same  
...(Interruptions)

[English]

DR. CHINTA MOHAN: My Party, the Congress Party, is more committed towards the poor people, towards the common man. My leader, Shrimati Sonia Gandhi is more committed towards the poor people. ... (Interruptions)

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Dr. Chinta Mohan, you have already taken 15 to 20 minutes. You have not spoken a word on the subject. If you do not have anything to say on the subject, please conclude.

...(Interruptions)

DR. CHINTA MOHAN: Yesterday, Madam Sonia Gandhi, my leader, reduced the prices of petrol and diesel. We are more committed towards the poor people of this country. We have ideological commitment to control the prices. In my view only with a commitment, we can bring down the prices of all these essential commodities. We have a senior Minister with us here. He knows each and every thing. I request him to see that the prices of vegetables, fruits, pulses and other commodities are brought down.

With these words, I conclude.

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR (Bangalore South): Madam Chairman, thank you very much. I rise to participate in the debate on the discussion regarding rise in prices of essential commodities. Whatever the Member who spoke before me mentioned on this subject, amply articulates the hollow commitment of the Congress Party towards the common man's problems. They came to power saying that

[Translation]

"the hand of Congress represents the hand of the common people" (Congress ka Haath aam adami ke sath)

[English]

See the way Dr. Chinta Mohan initiated this discussion and the way in which the UPA Government has tackled this subject. In the last two and half years of the UPA Government, we have discussed this issue of price rise several times. But before that, between 1998 and 2004, during the NDA's regime under the leadership of Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee, I remember, only once the issue of price rise was discussed. That was in 1998.  
... (Interruptions)

MADAM CHAIRMAN: No comments please.

... (Interruptions)

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR: Under the UPA government, it is not

[Translation]

"that the hand of Congress is with the common people but the hand of Congress is with the rising price".

[English]

Madam, I will take the benefit of my Leader, Shri L.K. Advani's presence in this House now. Once he described:

[Translation]

MADAM CHAIRMAN: It is not good to make comment right from the seat.

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): Shri Anant Kumar, excuse me, you lost the last election on these very issues. Please remember that ... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR: He has accurately described the UPA regime of two and a half years the description of the UPA regime of two and a half years made by

[Shri Ananth Kumar]

Advanji includes the facts about murder, suicides and betrayal i.e. deaths caused by terrorism, suicides committed by the farmers in the manner as Chinta Mohan ji forwarded the opinion of UPA about rising prices which amounts to betrayal to the Common people, to the poor and to the farmer.

[English]

This is the way the UPA Government is conducting itself regarding terrorism. They are indulging in vote bank politics whereas regarding controlling spiraling prices, they are indulging in note bank politics. That means, the Congress is not interested in *aam aadmi*, it is interested only in vote bank or note bank politics.

It is really surprising and this is not for the first time whenever Congress comes back to power at the Centre, corruption, financial mismanagement, hoarding, black-marketing, deceit and long queues etc. resurface. Whenever they go out, they disappear.

The hon. Minister of Agriculture, Shri Sharad Pawar is present here. In the last two and a half years, there has been price rise of food, fuel, viz., petroleum and diesel, and of all manufactured goods. The inflation as on today is 5.41 per cent. When the NDA Government was in Government, the inflation was hovering around three per cent and most of the time it was less than three per cent. But in the last two and a half years, sometimes the Wholesale Price Index (WPI) has touched the roof to eight per cent. What is the reason is a big question mark? Whether there is any benefit to the consumers, any benefit to the farmers and any remunerative prices for the farmers? If there were to be remunerative prices for the farmers, there would not have been so many suicides by the farmers. But there have been benefits only to one section, viz., black marketeers, hoarders, to the corrupt politicians and officials.

I charge through you, Madam, that the UPA Government is not for *aam aadmi*, it is for *khas aadmi*.

Let us browse through their Common Minimum Programme. I quote for the benefit of Shri Sharad Pawar and others. They said:

"The UPA is wedded to the welfare of farmers, agricultural labourers, weavers, workers and to the weaker sections of the society. Our parties are

irrevocably committed to the daily well-being of the common man across the country."

With this price rise of essential commodities like *Daal*, *Chapati*, Idli, Dosa, *Aalu*, Onion and other vegetables how are you going to achieve the daily well-being of the common man across the country?

I also want to bring to the kind notice of the hon. Minister of Agriculture, through you, Madam one more thing. The NCP is having one more para.

"The UPA will work out, in the next three months, a comprehensive medium term strategy for food and nutrition security. The objective will be to move towards universal food security overtime if found feasible."

Sharad Pawar Saheb, this was made in 2004. It is not three years but two-and-a-half years have elapsed. Today, I thought that we would be having the benefit of Shri P. Chidambaram, the hon. Finance Minister who always used to reply to the debate on the price rise. Despite our repeated request, he is not here today. I again quote:

"The UPA's economic reforms will be oriented primarily to spreading and deepening rural prosperity to significantly improving the quality of public systems and delivery of public services to bringing about a visible and tangible difference in the quality of life of ordinary citizens of our country."

I would request Sharad Pawar Saheb, who is representing the UPA and the Union Government here that with this price rise, to tell us how come the quality of life is ensured.

Now, I would quickly point out what is the level of price rise. In respect of wheat, it is now sold at Rs.15 per kilogram. It was only Rs.9 in 2004. Atta was sold at Rs.10 per kilogram then and now it is sold at Rs.17 per kilogram. Sugar was costing Rs.14 per kilogram and now it is sold at Rs.25 per kilogram. Tea was sold at Rs.80 per kilogram and now it is being sold at Rs.135 per kilogram. Rice was sold at Rs.10 per kilogram and now it is being sold at Rs.30 per kilogram. Mustard oil was sold at Rs.40 per litre and now it is sold at Rs.70 per litre. The price of all types of *dhal* whether it is *Chana dhal* or *urad dhal* or *moong dhal*, was Rs.22 per kilogram

and now their price is between Rs. 55 and Rs. 70. Milk was costing Rs.14 per litre then and now it is sold at Rs.22 per litre. Petrol is sold at Rs.51 per litre. Diesel is costing Rs.47 per litre. Cement is sold at Rs.205 per bag. So, there is an increase of 33 to 38 per cent in the last two-and-a-half years in respect of all the essential commodities. The Congress is not serious. The UPA is not serious. The Government is not serious. The initiator of the debate speaks irrelevantly.

[Translation]

Sometimes I feel that they are not concerned even with bread and butter, Idli-Dosa.

[English]

For example, in the entire South India, people require *urad dhal* for making *idli* and *dosa*. With Rs.70 per kilogram, it has become a dream.

Our friends on the other side were clapping and hailing Shrimati Sonia Gandhi regarding reduction of petroleum prices. In the last two-and-a-half years, they have increased the petroleum and diesel prices seven times. The total increase is like this. In respect of petrol, it is Rs.17.24 and in respect of diesel, it is Rs. 11.96 per litre. In respect of petrol, the increase is 57 per cent and in respect of diesel, it is 58 per cent. How much have the international prices been reduced? Before a couple of months, it was sold at \$ 78 per barrel. From a couple of months, it is being sold at \$ 56 per barrel. It means, there is a reduction of \$ 22 per barrel. What is the reduction made? The reduction is only Rs. 2 per litre in respect of petrol and Re. 1 per litre in respect of diesel. My straight question is this.

[Translation]

If you are talking about the poor and showing so pity to them.

[English]

Why have you not reduced the rate of kerosene? Why is the price of kerosene not revised? Why is kerosene sold at Rs. 20? Why is it costing Rs. 30 in blackmarket and why is it sold at Rs. 10 per litre in the PDS? Why have you not reduced the price?

What about LPG? First of all, Shri Gurudas Dasgupta was telling that LPG was not available. When he said in the morning that LPG was not available, every section of this House clapped and supported him. LPG has become

invisible to the common persons, for the households. What is the rate of LPG? It is sold at Rs. 310 per cylinder. Why has the price not been revised? Why is it being continued?

If the petroleum prices have come down by \$22, why is there no impact on kerosene and LPG which are used by the common man? During our Government's tenure, actually the prices of petroleum products were raised five times and we reduced it four times. We were very sensitive, we did not wink an eyelid and when the international prices have gone down, we immediately reduced the prices of petroleum products here.

Madam, I would like to bring some technical details to the notice of this august House and to the Government. In the last one year, the wholesale price index points for cereals have gone up by 13 points, for pulses it has gone up by 2 points, for vegetables it has gone up by 38 points and for household requisites it has gone up by 20 points. This Government has been in power for the last 29 months. Every month the wholesale price index of all the essential commodities has gone up by one point. That is the spiraling nature of price hike during the tenure of the UPA Government.

I can go ahead with a lot of other details. Actually, across the board all the newspapers in the country are criticizing them.

[Translation]

Nobody is appreciating him.

[English]

I would like to quote some headlines from newspapers. They are: 'Aaloo Bana Karela', 'Inflation: How it affects Daily Life', 'Prices Skyrocket: Government in Tizzy, Allows Private Import', 'Commodity Volatility starts hitting homes', 'Rising Prices Set Alarm Bells Ringing', 'Basic Food Items Soar', 'PM Panel raises Price Alert', 'Dabba Dance gets richer on our Dhal Chawal'.

Now, I want to go to the basic issue as to how this Government is handling the issue of price rise and how they are shedding crocodile tears. Actually, one of the newspapers gave a very good headline which says: "*Badhati Mahengai aur stuntbajon ki Karigan*". Who are stuntbaj, the Congress and the Communist Parties,

[Shri Ananth Kumar]

our comrades! Another newspaper report says, 'CWC Meet stages mock flight with the Centre: Congress wants the UPA Government to control rising prices and help *Aam Aadmi*.'

[Translation]

you will have to say this. The remote control of the Prime Minister is in the hand of chairperson of U.P.A. you push the batton of remote control. Give direction to the Prime Minister, to the cabinet to check price-rise.

[English]

Why is this drama? Why are they issuing these mock threats? Another news report says:

"The Congress Working Committee, which met on Thursday to discuss the politically sensitive price rise situation, sent out a strong message to the Manmohan Singh Government to get its act together on measures to curb the inflationary spiral in essential commodities. The Prime Minister and the Finance Minister—the latter attended the meeting as a special invitee — were told in no uncertain terms that the plight of the *Aam Aadmi* mattered the most and that the issue would have serious political fall out with Assembly Elections due in three States."

That means, they are worried more about Assembly Elections, not about *Aam Aadmi*. Now, I would like to quote the Resolution passed by the Congress Working Committee. It says:

"While taking note and appreciating the various measures already taken by the Government to reduce the impact of the high prices of certain essential commodities, this meeting urge the Union Government to work out an effective mechanism to manage the demand and supply of essential commodities and to check the rise of prices in order to reduce its impact on the vulnerable sections of the society."

This was 30th June 2006. The prices are still soaring high.

Now, I come to our Comrades. The Comrades have become *mahir* in showing *hara jhanda* inside and *lal jhanda* outside.

SHRI AJAY CHAKRABORTY (Basirhat): Why is he attacking Comrades?

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR: I am attacking Comrades because you will see what I read now.

'Politbureau tells UPA Government', this is Politbureau meeting on November 19, just ten days back. 'The Politbureau of CPM has demanded the UPA Government to immediately the prices of petrol and diesel to the pre-June 2006 level so that the galloping prices of essential commodities could be curbed. It called upon all its units to carry on the on going campaign in respect of continuing trend of high prices of essential commodities which was making the life of *Aam Aadmi* miserable.' They know that they are making the life of the *Aam Aadmi* miserable, but they do not want to withdraw their support from the Government ... (Interruptions) Madam, price rise is a secular issue ... (Interruptions) So, they should take back their support.

Madam, I repeat, the Politbureau expressed concern at the continuing trend of high prices of essential commodities. Prices of food grains, sugar, pulses, edible oil continue to remain at a high level with no sign of their coming down, impacting on the lives of the people. This is 19th November 2006 and they are not raising the voice. They are keeping mum because one of my friends used to tell me and asked me whether I know the meaning of Communist. I said, 'I do not know'.

[Translation]

Later on he said the persons who are less committed to the country and to the public interest belong to the communist party. This is what he said.

[English]

The other statement is from the Congress Party. 'PM assures Left, price rise concerns us too'. There is a wonderful statement... (Interruptions) I am not yielding... (Interruptions)

MADAM CHAIRMAN: He is not yielding. Please take your seat.

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR: Shri A.B. Bardhan said, 'rise in prices is burning the poor and the middleclass'. Shri A.B. Bardhan is a known Comrade. He is a Communist Leader ... (Interruptions) I am reading what he said... (Interruptions)

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Nothing will go on record, except Shri Ananth Kumar's submission.

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR: This is A.B. Bardhan's comment on the UPA's Common Minimum Programme. I quote:

"In the Common Minimum Programme of the Government, we have raised the issue of price rise and that of the health expenditure as well. So, let us see, how much the Government will work towards both. So far the Government has shown no concern for the continuously rise in prices of food items and other essential commodities. On the other hand, there is an eagerness to push through policies that benefit foreign capital and big businesses. Foreign Direct Investment has been allowed in vital sectors despite the Left's opposition. We give the UPA poor marks."

The CPI is telling this.

"We give the UPA poor marks on all these issues, including the petro-price issue, for an increase in the price of diesel will lead to further increase in the prices of essential commodities."

I further quote, Madam:

"However, there is one grudge that we have against this UPA Government. It has failed to check private persons involved in the distribution of food grains and other essential commodities. It is because of these private individuals who buy commodities at a lesser price and later sell them at high prices that inflation is taking place. We want the Government to deal with them strictly."

This is what CPI is telling. Therefore,

*[Translation]*

Rising prices and craftsmanship of those who are indulging in stunts.

*[English]*

I need not explain more on this issue.

16.00 hrs.

Finally, I want to ask some very direct questions to the hon. Agriculture Minister. If he studies the entire food

scenario of the country, he will find that except for wheat there has been surplus in the production of all the essential commodities. But, in the case of wheat, the production has fallen by 4 lakh tones. But, the fall of mere 4 lakh tones should not create hundred per cent inflation that it becomes Rs. 16 per kilogram. In the same way, all other essential commodities are hitting the roof. Suddenly, the food stocks are almost empty. The minimum norm is 8 million tones but the stock has fallen to 2 million tones, which has sent a wrong signal to the people who are indulging in hoarding and black marketing.

To conclude, I would like to ask as to what is the action plan of the UPA Government to check price rise of the essential commodities. It is because one year back, there was a Cabinet Committee on Prices headed by the Prime Minister of India. Despite having a Cabinet Committee on Prices with of course the Finance Minister, the hon. Agriculture Ministers and others being its members, why have the prices not come down? Why are they continuously spiraling and soaring? Why this inflationary trend is there? We get to know from the governmental data that prices are increasing because of three things. Firstly the rise in prices of food and pulses, cereals and vegetables, the rise in prices of the petroleum products, and the rise in prices of manufactured goods. But, what is the overall strategy of the Government of India to control this price rise, overall inflation which is going above 5.4 per cent, and which is hitting the common man so hard? Therefore, the Bharatiya Janata Party demands for strengthening the PDS system. Not only strengthen the PDS system, there should be transparency. Therefore, whatever the Central Government issues through the PDS system should be transparently publicized at the State level, at the district level, at the village level, and at the ration shop level. Not only that, the edible oil and pulses should also be given through the PDS system which is not being given.

For the first time in the last two and half years, the production and procurement have failed and there has to be a study from the Government of India especially in wheat. The wheat production has fallen by 1.7 per cent in the last one year, that is 4 lakh tones in one year. If the production is crumbling like this, what are the reasons for that? What has happened to the procurement? Though the MSP have been raised marginally not to that extent, I think they are still lower than the market price, yet there has to be a procurement mechanism. Without the procurement mechanism intervention in the agricultural

[Shri Ananth Kumar]

market, the farmer is hit in Maharashtra, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and Punjab. Farmers are committing suicides in Punjab and Kerala. Therefore, we demand that there should be a monitoring system to study the production, procurement of the needed food items, and these needed food items should be made available to the States where there is scarcity.

Thirdly, the taxation on petroleum products is 58 per cent now. The collection through customs duty and excise duty on petroleum products itself is Rs. 1,00,000 crore. This year, you have collected Rs. 1,00,000 crore. When you are collecting Rs. 1,00,000 crore through taxation on petrol, diesel, kerosene and LPG, why do you not give back some of the benefits to the consumers so that there will not be any cascading effect on transport and in various other activities of the economy? Therefore, our demand is that the Government should review the taxation structure on petroleum products and provide relief to the common man.

Fourthly, the Government should plan in advance and estimate the production level, and accordingly prepare a contingency plan.

Every year, there will be droughts and floods. The hon. Agriculture Minister is well-versed with these natural calamities. He is a well experienced person. He knows that during the last ten years, every year the Government of India is spending Rs. 10,000 crore towards drought relief and flood relief. What is your plan?

Dr. Chinta Mohan has made at least one relevant remark, and that is about the quality and the quantity of foodgrains supplied through FCI. Therefore, the management of FCI has to be taken care of.

Lastly, we, on behalf of BJP, demand that the Government should remove forward trading in food commodities. When we were there, it was a situation of surplus. Therefore, when the surplus situation was there, to provide remunerative prices for the farmers without allowing the middlemen to do forward trading, we allowed that situation. Today, it is a deficit situation. Whatever is good in a surplus situation cannot be good in a deficit situation. Therefore, we demand for the removal of forward trading in food commodities and a ban on *satta* in agricultural products, by which the *aam admi* can be helped, the prices of essential commodities can be controlled and brought down, and there can be again

some relief to the common man, to the farmers, to the poor people and to the labourers.

SHRI P. KARUNAKARAN (Kasargod): Madam, I am sorry to say at the very beginning that why and how our respected Member, Dr. Chinta Mohan has taken this responsibility to make such a sympathetic presentation especially when we are discussing this serious issue.

It is true that we have been discussing this issue in all the Sessions. In the last Session also we discussed this issue. Fortunately, if I remember correctly, in the last Session also, the mover of the discussion on this issue was Dr. Chinta Mohan himself I think, no one in this House may have any other exceptional view with regard to price rise.

Madam, there are many reasons for the price rise. I do not like to take this occasion to blame the Government or to praise the Government but I would like to make it clear as to what really the situation now in the villages or in the towns or in the nation as a whole is. It is true that there are four indices to show what the price rise is. They are Wholesale Price Index, Consumer Price Index and Retail Price Index. But unfortunately, we can say that none of these indices give the real expression of the real price. That is why the Reserve Bank's suggestion to construct a harmonious Index of Consumer Price for macro analysis and policy-making is worth serious consideration.

A harmonious all-India Index will help the Government and the RBI to respond quickly to price movement. Really, even the Finance Minister and the Agriculture Minister are confused when we speak about the different types of price indices. What we need is to have one price index which can translate the real issues of the common people.

As I have said, there are many reasons. You see, when we go to the details of the price rise, we could see that the situation is very serious. The price of all the basic items has shown a sharp increase compared to last year. The increase varies from 12 per cent to 84 per cent for various items. This is really of the whole sale price.

When we come to the retail price, the situation will be too higher. The consumer price may be much higher. The price of *dhal*, wheat and *chana* has gone up to 84 per cent, 68 per cent and 28 per cent respectively

compared to the price of 2005. This figure is taken from the National Commodities and Derivative Exchanges.

The Report of the Chamber of Commerce says that from July 25 to 26 the prices of eight essential commodities have shown a sharp increase of 19 per cent. When the income of an average Indian has risen to six per cent, the price rise has gone to 19 per cent. So, you see the difference. When there is a price rise, at the same time we cannot see, commensurate with that, the income is coming in the basket of the common people. The rise in the price of essential commodities and the rise in the *per capita* income are really not appropriate.

While, on the one side, the price of the essential commodities goes up, what we see is that as far as the farmers are concerned, almost the prices of all the agricultural produces or the cash crops have come down. We have the experience in Kerala. Three or four years back, the price of one quintal of pepper was Rs. 21,000, and now it is Rs. 7,000 or Rs. 8,000. Four years back, the price of one kilo of areca-nut was Rs. 160. Now it is Rs. 55 or Rs. 60. How is it possible for the farmers?

On the one side, the price of the essential commodities goes up but at the same time the prices of all the agricultural produces or the cash crops have come down. Not only that, the price of agricultural inputs to be used by the farmers has also gone up. It means, the prices of pesticides or chemicals or seeds have all gone up. In the service sector, with regard to expenditure on health, expenditure on education and also on transport, the cost of all these has gone up. So, we can give the answer why the farmers are compelled to commit suicide.

We have discussed this in the House that in many of the States the farmers have committed suicide. In Kerala, the number was 1300 and in many other States, it was more than that. It was because on the one side the price has gone up and on the other side, it is difficult for the farmers because they cannot remit the bank loans which they have taken from the banks.

It is true that the Government has taken some measures, especially our Agriculture Minister has visited many of the States. Special packages have come. Of course, we are congratulating him. At the same time, these fiscal measures are really temporary measures. The basic measure that we have to take at the national level

is about import policy and WTO policy. You see, when we have signed the Sri Lankan Accord, of course, the agricultural sector as well as the cash crops of Kerala are hit severely.

Another most important reason for this price rise is the transport cost. It really affects almost all the sectors. The bus charge is increasing. The car charge is increasing. Auto-rickshaw charge is increasing.

In the House itself when we talk about the increase in the price of petrol in the international market, we, the CPI(M), and other Left Parties have made a suggestion that there should be some structural changes in taxation.

The Central Government has to give some relief, the State Government has to give some relief and to the companies we should not give such compensation, etc. But the Government was not ready to take such responsibilities. The Government said that in the international market there is an increase and so we are compelled to increase the prices of the petroleum products in the domestic market. May I ask a question here, as my respected colleague has asked? The price of crude oil was at 70 or 72 dollars per barrel at that time. Now, there is a decrease of 20 to 22 dollars per barrel. But the relief that you have given to the common people is two rupees per litre in petrol and one rupee per litre in diesel. I think it is really a joke. When there is a decrease of 20 or 22 dollars per barrel, why can the Government not give much more relief to the common people? That is also one of the reasons why the prices are going up.

The Government has to take some administrative steps. The mover of this discussion Dr. Chinta Mohan said about the Public Distribution System. We have the experience in Kerala. We have a very efficient network of Public Distribution System. We were able to distribute almost all the commodities through the Fair Price Shops. I am really sorry that now the ration shop managers have come here to demonstrate before the Parliament because as a result of the classification of APL and BPL they are not able to run their ration shops. Most of the dealers are not getting full quantum. The quantum of wheat has also decreased. Earlier, we were proud of having such an efficient Public Distribution System. But it is now really inefficient to function.

It is only through the Public Distribution System that we can enter the market. The responsibility of the



[Shri P. Karunakaran]

Government is to stabilize the market and not enter the market. How can the Government enter it? On the one side, the Government can take action. On the other side, the Government enters the market. Then, how will the Public Distribution System function effectively? So, the Government should give rice, wheat and all other commodities that can be distributed through the Fair Price Shops.

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Shri Karunakaran, your party has only 20 minutes and there are three speakers. Please distribute it in that way.

SHRI P. KARUNAKARAN: Yes, I am concluding. It is our experience that if a family gets ration for four days from the ration shop and for three days they have to go to the open market. But it is not possible now. We can control the market by giving these essential commodities through these Fair Price Shops. But that is absent now. The Government has to take the responsibility not only in Kerala but throughout India to strengthen the Public Distribution System.

The other issue which also is most important is the speculative transaction. The big merchants or the traders may come in the market. Sometimes, they may procure wheat and other things; they may give a higher price. In the case of wheat also, I do not think that the production of wheat is less. But, at the same time, we are compelled to import wheat. It is because there is hoarding on the one side. Traders have come earlier in the market. They have taken the wheat from the farmers by paying a little higher price. The Government has to look into the question that procurement is also one of the most important factors that the Government has to look into. The Government should ensure that there is a buffer stock always. Then only we can control the market.

It is true that there are number of reasons for the price rise. I do not blame only the Government. Less production in foodgrains or sugar may be the reason. Our market is a demand and supply market. When the demand is high and the population is growing, then the supply is not enough. So, it is true that there may be price rise. But at the same time, the duty of the Government is to stabilize the market, control the market and give relief to the people. In these circumstances, the Government has to take some more conscious efforts.

I do say this because this issue has been taken lightly by Dr. Chinta Mohan. He is an efficient parliamentarian. He can take up any issue with utmost importance. But at the same time, if the Government has to reply to the discussion seriously, then the mover of the discussion has to contribute in it in a big way, and criticize the Government on certain issues where the Government needs to take action. Otherwise, the issue, which is being discussed in the House loses its seriousness.

Lastly, an hon. Member stated that we are no longer Communists, and that we are not working for the people. Everyone can very well observe that we are Communists because we are sitting here. Otherwise, we would have been sitting on the other side. We are Communists, and that is why you are sitting there and are not able to cross to this area.

In the last 2½ years we have raised many issues—like price rise, pension, and other policy issues—in this House, but you were always raising issues related to religion, etc. ...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Mr. Karunakaran, please address the Chair.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: Do you mean to say that you only take up the issue of the people in the House, and we do nothing for the people? ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI P. KARUNAKARAN: You can yourself see the opinion expressed by lakhs and lakhs of people in the villages, towns and other places. They are raising their voice over this issue. We do criticize the Government when they take anti-people measures, and you have also joined us to criticize the Government on issues like price rise, etc. But at the same time, our intention is not to withdraw support from the Government. It is because we want a secular Government. We do not want an anti-people Government or a Government that always supports ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: The price rise is because of the Communists, and that is why you are taking up this issue. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI P. KARUNAKARAN: No, this is not the case. Actually, you are popularizing it. ... *(Interruptions)*.

[*Translation*]

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR (Chail): Hon'ble Madam Chairman, I am grateful to you for allowing me to participate in the discussion on the issue of price rise of essential commodities, raised by our colleagues Shri Chinta Mohan Ji and Shri C.K. Chandrapan. Discussion on price rise has taken place many times earlier also. This issue was discussed in detail in the last session also. During this session hon'ble Minister for Agriculture has passed a Bill in which some amendments were also made.

It is true that prices of essential commodities of daily consumption have increased to a great extent. I would like to present some data in this regard. The wheat is consumed by all. The rate of wheat in November 2005 was Rs. 800 per quintal whereas in November 2006 it increased by 1.5 per cent to Rs. 1100 per quintal. Similarly in November 2005 the rate of pulses was Rs. 2600 per quintal which increased by 35.3 percent to Rs. 3100 per quintal in November 2006. Everyone consumes rice. Its price was Rs. 1800 per quintal in 2006 whereas in November, 2005 it was Rs. 1600 per quintal. In the same way potato is consumed by poor as well as the rich and it is also used in all types of dishes. The price of potato touched the price of bitter gourd. The price of potato varied from Rs. 11 to Rs. 24 per Kg. In November 2005. Its price was Rs. 8 to 10 per Kg and now it has increased to Rs. 14 to Rs. 16 per Kg. Tomato is used with all vegetables and consumed by rich or poor all alike. The price of tomato was Rs. 10 to 12 per Kg in November 2005. Now in November 2006 it was Rs. 18 to 20 per Kg. Likewise oil is used in all types of vegetable preparations, it is used by all the rich and poor. In November 2006 its price increased to Rs. 49-50 per Kg from Rs. 47 per Kg in November 2005. I think onion is used by everybody—poor and rich—in all types of vegetable. Its price was Rs. Five per Kg. in November 2005 which became Rs. Eight per Kg. in November 2006. Likewise it may be seen that there has been an decrease of 19 percent in the rate of dearness whereas there has been only 6 percent increase in income. Mustard oil is used in lamps on the occasion of Deepawali. Its price has increased to Rs. 48 per Kg from Rs. 38-40 per Kg. The Government say the price rise will be controlled by bringing a legislation and a fine of Rs. Fifty thousands will be imposed on taking higher prices. And the Government is going to set up a Price Regulatory Authority and claiming to have controlled price rise.

The price of vegetables in Azadpur Mandi in Delhi has increased to a great extent. The price of coriander is hundred Rs. per Kg. and I have already told about tomato. The price of pear and apple is Rs. 20-40 per Kg to Rs. 60 per Kg. and pomegranate is being sold at the rate of Rs. 40 per Kg. This is the price situation of fruits. During my last fast on Navratra we bought bananas and other fruits which were very costly but I do not want to raise question on it because demand for these items increase on festivals and consequently the prices of essential commodities also increase. I have seen that all the parties lead movement against price rise. Today in this House, we should think above the party line because a rich man can afford to eat potato even at the rate of hundred Rs. per Kg. but the problem is before common man for protecting whose interests we have been elected to this House. We have come here to dwell on how the poor can get food. Therefore, we should think on price rise cutting across party lines.

Sometimes, there occurs flood or drought situation. Rains are erratic—some areas receive heavy rains some get scant rains whereas at some places there is no rainfall. The condition of Bundelkhand in Uttar Pradesh is very bad there. Some areas had rainfall some areas saw no rainfall. This is one of the reasons of price rise which can not be denied. That is why when prices increase hoarding and black marketings takes place. Big businessmen start hoarding of essential commodities that promotes black marketing which further increases prices of all commodities, this fact is known to all. The Government have said that the essential commodities Act should be implemented in the States so that price rise could be checked. It has been tested from time to time and it has been found that strict compliance of it may help in controlling prices. After its enforcement the prices of essential commodities have come down and controlled. The Minister of Finance, Shri P. Chidambaram says that gap created in demand and supply has increased prices. It is his own thinking. Many times, we have not been able to maintain the supply as per demand in our country. Suppose if there is requirement of few tones and we are unable to make matching supply, we resort to imports from abroad. Besides, many a times it has been seen that one of the reasons of price rise has been 25-30 percent rise in petrol and diesel prices. It is used for transportation of goods, passengers, etc. Farmers use it in tractors. Adequate electricity is not available everywhere so farmers use diesel for tubewells but they do not get appropriate prices for their produce. That's why we have

[Shri Shailendra Kumar]

to keep in mind the interest of common man and the poor and will have to think in the House to find out as to what means should be adopted to control price hike. I think an all party meeting should be convened for this purpose in which the Minister of Agriculture and the Minister of Finance should jointly find out the ways of controlling price rise. In our country, thirty crores people are living Below Poverty Line. So we should think how they would get two square meals. We have already discussed it and today again we are discussing it. The burden of debt on farmers is increasing due to which they are committing suicide. This is known to the House. We have discussed on this issue in the House from time to time but we have not come to any conclusions as to how this situation can be overcome. 75 percent population of our country depends on agriculture and lives in villages. Today agriculture labour in country are living in the worst condition. They do not get employment at their native place. They are immigrating to cities because they do not get job there. The Government say that they have given 100 days employment to the poor under National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme. Under this scheme the Government will give guarantee of 100 days employment to the poor. But what will he do during the remaining 265 days from where he will get employment? If he gets sixty rupees and goes to other places to get hundred rupees, he will have to face a lot of problem to arrange a house and food for himself. Therefore, when it comes to the notice of the Union Government that prices are increasing, they should increase dearness allowance at least five percent for all employees of Central Government. This is how we can control price rise. Otherwise there will be problem like this and we shall be just expressing our concern while sitting in the house.

Madam, I would like to give some suggestions. The wheat is being imported in the country. I think, if appropriate support price had been given to the farmers and the wheat had been bought directly from the farmers, there would have been no wheat shortage in the country and we would not have seen the tendency of suicide among farmers.

Besides, we should look into the public distribution system. Even the poor having B.P.L. card are not getting foodgrains in such quantity as they were getting earlier. It is need of the hour to fix the quantity of grains for them. We will have to give them 35 Kg of grains per month. Whereas the support prices of foodgrains are concerned these should be declared before sowing season

so that the farmers may know the support price to be given to them so that they may sow the crops accordingly. Only then we can make the farmers happy and check the incidences of suicide by them. So far as bonus is concerned, you declare the bonus before procurement so that farmers may prefer to sell their foodgrains at Government procurement centres but attention is not paid to that direction. This is the reason that traders purchase their grains on much lower price and resort to hoarding, causing increase in prices.

On the other hand forward trading and speculation should be prohibited in respect of foodgrains, pulses, sugar and other products. What happens is that speculation begins even before the product reaches to the market. This should be prohibited and only then price rise can be controlled. This is very important issue and this should be considered.

Second thing I would like to say that we shall have to increase the number of warehouses and godowns. So that in case of crisis, we can utilize the foodgrains sufficiently stored in our godowns. Today, the foodgrains rot in the godowns. Foodgrains rot while lying at railway stations and animals feed on them. Foodgrains rot after getting wet in the rain. To avoid all these things we shall have to increase the number of godowns and cold storages. In addition to that we shall have to give loan to farmers on the lower rate of interest and we shall have to fix the rate of interest also. Unless you fix the rate of interest in the range of 3-4 percent, the incidence of committing suicide by the farmers cannot be contained. We shall have to fix the rate of interest. So far as petroleum products are concerned we shall have to reduce customs excise duty. Today thousands of rupees is lying with the Government in the surplus pool. We should control the price rise by giving subsidy on petrol, diesel, LPG. You rang the bell twice. I am sorry for that.

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA (Bettiah): Madam, Chairman, I am happy that I got the second chance to participate in the discussion in the House on such an important issue, but I am hurt that the problem increased while trying to solve them. Every year we discuss about the rising prices in the House and it keeps increasing. I am sorry to say that Government have failed to control rising prices. Today the prices of essential commodities have risen sharply and this led the hon. Minister of Agriculture to bring amendment in this act and even after this

amendment, as many colleagues have given date, I don't want to repeat. No commodity is left untouched with the rising prices, there is a proverb used in our area—'Yeh Muhn Aur Masoor Ki Dal'—that is such a grave situation of rising price how can one afford lintel pulse in his food. But today the prices of pulses have risen so much that now it has become a big problem. Hon. Members had discussed about it and hon. Finance Minister should have been here. I know Mr. Sharad Pawarji since long. He is a very capable man he is able and he has been given responsibility of such an important department but I am sorry to say that his hands are also tied, he wants to do something but his legs are pulled and he does not get the support he requires for his programmes and schemes to control the price rise to put the hoarders in the jail so that they stop hoarding, but these things are not happening today and it is causing price rise. You and I are well aware, as has been said by my colleague that 30 crores people are living below poverty line who get assistance through fair price shops but where do they have purchasing power. All these things go to black market. I would like to urge the hon. Minister that if the BPL persons get the subsidy given by the Government directly then they will be benefited more. His purchasing power will go up but today the prices of all the things are rising. I am sorry to say that our farmers are not getting benefited. Hon. Madam Chairman, when you were participating in the morning from your seat when you were referring to the rotten wheat being supplied through the fair price shops in Madhya Pradesh which is imported from Australia and is not consumable.

At that time we were pained that after all what is the logic behind it that Government is giving Rs. 700 per quintal to its own farmers while it is purchasing the wheat at the rate of Rs. 1000 from abroad. In spite of availability of wheat and rice minimum support price was not given. Consequently the wheat and rice of farmers were bought by the blackmarketees, capitalists and brokers and the FCI godowns of Government remained empty. And due to this Government faced the trouble. Government may import foodgrains from abroad. We have no objection in it but it depends on the Government that Government should have anticipated the future position. There are several officers of Government of India. For the last 60 years we depend on God for rain and its blessings on farmers. We failed in providing irrigation facilities to contain floods and even in providing employment to the poor. This is why prices are rising. My submission to the

Government is that it will have to show its commitment to check the rising prices.

Madam Chairman, today Government have reduced the rates of petrol and diesel upto rupees two and rupee one respectively and got appreciation of public but they know that they are being given lollypops. Such reduction in prices does not make any difference. Rates have reduced considerably in the international market, it would have been better if the public would have been given more relief. Today I would like to alert the Government that Governments have come and gone on these issues. We should be cautious for the future and should make some meaningful schemes so that hoarders and blackmarketees have fear of Government. For several years prices are rising rapidly in the country. If one goes through the data of last 3-4 years then price has increased two to two and half times. People in the country are subjected to price rise some times on the name of onion and sometimes on the name of potato. These are essential items for common people. Today Government have failed to check rising prices not only in the urban areas but also in the rural areas. It is a matter of concern. Hence Government should pay attention towards it. I have lot of data but I don't want to repeat them. With these words I conclude my speech.

*[English]*

SHRIMATI M.S.K. BHAVANI RAJENTHIRAN (Ramanathapuram): Madam, I thank you very much for having given me a chance to participate in the discussion under Rule 193 regarding rise in the prices of essential commodities.

I seek your permission to speak in my mother-tongue, Tamil, the sweetest language in the world.

*[Translation]*

"Chelvarum Servathu Nadu Thaalla Vilayullum Thakharum Thalvila". These words have been written by great Tamil Saint Thiruvalluvar. The meaning is, "A Nation State can be defined as one that encompasses the farming community that grows food and agriculture produce in plenty and the other communities that has people who uphold cherished values in life and people with all riches." It is because of the dedicated people who grow agricultural produce in abundance, people who uphold values in life and people with all riches in life

\*English translation of the speech originally delivered in Tamil.

[Shrimati M.S.K. Bhavani Rajenthiran]

people of a country can co-exist and live together constituting a state. I hail from such a state where we have well meaning farmers who grow foodgrains and other agricultural produce in plenty thereby helping people to lead life upholding values and as one from the state that has a well meaning Administration led by our Chief Minister Dr. Kalaignar Karunanidhi and ably assisted by his lieutenant Thiru. Stalin. With their blessings and support let me participate in this discussion on rise in prices of Essential Commodities. A Government that seeks to protect the interests of the people must take all out efforts to contain the rise in prices of essential commodities. A good Government must control the prices of Essential Commodities. If such steps are not taken in time, it will hamper production and affect trading resulting in the erosion of buying capacity of people. It will also be causing inflation and reduction in foreign exchange reserves. We may have to face with a declining trend in our economy in comparison with the world economy.

Great economists like Adam Smith, Alfred Marshall have all defined the economic status of a Nation or a Country which is directly related to the production and distribution, availability and buying power, supply and demand. We have our own experts in economics and economists who are also equally great. Our country is now led by a world renowned economist Dr. Manmohan Singh at the helms of affairs as Prime Minister of the UPA Government ably led by Madam Sonia Gandhi as the Chairperson of the alliance. This UPA Government has taken effective steps to curb the trends of price rise while increasing our foreign exchange reserves taking our Balance of Payment position to a satisfactory level. It will not be out of place if I emphasize that valiant efforts have been taken by the Government to make our country a super power with an all round growth. With a vision and a mission the Union Agricultural Ministry led by Shri Sharad Pawar has been functioning to help our Indian Farmers to give a boost to our economy as our is basically an agro-economy. Our Union Agriculture Minister Shri Sharad Pawar has been keenly observing and monitoring the agricultural activities in various places of the country ensuring distributed cultivation and also ensuring availability at economic rates. He has been taking effective steps to arrest the upward trend. He has been taking effective steps to make available the needed subsidy to keep going the cultivation of certain crops. Thus he has been contributing to a balanced growth of our economy. That also adds up to the factors that keep

our economy in good stead. Necessary corrective steps are effectively taken in time. For instance, our UPA Government has announced today the reduction in the prices of Petrol and Diesel as a timely measure. This proves a point that ours is a good governance aiming at curbing the rising trend in prices in time.

At this juncture I would like to point out that our Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Dr. Kalaignar Karunanidhi has been taking viable economic measures to improve the lot of farmers and agriculturists thereby showing way to the country and even the Asia region. When centre brings down oil prices he comes out with an announcement to increase the minimum support price, the procurement price of sugarcane to help ease the burden of sugarcane growers. Our Chief Minister has also implemented, as announced on the day when he took over as the head of the Government, the low-price rice scheme to sell rice at Rs. 2 per Kilogramme through Public Distribution System benefiting the people living below poverty line. Thus, Dr. Kalaignar has been providing an excellent Administration in Tamil Nadu. People living below poverty line are getting 20 Kilogrammes of rice at a subsidized price of Rs. 2 per Kilogram per family every month. If this scheme is implemented in all the states in the whole of India it will definitely help containing the price rise. I would like to impress upon the Union Government to consider implementing this scheme all over the country. Our Chief Minister Dr. Kalaignar Karunanidhi has always strived to help the farming community. Apart from increasing the sugarcane support price, he has been taking some other steps to boost the morale of the farmers. During his earlier regime he had set up 'Uzhavar Sandhai', direct marketing centers for agricultural produce like vegetables. Infrastructural facilities and transport facilities were provided to farmers to bring and sell agricultural produce from rural areas direct from the farm to nearby towns and cities. This step was to benefit the farmers to get a remunerative price and the consumers to get vegetable at lesser price thereby eliminating the middle men. He had established 'Kisan Shanties'. I urge upon the Union Government to consider implementing this programme also to benefit the farmers to get good returns for their produce. More important than producing is in ensuring lucrative returns for the agricultural produce. Farmers must get good returns for the labour they put in. I have already stated about the need to introduce Kisan Shanties all over the country. Our Union Agriculture Minister Shri Sharad Pawar was there in this House on

the other day when I mentioned it in this august House. When diesel price was sought to be increased on an earlier occasion, Dr. Kalaingar provided a cushion absorbing the burden to spare the farmers from the onslaught of oil price hike. He reduced the Sales Tax on diesel so that the diesel price increase did not affect the people. He did not allow the diesel from becoming dearer to farmers. Today we find a huge slump in oil prices in the international arena. But our Union Government has brought about a reduction by way of reducing the oil price very marginally. Our UPA Government is guided by a Common Minimum Programme. There is a need to reduce the price of cooking gas, the LPG further. The per cylinder price of LPG must be reduced drastically. We must ensure that common people have a sigh of relief and they must get the benefits of our measures. Our Communication and Information Technology Minister Shri Dayanidhi Maran introduced a scheme 'One Rupee One India'. From anywhere in India, the STD call charges would be one rupee per minute. This tariff has been made applicable from Kashmir to Kanyakumari. This was aimed at facilitating trading community and commercial establishments. This reduction in communication charges was intended to have its salutary effect on prices of commodities. Such viable measures in every sphere of activity must be taken. My Ramanathapuram constituency has got fishermen community in good number. They find an opportunity in the reduction of diesel price. They can be relieved to an extent to carry on their occupation. Hence I would like to thank the Union Government on behalf of the fisherman community.

Providing employment opportunities and increasing productivity will also help increase production resulting in reduction in prices. Building materials are sold at an higher price. Price increase affects this sector. Middle class people and common men are greatly affected by this. I urge upon the Union Government to curb the price rise in this sector of our economy.

I would like to draw your attention to 'on-line' trading that goes on now. It is a manipulative trading activity wherein huge profits are aimed at investing less. This leads to a kind of speculative trade and an indirect hoarding activity resulting in rise in price of precious metals like gold. As far as Indian women are concerned gold jewellery is both precious and sacred. But these on-line traders tinker with this gold market. Hence I urge upon the Union Government to take effective steps to

curb this menace. The Government must use its strong arms to curb this online trade activity because some unscrupulous people also get in to this business giving rise to price rise including that of essential commodities. I urge upon our UPA Chairperson Madame Sonia Gandhi, our Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh, our Finance Minister Mr. P. Chidambaram and Agriculture Minister Mr. Sharad Pawar to put an end to on-line trade menace. Providing job opportunities to unemployed youth, bringing down the price of cooking gas cylinders and taking steps to increase the buying capacity of people are necessary to overcome the problems of price rise. Our Chief Minister Dr. Kalaingar Karunanidhi is taking all out efforts to create a conducive atmosphere to bring down prices especially of essential commodities. I would like to urge upon the Union Government to consider implementing some of his schemes throughout the country to be followed by several states. This will help the UPA Government to fight the problem of price rise. The benefits of UPA's Common Minimum Programme must reach the common people and our endeavour must be to curb the price rise. With this I conclude my speech.

SHRI SURESH PRABHAKAR PRABHU (Rajapur):  
Madam, Chairman, thank you very much.

The common man is very much worried by the price rise which has been unfortunately witnessed during last few months. The prices of essential commodities of daily uses have mostly increased. We were hoping that this Government, being an elected Government, shall work towards giving relief to the people but so far it did not happen. The increase in prices was not so much during the tenure of the previous Government as it has increased in these two or two and a half years of this Government. It has created problems for the common people. The steps the Government should have taken to control the price rise, were not taken. I am surprised what the Government should have done to control the price rise, was not yet done, the Government should have an upholistic plan.

Madam, just a few days back, the Prime Minister of our country had visited Vidarbha. He announced there to give a heavy package for the relief of the farmers, but the farmers did not get the benefit of it. The grain which is produced by the farmer is the source of his income. Today seventy crore people out of one hundred crore people of the country are farmers. But seventy percent people out of them are farmers and, therefore, they are

[Shri Suresh Prabhakar Prabhu]

consumers also. So if these consumers are to be given a relief, than the biggest relief would be to increase their income so that the farmers could earn money to face the price rise. But unfortunately on one hand the Government is making efforts to give relief to the farmers but on the other hand, with a view to control the price rise, the Government is also making efforts to control the prices that farmers get in the market. I feel that in view of all this I am not coming to know how the economy of the country will run more in the days ahead and so I, first of all, urge the Government that it should not only make opprise of the Parliament regarding steps being taken to deal with the price rise but also it should tell about the steps te be taken to deal with the collapsing economy that is rural economy, food economy, agricultural economy of our country, that are needed to be thought of Seventy percent population will get relief automatically if we do it in a proper way and contribution to a great deal will have to be made by the Government. First of all we should pay attention towards revival of our rural economy. If we do not do so and continue taking adhoc steps, then I feel that we may see for it a short time because of taking some temporary steps, wholesale price index, Retail price index and consumer price index may lower but to revive the economy of our country we will have to evolve holistic plan for its long term solution and first of all, I urge the Government to present such a holistic plan before the country. We discuss about price rise, farmers' suicides and other problems facing the country but unless the Government bring a plan before the country, I feel that it would not benefit the common man.

Secondly, one of the reasons of price rise is the increase in the prices of petroleum products due to which people face problems because with the increase in the prices of petroleum products, the transport charges get increased and as a result the prices of the items to be transported also increase. It has a bad impact on the whole economy. Today we import 70% petroleum products. As per the integrated energy policy prepared by the planning commission, we will have to import more than 90% petroleum products in a period of 10-15 years. If we import petroleum products on such a large scale and its prices increase in the international market, then it would have an impact on our country. But the Government can not save itself by saying that the prices are increasing internationally, so we are increasing the prices of petroleum products. What steps should be taken to make minimum use of petroleum products. Keeping in

view the price rise internationally, I also admit that the Government should tell us. We have to save the transport sector and energy sector from the volatility of the international market and the Government would have to tell us about the new sources of energy as to how we have done it, first of all, we should diversify the energy sector. If we do not do so, as I admit that the rates have come down at international level. But in the days to come the international price of crude oil is estimated to be one hundred dollars per barrel. I pray to God that this should not happen but if it happens, then how much price rise there would be. We will have to think over it and therefore the Government should diversify that economy of petroleum products and the Government should think as to how domestically produced energy should be produced for renewable sources of energy. I admit that the Government should give a statement regarding this otherwise we would say that we are importing and that's why the prices have come down a little bit. The prices will come down if we import wheat and after some time the price would rise if the crops do not yield well.

I would like to point out one thing, as Agriculture Minister is sitting here, that the production of wheat in Australia is likely to be affected due to famine.

17.00 hrs.

[English]

Australia is one of the biggest producers of wheat in the wold.

[Translation]

We need to think about the impact of it on our country. I would also like to say as to how petroleum products should be diversified. I would like to aware the Government, The monetary policy of the country has a big impact on the growing prices. Till today I have not come to know that the monetary policy pursued by the Reserve Bank of India has ever been discussed in the Parliament. I admit that this has a big impact on the masses. I admit that we need to have a discussion on the monetary policy of the Reserve Bank of India. The Government can introduce long term solution to the price rise after taking the Parliament into confidence. In the absence of discussion, the Government take some steps if prices rise and resultanty the prices come down a bit

and people get some relief but after some time people face problem soon.

Today we say that we are super power. There are eighty crore people in our country whose daily income is less than two dollars. The people living in the whole world and perhaps in Africa are not so poor as are in our country. If our country is super power, it is super power of the poor. We are super power of the poor because nowhere in the world people are so poor. The work to give relief to the poor should be done by the Government. Unfortunately, the poor who need relief, will not get it if we take steps to please the world economic Forum only. I urge the Government that the Prime Minister, not Agriculture Minister, should respond on such a matter that how this job would be done after preparing a fully holistic plan regarding holistic monetary policy, petroleum policy and agricultural policy. The most important thing is that there is no social security net to protect the poor in our country. Our per capita foodgrains consumption is half in comparison to China. People eat less with price rise. I have seen a statistics according to which our GDP is hampered by one or two percent due to malnutrition. We think that if we quote GDP then we will get some reaction. We will have to reduce malnutrition in order to increase our GDP and to get malnutrition lowered one more thing has to be done that is if we bring down the prices. Because, with price rise their purchasing power reduces. When purchasing power reduces, people tend to eat less. This leads to increase in number of malnutrition cases. Therefore, there is a need for looking afresh at social security by the Government. Keeping in mind all these things and if it is done then I believe it will provide some relief. I urge the Government to put forth a comprehensive policy, a white paper before the country and hon'ble Prime Minister should reply to it.

[English]

SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY (Dhenkanal): Madam Chairperson, I thank you very much for giving me this opportunity to speak.

As we all know, a badly managed company produces something that is of low quality and high price. We see something very similar with this Government. Obviously, it has become very expensive for an inefficient Government to manage and because managing this

country is so expensive, the price eventually for that expense has to be borne by the *aam admi*. The Government speaks about *aam admi*. The UPA slogans are aimed at the *aam admi*. But if we see the way they have acted in the past two and a half years, it has primarily been against the interests of *aam admi*.

That is because today a situation has come where the ruling class, whether it is MLAs or MPs, has willingly or unwillingly, knowingly or unknowingly, distanced itself from the public, from the masses. They have become a class unto themselves. Earlier, the bureaucracy was a class unto itself and it used to govern. But the political side of the government was with the people. So, they used to rein in the bureaucracy. But now, under the changed circumstances, with all your globalization and liberalization, etc., the competition between bureaucracy and the political class is to out-do each other; not in representing the *aam admi* or the public, but to please MNCs, big companies, rich and the haves. My feeling is that today nobody represents the have-nots in the social system, in the political system, or in the bureaucratic hierarchy in India. That is the main reason why we do not see any agitation against the price rise in any corner of this country. It is not that the *aam admi* is not affected, but there is no leadership today which agitates. It does not suit anybody. It does not suit this side, that side, middle side, front side. Everybody has become quiet. So, obviously that kind of governance percolates down to the common man and his life becomes unbearable and expensive.

In my State of Orissa, in the last three days, the price of *atta* has gone up by Rs. 3. It has culminated in *atta* costing nearly Rs. 16.50 per kilogram; the price of *sujji* has gone up by Rs. 2; the price of *maida* has gone up by Rs. 2; the price of edible oils has gone up by Rs. 4 per kilogram; the price of red chilly has gone up by Rs. 40 per kilo, to cost Rs. 100 in the last fifteen days. This shows that the market forces are having a free run in our essential commodities scenario.

The Government should never be meddlesome. We all agree to that. But the Government should also not be a mere by-stander, a spectator. That is exactly what is happening today in this country. Non-implementation of laws, like the Essential Commodities Act, shows that the Government is inept and ineffective. I am not blaming any political party. I am saying that the way in which the governance is administered in this country, it has resulted



[Shri Tathagata Satpathy]

in such a situation where the Government has no teeth. We are not acting against the hoarders and profiteers any more. Making profit is acceptable, but profiteering is not. Nobody is interested to work against them. This is the situation where the political class has landed itself in India. The futures or options trading and speculation in essential commodities, in my opinion, should be immediately banned. Anti-hoarding drive could help in easing the situation.

The Government also has to re-think on the policy of procurement. You would be aware that some decades ago people all over this country were prodded or were encouraged to quit eating rice and to go in more for wheat. It is because at that time due to Green Revolution, the wheat production had gone up. But today we find that procurement of wheat has gone down. Wheat is getting more expensive. But because the wheat lobby is strong, the insistence on wheat is still retained.

States like Andhra Pradesh, Orissa, Kerala and Tamil Nadu can produce enough rice to feed the whole country. But the production of rice is not being encouraged. About the procurement policy, the procurement, price is not being hiked in the case of rice. If we could encourage the people of this country to go in for more rice eating, it could help us in bridging this gap.

Our Government is unwilling to buy wheat from our domestic producers at a high price. But we are more than happy to import wheat at a much higher price and that wheat, by the way, is of lower quality also. But that does not disturb us. We are happy as long as we are importing and somewhere down the line or up the line, a middleman is benefiting. Again, there is this emphasis that the wheat lobby is stronger and the rice producing States do not have the lobby. Therefore, this is being relegated to the background. ...*(Interruptions)* In my opinion, since from the days of globalization, we are only talking of investments in soft drinks, chewing gum etc., we should also think about inviting private investment, even international investment in building up infrastructure for storing of food.

Madam, you must have seen in your constituency, if you would ever visit the FCI godowns, you will find the way the maintenance is done, the way the ceilings are leaking, the way the flooring has virtually vanished, rats,

moisture, etc. that are destroying the items that are stored there. But we do not take any pains to upgrade our storage facilities. On the other hand, the Government has set itself into such a mode that it allows a certain percentage of wastage although in today's situation with the transport system and improvement in storage facilities, if it could be worked out, it could help in saving that percentage. But because we simply write it off that this is a percentage which will be wasted, we do not bother to check whether in reality that percentage is getting wasted or not. That is also hiking up the prices of many essential commodities even though we find that in reality, there is no such wastage. The wastage quantities have gone down and there is profiteering in that also.

Our hon. Minister of Agriculture is a person who has excelled in the world of cooperative movements. If he could think, he has the ability, he has the vision and he can easily do it. If he thinks of subsidizing cold storages especially their electricity consumption, their electricity bills to a great extent this would help in preserving a lot of vegetables and fruits and that would also ease the prices.

One of our colleagues was talking about rise in prices of fruits and vegetables during festival times. It is that particular problem that could be solved by cold storages. But we know the availability of electricity and the rise in price, for example, extreme price of electricity is making cold storages totally unviable. The Government must come up with the plan. The hon. Minister of Agriculture is somebody who is capable of doing it, of coming up with the plan. If you can subsidize fertilizers, if America can subsidize cold storages and storage facilities, we should also consider it. So, instead of thinking about GATT and WTO, we should also think of subsidizing the end part of the agricultural system. ...*(Interruptions)* Madam, what we find is that if we look into it a little more in detail, we can find out that who is helped by the price rise. Is it helping the farmer? The answer definitely will be no. It is not helping the farmer.

So, who is it helping? It is not helping the Government. The Government would definitely try to restrict the rise in prices. It is not helping the farmer who is producing the foodstuff. So, eventually it is the middlemen, the business community, who are benefitting the most from price rise and this is because of poor logistic. The Government also has to ensure that the logistic situation in this country improves.

17.16 hrs.

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

The Government should consider paying more to the farmers while procuring the foodstuff from them. This will help the farmer and keep the Government buffered against times of shortages. Procurement at the right price and right time, in sufficient quantities, will prevent hoarding by middlemen and the Government should be the hoarding agent. The Government should control the prices by having enough food stock. This will, in turn, stabilize the market psychologically.

Sir, the bare truth is that no party or no political person represents the *Aam Aadmi* and least of all the one group or the one conglomerate that is ruling this country now. The *Aam Aadmi*, for them, is dead and gone. Their slogan is mostly aimed at quietening the Opposition, but not for looking after the poor person who lives in this country. Therefore, a time has come, a time of reckoning, where we have to rethink. The Government, in my opinion, today does not represent the people. We are all victims of price rise because the people who govern this country are bureaucrats and no matter which political party sits in the Treasury Benches, they go out of their way to support this bureaucracy and eventually suppress the common man, the man on the street.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Before I call the next hon. Member to speak, I would like to inform that I have a list of more than 21 hon. Members who want to participate in this debate. So, I request you to be very brief in making speeches. It will be better if you give suggestions to the hon. Minister.

Now, I call Shri Ajoy Chakraborty to speak.

SHRI AJAY CHAKRABORTY (Basirhat): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, in every Session of Parliament, whether during the regime of the NDA Government or during the regime of the UPA Government, we are discussing about price rise. This is the vital problem in our country now.

Sir, some friends from that side try to speak that only during the UPA regime the prices are going up. This is not a fact. Price rise has started during the regime of NDA Government and it is continuing even now. The initiator of this discussion was very much frustrated. I

also feel very much frustrated with the speaker from the main Opposition Party, who was the second speaker on this subject. Mr. Ananth Kumar had chosen to attack the Communists, but he has not chosen to attack the smugglers, hoarders, black marketeers and speculators who are responsible for price rise, because they are their friends. Mr. Ananth Kumar is not here. He should learn communism. Our duty is to unite the people, but their duty is to divide the people of the country. This is the basic difference between us and them.

SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN' (Begusarai): Sir, he should talk about price rise. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI AJAY CHAKRABORTY: He has not talked about price rise. He has quoted the speeches of Shri Baradhan and the Polit Bureau Statement of the CPI (M). ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please do not disturb him.

SHRI AJAY CHAKRABORTY: Sir, the Food Corporation of India is not purchasing essential commodities from the farmers, from the kisans at remunerative prices. When the rice, wheat and jute, etc. are produced by the farmer, Government agencies, like FCI and JCI are not coming forward to purchase the commodities from the *kisan* at remunerative prices. So, they have let the fate of the kisan, the producer of the wheat, producer of the rice, the producer of the jute in the hands of the speculators, in the hands of the hoarders. This is the position of the country. That is why, the farmer is not getting remunerative price.

Sir, it is very unfortunate that in our country a large number of *kisans* are committing suicide. It is happening everyday in so many States of the country, particularly in the State of the hon. Agriculture Minister. In the Vidarbha region, the cotton growers have committed suicide. The Prime Minister rushed to the spot and announced some package, but that has not been implemented so far. The cotton growers are totally frustrated. Not only the cotton growers, but the rice producers, the wheat producers, the vegetable producers, all of them feel frustrated. They are not getting the remunerative prices so they are compelled to commit suicide because they are not getting the food for the livelihood of their own families.

Sir, another thing is the failure of the Public Distribution System (PDS). The BPL, APL card holders,

[Shri Ajoy Chakraborty]

persons living below poverty level, even the lower middle class people, the middle class people are not getting rice, wheat, sugar, kerosene, etc. through PDS. But the PDS has totally collapsed. Kerosene oil is neither available in the villages nor in the urban areas. During the regime of controlled prices, the people of our country, like lower middle class, middle class and the poorer sections of the society are not getting the essential commodities for their daily livelihood from the PDS. It has totally collapsed. So, the Government should seriously look into the matter to strengthen the PDS and should open more branches of PDS throughout the country so that the people can get sufficient quantity of essential commodities.

One hon. Member just now mentioned that there are not sufficient number of godowns and cold storages available in the country. The farmers produce wheat, potato, pulses, different types of vegetables, fruits, etc. but there is no place to keep them in the godowns or cold storages. I agree with him that the Government should construct sufficient number of godowns and cold storages and the farmers should be allowed to use them at subsidized rates. The charges for the energy connection, etc. of the cold storages are very high. The Government should look into the matter and provide them all these facilities at subsidized rates so that the farmer can preserve their commodities in these storages. The Government should come forward in this regard for the benefit of the people.

Now, I would like to speak about forward trading policy. That has been initiated by the then NDA Government and this Government is toying the idea of forward trading policy. It is also a fact. As per the forward trading policy, the hoarders, the speculators and the black marketeers are exporting the essential commodities.

They are importing foodgrains and our people are not getting any rice, wheat, pulses, *atta*, sugar or any other essential commodities or different types of vegetables. This Government has initiated the forward trading policy and it has also termed that policy for exporting these types of essential commodities. That is also another reason. We need not speak much. If we go to the market, we see what is the difference in the rate of pulses. Last month if we purchased pulses, its price may be jumping day by day. Not only pulses, but every commodity like *atta*, *suji*, pulses, sugar, potato, onion, brinjal and everything is beyond the capacity of the common people. It is not only beyond the capacity of

poor people but even it is beyond the capacity of the lower middle class people and middle class people to purchase essential commodities for the livelihood of their families. It is a difficult task for them. That is why, it is not the question of this Party or that Party; it is the question of the livelihood of the countrymen; it is the question of survival of the countrymen. It is because we are facing irreparable loss and injury; common man is facing irreparable loss and injury due to the price rise. Price is going up every day; it has reached up the sky. Nobody knows who will control the price rise, who will control the smugglers, speculators and hoarders.

I think, the Government has tremendous responsibility to look into the matter. But we cannot shift our responsibility; we cannot avoid our responsibility to cast blame on the Government. It is our obligatory duty. All the MPs who are representing different political parties should look into the matter together to save the people, to save our *aam aadmi* from the price rise, from this plight. It is our duty to remove the plight of the people. I hope, our hon. Agriculture Minister is very much efficient. I have no doubt, but I am sorry to say that his State is badly affected. The farmers of his State are badly affected. So, we should seriously look into the matter. The Government should take action against the speculators, black marketeers, and hoarders. They should take the responsibility; they should take the serious steps to curb the price rise, to save the plight of the people of the country. I hope, cutting across the party line, we all should cooperate with the Government to curb the price rise, to save the plight of the people of the country from price rise to remove the plights of the countrymen.

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV (Patna): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I have a point of order.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Let me say something which can perhaps solve your problem.

[*English*]

The discussion will be concluded tomorrow. Zero Hour notice will be taken up after six o'clock today. Reply to the debate on price rise will be given on 4th December. I would also like to request the hon. Members that those who want to lay their speeches can do so and that will form part of the proceedings.

I would now request Shrimati Proneet Kaur to speak.

*[Translation]*

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, today in the morning I went to get the report of

*[English]*

"Social Economic and Technical Status of the Muslim Community of India".

*[Translation]*

As per section 19 of the Official Language Act, 1963 when a report is presented in either Lok Sabha or Rajya Sabha, it is presented in Hindi as well as in English. When I went to get a copy of the report, only English version was available it was not available in Hindi.

Sir, I request you that this report should be submitted in Hindi also. I will even say that as Urdu is recognized as a third language and Urdu knowing people are also in large number, they should also read this report. Therefore, this report should also be submitted in Urdu. This is a very sorry state of affairs and it is as per the Act as well that report should be submitted in both the languages. Despite that the report was presented only in English and not in Hindi.

*[English]*

SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE: Let me get the information. ...*(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV (Jhanjharpur): Mr. Deputy Speaker, hon'ble Minister of Parliamentary Affairs is present here. It is a point of order.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon'ble Minister has said that he will look into it.

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV: Sir, under special circumstances, owing to some special reason, a report can be presented only in English otherwise it should be presented in both the languages. Hon'ble Minister should tell us what were those special circumstances owing to which the report was presented only in English. There is a provision in the Act that a report should be presented in both Hindi and English languages. When will you present the report in Hindi, kindly let us know?

*[English]*

SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE: Sir, I will get back to the House. Let me get the information. ...*(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV: What are you saying.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon'ble Minister is saying that he will get the information about the actual position.

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV: He should at least make the report available in Hindi in the House.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You give some time to the Minister, he will get back to you. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: Sir, we are not a scholar of English.

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV: Sir, this Sachchar Committee report is very important.

*[English]*

SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE: I have to find out ...*(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV: You please submit this report in Hindi. If it is not printed then you can submit this report tomorrow.

*[English]*

SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE: Sir, it is the usual practice to give it in both Hindi and English. Let me find out as to why it has not been given in Hindi and come back to the House. ...*(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now you please sit down.

Shrimati Paramjit Kaur Gulshan.

\*SHRIMATI PARAMJIT KAUR GULSHAN (Bhatinda): Thank you, Sir, for giving me the opportunity to participate in the discussion on the subject of 'Rise in the prices of essential commodities' under Rule 193. Sir, Shri Chinta Mohan has expressed his concern regarding the rise in

\*English translation of the speech originally delivered in Punjabi.

[Shrimati Paramjit Kaur Gulshan]

prices of essential commodities but in a clever move he has congratulated the Chairman of the UPA Madam Sonia Gandhi for bringing down the price of Petrol and Diesel by Rs. 2 and Re. 1 respectively. However, Shri Chinta Mohan has conveniently forgotten the steep hike in the price of Petrol and Diesel in the last two and a half years. The reduction in the price of Petrol and Diesel is not substantial and therefore, will not have any impact on the common man.

As reported in the newspapers, the Government has claimed that the Growth Rate of economy has reached a healthy 8%. But, the common man does not read newspapers. Moreover, the ground reality is different. The common man knows nothing about the Growth Rate or Sensex. But, he is affected by the steep hike in the prices of all essential commodities like wheat, salt, vegetable-oil, sugar, jaggery, vegetables, etc. These are the things that are used by the common man. Any increase in the prices of these commodities hits the common man hard. In the present scenario, the common man is finding it difficult to make both ends meet. Due to the sky-rocketing prices, the common man cannot afford these items of daily use. As per the U.S.A., India has become an economic power. It is emerging as a super-power. However, the common man is at a loss to understand this. A handful of rich and influential people have got richer. They have accumulated all the wealth. They live in big bungalows. They drive costly cars. But, the vast majority is poor and they have become poorer. India cannot be dubbed as a superpower and an economic power on the basis of only a handful rich people. The so-called economic upsurge is an illusion.

About two and a half years ago, when the U.P.A. Government came to power at the Centre, they had coined a catchy slogan "UPA is with common man". The Government had made tall promises at that time that it will rein in the spiralling prices and check inflation. The people were taken in by these assurances and promises and voted for the Congress Party. Time and again, these promises were repeated in the Parliament. The Government assured the people that concrete steps will be taken to control the hike in the prices of all essential commodities. However, nothing tangible was done by the Government. The prices of all essential commodities increased by leaps and bounds. The Government claims that inflation is under control. However, all the statistics reeled out by the Government is nothing but a jugglery

of figures. The common man is feeling the pinch due to the hike in the prices of all essential commodities. He is bearing the brunt of the price hike. Items like computers and mobile phones have become cheaper. But the prices of essential commodities have gone through the roof. Life has become a veritable hell for the common man.

As per the Government figures, 9 out of 10 rural families and 7 out of 10 urban families have to spend 60% of their income in fulfilling the needs related to food-grains. What will the common man do if the prices of food-grains go beyond his reach? Hunger and starvation are writ large on the face of common man. The common man and the farmers are committing suicide. It is a result of exorbitant rise in prices of essential commodities. The price of pulses has increased to Rs. 50 or more per Kg. the price of flour has also risen considerably. Due to paucity of time, I cannot reel out the rates of all the essential items. Sugar is being sold at Rs. 25 per Kg. Even a match-box costs Rs. 10. The Common man is at his wit's end. He does not know what to do. All items of daily need like medicines, cloths, LPG, vegetable oil, petrol, diesel etc. have gone beyond the reach of the common man. Hefty bills of water and electricity stare the common man in the face. The prices of items needed for construction of house have also soared. The common man is at the receiving end.

Sir, the quantity of food-grains being distributed through the PDS system is being reduced. Subsidy is being done away with. Figures are being fudged. The ground reality is that the vast majority of people are facing hunger and starvation.

It is generally said that Punjab is a prosperous state. But, in reality, even the people of Punjab are finding it difficult to sustain themselves due to the exorbitant increase in the price of essential commodities.

Sir, the flawed economic policies are responsible for the steep rise in prices of food-grains and other items. Due to these policies, wealthy business houses and vested interests monopolise the market and indulge in profiteering. An artificial scarcity of things is created. It boosts black-marketing of items. Liberalization and privatization are the twin evils of this flawed economic policy.

Sir, the Government will have to take stringent action against these forces to bring the prices of essential commodities under control. Those who indulge in black-

marketing should be brought to book. The farmers should be provided with good quality seeds, fertilizers and insecticides at economical rates. The Public Distribution System should be improved and streamlined. The role of middle-men and brokers should be minimized. More and more fair-price shops should be opened. Only those items should be imported which are available at economic rates.

Sir, food-grains lying in our buffer stock become unfit for human consumption or are eaten by rats. Those who are responsible for this criminal waste and negligence should be punished. Food-grains should be distributed timely among the poor and the needy. The farmers should be encouraged and incentives should be provided to them so that they become the harbinger of a second 'Green Revolution'. Customs and excise duty on various items should be reduced.

Sir, if the Government does not take immediate steps to bring down the prices of essential commodities, it will become very difficult for the common man to make both ends meet. People will make fun of democracy in India. India will fail to tread the path of economic progress and the common man will lose faith in democracy.

*[English]*

\*DR. SEBASTIAN PAUL (Ernakulam): Rising prices of essential commodities has to be viewed in the context of fostering the cause of distributive justice. By fulfilling the obligation towards ensuring distributive justice, the government incurs food subsidies. Ensuring price stability is the objective of food security system. Public Distribution System is the basic plank in addressing the issue of food insecurity as well as rising prices. It has emerged as the most significant instrument in government policy to moderate open-market prices and to ensure food security at assured prices. The PDS has been useful in containing prices and preventing localized food shortages. But there are states where the poor has no satisfactory access to the PDS. States like Andhra Pradesh and Kerala are exceptions. But in deficit states such as Bihar, Orissa and Madhya Pradesh, which have a high incidence of hunger and poverty, the benefit of the PDS is not reaching the poor.

The annual inflation rate for essential commodities has been less than that of the overall index, which could

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\*The speech was laid on the Table.

partly reflect the importance attached by the government to keeping the prices of essential items under check. The Economic Survey 2005-06 points out that 30 essential commodities important for the common man registered an annual inflation rate of 3.8 per cent on January 21, 2006 compared to 6.1 per cent a year ago. This is a welcome sign and we have to sustain this trend. Figures show that rural poverty is declining; but the number of rural poor is still high. Removal of poverty and improving the quality of life are the basic objective of good governance. The French revolutionaries proclaimed the lofty ideals of liberty, equality and fraternity; but the revolution was triggered by hunger. Effective government intervention in the foodgrain sector is essential to contain rising prices of essential commodities.

*[Translation]*

\*SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN (Palani): Sir, I thank the Chair for giving me the opportunity to participate in this discussion on rise in prices of essential commodities. This discussion has been mooted in this House by my esteemed colleague, Shri Chinta Mohan to highlight the problems faced by the common man due to the increase of prices of essential commodities like foodgrains, vegetables, edible oils, fruits, kerosene and other items.

The people of this Indian subcontinent are faced with this problem and we are not going into the question of whether it is due to the omissions and commissions in the management of the Government at the Centre or in the States. This House is now deliberating on the ways and means to overcome the problem of price rise. Hon. Members are suggesting some measures to be implemented by the Government to contain the price rise. The labour of the farmers whenever it results in plentiful growth and abundant availability of food grains and other agricultural produce leads to enough of supply to meet the demands. Common man is not affected by price rise during that period.

We find a trend in increased sugar price. This is because sugarcane cultivation has been greatly hampered this year. In all the States where sugarcane is traditionally cultivated, we find a marked reduction in growth due to multifarious factors like vagaries of weather. The reduction in sugarcane production has resulted in sugar scarcity giving rise to price rise. When it comes to vegetables,

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\*English translation of the speech originally delivered in Tamil.

[Shri S.K. Kharventhan]

we find price rise in an alarming proportions. Instead of going into the question of comparing it with previous years let us try to put our head and heart together to overcome this problem and avoid it in future. Ryot Bazaar, that is, *Ulavar Santhai*, has been set up in Tamil Nadu to facilitate the farmers to take their agriculture produce directly to the markets where they themselves can sell it and ensure remunerative prices for their produce. Farmers are provided with transport facility and market facility to take their produce like vegetables from the rural areas to the nearby towns. Quality vegetables are available to the buyers at a cheaper rates because there are no middlemen and coolies in between. This scheme has been successfully introduced by the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, Dr. Karunanidhi. I wish this scheme is introduced all over the country to benefit the consumers in small towns and bigger cities as it benefits both the consumer and the growers in a big way saving a lot of trouble ensuring quality supply and remunerative returns.

Oddanchattram in my constituency is the biggest vegetable market in the entire subcontinent. Drumstick grows in a big way in our area. A bundle of hundred drumsticks cost a mere ten rupees. Whereas in bigger cities it is sold at an exorbitant price. For instance in Delhi the Drumsticks are sold at a rate of ten rupees per piece. This price rise is due to transportation. Road transport is dearer now due to oil prices. Moving goods by lorries is not cheaper any more. Hence, a coordinated approach should be made to move essential commodities by rail as freight moved from place to place by the Railways. This reduced expenditure on transporting can have its cascading effect on prices. This may help arresting the upward trend in price rise. Hence, the availability and demand situation must be closely monitored and essential commodities must be moved as railway freight from one place to another from places where commodities are available in plenty to places where they are scarcely available. Railways must be provided with facilities to move essential commodities like vegetables in specially designed wagons with refrigeration facility. Government must come forward to procure directly from farmers. This would help easing the situation and providing quality vegetables at lesser rates to the consumers.

Many of my esteemed colleagues have pointed out the problems faced by the agriculturists. They even pointed out the heavy debt burden on them resulting in suicidal deaths. They were referring to Vidarbha region

in Maharashtra and some districts in Karnataka and Kerala and Andhra Pradesh. Non-availability of agricultural inputs like quality seeds are the main cause behind this vicious problem. Loans are not available through cooperative societies in time to procure agricultural inputs like fertilizers and insecticides. So they are driven to their wits end and are forced to take loans from moneylenders at higher rate of interest. Crop failure and non-availability of remunerative price disable the farmers to pay back the loans they had taken. This result in depressing conditions and suicidal deaths.

Our Agricultural Minister has woken up to this reality and he has elaborated in this august House as to why and how these farmers' suicidal deaths are occurring. Today, we find at least 75 per cent of our farmers are going in for availing credit from private moneylenders at exorbitant interest rates. This is the trend available in the whole of the country. Our Prime Minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh personally visited the death affected farmers in the Vidarbha region to gather from them their woes. He has come out with special packages for farmers living in those worst affected areas. This Government is very much alive to the reality and are taking effective steps to overcome problems as and when they occur.

Some of the Members from the Opposition Benches tried to blame this Government for the rise in prices of essential commodities like food grains and vegetables as though this problem had arisen only now. I would like to point out the root cause of this problem was the wrong policies adopted by the previous NDA regime and this trend has started right from their days. There must be a monitoring mechanism to see that proper distribution state-wise is ensured. For instance, inter-state restrictions were removed by the NDA regime to help the middlemen. This resulted in the unscrupulous elements escalating the prices and dictating terms creating artificial scarcity. This was done to help the middlemen. This has further resulted in the depletion of our food grains stock position. The procurement of food grains by FCI was seriously hampered. It has taken almost for this Government to set right the wrong that has been committed by the previous NDA regime.

Only when agricultural production is augmented we can arrest the trend in prices. Strengthening the hands of farmers is the need of the hour. More and more of land should be brought under cultivation. Wasteland that can be converted to become cultivable lands must be

looked into. Government must help farmers in this regard. For instance, 14 per cent of interest has to be paid for a loan to buy a tractor whereas zero per cent loans are available to buy cars in towns and cities. This trend must change and farmers interest should be taken care of.

My colleague, Shri Ananth Kumar from the Opposition Benches was referring to some vote bank politics. And also note bank politics. Probably he has forgotten the fact that the entire country was watching his leader . . . *(not recorded)* taking money. He was seen taking currency notes. That is note politics. Entire world was watching his taking lakhs of rupees. Let him not criticize Congress and try to paint a distorted picture due to his misjudgement of facts. We must evolve serious strategies to curb price rise and we must help middle-class people and the common man.

*[English]*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The name should be expunged from the records as he is not present in the House.

*[Translation]*

●SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN: I would like to reiterate that our Government is serious and determined to bring down prices and contain inflation. The Government has sent directives to all the nationalized banks to extend loan liberally to the farmers. Our Government under the stewardship of Dr. Manmohan Singh and led by our Madam Chairperson, Shrimati Sonia Gandhi are taking effective steps to protect the interests of common man. That is why, they have reduced today the price of petrol by Rs. 2 and diesel by Re. 1. Our Government, duly elected by the people, is working for the people, protecting their interests. Expressing my strong desire that further steps will continue to bring down prices further. Let me conclude my speech. ...*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record.

...*(Interruptions)*\*

●English translation of the speech originally delivered in Tamil.  
\*Not recorded.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The hon. Minister of State in the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs would like to say something.

SHRI B.K. HANDIQU: Sir, in response to the questions raised by hon. Member Shri Ram Kripal Yadav and hon. Member Shri Devendra Prasad Yadav, I discussed the matter with the hon. Minister Shri A.R. Antulay. He took note of the serious concerns expressed by the hon. Members of both the Houses. Since only the English version was ready, he Tabled the English version today. The Hindi version, which is under preparation, will be laid as soon as it is completed. For doing this, he got the waiver from both the hon. Chairman of Rajya Sabha and the hon. Speaker of Lok Sabha.

*[Translation]*

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir it should be completed at the earliest because Members will read it in Hindi. It should be done in both the languages as per rule.

*[Translation]*

SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN (Indore): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Hon'ble Chinta Mohan Ji has moved this motion of price rise with great concern and it seems that he moved this motion after feeling heat at home because of crumbling domestic budget ...*(Interruptions)* and today no Sambhar will be offered with rice.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You know it better.

SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, he has moved this motion, while in anger and later on he thought that I have given a motion against my own Government then what will I speak therefore, he kept on beating about the bush....*(Interruptions)* Therefore, though he moved this motion but in reality the common of the commonest man is worried over this price rise. He moved the motion about rising prices of essential commodities which has nothing to do with any big machinery, refrigerator or T.V. The things of daily-use for common man have become too costly for them to purchase. Whether he is a farmer, a labourer, a middle class person who has a fixed income, these fixed income group people have some difficulties or in case of a labourer who earns fifty or sixty rupees per day, when he finds that all his money has been spent on flour,



[Shrimati Sumitra Mahajan]

pulses, oil, wherefrom he will pay the house rent, how will he manage new clothes for children when he has no money left for even buying salt or chilly to be added in pulses. In fact, this is the situation of a common man today.

Sometimes, we feel that our Finance Minister talks big, he talks about fluctuation of sensex. We are common women, we do not understand such things. We understand only one thing, if in my house or for that matter in any house, a boy asks his mother for food when he is hungry; then, will the mother reply him to wait till the sensex is stabilized or the CPI comes down. CPI means not this CPI. They do come down. CPI means wait till Consumer Price Index comes down. Is it possible? I have seen it somewhere in reply to a question, I will not go into details as our Ananth Kumar ji has put all things very impressively, the fact is that when the Wholesale Price Index has gone up from 5.2 percent to 8.7 percent, they are saying that it has come down to 7.3 percent.

What is the use of it, whether the common man is getting any benefit or the prices of pulses have come down and whether the prices of rice have fallen by 8 aana and the prices of flour have fallen by 5 paise? When we are talking about the common man, have they been benefited by this, No. I am saying this today, because this Government has come into power due to the common man. I do not want to say this because you may term it as unparliamentary but the Government do not bother about the fact that they have come into power due to these common people. I do not know what they are feeling about it but it seems that hon. Sharad Pawar is realising that his hands are tide down otherwise if it is criticized by any Committee, the matter is discussed at length, so that the Minister could be targetted.

17.56 hrs.

[SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV *in the Chair*]

Mr. Chairman, Sir, those who came into power on the issues pertaining to the common man are saying that the price index has come down to 7.3 per cent and is dipping further. The reason behind this fall is that the market is full of seasoned fruits and vegetables. That is why the price index has come down to 7.3 per cent. Whether the Government has adopted a good policy as

a result of which the price index has come down? This is not so. I wished the hon. Minister had given a reply to it. The prices of flour, oil, rice and pulses are going up. I am not talking about the manufacturing goods which have become costly. I am talking about the price rise of essential commodities. Everyone is asking what has happened now? Sometimes it comes to my mind that whenever the Congress party has come into power, steep price-rise has taken place in the country.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, when we had not entered into politics or were thinking to join politics, a slogan was raised—'Congress ke bhokey ball, kha gaya shakkar pee gaye tall'. After that Congress used Cow-Calf as its symbol. We used to say which type of cow is this who although feeds her calf but doesn't bother about the common man. This type of criticism was made at that time. Since then the opposition has been quizzing that whenever that Congress ruled the nation why such things have taken place? If we talk about the Janta Party regime of 1977, all items were cheaper in the market. After that when the NDA Government came into power in 1998, the price index which was at 6.7 per cent and 6.8 per cent in June and September respectively had fallen to 3.8 per cent and then become 4.4 per cent. Why it had happened at that time and what has happened now?

Mr. Chairman, Sir, in the wake of price rise, Pandit Jawahar Lal Nehru had made an announcement in his time that if somebody was found involved in hoarding or black-marketing, he should be hanged on a public place. I would like to ask the hon. Minister of Agriculture, Shri Pawarji that he must have in mind the things of the Nehru era. Whether a person involved in hoarding or black-marketing has been apprehended till now? Today, big companies have come into existence. May be, you have to control them through a policy, but what are you doing? I only want to say that prices are increasing day by day. The hon. Minister of Finance is saying that there is a gap between the demand and the supply. Is it so or the international prices have increased? We know all this as we have some knowledge about economics.  
....(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: How much time would you like to take?

SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I will conclude within two minutes.

18.00 hrs.

MR. CHAIRMAN: If you would like to conclude your speech within two minutes today, do so, otherwise continue it tomorrow. After that we will take Zero Hour. We extend the proceedings of the house upto Zero Hour.

SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I will conclude in two minutes. I do not want to extend it further as you all know about it. I feel sorry as economics is again being taught here to us. We all know the Government is formed to provide some relief to the people by keeping the prices under control. The Government is talking about international prices. Chinta Mohanji has said just now that Sonia jee has intervened in the matter and as a result of it the prices of petrol and diesel have been reduced by Rs. 2. Ananth Kumar jee told us how the whole process has proved fake and we are angry about it. It is said that she was so concerned about it that prices of petrol and diesel have been reduced as if a mother would pour petrol or diesel over her hungry child. Whether Sonia jee has made the prices reduced for that or she forgot all other things? You appreciate her a lot and still the matter of international price is being quoted. It means I have to ask Mr. Bush first before cooking food in my house. Which type of international prices you are talking about? It's our internal matter. I would like to apologise Mr. Pawar for one thing. You say that the production will be better next year and we will provide better support price to the farmers. But I would like to make a submission that for getting the benefit it is necessary that farmers and workers must remain alive for the next year. You are not taking such measures which are necessary for better production. When farmers have committed suicide in Vidharba, you have declared a package for them which is called a patch up work. It can't improve their economic condition. It can benefit only 2-4 such banks which have given loans to the farmers. It will not serve any purpose. We have to think in a right perspective. Quite a lot is being said regarding the PDS. Look at the wheat you have imported from Australia. We are Members of Parliament. We have to go to the people to know about their problems. When I paid a visit to my constituency, people showed me the wheat you have sent there for distribution through the Fair Price Shops by importing it from Australia. Our farmers have not got more than Rs. 700 as a support price. Come and see the quality of wheat our farmers from Malwa grow. You have not paid them more than Rs. 700 whereas you are distributing

the wheat you have imported from Australia at the rate of Rs. 1000 to the poor people of Malwa through the Fair Price Shops. The work hard and know-how good wheat is grown and you are providing them such quality of wheat which even our cows and buffaloes do not want to eat. Mr. Pawar, I have sent you a sample of that wheat also. Thus we are playing with the sentiments of the people. We are importing foodgrains whereas our farmers are able enough to grow everything. We have to improve our PDS system apart from putting a control over it. This wheat is not even fit for making dalia. I fear that a disease like Gajar-Grass may come here with imported wheat.

I would suggest you some points to improve the PDS system but you won't do that. I got an information that out of the total ration card issued in the country, 20 per cent fake cards have been issued in Mumbai alone. In other areas the position will be the same. Such people have been issued ration cards whose names have not appeared in the voters list. They came from Bangladesh and somewhere else. Ration Cards have been issued only for appeasement and to garner votes. Mumbai alone has 20 per cent of fake ration cards.

Do you have a courage to cancel those ration cards? If you will cancel them then what will happen to your vote Bank? But we should take some stern action otherwise discussion on price-rise will be confined to the matter under 193 only.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I know that Finance Minister will unsuccessfully try to pacify us by promising more but it is not going to help anymore. Mr. Pawar, you feel the sufferings of farmers, labourers and housewives. So, we expect from you that you will go for reforms and take some stern action. Do not hesitate in taking stern action. People talk big. Some talk about forward trading in which transaction is done only on the basis of words. You will say that we have started this. If we have started, then it was controlled by us only. Now, you are in the Government, then you should control it. It does not mean that the common people be allowed to suffer. Hence, it is my request that price-rise should not be taken as a general discussion. If you really want to provide food-grains, cloths and housing to the common people then you should be fully concerned about them and you should take strict steps to control prices. If you will not do this, then we will not be able to do anything, but the common people will punish you certainly.

MR. CHAIRMAN: now, we will discuss this matter tomorrow. Before taking another item for discussion I would like to give an opportunity to Shri Shrinivas Dadasheb Patil to speak for two minutes as he will be absent tomorrow.

SHRIMATI NEETA PATERIYA (Seoni): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I will also be not present tomorrow. I may also be given time to speak.

PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR (Chimur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I will also not be present tomorrow. I may also be allowed to speak.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Shrinivas Dadasaheb Patil is the only Member of his party. Other people from party will also want to speak.

*[English]*

SHRI SHRINIWAS DADASAHEB PATIL (Karad): I am very much thankful to you Sir, for allowing me to participate in the discussion under Rule 193 regarding rise in the prices of essential commodities.

I am here only to bring to your kind notice the problems of sugarcane growers. While the prices of other commodities are going up, the sugar prices are going down. As I come from the area where there are farmers' cooperative sugar factories, I would talk about them; in the international market the rates were about Rs. 3,000 per quintal, but now the rates are about Rs. 1,500 per quintal. Day-by-day, the prices of sugar are going down in world and domestic market.

The production of sugar is likely to be around 230 lakh metric tonnes this years and the surplus of last year is about 40 lakh metric tonnes and so, the total stock by the end of this sugar year would be around 270 lakh metric tonnes; the domestic consumption is likely to be around 190 lakh metric tonnes per annum. So, there will be a surplus of about 80 lakh metric tonnes.

So, unless and until export of sugar is promoted, it is impossible to maintain the rates. The sugarcane growers are now on the streets because they are getting less and less prices for their produce. I would be grateful, if some packages like incentive schemes like ocean freight, transport subsidy from his factory to harbour, etc. are given. They should be protected. Unless and until

the sugarcane growers are protected, the situation cannot be improved and there will be less of sugarcane crops. I have seen that every three years, there is less of sugarcane crop and so, the rates go up. In the nearby country, the sugar rates are Rs. 40—Rs. 50 per kg. In order to avoid this, here we should support the export of sugar and some subsidies should be given so as to protect the sugarcane growers. If it is done, I am 100 per cent sure that we can maintain the prices of sugar throughout the country in coming year.

In fact, middlemen should be removed. The person who grows either food crop oil seeds or sugarcane and produces sugar through cooperative sugar factories should be dealt with directly and fair price should be given to his produce. If the prices go up, the Government should purchase sugar from him and distribute at subsidized rate through PDS.

I sincerely feel that we should give support to the sugarcane growers so that they get a fair price. We should also see that sugar is exported to maintain the prices.

*[Translation]*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now I am tating Special mentions. The discussion under the rule 193 will continue tomorrow also.

*[Translation]*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, we will discuss this matter tomorrow. Now we will take up special mention. Do not take more than one minute. Hon. Members, please keep the time restrain in mind. Shri Shailendra Kumar.

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR (Chail): Hon. Chairman, Sir, through you, I would like to put this question of public importance in this House. People of Indian origin living in other countries are being subjected to atrocities, injustice and hate about which the Union Government takes notice from time to time through the House. Recently, 41 labourers of Indian origin had gone to Afghanistan. They completed their work agreement period of 2-4-5 years, but they are being subjected to inhuman behaviour. Now, in Afghanistan, the Indian labour union had staged a dhama a the Indian Mission. They are not

being paid their wages and any honorarium. Even the labourers are being threatened that their eyes will gouged out and their kidneys will be removed. In this way 41 labourers are trapped in Afghanistan.

Through you, I would like to demand the hon. Minister that initiative may be taken through the Foreign Minister or through a diplomatic mission in this regard. Another incident ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: No other incident. You can speak on only one incident relating to one subject.

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR: Those people of Indian origin leaving there ... *(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: You have raised your main operative point. You have asked to take up the issue with the Mission in a diplomatic manner.

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR: Officers of the mission at Brussels, ...*(Interruptions)* this happened with the lawyer also. Similarly, in London, Sikh boy's hair was cut which is related to religious emotions. This has ignited huge protest. A person named Sardar Tarsem Singh of Lakhimpur Khiri, which is the constituency of our brother Ravi Verma ji, lives in Kuwait. He could not visit India for the last three years. He has not been relieved despite of the fact that his working permit period has expired. His mother is ailing, household condition is worse but I would like to say. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: You speak about your demand and mention your suggestion.

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR: Be it of Brussels, be it of Afghanistan, or London or be it of Kuwait, but this is a serious matter. Through you, I would like to draw the attention of the Government that these people should at least be provided patronage in consultation with the Missions and the Ministry of External Affairs and the Indians who are being subjected to atrocities, injustice and exploitation and are stranded there should be called back so that they may live with their parents and children.

With these words, I conclude.

SHRI TEK LAL MAHTO (Giridih): Mr. Chairman, Sir, through you would like to draw the attention of the House that Benidih-1 and 2 of block-2 area situated in the Dhanbad district in my parliamentary constituency of

Giridih, 1253 displaced persons alongwith an approved list of 20 people have not been given employment in a subsidiary company BCCL of Coal India Limited in lieu of Land/plot acquired under the earlier agreement despite the fact that some of these have passed the medical test and have been issued appointment letters whereas coal is still being extracted from the land of these displaced people. Displaced people are forced to stage a dharna with their family for their employment in block-2 project from last two months, but still the B.C.C.L. and the CIL have not paid heed to these displaced persons. Displaced people are on the verge of starvation. Under these circumstances, there may be violent protests and law and order situation may deteriorate.

Hence, it is my request through this House that displaced persons of Benidih-1 and Benidih-2 may be provided employment at the earliest.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH BISHNOI (Jodhpur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, through you, I would like to draw the attention of the Union Health Minister that 3 or 4 years back a foundation stone of AIIMS was laid in Jodhpur in Rajasthan. Funds worth two crores were allocated for the construction of its boundary wall but it has not been completed yet.

Particularly, we can say that in Jodhpur most of the people are poor, the number of labourers is also high and keeping in view the facilities to be provided to them, erstwhile Union Government had announced the setting up of AIIMS. Its foundation stone was also laid but apart from the boundary wall no other construction work has been started even after a period of 2-3 years.

Through you, I would like to submit to the Union Government that construction of AIIMS building should be started at the earliest so that people living there and people of whole western Rajasthan in particular may get the benefit.

*[English]*

SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK (Panaji): Sir, please give me two minutes more because the matter which I want to raise is very important and it pertains to my Constituency.

The Government of Karnataka, without the permission of the Central Government and the Central Water Board,

[Shri Shripad Yesso Naik]

is diverting the water from Mahadai Basin constructing the Kalsa, Bhandara canals. Diverting 7.56 TMC of water will have negative effect on Goan day-to-day life.

Sir, in September, 2006 the Government of Karnataka laid the foundation stone for the Kalsa-Bhandara Project for the diversion of 7.56 TMC water from Mahadai basin to Malaprabha basin and in October 2006, it began the work of excavation for the open cut canals at Kankunbi village of Belgaum District, without obtaining any clearance from Union Government.

This step of Karnataka Government is totally illegal and unconstitutional. On 30.4.02, an in-principle clearance was given by the Central Water Commission and the Ministry of Water Resources without proper understanding of the ill-effects which Goa has to face in near future on account of the Kalsa-Bhandara project... *(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Nothing would go on record except the submission of Shri Shripad Yesso Naik.

...*(Interruptions)\**

SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK: However, because of timely protests from the Government of Goa, in-principle clearance was kept in abeyance in September, 2002 and the Government of Goa requested to the Ministry of Water Resources for setting up an Inter-State Water Disputes Tribunal under the Inter-State Water Disputes Act, 1956, for resolution of the dispute. But till this date, no direction has been given by the Union Government in this matter.

MR. CHAIRMAN: What is your demand? You come to the main point.

SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK: In spite of this, the Government of Karnataka has already gone ahead to materialize the proposal. Local village panchayat of Kankunbi, Parwad and Nerse of Belgaum District of Karnataka which are going to be affected by this proposal have already expressed their protest to the concerned authorities... *(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Nothing would go on record except the submission of Shri Shripad Yesso Naik.

...*(Interruptions)\**

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\*Not recorded.

SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK: However, without taking any note, the Government of Karnataka started work of excavation for the channels. Though the Karnataka Government claimed that the work presently is in the agriculture zone, for the completion of further work of Kalsa, total reserve forest of 258 hectare from Kankunbi, Parwad and Koda will be destroyed.  
...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: What is your demand?

...*(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

MR. CHAIRMAN: It is a special mention, your words are not going on record.

...*(Interruptions)\**

*[English]*

SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK: For Bhandara Nalta Scheme, 243 hectare reserve forest area from Kongala, Tamagao, Karale, Nerse, Teregadi and other villages within Belgaum District will be destroyed.

Without awaiting the clearance from the Ministry of Environment and Forests, the Government of Karnataka has gone ahead with their proposal which is highly objectionable. On 16th October, 2006, the Ministry of Environment and Forests and the Ministry of Water Resources asked the Karnataka Government not to continue the work.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, nothing would go on record except the statement of Shri Shankhlal Majhi.

...*(Interruptions)\**

*[Translation]*

MR. CHAIRMAN: You may please continue. His words are not going on record.

SHRI SHANKHLAL MAJHI (Akbarpur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I thank you for allowing me to speak. I appreciate the dream of the Hon. Minister of Railways to bring the Indian railways to the top level in the world. I had said

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\*Not recorded.

so on the day the Rail Budget was presented and I repeat my words of appreciation here again. There is a proposal regarding survey to be conducted between Mau and Badhalganj via Faizabad railway line. The matter appeared in the newspaper also. I request that if the area between Dohrighat (Mau) and Faizabad is connected with Faizabad *via* Ramnagar (alapur Tehsil) and Tanda then it will create a new railway facility. My request is that if this proposed new railway line between Badhalganj; Faizabad and Barabanki is laid *via* Dohrighat (Mau), Ziampur, Razesultan, Alapur, Hanswar and Tandla then it will boost up the local trade significantly. There is big establishment in the area and a big power station of NTPC is also there. J.R. Cement industry is also there. It will promote industrial activities in the area.

Second thing I want to say is that Akbarpur Railway line block is 100 years old. There is a link road alongside Ambedkarnagar and Kathari which connects Kathari, Arrakpur, Barba, Neerampur. There is 100 years old railway underpass near Neerampur. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please do not go into history. You tell your demands.

SHRI SHANKHLAL MAJHI: I am coming to that. Only Neerampur underpass was constructed 100 years back. Now a road has been constructed on its both sides but the underpass is still in use. It is so low that it gets water-logged in the rainy season. Many animals have drowned in that logged water. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: You are speaking on causes not on solutions. You tell us your demand.

SHRI SHANKHLAL MAJHI: The culvert under the Kathari, Assakpur, Barba, Neerampur rail route remains submerged with water in rainy season due to which this connecting route becomes blocked. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: You tell us only what you want. Speak about the solution.

SHRI SHANKHLAL MAJHI: Our demand is that in order to improve the condition of that culvert under the said railway line, a railway crossing should be constructed there to open that route during the rainy season when the same remains closed for nearly four months.

DR. KARAN SINGH YADAV (Alwar): Mr. Chairman, Sir, like other farmers in the country, farmers in my Lok Sabha Constituency, Alwar, who are engaged in cultivation of wheat and mustard, are also faced with serious problem. Sowing season is almost over, but, due to the non-availability of urea and DAP fertilisers, there may be heavy shortfall in crop production. Farmers of Rajasthan purchase urea from the black-market from the neighbouring states. Because of lack of proper control of the state Government, spurious fertilisers are being sold in the market and farmers are being duped.

I urge hon. Ministers of Agriculture and Fertilizer that higher quantity of Urea and DAP should be allocated to Rajasthan soon so that the farmers could save their crops by using the fertilisers on time.

SHRI SHISHUPAL PATLE (Bhandara): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am putting forth a serious problem of Maharashtra before you. Maharashtra State Electricity Regulatory Authority had requested the Central Regulatory Authority to grant them permission to raise electricity charges for flour mills and small rice mills in Maharashtra. The Central Government granted their permission to them. But it had adverse affect on the flour mills and small rice mills. Flour mills and small rice mills in Maharashtra have been closed down for the last 17 days. The owners of these flour and rice mills are sitting on hunger strike. It has been 17 days since the closure of their mills but neither any statement has come from the Maharashtra Government nor has it made any efforts to solve their problem. Due to the closure of the said flour mills, poor children studying in Baba Saheb Ambedkar Vastigrahas in Maharashtra are not getting food due to non availability of flour. People are sitting on hunger strike for the last 17 days ... *(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please tell your demand.

SHRI SHISHUPAL PATLE: I want to put up one more issue before you. The NDA Government had decided to sell wheat to the poor people @2 per kg. under the Antyodya Yojna in Maharashtra but the Maharashtra Government started charging Rs. 5 per kg. or wheat grinding charges due to which poor people are unable to get their wheat grinded at a reasonable rate. It has resulted in their starvation.

I demand the Government to reduce the said charges being levied from the poor people by the electricity regulatory authority. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: You can speak on the matter during the discussion on price rise. Presently that is being discussed, your party can take up that matter even tomorrow.

SHRI SHISHUPAL PATLE: I want to say that the above said charges be reduced by the Union Government and the Maharashtra Government and help re-open the closed flour mills in Maharashtra. Thank you.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri P. Karunakam—Absent

Shri P.S. Gadvi—Absent

Shri Haribhau Rathore—Absent

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer): Mr. Chairman, Sir, with your permission, I would like to say that, in the name of liberalization thousands of hectares of fertile land of farmers is being acquired by the Government for setting up Special Economic Zones in various States of the country. The intention is to lure the domestic and foreign investors. The loss of fertile land has resulted in the loss of crop production and at the same time, the compensation being given to the affected farmers is not as per the prevailing market rate of the land. Besides, the land lease is not being given to farmers, rather it is being done in the name of Government or the buyer itself. As result thereof the farmers are agitated.

I, through you, want to say that the Government should reconsider their decision and stop the acquisition of their fertile land. It would be better if unfertile or waste land is taken for setting up of such zones. I, through you, request the Government that the local people should be given employment and the land lease should be in the name of the farmers from whom the same is acquired.

*[English]*

SHRI MANJUNATH KUNNUR (Dharwad South): Sir, I would like to speak in Kannada. I want to demand that Kannada language should be recognized as a classical language. Many languages have been recognized as classical languages but, unfortunately, Kannada language has not yet been recognized as a classical language.

*[Translation]*

\*Sir, the agitation demanding classical language status to Kannada has entered its third year. Writers, Actors, Politicians and people from all walks of life are demanding the Union Government to accord classical language status to Kannada language. The Centre has not responded to this genuine demand of the State till today.

Now, Kannada people are celebrating Suvarna Karnataka (Golden Jubilee) and the agitation has intensified and I am afraid it may take an ugly turn if the Centre do not respond properly.

Kannada literature has been crowned with seven Gyanpeeth awards, the highest in the country despite hurdles in translation and lack of back up in the capital of the country. Out of seven Gyanpeeth awardees one Mr. V.K. Goeds and Shri D.R. Berdre belong to my parliamentary constituency and they have contributed more towards Kannada language. It has more than 2000 year old history as far as scripts and other evidences are concerned. But Mr. Speaker Sir, "I, would like to bring to you and the hon'ble members notice that the word Karnataka appears in Ramayana and Mahabharatha, though it is spelt as *karnata* and not Karnataka. The word *Karnataka* is several thousand years old. A Sanskrit poet says that one that dances in your ears is *karnata* language and the place is Karnataka." Now, the former Vice-Chancellor of Mysore University, Dr. Javaregowda is on fast unto death. I have raised this issue on several occasions in this August House. Karnataka Government and the Chief Minister Mr. H.D. Kumaraswamy and Shri B.S. Yedyappa, Deputy Chief Minister of Karnataka have requested the Centre repeatedly in this regard. Therefore, I strongly demand that the Union Government and the Hon'ble Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh to reciprocate the emotional feelings of the people of Karnataka by according the status of classical language to Kannada without any further delay. My mother tongue is Kannada. My blood is Kannada, my breathe of Kannada. I have come to this stage by the grace of speaking this Kannada language. I would have spoken on English but to give more and due respect to Kannada language today I am speaking in Kannada.

Under such circumstances, my breath and blood are Kannada and five crores of the people of Karnataka are demanding that it should be recognized as a classical

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\*English translation of the speech originally delivered in Kannada.

language. I request the Government to recognize Kannada as a classical language.

*[Translation]*

SHRI ASHOK ARGAL (Morena): Mr. Chairman, Sir, first of all I request you to allow me to speak from here.

MR. CHAIRMAN: O.K. You may speak.

SHRI ASHOK ARGAL: There is a poisonous grass (weed) in our country which is called "Gajar Ghas". I had read an article written by a scientist which stated that it has been causing a loss of Rs. 20 crores per hour. "Gajar Ghas" is spreading all over the country. It came to India in 1965-66 with wheat from America. I demand the Central Government that some arrangement should be made to destroy it by preventing its growth. If its growth is not checked then many types of diseases like Eczema, allergy, asthma, fever, etc. will keep on spreading from it. These diseases are affecting humans also. If it touches our eyes, it effects significant damage to our eyes. If it is cut manually then itching wont let the person sleep whole night. I through you, appeal the Government that a campaign should be launched all over the country to prevent it's growth. It is found in abundance in my constituency region of Gwalior-Chambal. This grass is found in plenty in and around canals, farms and ponds etc. It also damages our crops and the fertility of the land is also reduced.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You have raised a very good question.

SHRI ASHOK ARGAL: Sir, one plant of this grass generates 25000 more plants in one year; thus it is a

serious problem. Be it the Ministry of Environment or the Ministry of Agriculture whoever handles this kind of problem must look into it. I just request the Government to interfere and make efforts to destroy its growth and spread.

*[English]*

SHRIMATI SANGEETA KUMARI SINGH DEO (Bolangir): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to raise a matter pertaining to the upgradation of the Crew Training Institute at Chandbali in Orissa. The State Government have a Training Institute at Chandbali for launch drivers, serangs, masters, etc. This is the only Institute of its kind in the whole of the Eastern region. It imparts education not only to students from Orissa but also to students from other States.

The Government of Orissa have submitted a proposal under the Centrally-Sponsored Scheme to the Inland Waterways Authority of India under the Ministry of Shipping, Government of India for upgradation of the Crew Training Institute at an estimated cost of Rs. 371 lakh for approval.

I request the Government to take early action in the matter.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The House now stands adjourned till 11.00 tomorrow.

18.32 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the  
Clock on Friday, December 1, 2006/  
Agrahayana 10, 1928 (Saka).*



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