

# LOK SABHA DEBATES

## (English Version)

**Tenth Session**  
**(Fourteenth Lok Sabha)**



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# LOK SABHA DEBATES

## LOK SABHA

Friday, May 4, 2007/Vaisakha 14, 1929 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock.

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

[English]

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: This is Question Hour. Why can you not wait for 58 or 59 minutes?

Q. 421—Shri M. Anjan Kumar Yadav—not present.  
Shri Kashiram Rana.

## ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[Translation]

### Housing Finance Companies

\*421. SHRI KASHIRAM RANA:  
SHRI M. ANJAN KUMAR YADAV:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether several Housing Finance Companies with doubtful credibility are operating in the country and are defrauding the people;

(b) if so, the facts thereof;

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

(d) if so, the outcome thereof and the action taken against such companies?

[English]

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (d) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

## Statement

At present there are 42 registered Housing Finance Companies (HFCs). These are regulated by the National Housing Bank (NHB). The NHB has not received any depositor's complaint against any of the 42 HFCs registered with it. However, in the recent past the NHB has come across one instance of an HFC which has indulged in fraudulent activities. The Certificate of Registration (COR) of the HFC has been cancelled and criminal proceedings have been initiated by the NHB. NHB has also come across instances of a few unregistered HFCs carrying on the business of housing finance. On receiving such information, NHB has proceeded against these companies under the NHB Act and has also filed winding up petitions in the various High Courts.

SHRI KASHIRAM RANA: There is hike in prices of land and real estate and there is no permanent interest policy or formula for home loan of the Government or the RBI. It has become very difficult for poor and middleclass people to make their own homes. Such a situation is prevailing now a days. Housing finance corporations are misusing this situation. These companies are tempting the needy, poor and middleclass people to get more and more money. I would like to quote an example. In yesterday's newspaper, a real estate company, through an advertisement, has given a promise that if anybody's wants to buy a flat in Dubai, they would get a departmental visa. Such types of temptations are being made. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: That is for Dubai property, not here.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI KASHIRAM RANA: It is concerned with the housing finance corporation. But the situation is definitely grave. Hon. Minister has also confessed that such type of incidents have taken place. One instance of HFC is given, which has indulged in fraudulent activities. Moreover, the RBI is looking into the growing incidents of fraud and it has also constituted a group, which has submitted the report to the RBI. The report was circulated among the banks but effective implementation has not taken place. In such a situation and circumstances, I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to what steps are being taken to stop or check these bogus housing finance corporations keeping in view the interests of the needy people who have lost their money.



**SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM:** This question concerns Housing Finance Companies (HFCs) which are defrauding the people and I have answered that. We have not received any depositors' complaints against any of the 42 Housing Finance Companies which are registered with NHB. If there is a bogus company which is not registered under Section 29(A) with NHB, and which is defrauding the public, that is a matter for the police of that State to take action under the criminal law of that State. The NHB is a refinancing bank and it deals with housing companies which are registered with NHB but the ordinary law of the land, especially the criminal law must be invoked by the State Government and the State police.

**SHRI KASHIRAM RANA:** The answer given by the hon. Minister also confesses that NHB have also come across incidents of few unregistered HFCs.

**MR. SPEAKER:** That is what he said.

**SHRI KASHIRAM RANA:** What is the role of the Government of India and the RBI in this?

**MR. SPEAKER:** It is for the State Government to look into it.

**SHRI KASHIRAM RANA:** After all the RBI announces interest policy regarding home loans and it sometimes increases the interest rates and sometimes decreases.

**MR. SPEAKER:** You can make this point in the new Committee on the Centre-State affairs.

**SHRI KASHIRAM RANA:** Some steps must be taken. Otherwise, poor and middleclass people would continue to be looted by the bogus HFCs.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Shri Rana, those who are investing in these companies, they should be little careful. Their precious money should not be wasted like this.

**SHRI KASHIRAM RANA:** As a layman, I feel I am helpless. So, I would request that protection should be given to them.

**SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM:** There is no point in trying to shift the responsibility to the Government of India. Criminal law of the country is administered by the State Government. In fact, when an attempt is made to discuss any law and order problem or crime in a State, immediately, the Members rightly stand up and say, this

is a State subject and this is under the State Government. Now, the Law Minister is here, and he can bear me out.

The point is, the RBI is a regulator. So far as the RBI regulates an entity, it will deal with the entity to the extent of regulation. The NHB is a refinancing bank. 42 HFCs are registered with NHB. If there is any of the 42, which are defrauding the people or doing anything in violation of the Act, we will act. We have given you an example of one case where we have acted. But somebody who is not registered with the NHB, and who is not regulated, cheats the people, that is a simple case of cheating under the criminal law and the criminal law must be enforced. The State Government and the State Home Department and the State police must prosecute that person for violating the criminal law of the land. *...(Interruptions)*

**SHRI KASHIRAM RANA:** In this case, the Government can instruct the RBI or the State Government that such type of incidents are growing and they must be stopped.

**MR. SPEAKER:** It is a suggestion for action.

*[Translation]*

**SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, 42 registered Finance companies are operating through National Housing Bank and these companies sanction housing loans to the people in need. Sir, through you, I would like to know the number of SCs and STs who have been given loan through HFC. The rate of interest should be comparatively low in the case of SCs and STs, is there any provision in this regard.

*[English]*

**MR. SPEAKER:** This is a policy decision.

**SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM:** I cannot give the number of people who have got housing loans. This question does not deal with the number of people who have got housing loans. But I can tell you that interest rates have varied from time to time depending upon the prevailing RBI bank rate and the monetary conditions. For example, let us look at SBI's home loan rate on a floating basis, which is a benchmark rate. In 1998-99, it was 14 per cent; in 1999-2000, it was 14.5 per cent. After that, it declined to 13 per cent, 11 per cent and it further declined to 8.25 per cent. Now, it has risen again to 11.5 per

cent. So, over the last 10 years, the SBI's home loan rate given on a floating basis has been between 14 and 11.5 per cent.

MR. SPEAKER: Q. 422—Shri Sukhdev Singh Dhindsa—Not present.

Shri A.Sai Prathap—Not present.

#### Implementation of SJSR Yojana in States

+  
\*423. SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL:  
SHRI SUGRIB SINGH:

Will the Minister of HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether some States are comparatively slow in implementing the Swarna Jayanti Shahari Rozgar (SJSR) Yojana in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Union Government has identified the main causes for it;

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

(e) the remedial measures taken by the Government to speed up the implementation of Yojana in these States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION (KUMARI SELJA): (a) to (e) A Statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

#### *Statement*

(a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The pace of implementation of the Scheme of Swarna Jayanti Shahari Rozgar Yojana (SJSRY), being implemented in the country since 1.12.1997, has varied between State to State. Statements showing State-wise physical and financial progress of the Scheme, on the basis of Quarterly Progress Reports (QPRs) received from the States/Union Territories, are given at Annexure-I and Annexure-II.

(c) and (d) The causes for slow progress of the Scheme in some States/Union Territories are manifold. Some of the major reasons are as under:

- (i) The Budget allocation of the Scheme being small, there is a lack of enthusiasm among the States/Union Territories in the implementation of the Scheme.
  - (ii) Lack of a holistic approach in the scheme to address the other needs of the urban poor such as shelter and basic amenities in addition to the income generation needs.
  - (iii) Lack of authentic Below Poverty Line and Livelihood Needs Assessment data related to urban poor.
  - (iv) Banks not coming forward to provide loan assistance to the urban poor in setting up micro-enterprises under the Scheme.
  - (v) Lack of adequate capacity building of functionaries at the local level implementing the Scheme.
- (e) The various steps taken by the Government to make the Scheme more effective are as under:
- (i) The Central allocation for the Scheme of Swarna Jayanti Shahari Rozgar Yojana (SJSRY) has been significantly enhanced in recent years from Rs.160 crore in 2005-2006 to Rs.250 crore in 2006-2007 and further to Rs.344 crore in 2007-2008.
  - (ii) The Basic Services to the Urban Poor (BSUP) and Integrated Housing & Slum Development Programme (IHSDP), launched on 3rd December 2005, as components under the Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM), addressed to the shelter and basic amenities needs of the urban poor so as to complement efforts under SJSRY.
  - (iii) Funds have been released to State Governments under Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM) to conduct slum, below poverty line and livelihood profile surveys in cities/towns in the country so as to have an authentic data base.
  - (iv) The cases of non-cooperation of Banks have been taken up with Ministry of Finance/Reserve Bank of India at regular intervals.
  - (v) In order to enhance the capacity of Urban Local Bodies and other functionaries handling the urban poverty alleviation programmes a 'National Programme on Capacity Building' under Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM) has been launched.

**Annexure I**  
**Physical Progress (Cumulative) Under SJSRY**

Sl.No.	State/UTs	Community Structure (CS)						USEP				UWEP	
		No. of Towns under CS	No. of Town UPE Call formed	No. of Beneficiaries identified under CS (in lakhs)	No. of CDSs formed	No. of towns BPL Survey Conducted	No. of COs Appointed	No. of Beneficiaries assisted under USEP	No. of Persons Trained	No. of DWCUAs formed	No. of Women Beneficiaries under DWCUAs	No. of T&Cs formed	No. of Mandays Created (in lakhs)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
1.	Andhra Pradesh	117	117	34.94	145	117	36	90777	51097	16131	54380	74757	89.70
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	17	4	0.01	8	17	82	442	314	6	75	6	12.05
3.	Assam	87	87	0.90	87	87	7	7218	8864	120	225	200	8.32
4.	Bihar	122	122	12.02	122	122	122	15429	4860	2120	19245	0	28.15
5.	Chhattisgarh	110	75	3.82	90	75	55	10088	9474	448	1142	6590	4.77
6.	Goa	13	0	1.57	13	13	9	480	996	4	30	1	1.41
7.	Gujarat	148	117	14.00	192	149	251	35734	50883	7203	194	1968	23.13
8.	Haryana	68	68	9.41	265	68	0	17192	25635	396	3832	891	3.40
9.	Himachal Pradesh	49	49	0.14	49	49	13	1649	3882	54	397	31	6.11
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	70	5	0.09	3	25	98	11384	20657	135	304	49	1.67
11.	Jharkhand	0	0	0.00	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00
12.	Karnataka	215	216	9.00	226	215	282	60562	128363	1661	12520	13552	73.46
13.	Kerala	58	58	10.26	59	58	115	18291	40562	1796	16469	8632	2.91
14.	Madhya Pradesh	337	337	30.30	512	337	236	99626	105561	3529	9851	14797	29.46
15.	Maharashtra	247	237	14.44	868	245	189	74803	158825	5454	31538	22312	36.92
16.	Manipur	28	28	4.60	32	28	32	0	2506	96	0	88	6.00
17.	Meghalaya	6	6	0.44	5	6	6	1710	1345	11	1	0	1.83
18.	Mizoram	22	3	0.55	3	3	10	180	5369	337	0	30	15.38
19.	Nagaland	11	8	1.45	11	11	14	812	2303	179	2982	0	2.27
20.	Orissa	103	103	9.40	0	103	70	27180	21251	1824	13083	2144	23.85
21.	Punjab	133	131	10.57	177	133	0	8566	14061	48	220	106	5.09
22.	Rajasthan	183	0	23.51	0	183	0	47014	22774	304	1027	452	23.47
23.	Sikkim	46	1	0.00	0	46	4	479	1487	12	0	200	3.71
24.	Tamil Nadu	719	719	40.06	763	719	263	28976	37974	6342	14353	16555	84.84

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
25.	Tripura	13	13	0.49	13	13	16	4270	12262	109	1840	170	5.37
26.	Uttaranchal	63	50	0.04	71	63	0	812	1414	2	20	23	0.07
27.	Uttar Pradesh	624	624	58.23	1251	623	0	130592	122638	3363	9732	8443	71.79
28.	West Bengal	126	126	58.20	305	126	233	19686	77900	319	1404	19694	36.39
29.	A & N Islands	1	1	0.01	1	1	1	47	0	10	0	4	5.55
30.	Chandigarh	1	1	0.21	8	1	3	252	3154	7	23	34	0.00
31.	D & N Haveli	2	0	0.00	0	2	0	67	219	5	0	0	0.94
32.	Daman & Diu	2	2	0.04	1	2	1	68	0	0	0	0	0.04
33.	Delhi	9	1	12.23	198	0	0	1124	2570	47	58	56	0.00
34.	Pondicherry	5	1	1.81	7	5	11	1748	9743	362	3089	1070	4.09
Total		3755	3310	337.40	5485	3645	2159	716218	948943	52434	197834	192855	612.14

**Annexure II***State Wise Financial Progress Under SJSRY*

(Rs. in Lakhs)

Sl.No.	States/UTs	Opening Balance (as on 1.12.97)			Total Fund Released (1997-2007)			Total Fund Available			Total Expenditure Reported			Unspent Fund			% of Expendi- ture
		Central	State	Total	Central	State	Total	Central	State	Total	Central	State	Total	Central	State	Total	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1178.50	3507.58	4686.06	12583.43	7610.37	20193.80	13761.93	11117.93	24879.86	9764.18	9675.84	19640.02	3997.75	1242.09	5239.84	78.94
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	304.93	198.11	504.04	266.86	73.39	340.25	571.79	272.50	844.29	515.32	250.62	765.94	56.47	21.88	78.35	90.72
3.	Assam	792.63	292.16	1084.79	2231.17	1124.72	3355.89	3023.80	1416.88	4440.68	2612.16	226.97	2841.13	411.64	1187.91	1599.55	63.98
4.	Bihar	648.83	2438.90	3085.73	3338.27	689.26	4025.53	3685.10	3126.16	7111.26	2716.61	2510.01	5226.62	1268.49	616.15	1884.64	73.50
5.	Chhattisgarh	0.00	0.00	0.00	2240.63	589.84	2830.47	2240.63	589.84	2830.47	1202.24	389.13	1601.37	1038.39	190.71	1229.10	56.58
6.	Goa	138.84	83.06	221.90	84.06	35.53	119.59	222.80	118.59	341.49	150.89	75.79	226.48	72.21	42.80	115.01	66.32
7.	Gujarat	1685.26	594.67	2279.93	5551.17	1899.08	7450.25	7236.43	2493.75	9730.18	5278.83	2159.92	7438.75	1957.60	333.83	2291.43	76.45
8.	Haryana	293.79	170.97	464.76	3309.03	941.06	4250.09	3602.82	1112.03	4714.85	2959.41	1059.51	4018.92	643.41	52.52	695.93	85.24
9.	Himachal Pradesh	257.09	440.94	698.03	430.08	191.51	621.59	687.17	632.45	1319.62	653.42	622.74	1276.16	33.75	9.71	43.46	96.71
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	490.81	448.60	939.21	1351.78	1153.18	2504.94	1842.37	1601.78	3444.15	983.93	1520.13	2504.06	858.44	81.65	946.091	72.70
11.	Jharkhand	287.11	1197.36	1424.47	788.37	98.34	886.71	1075.48	1235.70	2311.18	0.00	0.00	0.00	1075.48	1235.70	2311.18	0.00

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
12.	Karnataka	2071.86	2816.89	4888.75	8405.07	2565.52	10970.59	10476.93	5382.41	15859.34	8891.80	4740.98	13632.88	1585.03	641.43	2226.46	85.86
13.	Kerala	353.75	589.95	863.70	4339.05	1496.58	5835.63	4692.80	2006.53	6699.33	3659.96	1747.52	5407.46	1032.84	258.01	1291.85	80.72
14.	Madhya Pradesh	1390.47	1863.48	3053.95	11886.62	3166.09	15052.71	13277.09	4829.57	18106.66	10005.96	4449.78	14545.74	3161.13	378.79	3660.92	80.32
15.	Maharashtra	3884.94	2715.67	6600.61	12940.10	3636.13	16876.23	16825.04	6851.80	23476.84	12826.43	4466.84	17383.27	3896.61	2184.96	6083.57	74.89
16.	Manipur	299.66	56.38	356.04	469.70	369.23	838.93	769.36	425.61	1194.97	759.64	419.12	1178.75	9.72	6.49	16.22	98.64
17.	Mizhameya	196.76	128.10	324.86	335.64	114.18	449.82	532.40	242.28	774.68	328.10	150.09	478.19	204.30	92.19	296.48	61.72
18.	Mizoram	53.67	36.91	90.58	2543.14	759.06	3302.20	2596.81	795.97	3392.78	2063.41	795.97	2859.38	533.40	0.00	533.40	84.28
19.	Nagaland	150.62	80.00	230.62	777.52	595.00	1372.52	928.14	675.00	1803.14	842.21	580.41	1422.61	85.93	94.60	180.53	88.74
20.	Orissa	422.55	693.79	1116.34	3122.84	919.79	4042.63	3545.39	1613.58	5158.97	2769.99	1580.99	4350.58	775.40	32.99	808.39	84.33
21.	Punjab	847.37	522.78	1370.15	648.60	365.04	1013.84	1495.97	867.82	2383.79	1360.58	647.53	2008.11	135.39	24.29	375.68	84.24
22.	Rajasthan	1328.56	1831.61	3160.17	3819.47	1141.78	4861.25	5148.03	2973.39	8121.42	3824.68	2268.93	6193.61	1223.35	704.46	1927.81	78.26
23.	Sikkim	37.80	68.36	106.16	347.65	112.41	480.06	385.45	180.77	566.22	375.07	171.07	546.14	10.38	9.70	20.08	96.45
24.	Tamil Nadu	3288.38	4246.27	7514.65	890.65	2530.98	11221.63	11959.03	6777.25	18736.28	9657.84	6382.16	16240.00	2101.19	335.10	2486.28	88.88
25.	Tripura	58.25	39.95	98.20	1529.06	550.11	2079.17	1587.31	590.06	2177.37	1409.88	478.57	1888.23	177.65	111.49	289.14	86.72
26.	Uttaranchal	0.00	0.00	0.00	756.86	220.94	977.80	756.86	220.94	977.80	200.45	66.82	267.27	556.41	154.12	10.53	27.33
27.	Uttar Pradesh	3112.79	4650.64	7763.43	21091.35	6102.71	27194.06	24204.14	10753.35	34957.49	20237.17	10228.20	30463.33	3867.01	527.15	484.16	87.14
28.	West Bengal	1035.93	1643.21	2679.14	6236.10	1724.44	7960.54	7272.03	3367.85	10639.68	6572.89	3179.79	9752.68	699.14	187.86	887.00	91.86
29.	A & N Islands	100.43	0.00	100.43	261.06	0.00	261.06	361.49	0.00	361.49	333.80	0.00	333.80	27.89	0.00	27.89	92.34
30.	Chandigarh	77.70	0.00	77.70	705.50	0.00	705.50	783.20	0.00	783.20	281.38	0.00	281.38	501.82	0.00	501.82	35.93
31.	D & N Haveli	81.34	0.00	81.34	287.77	0.00	287.77	369.11	0.00	369.11	305.56	0.00	305.56	63.55	0.00	63.55	82.79
32.	Daman & Diu	81.85	0.00	81.85	161.63	0.00	161.63	243.28	0.00	243.28	42.10	0.00	42.10	201.18	0.00	201.18	17.21
33.	Delhi	154.83	107.70	282.53	275.31	339.89	615.20	430.14	447.59	877.73	154.58	309.85	464.42	275.56	137.74	413.30	52.91
34.	Pondicherry	85.83	173.30	259.13	950.65	194.11	1144.76	1036.48	367.41	1403.86	978.60	341.05	1319.86	57.88	26.36	84.24	94.00
TOTAL		25172.73	31296.32	56469.05	122754.17	41610.28	164364.45	147926.90	72906.59	228833.49	115208.70	61705.92	178914.82	3271.820	11200.88	43918.87	80.11

*[Translation]*

SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, Swarn Jayanti Shahari Rozgar Yojna is a beneficial scheme for economically backward sections of the society. The scheme is going to complete approx. 10 years. I would like to know from the hon'ble Minister the total number of beneficiaries of this so far. What is the reason for less number of people benefited by this scheme? To

what extent the scheme has been successful in achieving its target during the past 10 years?

*[English]*

KUMARI SELJA: In the main Answer, I have given the progress of the scheme, the beneficiaries as well as the financial and physical progresses. All of that is given in the Annexure.

In response to the second part of his question about the success of this scheme, I must admit that while the scheme has been fairly successful, keeping in view the rapid urbanization in our country, the number of people who are poor and are staying in the cities and towns has gone up. So, as far as this scheme or any other scheme is concerned, I do not think that at any point of time we can say that everything is achieved. There is always scope for improvement and even as far as this scheme of SJSRY is concerned, we have gone in for evaluation and we will be devising the guidelines to make it even more successful in the future.

*[Translation]*

SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to know from the hon'ble Minister whether the Swarn Jayanti Shahari Rozgar Yojna has failed to achieve the target due to lack of co-ordination between Centre and State Governments? If so, whether the Gujarat Government did not send utilization certificate in respect of this scheme in time to the Central Government for the past some years? Hon'ble Minister may kindly furnish the details.

KUMARI SELJA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is true that Gujarat is one of the states which have failed to submit utilization certificate to Central Government in time. A substantial amount is lying unutilized with the States. Gujarat is one of them. We had convened a meeting of such States last year asking them to send the utilization certificate immediately so that the work could progress further. Several States have sent this certificate.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Sugrib Singh—Not present.

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to know from the hon'ble Minister the reason for the slow progress of the scheme in Rajasthan though the State Government has sent the utilization certificate. If the hindrance is on the part of the Central Government, by when these hindrances will be removed so that we could achieve full benefit from this scheme.

KUMARI SELJA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, there is nothing pending in the Central Government. Sometimes, the State Government's fail to spend the entire allocation. I have placed its details before the House. Out of which I tell you specifically about Rajasthan. Rajasthan has spent 76% of the allocated amount.

*[English]*

In Rajasthan, there is ample scope for improvement and we shall urge the State Government to make this scheme a success.

PROF. BASUDEB BARMAN: I want to know from the hon. Minister about the steps that are initiated or that are planned to be initiated to address the needs of the urban poor regarding shelter and other basic amenities, in addition to their income generation needs under SJSRY.

KUMARI SELJA: I have not understood the question. Would the hon. Member kindly repeat the question please?

MR. SPEAKER: He wants to know the other steps that are being taken to improve the condition of the urban poor?

I feel that the Finance Minister will be the proper Minister to reply. But you need not now reply.

SHRIMATI C.S. SUJATHA: I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the Government is willing to set apart more funds for skill development of the educated unemployed so that they can get new job opportunities and whether the Government would encourage Kudumbshree in Kerala which is doing a good work under SJSRY with special support?

KUMARI SELJA: Kudumbshree is one of the very successful schemes of Kerala. In fact, we have shared this scheme in different fora. We have shared it with other States also so that they can pick up the good elements of the scheme. Hon. Finance Minister is here; we are very grateful to him he has given us larger sum this year under SJSRY. He has given us Rs.344 crore. We are grateful to him. We shall try to make this scheme a success.

SHRI SACHIN PILOT: Of all the challenges that our nation faces today, unemployment is certainly one of the biggest. Even though the Finance Minister has enhanced the funds from Rs.250 crore to Rs.344 crore, in my view, it is very paltry, compared to the crores of unemployed youths that we have, especially in the urban areas.

In the answer that the Ministry had provided, it says that the budgetary allocation is small, there is lack of

holistic approach and there is no authentic BPL demarcation, the banks are not coming forward, there is lack of capacity building, etc. This being such an important scheme, the Ministry and the Minister ought to incentivise the banks. Unless the banks come forward with easy schemes and easy terms for the young people to take loans and start their own micro businesses we will not be able to achieve the full target of the scheme.

*[Translation]*

Firstly Rs. 344 crore is a very small amount. Please go through the figures, hon'ble Bhargawaji has raised this point. In Rajasthan the number of towns is 183, cell formed zero, BPL survey service conducted 183 and appointment of COs is zero. 25% fund is lying unutilized in Rajasthan. I think the Government should take action in the States which have failed to implement such a good scheme and could not utilize the allocated amount. Government should keep a check on it and the State should be held accountable for not utilizing the funds. Hon'ble Minister may please state in this regard.

KUMARI SELJA: Sir, I have already stated that there are some States where there is ample scope for improvement. He has mentioned about Rajasthan. I have already stated about Rajasthan. There are some other States besides Rajasthan. We are taking up this matter with them convincing them that it is a very good scheme. Lakhs of unemployed people who are reeling under poverty in urban areas should avail the benefit from this scheme. So far as banks are concerned, there is a need to sensitize the bankers. We have seen that the institutional framework of the banks is not strong enough that they could help the people in getting loans. We have identified one more lacunae which can be removed with the help of State Governments, District associations, institutions and State level committees. They help in providing loans by talking to bankers. However, such types of bodies are not there in urban areas. While revising the guidelines, we would like to suggest to set up city level committees also which could coordinate with financial institutions provide loans to the people, be it group of women, unemployed youth and other people. The biggest problem at present is that the bankers are not supportive in providing loans and a lot of difficulties are being faced. Hon'ble Finance Minister is present here, I would like to have his cooperation that he should instruct the bankers to be sensitive towards poor.

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: I think all of us should join you in your efforts.

*[Translation]*

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is a very good scheme for the people living below the poverty line. The hon'ble Minister in her reply has stated that the scheme has failed to achieve hundred per cent success because banks are not cooperating. This is true. Even if one member of a family becomes defaulter, the bank denies loan to other members of that family. Similarly, if the number of defaulters from a particular area increased and they are unable to repay their loans due to some reasons, the bank denies loans to the people of that entire area. Therefore, banks should change their attitude. It is an individual scheme but banks deny loan to an individual beneficiary. The hon'ble Minister has herself admitted it. Therefore, the Government should pay attention towards it and take stringent action in this regard. I would like to know the steps that are being taken by the Government in this regard?

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: Today, you are little comforted that the Finance Minister is here.

KUMARI SELJA: Yes, Sir. I am glad that the whole House is agreeing with this and I hope the Finance Minister also agrees to it.

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): May I say a few words?

MR. SPEAKER: That is why I am trying to egg you.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Nobody is saying that there are no errors, no aberrations or no mistakes. Let me give you an example. The Government of Tamil Nadu called a meeting of the SLBC, State Level Bankers Committee, Chaired by the Finance Minister of that State and invited me to that meeting. So, we had a meeting. Under each one of these schemes, which my honourable colleague has mentioned, we set targets for loans which are administered by the various Ministries and time lines. I have got a report last week saying for the year 2006-07 every single target set for Tamil Nadu will be exceeded by the banks.

I visited Bihar. Nitish Kumar ji held an SLBC meeting and there has been some progress. Chief Ministers of States must attend these SLBC meetings at least once a year. The Finance Ministers of the States must attend these meetings at least twice a year. If they are good enough, they should invite one of us to attend one of those meetings. We can then talk to the SLBC, set time lines to see that the ratio of achievement goes if not hundred per cent at least to 85 or 90 per cent. I make this offer to all Chief Ministers. Please preside over the meetings, spend three-four hours with the bankers, invite one of us—either I or one of my colleagues will go - we will then impress upon the banks to improve their target. In Tamil Nadu the report I got, I cursorily looked at the report, every single annual target for the last year will be achieved.

MR. SPEAKER: I think it is a good suggestion.

SHRI KIREN RIJU: The hon. Minister has mentioned here in the reply also but I wanted to know specifically as Jawahar Lal Nehru Urban Renewal Mission is also related to the subject. Is there any kind of interloping of these two programmes. And, how do you identify the towns because towns in plain areas are larger in population than the towns in the hill areas because of the geographical limitations. How do you fix criteria for particular town to take the benefit of this particular scheme?

KUMARI SELJA: It will be the State Governments' responsibility because they will notify the towns or the municipalities and then they can take advantage. It is up to the State Government.

[*Translation*]

MD. SALIM: Mr. Speaker, Sir, rest of the things have been discussd.

[*English*]

I agree with what the Finance Minister has said. As the Chairman of the Standing Committee on Urban Development I have also monitored the progress of this scheme. I found, Sir, in Tamil Nadu the best thing is that the Reserve Bank has issued a guideline for such schemes fixing 45 days from the date of receiving the application to disbursement of loan so that de-motivation factor does not work. So, can the Minister help the whole country by issuing similar guidelines from the bank that—for self-employment project, under SJSRY or similar other projects—45 days is the stipulated time from the

date of receiving the application to the disbursement so that people will know as to whether they are going to get it or not.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Sir, RBI guidelines apply to the whole country. From what I gather from your question, the SLBC convener bank in Tamil Nadu has ensured that the guideline is observed. What we did was, we set up a centre to receive the applications and made sure all banks came there to dispose of the applications. This can be replicated in other States. But I would again urge that the State Chief Ministers and the State Finance Ministers must take interest and preside over these meetings so that these time lines can be laid down.

MR. SPEAKER: I think, I have not converted the Finance Minister into the Minister for Housing. But this is a good example of cooperative functioning.

[*Translation*]

#### Inflation Rate

\*424. † SHRI CHANDRA MANI TRIPATHI:  
SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether inflation continued to remain at a high rate of around 6.5% for the last few months;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor along-with the weekly variations during 2007 so far;

(c) whether the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has taken certain monetary measures to check the prevailing inflation in the country;

(d) if so, the impact thereof;

(e) whether the Asian Development Bank (ADB) has reported that the rise in the interest rate has moderate impact on inflation;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) the other steps taken/being taken by the Government to check the inflation rate?

[*English*]

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (g) A statement is placed on the Table of the House.



**Statement**

(a) and (b) The WPI-based year-on-year inflation for the period from January 6, 2007 to April 14, 2007 is as indicated in Table 1 below:

*Table-1: WPI based weekly rate of inflation (%)*

Week-end date	Inflation (%)	Week-end date	Inflation (%)
06-Jan-07	6.37	03-Mar-07	6.46
13-Jan-07	6.15	10-Mar-07	6.46
20-Jan-07	6.31	17-Mar-07	6.46
27-Jan-07	6.69	24-Mar-07	6.39
03-Feb-07	6.58	31-Mar-07	5.74
10-Feb-07	6.52	07-Apr-07	6.09
17-Feb-07	6.05	14-Apr-07	6.09
24-Feb-07	6.10	Provisional from Feb 24-Apr 14, 2007	

Demand-supply gap for some agricultural commodities like wheat, pulses and edible oils, hardening international prices of various commodities, rapid rise in credit and buoyant inflow of foreign currency reserves reflecting positive investor sentiments and a high growth momentum of the economy have been the major reasons for inflation.

(c) RBI has increased the Cash Reserve Ratio (CRR), repo rate and reverse repo rate several times in the recent past to control inflationary pressure in the economy.

(d) The steps taken by RBI, along with other measures taken by Government, are likely to moderate the inflation rate in the near future.

(e) and (f) The Asian Development Bank(ADB), in its Report on Asian Development Outlook, 2007, has stated that in India rising interest rates, coupled with fiscal discipline, will have restraining effect on demand growth from home buyers, manufacturing investors and consumers. It is projected by ADB that during the financial year 2007 and 2008, WPI-based inflation rate will soften and then remain steady at 5.0 per cent and aggregate growth during financial year 2007 will be at 8.0 per cent.

(g) Other recent steps taken by Government to control inflation include:

- Reduction in retail prices of petrol by Rs. 2 per litre and diesel by Rs. 1 per litre in November 2006 and again in February 2007.
- State Trading Corporation contracting for import of 55 lakh tonnes of wheat to supplement domestic availability
- As against normal applicable duty of 50 per cent, allowing private trade to import wheat at 5 per cent duty from June 28, 2006, and at zero duty from September 9, 2006.
- Decision to release up to 4 lakh tonnes of wheat under Open Market Sale Scheme in February and March 2007.
- Ban on export of pulses from June 22, 2006 and of wheat and SMP from February 9, 2007.
- Reduction in customs duty on import of pulses to zero on June 8, 2006.
- Import of pulses by NAFED, STC and PEC to augment domestic availability.
- Ban on futures trading in tur and urad from January 24, 2007, and in wheat and rice from February 28, 2007.

- Reduction in import duty on palm group of oils by 10 percentage points in August 2006 and by a further 10-12.5 percentage points in January 2007. Maintaining tariff value for assessing import duty unchanged at July 2006 level.
- In the Budget 2007-08, crude as well as refined edible oils have been exempted from additional countervailing duty of 4 per cent. Duty on sunflower oil, both crude and refined, has been reduced by 15 per cent. A further 10 per cent cut in basic customs duty on palm group of oils was notified in April, 2007.

*[Translation]*

SHRI CHANDRA MANI TRIPATHI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, rising prices have been continuously discussed in this House for the last two sessions. Probably another discussion is being held on 15th again.

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: Yesterday, there was a full discussion.

*[Translation]*

SHRI CHANDRA MANI TRIPATHI: Sir, I am coming to the question. Each time, the Government says that we are taking measures to bring down the prices. But I would like to say that prices are rising continuously. Hon. Minister has accepted while replying to my first question that inflation rate has been around 6.5%. I would like to know from the Hon. Minister which is the correct basis for calculating inflation is it whole sale prices index or consumer prices index. If the consumer price index is the basis of calculating inflation, I would like to know from the Hon. Minister, through you, the extent of price rise during the last three years and the real picture of it.

*[English]*

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Sir, only yesterday in my reply to the discussion on the Finance Bill, I spent several minutes explaining causes for the current inflation and the steps that the Government has taken. By convention, inflation is measured on a WPI basis. When we compare this year's inflation with the last year or with the inflation six years ago, the comparator is always the WP based inflation and that is why, we have given the WPI member in the answer. It is not as though, we do not have the

figures for CPI based inflation. Those figures are available. The basket that goes into constructing the CPI is different from the basket that goes into constructing the WPI. But every Government has, for the purpose of discussion, taken WPI as the correct basis for calculating inflation.

*[Translation]*

SHRI CHANDRA MANI TRIPATHI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the main reason of price rise is the imbalance between demand and supply of agricultural commodities like wheat, pulses, edible oil, as stated by the hon. Minister. The Government is making efforts to increase the supply by adopting monetary measures and short-term measures of importing wheat, pulses and edible oil, but there is no long-term plan of Government to increase the supply of agricultural commodities. Is there any such scheme? Will the Government wait for the crisis and then try to solve it or do something to pre-empt it?

*[English]*

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Sir, measures to contain inflation are both long term measures and short term measures. For example, in fiscal measures if you cut customs duty and if you cut excise duty, the impact is more or less immediate. Monetary measures taken by the Reserve Bank of India will take some time to filter through the system. For example, all economists and analysts are agreed that the monetary measures taken in 1994-95 had an effect on the system after a few months and maybe after a year. For example, in 2000-01, as I said before, inflation reached the peak. In fact, it was over 8 per cent for 12 weeks and it was over 6 per cent for 48 weeks. Memories are short but records do not lie.

That inflation was moderated in a period of six months to a year thereafter. Monetary measures will take time to have an effect. They are already having an effect. They will have an effect. Yesterday I gave to this House the figures of monetary measures. The Reserve Bank of India has increased the CRR in six steps from 5 to 6.5 per cent. The Reserve Bank of India has also taken action on the demand side by increasing the risk weight for lending to certain sectors. They are having an effect. The demand growth is being moderated and the credit growth also is being moderated. The third limb of anti-inflationary measure is the supply side measures—augmenting the supply of wheat, paddy, pulses and oilseeds.

About ten days ago the hon. Minister for Agriculture, while replying to the debate on the Demands for Grants of his Ministry, explained the steps the Ministry of Agriculture and Food and Consumer Affairs is taking to moderate inflation by taking long-term supply side measures. We are fully supportive of those measures. We need to increase the production of wheat, paddy and pulses. Consumption is rising. The NSSO survey shows that consumption of foodgrains, pulses and oilseeds are rising. We have to increase the supply side. In the short-term, of course, we can import. But the only durable answer, as I said yesterday, is to increase production and availability of wheat, paddy, oilseeds and pulses that the people of this country require. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Sorry, it cannot be a debate. Don't answer.

*...(Interruptions)*

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: The hon. Minister is extremely optimistic and he believes more in statistics on the basis of the WPI than the hard realities that you obtain from the market price. Consumers do not buy at WPI prices. Consumers buy at retail prices. There is always a gap between retail prices and the wholesale prices. If the retail price is taken into consideration, it is not an academic issue, what is the rise? What is the inflation? It is a fact of life. It is not an academic question.

MR. SPEAKER: This is Question Hour. What is your question?

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: Calculation is based on WPI and if the market price is quite different to what is being said in the Parliament, then we are led to believe that the Government does not want to confront itself with the realities of life. The Reserve Bank of India had been speaking of stability of price from January. Four months since then are over. But there has been little or no moderation of price of essential goods. In view of the failure of the Government to moderate prices, may I ask the hon. Minister, what additional steps the Government would like to take including considering the question of de-hoarding and enforcement of Essential Commodities Act and also calling a meeting of the Chief Ministers to have a collective strategy to tackle the problem?

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Sir, I did not say that WPI is the level of price at which consumers buy. I said when we discuss inflation, WPI is taken as a comparator for

looking at inflation today and inflation a year ago, or six years ago or five years ago. Ordinary people, of course, buy essential commodities, especially food articles at prices which are prevailing in the retail market and those prices have hardened in the last seven to eight months, maybe, a year. It started with sugar. Last year, sugarcane production was low but now sugar prices have moderated by Rs. 3 to Rs. 4 per kilogram. In fact, the sugarcane producers are now complaining that their sugarcane is not being lifted by the sugar factories because sugar prices are low. I said it yesterday and went to wheat. Last year we imported 55 lakh tonnes of wheat. We procured only 92 lakh tonnes of wheat. This year the Ministry of Agriculture has said that wheat production is higher than last year. We hope that we will be able to procure more than last year. With higher production and higher procurement we expect wheat prices to moderate. In regard to pulses and oilseeds, we are a deficit country. We have imported pulses for many years now. It is nothing new. Pulses of Indian seeds are grown only in Myanmar, some in Australia and some in Turkey. Chickpeas are grown in Canada. We are importing pulses and we have announced import of pulses this year too. The consumer is indeed affected by the rise in prices of pulses and oilseeds and I have said that we have taken steps to augment supply.

Now, the RBI's measures are monetary measures and any analyst will tell you that monetary measures do not have an impact on the retail prices of essential food articles. That can only be moderated by increasing supply. Foodgrains and food articles are affected by supply and demand. Demand is high, there is a supply-demand mismatch and it can only be met by either maintaining domestic production or, in the interim, importing those goods. Both steps are being taken. The Minister for Agriculture has explained the steps to augment production as well as to import. Any step which the Ministry of Agriculture would like to take to augment the supply side has the full support of the Government.

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: What about dehoarding measures? *...(Interruptions)*

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: I am sorry that I have missed that point.

Sir, sometime ago, we gave the power back to the State Governments to promulgate orders on stockholding which was taken away or wrongly by the previous Governments. That power has been restored to the State

Governments. Without the prior consent of the Central Government, the State Governments have the power, under the Essential Commodities Act, to pass control orders especially on stock limits and take action. The Minister for Agriculture has written to the State Chief Ministers to take action especially on dehoarding. The last I heard on it—and I cannot confirm it—was about six or seven weeks ago. Only five State Chief Ministers have responded to the letter of the Ministry of Agriculture. The principal responsibility of carrying out dehoarding operations under the Essential Commodities Act lies with the State Governments and I shall certainly pass on this concern to the Minister for Agriculture and request him to impress upon all State Chief Ministers to please pass control order, impose stock limits and take dehoarding action against anyone who hoards stocks.

As far as calling a meeting of the Chief Ministers is concerned, that is the prerogative of the Minister for Agriculture and the Prime Minister and I shall certainly pass on your concern to them.

SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU: Sir, the reality is, if you go anywhere in the country and ask any person about the prices of commodities, he will respond as inflation. This is the total failure of the Government of India and also the State Governments. Since one year, the Government of India is taking all measures on the floor of the House and also outside. They are telling about the steps they have taken. But the ground reality is that the prices of essential commodities are not decreasing. According to me, we find hoarding everywhere. Instead of giving powers to the State Governments, why is the Government of India not amending the Essential Commodities Act at the Central level? Suppose we amend the Act here, then the law enforcing agencies will take action on the spot. If any Chief Minister is not interested in the matter, then who will bear the responsibility? So, I want to know whether the Government of India is willing to amend the Essential Commodities Act or not to control hoardings?

MR. SPEAKER: That is the liveliness of democracy.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Sir, there is no need to amend the Essential Commodities Act. The Essential Commodities Act confers powers to pass control orders. The grievance that was made sometime ago was that the power of the State Governments to pass control order

has been constricted by requiring them to get the prior approval of the Central Government. That has been changed. The power has been restored to the State Governments to pass control order without the prior approval of the Central Government in the matter of stockholding and dehoarding. So, the power is with the State Governments. Who will take dehoarding action? The machinery to take dehoarding action is with the State Civil Supplies Department and the State Police. How is it possible for the Central Government, in this vast country, to take dehoarding action in every town or city? The State Governments must take action and we will give whatever support we have to give but it is essentially for the State Governments to take action on dehoarding. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing should be recorded.

*...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: There cannot be different laws for different States.

SHRI K. FRANCIS GEORGE: The hon. Finance Minister has initiated a slew of measures to control inflation and to arrest inflation on the edible oil front too. That has been detailed in the answer.

On the crude and refined varieties of edible oils, additional duty of CVD of four per cent has been taken out. Through the Budget, 15 per cent import duty has been cut on the sunflower oil, crude and refined version. On the palm group of oils, since August 2006 to April 2007, the duty has been cut thrice. I need not say that this has a direct bearing on the price of coconut oil. The Southern States, especially the State of Kerala, are directly affected by these measures.

I do not contest the hon. Finance Minister's contention that this is to correct the demand-supply gap or the demand-supply mis-match.

Have you reached a stage on the supply side where you can re-impose these duties? Will the Government take measures to restrict these imports through the northern ports? Will the Government be prepared to avoid these imports through the southern ports of Cochin, Chennai and Tuticorin? There is not much of a difference between the price of coconut and other oils. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You are going much beyond the scope of this Question.

SHRI K. FRANCIS GEORGE: Will the hon. Minister take measures to avoid imports through the Southern States? Will it be possible, in the short term, to re-impose these duties by stages?

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Sir, today a variety of cooking oils like palm oil, coconut oil, mustard oil, sunflower oil and saffola oil, are being consumed by the people. I agree, in Kerala the principal oil that is consumed is coconut oil and the principal oil that is produced is coconut oil. But people from different parts of the country have settled in all parts of the country. There is really no regional preference these days. For example, Southern States are now demanding more wheat. A couple of years ago they were saying, "We do not want your wheat allocation, give us paddy." Now, they are demanding more wheat.

The point is, as the Central Government we have to keep the prices of edible oils under control. Now, palm oil, if I may say, is a neutral oil, which everybody uses. Palm oil prices have hardened because both Malaysia and Indonesia have found another use for palm oil, namely converting it into bio-fuel. Internationally, palm oil prices have hardened. In order to keep prices low, we have frozen the tariff value of palm oil. We have also cut the duties. These duty cuts are intended to keep the prices low. We are taking a huge hit on customs duty revenue. But it does not matter. The intention is to keep the prices low. If I re-impose the customs duty, then we are really defeating the purpose of keeping prices low.

Therefore, I would respectfully submit that until the price situation eases, there is no intention to re-impose the customs duty.

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir.

The hon. Finance Minister has mentioned about ten steps recently taken to monitor things. I feel only monitoring will not help. That is an important part. He mentioned about supply side. Because of his philosophy, he depends only on the supply in the open market. In our country, we had faced this problem by strengthening the Public Distribution System.

The consistent demolition of the Public Distribution System in our country is the main reason for rise in prices of the essential commodities.

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\*Not recorded.

In this context, will the Government consider strengthening the Public Distribution System and include pulses, etc. in the Public Distribution System? As they are less in supply, rich people will corner them. So, for equitable distribution, will pulses be included in the rationing system? Will they be distributed through the Public Distribution System in order to face the challenge of shortage of essential commodities?

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: With great respect, I do not agree with the criticism that we have destroyed the Public Distribution System. The Public Distribution System has been strengthened. Commodities, like wheat, paddy, kerosene and sugar are being supplied through the Public Distribution System. Whether the country is in a position to add more commodities to the Public Distribution System is a matter that has to be carefully considered. Whether we have enough pulses and enough edible oil for the open market, where most people buy, and for the Public Distribution System is a matter that has to be carefully considered by the Minister of Agriculture and the Minister of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution. I would respectfully request my hon. friend to put this question to that Ministry. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seat. Nothing will be recorded.

*...(Interruptions)\**

*[Translation]*

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Sir, we are discussing inflation and the price-rise on one thing cannot be called inflation. When the prices of all the commodities gradually start soaring, it affects villages more. There are some commodities which are under the direct control of the Government. The Government and the State Governments between themselves manage the supply system and also control it which is directly affecting the villages. Hon. Minister has mentioned Public Distribution system, I would like tell the Hon. Minister, through you, that mostly prices of edible items such as rice, pulses, wheat etc. but the kerosene oil is not available in the villages even if money is paid. Its prices are rising the most.

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: He cannot reply about it.

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\*Not recorded.

[*Translation*]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: I am saying this because he is the person who increases or decrease the amount of subsidy. I would like to submit that the demands of the State Governments are not being met and the supply is not being made as per their requirement. I would like to know from the Hon. Minister, through you, whether he would make arrangements to ensure supply particularly that of kerosene according to the demands of the States and whether he would stop regular curtailing in subsidy and make kerosene available in fair prices so that inflation could be contained.

MR. SPEAKER: You have given your speech, but what should he do?

[*English*]

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: I am not in a position now to answer whether kerosene is supplied to certain rural areas on the supply is denied. This question must be put to the Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas. But it is my impression that there is a system for distributing kerosene. A certain allocation is made to every State and that Government then has to decide. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

MR. SPEAKER: Please, sit down. You know the rule [*English*] Thank you very much for your kind cooperation. We have already taken up 48 minutes.

[*Translation*]

MR. SPEAKER: Question No. 425,

Shri Vijay Kumar Khandelwal—Not Present.

Shri Subhash Sureshchander Deshmukh.

#### **Power Projects**

+  
\*425. SHRI SUBHASH SURESHCHANDRA  
DESHMUKH:  
SHRI VIJAY KUMAR KHANDELWAL:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has received proposals from various State Governments for development of power projects during the last three years;

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

(c) the action taken by the Government to accord its approval along with the funds allocated for the purpose during the period, State-wise;

(d) the details of Central Sector Power Projects still pending for technical and environmental clearance; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to clear the projects expeditiously?

[*English*]

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE): (a) to (e) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

#### **Statement**

(a) to (c) With the enactment of the Electricity Act, 2003, the requirement of according Techno Economic Clearance by Central Electricity Authority (CEA) has been dispensed with for thermal generation. However, any generating company intending to set up a hydro generating station shall prepare and submit to the CEA for its concurrence, a scheme estimated to involve a capital expenditure exceeding such sum, as may be fixed by the Central Government from time to time.

In compliance with the Act, Central Government vide Notification dated 18.4.2006 has notified that the schemes for setting up hydro generating stations by any generating company involving an estimated capital expenditure exceeding the following sum shall be submitted for concurrence of CEA, namely:

(1) Rs. two thousand five hundred crores, provided that—

(i) the scheme is included in National Electricity Plan (NEP) as notified by the authority under sub section 4 of section 3 of the Act and the scheme conforms to the capacity and type (run of river/storage) as mentioned in the NEP; and

(ii) the site for setting up the hydro generating station has been allocated through the transparent process of bidding in accordance with the guidelines issued by the Central Government under Section 63 of the Act.

(2) Rupees five hundred crores for any other scheme not covered by clauses (i) and (ii) to para 1 above.

Planning Commission has delegated full powers to the State Governments for approval of power projects (hydro and thermal power generation) without any ceiling. However, clearance from Planning Commission is required in the case of those hydro electric projects where inter state issues are involved.

As far as Ministry of Power is concerned, during the last three years, 10 proposals were received from the States, by the CEA for according concurrence in respect of hydro power projects. Out of these, 3 projects have already been accorded concurrence of CEA. Two projects do not require the concurrence of CEA as their project costs are less than Rs. 500 crores. The proposals of five hydro projects have been returned to States for tying up of necessary inputs as the proposals were incomplete. The details are given at Annexure I.

Ministry of Power does not directly provide assistance for setting up of generation capacity in the State Sector. However, Power Finance Corporation (PFC) and Rural Electrification Corporation (REC) have been giving funds for state sector projects. The year-wise details of loans sanctioned by PFC and REC to State Generation Projects and joint venture projects during the last three years are as under:

(Rs. in crore)

Organization	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
PFC	7572	11839	19478
REC	1797.35	1862.55	7526.28
Total	9369.35	13701.55	27004.28

(d) According to information received from CEA, at present, only two Central Sector hydro electric projects i.e. National Hydro Electric Power Corporation's Vyasi HE

Project (120 MW) in Uttarakhand and North Eastern Electric Power Corporation Ltd.'s Pare HE Project (110 MW) in Arunachal Pradesh are pending for its concurrence.

According to information received from Ministry of Environment and Forests, three hydro electric projects and 5 thermal projects are pending for environment clearance in Ministry of Environment and Forests. The details along with status is given at Annexure II.

(e) For expeditious clearance of power projects:—

- The Electricity Act, 2003 has put in place a highly liberal framework for generation. There is no requirement of licensing for generation. The requirement of techno economic clearance of CEA for thermal generation projects is no longer there. For hydro electric generation also, the limit of capital expenditure, above which concurrence of CEA is required has been raised and the current requirement is specified in the notification issued in April, 2006 (referred to in parts (a) to (c) above).
- Planning Commission has delegated full powers to State Governments for approval of power projects without any ceiling except for the hydro electric projects where inter state issues are involved.
- Investment approval procedure in respect of Central Sector projects has been streamlined. A time limit of 24 weeks is stipulated for the investment appraisal and approval process, with a trigger mechanism at each stage to move to the next stage in a time bound manner. The requirement of pre-PIB (Public Investment Board) clearance has been dispensed with *inter-alia* for all Power Sector projects.
- Inter-ministerial coordination mechanism is in place with Ministry of Environment and Forests for expediting the clearances.

#### Annexure I

##### Hydro Power Proposals received from State Govts. during 2004-05 to 2006-07

Sl. No.	Name of Project (State)	Installed Capacity (MW)	Estimated Cost (Rs. Crs.) (Price Level)	Date of Receipt of DPR	Status
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Matnar (Chhattisgarh)	60	313.35 (03/04)	April, 2004	Cleared by CEA on 19.08.2004.
2.	Athirapally (Kerala)	163	385.63 (04/04)	September, 2004	Cleared by CEA on 31.03.2005.

1	2	3	4	5	6
3.	Dhukwan ( U.P.)	30	170.03 (12/03)	October, 2005	Detailed Project Report has been returned as the estimated project cost is less than Rs. 500 crores and the project does not require the concurrence of CEA.
4.	Dumugudam (Andhra Pradesh)	319.60	2740.23 (12/03)	February, 2005	Returned on 24.08.2006 for want of complete information.
5.	Lower Jurala (Andhra Pradesh)	240	885.08 (06/05)	July, 2006	Returned on 20.07.2006 for want of complete information.
6.	Koyna Left Bank Canal (Maharashtra)	80	245.02	March, 2006	DPR has been returned as the estimate is less than Rs. 500 crores and the project does not require the concurrence of CEA.
7.	Sawalikot (Jammu & Kashmir)	1200	7346.00 (05/06)	May, 2006	Proposal was returned on 23.11.2006 for want of complete information.
8.	Gundla (Karnataka)	400	1059.90 (06/06)	July, 2006	Returned on 11.08.2006 for want of complete information.
9.	Kundeh (Tamil Nadu)	500	1220.00 (05/06)	November, 2006	Returned on 17.11.2006 for want of complete information.
10.	Pala Maneri (Uttarakhand)	480	1922.80 (12/06)	December, 2006	Cleared by CEA on 23.02.2007.

**Annexure II***Status of Pending Power Projects*

Sl.No.	Name of the Project	Date of Receipt	Status
1	2	3	4
1.	Simhadri STPP, Stage-II (2x500 MW) at Vizag, Vishakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh by M/s NTPC Ltd.	23.02.2007	The proposal was considered by the Expert Appraisal Committee (EAC) in April, 2007 and additional information has been sought.
2.	3x500 MW Bongaigaon Thermal Power Station at Bongaigaon, District Kokrajhar, Assam by M/s NTPC Ltd.	02.03.2007	Expert Appraisal Committee (EAC) has recommended the environmental clearance.
3.	Kodarma TPS (2x500 MW), Stage-I, Expansion to 2x500 MW + 20% at Kodarma, Jharkhand by M/s Damodar Valley Corporation.	15.02.2007	Expert Appraisal Committee (EAC) has recommended the environmental clearance.
4.	Tuticorin TPP (2x500 MW) at Tuticorin, Tamil Nadu by M/s Neyveli Lignite Corporation Ltd.	05.12.2006	The proposal was considered by the Expert Appraisal Committee (EAC) in April, 2007 and additional information was sought. The required information has since been received recently.



1	2	3	4
5.	3x500 MW Aravali TPP at Jhajjar, Haryana by M/s NTPC Ltd.	11.04.2007	Proposal has been received recently.
	<b>Hydro Electric Projects:</b>		
1.	Kotlibhel HEP Stage-1A (195 MW), District Nainital, Uttarakhand by M/s NHPC Ltd.	31.01.2007	The project was considered by EAC on 21.2.2007 and reconsidered on 22.3.2007. The Committee has sought certain clarifications which have been received recently.
2.	Kotlibhel HEP Stage-1B (320 MW), Districts Pauri & Tehri Garhwal by M/s NHPC Ltd.	15.02.2007	The project was considered by EAC on 21.2.2007. The Committee recommended <i>inter-alia</i> conduct of public hearing in the other Districts. The proponent has to conduct the public hearing.
3.	Vishnugad Pipalkoti HEP (444 MW), District Chamoli by M/s THDC	02.04.2007	The project was considered by EAC for River Valley and Hydroelectric Projects held on 18th April, 2007 and additional information has been sought.

*[Translation]*

SHRI SUBHASH SURESHCHANDRA DESHMUKH: MR. Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to state that hon'ble Minister has received ten proposals from States. Two proposals have been sent back and three proposals have been sanctioned. As such whether he proposes to consider the remaining five proposals? Three thousand megawatts of electricity can be generated through them. Hence, I would like to know whether he would call for the remaining proposals and consider them.

SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, whatever has been asked by hon'ble Member, the complete details have been shown in Annexure-I in this regard giving present status of the proposals. I would like to state here that the cost of Dhukwan project of UP which figures at serial number 3 was less than Rs. 500 crore, hence, it has been sent back. In addition to that cost of Koyna left bank Canal project of Maharashtra was also less than Rs. 500 crore, therefore, it was also sent back. Presently, we have only two central projects and none else.

SHRI SUBHASH SURESHCHANDRA DESHMUKH: I want to know whether the Government is considering to provide some assistance to those who are generating one megawatt to hundred megawatt electricity in the Private sector.

SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE: Sir, this question relates to non-conventional energy. For generating power

upto 25 megawatts they can get subsidy from the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy. Shri Vilas Muttemwar is looking after that Ministry. That Ministry is supposed to grant permission to generate 1 megawatt to 25 megawatts of power. Every State has been granted permission to generate power upto 100 megawatts. But no subsidy is being provided to them. The Government of India want to provide loan on behalf of Rural Electrification Corporation (REC) and PFC in this regard, since we are committed to generate more power in the country. Loan will be available for this purpose.

SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the hon'ble Minister towards the 1000 megawatt super thermal power project, which is going to be set up in Navinagar in my constituency, Aurangabad in Bihar. In this regard I would like to say that after a state of indecision which lasted for three years, the Central Government sanctioned this project in February last year and it was expected that formalities will be completed in this regard and construction work will start soon. To start with, it was necessary that NTPC conduct a survey there and decide where the township is to be developed so that a framework of the project may be set up there but no action has been taken so far in this respect. I would like to ask the hon. Minister as to why this delay is being caused? How much delay would be caused further and when the initiatives would be taken?

SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, there were some complications in the Navinagar project however we have held talks with the Railways. I have also written letter to the hon. Member in this regard. I would myself try to expedite it. I am monitoring it myself.

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: I welcome Shri Shailendra Kumar back here.

*[Translation]*

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to ask hon. Minister of Power as to how many power projects of Uttar Pradesh are pending with him? Secondly, in regard to the 30 Megawatt Dhukwan proposal for Uttar Pradesh sent by the U.P. Government to the Centre, he replied that since the proposal is incomplete it has been sent back and the project report has been returned as the cost involves less than Rs. 500 crore.

Another gas based project in Dadri, Noida, U.P. is pending. Is any financial assistance likely to be provided to start these two projects immediately or give sanction to the proposals of Uttar Pradesh pending with him, since it is the heart of the country. The development process in Uttar Pradesh is hindered owing to acute shortage of power. I hope he would pay attention towards it and give immediate sanction to these two projects and would also provide financial assistance for it.

SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, in regard to the electrification, I have already stated that all the hydro projects with the cost below Rs. 500 crore have been entrusted to the States. The Planning Commission has adopted a policy. The reason was to provide electricity in the state at the earliest. Several decisions have been taken in this regard to authorize the States to undertake these projects. For example, this project involves a cost below Rs. 500 crore. The Uttar Pradesh Government can start it immediately. In regard to his second question regarding gas based project I would state that we are facing problems in getting gas and as long as gas is not available the Dadri project cannot be started. However, it is correct that there has not been a capacity addition in the last 4-5 years in Uttar Pradesh whereas we are ready to pay loan. both REC and PFC are also ready. I have reviewed it myself. Besides, I have also reviewed the Rajiv Gandhi Rural Electrification Project so as to provide electricity to the

people of Uttar Pradesh and electrify the State at the earliest. We have adopted such a policy whereas they preferred to keep us in dark.

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Khagen Das.

*...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Do not be too touchy.

SHRI KHAGEN DAS: The Monarchak Gas-based Power Project in Tripura has been under the consideration of the Government for the last seven years. The hon. Minister is well aware that the NEEPCO has already spent Rs.50 crore with the understanding that the project would be cleared. But till now there is no green signal from the Government to go ahead with the project.

May I know from the Government of India when the project would be sanctioned? If it is sanctioned, the power available from the same project would be available to Tripura and the other North-Eastern States which are presently going through a severe power crisis.

SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE: Sir, I have already discussed with the hon. Member and the Chief Minister of Tripura about Monarchak Power Project. This has been pending for want of viability gap funding and unless that is decided, this cannot go ahead because the cost of the project has been going up very much and so there is a little delay on this. But as far as the other project in Tripura is concerned, myself, the Petroleum Minister and the Chief Minister of Tripura have decided that it is on.

SHRI SURAVARAM SUDHAKAR REDDY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Minister, through you, whether it has come to his notice that in spite of the severe crisis of electricity supply, two power projects in Andhra Pradesh could not start generation of electricity this year because gas could not be supplied by GAIL. Gas is produced in Krishna-Godavari Basin in Andhra Pradesh, but GAIL is refusing to give gas to Andhra Pradesh. The Government of India has earlier given permission for this project. The Electricity Regulatory Commission also has given permission. In spite of objections from various parties that permission should not be given without the assured supply of gas, this permission has been given, but gas is not supplied now, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the Government of India can intervene and help supply gas to solve the problem of electricity crisis in Andhra Pradesh.

SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE: Sir, I am aware of the fact that there is shortage of gas in the country and the Krishna-Godavari Basin is also in difficulty. For the next two years there is no possibility of getting gas from it. The hon. Member has mentioned about only two projects, but there are seven to eight projects which have been constructed by independent developers and I have been telling them that for the time being, there are some needy States which want electricity. They can run the projects on naphtha which is very costly, but I do not know what happened. I have been talking to the Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh also to run the projects on naphtha and give power to neighbouring States which are struggling for power. Certainly the Power Ministry has been in touch with the Petroleum Ministry and as soon as gas is available, we will provide it. But it is not that the project would have to be constructed only when gas is available.

There is shortage of electricity in the country. I have recently taken a review of the position. Earlier, I used to say that 70,000 MW capacity addition is to be done. Today, the shortage has come down to 14,000 MW and the requirement is 21,000 MW. So, we need to have more capacity addition in the country. That is why, we should wait for gas to come. The preparatory work will have to be done. We will take cognizance of this and we will provide gas as soon as it is available.

SHRI B. MAHTAB: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the delay in Sasan project in Madhya Pradesh and Mundra Ultra Mega Power Project in Gujarat has raised question marks about the Central Government's capacity addition target of 68,000 MW. My pointed question is, whether despite the Government's attempts to tide over power shortage by setting up nine 4000 MW Ultra Mega Power Projects, the prospect of even a single project getting operational during the 11th Plan period now appears to be bleak.

SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE: No Sir, it is not true. The Tata Power Ultra Mega Project of 4000 MW has already been cleared and given all the required clearance letters. That will start working soon. I think, within two-three months' time, they will start for getting financial closure.

As far as Sasan is concerned, there is some technical difficulty. The Power Finance Corporation is looking into it.

As far as the nine ultra mega projects are concerned, I am very happy to mention here, as the hon. Member is from Orissa, that the Chief Minister of Orissa was very willing to cooperate in this regard. When I took over the charge of Power Minister after relinquishing the charge of Governor, Orissa, he immediately met me to take up this project. Earlier, he was a bit reluctant to give this ultra mega power project. But I am very happy to mention here that the Chief Minister himself took the initiative and offered the ultra mega power project from Orissa. All the nine ultra mega power project will be done. It shall be done and it will be done.

MR. SPEAKER: I am thankful to all the hon. Members for their kind cooperation.

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## WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

### Vacant Posts of Judges

*[Translation]*

\*422. SHRI SUKHDEV SINGH DHINDSA:  
SHRI A. SAI PRATHAP:

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the sanctioned strength of judges in various High Courts and the Supreme Court;

(b) whether a number of posts of judges have been lying vacant in these courts;

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

(d) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to fill up the vacant posts of judges?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H. R. BHARDWAJ): (a) to (c) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

(d) After the Supreme Court Judgment of October 6, 1993 in the Supreme Court Advocates-on-Record & Anr. v/s. Union of India, read with the Advisory Opinion of October 28, 1998, the entire process of initiation of proposal for appointment of a Judge of a Supreme Court lies with the Chief Justice of India and for the appointment of a Judge of a High Court, with the Chief Justice of

that High Court. Government has been periodically reminding the Chief Justices of High Courts, the Chief Justice of India and the Chief Ministers of the States to

initiate proposals for filling up all vacant posts of judges in the High Courts.

**Statement**

Sl. No.	Name of the Court	Sanctioned Strength	Working Strength	Vacancies as on 30.04.2007
	<b>Supreme Court</b>	26	23	03
	<b>High Courts</b>			
1.	Allahabad	95	81	14
2.	Andhra Pradesh	39	32	7
3.	Bombay	61	56	5
4.	Calcutta	50	44	6
5.	Chhattisgarh	8	6	2
6.	Delhi	36	32	4
7.	Gauhati	23	22	1
8.	Gujarat	42	31	11
9.	Himachal Pradesh	9	9	0
10.	Jammu & Kashmir	14	8	6
11.	Jharkhand	12	10	2
12.	Karnataka	40	33	7
13.	Kerala	29	23	6
14.	Madhya Pradesh	42	42	0
15.	Madras	46	45	1
16.	Orissa	20	14	6
17.	Patna	31	30	1
18.	Punjab and Haryana	40	35	5
19.	Rajasthan	40	33	7
20.	Sikkim	3	3	0
21.	Uttarakhand	9	9	0
	<b>Total</b>	<b>689</b>	<b>598</b>	<b>91</b>

**Soft Loans to Farmers**

\*426. SHRI JIVABHAI A. PATEL:  
SHRI HARISINH CHAVDA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to provide soft loans to farmers;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the private banks have also been directed to provide such loans to the farmers;; and

(d) if so, the reaction of the private banks thereto?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b) To reduce the burden of interest on Crop Loans availed by farmers for Kharif and Rabi 2005-06, an amount equal to two percentage points of the borrower's liability on the principal amount upto Rs. 1,00,000/- each was credited to their account. Thereafter, from Kharif 2006, to ensure that the farmer receives Short-Term Production Credit at 7% with an upper limit of Rs.3 lacs on the principal amount, the Government is providing interest subvention of 2% per annum to Public Sector Banks, Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) and Cooperative Banks on their lending from their own resources and refinance at concessional rates to cooperative banks and RRBs on their borrowings from NABARD.

(c) and (d) No directions have been issued to Private Sector Banks to provide soft loan to farmers. The outstanding advances to agriculture by Private Sector Banks in the last 3 years has shown an increase as indicated below:

March, 2004 - Rs. 17,649 crore

March, 2005 - Rs. 21,473 crore

March, 2006 - Rs. 36,185 crore

September, 2006 - Rs. 32,178 crore

*[English]*

**Recovery of Debt by Cooperative Banks**

\*427. SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Cooperative Banks in the country are facing severe financial crunch due to bad debts;

(b) if so, whether the Supreme Court has recently ruled that the Cooperative Banks cannot take recourse to the fast debt recovery procedures available to the other financial institutions and the commercial banks;

(c) if so, whether the Government proposes to amend the Cooperative Societies Act to give powers to cooperative banks to recover debt as is done by the other financial institutions;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(f) the other steps taken or being taken by Government to help the cooperative banks in recovery of debts?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (f) In separate matters coming up before the High Courts of Mumbai and Andhra Pradesh it was held by them that a Tribunal constituted under the provisions of the Recovery of Debts due to Banks and Financial Institutions Act, 1993 has exclusive jurisdiction, to entertain and decide applications from a Co-operative Bank for recovery of debts due to such a bank. Further, it was also held that courts and authorities under the State Co-operative Societies Act as also The Multi-state Cooperative Societies Act, 2002 would cease to have jurisdiction to entertain the applications submitted by the Cooperative Banks for recovery of their dues. Aggrieved by the above, a bunch of appeals/Special Leave Petitions were filed in the Supreme Court of India where the matter of applicability of Recovery of Debts due to Banks and Financial Institutions Act, 1993 to the Cooperative Banks established under the State Cooperative Societies Act of Maharashtra, 2002 was referred by the Chief Justice of India to a three judge bench.

Reversing the judgement of the High Court, the Supreme Court held that the provisions of Debts due to banks for Financial Institutions Act, 1993 are not applicable to the recovery of dues by the Co-operatives from their members. However, the provisions of the State Cooperative Societies Act and Multi-state Cooperative Societies Act, 2002 would continue to be applicable for recovery of dues by the Cooperative Banks. As these observations of the Supreme Court are in line with the request made by the petitioner Cooperative Banks in their appeal petitions, this order of the Supreme Court is not likely to place the Cooperative Banks in any disadvantageous position for purpose of recovery of their dues.

For recovery of debt Cooperative Banks can take recourse to Cooperative courts constituted under the provision of the State Cooperative Societies Act under which it is registered. They can also take recourse to provisions of Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 for recovery of their dues. Further, RBI has also from time to time framed guidelines on one time settlement scheme for bad debts which were forwarded to State Governments for notifying to Cooperative Banks in their States taking into account provisions in the State Cooperative Societies Acts/Rules.

#### Loans by Public/Private Sector Banks

\*428. SHRI HITEN BARMAN:  
SHRI K. SUBBARAYAN:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the loans given by the public and private sector banks to the priority sector during 2005-2006 and 2006-2007 is below 40% of the total loans given;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the loans have been provided to agriculture and small scale industry sector as per the directions of the Reserve Banks of India; and

(d) if so, the percentage of loans given to each sector?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (d) As reported by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), the details of advances given to priority sector by domestic scheduled commercial banks (both the public and private sector) during 2005-06 and 2006-07 (up to September, 2006) are as under:

(Amount Rs. in crores)

Year	Public Sector Banks		Private Sector Banks	
	2005-2006	2006-07 (up to Sept., 2006)	2005-2006	2006-07 (upto Sept., 2006)
Net Bank Credit (NBC)	1017656	1125310	249082	277919
Total Priority Sector Advances (PSA)	409748	451752	106586	105215
% of PSA to NBC	40.30	40.14	42.8	37.86

The extant guidelines of RBI stipulate a target of 40% of Net Bank Credit (NBC) for lending to the priority sector by domestic scheduled commercial banks both in the public and private sector. Within this, sub-targets of

18% and 10% of NBC have been stipulated for lending to agriculture and weaker sections respectively.

Item-wise details of credit to priority sector are given below:

(Amount Rs. in crores)

Year	Public Sector Banks		Private Sector Banks	
	2005-2006	2006-07 (upto Sept., 2006)	2005-2006	2006-07 (upto Sept., 2006)
1	2	3	4	5
Total Agricultural Advances	155220	174866	36712	32178
% of Agriculture Advances in NBC	15.3	15.54	14.7	11.58

1	2	3	4	5
Advances to Small Scale Industries Sector (SSI)	82434	86465	10421	10872
% of SSI Advances to NBC	8.10	7.68	4.18	3.91
Other Priority Sector Advances (OPS)	163756	176273	57777	61141
% of OPS to NBC	16.09	15.66	23.20	22.00
Advances to Weaker section	78158	81997	4174	43338
% of Weaker section Advances to NBC	7.70	7.65	1.7	1.56

### Shortage of Staff in IT Department

(c)

\*429. SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPPAN:  
SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Income Tax Department has been facing acute shortage of staff, though the number of assesseees and tax collection have increased;

(b) if so, the details of the sanctioned staff strength and vacant posts in different categories in the Department particularly the Metropolitan City offices as on March 31, 2004 and March 31, 2007;

(c) the number of assesseees and the amount of direct tax collected as on March 31, 2004 and March 31, 2007 giving the percentage change during the period;

(d) the reasons for not filling up the vacant posts and not increasing the staff strength when the volume of work and tax collection have increased over the said period; and

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

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The details are given in the enclosed Statement.

	No. of Assesseees	Direct Tax Collection
31.3.2004	3,01,78,616	Rs. 1,05,088 Crores
31.3.2007 (Provisional)	3,19,25,822	Rs. 2,29,505 Crores
% change	5.79	118.39

(d) and (e) Government of India's policy to limit direct recruitment vacancies in a year, subject to 1% of total direct recruitment vacancies in a year, subject to 1% of total sanction of staff strength, which was applied to the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT), had restricted direct recruitment to the various cadres. In 2005, while considering the request of CBDT for exemption from the above Policy, the Committee of Secretaries, allowed CBDT to fill up 3300 direct recruitment vacancies pending assessment of the staff requirement *vis-à-vis* the workload. After assessing the staff requirement, CBDT approached the Cabinet for sanction of additional posts and the Cabinet, in November, 2006 approved, creation of 7051 posts in various cadres including 6519 posts in staff category. These posts are to be filled up in a phased manner, within a period of three years. Staff Selection Commission has initiated the process of recruitment of Income Tax Inspectors, Tax Assistant and Stenographers and the staff are expected to be made available latest by the end of this year. The surplus staff nominated by DOPT from the Surplus Cell have already been allocated to various charges. These steps would meet partially the requirement of staff of CBDT.

### Statement

*Category-wise Sanctioned Strength and Vacancies Position as on 31.3.2004 and 31.3.2007*

S.No.	Name of Charge Name of the Post	Ahmedabad			
		Sanctioned Strength as on 31.3.04	Vacant as on 31.3.04	Sanctioned Strength as on 31.3.07	Vacancies as on 31.3.07
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	ITO	368	23	383	5
2.	AO Gr, II	4	0	3	0

1	2	3	4	5	6
3.	AO Gr. III	74	39	74	2
4.	Private Secretary	71	37	71	27
5.	ITI	863	100	873	137
6.	Office Supdt	180	32	185	8
7.	Sr. Tax Asstt.	693	75	712	126
8.	Tax Asstt.	662	139	913	472
9.	Steno. Gr. I	78	50	78	9
10.	Steno Gr. II	159	16	159	45
11.	Steno Gr. III	159	60	203	197
12.	Sr. Hindi Trans.	4	2	3	0
13.	Jr. Hindi Trans.	7	1	6	1
14.	SCD Gr. I	21	18	21	12
15.	SCD Gr. II	18	18	18	1
16.	Notice Server	264	60	249	31
17.	Daftry	244	9	244	112
18.	Sr. Peon/Jamadar	21	13	21	15
19.	Peon	312	74	247	103
20.	Watchman	67	15	52	27
21.	Sweeper	31	4	27	14
22.	Farash	39	7	31	12
23.	Sr. PS	8	0	8	1
Grand Total		4347	792	4581	1357

Source: (F.No.CC/ABD/ADM/105-1/2007-08 dated 30.4.2007)

*Category-wise Sanctioned Strength and Vacancies Position as on 31.3.2004 and 31.3.2007*

S.No.	Name of Charge Name of the Post	Bangalore			
		Sanctioned Strength as on 31.3.04	Vacant as on 31.3.04	Sanctioned Strength as on 31.3.07	Vacant as on 31.3.07
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	CCIT/DGIT	6	0	6	1
2.	CIT/DIT	36	3	41	6



1	2	3	4	5	6
3.	Addl./Jt. CIT/DIT	57	6	72	25
4.	Dy./Asstt. CIT/DIT	105	25	114	25
5.	Dv. Dir (Systems)	1	0	1	0
6.	Asst. Dir. (Systems)	2	2	2	2
7.	ITO	221	5	246	0
8.	AO Gr. II	1	0	2	0
9.	AO Gr. III	39	26	39	1
10.	Private Secretary	34	10	34	9
11.	Dy. Dir. (OL)	0	0	1	0
12.	Asstt. Dir., (OL)	4	1	4	2
13.	Sr. Hindi Trans.	2	0	2	0
14.	Jr. Hindi Trans.	4	3	3	1
15.	DPA, Gr. 'A'	2	0	14	12
16.	DPA, Gr. 'B'	1	0	1	0
17.	ITI	476	31	555	96
18.	Office Supdt.	97	39	102	12
19.	Sr. Tax Asstt.	320	27	351	120
20.	Tax Asstt.	326	40	609	465
21.	LDC	11	0	11	0
22.	Steno. Gr. I	39	18	39	14
23.	Steno Gr. II	77	10	77	30
24.	Steno Gr. III	77	33	152	142
25.	SCD (Spl. Gr.)	2	0	2	0
26.	SCD Gr. I	14		14	0
27.	SCD Gr. II	12		12	0
28.	SCD (OG)	12	3	7	0
29.	Notice Server	118	9	113	3
30.	Record Keeper	0	0	0	0
31.	Daftry	123	2	123	0

1	2	3	4	5	6
32.	Sr. Peon	10	0	10	0
33.	Peon	158	67	158	87
34.	Sr. Gest. Operator	1	0	1	0
35.	Watchman	56	0	20	0
36.	Farash	6	0	2	0
37.	Sweeper	17	0	6	0
38.	Mali	1	0	1	0
39.	Sr. PS	6	0	6	0
40.	Hindi Typist	3	3	3	0
41.	LDC(Pre-structured),	0	0	0	0
Grand Total		2477	363	2956	1053

Source:(F.No.211(71)/2007-08/CCIT-I dated 27th April, 2007)

*Category-wise Sanctioned Strength and vacancies Position as on 31.3.2004 and 31.3.2007*

S.No.	Name of Charge Name of the Post	Bhopal			
		Sanctioned Strength as on 31.3.04	Vacant as on 31.3.04	Sanctioned Strength as on 31.3.07	Vacant as on 31.3.07
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	CCIT/DGIT	4	0	4	1
2.	CIT/DIT	23	1	23	0
3.	Addl/Jt. CIT/DIT	39	7	39	4
4.	Dy./Asstt. CIT/DIT	66	26	66	23
5.	Dy. Dir (Systems)	1	0	1	0
6.	Asst. Dir. (Systems)	2	1	2	1
7.	ITO	140	1	158	2
8.	AO Gr. II	1	1	2	0
9.	AO Gr. III	26	13	26	2
10.	Private Secretary	23	12	23	16
11.	Dy. Dir. (OL)	-	-	-	-
12.	AsstL Dir (OL)	3	0	3	1

1	2	3	4	5	6
13.	Sr. Hindi Trans.	2	1	2	1
14.	Jr. Hindi Trans.	5	2	3	1
15.	DPA, Gr. 'B'	1	0	1	1
16.	DPA, Gr. 'A'	3	2	6	5
17.	ITI	344	57	340	65
18.	Office Supdt.	97	14	99	25
19.	Sr. Tax Asstt.	326	24	331	109
20.	Tax Asstt.	335	112	533	371
21.	LDC	11	0	11	0
22.	Steno. Gr. I	35	30	35	7
23.	Steno Gr. II	69	5	69	30
24.	Steno Gr. III	68	34	101	96
25.	SCD (Spl.Gr.)	2	1	2	0
26.	SCO Gr, I	10	2	10	2
27.	SCD Gr, II	9	3	9	0
28.	SCD (OG)	9	3	9	1
29.	Notice Server	106	8	100	5
30.	Record Keeper	-	-	-	-
31.	Daftry	111	6	111	27
32.	Sr. Peon	4	0	4	4
33.	Peon	142	49	94	22
34.	Sr. Gest. Operator	1	0	1	0
35.	Watchman	144	72	91	61
36.	Farash	6	0	6	2
37.	Sweeper	20	1	18	2
38.	Mali	-	-	-	-
39.	Sr. PS	4	0	4	0
40.	Hindi Typist	-	-	-	-
41.	LDC (Pre-structured)	-	-	-	-
<b>Grand Total</b>		<b>2192</b>	<b>488</b>	<b>2337</b>	<b>887</b>

Source: (F.No.CCIT/MP/Estt./2007(11)(B)/2007-08 dated 30.4.2007)

*Category-wise Sanctioned Strength and vacancies Position as on 31.3.2004 and 31.3.2007*

S.No.	Name of Charge Name of the Post	Bhubaneswar			
		Sanctioned Strength as on 31.3.04	Vacant as on 31.3.04	Sanctioned Strength as on 31.3.07	Vacant as on 31.3.07
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	CCIT/DOT	1	0	1	0
2.	CIT/DIT	13	0	13	4
3.	Add./Jt. CIT/DIT	18	3	20	6
4.	Dy./Asstt. CIT/DIT	38	21	41	22
5.	Dy. Dir. (Systems)	-	-	-	-
6.	Asst. Dir. (Systems)	1	0	1	0
7.	ITO	56	0	66	1
8.	AO Gr. II/Gr. III	14	7	14	1
9.	Private Secretary	14	5	14	4
10.	Dy. Dir. (OL)	-	-	-	-
11.	Asstt. Dir. (OL)	1	0	1	0
12.	Sr. Hindi Trans.	1	0	1	0
13.	Jr. Hindi Trans.	2	0	2	0
14.	DPA, Gr. 'B'	-	-	-	-
15.	DPA, Gr. 'A'	-	-	-	-
16.	ITI	140	17	148	25
17.	Office Supdt.	38	6	39	0
18.	Sr. Tax Asstt.	124	7	127	40
19.	Tax Asstt.	112	28	99	42
20.	LDC	3	0	3	0
21.	Steno. Gr. I	13	0	13	3
22.	Steno Gr. II	26	4	26	7
23.	Steno Gr. III	26	14	31	28
24.	SCD (Spl. Gr.)	1	0	1	0
25.	SCO Gr. I	4	1	4	1

1	2	3	4	5	6
26.	SCD Gr. II	4	1	4	1
27.	SCD (OG)	3	1	3	1
28.	Notice Server	38	0	36	2
29.	Record Keeper	-	-	-	-
30.	Daftry	43	0	43	0
31.	Sr. Peon	1	0	1	0
32.	Peon	55	9	48	8
33.	Sr. Gest. Operator	-	-	-	-
34.	Watchman	91	17	67	15
35.	Farash	1	1	1	1
36.	Sweeper	5	0	5	1
37.	Mali	1	0	1	0
38.	Jr. Gest Operator	1	1	1	1
39.	Hindi Typist	-	-	-	-
40.	LDC (Pre-structured)	-	-	-	-
<b>Grand Total</b>		<b>889</b>	<b>143</b>	<b>875</b>	<b>214</b>

Source (F.No.CCIT/Est.III-41/2007-08/2280 dated 30.4.2007)

*Category-wise sanctioned strength and vacancies position as on 31-3-2004 & 31-3-2007*

S.No.	Name of Charge Name of the Post	Chandigarh			
		Sanctioned Strength as on 31.3.04	Vacant as on 31.3.04	Sanctioned Strength as on 31.3.07	Vacant as on 31.3.07
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	CCIT/DGIT	6	0	8	0
2.	CIT/DIT	39	0	40	2
3.	Addl./Jt. CIT/DIT	73	6	77	4
4.	Dy./Asstt. CIT/DIT	137	41	142	30
5.	Dy. Dir (Systems)	-	-	-	-
6.	Asst. Dir. (Systems)	4	0	4	0
7.	ITO	313	2	329	7

1	2	3	4	5	6
8.	AO Gr. II	1	1	1	0
9.	AO Gr. III	44	28	44	6
10.	Private Secretary	38	25	38	29
11.	Dy. Dir. (OL)	-	-	-	-
12.	Asstt. Dir. (OL)	7	1	7	1
13.	Sr. Hindi Trans.	4	0	4	0
14.	Jr. Hindi Trans.	9	2	9	5
15.	DPA, Gr. 'B'	2	2	2	2
16.	DPA, Gr. 'A'	5	3	5	3
17.	ITI	645	57	679	102
18.	Office Supdt.	135	5	137	5
19.	Sr. Tax Asstt.	517	5	521	45
20.	Tax Asstt.	570	48	819	407
21.	LDC	18	18	18	18
22.	Steno. Gr. I	52	4	52	24
23.	Steno Gr. II	105	45	105	70
24.	Steno Gr. III	105	88	169	160
25.	SCD (Spl. Gr.)	3	2	3	2
26.	SCD Gr. I	21	18	21	18
27.	SCD Gr. II	19	1	19	1
28.	SCD (OG)	19	20	19	20
29.	Notice Server	180	8	180	32
30.	Record Keeper	5	5	0	0
31.	Daftry	188	17	168	10
32.	Sr. Peon	6	2		
33.	Peon	215	63	189	77
34.	Sr. Gest. Operator	-	-	-	-
35.	Watchman	183	6	176	20
36.	Farash	25	7	25	0

1	2	3	4	5	6
37.	Sweeper	12	0	12	4
38.	Mali	9	1	9	2
39.	Sr.PS	6	2	6	2
40.	PA/CO	8	8	8	8
41.	DPA	1	1	1	1
Grand Total		3729	447	4046	1077

Source: (F.No.CC/CB/CHD/2007-08/22/Misc./92 dated 30.4.2007)

*Category-wise sanctioned strength and vacancies position as on 31-3-2004 & 31-3-2007*

S.No.	Name of Charge Name of the Post	Chennai			
		Sanctioned Strength as on 31.3.04	Vacant as on 31.3.04	Sanctioned Strength as on 31.3.07	Vacant as on 31.3.07
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	CCIT/DGIT	10	0	10	1
2.	CIT/DIT	60	5	63	15
3.	Add./Jt. CIT/DIT	100	11	114	45
4.	Dy./Asstt. CIT/DIT	178	61	187	107
5.	Dy. Dir. (Systems)	4	0	4	0
6.	Asst. Dir. (Systems)	6	3	6	-1
7.	ITO	358	2	372	4
8.	AO Gr. II	4	0	4	2
9.	AO Gr. III	63	20	63	2
10.	Private Secretary	58	1	58	3
11.	Computer Manager	1	1	1	1
12.	Asstt. Dir. (OL)	3	-1	5	0
13.	Sr. Hindi Trans.	3	0	3	0
14.	Jr. Hindi Trans.	3	2	3	3
15.	DPA, Gr. 'B'	6	0	6	2
16.	DPA, Gr. 'A'	12	3	10	4

1	2	3	4	5	6
17.	ITI	727	74	744	138
18.	Office Supdt.	197	6	201	8
19.	Sr. Tax Asstt.	651	168	666	44
20.	Tax Asstt.	760	25	914	479
21.	LDC	24	0	24	21
22.	Steno. Gr. I	77	10	77	17
23.	Steno Gr. II	153	68	153	30
24.	Steno Gr. III	153	31	243	232
25.	SCD (Spl. Gr.)	4	0	4	0
26.	SCD Gr. I	27	9	27	8
27.	SCD Gr. II	23	8	23	8
28.	SCD (OG)	23	-7	23	-5
29.	Notice Server	237	17	221	5
30.	Record Keeper	1	0	1	0
31.	Daftry	231	0	231	27
32.	Sr. Peon	12	2	12	4
33.	Peon	296	113	165	119
34.	Gest. Operator	1	1	1	1
35.	Watchman	155	48	55	-1
36.	Farash	12	7	0	0
37.	Sweeper	21	3	12	0
38.	Mali	1	0	1	0
39.	Sr. PS	10	0	10	1
40.	Hindi Typist	5	5	5	5
41.	PA/Console Operator	0	0	2	0
42.	Sr. A.O.	1	1	1	1
Grand Total		4669	697	4725	1330



*Category-wise sanctioned strength and vacancies position as on 31-3-2004 & 31-3-2007*

S.No.	Name of Charge	Delhi			
	Name of the Post	Sanctioned Strength as on 31.3.04	Vacant as on 31.3.04	Sanctioned Strength as on 31.3.07	Vacant as on 31.3.07
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	CIT/DGI	20	0	21	2
2.	CIT/DIT	80	-10	89	-3
3.	Addl./Jt.CIT/DIT	120	-26	145	8
4.	Dy/Asstt. CIT/DIT	202	47	227	105
5.	Dy. Dir. (Sys)	4	3	4	3
6.	Addl. Dir. (Sys) Prog.	6	2	6	6
7.	ITO	356	2	385	2
8.	SAO Gr. II	4	1	3	0
9.	AO Gr.III	92	9	92	2
10.	PS	83	7	83	6
11.	Sr. Hindi Tran.	4	1	4	0
12.	Jr. Hindi Trans.	6	0	9	2
13.	DPA, Gr. 'B'	10	5	10	7
14.	DPA, Gr. 'A'	18	11	25	22
15.	ITI	748	62	948	224
16.	Office Supdt.	193	25	204	17
17.	Sr. Tax Asstt.	654	73	708	248
18.	Tax Asstt.	691	23	1141	585
19.	LDC	30	2	42	0
20.	Steno. Gr. I	89	15	89	8
21.	Steno Gr. II	178	24	178	110
22.	Steno Gr. III	179	154	314	280
23.	SCD (Sol. Gr.)	3	0	3	0
24.	SCD Gr. I	21	1	21	2
25.	SCD Gr. II	18	13	18	9

1	2	3	4	5	6
26.	SCD (OG)/Gr.III	19	-12	19	-6
27.	Notice Server	239	5	239	12
28.	Rec. Keeper	0	-2	-	-
29.	Daftry	247	9	247	12
30.	Sr. Peon	17	0	17	0
31.	Peon	320	3	320	89
32.	Sr. Gest. Oprt.	1	0	1	0
33.	Jr. Gest. Oprt.	3	-2	3	0
34.	Console Oprt.	-	-	4	0
35.	D.E.O. Gr. A	-	-	7	0
36.	Watchman	207	10	207	71
37.	Farash	21	2	21	4
38.	Sweeper	62	9	62	8
39.	Mali	2	0	2	2
40.	Jt. DIT(System)	1	1	1	0
41.	Sr. Pvt. Secy.	15	2	15	1
42.	Sr. A.O. Gr. I	1	1	1	1
43.	Tax Asstt. (old)	1	1	0	0
44.	Canteen. Gr. C	0	0	12	1
45.	Canteen. Gr. D	0	0	23	1
<b>Grand Total</b>		<b>4965</b>	<b>471</b>	<b>5970</b>	<b>1841</b>

Source: (F.No.CCIT-I/Personnel/Lok Sabha/P.Q./Starred Q.No.14220/2007-08/1276 dated 27.4.2007)

*Category-wise sanctioned strength and vacancies position as on 31-3-2004 & 31-3-2007*

S.No.	Name of Charge Name of the Post	Guwahati			
		Sanctioned Strength as on 31.3.04	Vacant as on 31.3.04	Sanctioned Strength as on 31.3.07	Vacant as on 31.3.07
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	CCIT/DGIT	2	0	2	1
2.	CIT/DIT	13	2	14	2

1	2	3	4	5	6
3.	Addl./Jt. CIT/DIT	23	10	25	16
4.	Dy./Asstt. CIT/DIT	49	21	50	26
5.	Asstt. Dir. (Sys)	1	0	1	0
6.	ITO	93	1	100	1
7.	AO Gr. II	- 1	1	1	0
8.	AO Gr. III	16	8	16	0
9.	P.S.	17	3	17	4
10.	Asstt. Dir. (OL)	2	0	2	0
11.	Sr. Hindi Trans.	2	1	2	1
12.	Jr. Hindi Trans.	1	1	1	0
13.	ITI	205	29	215	51
14.	Office Supdt.	62	17	63	9
15.	Sr. Tax Asstt.	154	25	157	43
16.	Tax Asstt.	177	8	242	141
17.	LDC	7	0	7	0
18.	Steno Gr. I	18	10	18	0
19.	Steno Gr. II	35	12	35	21
20.	Steno Gr. III	36	28	54	54
21.	SCD (OG)	11	5	10	2
22.	Notice Server	68	6	65	7
23.	Record Keeper	-	-	-	-
24.	Daftry	60	0	60	26
25.	Sr. Peon	2	0	2	0
26.	Peon	77	18	73	44
27.	Gest. Oprt.	1	0	1	0
28.	Watchman	77	52	33	11
29.	Farash	3	0	3	1
30.	Sweeper	7	0	7	1
31.	Hindi Typist	0	0	-	-
Grand Total		1220	258	1276	462

Source: (F.No.E-29/CCIT/GHY/99-2000/1625 dated 27.4.2007)

*Category-wise sanctioned strength and vacancies position as on 31-3-2004 & 31-3-2007*

S.No.	Name of Charge Name of the Post	Hyderabad			
		Sanctioned Strength as on 31.3.04	Vacant as on 31.3.04	Sanctioned Strength as on 31.3.07	Vacant as on 31.3.07
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	CCIT/DGIT	5	0	5	0
2.	CIT/DIT	30	3	33	1
3.	Addl./Jt. CIT/DIT	52	-8	53	2
4.	Dy./Asstt. CIT/DIT	98	25	98	22
5.	Addl. Dir. (Sys)	3	3	3	1
6.	ITO	230	0	245	1
7.	AO Gr.II	1	1	2	0
8.	AO Gr. III	34	4	34	2
9.	P.S.	30	5	30	5
10.	Sr. Hindi Trans.	2	0	2	0
11.	Jr. Hindi Trans.	4	2	4	1
12.	DPA, Gr.'B'	2	0	2	0
13.	DPA, Gr. 'A'	3	1	7	5
14.	ITI	504	44	527	97
15.	Office Supdt.	125	14	129	11
16.	Sr. Tax Asstt.	395	90	419	38
17.	Tax Asstt.	430	3	605	380
18.	LDC	14	0	14	0
19.	Steno Gr. I	47	6	47	1
20.	Steno Gr. II	94	7	94	19
21.	Steno Gr. III	94	10	150	98
22.	SCD (Spl. Gr.)	2	0	2	0
23.	SCD Gr.I	13	9	13	5
24.	SCD Gr.II	11	-4	11	-3
25.	SCD (OG) Gr.III	12	-3	8	-1

1	2	3	4	5	6
26.	Notice Server	172	0	165	7
27.	Daftry	174	12	174	10
28.	Peon	223	12	193	27
29.	Jr. Gest. Oprt.	1	1	1	0
30.	Watchman	107	0	81	11
31.	Farash	9	2	8	2
32.	Sweeper	20	0	13	-3
33.	Mali	3	1	2	0
34.	Sr. Pvt. Secy.	5	0	5	1
35.	System Analyst	1	1	1	1
36.	Hindi Officer	2	0	2	0
37.	Canteen Gr.C	-	-	15	9
38.	Canteen Gr.D	-	-	19	1
Grand Total		2952	241	3216	751

Source:(F.No.CCAP/SS WS/Estt/2007 dated 27.4.2007)

*Category-wise sanctioned strength and vacancies position as on 31-3-2004 & 31-3-3007*

S.No.	Name of Charge Name of the Post	Jaipur			
		Sanctioned Strength as on 31.3.04	Vacant as on 31.3.04	Sanctioned Strength as on 31.3.07	Vacant as on 31.3.07
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	CCIT/DGIT	4	0	4	1
2.	CIT/DIT	27	2	28	-2
3.	Addl./Jt. CIT/DIT	42	0	48	18
4.	Dy./Asstt. CIT/DIT	81	27	85	28
5.	Asstt. Dir. (Sys)/Prog.	2	2	2	1
6.	ITO	170	9	182	1
7.	AO Gr. II	1	0	2	0
8.	AO Gr. III	27	15	27	3

1	2	3	4	5	6
9.	P.S.	24	5	24	9
10.	Asstt. Dir. (OL)	4	1	4	1
11.	Sr. Hindi Trans.	2	0	2	0
12.	Jr. Hindi Trans.	4	3	4	3
13.	DPA, Gr.'B'	1	0	1	1
14.	DPA, Gr.'A'	4	2	5	3
15.	ITT	364	16	419	76
16.	Office Supdt.	94	36	95	4
17.	Sr. Tax Asstt.	260	11	262	122
18.	Tax Asstt.	219	92	459	375
19.	LDC	9	-35	9	-23
20.	Steno. Gr. I	31	9	31	22
21.	Steno Gr. II	62	21	62	45
22.	Steno Gr. III	63	56	123	121
23.	SCD (Spl. Gr.)	2	0	2	1
24.	SCO Gr. I	10	10	10	2
25.	SCD Gr. II	9	1	9	2
26.	SCD (OG)/Gr.III	9	-9	9	0
27.	Notice Server	90	3	90	8
28.	Record Keeper	0	-1	0	-2
29.	Daftry	91	0	91	5
30.	Jamadar	5	0	5	0
31.	Peon	116	56	116	54
32.	D.E.O. Gr. A	11	11	11	5
33.	Watchman	133	14	133	59
34.	Farash	14	3	14	3
35.	Sweeper	16	0	16	2
36.	Mali	4	0	4	1
37.	Sr. Pvt. Secy.	4	0	4	0

1	2	3	4	5	6
38.	D.E.O. Gr.C	1	1	1	1
39.	D.E.O. Gr.B	9	9	9	-2
Grand Total		2019	370	2402	948

Source: (F.No. CC/JPR/Admn./F-55/2007-08/68 dated 27.4.2007)

*Category-wise sanctioned strength and vacancies position as on 31-3-2004 & 31-3-2007*

S.No.	Name of Charge Name of the Post	Kanpur			
		Sanctioned Strength as on 31.3.04	Vacant as on 31.3.04	Sanctioned Strength as on 31.3.07	Vacant as on 31.3.07
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	CCIT/DGIT	3	0	3	0
2.	CIT/DIT	22	0	23	1
3.	Add./Jt. CIT/DIT	39	0	43	11
4.	Dy./Asstt. CIT/DIT	74	16	78	17
5.	Dy. Dir. (Systems)	1	0	1	0
6.	Asstt. Dir. (Systems)	4	2	4	2
7.	ITO	196	2	207	33
8.	AO Gr. II	1	0	2	0
9.	AO Gr. III	19	4	19	2
10.	Private Secretary	17	1	17	1
11.	Asstt. Dir. (OL)	4	0	3	0
12.	DPA, Gr. 'B'	2	1	2	1
13.	DPA, Gr. 'A'	4	2	4	2
14.	ITI	453	62	466	61
15.	Office Supdt.	111	33	113	23
16.	Sr. Tax Asstt.	369	31	378	31
17.	Tax Asstt	362	33	488	301
18.	LDC	13	0	13	1
19.	Steno. Gr. I	44	33	44	7
20.	Steno Gr. II	87	19	87	22

1	2	3	4	5	6
21.	Steno Gr. III	87	44	82	80
22.	SCD (Spl. Gr.)	2	1	2	1
23.	SCD Gr. I	13	10	13	5
24.	SCD Gr. II	11	0	11	1
25.	SCD (OG)	11	0	9	0
26.	Notice Server	129	12	123	4
27.	Daftry	135	22	104	0
28.	Sr. Peon	5	0	5	2
29.	Peon	173	0	149	5
30.	Gest. Operator	1	1	1	0
31.	Watchman	189	105	144	61
32.	Farash	33	0	26	0
33.	Sweeper	34	5	26	2
34.	Mali	3	1	2	1
35.	Sr. PS	3	0	3	0
Grand Total		2654	440	2695	678

Source: (F.No.CCIT/CCA/KNP/968/2007-08/135 dated 30.4.2007)

*Category-wise sanctioned strength and vacancies position as on 31-3-2004 & 31-3-2007*

S.No.	Name of Charge Name of the Post	Kochi			
		Sanctioned Strength as on 31.3.04	Vacant as on 31.3.04	Sanctioned Strength as on 31.3.07	Vacant as on 31.3.07
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	CCIT/DGIT	3	0	3	0
2.	CIT/DIT	20	5	21	4
3.	Addl./Jt. CIT/DIT	30	5	32	18
4.	Dy./Asstt. CIT/DIT	57	19	59	12
5.	Dy. Dir. (Sys)	2	0	2	1
6.	Asstt. Dir. (Sys)	1	0	1	0



1	2	3	4	5	6
7.	ITO	111	9	116	7
8.	AO Gr. II	1	0	2	0
9.	AO Gr. III	23	6	23	3
10.	P.S.	24	6	21	8
11.	Dy. Dir. (OL)	1	0		
12.	Asstt. Dir. (OL)	2	0	2	0
13.	Sr. Hindi Tran.	2	2	1	1
14.	Jr. Hindi Tran.	1	0	2	0
15.	DPA, Gr. 'B'	2	0	2	1
16.	DPA, Gr.'A'	2	1	6	4
17.	ITI	243	35	255	69
18.	Office Supdt.	76	43	79	9
19.	Sr. Tax Asstt.	190	30	195	31
20.	Tax Asstt.	275	21	339	196
21.	LDC	7	0	7	1
22.	Steno. Gr. I	24	3	24	8
23.	Steno Gr. II	48	9	48	8
24.	Steno Gr. III	49	15.	59	48
25.	SCD (Spl. Gr.)	1	0	1	0
26.	SCD Gr. I	6	4	6	4
27.	SCD Gr. II	6	1	6	2
28.	SCD (OG)	6	4	6	3
29.	Notice Server	71	2	71	9
30.	Record Keeper	-	1		
31.	Daftly	70	8	70	4
32.	Jamadar	4	0	4	0
33.	Peon	54	9	54	29
34.	Watchman	25	1	25	10
35.	Farash	4	0	4	1

1	2	3	4	5	6
36.	Sweeper	55	2	55	21
37.	Mali	2	0	2	0
38.	Sr. PS			3	0
39.	Tea/Coffee Maker	-	-	2	1
40.	Wash Boy	-	-	1	0
Grand Total		1498	241	1550	513

Source: (F.No.18/Estt/CC-CHN/CC/2007-08 dated 27th April 2007)

*Category-wise sanctioned strength and vacancies position as on 31-3-2004 & 31-3-2007*

S.No.	Name of Charge Name of the Post	Bhopal			
		Sanctioned Strength as on 31.3.04	Vacant as on 31.3.04	Sanctioned Strength as on 31.3.07	Vacant as on 31.3.07
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	CCIT/DGIT	14	0	13	0
2.	CIT/DIT	92	24	95	13
3.	Addl./Jt. CIT/DIT	126	30	128	48
4.	Dy./Asstt. CIT/DIT	216	20	220	57
5.	Dy. Dir. (Systems)	-	-	-	-
6.	Asstt. Dir. (Systems)	-	-	-	-
7.	ITO	473	2	479	41
8.	AO Gr. II	-	-	-	-
9.	AO Gr. III	108	24	108	5
10.	Private Secretary	112	52	112	37
11.	Sr. Pvt. Secy.	-	-		0
11.	Dy. Dir. (OL)	-	-		-
12.	Asstt. Dir. (OL)	-	-		-
13.	Sr. Hindi Trans.	4	1		0
14.	Jr. Hindi Trans.	6	2	5	1
15.	DPA, Gr. 'B'	1	0	1	0
16.	DPA, Gr. 'A'	4	0	9	5

1	2	3	4	5	6
17.	ITI	1191	282	1012	166
18.	Office Supdt.	381	117	387	11
19.	Sr. Tax Asstt.	1340	153	1345	58
20.	Tax Asstt.	1717	143	1464	497
21.	LDC	53	0	51	1
22.	Steno. Gr. I	159	19	158	16
23.	Steno Gr. II	316	35	316	75
24.	Steno Gr. III	316	186	255	243
25.	SCD (Spl. Gr.)	4	1	4	2
26.	SCD Gr. I	27	14	25	7
27.	SCD Gr. II	23	1	22	0
28.	SCD (OG)	23	-13	21	-6
29.	Notice Server	618	54	578	17
30.	Record Keeper	-	-	-	-
31.	Daftry	536	21	536	159
32.	Sr. Peon	24	4	24	18
33.	Peon	684	218	421	41
34.	Sr. Gest. Operator	2	1	2	1
35.	Watchman	209	69	89	41
36.	Farash	39	9	17	0
37.	Sweeper	87	13	59	7
38.	Mali	-	-	-	-
39.	Jr. Gest. Operator	2	1	2	2
40.	Hindi Typist	-	-	-	-
41.	LDC (Pre-structured)	-	-	-	-
Grand Total		8905	1483	7962	1563

*Category-wise sanctioned strength and vacancies position as on 31-3-2004 & 31-3-2007*

S.No.	Name of Charge Name of the Post	Lucknow			
		Sanctioned Strength as on 31.3.04	Vacant as on 31.3.04	Sanctioned Strength as on 31.3.07	Vacant as on 31.3.07
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	CCIT/DGIT	4	0	4	0
2.	CIT/DIT	21	0	22	7
3.	Addl./Jt. CIT/DIT	39	12	39	11
4.	Dy./Asstt. CIT/DIT	55	12	55	7
5.	Dy. Dir. (Systems)	-	-	1	0
6.	Asstt. Dir. (Systems)	2	0	2	0
7.	ITO	140	0	147	7
8.	AO Gr.II	1	0	2	0
9.	AO Gr.III	24	6	24	5
10.	Sr. P.S./P.S.	25	3	25	9
11.	Dy. Dir. (OL)	-	-	-	-
12.	Asstt. Dir. (OL)	3	1	3	0
13.	Sr. Hindi Trans.	2	0	2	1
14.	Jr. Hindi Trans.	4	0	4	1
15.	DPA, Gr. 'B'/Gr. A	4	1	-	-
16.	Chief Engineer (A.A)	1	1	1	0
17.	ITI	372	43	373	77
18.	Office Supdt.	97	54	97	11
19.	Sr. Tax Asstt.	297	48	299	49
20.	Tax Asstt.	281	1	280	92
21.	LDC	10	0	10	2
22.	Steno. Gr.I	32	0	32	0
23.	Steno Gr.II	64	11	64	22
24.	Steno Gr.III	64	53	38	28
25.	SCD(Spl. Gr.)	1	1	1	1

1	2	3	4	5	6
26.	SCD Gr.I	10	3	10	3
27.	SCD Gr.II	8	0	8	1
28.	SCD (OG)	9	0	9	0
29.	Notice Server	109	11	101	11
30.	Record Keeper	-	-	-	-
31.	Daftry	116	8	116	28
32.	Sr. Peon/Jamadar	7	0	7	0
33.	Peon	148	53	102	17
34.	Gest. Operator	1	0	1	1
35.	Watchman	248	84	222	79
36.	Farash	7	3	7	2
37.	Sweeper	17	0	17	3
38.	Mali	3	0	3	1
39.	DPA Gr. A	-	-	4	3
40.	DPA Gr. A	-	-	1	0
Grand Total		2226	409	2133	479

Source: (F.No. Estt. C. No. DR/CC/2007-08 dated 30.4.2007)

*Category-wise sanctioned strength and vacancies position as on 31-3-2004 & 31-3-2007*

S.No.	Name of Charge Name of the Post	Mumbai			
		Sanctioned Strength as on 31.3.04	Vacant as on 31.3.04	Sanctioned Strength as on 31.3.07	Vacant as on 31.3.07
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Sr. Hindi Translator	4	0	5	0
2.	Jr. Hindi Trans.	8	3	6	4
3.	DPA, Gr. 'B'	11	8	16	13
4.	DPA, Gr. 'A'	18	14	18	15
5.	ITI	1294	109	1365	220
6.	Office Supdt.	352	76	363	13
7.	Sr. T.A.	1282	292	1314	235

1	2	3	4	5	6
8.	Tax Asstt.	1427	19	1379	601
9.	LDC	52	0	52	0
10.	Steno. Gr. I	180	94	180	10
11.	Steno Gr. II	360	27	360	89
12.	Steno Gr. III	359	183	332	327
13.	SCD (Spl. Gr.)	5	3	5	0
14.	SCD Gr. I	35	22	35	28
15.	SCD Gr. II	30	5	30	4
16.	SCD (OG)	31	21	31	11
17.	Notice Server	470	12	441	12
18.	Daftry	496	27	496	48
19.	Sr. Peon	27	3	27	6
20.	Peon	633	165	406	126
21.	Sr. Gest. Opt.	3	2	3	1
22.	Jr. Gest. Opt.	1	0	1	1
23.	Farash	23	2	16	10
24.	Sweeper	64	6	43	0
25.	Mali	3	1	3	2
26.	Watchman	145	85	32	0
27.	CCIT	-	-	15	1
28.	CIT	-	-	104	0
29.	Ad./JCIT	-	-	153	10
30.	As./DCIT	-	-	249	89
31.	ITO	-	-	581	16
32.	AO Gr.II/III	-	-	112	12
33.	Sr. PS/PS	-	-	116	19
34.	Hindi Typist	3	3	3	3
Grand Total		7316	1182	8292	1926

Source: (F.No. CIT (HQ) Pers./L.S. Starred Question/2007-08 dated 27th April 2007) (CCIT/MUM/SS&WS/2007 dated 30.4.2007)

*Category-wise sanctioned strength and vacancies position as on 31-3-2004 & 31-3-2007*

S.No.	Name of Charge Name of the Post	Nagpur			
		Sanctioned Strength as on 31.3.04	Vacant as on 31.3.04	Sanctioned Strength as on 31.3.07	Vacant as on 31.3.07
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	CCIT/DGIT	1	0	1	0
2.	CIT/DIT	9	0	9	-2
3.	Addl./Jt. CITV DIT	21	4	22	8
4.	Dy./Asstt. CIT/DIT	48	27	49	30
5.	Asstt. Dir. (Sys)	1	0	1	0
6.	ITO	66	0	72	2
7.	AO Gr. II	1	0	2	1
8.	AO Gr. III	9	4	9	0
9.	Sr. PS	2	2	2	0
10.	P.S.	8	0	8	1
11.	Dy. Dir. (OL)	-	-	-	-
12.	Asstt. Dir (OL)	1	0	1	0
13.	Sr. Hindi Trans.	1	0	2	0
14.	Jr. Hindi Trans.	1	0	0	0
15.	DPA, Gr. 'B'	2	2	2	2
16.	DPA, Gr. 'A'	2	1	2	1
17.	ITI	148	13	158	26
18.	Office Supdt.	59	21	59	1
19.	Sr. Tax Asstt.	160	0	162	3
20.	Tax Asstt.	184	-1	241	126
21.	LDC	6	0	6	0
22.	Steno. Gr. I	18	0	18	2
23.	Steno Gr. II	35	0	35	4
24.	Steno Gr. III	30	14	55	45
25.	SCO Gr. I	3	1	3	1

1	2	3	4	5	6
26.	SCD Gr. II	2	0	2	0
27.	SCO (OG)	2	-3	2	-3
28.	Notice Server	58	1	54	1
29.	Daftry	56	0	56	0
30.	Jamadar	1	0	1	0
31.	Peon	72	12	59	38
32.	Sr. Gest. Oprt.	1	0	1	0
33.	Watchman	101	62	45	13
34.	Farash	5	-1	5	-1
35.	Sweeper	3	2	1	0
36.	Mali	5	5	0	0
Grand Total		1122	166	1145	299

Source: (F.No.CCIT/NGP/Estt-1/SS/WS/2007-08 dated 27-4-2007)

*Category-wise sanctioned strength and vacancies position as on 31-3-2004 & 31-3-2007*

S.No.	Name of Charge Name of the Post	Patna			
		Sanctioned Strength as on 31.3.04	Vacant as on 31.3.04	Sanctioned Strength as on 31.3.07	Vacant as on 31.3.07
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	CCIT/DGIT	4	0	4	0
2.	CIT/DIT	19	2	19	4
3.	Add./Jt. CIT/DIT	36	11	39	15
4.	Dy./Asstt. CIT/DIT	72	31	76	38
5.	Dy. Dir (Systems)	-	-	-	-
6.	Asstt. Dir. (Systems)	2	0	2	0
7.	ITO	114	0	124	0
8.	AO Gr. II	1	0	1	0
9.	AO Gr. III	22	9	22	0
10.	Sr. Pvt. Secy.	4	1	4	0
11.	Private Secretary	19	12	19	11



1	2	3	4	5	6
12.	Dy./Asstt. Dir. (OL)	3	0	2	1
13.	Sr. Hindi Trans.	2	1	2	0
14.	Jr. Hindi Trans.	3	2	2	2
15.	DPA, Gr. 'B'	1	1	1	1
16.	DPA, Gr. 'A'	2	2	2	2
17.	ITI	289	30	321	48
18.	Office Supdf.	74	24	74	0
19.	Sr. Tax Asstt.	230	21	232	21
20.	Tax Asstt.	357	53	394	173
21.	LDC	9	-23	9	-12
22.	Steno Gr. I	27	1	27	2
23.	Steno Gr. II	56	7	56	28
24.	Steno Gr. III	59	48	80	63
25.	SCD (Spl. Gr.)	1	0	1	1
26.	SCD Gr. I	8	3	8	3
27.	SCD Gr. II	6	0	6	0
28.	SCD (OG)	7	-3	7	-3
29.	Notice Server	88	5	86	2
30.	Record Keeper	-	-	-	-
31.	Daftry	87	2	87	0
32.	Sr. Peon	3	0	3	0
33.	Peon	111	3	89	26
34.	Jr. Gest. Operator	1	1	1	0
35.	Watchman	89	9	76	38
36.	Farash	4	0	4	1
37.	Sweeper	6	1	5	2
38.	Mali	7	1	7	1
Grand Total		1823	253	1892	468

Source: (F.No. CCIT/PAT/Estt.DX-5/2007-08/1508 dated 30.4.2007)

*Category-wise sanctioned strength and vacancies position as on 31-3-2004 & 31-3-2007*

S.No.	Name of Charge	Pune			
	Name of the Post	Sanctioned Strength as on 31.3.04	Vacant as on 31.3.04	Sanctioned Strength, as on 31.3.07	Vacant as on 31.3.07
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	CCIT/DGIT	5	0	5	0
2.	CIT/DIT	28	-1	30	3
3.	Addl./Jt. CIT/DIT	57	0	67	15
4.	Dy./Asstt. CIT/DIT	94	12	102	21
5.	Dy. Dir. (Systems)	-	-	-	-
6.	Asstt. Dir. (Systems)	-	-	-	-
7.	ITO	242	2	258	9
8.	AO Gr. II	1	0	2	0
9.	AO Gr. III	34	20	34	0
10.	Private Secretary	0	0	30	24
11.	Dy. Dir. (OL)	-	-	-	-
12.	Asstt. Dir. (OL)	-	-	-	-
13.	Sr. Hindi Trans.	2	1	2	1
14.	Jr. Hindi Trans.	3	0	3	0
15.	DPA, Gr. 'B'	2	0	2	0
16.	DPA, Gr. 'A'	8	6	10	6
17.	ITI	486	94	513	100
18.	Office Supdt.	100	15	104	8
19.	Sr. Tax Asstt.	357	65	384	64
20.	Tax Asstt.	395	40	618	202
21.	LDC	12	0	12	0
22.	Steno. Gr. I	39	28	39	0
23.	Steno Gr. II	79	3	79	27
24.	Steno Gr. III	79	17	136	68
25.	SCD (Spl. Gr.)	0	0	2	2

1	2	3	4	5	6
26.	SCD Gr. I	4	1	10	4
27.	SCD Gr. II	6	-3	8	0
28.	SCD (OG)	21	3	8	-6
29.	D.E.O. GR.B	0	-9	0	0
30.	Notice Server	117	9	108	9
31.	Record Keeper	-	-	-	-
32.	Daftry	117	2	117	22
33.	Sr. Peon/Jamadar	1	0	1	1
34.	Peon	150	94	81	50
35.	Jr. Gest. Operator	1	1	1	0
36.	Watchman	83	13	51	-1
37.	Farash	21	21	19	-5
38.	Sweeper	10	10	0	10
39.	Mali	-	-	-	-
40.	Canteen staff Gr.C	5	0	5	0
41.	Sr. P.S.	0	0	5	1
42.	Hindi Typist	-	-	-	-
43.	Canteen Staff Gr. D	8	0	8	2
44.	Sr. P.A.	35	28	0	0
Grand Total		2602	472	2854	637

Source: (No.PN/CC/EST/654/2007-08/421 dated 30.4.2007)

[Translation]

**Performance of NGOs in Rural Development**

\*430. SHRI SRICHAND KRIPLANI:  
SHRI DANVE RAOSAHEB PATIL:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether several Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) are working in the rural areas of the country under the centrally sponsored schemes;

(b) if so, the present details thereof alongwith the funds allocated to each of them, State-wise;

(c) the results achieved from the schemes run by them during the last two years, State-wise;

(d) whether the Government is satisfied with their performance;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the steps taken by the Government in this direction?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH): (a) to (f) Under the Swarnajayanti Gram Swarajgar Yojana (SGSY), a *centrally sponsored scheme* of the Ministry of Rural Development, the Non-governmental Organisations (NGOs) work as facilitators working closely with the communities at grassroots level and have a critical role in the group formation and its development. This scheme is implemented by the State Governments and the District Rural Development Agencies (DRDAs). Under SGSY, Ministry of Rural Development does not keep a record of the names of the NGOs nor does it monitor the performance of the NGOs at the Central level. The guidelines of the SGSY stipulate that Rs. 10,000 would be payable to the NGOs for formation and development of Self Help Groups. Though this amount is the maximum ceiling, however, the actual amount may be decided by the District Level SGSY Committee based on the local prevailing situations. Additionally, under the SGSY Special Projects, the DRDAs may involve the NGOs for undertaking project related activities.

Ministry of Rural Development also releases funds to NGOs from the budget of SGSY for UNDP assisted project, namely, Social Mobilization Around Natural Resource Management for Poverty Alleviation. The funds are reimbursed by UNDP to Controller of Aid Accounts and Audit (CAAA). This externally aided scheme under UNDP commenced in 2003-04 is being implemented in

11 selected districts of 3 States namely Rajasthan, Jharkhand and Orissa through 17 NGOs. The details are given in the enclosed statement-I.

Under Rural Housing, there were two schemes of Ministry of Rural Development, namely, Innovative Stream for Rural Housing and Habitat Development and Rural Building Centres (RBC) under which funds were also sanctioned to NGOs. These Schemes have been discontinued with effect from 1.4.2004. However, the pending projects of these schemes are being funded. Under Innovative Stream for Rural Housing and Habitat Development, Rs. 53.45 lakh have been released during the last two years, as per list enclosed as statement-II. Under Rural Building Centres Scheme, Rs. 37.62 lakh have been released during this period as per list enclosed as statement-III. The Government is satisfied with the performance of the NGOs. Utilization Certificates and Audit Reports are invariably obtained before release of further instalments of funds under these schemes. Physical inspections are also carried out by the officers of this Ministry and/or HUDCO, from time to time.

Ministry of Rural Development has also invited proposals through Expression of Interest from NGOs that are engaged with the issues and processes of NREGA for undertaking the tasks of capacity building of local rural communities to access their entitlements and assert their rights under NREGA in select NREGA districts.

**Statement I**

*Year-wise allocation and release (Budget)*

(Rs. in Lakh)

Sl. No.	Name of Agency	Name of the State	Total UNDP Share	Total Release upto March, 07
1	2	3	4	5
1.	PRADAN	Jharkhand	315.05	242.09
2.	LGSS	Jharkhand	84.87	67.61
3.	FEMALE	Jharkhand	37.01	29.66
4.	AAA	Jharkhand	99.98	76.80
5.	KSRA	Jharkhand	95.90	82.86
6.	VLKALPA	Orissa	212.92	164.09

1	2	3	4	5
7.	LOKADURSTI	Orissa	213.07	194.58
8.	WIDA	Orissa	145.55	107.63
9.	AMMA	Orissa	132.07	102.15
10.	ASTHA	Rajasthan	150.84	128.22
11.	FES	Rajasthan	114.10	89.50
12.	ARAVALI	Rajasthan	224.75	200.39
13.	SAMARTHAK	Rajasthan	49.23	39.54
14.	BAIF	Rajasthan	65.02	52.34
15.	SANKALP	Rajasthan	133.01	102.31
16.	GVT	Rajasthan	50.00	42.86
17.	CECOEDEDCON	Rajasthan	79.99	53.94
<b>Total</b>			<b>2203.36</b>	<b>1776.77</b>

**Statement II**

*Funds released to the NGOs, State-wise, under Innovative Stream for Rural Housing and Habitat Development during 2005-06, 2006-07*

(Rs. in lakhs)

S.No.	State/Name of the Agency	Village/Block/Dist.	Amount Released in 2005-06	Amount Released in 2006-07	No. of Houses Constructed
1	2	3	4	5	6
<b>Andhra Pradesh</b>					
1.	Brethern Institute for R.D. 11014/3/00	V- Chinna Cumbum M- Cumbum D-Prakasham			30
2.	Haritha Association for learning(NGO) 11014/278/00	D-Khammam.			8
3.	Gramodaya Organisation for Rural Development 11014/155/00	V- Tirumatagiri, Tonda M- Tirumatagiri D-Nalgonda	4.55		19

1	2	3	4	5	6
4.	Sai Seva Samiti (NGO) 11014/229/00	V- Mantralayam M- Mantralayam D-Kumool	5.00		1
5.	Praja Pragathi Seva Sangham NGO, 11014/185/00	V- Mangalapuram M- Chaitapalli D-Krishna	2.21		55
6.	Village Development Society 11014/122/01	V- Agraharam Thanda M- Vanguru D-Mahaboobnagar			35
7.	Nitya Krushi R. Dev. educational & HS (NGO), 11014/235/01  Gujarat	V- Chetnepalli B- Gooty D-Anantapur			25
8.	Z N V K Mandal, (NGO) 11014/24/01	V-Atthol, B-Vaia D-Bharuch			22
9.	Ahmedabad Study Action Group (NGO)  Madhya Pradesh	D- Ahmedabad			70
10.	Star School Samiti, (NGO) 1014/179/00  Manipur	V-Jam Khurd B - MHOW J-Indore			15
11.	WSYDA (NGO) 1014/7/99  Rajasthan	V-Wangoo Sabal J- Moirang Manipur		5.00	44
12.	S H S S, Bharatpur (NGO) 1014/81/00	V-Lalpur Block-Mahuwa Dausa	3.93		13
13.	Netaji S C Bose S. Samiti H-11014/95/2000  Tamil Nadu	V- Dabla Khurd Tehsil- Phagi D-Jaipur	3.93	1.18	50
14.	Nehru R. Dev. Society (NGO) 110124/00	V-Melnagar B-West Arni D-Tiruvannamalai			
15.	I.R. Deve. Society (NGO) 11014/123/00	P-Senji, Ektadu B-Kadambathur D-Thiruvallur	5.00		29

1	2	3	4	5	6
16.	Co-operate League in Dev.	P-Melpuiram Takuk-Vivancode D-Kanyakumari			
	<b>Uttar Pradesh</b>				
17.	Pinky G. Sansthan (NGO) 11014/129/01	V- Wallipur Post- Mathia D-Ambedkar	4.87		16
18.	S.S. Sanskrit (NGO) Mahavidyalaya 11014/12/2000-RH	V-Sathini Vaisi B-Lglass D-Aligarh			25
19.	A.B.U.S.K. Parishad (NGO)	V-Nagia Shisham B- Mursan D-Hatharas			52
20.	J.M. Vikas, Lucknow 11014/6/00	V-Jhabripurwa Tahsil- Sadar D-Hardoi			48
	<b>West Bengal</b>				
21.	Comprehensive Area Development Service 11014/312/01	Villages-Parari B- Chakdah D-Nadia			14
22.	Agradut P.U. Samithi (NGO) 11014/309/01	V-Gaza B-Udeynarayanpur D-Howrah			24
23.	K.N.S. Sangha, (NGO) 11014/183/00	V-Udharanpur B-Katugram-II D-Bardhwan	9.84		80
	<b>Bihar</b>				
24.	SMVSSS, Ltd. (NGO) 11014/52/00	V-Ranti D-Madhubani	4.00		60
	<b>Orissa</b>				
25.	Manab Seva Sadan, (NGO) 11014/152/00 D-Denkanal	V-Saranga B-Parajang	3.94		58
	<b>Total</b>		<b>42.27</b>	<b>11.18</b>	<b>771</b>

Total Amount released during the last two years- Rs. 53.45 lakh

**Statement III**

*Funds released to the NGOs under Rural Building Centre during 2005-06 and 2006-07.*

*Fund released to NGOs during the year 2005-06*

(Rs. in lakh)

Sl.No.	Name of the NGO/State	Amt. Released
1.	Gram Vikas Parishad (Nagaon) - Assam	6.00
2.	Rajendra Institute of Edu. & Social Welfare (Sitamarhi)-Bihar	6.00
3.	Abinav Pre-Fab Industries (Motihari) - Bihar	3.00
4.	International Rural Edu. (Narmada)-Guj.	5.60
5.	Society for Technology & Dev. (Mandi)-H.P,	2.02
6.	Institute of Social Work & Action Research (Dhenkanal)-Orissa	3.00
7.	Jan Manas Vikas Sansthan (Hardoi)-UP	6.00
<i>Fund released to NGOs during the year 2006-07</i>		
1.	Purba Hailakhandi Dev. Council (Hailakandi) - Assam	3.00
2.	Chaubisi Vikas Sangh (Rohtak)-Haryana	3.00
<b>Total</b>		<b>37.62</b>

*[English]***Evening Courts**

\*431. SHRI HARILAL MADHAVJI BHAJ PATEL:  
SHRI P.S. GADHAVI;

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have received proposals/suggestions from some of the State Governments for starting Evening Courts for speedy disposal of pending cases in the Courts; and

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the reaction of the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ): (a) Only the Government of Gujarat after the 'Evening Courts' were launched in that State requested

the Central Government for a special grant of Rs. 5 crore. Administration of Justice being primarily a State subject and also because there is no scheme in this regard for giving central assistance, the request of Government of Gujarat has not been agreed to. No other State Government has formally written to the Central Government for launching Evening Courts.

(b) The matter of introduction of shift system in subordinate courts, among other things, was discussed in the Conference of Chief Ministers and Chief Justices of High Courts held in New Delhi on April 8, 2007. In that Conference all States had welcomed the introduction of shift system in subordinate courts and promised to work in that direction. It was decided in that Conference that evening/morning courts be set-up, wherever found feasible, and appropriate cases including those involving petty offences be transferred to such courts. Either retired Judicial Officers be re-employed or serving Judicial Officers be given suitable incentive, to preside over these Courts. Government has requested the State Governments to take



action on the above mentioned decision, as also on the other decisions of the Conference, in consultation with their respective High Courts. The Government has also requested the Chief Justices of the High Courts to take action in consultation with the State Governments.

#### Implementation of Projects Under RGGVY

\*432. SHRI M. RAJA MOHAN REDDY:  
SHRI ABU AYES MONDAL:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) and some other public sector power companies have been entrusted with the responsibility of implementing the Rajiv Gandhi Grameen Vidyutikaran Yojana (RGGVY) in some States of the country;

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

(c) whether many projects under the Yojana have not been granted approval;

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

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

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE): (a) Yes, Sir. With a view to augment the

implementation capacities of state power utilities, as also to assist them in the execution of rural electrification projects as per their willingness and requirement, the services of four Central Power Sector Undertakings namely, National Thermal Power Corporation, Power Grid Corporation India Ltd, National Hydro-electric Power Corporation and Damodar Valley Corporation have been offered to the States under Rajiv Gandhi Grameen Vidyutikaran Yojana (RGGVY).

(b) Thirteen of the twenty seven states, have assigned the implementation of RGGVY projects to CPSUs in 139 districts as per the details given in the enclosed Statement.

(c) to (e) Rural Electrification Corporation has received 602 projects proposals for 566 districts covering 1,18,350 un-electrified villages, 2.54 crore Below Poverty Line (BPL) households.

In Phase-I of the scheme, 235 projects have been sanctioned for implementation at the cost of Rs. 12,401 crores covering 68,763 un-electrified villages and 1.26 crores rural households including 83 lakh Below Poverty Line families.

Implementation of balance 367 projects are meant to be taken up in Phase-II of the scheme. The implementation of Phase-II is dependent on the approval of continuation of the scheme in XI-Plan with enhanced funds.

#### Statement

##### *No. of Districts where CPSUs are Implementing the Scheme*

CPSUs	Northern Region		Southern Region			Western Region			Eastern Region			North-Eastern Region		Total
	J&K	Rajasthan	U.P.	Kerala	Chattisgarh	Gujarat	Madhya Pradesh	Bihar	Jharkhand	Orissa	West Bengal	Assam	Tripura	
PGCIL	-	7	8	-	4	2		24		12	2	7	2	68
NTPC	-	-	-	6	5	-	4	-	8	12	1*	-	-	35
NHPC	7	-	-	-	7	-	-	6	-	6	1	-	-	27
DVC	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	8	-	1	-	-	9
Total	7	7	8	6	16	2	4	30	16	30	4	7	2	139

\*Two blocks only

**Legal Aid System**

\*433. SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL:  
SHRI TUKARAM GANPAT RAO RENGE  
PATIL:

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to strengthen the legal aid system to provide access to justice to the under-privileged people;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H. R. BHARDWAJ): (a) Yes, Sir,

(b) and (c) In order to ensure that the opportunities for securing justice are not denied to any citizen by reason of economic or other disabilities, the National Legal Services Authority (NALSA) was constituted under the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987. It aims at establishing a nation-wide network for providing free and competent legal services to the weaker and under-privileged sections of the society. Under the Act, the Legal Services Authorities have been constituted in all States/UTs and Supreme Court Legal Services Committee has also been constituted under Section 3A of the Act. The Central Authority (i.e., NALSA) is taking up vibrant legal aid programmes by –

(a) Laying down policies and principles for making legal services available under the provisions of the Act;

(b) Framing the most effective and economic schemes for the purpose of making legal service available under the provisions of the Act;

(c) Utilizing the fund at its disposal and make appropriate allocations of funds to the State Authorities and District Authorities;

(d) Taking necessary steps by way of social justice litigation with regard to consumer protection, environmental protection or any other matter of special concern to the weaker sections of the society and for this purpose, giving training, to social workers in legal skills;

(e) Organizing legal aid camps, especially in rural areas, slums or labour colonies with the dual purpose of

educating the weaker sections of the society as to their rights as well as encouraging the settlement of disputes through Lok Adalats;

(f) Encouraging the settlement of disputes by way of negotiations, arbitration and conciliation;

(g) Undertaking and promoting research in the field of legal services with special reference to the need for such services among the poor;

(h) Doing all things necessary for the purpose of ensuring commitment to the fundamental duties of citizens under Part-IVA of the Constitution;

(i) Monitoring and evaluating implementation of the legal aid programmes at periodic intervals and provide for independent evaluation of programmes and schemes implemented in whole or in part by funds provided under the Act;

(j) Providing grant-in-aid for specific schemes to various voluntary social service institutions and the State and District Authorities from out of the amount placed at its disposal for the implementation of legal services schemes under the provisions of this Act;

(k) Developing in consultation with Bar Council of India, programmes for clinical legal education and promote guidance and supervise the establishment and working of legal services clinics in Universities, Law colleges and other Institutions;

(l) Taking appropriate measures for spreading legal literacy and legal awareness amongst the people and in particular to educate weaker sections of the society about the rights, benefits and privileges guaranteed by social welfare legislations and other enactments as well as administrative programmes and measures;

(m) Making special efforts to enlist with the support of voluntary social welfare institutions working at the grass root level, particularly among the Schedules Castes and Scheduled Tribes, women and rural and urban labour; and

(n) Coordinating and monitoring the functioning of State Authorities, District Authorities, Supreme Legal Services Committee, High Court Legal Services Committee, Taluk Legal Services Committee and voluntary social service institutions and other legal services organizations and other general directions for the proper implementations of the legal provisions.

**Delay in Clearance of Cheques**

\*434. SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that banks take 4-6 days to clear cheques deposited by their customers;

(b) if so, whether inordinate delays in clearance of cheques are a violation of consumers right to access their funds in time;

(c) whether it is mandatory for banks to pay interest on delayed crediting to its customers;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (e) Reserve Bsnk of India (RBE) has reported that at Magnetic Ink Character Recognition (MICR) centres, which account for over 80 percent of volume of cheques in clearing, the clearing cycle is normally 3 to 4 days for local cheques. Clearance of outstation cheques may take more time due to the necessity of their physical movement. However, High Value Clearing has been introduced at 25 centres where large value cheques (above Rs. 1 lakh) received at the branches in the central business area in the city upto 11.00 am are credited to the customer's account on the same day. Non-payment or inordinate delay in the payment or collection of cheques/drafts is a deficiency in banking service entitling the customer to file a complaint to the Banking Ombudsman concerned.

RBI, vide its guidelines dated 1st November, 2004, has advised all scheduled commercial banks to formulate a Board approved comprehensive and transparent policy covering (i) immediate credit of local / outstation cheques, (ii) time frame for collection of local / outstation cheques, and (iii) interest payment for delayed collection, taking into account their technological capabilities, systems and processes adopted for clearing arrangements and other internal arrangements for collection through correspondents and ensure wide publicity of the policy so formulated.

To facilitate bank customers to move funds faster, RBI has developed electronic funds transfer systems like Real Time Gross Settlement (RTGS) system. National Electronic Funds Transfer (NEFT) and Electronic Clearing Service (ECS) system.

**Bio-mass/Co-generation Power Projects**

\*435. DR. M. JAGANNATH: Will the Minister of NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has formulated any scheme for setting up of Bio-mass/Co-generation Power Projects in villages and small towns for producing power from various Bio-mass residues;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the total amount sanctioned and spent under the Bio-mass power generation programme during each of the last three years; and

(d) the amount of subsidy provided to the micro-entrepreneurs for setting up co-generation power projects during the said period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY (SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR): (a) and (b) The Government has been implementing schemes to encourage setting up of projects for generation of electricity from various biomass residues for off-grid applications and feeding electricity to the grid based on combustion/cogeneration and gasification technologies. Biomass gasification projects are mostly set up in villages. While biomass power projects are set up by entrepreneurs at viable locations including in small towns, cogeneration projects are set up by industries and sugar mills for their captive use and for feeding surplus electricity to the grid. The Ministry provides capital subsidy and various other fiscal incentives to encourage such projects.

(c) Information on the total amount sanctioned and spent under Biomass Power Programme during the last three years are given below:

(Rs. in crore)

Year	Amount sanctioned/released
2004-05	4.21
2005-06	5.10
2006-07	19.56

(d) Does not arise as Biomass/bagasse cogeneration projects set up by industries/sugar mills require high capital investment.

#### **Merger of HBI with IDBI**

\*436. SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to merger Industrial Investment Bank of India (IIBI) with Industrial Development Bank of India (IDBI); and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

#### **Amendment of CST Act, 1956**

\*437. SHRI REWATI RAMAN SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to amend Central Sales Tax Act, 1956 to withdraw the tax break benefit for PSUs;

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

(c) whether the move will make their out-of-State purchases a lot more expensive and whether the States would also be affected;

(d) if so, the details thereof and whether the States have been consulted; and

(e) whether it will ultimately make the products and services more expensive for the consumers?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b) There is no proposal to amend the Central Sales Tax Act, 1956 to withdraw the tax break benefits for PSUs. In fact, no special tax breaks are available to the PSUs under the CST Act, 1956. The

provisions of the CST Act, 1956, as amended by the Taxation Laws (Amendment) Act, 2007, apply uniformly to all tax payers, irrespective of whether they are in Public Sector or in Private Sector.

(c) to (e) The question does not arise.

*[Translation]*

#### **Decline in the Number of Scientists**

\*438. SHRI RABINDER KUMAR RANA: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the number of scientists has been declining every year in the country;

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

(c) whether funds allocated for research in the field of sciences are also not utilized fully;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) and (b) No Sir. According to the available official statistics, the stock of Scientific and Technical personnel in the country has arisen from 7.8 million in 2001. Of which, nearly 1 lakh S&T personnel remain engaged in Reserch and Development activities every year.

(c) to (e) Yes Sir. The details of the utilisation of the funds for research by Central Scientific Departments during the 10th five Year Plan are given in the table below. The corrective steps taken in this regard include changes in the existing project approval process, quarterly monitoring of flow of funds and awareness creation among the scientific community about various schemes.

*Utilisation of funds by Central Scientific Departments*

(Rupees in Crores)

Sl.No.	S&T Departments/ Agencies	Annual Plan 2002-03		Annual Plan 2003-04		Annual Plan 2004-05		Annual Plan 2005-06		Annual Plan 2006-07	Annual Plan 2006-07
		BE	Actuals	BE	Actuals	BE	Actuals	BE	Actuals	BE	RE
1.	Department of Atomic Energy (R&D Sector)	535.00	405.56	464.00	409.94	703.58	609.52	872.74	770.80	1003.00	1032.72
2.	Deptt. of Ocean Development Ministry of Earth Sciences	175.00	138.69	175.00	147.38	200.00	198.88	340.00	225.05	575.00	400.00
3.	Deptt. of Science and Technology	625.00	537.10	800.00	602.37	900.00	898.26	1250.00	1024.24	1230.00	954.00
4.	Deptt. of Bio- technology	225.00	203.25	260.00	248.76	310.00	319.27	445.00	388.00	521.00	498.00
5.	Deptt. of Scientific & Industrial Research	440.00	366.96	520.00	380.15	650.00	598.25	846.00	730.33	975.00	775.00
6.	Department of Space	1950.00	1846.71	2050.00	1941.00	2400.00	2194.70	2800.00	2294.30	3220.00	2800.00
Grand Total		3950.00	3498.27	4268.00	3729.60	5163.58	4814.88	6553.74	5431.08	7524.00	6457.72

Source: Planning Commission, Government of India

**Irregularities under PMGSY**

\*439. SHRIMATI SANGEETA KUMARI SINGH DEO:  
Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware of any irregularities committed during the two years under the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY);

(b) if so, the details thereof;

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

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

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

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) During last 2 years, 104 complaints about irregularities in some road works being taken up under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) have been received.

(c) and (d) 57 complaints have been sent to the State Governments for inquiry and necessary action and

in 34 cases, the National Quality Monitors (NQMs) were deputed to enquire into the complaints. Necessary action is being taken in respect of 13 complaints. The observations of NQMs in respect of 24 cases have been sent to the State for appropriate action and in 10 cases, the inquiry is in progress.

(e) Three tier Quality Control Mechanism has been prescribed in the PMGSY Programme Guidelines to ensure high level of quality in works taken up under 'PMGSY'. The first two tiers of the Quality Control Structure are within the State. As the third tier of the Structure, Independent Monitors designated as 'National Quality Monitors' are engaged for inspection, at random, of the road works taken up under the programme.

*[English]*

### **Women in Self Help Groups**

\*440. SHRI M. SREENIVASULU REDDY: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the criteria being followed while forming of Self Help Groups (SHGs) under the Swarnjayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY);

(b) whether women are also given representation in such groups; and

(c) if so, the details thereof indicating their percentage in these groups?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH): (a) The objective of the SGSY is to bring the assisted families above the poverty line by ensuring appreciable increase in incomes over a period of time. The criteria being followed while forming the Self-Help Groups are as below:

1. A Self Help Group may consist of 10-20 persons.
2. Generally, all members of the group should belong to the families below the poverty line and a person should not be a member of more than one group. However, if necessary, a maximum of 20% of the members in a group can be taken from marginally above the poverty line families.
3. The group should actively participate in the management and decision-making, such as

devising a code of conduct, holding regular meetings, building up a corpus through regular savings, evolving financial management norms, interest rates and procedures for sanctioning of the loans, etc.

4. The members in the group meetings should take all the loaning decisions through a participatory decision making process.
5. The group should operate a group account preferably in their service area bank branch.
6. The group should maintain simple basic records such as Minutes book, Attendance register, Loan ledger, General ledger, Cash book, Bank passbook and individual passbooks.

(b) Yes, Sir. The guidelines of the SGSY stipulate that 50% of the groups formed in each block should be exclusively for the women. Women will account for a minimum of 40% of the total swarozgaris assisted during a year.

(c) Under the SGSY, the total number of self-help groups (SHGs) formed, since inception i.e. 1.4.1999 till March, 2007, is 25.22 lakh. Out of these, the total numbers of women SHGs are 16.56 lakh i.e. 66% of the total SHGs formed. Since inception of the SGSY, 85.24 lakh swarozgaris have been assisted under the Scheme, out of which the women swarozgaris account for 45.50 lakh which is 53.38% of the total swarozgaris assisted.

### **World Bank Aid for TRIPTI**

4132. SHRI PARSURAM MAJHI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the World Bank is providing funds under Targeted Rural Initiative for Poverty Termination Infrastructure (TRIPTI); and

(b) if so, the amount received by each State during the last three years alongwith the details of utilization of such funds?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

**Waiving off Loans to Farmers**

4133. SHRI BADIGA RAMAKRISHNA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware of the losses caused to the farmers due to floods in the first of November, 2006, in some districts of Andhra Pradesh;

(b) whether the Government proposes to waive off loan taken by the farmers of these districts of Andhra Pradesh; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) to (c) The Government is aware of the distress of the farmers due to various natural calamities in different parts of the country including Andhra Pradesh. In the situation of drought/floods extent guidelines issued by Reserve Bank of India for providing relief in areas affected by natural calamities are followed by Banks. The guidelines, *inter-alia*, permit banks to:

(i) Convert/reschedule loans in the event of natural calamity for periods ranging from 3 to 9 years,, depending upon the successive crop failure/intensity of damage to crops;

(ii) Grant fresh crop loans to affected farmers;

(iii) Provide consumption loans to agriculturists whose crops have been damaged etc.

The Government has announced a rehabilitation package for 31 debt stressed districts of the country which included, the farmers in the 16 debt stressed districts of Andhra Pradesh. The package alongwith other components, provides that the interest on overdue loans as on 01.07.2006 be waived off. As provided in the package, Rs.1992.18 crore of overdue interest have been waived off in Andhra Pradesh.

*[Translation]*

**Loan to Agriculture Sector**

4134. SHRI KULDEEP BISHNOI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether certain banks are yet to achieve the targets of providing at least 18 per cent loan to the agriculture sector out of the total loan disbursed by them;

(b) if so, the names of such banks and the reasons for not achieving the targets by them; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The name of the Banks who could not achieve the 18% net bank credit to the Agriculture Sector is given in the enclosed Statement. Some of the reasons for non-achievement of targets are low capital formation in agriculture contributing to lack of credit absorption capacity, natural calamities like draught/flood in some of the states which, adversely affect the credit off take, etc.

(c) Public Sector and private sector banks, which fail to achieve the priority sector and/or agriculture lending targets, are required to deposit into Rural Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDF) such amounts as may be allocated to them by Reserve Bank of India on the basis of extent of their default. As a measure of disincentive for non-achievement of priority sector lending targets, interest payable on the deposits made by the contributing banks in RIDF is linked in inverse proportion to the extent of shortfall in the agricultural lending *vis-a-vis* the stipulated target of 18% greater the shortfall, lower the rate of interest.

**Statement**

*The Banks who could not achieve the 18% net bank credit to Agriculture Sector*

**Public Sector Banks:**

1. State Bank of India
2. State Bank of Hyderabad
3. State Bank of Mysore
4. State Bank of Patiala
5. State Bank of Travancore
6. Bank of Baroda
7. Bank of Maharashtra

- |                               |                                                                     |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 8. Canara Bank                | 17. Kotak Mahindra Bank Ltd.                                        |
| 9. Central Bank of India      | 18. Laksmi Vilas Bank Ltd.                                          |
| 10. Corporation Bank          | 19. Lord Krishna Bank Ltd.                                          |
| 11. Dena Bank                 | 20. The Nainital Bank Ltd.                                          |
| 12. Oriental Bank of Commerce | 21. The Ratnakar Bank Ltd.                                          |
| 13. Punjab & Sind Bank        | 22. The Sangli Bank Ltd.                                            |
| 14. Union Bank of India       | 23. SBI Commercial & International Bank Ltd.                        |
| 15. United Bank of India      | 24. The South Indian Bank Ltd.                                      |
| 16. UCO Bank                  | 25. Tamilnadu Mercantile Bank Ltd.                                  |
| 17. Vijaya Bank               | 26. The United Western Bank Ltd. (Since merged with IDBI Bank Ltd.) |
| 18. IDBI Bank Ltd.            | 27. UTI Bank Ltd.                                                   |

**Private Sector Bank:**

1. Bank of Rajasthan Ltd.
2. Bharat Overseas Bank (Since merged with India Overseas Bank)
3. Catholic Syrian Bank Ltd.
4. Centurian Bank of Punjab Ltd.
5. City Union Bank Ltd.
6. Development Credit Bank Ltd.
7. Dhaniakshmi Bank Ltd.
8. The Federal Bank Ltd.
9. Yes Bank Ltd.
10. HDFC Bank Ltd.
11. ICICI Bank Ltd.
12. Indusind Bank
13. Ing. Vysya Bank Ltd.
14. Jammu & Kashmir Bank Ltd.
15. Karnataka Bank Ltd.
16. Karur Vysya Bank Ltd.

*[English]***Release of Second Instalment under SGRY**

4135. SHRI M. K. SUBBA: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the Central aid and grants sought by the various States and sanctioned to them under Sampoorna Grameen Rozgar Yojana (SGRY) during the last year, State-wise; and

(b) the details of employment opportunities generated in each State under the Yojana under its first phase and the Central contribution made therefor indicating the unappropriated or misappropriated amounts therefrom?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL): (a) and (b) Sampoorna Grameen Rozgar Yojana (SGRY) is an allocation based programme. State/District-wise allocation is made based on objective criteria. State-wise details of amounts released and mandays generated during last three years are given in the enclosed Statement. No Central contribution under SGRY has been provided through misappropriation.



**Statement**

(Rs. in lakh)

(Mandays in lakh)

S.No.	States / UTs	2004-05		2005-06		2006-07*	
		Central Release of Funds	Mandays generated	Central Release of Funds	Mandays generated	Central Release of Funds	Mandays generated
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Andhra Pradesh	24049.88	434.02	29453.70	434.16	13545.64	136.40
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	1368.64	8.53	1377.50	9.42	842.20	11.74
3.	Assam	32124.06	625.80	40916.96	716.00	29847.28	632.35
4.	Bihar	49196.29	605.32	59124.30	618.37	20462.40	151.45
5.	Chhattisgarh	12931.67	348.85	16605.81	256.82	6089.13	83.58
6.	Goa	292.55	3.57	242.07	1.91	250.58	2.64
7.	Gujarat	9941.23	264.68	12648.76	186.34	10724.36	77.20
8.	Haryana	5567.67	70.12	6758.76	70.90	7552.28	73.99
9.	Himachal Pradesh	2259.63	40.18	2230.05	36.48	1948.24	24.32
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	2715.61	43.73	3229.13	42.09	3252.59	19.34
11.	Jharkhand	27394.54	303.88	33841.77	407.43	4173.94	40.97
12.	Karnataka	18290.28	419.24	21881.83	395.07	19871.61	310.51
13.	Kerala	7866.56	118.91	9767.11	109.46	9618.09	53.38
14.	Madhya Pradesh	28713.84	581.39	34606.57	533.55	20402.84	267.72
15.	Maharashtra	33657.28	674.69	40869.63	659.28	31832.03	412.54
16.	Manipur	2123.41	31.93	2164.50	13.56	2179.95	32.30
17.	Meghalaya	2439.01	36.96	2334.13	41.74	1753.09	25.87
18.	Mizoram	574.44	6.54	748.55	11.48	688.66	14.20
19.	Nagaland	1637.97	36.71	1415.70	33.10	1356.43	20.42
20.	Orissa	26939.86	553.94	33322.45	556.02	11931.45	183.61
21.	Punjab	5818.55	43.29	6412.39	36.68	4416.73	44.19
22.	Rajasthan	14564.97	219.48	17945.03	182.54	25360.83	162.76
23.	Sikkim	685.88	5.34	828.75	7.60	703.59	7.81
24.	Tamil Nadu	22470.43	519.41	25995.76	472.11	23561.42	212.36

\*In 2006-2007, 388 districts were covered under SGRY since SGRY programme in 200 districts were subsumed into NREGA.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
25.	Tripura	4079.04	108.46	5213.91	130.36	4324.16	46.21
26.	Uttaranchal	5361.66	94.29	6607.12	102.02	6123.38	86.64
27.	Uttar Pradesh	79279.95	1750.45	96576.36	1608.65	68935.32	786.12
28.	West Bengal	26731.84	377.56	34453.29	539.74	14439.59	165.95
29.	A&N Islands	220.94	3.01	44.36	3.94	0.00	0.27
30.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	87.28	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
31.	Daman & Diu	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
32.	Lakshadweep	28.57	0.13	126.75	0.41	129.55	0.15
33.	Pondicherry	205.09	0.13	0.00	1.23	166.64	0.59
Total		449618.62	8330.53	549743.00	8218.45	346484.00	4087.58

#### Tax Relief to Foreign Companies

4136. PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA:  
SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN:  
SHRI CHANDRA MANI TRIPATHI:  
SHRI BADIGA RAMAKRISHNA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of tax relief available to the foreign companies functioning in India alongwith the governing rules/conditions thereof;

(b) whether cases of infringement of such rules/conditions by some of these companies have come to the notice of the Government during the last one year;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the action taken against such companies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) As far as direct taxes are concerned, the tax relief on the doubly taxed income is available to foreign companies in accordance with the provision of the Income-tax Act and the Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement, if any, entered into by the Government with the Government of any other country.

As far as indirect taxes are concerned, there are no specific tax reliefs available only to foreign companies.

(b) to (d) No case of infringement of conditions of grant of tax relief has come to notice.

#### Setting Up of Skill Development Bank

4137. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received any representation/suggestion for setting up a Skill Development Bank to train manpower for financial intermediary between commercial banks and customers;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House to the extent available.

[Translation]

#### GEO-Thermal Energy

4138. SHRI RAGHUVVEER SINGH KOSHAL: Will the Minister of NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the World Bank provides assistance for promoting the development of geo-thermal energy in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there is any organized programme for the generation and utilization of geo-thermal energy in the country;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether any Geo-thermal Energy Generation Institute is functioning in the country at present; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY (SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR): (a) and (b) The World Bank has not provided any support for the development of geothermal energy to India.

(c) and (d) As per the Allocation of Business Rules, Ministry of New & Renewable Energy has been assigned the subject of geothermal energy. An amount of Rs. 1.00 crore has been provided in the BE for 2007-08 for the geothermal energy programme.

(e) and (f) No separate Geothermal Energy Generation Institute is functioning in the country. However, National Geophysical Research Institute (NGRI), Hyderabad has been under a sponsored project of the Ministry carrying Studies to assess geothermal energy potential at selected sites in the country.

*[English]*

#### Setting Up of National Institute for Training

4139. SHRI NARAYAN CHANDRA BORKATAKY: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Power Grid Corporation is planning to set up a National Institute for Training at Guwahati;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the total funds proposed to be incurred thereon; and

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

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE): (a) National Power Training Institute (NPTI), an apex body under the Ministry of Power, is establishing a Regional Institute in North Eastern Region at Kahalipara, Guwahati. M/s Power Grid Corporation of India has been engaged by NPTI for turnkey execution of the said project.

(b) The above project was sanctioned by Ministry of Power, Government of India in the year 2004. Assam State Electricity Board has provided 15 acres of land along with SLDC complex Kahalipara, Guwahati for the Project. The project comprises construction of an institute building, hostel, residential quarters and a guest house. The institute shall have various laboratories, training aid and equipments along with furniture & fixture. The main objective of this institute is to develop the human resources of the power sector of North Eastern Region.

(c) Total sanctioned cost of the project is Rs. 18.29 crore.

(d) The project is likely to be completed by 30.4.2008.

*[Translation]*

#### Raids on Hawala Traders

4140. SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether information about Swiss accounts have come to light during raids on hawala traders; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) Hawala traders are persons who are principally engaged in transferring money otherwise than through authorized banking channels. During search and seizure operations carried out in the last six months in respect of such persons, no information regarding Swiss Bank accounts has come to light.

(b) Does not arise, in view of reply to part (a) above.

#### Entry of Bank of Baroda in Insurance Business

4141. SHRI SANJAY DHOTRE:  
SHRIMATI BHAVANA PUNDALIKRAO GAWALI:  
SHRI BAPU HARI CHAURE:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Bank of Baroda proposes to enter the life insurance business with an European partner; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Bank of Baroda has identified Legal & General, U.K as its foreign Joint Venture (JV) partner for undertaking life insurance business in India. Legal & General is one of the leading life insurance companies of UK with successful track record of over 170 years, and a market capitalization of approx. £ 9.3 billion.

[English]

#### Nirmal Gram Puraskar

4142. SHRI NAVEEN JINDAL: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of villages awarded the Nirmal Gram Puraskar during the last three years, State-wise;

(b) whether proposals pertaining to the other villages in this regard are pending;

(c) if so, the details thereof, State-wise and the time by which these are likely to be cleared;

(d) whether it is proposed to enhance the amount of the Puraskar;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU): (a) A statement indicating the number of villages awarded the Nirmal Gram Puraskar, State-wise, since its inception in 2005 is enclosed. Information given for 2007 is for the villages which have been selected for the Nirmal Gram Puraskar to be given on 4th May, 2007.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise

(d) At present there is no such proposal.

(e) Does not arise.

(f) The Award amount has been revised in 2006.

#### Statement

Sl No.	State	No. of Gram Panchayats that received/ receiving NGP in:		
		2005	2006	2007
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	0	10	143
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	0	0	2
3.	Assam	0	1	3
4.	Bihar	0	4	39
5.	Chhattisgarh	0	12	90
6.	Gujarat	1	4	576
7.	Haryana	0	0	60
8.	Himachal Pradesh	0	0	22
9.	Jharkhand	0	0	12

1	2	3	4	5
10.	Karnataka	0	0	121
11.	Kerala	1	6	220
12.	Madhya Pradesh	0	1	190
13.	Maharashtra	13	380	1974
14.	Mizoram	0	0	3
15.	Orissa	0	8	33
16.	Rajasthan	0	0	23
17.	Sikkim	0	0	27
18.	Tamil Nadu	12	119	296
19.	Tripura	1	36	46
20.	Uttar Pradesh	0	40	488
21.	Uttarakhand	0	13	109
22.	West Bengal	10	126	468
Total		38	760	4945

#### Setting Up of CSIR Laboratories in Gujarat

4143. SHRIMATI JAYABEN B. THAKKAR: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to establish CSIR laboratories in Gujarat;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reason therefor?

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) No Sir.

(b) and (c) Question does not arise.

[Translation]

#### Release of Second Instalment of Funds under PMGSY

4144. SHRIMATI RUPATAI D. PATIL:  
SHRIMATI KARUNA SHUKLA:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has released second instalment of funds sanctioned for Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) to some States during the Tenth Plan period;

(b) if so, the details of funds thus released, State-wise;

(c) the names of those States to (whom) second instalment has not been released till now;

(d) the reasons therefor; and

(e) the time by which the second instalment would be released to them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL): (a) Yes.

(b) Works under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) are being implemented in phases. The 1st instalment amounting to 50% of the cleared value of projects or annual allocation whichever is lower is released

and the balance as lnd instalment subject to fulfilment of conditions as per the PMGSY programme guidelines. Phase-wise details of value of projects sanctioned and amount released have been given in the enclosed Statment-I. The details in respect of projects taken up with assistance from World Bank/Asian Development Bank are in given in the enclosed Statement-II.

(c) As given in enclosed Statement-I & II.

(d) Funds for the second instalment could not be released to some States/UTs because the conditions as given in the PMGSY programme guidelines were not fulfilled.

(e) Concerned States have been requested to comply with the conditions given in the PMGSY programme guidelines for facilitating the release of lnd instalment.

**Statement I**

*Value of Proposals sanctioned and amount released under various Phases of PMGSY, as on 31.03.07*

(Rs. In Crore)

Sr. No.	State	Phase I		Phase II		Phase III		Phase IV		Phase V		Phase VI	
		Value of	Amount	Value of	Amount	Value of	Amount	Value of	Amount	Value of	Amount	Value of	Amount
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
1.	Andhra Pradesh	248.00	248.00	436.36	409.91	258.56	253.56	369.24	255.09	350.21			
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	40.95	40.95	86.51	86.51	0.00	0.00	106.22	106.22	204.06		208.97	
3.	Assam	75.00	75.00	154.92	154.92	199.72	199.72	244.46	246.91	425.59	315.80	975.14	
4.	Bihar	149.89	149.90	302.98	276.92	2004.15	707.46	0	0.00	340.77			
5.	Chhattisgarh	117.93	92.43	225.13	203.22	378.02	376.06	412.59	412.59	448.62	180.00	503.43	
6.	Goa	5.00	5.00	3.64	5.00	0.00	0.00	1.08	0.00				
7.	Gujarat	44.36	59.81	130.87	111.70	88.70	88.70	49.31	49.31	125.1	92.55	224.02	
8.	Haryana	20.57	25.18	65.00	62.74	48.04	48.04	40.22	40.22	84.25	80.50	199.64	99.82
9.	Himachal Pradesh	60.00	60.00	128.93	128.66	254.01	254.00	136.11	69.16	132.93	70.75	861.04	
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	20.09	20.09	56.63	52.44	91.27	72.82	144.41	0.00	532.4			
11.	Jharkhand	123.92	123.92	230.26	230.00	135.92	135.92	113.78	56.83				
12.	Karnataka	105.64	105.64	231.76	231.76	118.26	118.26	101.17	96.31	202.53		330.72	
13.	Kerala	19.90	19.90	56.48	56.30	20.54	20.77	52.76	25.00	48.43	15.00		
14.	Madhya Pradesh	186.27	217.64	583.86	552.49	583.00	583.00	736.59	528.00	537.96	268.98	1296.10	390.00
15.	Maharashtra	130.21	130.21	263.90	249.08	147.48	145.34	143.16	135.00	1107.92	40.00		
16.	Manipur	40.00	40.00	80.71	64.33	0.00	0.00	0	0.00	152.33			

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
17.	Meghalaya	34.95	34.95	80.72	80.72	30.05	7.50	39.62	0.00				
18.	Mizoram	23.12	19.93	46.53	49.38	48.80	48.80	92.79	73.40	121.99	60.99		
19.	Nagaland	19.75	19.75	45.53	47.76	21.44	21.44	37.51	37.51	70.2	35.10		
20.	Orissa	170.88	179.70	350.00	345.09	440.93	440.93	398.72	398.72	530.96	265.48	579.84	
21.	Punjab	27.93	24.66	74.29	75.39	36.81	36.81	78.87	78.87	82.41	41.20	486.85	
22.	Rajasthan	140.09	140.09	263.05	290.64	679.45	591.26	302.81	302.81	550.59	550.59	1833.02	340.00
23.	Sikkim	13.16	13.16	37.81	37.81	35.30	35.29	63.10	51.84	149.00	10.00		
24.	Tamil Nadu	152.01	152.33	115.81	115.81	164.78	164.78	117.27	58.95	174.31	20.00		
25.	Tripura	24.75	24.75	51.85	51.85	39.59	31.40	79.22	62.89	47.86			
26.	Uttar Pradesh	324.22	321.11	569.83	588.65	670.54	650.27	1007.76	603.88	2013.46			
27.	Uttaranchal	58.99	60.63	140.41	140.41	58.56	27.08	102.87	0.00	200.75			
28.	West Bengal	140.04	135.00	305.49	309.17	589.28	589.28	311.90	198.43	666.22			
<b>Total (states)</b>		<b>2517.82</b>	<b>2539.71</b>	<b>5119.26</b>	<b>5008.66</b>	<b>7153.20</b>	<b>5858.49</b>	<b>5283.54</b>	<b>3887.94</b>	<b>9300.85</b>	<b>2046.94</b>	<b>7498.77</b>	<b>829.82</b>
<b>Union Territories</b>													
29.	A & N Island	10.01	10.59	22.38	0.00								
30.	Dadar & Nagar Haveli			9.95	5.00					7.78			
31.	Daman & Diu	10.00	10.00	0.00	0.00								
32.	Delhi	5.00	0.00	0.00	5.00								
33.	Lakshadweep			4.89	4.89								
34.	Pondicherry	5.00	5.00	7.40	0.00								
<b>Total (UTs)</b>		<b>30.01</b>	<b>25.59</b>	<b>44.62</b>	<b>14.89</b>								
<b>Grand Total</b>		<b>2547.83</b>	<b>2565.30</b>	<b>5163.88</b>	<b>5023.55</b>					<b>9308.63</b>	<b>2046.94</b>		

Under Phase VII, Proposals for Rs. 1295.32 crore have been sanctioned for Madhya Pradesh

**Statement II****Value of Proposals sanctioned and amount released under PMGSY (ADB/WB)**

(Rs. in crore)

S.No.	State	Value of proposals	Amount Released (Upto 31.3.2007)
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh		
2.	Arunachal Pradesh		
3.	Assam (ADB)		
	Batch-I	501.42	160.00
	Batch-II	573.46	
4.	Bihar		
5.	Chhattisgarh (ADB) Part -I	98.24	98.24
	Part -II	587.11	424.26
	Batch-III	598.83	
6.	Goa		
7.	Gujarat		
8.	Haryana		
9.	H P (WB) Ph - I	80.28	40.14
	Ph - II ( Tr-I & II)	176.1	
10.	Jammu and Kashmir		
11.	Jharkhand (WB)	29.15	14.57
12.	Karnataka		
13.	Kerala		
14.	Madhya Pradesh (ADB)-Ph-I	99.40	99.40
	Ph - I (Part - II)	119.25	84.05
	Phase - II	456.81	260.00
	Phase - III	560.71	

1	2	3	4
15.	Maharashtra		
16.	Manipur		
17.	Meghalaya		
18.	Mizoram		
19.	Nagaland		
20.	Orissa (ADB) Phase I	349.46	174.73
	Phase II	513.81	
21.	Punjab		
22.	Rajasthan (WB)Tranche - I	307.42	307.42
	Rajasthan Tranche - II	130.18	130.18
	Tranche - III	295.40	284.20
23.	Sikkim		
24.	Tamil Nadu		
25.	Tripura		
26.	Uttar Pradesh (WB)	343.94	310.27
	Phase II (Batch - I & II )	276.31	42.88
27.	Uttaranchal		
28.	West Bengal (ADB)	313.71	85.27
	Grand Total	6410.99	2515.61

**Loan to Farmers**

4145. SHRI CHANDRA DEV PRASAD RAJBHAR:  
SHRI PARAS NATH YADAV:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of loans provided to the farmers during the last three years, State-wise;

(b) the rate at which the said loans have been provided to the farmers;

(c) whether the Government proposes to provide loans to farmers at lower rates; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?



THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) The State-wise list of amount of loans provided to the farmers between 2003-04 to 2005-06 is enclosed as statement.

(b) to (d) The Government had announced on July 16, 2003 a reduction in lending rate for agriculture with a view to extending the full benefit of declining interest rates to agriculture sector particularly to small and marginal farmers. Subsequently, all public sector banks were advised to reduce their lending rate to not more than 9% p.a. on crop loans upto a ceiling of Rs. 50,000. Similar appropriate instructions were also issued by NABARD to Cooperative Banks and Regional Rural Banks.

Thereafter, Reserve Bank of India deregulated the interest rates on loans given by commercial banks except

that the interest rate on loans up to Rs. 2 lakh should not exceed the Benchmark Prime Lending Rate (BPLR) of the banks concerned.

To reduce the burden of interest on Crop Loans availed by farmers for Kharif and Rabi 2005-06, an amount equal to two percentage points of the borrower's liability on the principal amount upto Rs.1,00,000/- was credited to their account. Thereafter, from Kharif 2006, to ensure that the farmer receives Short-Term Production Credit at 7% with an upper limit of Rs.3 lacs on the principal amount, the Government is providing interest subvention of 2% per annum to Public Sector Banks, Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) and Cooperative Banks on their lending from their own resources and refinance at concessional rates to cooperative banks and RRBs on their borrowings from NABARD.

#### Statement

*State-wise Ground Level Credit (GLO) disbursements under agriculture and allied activities*

(Rs. Lakh)

Sr.No	Name of the State/UTs	2003-2004	2004-2005	2005-2006
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Chandigarh	37245	90803	162231
2.	New Delhi	242367	388227	1307623
3.	Haryana	628620	864028	1084743
4.	Himachal Pradesh	38232	61581	95482
5.	Jammu and Kashmir	6619	11184	90545
6.	Punjab	914790	1279416	1547980
7.	Rajasthan	313996	517225	756234
	<b>Northem Region</b>	<b>2181869</b>	<b>3212464</b>	<b>5044838</b>
8.	Arunachal Pradesh	390	1257	1337
9.	Assam	19129	26724	66332
10.	Manipur	580	1923	5766
11.	Meghalaya	5184	2474	5657
12.	Mizoram	544	2019	2432
13.	Nagaland	742	1978	2402

1	2	3	4	5
14.	Tripura	3000	3817	8476
15.	Sikkim	425	541	1169
	North Eastern Region	29994	40733	93571
16.	Bihar	142172	181726	212458
17.	Jharkhand	21461	40739	50588
18.	Orissa	127778	198549	312919
19.	West Bengal	212944	302168	644134
20.	Andaman and Nicobar	385	587	1528
	Eastern Region	504740	723769	1221627
21.	Madhya Pradesh	342935	529344	690396
22.	Chhattisgarh	52377	78740	123321
23.	Uttar Pradesh	810833	1042864	1405866
24.	Uttaranchal	42589	63232	93782
	Central Region	1248734	1714180	2313365
25.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	0	76	158
26.	Daman and Diu	0	5	40
27.	Gujarat	479822	660930	1110647
28.	Goa	3938	8008	13134
29.	Maharashtra	528487	742083	1493814
	Western Region	1012247	1411102	2617793
30.	Andhra Pradesh	1001424	1349050	2050124
31.	Karnataka	532600	728127	1291353
32.	Kerala	377502	571229	1032413
33.	Lakshadweep	78	62	115
34.	Pondichery	6970	12716	23521
35.	Tamil Nadu	695166	1020670	1948810
	Southern Region	2613740	3681854	6346336
	Other States		1224	4870
	Total	7591324	10785326	17642400

1	2	3	4	5
	Private Sector Banks	1023008	1626342	
	RIDF	83747	94123	405857
	Other Agencies		19279	
	Other Bonds		5867	300
	<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>8698079</b>	<b>12530937</b>	<b>18048557</b>

*[English]*

**Development of Science and Technology  
in Jammu and Kashmir**

4146. SHRI ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has taken any initiative for development and promotion of science & technology in Jammu & Kashmir;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any proposal forwarded by the Government of Jammu and Kashmir for development and promotion of science & technology is lying pending with the Union Government; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the action being taken to clear the proposal?

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES (SHIR KAPIL SIBAL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government has taken initiative for development and promotion of science and technology in Jammu and Kashmir by way of providing financial assistance to Jammu and Kashmir State council for science and technology and for research activities in universities, engineering colleges, medical colleges, research & development institutions in the State in the areas such as earthquake and earth systems related studies, weather and climate research, location specific research, drugs and pharmaceutical research, Science & Technology awareness creation and popularization, entrepreneurship development, biotechnology, etc. In addition infrastructural facilities namely Patent Information Centre, Hanley Telescope, tele-education network and tele-medicine centres have also been set-up in the State.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

**Construction of Residential Buildings for  
Central Government Employees**

4147. SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN: Will the MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of residential buildings located in Tamil Nadu for the Central Government employees, type-wise and location-wise;

(b) whether these residential accommodations are not sufficient to meet the growing demand;

(c) if so, whether the Government proposes to construct more residential buildings for the employees in Tamil Nadu;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN ): (a) The details of General Pool Residential Accommodation under the control of Directorate of Estates at Chennai (Tamil Nadu) are given in the enclosed statement-I.

(b) and (c) Statement-II showing shortage/surplus in various types of General Pool residential accommodation at Chennai (Tamil Nadu) is enclosed. The satisfaction level in each type of General Pool Residential accommodation may please be seen in Column No.5. The Central Government has targetted a satisfaction level of 50% of demand of residential accommodation, in cities other than Delhi. At Chennai, this satisfaction level has

been achieved and hence, the Central Government does not propose to construct more residential buildings for the employees at Chennai (Tamil Nadu).

(d) and (e) Does not arise in view of reply given in respect of (b) and (c) above.

**Statement I**

*Type-wise And Location-wise List of General Pool Residential Accommodation at Chennai (Tamil Nadu)*

Type	KKN	AN	BN(Old)	BN(New)	IN	H.R.	NHR	BR	TIRU. EXTN.	TOTAL
I.	408	42	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	450
II.	780	164	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	944
III.	174	318	168	—	—	—	—	—	—	660
IV.	12	32	72	48	200	—	—	7	8	379
V.	12	24	24	48	—	30	—	—	—	138
VI.	—	4	—	—	—	12	4	—	—	20
HSU	—	—	—	20	—	—	—	—	—	20
BSD	—	—	—	30	—	—	—	—	—	30
Hostel KKN	30*									30
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1416</b>	<b>584</b>	<b>264</b>	<b>146</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>2671</b>

\* 30 Units of single suite Hostel at K K Nagar have been placed at Central Excise and A&N Administration.

KKN - KK NAGAR

AN - ANA NAGAR, THIRUMANGALAM

BN (OLD) - BESANT NAGAR (OLD)

BN - BESANT NAGAR (NEW)

HR - HADDOWS ROAD

NHR - NUNGAMBAKKAM HIGH ROAD

BR - BAZULLAH ROAD

TIRU. EXTN. - THRUMANMIYUR EXTENSION

IN - INDIRA NAGAR

**Statement II**

*Demand/Availability Position and Satisfaction Level of General Pool Residential Accommodation at Chennai (Tamil Nadu)*

Type	Demand	Availability	Shortage/ Surplus	Percentage of Satisfaction level
1	2	3	4	5
I.	352	450	(-)98	100
II.	1209	944	265	78.08

1	2	3	4	5
III.	727	660	67	90.78
IV.	446	379	67	84.97
V.	226	138	88	61.06
VI.	41	20	21	48.78
HSU	25	20	5	80.00
BSD	56	30	26	53.57
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>3112</b>	<b>2671</b>		<b>85.82</b>

[*Translation*]

**Infrastructure Development of Slums in  
Madhya Pradesh**

4148. SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN: Will the MINISTER OF HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether proposals have been received in respect of Bhopal, Indore, Jabalpur and Ujjain for infrastructure development of slums;

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

(c) the time by which sanction is likely to be accorded?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION (KUMARI SELJA): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. 18 Detailed Project Reports (DPRs) in respect of Bhopal, Indore, Jabalpur and Ujjain cities have been approved for housing and basic amenities in slums with a project cost of Rs.503.27 Crore.

**Cities under JNNURM**

4149. SHRI AVINASH RAI KHANNA: Will the MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state::

(a) whether the Government is contemplating on inclusion of some more cities in States under the Jawahar Lal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission;

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

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN): (a) to (c) All cities as per 2001 census are covered either under Sub-Mission on Urban Infrastructure and Governance applicable to 63 select cities or Urban Infrastructure Development Scheme for Small and Medium Towns (UIDSSMT) applicable to all other towns and cities.

**Service Tax Collection**

4150. SHRI GANESH SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the receipts of the Government on account of service tax during 2006-2007, State-wise; and

(b) the respective share of Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh in the said receipts?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) and (b) Data on revenue collection from Service Tax is not collected and compiled State-wise.

[*English*]

**Bio-Fuel Production**

4151. SHRI K.S. RAO: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the potential and production target of bio-fuel from jatropha and molasses;

(b) whether the Government proposes to set up a regulatory authority to ensure focus and direction to this new sector to develop upto its potential; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU): (a) to (c) The Planning Commission's Committee on Development of Bio-fuels (2003) estimated that the high-speed diesel (HSD) demand by the end of the Xith Plan (2011-12) would be 66.9 million metric tonnes (MMT), requiring 13.38 MMT of bio-diesel for achieving the target of 20% blending of bio-diesel with diesel. The Committee estimated that jatropha would have to be planted over 11.2 million hectares of land to achieve this 20% blending target, against which 32.29 million hectares of wastelands including degraded forestlands is considered suitable for jatropha cultivation. In respect of ethanol, which is essentially produced from molasses, the Committee projected that a 10% blending with petrol would be achievable with the current capacity of ethanol production in the country.

The Ministry of Rural Development has been identified as the nodal ministry for launching the National Mission on Bio-diesel, initially through a demonstration phase. Under the demonstration phase, it is proposed to cover 5 lakh hectares of public wastelands with jatropha plantations in different agro-climatic regions of the country, over a period of 5 years. Jatropha seed from these plantations is expected to yield about 6 lakh tonnes of bio-diesel. The demonstration phase is proposed to be followed up by a self-sustaining expansion of the diesel programme to meet the 20% blending target.

#### **Drinking Water Proposal of Gujarat**

4152. SHRI MAHESH KANODIA:  
SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY:  
SHRI JASHUBHAI DHANABHAI BARAD:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received any proposal entitled "Sustainable community-managed Drinking Water Supply Infrastructure for Rural Areas of Backward Tribal districts of Panchmahal and Dahod in Gujarat State";

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Government thereon indicating the present status in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. A proposal titled "Sustainable community-managed Drinking Water Supply Infrastructure for Rural Areas of Backward Tribal districts of Panchmahal and Dahod in Gujarat State" was received from Government of Gujarat for seeking external assistance under Japanese grant-in-aid programme. This was considered and not found suitable for seeking such assistance, as the amount of assistance sought was very small.

#### **Farmers Welfare Trusts**

4153. SHRI G.M. SIDDESWARA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether some banks have established Farmers Welfare Trusts for setting up of Farmers Training Centres in States:

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether loans at reasonable rates are proposed to be provided to the farmers to save them from the clutches of money lenders; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. As per information available with NABARD, Punjab National Bank (PNB) has established two Trusts namely, PNB Farmers' Welfare Trust and PNB Centenary Rural Development Trust. These trusts have established five Farmers' Training Centres one each in the State of Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Punjab, Uttar Pradesh and Haryana for imparting training to farmers for various activities.

In order to increase the credit flow to agriculture, the Government announced a Farm Credit Package on 18 June 2004 for doubling agriculture credit in 3 years beginning from 2004-05.

As a part of Farm Credit Package, banks were advised to provide loans to farmers to enable them to redeem their debts from non-institutional sources. In the year 2004-05, 2005-06 and 2006-07 (upto February 2007) Rs.63.47, Rs.31.41 and Rs.65.35 crores were provided to the farmers for the purpose.

Further, to reduce the burden of interest on Crop Loans availed by farmers for Kharif and Rabi 2005-06, an amount equal to two percentage points of the borrower's liability on the principal amount upto Rs.1,00,000/- was credited to their account. Thereafter, from Kharif 2006, to ensure that the farmer receives Short-Term Production Credit at 7% with an upper limit of Rs.3 lacs on the principal amount, the Government is providing interest subvention of 2% per annum to Public Sector Banks, Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) and Cooperative Banks on their lending from their own resources and refinance at concessional rates to cooperative banks and RRBs on their borrowings from NABARD.

### **Rupee Appreciation**

4154. SHRI MILIND DEORA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the effect of appreciation of Indian rupee on individuals, importers and exporters;

(b) whether the appreciation of rupee would effect India's Balance of Payments; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) to (c) Appreciation of Indian rupee would have different impact on individuals, importers and exporters. It might lead to reduced rupee value in the hands of recipients of forex flows and to higher foreign exchange value for payments abroad. An appreciation of rupee in both nominal and real effective exchange rate terms would make imports cheaper and exports costlier. The appreciation or depreciation of the rupee is determined by demand for and supply of foreign currencies, which in turn are determined by current account balances and capital flows in the Balance of Payments.

### **IDBI Deep Discount Bond**

4155. SHRI NAKUL DAS RAI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Industrial Development Bank of India (IDBI) had issued Deep Discount Bond, 1996 to the general public;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether these bonds have been withdrawn;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether all the bonds holders have been informed about the withdrawal of the scheme in time;

(f) if so, the details thereof;

(g) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(h) the manner in which the Government compensated the persons who have suffered losses due to withdrawal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. IDBI has informed that Deep Discount Bonds (DDB) were issued to public in February 1996 with an issue price of Rs. 5300/- per bond. Total subscription amounted to Rs. 1106 crore. (18.05 lakh investors). Though these bonds were of 25 years maturity, the bonds had call/put option for both IDBI and investors at the end of four years and four months, ten years and eight months, fifteen years and five months, twenty years and two months and twenty five years.

(c) and (d) Based on call option available to IDBI under these bonds as specified in the offer document, IDBI exercised the call option to redeem the bonds at the end of four years and four months i.e. on August 1, 2000 under intimation well in advance to all bondholders.

(e) to (g) Yes. As specified in the offer document, call option notices were issued to all the bondholders well in advance under Certificate of Posting (UCP).

(h) IDBI exercised the call option to redeem the bonds early only on the basis of terms specified in the offer document. As IDBI has not violated any terms specified in the offer document, no compensation is payable to the bondholders on account of early redemption.

### **Opening of Zonal Offices of LIC**

4156. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the existing zonal offices of the Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) in the country and the region-wise such offices proposed to be opened;

(b) whether the Government has received proposals for opening of zonal offices of LIC in the North East Region;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the time by which the zonal offices are likely to be opened by the Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) LIC has reported that, at present, it is operating the following seven Zonal Offices in the country:

- (1) Central Zonal Office at Bhopal
- (2) Western Zonal Office at Mumbai
- (3) Eastern Zonal Office at Kolkata
- (4) Northern Zonal Office at New Delhi
- (5) South Central Zonal Office at Hyderabad
- (6) North Central Zonal Office at Kanpur
- (7) Southern Zonal Office at Chennai

Government has recently approved the proposal of LIC for bifurcation of its Eastern Zone and creation of East Central Zone with its Headquarters at Patna. The territorial limits of this East Central Zone include the States of Bihar, Jharkhand and Orissa.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

#### **New Guidelines for Bank Lockers**

4157. SHRI JASHUBHAI DHANABHAI BARAD:  
SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has issued new guidelines for operation of bank lockers; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) and (b) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) had hosted the Draft Guidelines on "Extension of Safe Deposit Locker/Safe

Custody Article Facility and Access to Safe Deposit Lockers/Return of Safe Custody Articles by Banks" on its website on 4th December, 2006. Taking into account the feedback received from banks and public, RBI has issued guidelines on 17th April, 2007 which, *inter-alia*, advise banks:

(i) To refrain from the restrictive practice of linking the lockers facility with placement of fixed or any other deposit beyond what is specifically permitted.

(ii) To ensure prompt payment of locker rent, banks may, at the time of allotment, obtain a Fixed Deposit which would cover 3 years rent and the charges for breaking open the locker in case of an eventuality. However, banks should not insist on such Fixed Deposit from the existing locker-hirers.

(iii) To maintain a wait list at branch level for the purpose of allotment of lockers, ensure transparency in allotment of lockers and also give a copy of the agreement regarding operation of locker to the locker-hirer at the time of allotment.

Detailed guidelines are available at RBI website [www.rbi.org.in](http://www.rbi.org.in)

#### **Supply of Safe Drinking Water under RGNDWIN**

4158. SHRIMATI MANORAMA MADHAVRAJ: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether under the Rajiv Gandhi National Drinking Water Mission (RGNDWM) all rural habitations with a population of above 100 are to be provided with safe potable water;

(b) if so, the deadline set therefor;

(c) whether at the end of 2005-2006 there were 42,000 uncovered habitations, 2,00,000 water quality affected habitations and more than 2,50,000 slipped-back habitations;

(d) if so, whether these deficient habitations were taken care of in the year 2006-2007; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?



THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU): (a) and (b) Drinking Water is a State Subject. However, under Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP), a rural habitation not having any safe source of water with a permanently settled population of 20 households or 100 persons, whichever is more may be taken as the unit for coverage. Under Bharat Nirman, a time bound plan for rural infrastructure, it was decided to cover 55,067 uncovered habitations by 2009. In addition, all habitations which have slipped back from

full coverage to partial coverage due to failure of source and habitations which have water quality problems are to be addressed.

(c) The number of uncovered, water quality affected and slipped back habitations at the end of 2005-06 were 41946, 195813 and 252060 respectively.

(d) and (e) The status of coverage of these habitations during 2006-07 is given in the enclosed statement.

#### **Statement**

*Status of Uncovered Habitations, Slipped back habitations and quality affected habitations as on 1.4.2006 and coverage during 2006-07*

Sl. No.	State/UT	Status of Habitations as on 1.4.2006			Coverage during 2006-07*		
		Uncovered habitations of CAP'99	Slipped back habitations	Quality affected habitations	Uncovered habitations of CAP'99	Slipped back habitations	Quality affected habitations
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Andhra Pradesh	0	26974	2555		4505	495
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	343	2752	566	83	6	
3.	Assam	4947	10636	28181	1965		
4.	Bihar	0	45975	24717		8353	
5.	Chhattisgarh	0	8689	5021		8056	
6.	Goa	5	0	0	1		
7.	Gujarat	0	3805	4929		947	482
8.	Haryana	0	2141	336		383	93
9.	Himachal Pradesh	4941	9308	0	2673	1021	
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	2816	3070	114	41		
11.	Jharkhand	0	15174	1348		1557	51
12.	Karnataka	3494	0	20170	890	1564	232
13.	Kerala	5871	0	867	447	305	60
14.	Madhya Pradesh	0	27011	3852		8784	86
15.	Maharashtra	15838	10800	11215	2468	1265	53
16.	Manipur	0	0	37		105	

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
17.	Meghalaya	134	4013	124	88	995	35
18.	Mizoram	26	253	26	0	42	
19.	Nagaland	625	202	136	8	6	
20.	Orissa	0	3647	28016		5138	268
21.	Punjab	690	4832	2041	223	409	48
22.	Rajasthan	1877	20853	31883	365	6625	1000
23.	Sikkim	0	737	76	0	85	0
24.	Tamilnadu	0	36447	1420		6007	353
25.	Tripura	0	447	2931		64	151
26.	Uttar Pradesh	0	5932	6377		9296	541
27.	Uttaranchal	229	7126	0	38	1442	
28.	West Bengal	0	1236	18767		1660	5
29.	A&N Islands	39	0	26	31		
30.	D&N Haveli	24	0	0	9		
31.	Daman and Diu	0	0	0			
32.	Delhi	0	0	0			
33.	Lakshadweep	10	0	0			
34.	Pondicherry	37	0	82	31	0	11
35.	Chandigarh	0	0	0			
Total		41946	252060	195813	9361	68620	3964

\*Coverage reported till 30-4-2007.

[*Translation*]

**Effect of Increase in Repo Rate**

4159. PROF MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the share market is being affected due to continuous increase in the reverse-repo rate by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI);

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether any effective steps have been taken/is being taken by the Government check the fluctuations; and

(d) the sectors getting affected due to the measures taken by the RBI to check inflation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) and (b) The reverse repo rate was last increased by the Reserve Bank of India on 25th July, 2006 to 6% and since then it remains at the same level. However, the movement of

market indices or price of a specific share is a function of perceptions of the investors—domestic and overseas, retail and institutional—about the economy, the sector and the company. This perception is influenced by many factors including macro-economic environment, growth potential of the economy, corporate performance, domestic and international events, and market sentiments.

(c) The Government, Securities and Exchange Board of India and Exchanges have put in place systems and practices to promote a safe, transparent and efficient market and to protect market integrity. The systems include advanced risk management mechanism comprising online monitoring and surveillance, various limits on positions, margin requirements, circuit filters, etc. which reduce possibility of crash in market.

(d) The monetary and prudential measures initiated by the Reserve Bank address issues relating to aggregate demand management in terms of credit and money supply growth. It is difficult to identify impact on specific sectors.

#### **Rain Insurance Scheme**

4160. SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) Whether the Government has launched a Rain Insurance Scheme;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the number of farmers likely to be benefited by this scheme during the current financial year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) and (b) The Agriculture Insurance Company of India Limited (AICL) piloted during Kharif-2004 and thereafter launched, during Kharif-2005, a rainfall based insurance product, namely Varsha Bima-2005 in 10 States. The scheme covers anticipated shortfall in Crop Yield on account of deficit rainfall. For the year 2006, this scheme provided for (i) Showing Failure Insurance (SFI) covering deficit rainfall from 15th June to 15th August and (ii) Seasonal Rainfall Insurance (SRI) covering rainfall during the entire crop season and (iii) Vegetative Stage cover for the period 15th August to October/November.

(c) The coverage under the scheme for the last three seasons is as under:

Sl. No.	Season	Farmers Covered	Sum Insured (Rs. Lakhs)	Premium (Rs. Lakhs)	Claims (Rs. Lakhs)
1.	Kharif 2004	1050	219	6.11	5.58
2.	Kharif 2005	125453	5586	317	20
3.	Kharif 2006	23213	1806	119	60

#### **Impact of Global Warming on Agriculture**

4161. SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR: Will the Minister of EARTH SCIENCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether recent studies conducted by United Kingdom and the United Nations have revealed that the temperature rise/climatic changes will hit the crop production in the country badly as reported in various newspapers recently;

(b) if so, whether any assessment has been made by the Government in this regard; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) No, Sir. While it is true that the Inter-Governmental Panel on Climate Change set up by the United Nations in its recent 4th Assessment Report contains broad prediction on climate change and its likely impact on agriculture, these are in the way of general observation without particular reference to India.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

#### **Public Transport Project**

4162. DR. M. JAGANNATH: Will the MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has conducted any study to identify various Government sponsored Public Transport Projects/Mass Rapid Transport System with a view to earn more carbon credits for the country under Kyoto Protocol;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the various measures taken by the Government to tap the potential of carbon credits in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Government of India is a party to Kyoto protocol to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the Ministry of Environment and Forests has set up the National Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) Authority to accord Host Country Approvals (HCA) to eligible CDM projects as per requirement of Marrakech Accords. Till date 599 projects have been accorded HCA. Further, Government (Ministry of Environment and Forests) has been propagating message of CDM through various workshops/seminars and has also undertaken capacity building programmes for various stakeholders with multilateral and bilateral agencies.

#### High Quality Manpower in Bio-technology Sector

4163. SHRI PANNIAN RAVINDRAN: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of facilities available for training of manpower in the field of Bio-Technology; and

(b) the measures taken/being taken by the Government to boost the availability of high quality manpower in Bio-Technology sector ?

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES ( SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) The Department of Biotechnology is supporting an integrated human resource development programme in biotechnology comprising of postgraduate teaching programmes in over 60 universities in the country, postgraduate diploma courses in 7 institutions , DBT Junior Research Fellowship for Ph.D. programme and DBT Post Doctoral fellowship for pursuing post doctoral work in best laboratories in the country. The Department provides grants for specialized laboratories, equipment, books and journals, liberal recurring grants for consumables , travel, studentship , thesis grant and summer training for students, guest faculty. The students are selected on the basis of All India Common Entrance Test to ensure the best quality. University Grants Commission also provides support for undergraduate and postgraduate teaching programmes in biotechnology under "innovative programme".

(b) The Government has a number of short term training programmes in specialized techniques for upgrading the skills of mid-career scientists as well as faculty involved in undergraduate and postgraduate teaching. The Department of Biotechnology runs an overseas short and long term training programme through which 150 scientists are supported annually for training in best overseas laboratories in specialized and niche areas as well as inviting visiting scientists from overseas laboratories for providing an opportunity for interaction for our faculty and students. Grants are provided for organizing national and international seminars, symposia and travel grants for participation in important international events. All these programmes result in boosting the quality of manpower in biotechnology.

#### Committee on Small Savings Loans to States

4164. SHRI BHUPENDRASINH SOLANKI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any Committee has been constituted under the Chairmanship of Finance Minister to examine the issue of small savings loans to the States;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any report has been submitted by the Committee;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) to (e) A Sub-Committee of the National Development Council (NDC) was constituted on 16th September, 2005 under the chairmanship of the Finance Minister to examine issues relating to the debt burden of the States and debt relief with reference to their debt outstandings against the National Small Savings Fund (NSSF). The Sub-Committee submitted its report to the NDC with the following recommendations:

- (i) The small savings collections will be shared between the States and the Centre in the ratio of 80:20 (*vis-a-vis* the present arrangement of 100 per cent transfer of net collections to the State Governments) with the option to the States to take upto 100 per cent of their collections.

The revised sharing pattern will be effective from 1st April 2007.

- (ii) The interest rates on loans taken by State Governments from NSSF from 1999 - 2000 to 2002-2003 will be reset at 10.5 per cent with effect from 1st April, 2007. The interest rate on these old loans will be reviewed if the interest rate on the current loans is reduced or after 3 years, whichever is earlier.
- (iii) The interest rate on current NSSF loans will continue at 9.5 per cent.
- (iv) Requests of State Governments for additional open market borrowing to enable them to repay non-NSSF loans will be considered on a case to case basis.
- (v) Requests of State Governments for repayment of NSSF loans contracted upto 2002 - 2003 will also be considered on a case to case basis within the approved market borrowing ceilings.

The NDC in its meeting held on 9th December 2006, *inter-alia*, endorsed the above recommendations. Government has accepted the recommendations and communicated the same to all State Governments and Union Territories (without Legislature). The revised pattern of sharing of small savings collections has been implemented from 1.4.2007. Also, interest rates on loans taken by State Governments from NSSF from 1999 - 2000 to 2002 - 2003 has been reset at 10.5 per cent with effect from 1.4.2007.

#### **Additional Funds for Bridges under PMGSY**

4165. SHRI ARJUN SETHI: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there was no provision for construction of culverts/bridges on the roads selected for improvement/constructions under the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) during the first and second phase;

(b) if so, whether certain States/ Union Territories (UTs) including Orissa have drawn attention of the Union Government for providing additional funds for construction of the required bridges in such incomplete PMGSY roads;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the action taken by the Union Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL): (a) The road works including the Cross drainage works were executed as per technical specifications prescribed by Ministry of Surface Transport / Indian Roads Congress.

(b) and (c) As per the report submitted by the State Government of Orissa, bridges having span more than 15 mts were not included in 1st and IInd Phases of PMGSY.

(d) The existing Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana programme guidelines has the provision for minor bridges, where necessary. In case the span of the bridge exceeds 25m, the pro rata cost beyond 25m and other charges, if any, is to be borne by the State Government. Proposals are being prepared and submitted by the State Governments for works including bridges, if any, as per the provisions of PMGSY programme guidelines.

#### **Ketan Parekh Scam**

4166. CH. MUNAWAR HASSAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Special Fraud Investigation Office (SFIO) has submitted report on Ketan Parekh Scam;

(b) if so, the outcome thereof; and

(c) the follow-up action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) Yes. The Ministry has received the Report of Special Fraud Investigation Office (SFIO) on Ketan Parekh Scam on 26.3.2007.

(b) and (c) The report has been forwarded to the Assessing Officer, having jurisdiction over the case(s).

#### **Per Unit Cost of Power Generation**

4167. SHRI NARHARI MAHATO:  
SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is vast difference in power unit cost of power generation through hydro, thermal, coal based and gas based power projects in the country;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to provide low cost electricity to the consumers in the country?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE): (a) and (b) Yes, sir. The per unit cost of power generation varies from station to station and depends mainly on type of plant and fuel used, location, size, age and efficiency. Depending on these factors, there is variation in cost of generation.

(c) A number of steps have been taken for reducing the cost of power generation.

The Electricity Act, 2003 creates a competitive framework for generation which should exert a downward pressure on costs.

The National Electricity Policy lays down maximum emphasis on full development of feasible hydro potential. The cost of power generation from hydro projects reduces significantly in the long term.

[*Translation*]

#### **Tax Free Zones**

4168: SHRI PUNNU LAL MOHALE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of tax free zones in the country;

(b) whether the Government proposes to declare some areas in Chhatisgarh as tax free zones;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the time by which the declaration in this regard is likely to be made?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) The Income-tax Act provides tax holidays and concessions to industrial undertakings set up in the State of Jammu and Kashmir, Uttaranchal, Himachal Pradesh, Sikkim and the North-eastern States.

(b) to (d) There is no such proposal with the Government.

[*English*]

#### **Setting Up of Low Cost Power Plants by NTPC**

4169. SHRI VIJOY KRISHNA:  
SHRI JUAL ORAM:  
SHRI ANANTA NAYAK:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) proposes to set up some low cost power projects in the country; and

(b) if so, the States where these projects are proposed to be set up during the Eleventh Five Year Plan?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE): (a) and (b) Setting up of power projects is the main activity of NTPC Ltd. In order to produce power at reasonable tariff, NTPC Ltd. adopts measures like transparent International Competitive Bidding process etc., according to the prevailing guidelines issued by the Ministry of Power. This in turn, results in getting most competitive price reducing the cost of setting up power plants per Megawatt (MW).

A list of NTPC's 11th Plan power projects together with the name of States is enclosed as Statement.

#### **Statement**

*List of NTPC's Power Projects (Approved & Ongoing, Approved and New Projects) for capacity addition during the XI Plan*

Sl. No.	Project	State
1	2	3
<b>Approved &amp; Ongoing projects</b>		
1.	Kahalgaoon STPP-II, Phase-I*	Bihar
2.	Kahalgaoon STPP-II, Phase-II*	Bihar

1	2	3
3.	Sipat STPP-II*	Chhattisgarh
4.	Sipat STPP-I*	Chhattisgarh
5.	Barh STPP*	Bihar
6.	Korba-III	Chhattisgarh
7.	Bhilai Exp. Power Project	Chhattisgarh
8.	Farakka-III	West Bengal
9.	NCTPP-II, Dadri	Uttar Pradesh
10.	Simhadri-II*	Andhra Pradesh
11.	Koldam HEPP*	Himachal Pradesh
12.	Loharinag Pala HEPP*	Uttarakhand
13.	Tapovan Vishnugad HEPP*	Uttarakhand
	<b>Approved Project</b>	
1	Nabinagar TPP®* JV with Railways	Bihar
	<b>New projects</b>	
1.	Ennore*—JV with TNEB	Tamil Nadu
2.	Aravali STPP* at, Jhajjar JV with HPGCL & IPGCL	Haryana
3.	Barh STPP-II*	Bihar
4.	Bongaigaon TPP*	Assam
5.	North Karanpura®*	Jharkhand
6.	Mauda*	Maharashtra
7.	Badarpur-III*	Delhi
8.	Kawas-II, CCPP*	Gujarat
9.	Jhanor Gandhar-II, CCPP*	Gujarat

\* Mega projects

® Part benefits in XI Plan

HEPP — Hydro Electric Power Project

STPP — Super Thermal Power Project

CCPP — Combined Cycle Power Project

*[Translation]***Plan for Disposal of Garbage**

4170. SHRI PARAS NATH YADAV:  
SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR:  
SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA:  
SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY:  
SHRI NAVEEN JINDAL:

Will the MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether some cities in the country are implementing a plan to convert garbage into fertilizer;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of cities where the said plan is being implemented at present alongwith the scheme formulated for expansion of the said plan;

(d) whether the World Bank has offered assistance to develop scientific methods of waste management, particularly in ecologically fragile areas; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN): (a) to (e) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

*[English]***Debt Recovery Tribunals**

4171. SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL:  
SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of Debt Recovery Tribunals functioning in the country, location-wise;

(b) the number of cases disposed of by these tribunals upto March, 2007 alongwith the amount of debt recovered, tribunal-wise;

(c) the number of cases which are still pending in each of these tribunals; and

(d) the time by which these cases are likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) to (c) The information is given in the enclosed Statement.

(d) The cases are disposed of under the provisions of The Recovery of Debts Due to Banks and Financial Institutions Act, 1993. Although the Act, provides for a summary procedure, no time frame can be given by the Government for disposal of these cases.

**Statement**

Sl. No.	Name of the DRT	No of cases decided upto March 2007	Amount of Debt recovered upto March, 2007 (Rupees in crores)	No. of cases still pending upto March, 2007
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Ahmedabad	3887	356.29	1607
2.	Allahabad	2097	1770	527
3.	Aurangabad	588	533.73	185
4.	Bangalore	7726	2490.02	1620
5.	Chandigarh-I	2976	566.92	938
6.	Chandigarh-II	140	47.97	1053



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1	2	3	4	5
7.	Chennai-I	5239	1776	1116
8.	Chennai-II	2375	675.40	681
9.	Chennai-III	9	3.29	39
10.	Coimbatore	2366	541.84	1711
11.	Cuttack	1307	234.61	199
12.	Delhi-I	4800	2452.47	713
13.	Delhi-II	1458	1491.05	1281
14.	Delhi-III	787	154.11	687
15.	Ernakulam	3442	994.72	969
16.	Guwahati	767	109.52	111
17.	Hyderabad	3608	1690.96	1105
18.	Jabalpur	2170	632.65	497
19.	Jaipur	3042	805.10	275
20.	Kolkata-I	1947	562.53	1423
21.	Kolkata-II	816	148.27	891
22.	Kolkata-III	145	215.33	332
23.	Lucknow	1213	397.77	662
24.	Mumbai-I	2906	9782.74	906
25.	Mumbai-II	3857	2044.20	791
26.	Mumbai-III	2906	247.07	1169
27.	Madurai	0	0.56	286
28.	Nagpur	856	596	190
29.	Pune	1734	315.06	545
30.	Patna	1468	190.14	512
31.	Ranchi	272	28.69	185
32.	Vishakhapatnam	1233	366.01	488

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**Reduction of Customs Duty on Titanium**

4172. SHRI P.C. THOMAS: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has received any proposal for reduction of customs duty on Titanium and its products; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM) (a) and (b) Government has received representation requesting for reduction in customs duty on titanium dioxide from 10% to 7.5%. Taking into consideration all relevant factors, it has been decided not to make any change in the customs duty structure for titanium dioxide and its products for the present.

[*Translation*]

**Setting up of Bio-gas Plants**

4173. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the bio-gas plants which are in operation as on date;

(b) the number of bio-gas plants set up during the last three years, State-wise;

(c) whether the bio-gas chullahs are available in the market;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the number of bio-gas plants proposed to be set up during the current financial year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY (SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR): (a) Detailed particulars of bio-gas plants, including information on non-functional plants are generally maintained at the block/ district level by the State nodal departments/ agencies; in the State offices of the Khadi and Village Industries Commission and at the headquarters of non-governmental organizations concerned. A diagnostic sample study, conducted in 19 States in the year 2000- 2001 by the Programme Evaluation Organization, Planning Commission, reported that about 81 per cent of the plants surveyed were found commissioned. In a recent sample inspection carried out by the Regional Offices of the Ministry during 2005-06, an average functionality of 91 per cent has been reported for the bio gas plants inspected in the States of Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala, Tamil Nadu and Uttar Pradesh.

(b) Under the 'National Bio-gas and Manure Management Programme (NBMMP)' of the Ministry, a cumulative total of 2.61 lakh family type bio-gas plants have been set up in the country during the last three years. The State-wise number of bio-gas plants installed during the last three years is given in the enclosed Statement.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) During the current financial year (2007-08), a target for setting up of 1,01,860 bio-gas plants have been allocated to various States and agencies.

**Statement**

*State-wise number of bio-gas plants installed during last three years: 2004-05 to 2006-07 under National Bio-gas and Manure Management Programme (NBMMP)*

(No. of plants)

State/ Agency	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
1	2	3	4
Andhra Pradesh	13000	7500	18002
Arunachal Pradesh	136	34	-

1	2	3	4
Bihar	252	-	-
Chhattisgarh	3420	3862	1406
Goa	88	86	60
Gujarat	6474	5001	8000
Haryana	1340	985	1055
Himachal Pradesh	250	79	155
Jharkhand	400	125	-
Karnataka	11100	1747	2601
Kerala	2576	2100	2735
Madhya Pradesh	10416	6738	6880
Maharashtra	8776	7599	15000
Manipur	115	-	-
Meghalaya	200	55	60
Mizoram	123	100	67
Nagaland	300	100	-
Orissa	8950	1500	3922
Punjab	880	1685	1437
Rajasthan	-	3	-
Sikkim	200	100	185
Tamil Nadu	1622	1492	727
Uttar Pradesh	6889	3753	2734
Uttaranchal	478	306	351
West Bengal	13473	7578	8500
Khadi and Village Industries Commission	15157	10000	15053
Others	2851	-	-
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,09,466</b>	<b>62,528</b>	<b>88,930*</b>

\* Figures are being firmed.

*[English]***Poor Implementation of SGSY**

4174. SHRI MITRASEN YADAV: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that Swaranjayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY) is not being implemented upto the expectations due to poor response of Banks in granting loans;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any appraisal has been made about the implementation of this Yojana;

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

(e) whether the Government proposes to review the guidelines of the SGSY for its fullest and satisfactory implementation; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL): (a) and (b) The Swaranjayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY) is a credit-cum-subsidy scheme. While subsidy is only a minor and enabling component, Credit is a critical component of the scheme that envisages involvement of the banking sector. The banks, however, have generally not been able to meet the credit disbursement targets under the scheme. The matter has been regularly taken up with the RBI and the Ministry of Finance at various levels. These measures have resulted in a credit mobilisation of 77% of the target during the financial year 2006-07.

(c) and (d) The details of evaluations/studies of the scheme as well as their findings relevant to the involvement of banks are given under. The findings are not state specific but provide an overall picture.

(1) As per the findings of the concurrent evaluation on SGSY (2002-03), major complaints reported by the District authorities with respect to the banking system include non co-operation of the banks (58.18%), delays inherent in bank's procedures (53.54%), delay in the disbursement of the assistance (50.73%).

(2) A study was also conducted by the NIRD in 2005. As per the study, (i) the banks were willing to assist the activities for which the infrastructure, asset insurance, clusters viability and assured market was well developed (like in dairy, sheep, goat, irrigation, agriculture and land development etc.) compared to the other artisan-based or manufacturing activities, (ii) Most of the banks were following unprescribed credit ceiling limit to some activities. This was resulting in under-financing, particularly in artisan-based activities such as handlooms, handicrafts etc. (iii) In 30% of the cases, the banks were squaring up the loan transactions and did not follow the 3-year lock-in period stipulation.

(3) The National Institute of Bank Management (NIBM) has undertaken an Action Research Project during the year 2003-04 for developing a prototype for SGSY in selected districts of nine States with various commercial banks. The Study revealed that (i) Higher NPA level and lower yield discourage branch managers for disbursement of credit under SGSY scheme, (ii) Branches follow traditional lending methods based on tangible security rather than microfinance approach emphasizing collateral substitute, mainly because branch managers do not consider them as viable clients, (iii) Declared rate of interest under the SGSY scheme varied between 8 to 14 per cent per annum which is at par with the priority sector lending and (iv) Majority of branches charge interest on total outstanding amount include subsidy, which should normally be excluded for calculating interest.

(e) and (f) Yes Sir. The Ministry is currently undertaking an exercise to review the SGSY guidelines so as to implement the scheme better.

*[Translation]***Development of Small and Middle Class Cities in Madhya Pradesh**

4175. SHRI KRISHNA MURARI MOGHE: Will the MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether several proposals have been received from the Government of Madhya Pradesh under the Integrated Scheme for the development of small and middle class cities;

(b) if so, whether a part of the funds have been released after clearing the said proposals and rest of the funds are yet to be released; and

(c) if so, the reasons for not releasing the remaining funds so far along with the time by which these are likely to be released?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Under the Centrally sponsored scheme of Integrated Development of Small and Medium Towns (IDSMT), since its inception (1979-80) till 31.3.2007, 146 towns of Madhya Pradesh have been provided Central assistance amounting to Rs. 6422.04 lakh. The Scheme has since been subsumed in the newly launched Scheme of Urban Infrastructure Development for Small and Medium Town (UIDSSMT) with effect from 3.12.2005. Thereafter, all fresh proposals are being taken up under UIDSSMT.

*[English]*

**Reward to Informers by Central Excise and Customs Departments**

4176. SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received representations regarding reward for informers in Mumbai who helped the Central Excise and Customs Departments to unearth tax evasion of over crores of rupees;

(b) if so, the details thereof for the last three years and the action taken thereon;

(c) whether the Government has approved the final reward to these informers and officials;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) to (e) The information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House.

**Declaration of Orissa as a Special Category State**

4177. SHRI JUAL ORAM:  
SHRI PARSURAM MAJHI:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has any proposal to declare Orissa as a Special Category State; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) and (b) Special Category Status has been accorded to some States on the basis of a set of criteria which includes—strategic location on the border with neighbouring countries hilly terrain, inadequate economic and social infrastructure, predominantly large tribal population and limited and weak revenue base compared to the development needs. According Special Category Status to a State requires the approval of the National Development Council. No proposal is under the consideration of the Government at present to declare Orissa as a Special Category State.

*[Translation]*

**Central Employment Guarantee Council**

4178. DR. CHINTA MOHAN:  
SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the composition of Central Employment Guarantee Council;

(b) whether this Council has given certain suggestions for the effective implementation of National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (NREGS);

(c) if so, the suggestions made and the decision taken by the Government to implement them; and

(d) the time by which these suggestions are likely to be implemented by the Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU): (a) The composition of Central Employment Guarantee Council is given in the enclosed Statement.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d) The suggestions made by the members during the second meeting of the Council held on 30.3.07 and decision taken by the Government thereon are as under:

S.No.	Suggestions made	Decisions taken
1.	Members of the Council to undertake field visits	Members may undertake visits to various States in small groups of 3-4 members and will submit a detailed report on their visit to the Member Secretary.
2.	Strengthening the administrative machinery under NREGA both at the State and Ministry level	The Council approved strengthening Information Technology and the monitoring systems, staffing and engaging professional experts and strengthening the infrastructural arrangements for NREGA at the national level.
3.	Need for social audit	It was decided that priority will be given to developing capacity for social audit through training.

**Statement**

*Composition of Central Employment Guarantee  
Council*

- (a) Union Minister for Rural Development ..... Chairperson, ex-officio;
- (b) (i) Secretary to the Government of India,  
Department of Rural Development ..... member-ex-officio;
- (ii) a nominee of the Ministry of Women and Child  
Development not below the rank of Joint Secretary  
to the Government of India ..... member, ex-officio;
- (iii) a nominee of the Ministry of Agriculture not below  
the rank of Joint Secretary to the Government of India ..... member, ex-officio;
- (iv) a nominee of the Ministry of Environment and Forest  
not below the rank of Joint Secretary to the  
Government of India ..... member, ex-officio;
- (v) a nominee of the Ministry of Statistics and Programme  
Implementation not below the rank of Joint  
Secretary to the Government of India ..... member, ex-officio;
- (vi) a nominee of the Ministry of Panchayati Raj not below  
the rank of Joint Secretary to the Government of India ..... member, ex-officio;
- (vii) a nominee of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs not below the  
rank of Joint Secretary to the Government of India ..... member, ex-officio;
- (viii) a nominee of the Ministry of Social Justice  
and Empowerment not below the rank of Joint  
Secretary to the Government of India ..... member, ex-officio;

- (ix) Advisor of the Planning Commission dealing with rural development ..... member, ex-officio;

**(c) Representatives of the State Governments:**

- (i) Secretary (RD), Government of Andhra Pradesh ..... Member, ex-officio;  
 (ii) Secretary (RD & PR), Government of Assam ..... Member, ex-officio;  
 (iii) Secretary (RD), Government of Bihar ..... Member, ex-officio;  
 (iv) Secretary (EGS), Government of Maharashtra ..... Member, ex-officio;  
 (v) Secretary (RD), Government of Uttar Pradesh ..... Member, ex-officio;  
 (vi) Secretary (RD), Government of West Bengal ..... Member, ex-officio;

**(d) Non-official members from Panchayati Raj Institutions, organizations of workers and disadvantaged groups:**

- (i) Shri Ramchandra Khuntia, ..... member;  
 (ii) Shri Ashk Ali, ..... member;  
 (iii) Smt. Botcha Jhansi Laxmi, Chairperson, Zilla Parishad, Vizianangaram, ..... member;  
 (iv) Smt. Rajani Rana Pratap Singh, Chairperson, District Panchayat, Gondia, Maharashtra ..... member;  
 (v) Shri B.D. Sharma, IAS (Retd) ..... member;  
 (vi) Smt. Aruna Roy, Mazdoor Kisan Shakti Sangathan, ..... member;  
 (vii) Shri Mahendra Bodh, ..... member;  
 (viii) Shri Devi Dayal, IAS (Retd.) ..... member;  
 (ix) Smt. Subhashini Ali ..... member;  
 (x) Shri A. Varadharajan ..... member;  
 (xi) Smt. Ani Raja ..... member;  
 (xii) Shri Robert Minz ..... member;

**(e) Non-official members representing the States: .**

- (i) Dr. Aloysius Femades, Executive Director, MYRADA ..... member;  
 (ii) Dr. Jean Dreze, G.B. Pant Social Sciences Institute ..... member;  
 (iii) Dr. D. Bandopadhyay, IAS (Retd.) ..... member;

(f) Joint Secretary to the Government of India in the Ministry of Rural Development in-charge of the National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, 2005.....member Secretary;

(g) Joint Secretary, PMO and Joint Secretary in the Ministry of Labour are special invitees in the meetings of the Council.

*[English]***Global Warming**

4179. SHRI EKNATH MAHADEO GAIKWAD: Will the Minister of EARTH SCIENCES be pleased to state:

(a) Whether Mumbai finds a place in the list of areas that face the danger of global warming as reported in the Times of India dated March 29, 2007;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) The article published in Times of India (dated 29th March, 2007 and written by Thomas Wagner from London) is based on report/study made on coastal cities of the world and not based on a specific study of Mumbai. The general refrain of the article is that, migration towards coastal cities should be discouraged and coastal settlements need to be modified in the wake of increased global warming and consequent sea level rise.

(b) and (c) Due to the heightened concerns of global warming and climate change, there are a number of such studies/reports which project different scenarios. These predictions have varying degrees of confidence and need to be calibrated with empirical evidence. The uncertainties notwithstanding, the Government have taken a number of initiatives like improving energy efficiency, conservation, afforestation and conservation of forests, encouraging mass rapid transport system, taking up environmental

quality management all with a view to reduce climate change and mitigate its bad effect

**Hygienic Latrine**

4180. SHRI ANWAR HUSSAIN: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the separate percentage of the House Hold (HH) with Sanitary Latrine, P.C. of H.H. with pit latrine, H.H. with other latrine and H.H. without latrine in the country according to 2001 Census, State-wise;

(b) whether the Government proposes to take special programmes in addition to the existing ones to provide hygienic latrine in each of the family;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the time by which the goal is likely to be achieved?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU): (a) A Statement indicating the percentage of the House Hold with water closet, pit latrine, other latrine and House Hold without latrine in the country (rural & urban) according to 2001 Census, State-wise is enclosed.

(b) and (c) The ongoing programme, Total Sanitation Campaign aims to provide sanitary latrine to each family in the rural area. It is being implemented with district as unit and is currently going on in the rural areas of the 572 districts of the country.

(d) The goal is to achieve universal sanitation in the rural areas of the country by AD 2012.

**Statement****State-wise Coverage of House Hold Latrine in the Country (Rural + Urban)**

State/UT	No. of Household (HH)	HH with Pit latrine	HH with Water closet	HH with Other latrine	HH without latrine	% Pit latrine	%Water closet	%Other latrine	%No. latrine
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Andhra Pradesh	16,849,857	1,439,884	3,053,673	1,065,649	11,290,651	8.55%	18.12%	6.32%	67.01%
Pondicherry	208,655	3,702	95,382	5,126	104,445	1.77%	45.71%	2.46%	50.06%
Tamil Nadu	14,173,626	1,035,315	3,291,248	656,257	9,190,806	7.30%	23.22%	4.63%	64.84%



1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Lakshadweep	9,240	50	7,610	582	998	0.54%	82.36%	6.30%	10.80%
Karnataka	10,232,133	1,368,797	1,907,116	561,113	6,395,107	13.38%	18.64%	5.48%	62.50%
Kerala	6,595,206	815,221	4,299,445	426,102	1,054,438	12.36%	65.19%	6.46%	15.99%
Jammu & Kashmir	1,551,768	289,504	137,052	418,046	727,166	17.37%	8.83%	28.94%	46.86%
Himachal Pradesh	1,240,633	181,333	141,411	91,974	825,915	14.62%	11.40%	7.41%	66.57%
Punjab	4,265,156	1,037,560	870,241	516,632	1,840,723	24.33%	20.40%	12.11%	43.16%
Haryana	3,529,642	786,921	385,046	398,838	1,958,837	22.29%	10.91%	11.90%	55.50%
Chandigarh	201,878	3,212	137,826	18,048	42,692	1.59%	68.32%	8.94%	21.15%
Delhi	2,554,149	417,854	1,161,494	411,861	582,940	16.36%	45.47%	16.13%	22.04%
Sikkim	104,738	27,547	33,648	5,189	38,354	26.30%	32.13%	4.95%	36.62%
West Bengal	15,715,915	2,755,422	3,292,027	822,328	8,846,136	17.53%	20.95%	5.23%	56.29%
Orissa	7,870,127	312,527	691,403	168,277	6,697,920	3.97%	8.79%	2.14%	85.11%
Andaman & Nicobar Island	73,062	7,732	22,866	8,326	34,138	10.58%	31.30%	11.40%	48.72%
Arunachal Pradesh	212,615	54,947	23,439	41,321	92,906	25.84%	11.02%	19.43%	43.70%
Meghalaya	420,246	128,375	51,774	34,995	205,102	30.55%	12.32%	8.33%	48.81%
Nagaland	332,050	152,410	28,960	52,949	97,731	45.90%	8.72%	15.95%	29.43%
Mizoram	180,966	100,154	31,441	11,680	17,681	62.22%	19.53%	7.26%	10.98%
Manipur	397,656	265,863	34,523	25,829	71,441	66.86%	8.68%	6.50%	17.97%
Tripura	662,023	411,109	77,394	50,701	122,819	62.10%	11.69%	7.68%	18.55%
Assam	4,935,358	2,168,502	784,611	237,228	1,745,019	43.94%	15.90%	4.81%	35.36%
Uttaranchal	1,586,321	298,799	245,025	175,163	869,334	18.71%	15.45%	11.04%	54.80%
Jharkhand	4,862,590	159,103	521,865	275,714	3,905,908	3.27%	10.73%	5.67%	80.33%
Uttar Pradesh	25,780,801	2,651,088	2,054,535	3,389,803	17,665,175	10.29%	7.98%	13.16%	66.57%
Bihar	13,982,590	906,059	1,101,094	678,198	11,299,239	6.46%	7.87%	4.84%	80.81%
Rajasthan	9,342,294	977,831	1,114,296	616,782	6,633,405	10.47%	11.93%	6.60%	71.00%
Chhattisgarh	4,148,518	100,335	367,929	120,935	3,559,319	2.42%	8.87%	2.92%	85.80%
Madhya Pradesh	10,919,653	647,998	1,361,758	609,690	8,300,207	5.93%	12.47%	5.58%	76.01%
Goa	279,216	52,584	83,147	27,991	115,494	18.83%	29.76%	10.02%	41.36%
Gujarat	9,843,969	842,304	2,997,997	461,190	5,342,498	8.73%	31.09%	4.78%	55.40%

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Maharashtra	19,063,149	1,695,494	4,165,636	827,338	12,374,681	8.89%	21.85%	4.34%	64.91%
Daman & Diu	34,342	2,468	11,886	716	19,252	7.24%	34.61%	2.06%	56.06%
Dadra & Nagar Haveli	43,973	462	13,548	308	29,655	1.05%	30.81%	0.70%	67.44%
	191,963,935	22,076,486	34,598,446	13,210,867	122,078,136	11.50%	1.02%	6.88%	63.59%

Source: Census 2001

[*Translation*]

**Mutual Extension of Banking Services Between India and Pakistan**

4181. SHRI BAPU HARI CHAURE:  
SHRI SANJAY DHOTRE:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes mutual extension of banking services between India and Pakistan;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. An understanding has been reached between the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) on granting permission for opening two branches of banks from India and Pakistan in each other's country, on a reciprocal basis. The specific banks to be permitted to open the branches would be mutually agreed upon by RBI and SBP keeping in view their respective regulatory policies and procedures. RBI has proposed to SBP the names of State Bank of India and Bank of India for opening their branches in Pakistan. Habib Bank Ltd., National Bank of Pakistan and United Bank Ltd. from Pakistan have evinced interest in opening their branches in India. In the meeting of Governor, RBI with the Governor of State Bank of Pakistan held on 26.09.2006, it was agreed that the licences to the banks for opening of their branches in each other's country would be given on reciprocal and simultaneous basis.

[*English*]

**Rate of Interest on Farm Credit**

4182. SHRI B. MAHTAB: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has any proposal to subvert the rate of interest on farm credit provided by co-operative sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) to (c) To reduce the burden of interest on Crop Loans availed by farmers an amount equal to two percentage points of the borrower's liability on the principal amount upto Rs.1,00,000/- each for Kharif and Rabi 2005-06 was credited to their account. Thereafter, from Kharif 2006, to ensure that the farmer receives Short-Term Production Credit at 7% with an upper limit of Rs.3 lacs on the principal amount, the Government is providing interest subvention of 2% per annum to Public Sector Banks, Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) and Cooperative Banks on their lending from their own resources and refinance at concessional rates to cooperative banks and RRBs on their borrowings from NABARD.

**Misuse of IT Exemption by Corporates**

4183. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE:  
SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of contribution to Charity made by Corporates in India during each of the last three years;

(b) whether a number of companies are making this contribution to unscrupulous charitable institutions just to evade taxes;

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

(d) whether the Government proposes to amend the laws related to donation more transparent; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) No data regarding the contribution to Charity made by Corporates in India is maintained by the Income Tax Department. The contributions made to specified/approved charitable institutions are eligible for deduction under Section 80G of the Income Tax Act, 1961. As per e>Returns filed by the Corporate assesseees for assessment year 2006-07, the total amount of deduction claimed under Section 80G of the Income Tax Act, 1961 by the Corporate assesseees is Rs. 10445.38 crore. Figures for earlier years are not available as the filing of e>Returns for Corporate assesseees was made compulsory only from Assessment Year 2006-07.

(b) No such incident is noticed so far.

(c) Not applicable in view of (b) above.

(d) and (e) There is no proposal with the Government to amend the laws related to donations made to charitable institutions, in the near future.

*[Translation]*

#### **Installation of ATMs**

4184. SHRI RAJNARAYAN BUDHOLIA: Will the MINISTER OF FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to install ATMs of Banks on Railway Stations in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the time by which the scheme is likely to be implemented; and

(d) the number of Railway Stations where these are targeted to be installed during the current year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) to (d) The public sector banks who have implemented Core Banking Solutions (CBS) propose to install ATMs at major/selected Railway Stations subject to approval of Railway authorities and Reserve Bank of India. Location of ATMs would depend upon specific site clearance by Railway Authorities. There is no separate target for installation of off-site ATMs at railway stations for the current year. However, any request received from banks for installation of off-site ATMs at railway stations during the current year would be examined by RBI in terms of the extant Branch Authorization Policy guidelines.

*[English]*

#### **Vanishing Companies**

4185. SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: Will the Minister of COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the estimated money of the public lost/held up due to vanishing companies upto March, 2007;

(b) the number of cases u/s 62/63, 68 and 628 of the Companies Act, 1956 registered against the promoters of such companies and the action taken against them;

(c) the estimated number of investors suffered due to the vanishing companies;

(d) whether the Government has taken any steps to reduce such instances of vanishing companies; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA): (a) 114 companies stand identified as vanishing companies with issue size of approximately Rs. 799.31 crores.

(b) Prosecutions have been filed against 107 companies and their promoters/directors u/s 62/63, 68 and 628 of the Companies Act, 1956 and against 94 such companies for non-filing of Statutory Returns.

In addition, FIRs have also been filed against 102 companies and their Promoters/ Directors for the offences punishable under Sections 420, 406, 403, 415, 418 & 424 of the Indian Penal Code (IPC).

(c) A large number of investors have suffered due to the vanishing companies. The exact number of these investors is not ascertainable, in view of frequent change by way of transfer of shares etc.

(d) and (e) A Central Coordination and Monitoring Committee, co-chaired by Secretary, Ministry of Company Affairs and Chairman, SEBI has been set up to look into issues relating to vanishing companies and their promoters and to monitor the progress of action against them.

Besides taking action against these companies and their promoters/directors under the Companies Act and the Indian Penal Code, the Ministry has implemented an e-Governance project under which the identity of authorised directors and professionals is established in a secure manner.

Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has also amended the SEBI (Disclosure and Investor Protection) Guidelines to enforce higher disclosure requirements pertaining to promoters of companies, besides taking punitive action in a number of cases. SEBI has also debarred 100 companies and 378 directors u/s 11B of the SEBI Act from raising money from the Capital Market in any form, for a period of five years.

SEBI has amended the existing Clause 49 of the Listing Agreement, which seeks to strengthen the disclosure requirement in particular pertaining to promoters and also providing for monitoring of utilisation of funds raised from the public.

#### **Overdraft by States**

4186. SHRI DUSHYANT SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the overdraft position of States as on March 31, 2007, State-wise;

(b) whether the Union Government has written to the State Governments to reduce the overdraft;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether any State Government has made better financial management and reduced overdraft during 2005-06 and 2006-07; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) The overdraft position of the State Governments as on 31.3.2007 is given in the Annex. Only two States namely Kerala and Nagaland went into overdraft in 2006-07 as compared to 8 States in 2005-06.

(b) and (c) No, Sir

(d) and (e) Yes, Sir. As against 8 States going into an overdraft in 2005-06, only 2 States got into overdraft in 2006-07. The States of Maharashtra, UP, Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, as well as Uttarakhand which went into overdraft in 2005-06 managed to avoid an overdraft position in 2006-07. Further the average utilization of the Ways and Means advance by State Governments both of the normal and special kind was lower and happened on much fewer occasions in 2006-07 when compared with 2005-06. Details are given in the enclosed Statement.

#### **Statement**

#### *State-wise Availment of WMA and Overdraft 2005-06 & 2006-07*

(As on 31.03.2007)

Sl.No.	State	W&M			Overdraft		
		2005-06 Number of days	2006-07 Number of days	2005-06 Number of Occasions	2005-06 Number of Days	2006-07 Number of Occasions	2006-07 Number of Days
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Andhra Pradesh	0	0	0	0	0	0
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	29	2	0	0	0	0

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
3.	Assam	57	0	2	22	0	0
4.	Bihar	0	0	0	0	0	0
5.	Chhattisgarh	0	0	0	0	0	0
6.	Goa	0	0	0	0	0	0
7.	Gujarat	0	0	0	0	0	0
8.	Haryana	0	0	0	0	0	0
9.	Himachal Pradesh	25	1	0	0	0	0
10.	Jharkhand	0	0	0	0	0	0
11.	Karnataka	0	0	0	0	0	0
12.	Kerala	240	223	11	63	9	63
13.	Madhya Pradesh	0	0	0	0	0	0
14.	Maharashtra	41	42	1	20	0	0
15.	Manipur	63	0	1	44	0	0
16.	Meghalaya	15	0	1	1	0	0
17.	Mizoram	14	1	0	0	0	0
18.	Nagaland	42	28	1	17	2	16
19.	Orissa	0	0	0	0	0	0
20.	Punjab	22	0	0	0	0	0
21.	Rajasthan	0	0	0	0	0	0
22.	Tamil Nadu	0	0	0	0	0	0
23.	Tripura	0	0	0	0	0	0
24.	Uttar Pradesh	34	0	1	11	0	0
25.	Uttarakhand	27	63	1	13	0	0
26.	West Bengal	0	0	0	0	0	0

Note:- State Govt. of Jammu and Kashmir and Govt. of Sikkim do not bank with RBI

#### National Land Resources Management Programme

4187. DR. K. DHANARAJU: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the salient features of the National Land

Resources Management Programme (NLRMP) being run in the country;

(b) the name of States where the said programme has been implemented during 2005-06, 2006-07 and being

implemented during the current year indicating the benefits achieved therefrom; and

(c) the allocation made and utilized during the said period, State-wise and year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU): (a) to (c) The National Land Resource Management Programme (NLRMP) has been conceptualized as a major system and reform initiative that is concerned not merely with computerization, updating and maintenance of land records and validation of titles, but also as a program that will add value and provide a comprehensive tool for development planning wherever location-specific information is required. The primary focus of the Programme will be on citizen services, such as providing records of rights (RoRs) with maps to scale; other land-based certificates such as caste certificates, income certificates (particularly in rural areas) domicile certificates; information for eligibility for development programmes; land passbooks, etc. In addition the Programme will be of immense usefulness to the governments—both Central and State Governments—in modernizing and bringing efficiency to the land revenue administration as well as offering a comprehensive tool for planning various land-based developmental activities. However, NLRMP is yet to be finalized.

#### Recruitment in SBI

4188. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of candidates recruited by the State Bank of India (SBI) in various grades during the last three years;

(b) the number of SC/ST candidates therein;

(c) whether the backlog of the reserved vacancies for SCs/STs have been filled in; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House to the extent possible.

#### Duties on Spirits and Wines

4189. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a study conducted by European Commission have revealed that the combinations of duties and taxes on imported spirits and wines in some Indian States is as high as 550% on imported spirit and 264% on wines;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the steps proposed by the Government to curtail the duties and taxes on imported wines and spirits; and

(d) whether Government proposes to empower State Governments to deal with the levy of excise duty on imported wine and distilled water?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The European Commission Report primarily covers two issues. Firstly, there is a growing market for EC wines and spirits in India which is being restricted by the duty structure and secondly the levy of additional duty and extra additional duty are in contravention of our obligations under GATT, 1994.

(c) and (d) Government is examining ways in which the concerns of the EC can be taken on board while providing a level playing field to the domestic industry.

#### Gundia Hydro Electric Power Project

4190. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Karnataka Power Corporation Limited has prepared a Detailed Project Report of Gundia Hydro Electric Power Project to be set up in Hassan District in Karnataka and sent to the Central Electricity Authority for techno-economic clearance during 2006; and

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the total estimated cost of the project and the time by which it is likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Karnataka Power Corporation Limited (KPCL) had submitted the Detailed Project Report (DPR) of Gundia Hydro Electric Project (400 MW) to Central Electricity Authority (CEA) in July, 2006 for concurrence.

The project is located on river Gundia, a tributary of river Kumardhara which is a major tributary of river Netravathy. The project envisages pooling up of water by linking tributaries of Netravathy and would generate power

by utilizing a head of 600 metres. The project will have two units of 200 MW each. The total estimated hard cost of the project as per the DPR is Rs.926.72 crores at June, 2006 price level.

The DPR has been examined in different formations of CEA, Central Water Commission (CWC) and Geological Survey of India (GSI). KPCL was required to comply with the observations of CEA, CWC and GSI. Since necessary inputs were not tied up, the DPR could not be processed for concurrence and has been returned to KPCL by CEA on 11.08.2006.

*[Translation]*

#### Pending Proposals of Maharashtra under SGRY

4191. SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of Maharashtra has submitted a proposal to the Union Government for providing the employment to Kamgar Co-operative Societies under Sampooma Grameen Rozgar Yojana (SGRY);

(b) if so, whether any decision has been taken on the above proposal; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken to implement the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL): (a) to (c) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

*[English]*

#### Power Generation by NTPC

4192. SHRI NAVEEN JINDAL: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) has been entrusted to improve the performance of power stations under 'Partnership in Excellence' Programme of the Ministry;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the additional power likely to be generated by the NTPC as a result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. To improve the performance of thermal plants operating at Plant Load Factor (PLF) below 60%, Ministry of Power, Government of India, initiated 'Partnership in Excellence' (PIE) programme in August, 2005 at 22 thermal stations. Under this programme, Engineers from better performing stations like NTPC/TATA power were deputed at power stations having low PLF to share their expertise so as to improve the PLF of these stations. The details such as name of the station, units covered under PIE, capacity, yearly generation of 13 stations presently under PIE programme with NTPC as partner is enclosed as Statement. An additional generation of 3283 MU was achieved during the year 2006-07 as compared to the previous year *i.e.* 2005-06.

#### Statement

##### *Details of PIE Stations with NTPC and Additional Generation*

Sl.No.	State Utility	Station (Installed Capacity of units under PIE)	No. of Units	Derated Capacity under PIE MW	2005-06		2006-07		Additional generation in 2006-07 MU
					Act. Gen. MU	Act. PLF %	Act. Gen. MU	Act. PLF %	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
(a) PERFORMANCE OF PIE STATIONS WITH NTPC									
1.	DVC	Bokaro 'B'-1,2,3 (3x210=630MW)	3	630	2664	48.3	3236	59.8	635
2.		Chandrapura 1,2,3 (3x440=1200MW)	3	390	2026	59.3	2164	63.1	128

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
3.		Durgapur DVC—3,4 (1X140+1X210=350MW)	2	350	1800	58.7	2070	67.5	271
4	UP UPRVUNL	Obra—7 to 13 (2x100+5x200=1200MW)	7	1188	5481	52.7	5247	50.4	-234
5.		Harduaganj—3,4,7 (2X80+1x110=230MW)	3	215	354	25.3	710	50.7	356
6.		Paricha—1,2 (2X1 10=220MW)	2	220	766	39.8	1126	58.4	360
7.		Panki—3,4 (2X110=220MW)	2	210	956	52.0	923	50.2	-33
8.	DELHI IPGCL	Rajghat PH—1,2 (2X67.5=135MW)	2	135	574	48.5	635	53.7	61
9.		IP—2,3,4,5 (3X82.5+1X80=247.5MW)	4	247.5	987	45.5	954	44.0	-32
10.	TAMIL NADU TNEB	Ennore—2,3,5 (1X60+2X110=280MW)	3	280	519	21.2	1394	56.8	875
11.	JHARKHAND TVNL	Tenughat 1,2 (2X210=420MW)	2	420	1534	41.7	2719	73.9	1185
12.	JHARKHAND JSEB	Patratu—1,2,6,9,10* (2X50+1X100+ 2x110=420MW)	5	390	239	34.1	374	53.4	136
13.	WEST BENGAL DPL	Durgapur DPL -1 to 6 (2X30+3X77+ 1X110=401MW)	6	390	2207	64.6	1782	52.2	425
Sub Total (a)			44	5065.5	20106	48.8	23388	56.8	3283

\*Generation of units under long shut down not considered for calculation purpose.

#### Abbreviations Used:

DVC — Damodar Valley Corporation  
 UPRVUNL — Uttar Pradesh Rajya Vidyut Utpadan Nigam Limited  
 IPGCL — Indraprastha Power Generation Company Limited  
 TNEB — Tamil Nadu Electricity Board  
 TVNL — Tenughat Vidyut Nigam Limited  
 JSEB — Jharkhand State Electricity Board  
 DPL — Durgapur Projects Limited

#### [Translation]

#### Energy Conservation Programmes

4193. SHRI M. ANJAN KUMAR YADAV: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether some Rural Energy Conservation Programmes are running in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the Central assistance provided to Andhra Pradesh for these programmes during the last three years; and

(c) the details of the areas where these programmes are being implemented?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE): (a) There is no specific programme as Rural Energy Conservation Programme. The energy conservation programmes are inclusive of both rural and urban areas.

(b) No financial assistance has been provided to Andhra Pradesh during the last 3 years in this regard. The Government of Andhra Pradesh and the DISCOMS have motivated the farmers having pump-sets to fix capacitors to their pumpsets and 20.86 lakhs capacitors



have been fixed to the agriculture pumpsets by the farmers themselves. All the major capacitors manufacturers were asked to contact the farmers and take orders directly to fix the capacitors to the pumpsets. The rates are also negotiated for the benefit of the framers. In certain Districts, District Cooperative Banks, District Cooperative Marketing Societies procured the capacitors in bulk and distributed to the farmers on cost basis. Other initiatives like use of ISI mark pumpsets and HDPE pipes are encouraged.

(c) The programme is implemented in all the Districts by the farmers having agriculture pumpsets.

[English]

#### R&D in Nano-Technology in Gujarat

4194. SHRIMATI JAYABEN B. THAKKAR: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to establish Research and Development Centre in the field of Nano-Technology in Gujarat;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) to (c) The Government had invited Research & Development proposals for setting up Centres for Nano-Technology from institutions across the country. No proposal has been received for setting up a Centre for Nano-Technology in Gujarat. However, a few Research and Development projects in various fields of Science and Technology including Nano Science & Technology have been supported in Gujarat. The details are given in the enclosed Statement.

#### Statement

##### *R&D Projects Sanctioned in Gujarat State for the year 2004-05*

Sl.No.	Title	Principal Investigator & Address	Sanctioned Cost (Rs.)
1	2	3	4
1.	Development of Organic/inorganic composites proton exchange membrane for fuel cell applications	Dr. V.K. Shahi, Central Salt & Marine Chemicals Research Institute, Gijubhai Badheka Marg, Bhavnagar-364002	1461000
2.	Development of activated carbon from synthetic precursors and gases	Prof.(Mrs.) S.M. Manocha, Deptt. of Materials Science, Sardar Patel University, Vallabh Vidyanagar-368120	2390000
3.	Fluorescent molecular sensors: Design, synthesis and cation recognition study	Dr. Parimal Paul, Analytical Science Division, Central Salt & Marine Chemicals Research Institute, Gijubhai Badheka Marg, Bhavnagar-364002	1646900
4.	One step hydroxylation of benzene to phenol over transition metal containing hydrotalcites and their modified forms	Dr. S. Kannan, Silicates & Catalysis Discipline, Central Salt & Marine Chemicals Research, Institute, Gijubhai Badheka Marg, Bhavnagar-364002	1587360
5.	Ergonomics of Human-computer-Interaction Compatibility Assessment	Dr. Pranab Kumar Nag, Deptt. of Ergonomics & Occupational Physiology, National Institute of Occupational Health, Ahmedabad-380016	1820200
6.	Synthesis of chiral hydrocyanins as intermediates for industrially important bio-active compounds through chiral catalytic routes	Dr. N.H. Khan, Silicates & Catalysis Discipline, Central Salt & Marine Chemicals Research Institute, Gijubhai Badheka Marg, Bhavnagar-364002	2067000

1	2	3	4
7.	Theoretical Investigations of adsorption of additives on to the crystal surface and sodium chloride and on other alkyl halides	Dr. Bishwajit Ganguly, Central Salt & Marine Chemicals Research Institute, Gijubhai Badheka Marg, Bhavnagar-364002	1350000
8.	Clinical and experimental studies on geno, and feto toxicity of Pan Masala	Dr. Sunil Kumar, National Institute of Occupational Health, Meghani Nagar, Ahmedabad-380016	2170000
9.	Development and Investigations of Pulse Tube Nitrogen Liquefier of around 1 Litre/ Hours Capacity	Dr. H.B. Naik, Deptt. of Mechanical Engg., Sardar Vallabhbhai National Institute of Technology, Ichhanath, Surat-395007	2398800
10.	Development of Centrifugal Pump to work as Turbine and Integrate it with load controller	Dr. S.H. Chetwani, Deptt. of Low Voltage Products Electrical Research and Development Association, Vadodara-390010	757080
11.	Studies on development, microstructural analysis and physical properties of Aligned Carbon nanotubes and composites by CVD method	Prof. L.M. Manocha, Deptt. of Materials Science Sardar Patel University, Vallabh Vidyanagar-388120	2167800

*[Translation]***Houses to the Poor**

4195. SHRI KULDEEP BISHNOI: Will the MINISTER OF HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of poor families provided with pucca houses in various cities of Haryana under the Valmiki Ambedkar Awas Yojana (VAMBAY) during the last three years;

(b) the standards adopted for identifying slums under the said scheme; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to provide more houses to poor families of the State under VAMBAY?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION (KUMARI SELJA) (a) No proposals were received from the State Government and as such no funds were released for housing to the poor under the Valmiki Ambedkar Awas Yojana (VAMBAY) during the last three years.

(b) Under the Valmiki Ambedkar Awas Yojana (VAMBAY), the identification of slums was left to State Governments.

(c) VAMBAY has been subsumed under Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM) with effect from 3.12.2005. Under two programmes namely, Basic Services to Urban Poor (BSUP)—for 63 mission cities and Integrated Housing and Slum Development Programme (IHS DP)—for non-mission cities, houses are sanctioned based on project proposals submitted by the State Governments conforming to scheme guidelines.

*[English]***Expansion Plan of Bank of Baroda**

4196. SHRI MILIND DEORA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Bank of Baroda has drawn up an extensive overseas expansion plan which includes acquisition of an African Bank, increasing the number of overseas Branches and opening of a representative office in Australia as reported in The Times of India dated March 19, 2007;

(b) if so, the facts of the matter reported therein; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) to (c) Government had announced an Autonomy Package in

February 2005 for the Public Sector Banks (PSBs) to enable them to take quick and efficient decisions, and to provide Bank Boards sufficient managerial autonomy to enable them to compete internationally. The package delegates authority to the Boards for making suitable acquisitions of companies or businesses, closing/merging unviable branches, opening overseas offices, etc. Bank of Baroda has drawn up an extensive overseas expansion plan to capture the opportunities thrown open by globalization in various countries and to consolidate its position further in the international market. This is likely to enable the Bank to provide end-to-end solutions to its 29 million global customers. The bank has recently received approvals from host country regulators for establishing offices in Trinidad & Tobago (Subsidiary), Australia (Representative Office) and Ghana (Subsidiary). The bank has also obtained permission from Reserve Bank of India to open offices in Bahrain, Qatar, Sri Lanka, Canada, New Zealand, Isle of Man, and Mozambique etc.

#### **Autonomy to Science Institutes**

4197. SHRI M. SREENIVASULU REDDY: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has provided greater autonomy in appointment and placement of scientists without the usual Government ban on recruitment assuring their career prospects; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) and (b) Autonomous scientific institutions frame their rules and regulations for recruitment to the scientific posts under guidelines from the Government. Each institution approve these rules through their governing Council.

#### **Judicial Reforms**

4198. SHRIMATI MANORAMA MADHAVRAJ: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has chalked out any plan to implement judicial reforms in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the funds allocated for the purpose during each of the last three years;

(c) whether in terms of GNP the outlay on judiciary in India is less than those allocated in the developed countries such as USA, UK, Singapore etc.; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI K. VENKATAPATHY): (a) and (b) Judicial reforms being a continuous process has to keep pace with the changing times, conditions and requirements of the people. Government is committed to provide speedy and inexpensive justice to the common man. Various judicial reform measures are being implemented by the Government which include the scheme of Fast Track Courts and Family Courts, simplification of judicial procedures, augmenting of judge strength in High Courts, training of judicial officers for improvement in the quality of administration of justice, accountability of judges, organizing Lok Adalats, setting up of special tribunals and encouraging alternative modes of dispute resolution.

Government has also taken up schemes for application of Information and Communication Technology in the Indian courts through comprehensive computerization of District and Subordinate Courts of the country and for development of infrastructure facilities for the judiciary as part of implementation of judicial reforms in the country. The funds provided in the Budget Estimates in the last three years for all such Plan schemes is as indicated below:

	(Rs. in crore)
2004-05	140.00
2005-06	220.00
2006-07	203.95

(c) and (d) The First National Judicial Pay Commission also known as Shetty Commission had in its report presented on 11.11.1999 stated that the expenditure in our country in terms of GNP was relatively low. As per that report it was not more than 0.2% in our country whereas in the USA it was 1.4%, in the UK it was 4.3% and in Singapore it was 1.2%.

*[Translation]***Preparation of BPL Lists**

4199. SHRI CHANDRA MANI TRIPATHI:  
DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether some States have not finalised the BPL list till date;

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

(c) the time by which the BPL list is likely to be prepared by these States; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The States of Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Goa, Gujarat, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Karnataka, Kerala, Maharashtra, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Orissa, Rajasthan, Sikkim, Tamil Nadu, Tripura and West Bengal have not yet finalized the new BPL list on the basis of BPL Census, 2002.

(c) and (d) After the vacation of stay by the Hon'ble Supreme Court on 14.2.2006, the matter has been taken up with the States/Union Territory Administrations at different levels to finalise the BPL list expeditiously after ensuring transparency and redressing the Public grievances, if any. The States and UTs have been advised to complete the exercise possibly by June, 2007.

*[English]***Waiving off Interest on Agricultural Loans**

4200. SHRI M. RAJA MOHAN REDDY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Andhra Pradesh has urged the Union Government to extend the interest waiver on agricultural loans as a part of Prime Minister's Vidarbha type package to all farmers in the 16 districts of the State;

(b) if so, whether a delegation of Members of Parliament has recently submitted a memorandum to the Union Government in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof, and

(d) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) and (b) The Government of Andhra Pradesh and various other dignitaries including Members of Parliament have requested for providing relief of interest waiver on agricultural loans that were rescheduled in the year 2004 and had not become overdue on 1st July 2006.

(c) and (d) On June 18, 2004 Government of India had announced a package for the farmers which, among other things, included a package of relief for farmers in distress, which, *inter-alia*, provided that their outstanding as on 31.03.2004 alongwith interest be rescheduled and the interest for the period of moratorium i.e. up to 2007 be also deferred and be repayable over a 3 year period beginning 2007. By this restructuring, the farmers became eligible for fresh credit.

The rehabilitation package announced for the 16 debt stressed districts of Andhra Pradesh covers the loans of all farmers in these districts which were overdue on 01.07.2006. The farmers, who have been given the benefit of relief as announced in 2004 are also eligible for relief under the current package in case the fresh loans provided to them have become overdue. If fresh loans availed by these farmers after the rescheduling of 2004 have become overdue, then interest on them has also been waived off. The loans (rescheduled in 2004) are not overdue as on 01.07.2006 and thus are not eligible for relief. The farmers whose loans were rescheduled in 2004 have already been provided a relief of moratorium as also fresh lending has been provided to them which otherwise they would not have been eligible for. Having been provided relief once under the 2004 package, it was not considered appropriate to include them in the present package.

*[Translation]***Concessions on Oil Exploration**

4201. SHRI RABINDER KUMAR RANA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to give tax concessions to the companies to promote the exploration of oil and natural gas in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) to (c) Section 42 of the Income-tax Act provides for special deductions to any person engaged in the business of prospecting and exploration of mineral oil, petroleum and natural gas subject to fulfilment of specified conditions.

Further, section 80-IB(9) provides tax holiday for 7 years to undertakings engaged in the business of production of mineral oil.

Therefore, there is no case for any change in law to provide any further incentive.

*[English]*

#### **World Bank Assistance for Power Reforms**

4202. SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL:  
SHRI SUBHASH SURESHCHANDRA  
DESHMUKH:  
SHRI SUGRIB SINGH:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the World Bank provides assistance for power reforms in the country;

(b) if so, the details of assistance received during 2005-2006 and 2006-2007;

(c) the terms and conditions thereof;

(d) the details of assistance provided to States during the said period, State-wise; and

(e) the extent to which improvement has been registered in the power sector by such reforms so far in the country?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE): (a) to (d) The International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (the window of the World Bank Group which extends normal development

assistance) has provided financial assistance of US Dollars 30.48 million and 26.55 million during the financial years 2005-06 & 2006-07 respectively for Rajasthan Power Sector Restructuring Project. The project aimed at supporting the ongoing power sector reform process in Rajasthan leading to higher sectoral efficiency and financial recovery and at improving power supply by removing the critical bottlenecks in the power transmission and distribution system.

The standard terms and conditions of the Bank are applicable to the loan under which the repayment period is 20 years including a grace period of 5 years and the interest rate is on 60 basis points above LIBOR (London Inter-Bank Offer Rate).

(e) The power sector reforms aim at efficient and commercially viable and competitive power supply industry to provide reliable quality power at competitive prices to the consumers. Improving financial viability of power utilities is one of the key deliverables of power sector reforms. The trend of continuously increasing commercial losses of Power Utilities has been arrested. The commercial losses (without subsidy) in State Power Utilities which had increased from Rs.4,560 crores during 1992-93 to Rs.25,259 crores during 2000-01, have come down to Rs. 19,722 crores, Rs.21,328 crores and Rs. 16,563 crores (provisional figure) during the years 2003-04, 2004-05 and 2005-06, as per the available data compiled by Power Finance Corporation.

#### **Growth of Self Help Groups**

4203. SHRI BADIGA RAMAKRISHNA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the extent of the growth of Self Help Groups (SHGs) in Andhra Pradesh during each of the last three years;

(b) the details of SHGs linked to banking services and economic activities during the said period; and

(c) the amount disbursed by SHGs during the said period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) to (c) The Self Help Group—Bank Linkage programme is one of the models of microfinance in the country and the Commercial Banks, Cooperative Banks and the Regional

Rural Banks participate in the programme. The SHGs promoted in Andhra Pradesh during the last three years viz. 2003-04, 2004-05 and 2005-06 is 30912, 32971 and

43255 respectively. The details of SHGs linked to banks during the last three years in Andhra Pradesh are as under:

Details	March 2004	March 2005	March 2006
Cumulative Number of SHGs provided with bank loan	3,85,576	4,92,927	5,87,238
Cumulative bank loan disbursed to SHGs (Rs.in crore)	1728.4	2746.1	4345.5

#### Urban Reforms Incentive Fund

4204. SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAI: Will the MINISTER OF HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state;

(a) whether the Government has launched Urban Reforms Incentive Fund (URIF) for providing incentives to the State Governments to carry out reforms in the certain areas with a view to give emphasis on the urban reforms in the 10th Plan;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the areas covered under this scheme;

(c) the details of the States/UTs which have signed MoUs with the Union Government under URIF for urban reforms;

(d) the total funds released by Union Government to State Governments under this scheme during the 10th Plan period State-wise;

(e) whether the Government has any proposal to carry forward the said scheme in the 11th Plan also; and

(f) if so, the steps taken or being taken by the Government for better implementation of the said scheme during the 11th Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION (KUMARI SELJA ): (a) and (b) The Urban Reforms Incentive Fund (URIF) was approved by the Government on 28.06.2003 with an annual allocation of Rs. 500 crores in the 10th Plan to provide incentives to the States to have urban reforms in the first phase (2003-2004) in the following areas: Repeal of Urban Land Ceiling and Regulation Act, Rationalization of Stamp Duty, Reform of Rent Control, Introduction of computerized process of registration, Reform of Property Tax, Levy of reasonable user charges and Introduction of double entry system of accounting in Urban Local Bodies.

(c) The details of the States/UTs who signed the Memorandum of Agreement with the Government are given in the enclosed Statement-I.

(d) The details of funds released by Government under Urban Reforms Incentive Fund are given in the enclosed Statement-II.

(e) and (f) The Government has no plan to carry forward the Urban Reforms Incentive Fund (URIP) scheme in the 11th Plan, as the said scheme has already been discontinued w.e.f. 01.04.2005.

#### Statement-I

##### State/UTs who Signed the MOA

Sl. No.	Name of State/UT	Date of signing of MOA	No. of reforms agreed/ Weightages
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	29.10.2003	Four. Except repeal of ULC, rationalization of Stamp duty & Reform of Rent Control Laws.

1	2	3	4
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	13.2.2004	Four. Except repeal of ULC, rationalization of Stamp duty & Reform of Rent Control Laws.
3.	Bihar	18.3.2004	Six. Except Repeal of ULC Act.
4.	Chhattisgarh	1.9.2003	Six. Except rationalization of Stamp duty
5.	Goa	16.3.2004	Four. Except repeal of ULC Act, reform of rent control laws & Levy of reasonable user charges.
6.	Gujarat	27.2.2004	All
7.	Haryana	15.10.2003	Six. Except rationalization of Stamp duty.
8.	Himachal Pradesh	31.3.2004	Six. Except Repeal of ULC Act.
9.	Karnataka	16.9.2003	Five. Except rationalization of Stamp duty & Reform of Rent Control Laws.
10.	Kerala	8.10.2003	All
11.	Madhya Pradesh	6.8.2003	All
12.	Maharashtra	1.10.2003	All
13.	Manipur	3.10.2003	Six. Except rationalization of Stamp duty.
14.	Meghalaya	16.3.2004	All
15.	Nagaland	18.12.2003	Five. Except rationalization of Stamp duty & introduction to computerized process of registration.
16.	Orissa	9.12.2003	All
17.	Rajasthan	29.3.2004 & supplementary MOA in March 2005 for three remaining reform areas	All; 2003-2004—Four reforms: 2004-2005, three reforms (rationalization of stamp duty, reform of rent control, reform of property tax)
18.	Tamil Nadu	1.8.2003 and supplementary MOA in March 2005 for one reform area	All; 2003-2004—Six reforms : 2004-2005 one reform (rationalization of stamp duty)
18.	Tamil Nadu	1.8.2003 and supplementary MOA in March 2005 for one reform area	All; 2003-2004—Six reforms : 2004-2005 one reform (rationalization of stamp duty)

1	2	3	4
19.	Tripura	11.9.2003	All
20.	Uttar Pradesh	3.3.2004	All
21.	West Bengal	18.11.2003	Four. Except repeal of ULC, rationalization of Stamp duty & Reform of Rent Control Laws.
22.	Punjab	March,2005	All
23.	Jharkhand	March, 2005	All
24.	Jammu & Kashmir	March, 2005	Six. Except Repeal of ULC Act.
25.	Andaman & Nicobar Island	4.12.2003	All
26.	Chandigarh	17.10.2003	All
27.	Delhi	18.12.2003	Six. Except reform of rent control laws
28.	Pondichery	.	All

\*In the case of UTs, there is no need to sign MOA as suggested by Ministry of Home Affairs in February 2005.

**Statement-II**

*State-wise Status of Urban Reforms Incentive Fund (URIF) Release of Funds*

(Rs. In Crores)

Sl. No.	Name of State/UT	Amount released by M/o Finance in 2003-04	Amount released by M/o Finance & MHA in 2004-05
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	8.987	2.6945
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	0.1	
3.	Bihar	6.84	1.52
4.	Chhattisgarh	2.92	0.456
5.	Goa	0.2875	
6.	Gujarat	16.55	2.897
7.	Haryana	4.28	0.535
8.	Himachal Pradesh	0.4725	
9.	Karnataka	9.42	9.42
10.	Kerala	7.25	0.362



1	2	3	4
11.	Madhya Pradesh	14.1	8.46
12.	Maharashtra	35.925	0
13.	Manipur	0.4	0
14.	Meghalaya	0.36	0
15.	Nagaland	0.21	0
16.	Orissa	4.825	0.7235
17.	Rajasthan	5.7875	8.1
18.	Tamil Nadu	19.1	16.7125
19.	Tripura	0.475	0.143
20.	Uttar Pradesh	30.225	3.022
21.	West Bengal	9.85	6.895
22.	Punjab	0.00	3.6125
23.	Jharkhand	0.00	2.625
24.	Jammu & Kashmir	0.00	1.98
<b>UTs</b>			
1.	A&N Island	0.00	0.2
2.	Chandigarh	0.00	1.4
3.	Delhi	0.00	22.45*
4.	Pondicherry	0.00	1.15*
<b>Total</b>		<b>178.365</b>	<b>95.358</b>

\* Ministry of Home Affairs had a provision of Rs. 22.45 crore and Rs.1.15 crore in RE 2004-05 for the Govt. of NCT of Delhi Govt. of Pondicherry respectively and with the approval of Ministry of Finance they released funds directly to those UTs.

#### **Bio-technology Mission in Gujarat**

4205. SHRI HARILAL MADHAVJI BHAJI PATEL: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of projects submitted by the Gujarat State Bio-technology Mission (GSBTM) to the Union Government for approval during the last three years;

(b) the details of projects cleared out of them; and

(c) the details of projects rejected alongwith the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) to (c) Total 14 projects received from GSBTM out of which 2 projects sanctioned by Department, 9 projects got rejected on merit/late submission and 3 projects are under consideration. Details of the projects are given in the enclosed Statement.

**Statement***List of Projects received from GSBTM during last 3 year*

Sl.No.	Name of Project	Status	Reason
1	2	3	4
1.	Centre of Excellence in Nanobiotechnology submitted by Kenin Neutritional Technologies India Pvt. Ltd.	Not Considered by Deptt.	Received after the last date for receipt of the proposals
2.	Centre of Excellence in Environmental Biotechnology submitted by S.P. Univ., Vallabh Vidyanagar	Rejected on Merit	Not found suitable for DBT funding by External Peer Review Committee
3.	National Institute of Marine Biotechnology submitted by M/s. Cadilla Pharmaceuticals Ltd.	Not considered by Deptt.	Received after the last date for receipt of the proposals
4.	Centre of Excellence in Marine Biotechnology submitted by CSMCRI, Bhavnagar	Rejected (On merit)	Not found suitable for DBT Funding by External Peer Review Committee
5.	Establishment of Marine Biotech incubator in Marine Biotech Park in Gujarat	Under consideration	Received on 09.4.2007
6.	Multi-institutional teachers Training Program in Molecular Biology and Bioinformatics submitted by GSBTM	Rejected	Not found suitable for DBT funding by External Peer Review Committee
7.	IPR issues in Biotechnology Submitted by National Law Univ. Gandhi Nagar	Rejected	Not found suitable for DBT funding by External Peer Review Committee
8.	Diploma in Clinical trials Submitted by L.M. College of Pharmacy	Rejected	Not found suitable for DBT funding by External Peer Review Committee
9.	Vacation Training Programme on Bioresources for School children	Approved Rs. 5.07 lakhs (4 weeks)	The programme was successfully completed in 2005
10.	Vacation Training Programme on Bioresources for School children	Approved Rs. 5.86 lakhs (4 weeks)	The programme was successfully completed in 2006
11.	Diploma in Clinical Trials Submitted by B.J. Medical College	Under Consideration	—
12.	HLA Registry facility and Cord blood bank facility	Under consideration	—

1	2	3	4
13.	Biodiversity, Bioprospecting, Biofueling and Bioremediation-towards an understanding of coral and microbial symbiosis	Rejected	Not found suitable under Indo-Australian bilateral collaboration by External Peer Review Committee
14.	The Virtual Institute of Bioinformatics submitted by GSBTM	Rejected	Because Deptt. Supports mainly Universities & colleges to promote Biology teaching through Bioinformatics

#### **Construction of Courts/Residential Accommodation for Judges**

4206. SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL:  
SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH:  
SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA:  
SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO:

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has drawn up a 10-Year Perspective Plan in consultation with the Planning Commission to meet the requirement of court construction and construction of residential accommodation for the judges as reported in *the Hindu* dated April 09, 2007;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI K. VENKATAPATHY): (a) to (c) With a view to having a target driven implementation of the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of development of infrastructure for the judiciary, the Central Government, on the basis of information furnished by the States/Union Territories has prepared a Ten Year Perspective Plan for the construction 5960 court buildings and 9163 residential accommodation for judges in the various States/Union Territories at an estimated total cost of Rs.4025 crore. On the basis of this Perspective Plan a proposal for implementing the scheme in the Eleventh Plan period (2007-08 to 2011-12) at a total cost of Rs.3000 crore with an outlay of Rs.1550 crore as the Central share of

assistance (on a 50:50 basis) has been made to the Planning Commission. An amount of Rs.65 crore has been provided in the Budget Estimates 2007-08.

#### **Publicity of Urban Poverty Alleviation Schemes**

4207. SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA: Will the Minister of HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is lack of awareness amount urban poor about the benefit of urban pverty alleviation schemes and their efficacy;

(b) if so, the reasons for not giving wide publicity of the schemes; and

(c) the steps taken to create awareness amongst the urban poors?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION (KUMARI SELJA): (a) to (c) Ministry of Housing & Urban Poverty Alleviation is implementing an urban poverty alleviation scheme named Swama Jayanti Shahari Rozgar Yojna (SJSRY) since 1.12.1997, through State/Union Territory Governments. The publicity/awareness for the scheme is provided by the States/UTs under their 2% allocation of budget for Information, Education and Communication (IEC) purposes under the Scheme. In addition to this, at the Central level, Ministry of Housing & Urban Poverty Alleviation also creates awareness about the scheme through releasing advertisements from time to time in print media, through pamphlets, hoardings, audio-visual campaigns etc.

*[Translation]***Eradication of Urban Poverty**

4208. SHRIMATI SANGEETA KUMARI SINGH DEO:  
SHRI KASHIRAM RANA:  
SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY:

Will the Minister of HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the estimated urban population living below the poverty line;

(b) whether any survey has been conducted recently to identify the number of urban poor;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether any comprehensive plan has been formulated for eradication of urban poverty; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION (KUMARI SELJA): (a) to (c) The National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO) has conducted the latest large sample survey on household consumer expenditure 61st Round), covering the period July 2004 to June 2005. From this data, two different consumption distributions for the year 2004-05 have been obtained. The first one is from the consumption data collected using 30-day recall period for all the items. The other distribution is obtained from the consumer expenditure data collected using 365-day recall period for five infrequently purchased non-food items, namely, clothing, footwear durable goods, education and institutional medical expenses and 30-day recall period for the remaining items. These two consumption distributions have been termed as Uniform Recall Period (URP) consumption distribution and Mixed Recall Period (MRP) consumption distribution respectively. The Planning Commission has estimated poverty in 2004-05 using both the distributions. As per the URP Consumption Method, the number of urban poor in 2004-05 has been estimated as 807.96 Lakhs in the country. Similarly, as per the MRP Consumption Method, the

number of urban poor in 2004-2005 has been estimated as 682.00 Lakhs in the country.

(d) and (e) With a view to ameliorate the living conditions of the urban poor and to reduce the urban poverty in the country, Ministry of Housing & Urban Poverty Alleviation is already implementing a Centrally sponsored urban poverty alleviation scheme named Swama Jayanti Shahari Rozgar Yojana (SJSRY), on all India basis since 1.12.1997. The Scheme of SJSRY strives to provide self-employment to the urban poor by assisting them to set up individual/group micro-enterprises and also through provision of wage employment by utilising their labour in construction of useful public assets.

**Project Proposals Under APDRP**

4209. SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN:  
SHRI KRISHNA MURARI MOGHE:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has received project proposals from the State Governments particularly from Madhya Pradesh under the Accelerated Power Development and Reforms Programme (APDRP);

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir, the Union Government has received project proposals from the State governments in the past under Accelerated Power Development and Reforms Programme (APDRP). Out of 119 project proposals received from Madhya Pradesh under APDRP, the Government of India has approved 48 proposals amounting to Rs.663.20 Crores.

*[English]***Additional Funds under Swajaldhara Yojana**

4210. SHRI BHUPENDRASINH SOLANKI: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has received any requests from certain States including Gujarat for additional funds under Swajaldhara Yojana during the last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the funds provided by the Union Government

against the demand of each such State during the said period.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) and (c) The details of the demand for additional funds and releases made are as follows:

(Rs. in lakh)

Name of the State	Request received from States for additional funds			Funds provided by the GOI		
	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07**
Andhra Pradesh	—	8260.94	—	—	1020.20	—
Gujarat	13547.57	6792.03	11193.00	1173.67	543.21	**
Haryana	—	489.76	—	—	170.62	—
Himachal Pradesh	—	456.72	2854.02	—	416.90	**
Jharkhand	—	3000.00	—	—	268.53	—
Karnataka	3018.45	4253.28	1155.00	261.50	751.32	**
Kerala	—	1568.46	—	—	261.54	—
Madhya Pradesh	—	495.97	—	—	495.97	—
Maharashtra	10881.00	14549.61	—	942.66	1339.91	—
Nagaland	—	491.17	—	—	90.33	—
Orissa	—	3081.47	—	—	602.59	—
Punjab	—	49.92	—	—	49.92	—
Rajasthan	3720.28	2037.34	—	322.30	1598.47	—
Tamil Nadu	2651.40	688.56	—	229.70	576.69	—
Uttaranchal	—	2769.65	570.60	—	278.03	**
West Bengal	—	1250.00	—	—	646.28	—
Manipur	—	—	490.00	—	—	**

\*\* During the year 2006-07 additional funds could not be provided to the States from whom requests were received due to paucity of funds.

**Simplification of Norms for Foreign Investors**

4211. SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR:  
SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has asked the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) to simplify the norms for investment through sub-accounts;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether a number of international investors had conveyed to the Government their preference for the Participatory Note (PN) route to avoid the compliance and certification costs in their home countries;

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

(e) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) No, Sir.

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

(c) to (e) No, Sir. However, the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has observed from the reports being filed with them that participatory notes (PNs) are issued by large financial sector conglomerates like Merrill Lynch, Morgan Stanley, Goldman Sachs etc. PNs are used as an alternative to sub-accounts by ultimate investors generally based on considerations related to transactions costs and recordkeeping overheads.

As per information available with the SEBI, the notional value of PNs has increased from Rs. 1,17,325 crore in January 2006 to Rs. 2,02,487 crore in January 2007. The assets under management of Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) increased from Rs. 3,84,491 crore to Rs. 5,81,087 crore during this period. The notional value of PNs as a percentage of assets under management of FIIs has increased from 30.5% to 34.8% during this period.

Government, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and the SEBI have framed the policy for participation by FIIs with adequate safeguards in place to guard against any possible misuse of this avenue of investment. The issuance of PNs by SEBI registered FIIs is within the

ambit of SEBI's FII regulations. These regulations require that FIIs can issue PNs only to regulated entities. FIIs registered with SEBI that issue PNs are required to submit a monthly report in a prescribed format. The policy for participation by FIIs is reviewed continuously by Government, RBI and SEBI taking into account inputs/concerns received from various sources.

*[Translation]*

**Utilisation of Funds under SGRY, IAY and SGSY**

4212. SHRI SUBHASH SURESHCHANDRA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the funds allocated under Sampoorna Grameen Rozgar Yojana (SGRY), Indra Awas Yojana (IAY) and Swarnjayanti Gram Sadak Yojana (SGSY) during each of last three years, State-wise;

(b) the details of districts which have fully utilised the funds allocated and also the districts which have failed to make full utilisation of allocated funds under the said schemes;

(c) whether the State Governments have made full utilisation of the share of funds earmarked for Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes under the said schemes and also have utilised a minimum of 85 percent resources within the stipulated timeframe; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL): (a) State-wise funds allocated under Sampoorna Grameen Rozgar Yojana (SGRY), Indra Awas Yojana and Swarnjayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY) during the last three years (i.e. 2004-05, 2005-06 and 2006-07) are given in the enclosed Statement-I.

(b) According to the programme guidelines, the State Governments, Union Territory Administration, District Rural Development Agencies/Zilla Parishads have been allowed to have a limit of 10% as Opening Balance of the available funds with them, to maintain continuity of the programmes. As reported by the States, under SGRY, 267 districts in the year 2004-05, 245 districts during

2005-06 and 28 districts during 2006-07 utilised more than 90% of the available funds. The expenditure figures of 2006-07 are provisional and position may improve, when complete information for all schemes is received. Under IAY, 311 districts in year 2004-05, 280 districts in 2005-06 and 261 districts in 2006-07 utilised more than 90% of the available funds. Under SGSY, 331 districts in the year 2004-05, 443 districts in 2005-06 and 25 districts

in 2006-07 utilised more than 90% of the available funds.

(c) and (d) State-wise funds utilised against the share of funds earmarked for Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes under Sampoorna Grameen Rozgar Yojana (SGRY), Indira Awaas Yojana and Swarnjayanti Gram Swarajgar Yojana (SGSY) during the last three years are given in the enclosed Statement-II.

**Statement-I**

*Central allocation under IAY, SGSY and SGRY during the years 2004-05, 2005-06 and 2006-07*

(Rs.in lakh)

Sl.No.	Name of the State/UTs	IAY			SGSY			SGRY		
		Central Allocation 2004-05	Central Allocation 2005-06	Central Allocation 2006-07	Central Allocation 2004-05	Central Allocation 2005-06	Central Allocation 2006-07	Central Allocation 2004-05	Central Allocation 2005-06	Central Allocation 2006-07
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
1.	Andhra Pradesh	17981.83	24399.42	25939.14	5305.97	5305.97	5885.70	23487.18	28139.33	10903.95
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	825.98	949.43	1018.68	276.91	276.91	282.45	1246.98	1524.09	1403.85
3.	Assam	18584.99	20994.23	22525.46	7195.18	7195.18	7339.07	32388.00	39560.89	25385.99
4.	Bihar	48846.34	72020.72	76565.57	12623.79	12623.79	13998.30	48512.14	56724.88	21299.37
5.	Chhattisgarh	3074.98	3773.17	4011.28	2802.45	2802.45	3108.61	13108.64	15705.09	4937.19
6.	Goa	116.18	150.28	159.77	50.00	50.00	50.00	336.74	403.44	417.84
7.	Gujarat	5167.82	11966.03	12721.14	1997.27	1997.27	2216.70	10283.30	12320.13	8741.19
8.	Haryana	1747.40	1880.04	1786.06	1175.03	1175.03	1304.92	5417.38	6490.41	6048.66
9.	Himachal Pradesh	773.06	582.58	629.95	494.85	494.85	548.73	2281.48	2733.38	2296.24
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	924.74	1840.52	1956.67	612.44	612.44	679.13	2881.02	3212.07	2828.03
11.	Jharkhand	14351.50	8423.93	8829.31	4757.98	4757.98	5278.02	31543.52	37791.40	3338.58
12.	Karnataka	9301.41	9400.43	9993.64	4006.78	4006.78	4445.01	17539.74	21013.87	16224.75
13.	Kerala	5763.87	5227.51	5557.39	1797.82	1797.82	1985.54	7870.10	9428.94	8116.90
14.	Madhya Pradesh	10730.71	7504.14	7977.69	6007.91	6007.91	6664.05	28308.64	33915.78	16854.62
15.	Maharashtra	16503.47	14714.56	15643.12	7920.39	7920.39	8784.83	34672.18	41539.76	25703.73
16.	Manipur	984.83	824.15	884.26	482.36	482.36	492.01	2172.42	2655.18	2403.18
17.	Meghalaya	1308.47	1435.38	1540.07	540.42	540.42	551.23	2433.74	2974.57	1946.47

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
18.	Mizoram	314.12	305.89	328.20	125.06	125.06	127.56	563.18	688.33	556.39
19.	Nagaland	844.67	949.84	1019.11	370.70	370.70	378.12	1669.40	2040.38	1752.72
20.	Orissa	14476.04	14149.75	15042.66	6068.94	6068.94	6729.73	26567.30	31829.53	9623.95
21.	Punjab	1157.56	2077.71	2208.83	571.05	571.05	635.23	6025.60	7219.10	6753.65
22.	Rajasthan	4878.10	6013.11	6392.56	3042.47	3042.47	3375.71	13318.66	15956.71	12542.23
23.	Sikkim	226.45	181.66	194.91	138.45	138.45	141.22	623.52	762.08	562.78
24.	Tamil Nadu	9030.00	9763.97	10385.44	4691.65	4691.65	5204.41	20538.10	24606.12	18850.46
25.	Tripura	1910.49	1849.42	1984.31	870.92	870.92	888.34	3922.76	4794.48	3820.26
26.	Uttar Pradesh	32923.88	32348.75	34390.12	18173.71	18173.71	20152.62	5242.62	6281.04	4920.58
27.	Uttaranchal	3419.68	1621.77	1724.11	955.10	955.10	1061.01	78495.06	94042.72	56504.34
28.	West Bengal	19407.12	19518.40	20750.10	6744.42	6744.42	7480.75	29524.26	35372.18	15660.57
29.	Andman & Nicobar Islands	218.73	309.46	328.99	25.00	25.00	25.00	220.94	264.70	274.01
30.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	114.78	51.56	54.82	25.00	25.00	25.00	145.46	174.27	180.40
31.	Daman & Diu	47.51	23.07	24.52	25.00	25.00	25.00	70.50	84.46	67.44
32.	Lakshadweep	3.72	20.00	21.26	25.00	25.00	25.00	110.50	132.39	137.05
33.	Pondicherry	108.59	154.14	163.86	100.00	100.00	100.00	223.94	268.30	277.74
<b>Total</b>		<b>246067.00</b>	<b>273240.00</b>	<b>290753.00</b>	<b>100000.00</b>	<b>100000.00</b>	<b>110000.00</b>	<b>449525.00</b>	<b>539650.00</b>	<b>291154.31</b>

**Statement-II***Programme: Swarnjayanti Gram Swarajgar Yojana (SGSY), Indira Awaas Yojana (IAY)*

(Rs. in Lakhs)

State Name	Utilisation of IAY funds for SCs/STs			Utilisation of SGSY funds for SCs/STs			Utilisation of SGRY funds for SCs/STs		
	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Andhra Pradesh	14157.35	18416.06	20128.15	5405.31	10404.36	25900.53	13479.79	16484.36	4818.99
Arunachal Pradesh	950.76	1189.94	823.51	357.84	264.46	128.06	14.56	28.55	83.02
Assam	17299.36	13679.58	21383.71	3157.48	2671.70	3819.32	16348.70	19793.44	7025.51
Bihar	34477.39	49114.38	58463.03	9668.07	9612.48	120038.99	19705.16	24797.51	58410.71
Chhattisgarh	2662.16	3296.10	3489.52	3920.97	4153.93	5878.46	6812.71	8186.48	2961.76



1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Goa	11.01	27.03	34.86	30.78	26.57	39.57	0.00	0.00	0.00
Gujarat	4507.21	9719.19	6965.37	1667.13	3162.53	3463.27	6628.64	8295.10	3616.04
Haryana	1448.01	1537.81	1695.83	1756.75	2370.69	2685.83	2683.96	3794.87	32787.82
Himachal Pradesh	575.57	460.29	508.34	1353.80	1403.86	971.45	1347.63	1334.90	1020.60
Jammu & Kashmir	0.00	0.00	0.00	704.78	661.63	822.6	761.25	692.20	1014.96
Jharkhand	10834.89	8958.28	6052.47	5991.37	6551.72	6004.69	13835.46	19265.68	16464.14
Karnataka	6235.34	7604.89	6959.72	4708.19	4934.11	5398.90	9322.49	11292.53	8162.00
Kerala	4622.20	4339.54	4158.70	2292.27	446.12	3068.24	4481.38	5094.16	1358.48
Madhya Pradesh	9282.58	7585.86	6900.61	8541.57	10700.19	11753.39	15866.88	5094.16	3550.30
Maharashtra	14159.29	14166.54	8259.60	8555.19	9098.00	9153.73	18167.35	18174.05	11553.03
Manipur	793.85	994.81	527.00	0.00	2.00	0.00	1114.54	20980.13	1333.59
Meghalaya	1063.70	1540.00	524.81	262.32	161.60	66.3	0.00	485.03	628.15
Mizoram	435.78	482.43	408.24	48.75	54.67	3.00	2850.26	1063.86	0.00
Nagaland	716.11	1188.07	1068.52	132.39	0.00	9.00	1039.35	83.64	839.75
Orissa	14486.29	13837.61	14006.56	8247.36	9367.91	11438.47	17526.05	1427.09	5399.47
Punjab	739.20	1456.11	1675.85	1030.11	1233.53	2452.22	2970.88	14098.54	4292.12
Rajasthan	4282.22	5684.96	6202.66	6684.11	14569.38	7869.79	9391.13	3160.22	7605.92
Sikkim	183.03	129.56	199.04	132.40	180.50	160.25	414.42	10019.33	201.90
Tamil Nadu	10915.50	11141.10	12286.54	4250.17	4512.35	4850.48	13317.41	549.73	10105.54
Tripura	1642.02	1660.18	948.00	1120.13	871.78	536.35	3463.15	16549.65	1712.96
Uttar Pradesh	24685.62	29975.22	19586.02	29528.50	29505.19	29635.16	3109.2	3366.83	9884.49
Uttaranchal	3007.21	1599.64	1510.31	507.57	1252.17	937.92	41415.14	3389.6	14747.65
West Bengal	17945.02	13190.52	17383.84	1845.15	1482.15	1375.13	12629.68	51698.93	7271.35

*[English]***PPA Between NTPC and Railways**

4213. SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL:  
SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether any Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) has been signed between NTPC and Railways;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any request has been received by the Ministry for providing more power to the Railways; and

(d) if so, the details thereof along with the decision taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) has been signed on 05.03.1998 between NTPC Ltd. and Railways to supply 100 MW power from unallocated quota of Dadri Gas Power Station and Auraiya Gas Power Station, for traction requirement to feed Delhi-Kanpur section.

(c) and (d) Railways have expressed their intention of availing power from NTPC/NPCIL on Indian Railways' electrified networks. Under the provisions of the Electricity Act, 2003, the Railways can take supply of power from the respective distribution licensees as it is availing presently. It can also purchase power from other sources as an open access consumer as per the regulations of the concerned State Electricity Regulatory Commissions. It also has option of setting up its own captive power plants.

[*Translation*]

**India-Holland Sponsored Rural Development Schemes**

4214. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the work on various development schemes is going on in the rural areas of some States with assistance from Holland;

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

(c) whether the Government proposes to start these schemes in National Capital Region of Delhi too:

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps taken to ensure proper utilization of the funds received for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL): (a) and (b) At present, there are no projects on Rural Development with assistance from Holland.

(c) to (e) There is no such proposal to start schemes in National Capital Region of Delhi in collaboration with Holland.

[*English*]

**Grants-in-Aid under DRDA**

4215. SHRI MITRASEN YADAV: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government is releasing grants-in-aid under District Rural Development Agency (DRDA) on the basis of number of blocks and not on the basis of staff strength;

(b) if so, whether DRDAs in some States are facing acute problems in regard to salaries of staff as a result thereof;

(c) whether any analysis has been made in this regard;

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

(e) the steps taken by the Union Government to overcome the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL): (a) and (b) The Government of India releases grants-in-aid to DRDAs depending on the number of blocks and the corresponding permissible staff strength as per guidelines. Since the salary structure in different States is different, the States may follow their own salary structure. However, the administrative cost ceiling fixed should be strictly adhered to. Any increase over and above the ceiling should be met entirely by the State Government.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e) Question does not arise.

**Independent Credit Rating Agencies**

4216. SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the rating given to various companies by the Independent Credit Rating Agencies have a large impact on the share prices of these companies and which in turn have an impact on the small investors;

(b) if so, whether there is a need for proper regulation of the Credit Rating Agencies;

(c) whether the Government proposes to amend the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) Act to regulate the working of the independent credit rating agencies; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) The movement of market indices or price of a specific share is a function of perceptions of the investors—domestic and overseas, retail and institutional—about the economy, the sector and the company. This perception is influenced by many factors including macro-economic environment, growth potential of the economy, corporate performance, domestic and international events, and market sentiments. However, rating is an additional tool in the hands of small investor to make informed investment decision.

(b) to (d) The Securities and Exchange Board of India Act, 1992 empowers SEBI to register and regulate Credit Rating Agencies. Pursuant to these powers, SEBI has framed the SEBI (Credit Rating Agencies) Regulations, 1999 providing for registration and regulation of Credit Rating Agencies.

*[Translation]*

#### **Overseas Investment by Indian Companies**

4217. DR. CHINTA MOHAN:  
SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH "LALAN":

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the amount in rupees invested by Indian companies in foreign countries during each of the last three years;

(b) the top five foreign destinations for Indian companies for making investments; and

(c) the reasons driving Indian companies for making investment overseas instead of domestic companies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) As per approvals issued by RBI, Indian companies had made direct investment in foreign countries during the last three years as under:

Year	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
Amount (in USD/mn)	2804.33	2854.84	7944.54

(b) The top five foreign destinations for Indian companies for making investment are United Kingdom, Netherlands, Mauritius, Cyprus and Russia.

(c) Liberalisation and streamlining of procedures towards overseas direct investment during the recent years have encouraged Indian companies to invest abroad. Moreover, location of investment is a commercial judgement of the investor, depending on relative profitability and long-term strategy.

*[English]*

#### **IT Refunds**

4218. SHRI EKNATH MAHADEO GAIKWAD:  
SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the income tax refund cheques are delayed to show increase in the tax collections as reported in Times of India dated March 17, 2007;

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

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto and the steps taken by the Government for timely issuing of income tax refund cheques to the assesses?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) No Sir.

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

(c) Sir, raising of demand or granting of refund to an assessee consequent to assessment in accordance with the statutory provisions of the Income Tax Act, 1961 is a continuous process of the Income Tax Department. Delayed refund does not help to show increase in collection as delayed refund, if any, will adversely affect

the collection of next year. The Department has issued refund of Rs 37313 crore in Financial Year 2006-07 which is 26.7% more in comparison to refund of Rs. 29434 crore in Financial Year 2005-06. Some of the steps taken by the Department to ensure timely refund to the assesseees are:—

- (i) Computerized processing of returns has been introduced to ensure timely issue of refunds.
- (ii) Guidelines have been issued by CBDT to process all returns within four months of filing of returns and issue refunds.
- (iii) Electronic Clearing System (ECS) has already been introduced in 25 major cities to directly credit the refunds into the bank account of taxpayer.
- (iv) Field formations have been directed to process refund bearing returns on priority to reduce avoidable interest payable by the Government under provisions of section 214/244A of the Income Tax Act, 1961.
- (v) Refund Banker Scheme has been introduced to facilitate taxpayers to get timely receipt of refund.

#### **Closure/Merger of Private Bank**

4219. SHRI K. SUBBARAYAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of Indian Private Banks which have been closed or merged in the last three years;
- (b) whether the Government has found out the reasons of the closure/merger; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) to (c) Since April, 2004, due to poor financial position, the following private banks have been amalgamated with other banks under the provisions of Section 45 of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949:

- (i) The South Gujarat Local Area Bank with Bank of Baroda.
- (ii) Global Trust Bank with Oriental Bank of Commerce.

- (iii) Ganesh Bank of Kurundwad with Federal Bank Ltd.
- (iv) United Western Bank Ltd. with Industrial Development Bank of India Ltd.

Further, during this period, Bank of Punjab Ltd. has merged with Centurion Bank Ltd., IDBI Bank Ltd. with Industrial Development Bank of India Ltd., Bharati Overseas Bank Ltd. with Indian Overseas Bank and Sangli Bank Ltd. with ICICI Bank Ltd., as part of business strategy of these banks.

#### **Increase in Smuggling Activities**

4220. SHRI P.S.GADHAVI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) the estimated value of smuggled goods seized by the Customs Departments during each of the last three years;
- (b) the major items seized by the Customs Department during the last one year;
- (c) the mode of disposal of such goods;
- (d) whether separate account is maintained for this;
- (e) if so, the details thereof; and
- (f) the steps taken by the Government for proper upkeep and disposal of such goods?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) The estimated value of smuggled goods seized by the Customs Department during each of the last three years is as follows:

Year	Value of seized goods (Rs. in crores)
2004-2005	859.31
2005-2006	675.17
2006-2007	533.70

(b) The major items seized by the Customs Department are Narcotic drugs, garments, fabric/yarn, consumer goods, electronic items, machinery, capital goods, metal products, etc.

(c) The confiscated trade goods are disposed of by way of public auction and consumer goods are disposed of by sale to National Consumer Cooperative Federation (NCCF). Narcotic drugs are destroyed, except opium which is sent to the Govt. Opium & Alkaloid Factory.

(d) and (e) Yes, Sir. A separate account is maintained for sale proceeds as below:

- (i) Major head — 0037-Customs.
- (ii) Minor head — 105-Sale Proceeds of confiscated goods.

(f) The Ministry has issued detailed guidelines from time to time for proper upkeep and disposal of such goods.

*[Translation]*

#### Water Supply Programme in Rajasthan

4221. SHRI RAGHUVVEER SINGH KOSHAL: Will the MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has sanctioned water supply projects under Accelerated Urban Water Supply Programme (AUWSP) in the towns having population of less than twenty thousand in Rajasthan;

(b) if so, the details of the completed, ongoing, sanctioned and proposed schemes, cost-wise;

(c) whether any time limit has been fixed for completion of the above projects;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the details of the water supply projects presently under consideration of the Government; and

(f) the details of the projects sanctioned for Budget Session 2007-08?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Details of water supply projects sanctioned under AUWSP for State of Rajasthan are given in the enclosed Statement-I.

(c) and (d) Time limit allowed for completion of projects sanctioned under AUWSP is 2 to 3 years.

(e) and (f) The scheme of AUWSP has been subsumed in Urban Infrastructure Development Scheme for Small and Medium Towns (UIDSSMT) & Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM) launched by this Ministry in December, 2005. No new project is being entertained under the AUWSP. An allocation of Rs.32.50 crore is proposed for AUWSP during 2007-08 to meet committed liabilities only.

Details of water supply projects sanctioned and under consideration under UIDSSMT and JNNURM for the State of Rajasthan are given in the enclosed Statement-II.

This Ministry has not sanctioned any project for Rajasthan under its schemes for budget session 2007-08 so far.

#### Statement-I

##### State: Rajasthan AUWSP Projects Sanctioned

Sl. No.	Name of Town	District.	Population (1991 Census)	Sanctioned Date Mon./Yr.	Project Cost	Per capita Cost (in Rs.)	Central share	Funds Release By GOI	Expenditure upto Dec. 2006
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1.	Sathalikeri	Kota	9744	Jan., 2005	454.32	4662.56	227.16	227.16	179.94
2.	Pirawa	Jhalawar	9593	Jan., 2005	439.93	4585.95	219.97	219.97	312.98
3.	Manoharthana	Jhalawar	7156	Jan., 2005	314.78	4398.83	157.39	157.39	116.46
4.	Aklera	Jhalawar	14487	Jan., 2005	565.97	3906.74	282.99	282.99	287.28

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
5.	Suket	Kota	11058	Jan., 2005	617.00	5579.67	308.50	308.5	271.13
6.	Udppura	Kota	6074	Jan., 2005	334.00	5498.85	167.00	167.00	242.69
7.	Pindwara	Sirohi	15184	Jan., 2005	111.17	732.15	55.59	55.59	42.33
8.	Bhawari	Sirohi	9019	Jan., 2005	66.71	739.66	33.36	33.36	36.11
9.	Ratan Nagar	Churu	9346	Jan., 2005	170.76	1827.09	85.38	64.04	13.61
10.	Mandal	Bhilwara	16842	Feb., 2005	193.00	1145.94	96.50	48.25	7.83
11.	Pushkar	Ajmer	11,497	Mar., 2005	333.14	2897.63	166.57	124.93	87.74
Total			120000		3600.78		1800.39	1689.18	1598.10

**Statement-II***Water Supply Projects Sanctioned and Projects under Consideration for Rajasthan.*

(Rs. in lakhs)

Sl. No.	Name of Scheme	Name of Town	Total Approved/ Estimated Cost	Sanctioned/ Under Consideration
1.	UIDSSMT	Udaipur	5395.00	Sanctioned
2.	JNNURM	Ajmer-Pushkar	20000.00	Sanctioned
3.	JNNURM	Jaipur	112800.00	Under Consideration

*[English]***Training Programme for Rural Development**

4222. SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has made any assessment of training programme being conducted by the State Government Institutes for rural development in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of funds allocated and actually spent for such programmes during 2005-06 and 2006-07, State-wise;

(d) whether the Union Government has fixed any targets for training by State Institutes for rural development in the country;

(e) if so, the details of the targets fixed and achieved thereunder during the said period, State-wise; and

(f) the steps taken by the Union Government for the States lagging behind in the said programme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU): (a) to (f) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

**Reduction in Revenue Deficits by States**

4223. SHRI DUSHYANT SINGH:  
SHRI JUAL ORAM:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether some of the State Governments have reduced their revenue deficits as per the recommendation of the 12th Finance Commission; and

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the details of incentives awarded by the Union Government to those States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Twelfth Finance Commission (TFC) has framed a scheme of debt waiver based on fiscal performance, linked, *inter alia*, to the reduction of revenue deficits of States. Under the Scheme of the States' Debt Consolidation and Relief Facility, the repayments due from the States during 2005-06 to 2009-10 on consolidated Central loans will be eligible for write-off. The quantum of write-off is linked to the absolute amount by which revenue deficit is reduced in each year compared to the deficit in the previous year starting from the base year figure. For the States, which are in revenue surplus, the debt write-off is available so long as the revenue surplus of the State does not go below the base year level in absolute terms.

Based on the quality of fiscal correction and improvement in revenue account in 2004-05 compared to the base year, debt write-off for 2005-06 has been awarded to 14 States to the extent of Rs. 3878.94 crore. Further, 19 States have shown improvement in their revenue account in 2005-06 compared to the base year and based on this criterion and on the basis of the quality of fiscal correction, these States have been awarded debt write-off for 2006-07 to the extent of Rs. 4594.89 crore, so far.

#### **Expenditure on Science and Technology**

4224. SHRI BALASHOWRY VALLABHANENI: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the expenditure on science and technology in India is less than one per cent;

(b) if so, the expenditure incurred in other developing and developed countries; and

(c) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to increase the allocation in the field of science and technology?

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. According to the available official statistics, the expenditure on R&D in the field of Science & Technology as percentage of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) was 0.8% during the year 2002-03 in India. India's position in this regard *vis-a-vis* other developing and developed countries is given in the enclosed Statement.

(c) The Government has taken various measures to increase the allocation in the field of Science & Technology. These measures include higher allocation for Science & Technology from Plan to Plan, setting up of new institutions for science education and research, creation of centres of excellence and facilities in emerging and frontline areas in academic and national institutes, strengthening infrastructure for R&D in universities, encouraging public-private R&D partnerships, grants for industrial R&D projects, income tax relief on R&D expenditure, weighted tax deduction for sponsored research, custom duty exemption on goods imported for use in Government funded R&D projects, tax holiday and national awards for outstanding R&D.

#### **Statement**

##### *Expenditure on R&D as percentage of GDP for Selected Countries, 2000-02*

Sl.No	Country	R&D Exp. as % GDP
1	2	3
1.	Argentina	0.39
2.	Australia	1.55
3.	Austria	2.21
4.	Brazil	1.04
5.	Canada	2.00
6.	Czech Rep.	1.30
7.	Denmark	2.51
8.	Egypt, Arab Rep.	0.19
9.	France	2.27
10.	Germany	2.64

1	2	3
11.	China	1.23
12.	Hungary	1.01
13.	India	0.80
14.	Israel	5.11
15.	Italy	1.11
16.	Japan	3.11
17.	Korea, Rep.	2.91
18.	Pakistan	0.27
19.	Russian Fed.	1.24
20.	Singapore	2.20
21.	Spain	1.04
22.	Sri Lanka	0.20
23.	Sweden	4.27
24.	United Kingdom	1.88
25.	United States	2.67
26.	Venezuela, RB	0.38

Source: UIS, UNESCO 2005

World Development Indicators 2004/05, The World Bank India— Research & Development Statistics, 2004-05 DST (Gol) China excludes Hong Kong

#### **Computerisation of PNB Branches in Orissa**

4225. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Punjab National Bank (PNB) has computerized all its branches in Orissa;

(b) if so, whether the said bank has also introduced core banking in the State;

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

(d) the details of the proposals of PNB for opening of its new branches in the State during the current year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) to

(d) Punjab National Bank has reported that they have 54 branches and 2 extension counters in the State of Orissa and all of them are computerized. Out of the above, 31 branches (Service Outlets) are under Core Banking Solutions. All the remaining branches are proposed to be covered under Core Banking Solution in the financial year 2007-08, subject to availability of network connectivity. The bank has also reported that they have received 11 proposals for opening of new branches in the State of Orissa during the year 2007-2008.

#### **Upgradation of Nationalized Banks**

4226. SHRI VIJOY KRISHNA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has taken any steps to upgrade the nationalized banks to the international level and to provide all those facilities in the nationalized banks which are being easily provided to the customers by the international banks; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) and (b) To ensure smooth and efficient functioning of banking sector in general and public sector banks (PSBs) in particular and to enable them to compete at international level, Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has prescribed measures/guidelines for strengthening of prudential supervision viz. provisioning and classification norms for non-performing assets (NPAs), capital adequacy norms, guidelines to improve customer service, etc. Further, Government announced an Autonomy Package in February 2005 for the PSBs to enable them take quick and efficient decisions, and to provide Bank Boards sufficient managerial autonomy to enable Public Sector Banks to compete internationally. Government has also put in place a mechanism to monitor the performance of PSBs on the basis of the 'Statement of Intent on Annual Goals' submitted by them on various performance parameters. The Banking Ombudsman Scheme has been revised in January 2006 to include customer grievances relating to credit cards, services promised by the banks, etc. Banking Codes & Standards Board of India (BCSBI) has also been set up to measure the performance of the banks against codes and standards based on established best practices. Nationalised Banks are providing a wide range of services to customers, and are increasingly using information technology to extend the reach of core banking



solutions, introduce technology based products and services like mobile banking and expand internet banking.

[*Translation*]

#### **Banks in Rural Areas**

4227. PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR:  
SHRI SANJAY DHOTRE:  
SHRIMATI BHAVANA PUNDALIKRAO GAWALI:  
SHRI BAPU HARI CHAURE:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is contemplating to extend the service areas of public sector banks to rural areas due to competition in urban areas as reported in Dainik Jagran dated March 26, 2007;

(b) if so, the strength of rural population on which a branch of a bank is opened;

(c) the strength on which the branch of a bank is opened in urban areas;

(d) whether the facility of ATM is also being provided to villages in rural areas; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) to (e) No, Sir. Under the extant Branch Authorisation Policy, a policy framework has been put in place which would be consistent with the medium term corporate strategy of banks and public interest. The Reserve Bank of India, while considering applications for opening branches, gives weightage to the nature and scope of banking facilities provided by banks to common persons, particularly in underbanked areas, actual credit flow to the priority sector, pricing of products and overall efforts for promoting financial inclusion, including introduction of appropriate new products and the enhanced use of technology for delivery of banking services.

In order to facilitate banks to identify centres in underbanked districts, a list of such districts has also been forwarded to them. Further, new private sector banks are required to open 25% of their branches in rural/semi urban areas on an ongoing basis.

Population groups are defined as under:

(a) "Rural" group comprises of banked centers with population less than 10,000.

(b) "Semi-urban" group comprises of banked centers with population of 10,000 and above but less than 1 lakh.

(c) "Urban" group comprises of banked centers with population 1 lakh and above but less than 10 lakh.

Banks have already opened ATMs in rural areas. As on March 31, 2006 there were 579 Off-site ATMs of commercial banks in rural areas.

#### **Loan under PMRY Self Employment**

4228. SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that banks have sought guarantee from educated unemployed youths for providing loans supposed to be given without guarantee under PMRY for their self-employment;

(b) if so, whether any direction has been issued to the banks which have denied loans to educated unemployed youths for their self-employment;

(c) whether the Government proposes to direct the banks to grant loans in all the cases recommended by the District Industries Centres regarding self-employment; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) No collateral for units in industry sector with project cost up to Rs.2 lakhs (the loan ceiling under the PMRY) is required. For partnership project under industry sector, the exemption limit for requiring collateral security is Rs.5 lakh per borrowal account. For units in service and business sectors, no collateral for project up to Rs.1.00 lakh is required. Exemption from collateral in case of partnership project will also be limited to an amount of Rs.1.00 lakh per person participating in the project.

(b) Yes, Sir. The Reserve Bank of India has issued directives to the implementing banks not to insist on collateral for loans under PMRY.

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

#### Health Insurance Scheme

4229. SHRI KULDEEP BISHNOI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Universal Health Insurance Scheme implemented in 2003 by the Government has not achieved its goal;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the number of families benefited under the said scheme during the last three years *vis-a-vis* target of each year, State-wise; and

(d) the fresh steps taken/being taken by the Government to provide benefit of the said scheme to more and more poor families?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) The Universal Health Insurance Scheme was first launched in July, 2003 and out of a total of 3,37,385 families covered till March, 2004, BPL families were only 9252. Since the scheme did not get the response as envisaged at the

time of its launch, it was redesigned. in 2004-05 with increased subsidy of Rs. 200/-, Rs. 300/- and Rs. 400/- for an individual, for a family of five members and for a family of seven members out of a total premium of Rs. 365/-, Rs. 548/- and Rs. 730/- respectively. The performance under the scheme has been improving over the last 3 years.

(b) The main reasons for the slow progress under the Scheme *inter-alia* relate to (i) lack of awareness and affordability of the BPL families; (ii) lack of reach of insurance companies in the rural areas; (iii) low premium structure makes it cost prohibitive for the insurance companies to effectively canvass the scheme; (iv) inadequate health infrastructure in the rural areas; (v) difficulty in identification of BPL families; and (vi) inadequate response from the State Governments in the implementation of UHIS in its existing form,

(c) State-wise target has not been fixed. However, the State-wise coverage under the scheme for the last three years is given in the enclosed Statement.

(d) State Governments and State Chief Secretaries have been advised to take keen interest in making the Scheme a success. Non-life Public Sector Insurance Companies have also been advised to take pro-active steps for improving the coverage under the Scheme.

#### Statement

	2004-05		2005-06		2006-07 (Prov)	
	No. of families covered	No. of Persons covered	No. of families covered	No. of Persons covered	No. of families covered	No. of Persons covered
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Andhra Pradesh	18621	51222	11928	29546	8003	33412
Assam	185	648	4103	5284	547	754
Bihar	0	0	40	44	631	961
Chandigarh	174	200	0	0	0	0
Chhattisgarh	880	1641	0	0	0	0
Delhi	6	38	27	130	684	1233
Gujarat	6775	9040	1379	1808	15718	17409

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Himachal Pradesh	381	929	71	169	1066	1066
Haryana	656	1150	509	1081	1452	1877
Jammu & Kashmir	168	183	81	81	246	246
Jharkhand	0	0	4	8	202	499
Karnataka	2662	8095	2533	9272	55330	317655
Kerala	24067	83761	44174	163171	53170	213945
Madhya Pradesh	962	1525	0	0	1753	5154
Maharashtra	3018	9275	771	3076	1047	3050
Orissa	71	169	191	422	1718	2723
Punjab	671	745	250	250	2173	2658
Rajasthan	4227	9302	4416	10594	2504	5791
Tamil Nadu	696	2624	595	2226	2866	10984
Uttar Pradesh	1161	1615	788	1109	1756	2011
Uttaranchal	323	419	4745	19530	96	132
West Bengal	14	60	0	0	973	2244
<b>Total</b>	<b>65718</b>	<b>182641</b>	<b>76605</b>	<b>247801</b>	<b>151935</b>	<b>623804</b>

*[English]***Impact of Centrally Sponsored Schemes**

4230. SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL:  
SHRI SUGRIB SINGH:

Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has assessed the impact of the Centrally sponsored schemes being implemented by the State Governments;

(b) if so, the outcome thereof;

(c) whether any deficiency has come to the notice of the Government; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the corrective steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN): (a) to (d) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

*[Translation]***Duplicate PAN Cards**

4231. SHRI CHANDRA MANI TRIPATHI:  
SHRIMATI RUPATAI D. PATIL:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of duplicate/fake Permanent Account Number (PAN) cards have come up to the notice of Government during the recent time;

(b) if so, the details thereof for each of the last three years, region-wise;

(c) the details of such card de-activated during each of the last three years, region-wise;

(d) whether Government has issued instruction to identify persons responsible for issue of such cards;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) the action taken by the Government upon each of those found guilty in the case; and

(g) the further appropriate steps taken by the Union Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) As per information available, the region-wise details of duplicate PANs are given in the enclosed statement-I. Similarly, cases of persons who have obtained PAN cards by assuming false identities and persons who have quoted non-existent PANs are mentioned in the enclosed Statement-II.

(c) The details of duplicate PANs de-activated during the last three years are given in the enclosed Statement-I.

(d) and (e) Multiple applications by one person with varying details has resulted in duplication of PAN cards and issue of more than one card to the same person. Moreover, duplicate PANs have also been issued because of overlapping processes. Therefore, it is not possible to identify persons responsible for issue of such cards.

(f) In cases where non-existent PANs have been quoted or PAN cards have been obtained by furnishing false identities, complaints have been registered with the Police authorities.

(g) Authorities have been directed to complete the de-duplication activity in a time bound manner. Further, instructions have also been issued to mark as fake any PAN found to have been issued in the name of non-existent person or on the basis of forged documents.

**Statement-I**

*Status of PAN found duplicate and deleted/de-activated in last 3 years*

Computer Centre	No. of persons having likely duplicate PANs detected in 2004-05	No. of duplicate PANs deleted/de-activated in 2004-05	No. of persons having likely duplicate PANs detected in 2005-06	No. of duplicate PANs deleted/de-activated in 2005-06	No. of persons having likely duplicate PANs detected in 2006-07	No. of duplicate PANs deleted/de-activated in 2006-07
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Agra	5	5	10564	0	0	3675
Ahmedabad	1	1	27067	0	0	27229
Allahabad	0	0	10533	0	0	2409
Amritsar	2	2	10061	9	0	4989
Bhubaneswar	2	2	11410	0	0	4045
Bangalore	21	21	46272	8	0	15544
Mumbai	133	133	163131	217	0	109484
Bhopal	0	0	57511	7	0	10577

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Baroda	0	0	12336	6	0	10697
Kolkata	0	0	82113	0	0	40384
Cochin	496	496	6348	60	0	4565
Coimbatore	98	98	11964	15	0	1519
Delhi	6	6	306233	8806	0	255994
Hyderabad	3	3	54888	75	0	52421
Jabalpur	15	15	54646	37	0	8921
Jodhpur	40	40	18647	0	0	10725
Jalandhar	0	0	36507	0	0	10070
Jaipur	0	0	23361	0	0	16215
Kolhapur	17	17	3669	0	0	3370
Kanpur	0	0	9884	0	0	2190
Lucknow	2	2	2672	9	0	285
Chennai	3	3	96428	2	0	11740
Madurai	0	0	263	0	0	9
Meerut	0	0	27880	0	0	3156
Nagpur	3	3	10584	0	0	9399
Nasik	185	185	12849	43	0	12677
Pune	0	0	35626	0	0	34441
Patiala	0	0	47111	0	0	525
Patna	0	0	22614	0	0	16396
Ranchi	0	0	19149	0	0	16191
Rajkot	17	17	5405	62	0	4351
Rohtak	0	0	32029	0	0	20201
Surat	0	0	8885	0	0	8000
Trivandrum	0	0	709	3	0	222
Visakhapatnam	0	0	10620	2	0	9862
Shillong	2	2	20158	0	0	5
<b>Total</b>	<b>1051</b>	<b>1051</b>	<b>1310127</b>	<b>9361</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>742483</b>

**Statement-II***List of some non-existent PANs and false identity cases*

Sl. No.	PAN	Name of PAN holder
1.	ADJPT987M	M/s Treadstone India, New Delhi
2.	AAXPS5522A	Kuldeep Singh, S/o - Trilochan Singh
3.	AAGPG6529L	Raman Sharma, S/o - Om Prakash Sharma
4.	AAGPG2173L	Ravi Gautam, S/o - Praveen Gautam
5.	AGOPA3311	M/s Aarkay Industries (Prop. Ajith Krishnan)
6.	AAECM0875	M/s M.H. & Sons Cold Storage Pvt. Ltd.
7.	ACUPJ2651B	Sh. Satish Chand Jain, S/o - M.M. Jain
8.	APGKB6436P	Sunil Narang, S/o - R.K. Narang
9.	AMWSP5763N	Pawan Kumar, S/o - Jagdish Kumar
10.	AWMSP1348L	Trilok Singh, S/o - Rai Singh
11.	AACCR8107	M/s Yardi Software India Pvt. Ltd.
12.	AAHFR4798	M/s Raghoji Spintex
13.	AADCO4838K	M/s Sai Impex
14.	AIGPS4628K	Peesu Linga Reddy
15.	AKAPK3252B	Aman Kumar, S/o - Ram Kumar
16.	APGKB6436P	Rajiv Nanda, S/o - R.K. Nanda
17.	AAKLM2132P	Rajat Gupta, S/o - Murarilal Gupta
18.	BFPPS5480D	Gurpreet Singh
19.	BFZPS1188E	Mandeep Singh

*[English]***Loan/Grant to Andhra Pradesh from DFID**

4232. SHRI BADIGA RAMAKRISHNA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government stood guaranteed Rs.100 crore loan/grant to Andhra Pradesh from the Department for International Development (DFID) in 2006 for medical services and reforms in the medical sector of the State;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the said loan/grant has been received from DFID; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) and (b) No, Sir

(c) and (d) Does not arise.

### Urban Water Supply Programme

4233. SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI: Will the MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether several pilot studies show that water loss in distribution account to 20% to 50% in the House Service connection;

(b) if so, whether this Ministry has brought out a manual on operation and maintenance of urban water supply system and forwarded to the State Governments;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the future strategy chalked out by the Government for better management in maintenance and supply of water to urban areas of the country;

(e) whether the Government is contemplating any special scheme in the Eleventh Five Year Plan in this regard; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN): (a) Ministry of Urban Development had sponsored a study through National Environmental Engineering Research Institute (NEERI), Nagpur for performance evaluation of 'Water Distribution Systems of selected cities in India'. NEERI submitted its report in October, 1992 indicating that based on pilot studies in various cities of India about 82.6% leaks are in 'house service connections' and about 17.4% leaks are in 'pipe mains' and 'sub-mains'.

(b) and (c) The Ministry of Urban Development has brought out a Manual on Operation and Maintenance of Water Supply Systems in January, 2005 and circulated to all State Governments for adoption. The manual is also available on MoUD website at [www.urbanIndia.nic.in](http://www.urbanIndia.nic.in).

The said O&M Manual covers all aspects of O&M including treatment of water from various sources, drinking water quality surveillance, water audit, leakage control, human resource development and public-private partnership.

(d) The Manual on 'Operation and Maintenance of Water Supply Systems' has outlined strategy for efficient operation and maintenance of water supply systems for

adoption by the State Governments, Departments/Organizations in-charge of Urban Water Supply Systems.

Under JNNURM launched by this Ministry in December, 2005, State Governments/ Urban Local Bodies in-charge of Water Supply Systems are required to implement certain mandatory/optional reforms for improvement of services and efficient service delivery including reduction in leakages, introduction of water and energy audit in the systems and switching over from intermittent water supply to continuous water supply ultimately aimina for supply on 24x7 basis.

(e) and (f) No specific scheme is contemplated in the 11th Five Year Plan for maintenance and management of Water Supply Systems.

### Establishment of CSIR Laboratories in Nano-technologies

4234. SHRI HARILAL MADHAVJI BHAI PATEL: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is considering to establish CSIR laboratories in the field of Nano - Technology in the country particularly in Gujarat;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL) (a) No Sir.

(b) and (c) Question does not arise.

### Central Assistance for Construction of Roads

4235. SHRI M. RAJA MOHAN REDDY: Will the MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to State:

(a) whether any Central assistance has been sought by the Government of Andhra Pradesh for construction of lane access controlled expressway at outer ring road to Hyderabad city;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN): (a) to (c) No, Sir. No such proposal has been submitted by the Government of Andhra Pradesh seeking Central assistance under Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM). However, a revised concept Note for the Outer Ring Road Project of Hyderabad, costing Rs.2700 crore, with Japanese Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC) assistance received recently from the Government of Andhra Pradesh has been recommended to Department of Economic Affairs on 6.3.2007.

#### **Increase in Strength of Judges**

4236. SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL:  
SHRI TUKARAM GANPAT RAO RENGE PATIL:  
SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA:  
SHRI HARISINH CHAVDA:  
SHRI UDAY SINGH:  
SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO:

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to increase the strength of Judges in High Courts and the Supreme Court in order to clear the backlog of pending cases in these Courts; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI K. VENKATAPATHY): (a) and (b) As a result of a triennial review in the year 2006, 106 posts of Judges, subject to concurrence of the respective State Governments, have been approved in various High Courts as per details given below:

(i) Allahabad	65 Judges
(ii) Andhra Pradesh	27 Judges
(iii) Calcutta	08 Judges
(iv) Delhi	01 Judge
(v) Karnataka	01 Judge
(vi) Kerala	01 Judge

(vii) Punjab & Haryana and 02 Judges

(viii) Madhya Pradesh 01 Judge

TOTAL 106 Judges

The strength of the Judges, Supreme Court is provided under article 124(1) and the Supreme Court (Number of Judges) Act, 1956, as amended from time to time. Any change in the number of Judges in the Supreme Court is made by bringing legislation before the Parliament.

#### **Conference on New and Renewable Energy**

4237. DR. M. JAGANNATH:  
SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE:  
SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL:

Will the Minister of NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether a conference on New and Renewable Energy was held in New Delhi recently;

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

(c) the follow-up action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY (SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR): (a) Six conferences relating to New & Renewable Energy (NRE) were held in New Delhi during 2006-2007, details of which are given in the enclosed Statement.

(b) and (c) These conferences in the main addressed issues relating to deployment and cooperation. Such conferences attempt to facilitate awareness, publicity and cooperation in NRE among stakeholders.

#### **Statement**

##### *Details of Conferences on New and Renewable Energy held in New Delhi during 2006-2007.*

- (i) "Renewable Energy Conference for South Asian Countries" during 18-19 April, 2006 at New Delhi by ASSOCHAM, New Delhi.
- (ii) National Conference on "Energy Alternatives for Rural Sector" during 27-28 April, 2006 at



New Delhi by the International Development Centre Foundation, New Delhi.

- (iii) '9th ASSOCHAM Energy Summit and 6th ASSOCHAM Renewable Energy Summit' during 24-25 August, 2006 at New Delhi by ASSOCHAM, New Delhi.
- (iv) 9th Power India Forum 2006 and 6th Renewable Energy Summit 2006 during 15 - 16 September, 2006 at New Delhi by the India Energy Forum, New Delhi.
- (v) '5th World Wind Energy Conference-cum-Exhibition 2006' during 6-8 November, 2006 at New Delhi by the Indian Wind Energy Association (InWEA), New Delhi.
- (vi) National Conference on "Regulatory Performance in India: Achievements, Constraints and Future Action" during 9-10 November, 2006 at New Delhi by the Energy and Resources Institute (TERI), New Delhi.

*[Translation]*

**Assistance to Co-operative Banks for Loans to Farmers**

4238. PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA:  
SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Co-operative banks are facing difficulties in providing loans at lower rate of interest to farmers in the absence of any sort of financial assistance from Union Government and State Governments;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Co-operative banks have apprised the Union Government and State Governments in this regard;

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

(e) whether the Government is formulating any scheme to improve the financial conditions of the Co-operative banks so as to enable them in granting loans to farmers at lower rate of interest; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) to (f) To reduce the burden of interest on Crop Loans availed by farmers, an amount equal to two percentage points of the borrower's liability on the principal amount upto Rs. 1,00,000/- each for Kharif and Rabi 2005-06 was credited to their account. Thereafter, from Kharif 2006, to ensure that the farmer receives Short-Term Production Credit at 7% with an upper limit of Rs.3 lacs on the principal amount, the Government is providing interest subvention of 2% per annum to Public Sector Banks, Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) and Cooperative Banks on their lending from their own resources and refinance at concessional rates to cooperative banks and RRBs on their borrowings from NABARD.

Further, based on the recommendations of the Vaidyanathan Committee, a revival package for Short Term Co-operative Credit Structure has been approved in consultation with the State Governments. 15 States and one Union Territory have so far conveyed their consent to implement the package. Special audit of the Primary Agriculture Credit Societies (PACS) is in progress in ten States which have executed Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with NABARD and Government of India for implementing the Package.

**NPAs Written off by IDBI**

4239. SHRI SUBHASH SURESHCHANDRA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the amount written off by IDBI as part of NPAs during the last five years;

(b) whether the Government proposes to examine/ investigate the circumstances leading to write off of loans by any investigating agency;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) The IDBI has informed that the amounts written off by them during the last five years are as under:

(Rs. crore)

2002-03	2003-04 (18 months period ended Sept. 30, 2004)	2004-05 (6 months period ended March 31, 2006)	2005-06	2006-07
907	1450	52	1198	464

(b) to (d) Investments and writing off of loans by IDBI are subject to the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) guidelines and the approval of Board of Directors of IDBI Ltd. This is not a matter for Government to intervene.

*[English]*

**User Charges for Water Supply and Sanitation in Urban Areas**

4240. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI: Will the MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the World Bank has suggested India to impose user charges for water supply and sanitation in urban areas;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Union Government has considered the views of the World Bank on this issue; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN): (a) to (d) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

*[Translation]*

**Right to Accommodation**

4241. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the MINISTER OF HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to take any steps to incorporate the Right to Accommodation as a Fundamental Right in the Constitution; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION (KUMARI SELJA): (a) and (b) There is no proposal to incorporate the Right to Accommodation as a Fundamental Right in the Constitution.

*[English]*

**Kutir Jyoti Programme in Andaman and Nicobar Islands**

4242. SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of single point light connections under the Kutir Jyoti Programme released to the households of rural poor and tribal families in Andaman and Nicobar Islands during each of the last three years, district-wise;

(b) whether all the households of rural poor living below the poverty line in Andaman and Nicobar Islands have been extended this facility; and

(c) if not, the time by which all such families in the islands are likely to be covered under the Kutir Jyoti Programme?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE): (a) Kutir Jyoti Scheme was launched in 1988-89 and was merged in April, 2005 with Rajiv Gandhi Grameen Vidyutikaran Yojana (RGGVY). Union Territory (UT) of Andaman & Nicobar Islands did not participate in the Kutir Jyoti Programme. Therefore UT administration has not reported release of any Kutir Jyoti connection to the rural poor and tribal families during last three years.

(b) and (c) UT of Andaman & Nicobar Islands has not participated in RGGVY, which envisages providing access of electricity to all rural households including provision of free electricity connections to Below Poverty Line (BPL) households as per the norms of Kutir Jyoti Programme.

*[Translation]***Decline in Share Value in Capital Markets**

4243. DR. CHINTA MOHAN:  
SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH "LALAN":

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether about 86 companies have mobilized Rs. 11,568 crore from the general investors through capital market during 2006-2007;

(b) whether their share values declined substantially thereafter;

(c) whether the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has examined possibility of any nexus therein;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the details of companies out of these companies whose share prices have registered decline *vis-a-vis* their issue prices at the end of the year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has informed that 85 companies have mobilized an amount of Rs. 29797 crore during 2006-07 through public issues.

(b) Of the 85 companies who made public issues during 2006-07, closing prices of 40 companies were lower on the listing day than their issue prices.

(c) and (d) The rise and fall of price is a function of demand and supply in the markets. SEBI keeps a watch on unusual and abnormal price movements and takes appropriate actions wherever deemed necessary.

(e) Of the 85 companies who made public issues during 2006-07, 81 were listed during 2006-07. Out of the 81 companies, the closing prices of 50 companies were lower on the last trading day of 2006-07 than their issue prices.

*[English]***Loan Under PMRY**

4244. SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has extended the period for disbursement of loans by Banks under PMRY upto June 2007;

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

(c) whether a large number of beneficiaries of PMRY do not refund their loans;

(d) if so, the amount of loans pending for recovery from such beneficiaries as on March 31, 2007, bank-wise; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to recover the loans?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) and (b) In order to enable completion of disbursement against the sanctioned cases under Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana (PMRY) for the programme year 2006-07, it has been decided to extend the disbursement period up to June, 2007.

(c) and (d) Bank-wise recovery position, as on 31st March, 2007, is not available. However, Bank-wise recovery position, as on 30th September 2006, is given in the enclosed Statement.

(e) Reserve Bank of India (RBI)/Government have taken the following initiatives to improve recovery performance under the scheme:

(i) Banks have been advised to conduct joint recovery drives with concerned Government departments *viz.* District Industries Centre (DIC).

(ii) All the State Governments have been advised to notify PMRY dues as revenue dues under respective Revenue Recovery Acts.

(iii) RBI has advised all implementing banks to file criminal complaints against the borrowers who misutilize loans sanctioned under PMRY.

**Statement**

*Recovery performance of all Scheduled Commercial Banks under PMRY  
for the Half year ended September 2006*

(Rs. In lacs)

Sl.No.	Name of the Bank	General			SC/ST		
		Demand	Recovery	Overdues	Demand	Recovery	Overdues
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
<b>Public Sector Banks</b>							
1.	State Bank of India	93621.21	25519.67	68101.54	25008.96	6622.03	18386.93
2.	State Bank of B & J	2592.65	487.21	2105.44	0.00	0.00	0
3.	State Bank of Hyderabad	6544.18	2840.53	3703.65	0.00	0.00	0
4.	State Bank of Indore	912.45	353.60	558.85	368.17	73.00	295.17
5.	State Bank of Mysore	2360.08	701.51	1658.57	691.15	163.41	527.74
6.	State Bank of Patiala	1505.97	560.39	945.58	486.17	154.41	331.76
7.	State Bank of Saurashtra	595.49	369.20	226.29	0.00	0.00	0
8.	State Bank of Travancore	3249.04	1981.92	1267.12	0.00	0.00	0
9.	Allahabad Bank	12291.08	4148.98	8142.10	3217.86	1020.02	2197.84
10.	Andhra Bank	3226.11	718.73	2507.38	0.00	0.00	0
11.	Bank of Baroda	11111.15	4482.62	6628.53	1950.35	736.47	1213.88
12.	Bank of India	8742.93	3759.46	4983.47	10303.71	3279.78	7023.93
13.	Bank of Maharashtra	5894.07	1437.24	4456.83	881.38	162.50	718.88
14.	Canara Bank	8254.36	3705.49	4548.87	2160.52	929.24	1231.28
15.	Central Bank of India	18790.12	4103.06	14687.06	5186.64	964.79	4221.85
16.	Corporation Bank	3749.86	995.44	2754.42	333.25	104.67	228.58
17.	Dena Bank	2737.94	1342.13	1395.81	440.73	170.00	270.73
18.	Indian Bank	5845.80	1984.47	3861.33	0.00	0.00	0
19.	Indian Overseas Bank	9546.19	3972.21	5573.98	2195.03	818.05	1376.98
20.	Oriental Bank of Commerce	3921.24	1221.08	2700.16	539.82	163.31	376.51
21.	Punjab National Bank	17982.44	8704.60	9277.84	6263.60	2573.05	3690.55
22.	Punjab & Sind Bank	2927.81	770.95	2156.86	350.13	78.48	271.65

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
23.	Syndicate Bank	8741.89	3826.63	4915.26	1343.21	483.91	859.3
24.	Union Bank of India	15808.48	4302.64	11505.84	3606.21	924.98	2681.23
25.	United Bank of India	12579.36	1550.59	11028.77	0.00	0.00	0
26.	UCO Bank	11368.82	2482.14	8886.68	2359.52	410.07	1949.45
27.	Vijaya Bank	3697.16	1804.21	2092.95	548.59	207.57	341.02
<b>Total</b>		<b>278597.88</b>	<b>87926.70</b>	<b>190671.18</b>	<b>68235.00</b>	<b>20039.74</b>	<b>48195.26</b>

**Private Sector Banks**

1.	ICICI Bank Ltd.	57.47	24.48	32.99	14.05	5.38	8.67
2.	Bank of Rajasthan Ltd.	1089.52	601.60	487.92	138.96	58.69	60.07
3.	Bharat Overseas Bank. Ltd.	64.55	21.94	42.61	2.50	0.25	2.25
4.	UTI Bank Ltd.	8.39	5.67	2.72	0.00	0.00	0
5.	Catholic Syrian Bank Ltd.	602.90	253.40	349.50	47.11	18.33	27.78
6.	Dhanalakshmi Bank Ltd.	559.90	243.75	316.15	44.35	28.51	15.84
7.	Federal Bank Ltd.	1402.96	319.93	1063.03	142.40	38.09	104.31
8.	J & K Bank Ltd.	1696.31	772.93	923.38	0.00	0.00	0
9.	Karnataka Bank Ltd.	1529.63	931.12	598.51	0.00	0.00	0
10.	Karur Vyasa Bank	346.82	168.17	178.65	0.00	0.00	0
11.	Laxmi Vilas Bank Ltd.	269.28	75.91	193.37	40.34	13.24	27.1
12.	Nedungadi Bank	2.67	2.22	0.45	0.00	0.00	0
13.	Rainakar Bank Ltd.	280.87	83.14	177.73	0.00	0.00	0
14.	Sangli Bank Ltd.	123.99	40.90	83.09	15.02	4.82	10.1
15.	South Indian Bank Ltd.	841.47	280.63	560.84	105.86	26.14	79.52
16.	Tamil Nadu Mer. Bank Ltd.	370.71	194.74	175.97	0.00	0.00	0
17.	IDBI Bank	1040.77	243.15	797.62	194.67	24.88	169.79
18.	Vysya Bank Ltd.	515.17	209.44	305.73	58.39	15.34	49.05
19.	Nainital Bank Ltd.	108.10	39.24	68.86	0.00	0.00	0
20.	City Union Bank Ltd.	165.57	77.97	87.60	0.00	0.00	0
21.	Lord Krishna Bank Ltd.	74.44	45.96	28.48	0.00	0.00	0
<b>Total of Pvt. Sector Banks</b>		<b>11131.49</b>	<b>4636.28</b>	<b>6495.20</b>	<b>803.45</b>	<b>234.97</b>	<b>568.48</b>
<b>Total of All Banks</b>		<b>289729.37</b>	<b>92562.98</b>	<b>197166.38</b>	<b>69038.45</b>	<b>20274.71</b>	<b>48763.74</b>

**Joint Regional Grid in South Asian Region**

4245. SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to set up a joint Regional Grid in the South Asian region for power trading with the neighbouring countries;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the extent to which the power shortage is likely to be met in the country?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE): (a) to (c) There is no proposal to set up joint regional grid in South Asia Region for power trading with neighbouring countries. However, during the 14th South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) Summit held in New Delhi on 3-4 April, 2007, a suggestion for harmonizing energy systems, methods and grid structures and moving on to an energy exchange with energy markets covering South Asia was made.

**India's Contribution in Science and Technology**

4246. SHRI BALASHOWRY VALLABHANENI: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the India's contribution to world science, in terms of the number of patent obtained, papers published in science and technology journals, Ph.Ds obtained, etc. is 2.7 percent whereas China's contribution is about 12 percent; and

(b) if so, the steps taken/being taken by the Government to improve the situation in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) and (b) No single index exists which collectively takes into account the number of patents obtained, papers published in science and technology journals, Ph.Ds. obtained, etc. to indicate the contribution of a country to world science. However, a comparative picture of China and India is indicated below

	China	India
Ph.Ds/year	20,000	4,500
No. of Science Citation Index Papers	53,000	19,500

Patent statistics published recently by World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO) show that during 2004, patent filings by residents in China (65,786) was more than nine times the corresponding patent filing (7179) by residents in India.

It may be observed that R&D investments in China is about Rs.2,66,000 crores (US \$ 64 billion) per year as against about Rs.20,000 crores (US \$ 5 billion) in India. Similarly, R&D professionals in China are about 8.5 lakhs as compared to 1.15 lakhs in India.

The expenditure on R&D by the Central Government has moved from Rs. 11050 crores in 2000-2001 to Rs. 12072 crores in 2002-2003. The total investment on R&D activities in the country was Rs. 18000 crores in 2002-03 and the same is estimated to be Rs. 19726 crores in 2003-04 and Rs. 21639 crores in 2004-05. The Government further plans to increase the investments in R&D and similarly many schemes have been initiated to attract more and more S&T professionals into R&D.

**Overseas Liabilities of Nationalised Banks**

4247. SHRI VIJOY KRISHNA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the overseas liabilities of the nationalised banks are on the rise side;

(b) if so, the details of overseas liabilities of each bank; and

(c) the steps taken by the nationalised banks to reduce their overseas liabilities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) and (b) The overseas liabilities of nationalised banks, in the form of Foreign Currency Non-Resident Bank [FCNR(B)] scheme, Foreign Currency Borrowing, Non-residents Ordinary (NRO) accounts, VOSTRO Balances, Bonds [including Indian Millennium Deposits (IMDs)], American Depository Receipts (ADRs) /Global Depository Receipts (GDRs), Equity of banks held by non-residents, etc., have increased from Rs. 68,127 crore as at the end of March, 2005 to Rs. 77,951 crore as at the end of September, 2006. The bank-wise details of overseas liabilities of nationalised banks as on March, 2005, 2006 and September, 2006 are given in the enclosed Statement.

(c) The banks raise such resources as part of their overall business strategy.

**Statement***Overseas Liabilities of Nationalised Banks*

(Rs. in crore)

Sl.No.	Name of the Bank	March, 2005	March, 2006	September, 2006
1.	Allahabad Bank	479	504	416
2.	Andhra Bank	1,136	1,090	1,044
3.	Bank of Baroda	13,851	13,348	14,039
4.	Bank of India	9,610	12,700	12,626
5.	Bank of Maharashtra	504	663	672
6.	Canara Bank	13,919	15,142	15,409
7.	Central Bank of India	1,598	1,953	2,139
8.	Corporation Bank	4,084	4,433	4,853
9.	Dena Bank	1,351	1,291	1,228
10.	Indian Bank	2,485	2,948	3,147
11.	Indian Overseas Bank	4,336	5,025	5,560
12.	Oriental Bank of Commerce	1,550	1,403	1,560
13.	Punjab & Sind Bank	957	1,114	1,158
14.	Punjab National Bank	2,642	3,058	3,267
15.	Syndicate Bank	2,488	2,699	2,828
16.	UCO Bank	772	1,580	1,646
17.	Union Bank of India	4,244	4,348	4,636
18.	United Bank of India	131	117	136
19.	Vijaya Bank	1,990	1,782	1,586
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>68,127</b>	<b>75,198</b>	<b>77,950</b>

**Separate High Court for Haryana**

4248. SHRI KULDEEP BISHNOI: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a long pending demand of the people of Haryana for a separate High Court;

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

(c) the action taken by the Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI K. VENKATAPATHY): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Representations from various quarters, including the Chief Minister of Haryana, have been received for setting up of a separate High Court for Haryana. However, establishment of a separate High Court

of Haryana would depend upon the shifting of its capital from Chandigarh and also developing infrastructure for a new High Court within the State of Haryana.

#### Outstanding Dues against SEBs

4249. SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL:  
SHRI SUGRIB SINGH:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether a huge amount is payable by the State Electricity Boards (SEBs) to the various Central Public Sector power companies as on date;

(b) if so, the details of outstanding dues of each company as on date, State-wise;

(c) the details of outstanding dues recovered by each company during 2005-06 and 2006-07 from the various State Electricity Boards;

(d) the reasons for non-payment of outstanding dues by these SEBs; and

(e) the action taken by the Government to recover the outstanding dues from the SEBs?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE): (a) and (b) The total outstanding dues (which are outstanding beyond 90 days as defined in clause 17 of the Tripartite Agreement) payable by various State Electricity Boards/Power Utilities to Central Public Sector Undertakings (CPSUs) under the Ministry of Power as on 31.03.2007 is Rs.636.86 crores. The details are given in the enclosed statement-I.

(c) The outstanding dues recovered by each Central Public Sector Undertakings from various State Electricity Boards during 2005-06 and 2006-07 is Rs.995.47 crore and Rs.173.20 crore respectively. The details are given in the enclosed Statement-II.

(d) and (e) The outstanding dues of over 90 days as given in the Statement-I has arisen due to temporary liquidity problem of State Electricity Boards or because of delay due to reconciliation. The CPSUs are taking necessary steps to resolve the problem bilaterally as and when the problem arises. When the default persists and does not get settled bilaterally, the matter is referred to the Government of India under Clause 17 of the Tripartite Agreement for recovery from central devolution to the concerned State. This recovery mechanism, however, is not used often.

#### Statement I

*State-wise details of outstanding dues of each PSU payable by State Electricity Boards as on 31-03-2007*

(Rs. in crores)

States	NHPC	NTPC	PGCIL	DVC	NEEPCO	Grand Total
Arunachal Pradesh	0	0	0	0	3.19	3.19
Assam	0	0	0	0	84.64	84.64
Bihar	0	0	0	3.73	0	3.73
Jharkhand	0	0	0	485	0	485.03
Manipur	0	0	0	0	5.77	5.77
Meghalaya	0	0	0	0	30.07	30.07
Mizoram	0	0	0	0	6.41	6.41
Nagaland	0	0	0	0	5.14	5.14
Tripura	0	0	0	0	12.88	12.88
Total:	0*	0	0	488.8	148.1	636.86**

\*It does not include disputed amount of Rs.55.61 crores which are under arbitration proceeding now.

\*\*It does not include outstanding amount of DESU period as the latter was not a State Electricity Board of Delhi.



**Statement II***Company-wise and State-wise outstanding dues recovered during 2005-06*

(Rs. in crore)

Name of State	NTPC	NHPC	PGCIL	NEEPCO	DVC	Total
Arunachal Pradesh		0	3.91	0	0	3.91
Assam	0		0	0	0	0
Bihar	189.29	76.59	77.19	0	0	343.07
Jharkhand	0	4.03	0	0	696.97	701
Manipur	0	10.97	10.62	42.72	0	64.31
Meghalaya	0	0	0	0	0	0
Mizoram	0	1.6	10.22	37.64	0	49.46
Nagaland	0	0	0	0	0	0
Tripura	0	1.6	11.25	0	0	12.85
Delhi		0	10.16	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>94.79</b>	<b>123.4</b>	<b>80.36</b>	<b>696.97</b>	<b>995.47</b>

*Company-wise and State-wise outstanding dues recovered during 2006-07*

(Rs. in crore)

Name of State	NTPC	NHPC	PGCIL	NEEPCO	DVC	Total
Arunachal Pradesh	0	0	0	0	0	0
Assam	0	0	0	0	0	0
Bihar	0	0	0	0	0	0
Jharkhand	0	0	0	0	94.65	94.65
Manipur	0	8	7.27	54.37	0	69.64
Meghalaya	0	0	0	8.91	0	8.91
Mizoram	0	0	0	0	0	0
Nagaland	0	0	0	0	0	0
Tripura	0	0	0	0	0	0
Delhi	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total:</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>7.27</b>	<b>63.28</b>	<b>94.65</b>	<b>173.2</b>

**Overdrawal of Power**

4250. SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI:  
SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Regional Load Dispatch Centres (RLDC) has submitted a proposal to the Central Regulator to increase uncheduled interchange (UI) ceiling rate in order to check overdrawing of power by the States;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Central Electricity Regulatory Authority has decided to increase the ceiling rate of the UI as reported in the Times of India dated April 9, 2007;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether increasing UI rates is likely to put heavy burden on the States which are suffering from acute power scarcity; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and the corrective steps taken/being taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE): (a) and (b) Southern Regional Load Dispatch Centre (SRLDC) had filed a Petition before the Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (CERC) on 10.11.2006 praying for increase in the UI ceiling rate matching to the prevailing liquid fuel price and directions to the constituents of Southern Region to carry out requisite load shedding whenever the frequency fell below 49.0 Hz. for ensuring secure and reliable operation of Southern Regional Grid by maintaining the grid frequency above 49.0 Hz. In the course of hearing of the above petition on 11.01.2007, the Commission had directed Power Grid Corporation of India Limited (PGCIL) to deliberate the issue of enhancement of the UI prices in consultation with the Regional Load Dispatch Centres (RLDCs) and State Load Dispatch Centres (SLDCs) and submit a consolidated proposal to the Commission by 25.01.2007. Accordingly, PGCIL, which is also the Central Transmission Utility, submitted its detailed proposal for rationalization of UI price vector vide its affidavit dated 25.01.2007, which was taken up by the Commission. In the above proposal, formulated in consultation with all RLDCs, the ceiling UI rate was sought to be increased from the present level of Rs.5.70 per kWh to Rs.9.30 per kWh.

(c) and (d) After considering the comments of various stakeholders, the Commission had issued an Order dated 05.04.2007, and had also issued a public notice on 7th April, 2007 seeking objections/suggestions from the public on the draft regulations to amend the CERC (Terms & Conditions of Tariff) Regulations, 2004 to provide for the new ceiling rate for Unscheduled Interchange (UI) at Rs.7.45 per kWh at frequency of 49.02 Hz and below. The comments so received were considered by the Commission, and it has decided to increase the UI ceiling rate to Rs.7.45 per kWh with effect from 30.04.2007.

(e) The Unscheduled Interchange (UI) rate is on a different footing from the normal energy charges which are payable by the State Power Utilities for their allocated shares in Central Generating Stations. UI Charges are payable by the former only in case they overdraw electricity with respect to their scheduled drawal (which are based on a State's entitlement in Central Generating Stations). In case State Power Utilities under-draw electricity with respect to their schedule then the UI charges are receivable by them. The impact of change in UI prices in a State is dependent on its drawal pattern. In case it restricts its drawal from the regional grid to its entitlement in Central Generating Stations, there would be no UI charges to be paid by it, and consequently no impact of UI rate hike at all on the consumers in that State. It is only in case of State Power Utilities overdrawing power from regional grid during a low frequency condition that UI charges would have to be paid at the enhanced rate. The UI charges paid by overdrawing States are passed on to the under-drawing States as a compensation for short receipt of energy they were entitled to receive from the Central Generating Stations.

(f) According to CERC, revision in UI rate has been necessitated for improving grid discipline and maintaining grid security.

**Project Monitoring Units Under JNNURM**

4251. SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL:  
SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO:

Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has advised the State Governments to establish project implementation and monitoring units for urban development schemes under the Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM);

(b) if so, the names of the State Governments which have established such monitoring units for urban development schemes under JNNURM;

(c) whether there is any proposal to give incentives to those States which have established such monitoring units;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken by the Union Government to encourage the State Governments for availing the benefits under JNNURM?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

(c) to (e) Proposal received from State Governments of Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka for meeting expenditure towards cost of Project Monitoring Units (PMUs) are under consideration.

#### Company Law Simplified Settlement Scheme

4252. DR. M. JAGANNATH: Will the Minister of COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has formulated a Company Law Simplified Settlement Scheme as suggested by the expert Group for streamlining the prosecution mechanism;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the measures taken or proposed to be taken by the Government for further simplification of existing company laws for expeditious settlement of cases?

THE MINISTER OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA): (a) and (b) No Sir.

(c) The Government has already undertaken an exercise for comprehensive revision of the Companies Act, 1956 and preparation of a new Companies Bill.

*[Translation]*

#### Minimum Public Shares in Companies

4253. SHRI SUBHASH SURESHCHANDRA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the listed companies of the country wherein the public stakeholding is not upto 25%;

(b) whether the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) proposes to take steps to ensure that the stakeholding of the public is minimum of 25% in the said listed companies; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) Securities and Exchange Board of India has informed that all listed companies are not required to maintain a minimum public shareholding of 25%. However, of the companies required to do so, 240 are non-compliant.

(b) and (c) The listing agreement provides a mechanism for enabling non-compliant companies to graduate to the level of compliant companies. If a company, however, fails to do so within the permissible time, its shares are liable to be delisted in terms of the delisting guidelines and it is liable for penal actions under the securities laws.

#### Crop Loan

4254. SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that a large number of farmers have been deprived of Kharif crop loans by the nationalised banks;

(b) if so, whether any action has been taken against those nationalised banks responsible for not granting crop loans to farmers; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) to (c) The agricultural credit disbursed by Public Sector Commercial Banks has increased substantially during the last four years as may be observed from the data furnished below:

(Rs. in crores)

Year	Amount disbursed
2003-04	42,211
2004-05	65,218
2005-06	94,278
2006-07	1,04,137*

\*Upto February 2007.

There is no specific report regarding deprivation of the farmers for Kharif loans by the nationalised banks.

*[English]*

#### Opening of Branches by Foreign Banks

4255. SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether as per the WTO commitment, the Government has allowed foreign banks to open branches in the country in the first phase between 2005-2009;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of criteria fixed for permitting such foreign banks?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) and (b) In the first phase (April 2005 to March 2009) of the "Roadmap for the presence of foreign banks in India" issued by Reserve Bank of India, it is proposed to go beyond the existing WTO commitment of 12 branches in a year for new and existing foreign banks.

(c) Parameters considered while permitting foreign banks to open their branches in India, *inter-alia*, include India's commitments at WTO, capital requirement guidelines issued by RBI, regulatory comfort, diplomatic / economic / trade relations of India with the home country of foreign bank, treatment extended to Indian banks in the home country of the applicant bank, track record of

compliance and functioning of the bank and of its group in the global markets, etc.

#### LA Nina Weather Anomaly

4256. SHRI BALASHOWRY VALLABHANENI: Will the Minister of EARTH SCIENCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether La Nina weather anomaly is likely to form in the pacific region;

(b) if so, the extent to which it is likely to affect the weather conditions in India;

(c) whether monsoon is likely to have any impact from this anomaly; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) Yes, Sir. According to the predictions made by major international climate prediction centers, the La Nina conditions are likely to form over the equatorial Pacific region during the next few months.

(b) The relationship between La Nina conditions and day to day weather conditions over India has not been fully established. However, during the La Nina years, normal to above normal monsoon rainfall over India are expected. However, this is not the only parameter affecting summer monsoon and other parameters also contribute.

(c) and (d) There is generally good relationship between La Nina conditions and monsoon rainfall over India during the southwest monsoon season (June to September). During the La Nina years, normal to above normal rainfall is expected and development of all-India drought conditions can be generally ruled out.

In the past 106 years (1901-2006), there were 20 La Nina events. In most of these events, monsoon rainfall was either normal or excess. Only on two occasions (1928 and 1999), monsoon rainfall was below average but within normal range.

#### Eradication of Manual Scavenging

4257. SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL:  
SHRI SUGRIB SINGH:

Will the Minister of HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of States have not so far adopted the Employment of Manual Scavengers and Construction of Dry Latrines (Prohibition) Act, 1993;

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

(c) the funds allocated to various States during 2005-06 and 2006-07 for setting up of dry latrines and for eradication of manual scavenging;

(d) the details of progress achieved in various States during the said period; and

(e) the steps taken for eradication of manual scavenging?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION (KUMARI SELJA): (a) and (b) Twenty States have adopted the 'Employment of Manual Scavengers and Construction of Dry Latrines (Prohibition) Act, 1993'. Eight States Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Mizoram, Nagaland, Rajasthan, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir and Sikkim have not adopted this Act.

However, five States Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Mizoram, Nagaland and Sikkim have reported that there are no dry latrines and are scavenger free. Two States Rajasthan and Himachal Pradesh have enacted their own Act.

(c) During the years 2005-06 and 2006-07 central-subsidy of Rs.2 crore and Rs.27 crore were released respectively to the States under Integrated Low Cost Sanitation Scheme for conversion of dry latrines and construction of new individual units in the urban areas of the country.

(d) As per enclosed Statement.

(e):—

(i) This Ministry is implementing the "Employment of Manual Scavengers and Construction of Dry Latrines (Prohibition) Act, 1993" which prohibits dry latrines and manual scavenging.

(ii) It is also implementing Integrated Low Cost Sanitation Scheme which envisages conversion of dry latrines into water flush latrines in the urban areas of the country.

(iii) Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment has launched a new scheme Self Employment Scheme for Rehabilitation of Manual Scavengers.

#### Statement

Sl.No.	Name of the State	No. Units completed (Construction + Conversion)	
		2005-2006	2006-2007
1.	Andhra Pradesh	-	21586
2.	Assam	-	60
3.	Maharashtra	7254	-
4.	Madhya Pradesh	8699	-
5.	Manipur	581	1246
6.	Rajasthan	118563	3067
7.	Tripura	5776	-
8.	Uttar Pradesh	37749	-
9.	West Bengal	-	15729
10.	Chhattisgarh	9430	9981
11.	Karnataka	-	184

[Translation]

#### Special Economic Zones

4258. SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR:  
SHRI B. MAHTAB:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Special Economic Zones project has been finalized and is ready for implementation;

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

(c) the locations selected/to be selected thereunder, State-wise;

(d) whether barren land, arable land and the waste land in rural areas has been proposed for such project;

(e) if so, the separate area of the aforesaid lands proposed/to be proposed for the project, State-wise;

(f) whether his Ministry has drafted any proposal in this regard and submitted to the Government; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU): (a) and (b) Setting up of Special Economic Zones (SEZs) in the country is governed by the provisions contained in the Special Economic Zones Act, 2005 and Special Economic Zones Rules, 2006 which have come into effect from 10th February 2006. The main objectives of the SEZ Act are generation of additional economic activity, promotion of exports of goods and services, promotion of investment from domestic & foreign sources, creation of employment opportunities and development of infrastructure facilities.

(c) Since the SEZ Act, 2005 and SEZ Rules 2006 came into effect on 10th February, 2006, 237 formal approvals have been given, of which 3 proposals have been withdrawn/cancelled. Thus the total number of valid formal approved as on date are 234 spread over 17 States and 2 UTs. State-wise details of 234 formally approved SEZs are given in the enclosed Statement. Out of 234 formal approved, 99 SEZs have been notified so far (as on 1.5.2007). Besides, 162 in principle approvals spread over 17 States and 1 UT have also been granted for setting up SEZs.

(d) to (g) Acquisition of land is a matter that comes under the purview of the State Governments since land/land usage is a State subject. While there is a Central Land Acquisition Act of 1894 extensively amended in 1984, the States have made modifications to the same and have their own compensation and Relief & Rehabilitation measures depending upon States requirements and necessities. Each State acquires land for various purposes which is governed by their respective policies and procedures and these are also applicable for acquisition of lands for SEZs. The SEZ Board of Approval only consider those proposals, which have been duly approved by the State Government. The total land area in the 234 valid formal approvals granted so far is approximately 34,000 hectares. In all these 234 cases, there was no fresh acquisition of land since the land was in possession of either the State Industrial Development Corporations or the developers.

Various issues concerning the SEZ policy including acquisition of land have been engaging the attention of the Government and it has been decided that the pending applications for SEZs may be processed for in principle & formal approvals and notifications subject to condition that the State Governments would not undertake any compulsory acquisition of land for such SEZs.

*Statement*

*State-wise Details of SEZs Formally Approved so far*

Sl. No.	Name of the State/UT	No. of SEZs for which formal approval granted	Area in hectares
1.	Andhra Pradesh	44	9387.957
2.	Chandigarh	02	87.49
3.	Delhi	01	6
4.	Goa	04	290.98
5.	Gujarat	19	9337.25
6.	Haryana	19	818.408
7.	Jharkhand	01	36
8.	Karnataka	27	1566.339
9.	Kerala	10	569.651
10.	Madhya Pradesh	04	71.25
11.	Maharashtra	47	8130.8
12.	Orissa	05	745.61
13.	Puducherry	01	346
14.	Punjab	04	252
15.	Rajasthan	03	89.23
16.	Tamil Nadu	25	1300.571
17.	Uttaranchal	03	468.2
18.	Uttar Pradesh	08	133.83
19.	West Bengal	07	170.26
Total		234	33807.826

*[English]***Wind Energy****Change Over from CPF to Pension Scheme**

4259. SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether some employees under the Central Government and bodies governed and financed by the Central Government like Kendriya Vidyalyas, still continue under Central Provident Fund (CPF) Scheme and are thus deprived of Pension Scheme;

(b) if so, whether these employees who had opted for CPF Scheme as on January 01, 1986 are suffering greatly because of huge disparity between Pension and CPF Scheme due to changed circumstances beyond their control over the last twenty one years;

(c) if so, whether the Government would consider to give them one more chance to change over from CPF to Pension Scheme in order to minimize their sufferings; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) While some employees under the Central Government and bodies governed and financed by the Central Government still continue under Contributory Provident Fund (CPF) scheme, the employees of Kendriya Vidyalayas are covered by CCS (Pension) Rules, 1972 scheme.

(b) to (d) The IVth Central Pay Commission had recommended that all CPF beneficiaries in service on 1.1.1986, should be deemed to have come over to the pension scheme on that date unless they specifically opt to continue under the CPF Scheme. Thereafter, Department of Pension issued an OM dt. 1st May, 1987 and options under this OM were to be exercised by 30th September, 1987. Some employees opted to continue with the CPF Scheme. There is no move to offer any further chance to change over from CPF to Pension Scheme. The cost of introduction of pension scheme is much higher than the CPF Scheme. Further, in view of huge pension liability, New Pension Scheme has been introduced in the Central Government/autonomous bodies w.e.f. 1.1.2004 and no rationale exists for allowing change over to Pension Scheme in any autonomous organization at this stage.

4260. SHRI MANJUNATH KUNNUR:  
SHRI JASWANT SINGH BISHNOI:  
SHRI RANEN BARMAN:  
SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN:

Will the Minister of NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) the estimated potential of wind energy available in the country and out of it how much has been tapped so far;

(b) the efforts being made by the Government to encourage public/private sector to tap full potential of this energy;

(c) the total funds provided to each State for the development of New and Renewable Energy during the last three years;

(d) whether some sites have been identified to tap wind energy in the country; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY (SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR): (a) Gross wind power potential in the country has been estimated at over 45,000 MW based on areas having wind power density of 200 Watts per square meter or more and assuming land availability in potential areas @ one percent and land requirement @ 12 hectares per MW. A total wind power capacity of 7093 MW has been installed in the country as on 31st March, 2007.

(b) The Government is encouraging setting up of commercial wind power projects in the country by providing fiscal incentives such as concessional import duty on certain components of wind electric generator, excise duty exemption, ten years tax holiday on income generated from wind power projects, benefit of accelerated depreciation, loan from Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency (IREDA) and other financial institutions. Technical support, including detailed wind resource assessment to identify further potential sites, is provided by the Centre for Wind Energy Technology (C-WET), Chennai. This apart, preferential tariff is being provided for wind power in most of the potential States.

(c) State-wise information on funds provided for development of new and renewable energy during the last three years viz., 2003-04 to 2005-06 is given in the enclosed statement.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) The Wind Resource Assessment studies carried out in 20 States and three Union Territories have identified 211 potential sites with annual mean wind power density of 200 watt/square meter or more at 50 meter elevation, for wind power generation.

**Statement**

*State-wise details of funds sanctioned/released under various renewable energy schemes/ programmes during the last three years (2003-04 to 2005-06)*

(Rs. in crore)

Sl. No.	State/UT	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andhra Pradesh	12.667	7.59	12.193	32.45
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	7.765	11.906	5.426	25.10
3.	Assam	3.376	0.442	2.023	5.84
4.	Bihar	0.158	0.061	0.411	0.63
5.	Chhattisgarh	6.289	1.39	5.504	13.18
6.	Goa	0.762	0.08	0.210	1.05
7.	Gujarat	4.552	2.215	3.497	10.26
8.	Haryana	6.749	1.576	1.479	9.80
9.	Himachal Pradesh	4.329	12.818	2.565	19.71
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	10.128	5.741	10.132	26.00
11.	Jharkhand	11.11	0.047	12.649	23.81
12.	Karnataka	20.059	5.384	4.046	29.49
13.	Kerala	2.733	1.332	1.371	5.44
14.	Madhya Pradesh	2.697	4.991	5.784	13.47
15.	Maharashtra	6.888	6.609	10.208	23.71
16.	Manipur	2.624	1.06	3.993	7.68
17.	Meghalaya	2.403	5.302	3.168	10.87
18.	Mizoram	4.02	3.459	14.345	21.82
19.	Nagaland	2.459	1.629	1.568	5.66
20.	Orissa	4.761	2.162	3.314	10.24



1	2	3	4	5	6
21.	Punjab	14.323	1.451	1.654	17.43
22.	Rajasthan	5.987	3.017	5.233	14.24
23.	Sikkim	8.871	0.88	3.066	12.82
24.	Tamil Nadu	9.452	6.105	3.370	18.93
25.	Tripura	10.467	10.749	0.241	21.46
26.	Uttar Pradesh	20.745	10.1	4.265	35.11
27.	Uttaranchal	13.52	1.515	10.578	25.61
28.	West Bengal	35.486	5.809	17.010	58.11
29.	Andaman and Nicobar	1.5	0	0.000	1.50
30.	Chandigarh	0.169	0	0.447	0.62
31.	Dadar and Nagar Haveli	0	0	0.000	0.00
32.	Daman and Diu	0	0	0.000	0.00
33.	Delhi	3.409	0.65	0.018	4.08
34.	Lakshadweep	1.52	0	0.000	1.52
35.	Pondichery	0.357	0.081	0.632	1.07
36.	Others (Institutions/NGOs)	27.24	36.189	35.303	98.73
Total		269.575	152.14	185.701	607.42

#### Construction of Housing Units under JNNURM

4261. SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA: Will the MINISTER OF HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the proposals made by the Government of Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Rajasthan and other State Governments under the Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM), since its inception;

(b) the number of housing units constructed in each State and the expenditure incurred thereon;

(c) the number of proposals pending consideration of the Government; and

(d) the time by which these projects are likely to be approved?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION (KUMARI SELJA): (a) to (d) The details of projects of Governments of Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Rajasthan and other State Governments and housing units sanctioned under Basic Services to the Urban Poor (BSUP) and Integrated Housing and Slum Development Programme (IHSDP) under Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM) are given in the enclosed Statement.

Data on construction of houses are not available as the releases have been made recently and reporting will start from this year onwards.

No proposals conforming to scheme guidelines and within the limits of allocation fixed for State Governments are pending.

**Statement****JNNURM—Basic Services to the Urban Poor (Sub Mission-II)  
Project Approved (State-wise abstract)**

(Rs. in crore)

Sl. No.	States	No. of Mission Cities	No. of Projects Approved	Total Approved Project Cost	Total No. of New Dwelling Units Approved (In-situ)	Total No. of DUs approved under (Relocation)	Total No. of DUs approved for up-gradation	Total No. of Dwelling Units Approved (In-situ+ Relocation+ upgradation)	Approved Central Share	Approved State share	1st installment (25% of Central Share)	ACA Released by M/o Finance
1.	Andhra Pradesh*	2	9	572.81	15320	15000	0	30320	284.34	288.28	71.08	81.85
2.	Chandigarh (UT)	1	2	564.94	25728	0	0	25728	396.13	168.81	99.03	0.00
3.	Chhattisgarh	1	4	391.45	27976	0	0	27976	312.18	79.28	78.05	78.05
4.	Gujarat	4	10	1028.32	0	72076	0	72076	497.38	530.95	124.35	98.88
5.	Haryana	1	2	64.23	3248	0	0	3248	31.18	33.05	7.79	4.58
6.	Himachal Pradesh	1	1	9.99	252	0	0	252	7.05	2.94	1.76	1.78
7.	Karnataka	2	3	238.84	14511	0	0	14511	125.40	113.43	30.80	27.71
8.	Kerala	2	3	69.20	2444	2304	0	4748	47.17	22.03	11.79	11.84
9.	Madhya Pradesh*	3	14	428.22	21254	5019	0	26273	206.02	222.20	51.51	39.54
10.	Maharashtra	5	31	2934.82	77567	23011	0	100578	1299.50	1835.32	324.87	28.58
11.	Nagaland	1	1	134.50	0	3504	0	3504	105.60	28.90	28.40	12.43
12.	Rajasthan	2	2	277.14	17337	0	0	17337	169.20	107.95	42.30	27.93
13.	Tamil Nadu	3	9	830.28	43336	0	685	33413	359.87	470.53	90.12	83.00
14.	Uttar Pradesh	5	5	82.13	4680	0	0	4680	38.58	43.55	9.84	9.64
15.	West Bengal	2	45	1160.04	53178	7136	0	60310	556.53	803.51	139.14	137.17
Year 2006-07		35	151	8788.69	306829	128050	685	435564	4435.93	4350.76	1108.84	901.77
Year 2005-06*		2	9	698.95	13441	41323	0	54764	349.33	349.61	87.33	72.14
Grand Total		36	160	9485.63	320270	169373	685	490328	4785.26	4700.37	1195.97	973.91

\* Five projects from Hyderabad & Four projects from Bhopal have been approved in 2005-06 and total 9 projects from 2 cities have been approved in 2005-06 and total nine projects from two cities have been approved in 2006-07.

*Integrated Housing & Slum Development Programme (IHSDP)  
Project Approved (State-wise Abstract)*

(Rs. in crore)

Sl. No.	Name of the State	No. of IHSDP District/Towns	ULBe/Town Panchayat/ Municipality	Total Projects Approved	Total Project Cost Approved	Total No. new dwell- ing units Approved	Total No. dwelling units for upgradation	Total No. of Dwelling units Approved	Total Central Share Approved	Total State Share Approved	Amount of 1st installment (50% of Central Share)	ACA Released by M/O Finance
1.	Andhra Pradesh	11	25	25	301.9176	24662	0	24662	210.57	91.35	105.28	83.33
2.	Assam	2	3	3	12.2434	613	0	613	10.79	1.46	5.39	5.09
3.	Bihar	6	7	7	48.8113	4167	0	4167	38.55	12.28	18.28	8.96
4.	Chhattisgarh	7	13	14	178.4998	14846	0	14846	122.00	54.49	61.00	31.26
5.	Gujarat	5	8	8	72.0659	6200	0	6200	51.54	20.52	25.77	18.00
6.	Haryana	6	12	15	238.84	14558	83	14641	182.96	55.88	91.48	49.61
7.	Karnataka	5	5	5	68.46	4076	0	4070	41.90	26.56	20.95	14.93
8.	Kerala	9	15	15	65.25	3695	2053	5748	50.10	15.15	25.05	21.46
9.	Madhya Pradesh	13	20	23	197.16	14381	263	14644	138.00	59.16	69.00	45.77
10.	Maharashtra	13	15	15	152.67	13036	0	13038	120.71	31.96	60.35	55.80
11.	Nagaland	1	1	1	87.74	2496	0	2496	44.14	43.80	22.07	9.83
12.	Rajasthan	12	17	17	140.06	66897	3991	10888	110.06	29.99	55.04	39.26
13.	Tamil Nadu	13	22	22	146.05	12407	483	12890	112.56	33.50	56.28	43.37
14.	Uttar Pradesh	5	8	8	29.01	2032	0	2032	22.11	8.91	11.05	11.05
15.	West Bengal	10	16	16	201.20	12824	0	12824	150.57	50.64	75.28	55.08
Year 2006-07		118	187	194	1937.99	136684	6873	143557	1404.57	533.43	702.28	492.61
Year 2005-06		3	3	3	9.03	0	136	136	7.22	1.81	3.81	0.00
Total		119	190	197	1947.02	136684	7009	143893	1411.79	535.23	705.89	492.81

*[Translation]***Outstanding Loans**

4262. SHRI JASWANT SINGH BISHNOI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether huge loan amounts of private sector

banks are outstanding against some big companies for years;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken or being taken to recover the outstanding loans from these companies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) and (b) As at the end of March, 2006, net non-performing assets (NPAs) of private sector banks stood at Rs. 3161 crore. Information in respect of suit-filed accounts of Rs. 1 Crore and above and non suit-filed accounts (wilful defaulters) of Rs. 25 Lakhs and above of the banks is maintained by Credit Information Bureau (India) Limited. The information is available at its *website* [www.cibll.com](http://www.cibll.com)

(c) Banks make efforts to recover their outstanding dues in accordance with their loan recovery policies and Reserve Bank of India guidelines, which, *inter-alia*, include filing suits in civil courts/Debts Recovery Tribunals (DRTs), action under The Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest (SARFAESI) Act, 2002, compromise settlement, etc.

[*English*]

#### **Plight of Beedi Workers**

4263. SHRI P. KARUNAKARAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has realized the fact that recent hike in the taxes in Beedi would adversely affect the sector; and

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) and (b) In this year's budget, Government had increased the specific rate of excise duty (excluding Labour Welfare Cess) on hand made biris from Rs.7 to Rs. 11 per thousand and on machine made biris from Rs.17 to Rs. 24 per thousand. After the budget, Government had received a number of representations requesting for reconsideration of the increase in excise duty. These representations have been examined, and with effect from 03.05.2007, Government has reduced excise duty (excluding Labour Welfare Cess) on hand made biris from Rs. 11 to Rs. 9 per thousand and on machine made biris, from Rs.24 to Rs. 21 per thousand.

#### **Assistance from World Bank for Infrastructure Development Projects**

4264. SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA: Will the MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to seek 500 million dollar assistance from World Bank for infrastructure development in various States as reported in the Dainik Jagaran dated April 12, 2007;

(b) if so, the details of the projects for which assistance is proposed to be sought;

(c) the response of World Bank thereon; and

(d) the details of terms and conditions on which World Bank will extend such assistance and the liability of Union Government therein?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN): (a) to (d) There is a proposal for setting up of National Urban Infrastructure Fund (NUIF) as a Trust with assistance from World Bank/ IDA/ADB/Bilateral/Multilateral Institutions to provide source of funding for bankable projects/schemes pertaining to the Urban Local Bodies (ULBs). However, the details of the proposal could be known only after it is firmed up.

#### **Funds for Establishment of Fast Track Courts**

4265. SHRI M. RAJA MOHAN REDDY:  
SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE:  
SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO:

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the various State Governments have requested the Union Government to provide grant funds for establishing fast track courts to dispose of criminal matters on the lines of similar courts in other States; and

(b) if so, the details thereof;

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

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However, the State Governments in consultation with their respective High Courts may transfer civil cases, in certain situations, to the existing Fast Track Courts for disposal.

[Translation]

#### Schemes for Madhya Pradesh

4266. SHRI KRISHNA MURARI MOGHE: Will the MINISTER OF HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has announced any scheme for re-employment assistance and skill development in urban areas;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the amount allocated to Madhya Pradesh under this scheme during the last years and in the current financial year;

(d) the present status of this scheme; and

(e) the objectives fulfilled through this scheme so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION (KUMARI SELJA): (a) Ministry of Housing & Urban Poverty Alleviation has not announced any scheme for re-employment assistance and skill development in urban areas.

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

[English]

#### Solar Photovoltaic Scheme

4267. SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA: Will the Minister of NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether solar photovoltaic energy scheme is being implemented in Andaman & Nicobar Islands; and

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY (SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR): (a) and (b) The Ministry of New and Renewable Energy is implementing the (1) Solar Photovoltaic Demonstration Programme, (2) Solar Lantern Programme and (3) Solar Photovoltaic Water Pumping Programme in the Island Union Territory of Andaman and Nicobar.

During 2006-07 a total of 130 solar street lighting systems and 1,000 solar lanterns have been sanctioned to Andaman & Nicobar. Under the scheme the Ministry is providing a Central financial assistance of Rs. 9,600/- per solar street light and Rs. 2,400/- per solar lantern to individuals and non-commercial organizations in the Union Territory of Andaman and Nicobar. In addition, a school going girl child belonging to BPL family and studying in class IX - XII, and residing in the un-electrified villages of the Islands is eligible to get one solar lantern free of cost during her entire period of school study.

Till 31st March, 2007 a total of 358 Solar Street Lighting Systems, 405 Solar Home Lighting Systems, 6,296 Solar Lanterns, 5 Solar Pumps, 100 kWp aggregate capacity grid connected SPV plants and 167 kWp aggregate capacity standalone SPV plants were installed in the Union Territory of Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

#### Mortgage of Residential Properties

4268. SHRI BALASHOWRY VALLABHANENI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to allow second mortgage of the residential properties as in the case for commercial properties;

(b) if so, the details of the decision taken;

(c) whether there is any demand from the property owners in this regard; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House to the extent available.

THE MINISTRY OF NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY  
 Union Territory of Andaman and Nicobar  
 Funds under the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy  
 (b) if so, the details thereof

12.00 hrs.

## PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

*[English]*

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Memorandum of Understanding (Hindi and English versions) between the Power Finance Corporation Limited and the Ministry of Power for the year 2007-2008.

(Placed in Library, *See* No. LT—6264/07)

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN): Sir, on behalf of Shri S. Jaipal Reddy, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Notification No. G.S.R. 199 (E) (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated the 15th March, 2007 containing corrigendum to the Notification No. 10 (E) dated the 10th January, 2006, issued under Delhi Development Act, 1957.

(Placed in Library, *See* No. LT—6265/07)*[Translation]*

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table—

(1) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (2) of section 29 of the National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, 2005:—

(i) The National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, Schedule-I Amendment Order, 2007 published in Notification No. S.O. 323 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 6th March, 2007.

(ii) The National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, Schedule-II Amendment Order, 2007 published in Notification No.S.O.324 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 6th March, 2007.

(Placed in Library, *See* No. LT—6266/07)

(2) A copy of the Notification No. S.O. 14(E) (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated the 8th January, 2007 regarding extension of

period from six months to one year from the date of commencement of the National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, 2005, for the purposes of making a Scheme by the State Government, issued under sub-section (1) of section 34 of the said Act.

(Placed in Library, *See* No. LT—6267/07)*[English]*

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table—

(1) A copy of the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Employees Service) (Amendment) Regulations, 2007 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. F.No. 11/LC/GN/2006/2143 in Gazette of India dated the 11th April, 2007, under section 31 of the Securities and Exchange Board of India Act, 1992.

(Placed in Library, *See* No. LT—6268/07)

(2) A copy of the Notification No. S.O. 1912 (E) (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated the 8th November, 2006 appointing the 10th day of November, 2006 as the date on which the provisions of the Actuaries Act, 2006 shall come into force, issued under section (1) of the said Act.

(Placed in Library, *See* No. LT—6269/07)

(3) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under section 159 of the Customs Act, 1962:—

(i) G.S.R.212 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 20th March, 2007 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 21/2002-Cus dated the 1st March, 2002.

(ii) G.S.R.258 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 29th March, 2007 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in two Notifications mentioned therein.

(iii) G.S.R.263 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 30th March, 2007 together with an

explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in Notification No. 21/2002-Cus dated the 1st March, 2002.

- (iv) G.S.R.270 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 3rd April, 2007 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in Notification No. 21/2002-Cus dated the 1st March, 2002.
- (v) G.S.R.287 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 12th April, 2007 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in Notification No. 157/1990-Cus dated the 28th March, 1990.
- (vi) The Customs (Advance Ruling) Amendment Rules, 2007 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 175 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 6th March, 2007, together with an explanatory memorandum.

(Placed in Library, *See* No. LT—6270/07)

(4) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (7) of section 9A of the Customs Tariff Act, 1975:-

- (i) G.S.R.205 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 19th March, 2007 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to impose final anti-dumping duty on imports of Saccharin, originating in, or exported from, the People's Republic of China.
- (ii) G.S.R.206 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 19th March, 2007 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to impose provisional anti-dumping duty on imports of Peroxosulphates also known as Persulphates, originating in, or exported from, the People's Republic of China and Japan.
- (iii) G.S.R. 215(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 21st March, 2007 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to extend levy of anti-dumping duty imposed on imports of Caustic Soda, originating in, or exported from, Qatar, upto and inclusive 28th March, 2008, pending finalization of Sunset review investigations being conducted by the Directorate General of Anti-dumping and Allied duties.

- (iv) G.S.R.216 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 21st March, 2007 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to extend levy of anti-dumping duty levied on imports of Sodium Nitrite originating in, or exported from, European Union, upto and inclusive of 27th March, 2008, pending finalization of Sunset review investigations being conducted by the Directorate General of Anti-dumping and Allied duties.
- (v) G.S.R.238 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 26th March, 2007 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to extend levy of anti-dumping duty imposed on imports of Hydrofluoric acid, originating in, or exported from, the People's Republic of China, upto and inclusive of 27th March, 2008, pending finalization of Sunset review investigations being conducted by the Directorate General of Anti-dumping and Allied duties.
- (vi) G.S.R.239 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 26th March, 2007 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to extend of anti-dumping duty imposed on imports of Pentaerythritol, originating in, or exported from, Taiwan and Japan, upto and inclusive of 26th March, 2008, pending finalization of Sunset review investigations being conducted by the Directorate General of Anti-dumping and Allied duties.
- (vii) G.S.R.244 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 28th March, 2007 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to impose provisional anti-dumping duty on imports of Vitamin A Palmitate, originating in, or exported from, Switzerland and People's Republic of China.
- (viii) G.S.R. 259 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 29th March, 2007 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to impose final anti-dumping duty, based on recommendation of designated authority in the sunset review findings, on imports of Potassium Permanganate, originating in, or exported from, People's Republic of China.
- (ix) G.S.R. 260 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 29th March, 2007 together with an

explanatory memorandum seeking to impose anti-dumping duty on imports into India of Steel Wheels, originating in, or exported from, People's Republic of China.

(Placed in Library, *See* No. LT—6271/07)

(5) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under of section 296 of the Income Tax Act, 1961:-

- (i) S.O. 332 published in Gazette of India dated the 10th February, 2007 regarding exemption to the "G.C.Y.M. Charity Trust, Nagaland" under section 10 (23C) of the Income-Tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the assessment year 2007-2008 and onwards, subject to certain conditions.
- (ii) S.O. 335 published in Gazette of India dated the 10th February, 2007 regarding exemption to the "Neo Sannyas Foundation, 17 Koregaon Park, Pune" under section 10 (23C) of the Income-Tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the assessment year 1999-2000 and onwards, subject to certain conditions.
- (iii) S.O. 336 published in Gazette of India dated the 10th February, 2007 regarding exemption to the "Sant Sri Asharam Ashram, Post Motera, Dist. Gandhinagar, Gujarat" under section 10 (23C) of the Income-Tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the assessment year 2005-2006 and onwards, subject to certain conditions.
- (iv) S.O. 337 published in Gazette of India dated the 10th February, 2007 regarding exemption to the "St. Mary's Educational and Social Welfare Society, Para Road, Rajaji Puram, Lucknow-226017" under section 10 (23C) of the Income-Tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the assessment year 2006-2007 and onwards, subject to certain conditions.
- (v) S.O. 338 published in Gazette of India dated the 10th February, 2007 regarding exemption to the "The Cloth market and Shops Board, 94/96, Bhuleshwar Road, Bhuleshwar, Mumbai-400002" under section 10 (23C) of the Income-Tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the assessment year 1997-1998 and onwards, subject to certain conditions.

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- (vi) S.O. 339 published in Gazette of India dated the 10 February, 2007 regarding exemption to the "Tragopan Farmers Society, Dimapur, Nagaland" under section 10 (23C) of the Income-Tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the assessment year 2007-2008 and onwards, subject to certain conditions.
- (vii) S.O. 340 published in Gazette of India dated the 10th February, 2007 regarding exemption to the "Family Planning Association of India, Bajaj Bhawan, 1st Floor, Nariman Point, Mumbai-400021" under section 10 (23C) of the Income-Tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the assessment year 2002-2003 and onwards, subject to certain conditions.
- (viii) S.O. 341 published in Gazette of India dated the 10th February, 2007 regarding exemption to the "India International Centre, 40, Max Muller Marg, New Delhi" under section 10 (23C) of the Income-Tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the assessment year 2006-2007 and onwards, subject to certain conditions.
- (ix) S.O. 342 published in Gazette of India dated the 10th February, 2007 regarding exemption to the "Raja Rammohan Roy Library Foundation, Block-DD-34, Sector-I, Salt Lake City, Kolkata" under section 10 (23C) of the Income-Tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the assessment year 2000-2001 and onwards, subject to certain conditions.
- (x) S.O. 343 published in Gazette of India dated the 10th February, 2007 regarding exemption to the "National Institute of Public Finance and Policy, 18/2, Satsang Vihar Marg, Special Institutional Area, New Delhi" under section 10 (23C) of the Income-Tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the assessment year 2002-2003 and onwards, subject to certain conditions.
- (xi) S.O. 344 published in Gazette of India dated the 10th February, 2007 regarding exemption to the "Centre for Development and Human Rights, Q-1A, Hauzkhwas Enclave, New Delhi" under section 10 (23C) of the Income-Tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the assessment year 2002-2003 and onwards, subject to certain conditions.



- (xii) S.O. 345 published in Gazette of India dated the 10th February, 2007 regarding exemption to the "Population Services International, C-445, Chittranjan Park, New Delhi" under section 10 (23C) of the Income-Tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the assessment year 2002-2003 and onwards, subject to certain conditions.

(Placed in Library, *See* No. LT—6272/07)

- (6) A copy each of the Notification (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (4) of section 94 of the Finance Act, 1994:-

- (i) G.S.R. 271(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 4th April, 2007 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to exempt levy of service tax, for the period from 01.04.2000 to 04.02.2004, on 60% of the gross amount charged for taxable services provided by tour operators, operating under a contract carriage permit issued by the appropriate transport authority, for transport of passengers from one place to another.
- (ii) The Service Tax (Advance Rulings) Amendment Rules, 2007 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 177 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 6th March, 2007, together with an explanatory memorandum.

(Placed in Library, *See* No. LT—6273/07)

- (7) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (4) of section 23A of the Regional Rural Banks Act, 1976:-

- (i) S.O. 259 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 21st February, 2007 regarding amalgamation of the Gaur Gramin Bank, Mallabhum Gramin Bank, Murshidabad Gramin Bank, Nadia Gramin Bank and Sagar Gramin Bank.
- (ii) S.O. 288 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 26th February, 2007 regarding amalgamation of the Howrah Gramin Bank, Bardhman Gramin Bank and Mayurakshi Gramin Bank.
- (iii) S.O. 403 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 21st March, 2007 regarding

dissolution of the amalgamation of the Gaur Gramin Bank, Mallabhum Gramin Bank, Murshidabad Gramin Bank, Nadia Gramin Bank and Sagar Gramin Bank with effect from 21st February, 2007.

- (iv) S.O. 404 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 21st March, 2007 regarding dissolution of the amalgamation of the Howrah Gramin Bank, Bardhman Gramin Bank and Mayurakshi Gramin Bank with effect from 26th February, 2007.

(Placed in Library, *See* No. LT—6274/07)

- (8) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (2) of section 30 of the Regional Rural Banks Act, 1976:-

- (i) The Pragathi Gramin Bank (Officers and Employees) Service Regulations, 2005 published in Notification No. 27 in Gazette of India dated the 29th January, 2007.
- (ii) The MGB Gramin Bank (Officers and Employees) Service Regulations, 2006 published in Notification No. RRBD/32/927 in Gazette of India dated the 3rd February, 2007.
- (iii) The Triveni Kshetriya Gramin Bank (Officers and Employees) Service Regulations, 2006 published in Notification No. F.No. 1(1)/2006-RRB/HO/PSC/RRB/Notification/32 in Gazette of India dated the 11th January, 2007.
- (iv) The Lucknow Kshetriya Gramin Bank (Officers and Employees) Service Regulations, 2006 published in Notification No. HO/AOP/Ser. Reg./2194 in Gazette of India dated the 17th February, 2007, together with a Corrigendum thereto published in Notification No. HO/A&P/Service Regulations/2745 dated 4th April, 2007.

(Placed in Library, *See* No. LT—6275/07)

- (9) A copy of the Central Excise (Advance Rulings) Amendment Rules, 2007 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R 176 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 6th March, 2006 under sub-section (2) of section 38 of the Central Excise Act, 1944, together with an explanatory memorandum.

(Placed in Library, *See* No. LT—6276/07)

(10) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (6) of section 9 of the Banking Companies (Acquisition and Transfer of Undertakings) Act, 1970 and 1980:-

- (i) The Nationalized Banks (Management and Miscellaneous Provisions) (Amendment) Scheme, 2007 published in Notification No. S.O. 251 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 19th February, 2007, together with a Corrigendum thereto published in Notification No. S.O. 334 (E) dated the 8th March, 2007.
- (ii) The Nationalized Banks (Management and Miscellaneous Provisions) (Amendment) Scheme, 2007 published in Notification No. S.O. 252 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 19th February, 2007, together with a Corrigendum thereto published in Notification No. S.O. 335 (E) dated the 8th March, 2007.

(Placed in Library, *See* No. LT—6277/07)

12.02 hrs.

## STANDING COMMITTEE ON DEFENCE

### Seventeenth Report

[*English*]

SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL (Kopergaon): Sir, I beg to present the Seventeenth Report (Hindi & English versions) of the Standing Committee on Defence (2006-07) on 'In-depth Study and Critical Review of Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL)'.

12.02½ hrs.

## STANDING COMMITTEE ON HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT

### One Hundred Ninety Fifth Report

[*Translation*]

SHRI FRANCIS K. GEORGE (Idukki): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy (Hindi and English versions) of the One Hundred Ninety-fifth Report of the Standing Committee on Human Resource Development on Demands for Grants (2007-2008) of the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports.

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: It almost sounded like Hindi!

SHRI K. FRANCIS GEORGE (IDUKKI): Sir, we all have started learning Hindi under the auspices of BPST.

12.03 hrs.

[*Translation*]

## STATEMENTS BY MNISTERS

### (I) "Nirmal Gram Puraskar", 2007\*

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH): Mr. Speaker Sir, it gives me immense pleasure to inform this August House that the 3rd Nirmal Gram Puraskar is being given away by His Excellency, Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam, the President of India, today to the PRIs/NGOs who have done commendable work in the field of sanitation in the country. The Nirmal Gram Puraskar seeks to select the best villages and role models of rural sanitation.

For enhancing the social mobilization of the stakeholders, PRIs/NGOs working at the grass root level are given incentives in the form of Nirmal Gram Puraskar on attaining full sanitation coverage in the respective areas. Those PRIs who completely eliminate open defecation, ensure proper sanitation coverage in the villages and maintain general cleanliness are eligible for the award. The incentive pattern varies from Rs. 50,000 to Rs. 5 lakh for Gram Panchayats depending on the population, from Rs. 10 lakh to Rs. 20 lakh for Block panchayats and Rs. 30 lakh to Rs. 50 lakh for District panchayats.

Nirmal Gram Puraskar was introduced in the year 2005 during which 40 PRIs were given award. The second event was held in 2006 in which 769 PRIs were honoured. It is a matter of pride that during the current year, about 4945 Gram Panchayats, 14 Block Panchayats and 27 NGOs from 22 States are being given the Puraskar (State-wise detail enclosed).

\*Statement alongwith state-wise details were placed in Library, *See* No. LT—6278/2007.

Mahatma Gandhi, the Father of the Nation, had highlighted the importance of sanitation when he said and I quote "Sanitation is more important than independence" Unquote. Sanitation coverage of our country was just 1% of the households in the 1981 Census. The figure went up to 9% in the 1991 Census and 21.9% in the 2001 Census. The Total Sanitation Campaign under the restructured CRSP was thereafter launched with a demand-driven approach. The programme is now under implementation in 572 districts of the country with support from Government of India, respective State Governments and contribution from the beneficiaries themselves. So far, projects worth Rs. 11,375 crores have been sanctioned. An amount of Rs. 2280 crores has already been released by Government of India to the implementing agencies. The sanctioned projects envisage individual household latrines to the families of BPL and APL beneficiaries and sanitary complexes for schools/Balavadis/Anganwadis, etc. However, our campaign has not been only one of the hardware of toilet construction alone, we have been relentlessly focusing on the software, of ensuring clean sanitary practices in the rural areas.

So far, 3.16 crore households have constructed toilets with support from Total Sanitation Campaign. In the last three years alone, 2.36 crore toilets have been constructed, marking a steep rise in the toilet coverage in the rural areas. As a result of the efforts of the Total Sanitation Campaign, the household sanitation coverage has gone up to 44%. The Ministry expects to achieve the Millennium Development Goal well before the given time-frame. The Puraskar has added value to the entire Sanitation Campaign by turning the entire programme into one of people's movement.

MR. SPEAKER: Sir, through you I would request the House that all the Hon'ble Members are invited in that. It is State-wise, it would take only a minute.  
...(*Interruptions*)

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: Please lay that on the Table. We must compliment those panchayats and those people who are being recognized properly. I am sure, this will inspire other panchayats also to follow that. This is very good.

*State-wise Details*

S.No.	State	2005 No. of PRIs	2006 No. of PRIs	2007 No. of PRIs
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	-	10	143
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	-	-	2
3.	Assam	-	1	3
4.	Bihar	-	4	39 + 1 Block
5.	Chhattisgarh	-	12	90
6.	Gujarat	1	4	576
7.	Haryana	-	-	60
8.	Himachal Pradesh	-	-	22
9.	Jharkhand	-	-	12
10.	Karnataka	-	-	121
11.	Kerala	1	6	220 + 6 Blocks
12.	Madhya Pradesh	-	1	190

1	2	3	4	5
13.	Maharashtra	13	381	1974
14.	Mizoram	-	-	3
15.	Orissa	-	8	33
16.	Rajasthan	-	-	23
17.	Sikkim	-	-	27
18.	Tamil Nadu	13	119	296
19.	Tripura	1	36	46
20.	Uttar Pradesh	-	40	488
21.	Uttaranchal	-	13	109
22.	West Bengal	11	134	468 + 7 Blocks
Total		40	769	4,945 Gp + 14 Blocks*

\*State-wise details were laid on the Table.

12.06 hrs.

**(ii) Status of implementation of recommendations contained in One hundred sixty-Eighth Report of Standing Committee on Science and Technology, Environment and Forests pertaining to the Department of Science and Technology\***

*[English]*

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): I am making this Statement on the status of implementation of recommendations contained in the One Hundred Sixty-eighth (168th) Report of the Parliamentary Standing Committee (PSC) on Science & Technology, Environment & Forests on the direction of the hon. Speaker, Lok Sabha, in pursuance of the provisions of Rule 389 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Lok Sabha issued *vide* Lok Sabha Bulletin-Part-II dated September 1, 2004.

The Standing Committee on Science and Technology, Environment and Forests laid their One Hundred Sixty-

\*Laid on the Table and also placed in Library, *See* No. LT—6279/2007

eighth (168th) Report on 14th December, 2006 in the Lok Sabha. In all there were 13 (thirteen) recommendations in the 168th Report of the Committee. The present status of implementation is detailed in the appended Annexure which may be allowed to be laid on the Table of the House,

12.07 hrs.

**(iii) Status of implementation of recommendations contained in Thirty-eighth Report of Standing Committee on Finance on Demands for Grants (2006-07) pertaining to the Ministry of Planning\***

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN): I beg to lay on the Table a copy in Hindi and English on the status of implementation of recommendations contained in the Thirty Eighth Report of the Standing Committee on Finance on Demands for Grants for 2006-07 of the Ministry of Planning.

I am making this statement on the status of implementation of recommendations contained in the Thirty

\*Laid on the Table and also placed in Library. *See* No. LT—6280/2007

[Shri M.V. Rajasekharan]

Eighth Report of the Standing Committee on Finance (14th Lok Sabha) in pursuance of the direction 73A of the Hon. Speaker, Lok Sabha.

The Thirty Eighth Report of the Standing Committee on Finance (14th Lok Sabha) was presented to the Lok Sabha on 22-5-2006. The report relates to the examination of Demands for Grants of Ministry of Planning for the year 2006-07.

Action Taken Statements on the recommendations/ observations contained in the Thirty Eighth Report of the Committee had been sent to the Standing Committee on Finance on 1-9-2006. These formed part of the Forty Seventh Report of the Committee on Action taken by the Government on the Recommendations contained in their Thirty Eighth Report which was presented to the Lok Sabha on 14-12-2006.

There are 7 issues examined by the Committee in their Thirty Eighth Report, which mainly pertain to (i) An overview of the Action Taken by the Government on the Recommendations of the Committee contained in their 18th Report on Demands for Grants (2005-06) pertaining to the Ministry of Planning, (ii) Geographical Information System (GIS) and Utility Mapping Project, (iii) Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY), (iv) Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA), (v) Rural Telephone Connectivity, (vi) Rajiv Gandhi Grameen Vidyutikaran Yojana (RGGVY), (vii) Labour and Employment.

The present status of implementation of the various recommendations made by the Committee is indicated in the Annexure to my Statement which is laid on the Table of the House. I would not like to take the valuable time of the House to read out all the contents of this Annexure. I would request that this may be considered as read.

12.06 hrs.

## BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

[English]

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI): With your permission, Sir, I rise to announce that Government Business during the week commencing Monday, the 7th of May, 2007, will consist of:-

1. Consideration of any item of Government Business carried over from today's Order Paper.

2. Consideration and Passing of the National Institutes of Technology Bill, 2007, as passed by Rajya Sabha.
3. Consideration and passing of the Mizoram University (Amendment) Bill, 2007, after it has been passed by Rajya Sabha.
4. Consideration and passing of the Constitution (Scheduled Castes) Order (Amendment) Bill, 2006.
5. Consideration and passing of the Securities Contracts (Regulation) Amendment Bill, 2006.

[Translation]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA (South Delhi): Mr. Speaker, I would like to speak on this very point. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: You have not given any notice.

[Translation]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Government business from 7th to 11th of the month has been scheduled for the period by them but it is being discussed in the corridor of Parliament that this session will be adjourned *sine die* on 8th May and this is being discussed all around. We would like to know about their intention behind fixing 7th to 11th May for Government business. Is their intention to impose President Rule keeping in view the defeat suffered by them in U.P. elections. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: This is not permitted.

[English]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: This is something which is very important. We want an assurance. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Malhotra, you cannot raise it in this manner. This is not the way to raise it. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I am requesting you. You can raise it on a proper notice. We had our Business Advisory Committee's meeting. This is not the way to raise it. There is well-established procedure.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: You please sit down. ...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I am trying to control. Please. Shri Hanaraj Ahir. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Everybody is responding. Please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: He may be an astute politician. Why should I bother? ...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, There has been a tradition of this House since long last that the agenda for only one week is presented by the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs every week. If Prof. Vijay Kumar Malhotra quotes a single instance of presentation of one month's agenda by the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs in the House, then I am ready to present the agenda of a month. Now, so far the elections of U.P. are concerned, it will be decided by the public of U.P. but if Malhotraji himself becomes astrologer then I have no words to say. I think the decision in this regard should be left to the public. Agenda of the House has no concern with the decision of the public in U.P. elections.

MR. SPEAKER: O.K. Shri Hansraj G. Ahir.

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Will the House be adjourned? ...(Interruptions).

SHRI TARIT BARAN TOPDAR (Barrackpore): Mr. Speaker, Sir, Parliament has never witnessed such a thing.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Let him say that the Session will be there till 22nd. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: This is a very unusual thing. Prof. Malhotra, you know very well.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down. It is not a matter for you. Please sit down. I would earnestly request all of you to sit down. He has put a question to the hon. Minister and he has replied to that. Now, let me follow the well established procedure.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI L.K. ADVANI (Gandhinagar): Mr. Speaker, Sir, ordinarily I would not have intervened at this point after what the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs has said. But I do recall that a few days back, the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs had met me and said to me that there are difficulties in respect of the Finance Minister's programme and as a result of which, instead of the Finance Bill being taken up later, whether it could be taken up earlier. I hope, there is no substance in what is being reported that the House may be adjourned earlier. If the objective was that, then it would be a serious matter because I agreed to it and said: "After all, these are the difficulties which arise with the Government and, therefore, I have no objection in the Finance Bill being passed earlier on the 3rd or 4th May." But if the objective was that, then it is serious. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: This is a matter between the Government and the hon. Leader of the Opposition.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI L.K. ADVANI: I agreed to it and said: "Otherwise, we have a scope till 11th or 12th May." Therefore, he had come to me specially for that. ...(Interruptions) It is a question of trust. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Let me express my view. Please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI L.K. ADVANI: The Government approaches the Opposition formally. The Minister of Parliamentary Affairs came to meet me at 10 o' clock at night and said: "This is a difficulty and because of which, I have come to seek your agreement on this." I said: "I have no objection." If the objective is different, then it is serious. ...(Interruptions) Therefore, all that is needed is an

[Shri L.K. Advani]

assurance that the House will continue to sit till 22nd May, as scheduled. That is all. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: In view of the respect I hold for the hon. Leader of the Opposition, I allowed him to intervene. It is a matter entirely between the Government and the Leader of the Opposition because what discussion was held, it was between them. As far as we are concerned, we proceed on the basis that the House will continue till 22nd May. There is no indication contrary to that so far. Therefore, let us not anticipate certain things. That will depend on what happens, and I cannot say that but here, I am only concerned with the List of Business today.

Now, Shri Hansraj G. Ahir. I have already called his name. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI L.K. ADVANI: Let the Government say. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, there is a big communication gap going on between the respected Leader of the Opposition and the Deputy Leader of the Opposition. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY (Puri): There is turmoil in the UPA Government. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Tripathy, please sit down.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: You are not the Deputy Leader. You are yet to get that status. Please wait for that. ...*(Interruptions)*

Sir, I conveyed to the distinguished Leader of the Opposition on that night very correctly. The Deputy Leader of the Opposition came to see me this morning. I have told him that you were present in the BAC and we have listed several discussions up to 15th. I have shown a copy, which I have circulated to the Ministers, to him. I think, he should have reported it to the Leader of the Opposition. I would request him to kindly settle this communication gap, and the problem will be over. Thank you. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: This cannot be a matter of personal discussion. This is very unusual if I may say so with all respect. Now, Shri Hansraj G. Ahir.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: We are dealing with Item No. 11. I have called the name of Shri Hansraj G. Ahir.

*[Translation]*

SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR (Chandrapur): Sir, the following items may kindly be included in the next week's agenda:

1. The problem of power cut in many States of the country, particularly in State of Maharashtra has been aggravated. The commonman, businessman, industrialists, hospitals and students etc. in urban and rural areas are affected by the power cut of 12 to 14 hours. Power cut during summer season has become an acute problem for want of approximately 6800 MV power in the State.

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, please maintain silence in the House.

*[Translation]*

SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR: The resentment among people because of the failure of the State government to provide power to masses is turning violent through agitations. In such a critical situation the Union Government should take initiatives to provide more and more power to the public in order to grant them relief.

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Ahir, you may just mention the subject only.

*[Translation]*

SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR: 2-The National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme is being implemented at snail's pace in State of Maharashtra. There should be a discussion it.

...*(Interruptions)\**

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: No, you cannot do that. Just mention the subjects you want.

...*(Interruptions)\**

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\*Not recorded.

MR. SPEAKER: Sorry, I will have to delete all this. You cannot make a speech on this.

[*Translation*]

SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR: Punitive action is required to be taken against the person found guilty after conducting an enquiry into the reasons for not implementing the scheme which is important for undertaking the work relating to employment generation and development in rural areas. After taking cognizance of it Union Government should take necessary action.

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: Sorry, Mr. Hansraj G. Ahir, you are an experienced hon. Member. You are misusing the opportunity. It is not right. This is a well-established practice that you have to mention the subjects only while making submission for the Business of the House.

DR. K.S. MANOJ (Alleppey): Sir, the following items may be included in the next week's List of Business:-

1. Need to arrive at a consensus to wear khadi and handloom by the employees of the Government and the public sector undertakings and as school uniform as a measure to commemorate the 150th Anniversary of the First War of Independence;
2. Need to construct a flyover in the Alappuzha bye-pass in lieu of two road over bridges and the road in between to prevent damages of highway due to sea erosion and to preserve the aesthetic beauty of Alappuzha Beach.

[*Translation*]

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer): Sir, the following items may kindly be included in the next week's agenda:—

1. Need for constitution of a High-powered National Commission for considering measures to enforce uniform civil code in the entire country in order to promote national unity and integrity.
2. Need to enact a law to make the singing of National Song 'Vandematram' being sung proudly by freedom fighters, revolutionists and national heroes mandatory in an academic institution to promote patriotism and create reverence for motherland.

DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA (Ujjain): Sir, the following items may kindly be included in the next week's agenda:—

1. The rivers of these States which have no disputes over sharing of river water may be interlinked for proper utilization of water resources of the rivers in the country. Financial assistance should be provided to implement Narmada-Shipra Nadi jodo yojana under it.
2. Special measures should be taken in order to preserve historical mythological and archaeological heritages and effective steps should be taken to ensure safety and preservation of Shri Ram Setu.

[*English*]

SHRI K. FRANCIS GEORGE (Idukki): Sir, the following items may kindly be included in the next week's List of Business:-

1. A discussion on the Report submitted by the National Commission on Farmers to effectively implement the various recommendations of the Commission to the benefit of the crisis ridden yet most vital agricultural sector of our country.
2. A discussion on the modalities of implementing Providing Urban Amenities in Rural Areas (PURA) during the 11th Plan Period, the ambitious and visionary scheme proposed by the hon. Rashtrapatiji, which can substantially improve the infrastructural facilities and living conditions of the people in the rural areas of our country.

SHRI ANWAR HUSSAIN (Dhubri): Sir, the following issues may kindly be included in the next week's List of Business:-

1. The Autonomous Councils other than those six Autonomous Council Districts created under the Sixth Schedule should be given special package as offered by the Government of India in case of Bodoland Territorial Autonomous Council.
2. The surplus power generated by the Mega Projects in the North-Eastern Region be made available on first priority for growth of industry to the deficit States of the North-Eastern Region before its evacuation to other States.



[*Translation*]

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA (Jaipur): Sir, the following items may kindly be included in the next week's agenda:—

1. Jaipur is the capital of Rajasthan. There are all facilities available in Malviya Engineering College, Jaipur to upgrade it as an IIT. There is sufficient land. It has been linked with main roads and rail track. Moreover, an Airport and Medical University are also there. There is 345 Bigha land. Keeping in view the above facts, it is necessary to open an IIT in Jaipur.
2. Recently crude oil in large quantities has been explored in Rajasthan and more oil is likely to be explored in near future. Keeping in view all the above facts it is necessary to establish a refinery in Rajasthan.

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: Nobody can remove him from Jaipur.

[*Translation*]

SHRI V.K. THUMMAR (Amreli): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the following items may kindly be included in the next week's agenda:—

1. Crops insurance scheme should be made mandatory in the country.
2. Peanut production is declining in the country leading to low production of edible oils. Peanut production should be increased.

[*English*]

SHRI P.S. GADHAVI (Kutch): Sir, the following items may kindly be allowed to be included in the next week's List of Business.

1. Complete ban on slaughter of cows and its progeny and also ban on meat export.
2. Dahej in South Gujarat be selected to be developed as Petroleum Chemicals & Petrochemicals Investment Region (PCPIR) as per the recent policy of the Government of India. Thank you very much.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN (Chirayinkil): Sir, the following items may be included in the next week's agenda.

1. Sanctioning of funds by the Centre towards development of ports in Kerala State including the major Vizhinjam Port is a matter of urgent necessity. The Central Government should take immediate step towards the development of ports as promised.
2. This is a very important issue. The change of climatic conditions is a matter of grave concern challenging the existence of human life on the earth.

MR. SPEAKER: We shall discuss this issue. I agree with you that it is a very important issue.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: It has been reported that this unprecedented change in climatic condition is due to the indiscriminate action on the part of the...<sup>\*</sup> by producing carbon dioxide without considering the environmental conditions.

MR. SPEAKER: The last part is deleted.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: This pattern requires a very urgent step.

MR. SPEAKER: I am saying that we have already decided to have a discussion. I hope your Party will be allowed to take part in that.

12.23 hrs.

### GOVERNMENT BILLS—*Introduced*

(f) Damodar Valley Corporation (Amendment) Bill, 2007<sup>\*\*</sup>

[*English*]

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Damodar Valley Corporation Act, 1948.

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Damodar Valley Corporation Act, 1948."

*The motion was adopted.*

SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE: I introduce the Bill.

<sup>\*</sup>Not recorded.

<sup>\*\*</sup>Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II, Section-2, dated 4.5.2007.

12.23½ hrs.

(ii) **Carriage By Air (Amendment) Bill, 2007\***

[*English*]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Carriage by Air Act, 1972.

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Carriage by Air Act, 1972."

*The motion was adopted*

SHRI PRAFUL PATEL: I introduce the Bill.

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: Now, let the hour of disorder start.

[*Translation*]

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV (Jhanjharpur): Mr. Speaker, we have given notice. ...(*Interruptions*) we have given notice. What is this . ...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: Let him say what he wants to say. I will allow all sides to respond.

...(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV: Mr. Speaker, we have given proper notice. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: Of course, I will allow you, Mr. Ramji Lal Suman. The only thing is, I am requesting you.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: The trouble is that if you all speak together, then nothing is heard; nothing is recorded. Important issues may be raised, and with all solemnity

\*Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II, Section-2 dated 4.5.2007.

they can be replied. I will allow all the sides. Therefore, please both speak and listen.

Thank you.

[*Translation*]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH (Maharajganj, Bihar): Sir, if there in a dispute between the two, then allow only me to speak.

MR. SPEAKER: Why there would be a dispute, there is an amicable environment. Please speak and listen.

...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: I am thankful for your contribution.

...(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA (South Delhi): Mr. Speaker, I raised this question yesterday that there were five alignments for the Sethu Samudra Canal Project which was being implemented. We are not against the construction of any canal project there. It can be constructed there.

...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

SHRI C. KUPPUSAMI (Madras North): Sir, the matter is *sub judice*.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: I will allow you, Mr. Kuppusami.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: It is not *sub judice*. But I will allow you. I am saying that. Even if the hon. Minister wants I will allow.

...(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seat.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN (Khurja): Mr. Speaker Sir, we want it to be Constructed. ...*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: I am trying to control. You cannot help Mr. Pradhan.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY (Chidambaram): Sir, please allow me. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please, let him say what he wants to say. I will call you to controvert that.

...*(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: If Ram Setu is damaged in any manner.. ...*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

SHRI A. KRISHNASWAMY (Sriperumbudur): Sir, Writ Petition No. 2262/2007 is pending in the Allahabad High Court. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Krishnaswamy, you are such a helpful Member and eminent Member. Please cooperate so that your views are properly recorded. I will see to that.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI A. KRISHNASWAMY (Sriperambudur): Also O.S. No. 59/2006 is pending in Ramanathapuram Sub-Court. Stay was asked but not granted. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Your views will be properly recorded. I will do that.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Your views will be properly recorded. You are entitled to give your views on this issue. I am not denying that. There are other important issues. Shri Ramji Lal Suman is giving notice for the last five days.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Do you not want the House to run? Please tell me.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: If you do not want the House to run, I will adjourn it. The House is yours, not mine alone. I have been given a job. I am trying to see that I do that job.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Let us hear the hon. Minister.

...*(Interruptions)*

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Sir, I am not yielding. How can he get up to speak? I am not yielding. ...*(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

Would Ram Setu be demolished. ...*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: I am again making a request to all sections of the House.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I am appealing to all sections of the House to please cooperate.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: The House is adjourned to meet again at 1.30 p.m.

12.28 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned till thirty minutes past Thirteen of the Clock.*

13.36 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha re-assembled at thirty-six minutes past Thirteen of the Clock.*

[SHRI VARAKALA RADHAKRISHNAN *in the Chair*]

...*(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN (Firozabad): Mr. Chairman, Sir, please listen to me. We have been given notice continuously for the last five days, since it is a very serious issue. ...*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU (Srikakulam): Mr. Chairman, Sir, kindly allow two minutes each to the Members to speak. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Members, please listen to me first. The 'Zero Hour' mentions will be taken after 7 o'clock. Now, we will proceed with the Legislative Business.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, the hon. Minister can move the Bill.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU: Mr. Chairman, Sir, kindly allow two minutes each to the Members to speak. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY (Sabarkantha): Sir, you will have to listen to us. ...*(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: Mr. Chairman, Sir, kindly listen to us we have been giving notice continuously for the last five days, since it is a very serious issue. ...*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Members, I have already clarified the position. The Business is before me, and I can only stick on to the Business placed before me. The hon. Speaker has given me a Business list, and I will have to strictly follow it. I am only doing a duty. Hence, I asked the hon. Minister to move the Electricity Bill.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: No, there is no question of further discussion on this issue, and nothing can be done about it.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: I can only stick on to the procedure laid-down by the hon. Speaker.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU: Mr. Chairman, Sir, please allow two minutes each to the Members. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Nothing will go on record.

*(Interruptions)\**

13.38 hrs

**GOVERNMENT BILL—Under Consideration****Electricity (Amendment) Bill, 2005***[English]*

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE): Sir, I beg to move:

"That the Bill further to amend the Electricity Act, 2003, be taken into consideration."

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Members, what is this going on in the House?

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: I do not get the mandate for it. The hon. Speaker has not asked me to allow you to speak.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU (Srikakulam): Sir, the House will give you the mandate for it. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: I have already told you that your notices will be duly taken and considered at the appropriate time.

...*(Interruptions)*

\*Not recorded.

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN (Firozabad): Please listen to me for two minutes. The Gujarat issue is very serious.

[*English*]

MR. CHAIRMAN: The time is allotted by the hon. Speaker for Legislative Business. Hence, I am asking the hon. Minister to move the Bill.

SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE: Sir, I have already moved the Bill.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Kiren Rijju can start speaking on this Bill.

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: Mr. Chairman, please listen to me only for two minutes. It is a very serious issue. ...(Interruptions)

[*English*]

MR. CHAIRMAN: I cannot allow anybody.

...(Interruptions)

[*Translation*]

SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT (Shajapur): How can we discuss a matter which is *sub judice*? What is the need to discuss the matter over here when it is being heard by the Supreme Court? ...(Interruptions)

[*English*]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Nothing will go on record, except the speech of the hon. Minister.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE: Sir, the Electricity (Amendment) Bill, 2005 was introduced in Lok Sabha in December, 2005. It was referred to the Standing Committee on Energy for examination and giving their report. The Standing Committee submitted its report in May, 2006. I extend my deep appreciation to the Committee which supported the amendments proposed by us and to have also made valuable observations and suggestions on these issues.

The provisions of the Electricity Act, 2003 have been generally welcomed by various stakeholders. The National Common Minimum Programme (NCMP) of the UPA Government envisaged a review of the Act in view of the concerns expressed by some of the States. The amendments proposed by the Government are in follow-up of the review of the Act. We have provided in the Bill that the Central Government also shall jointly with the State Governments endeavour to provide access to electricity to all areas including villages and hamlets through rural electricity infrastructure and electrification of households.

The Central Government has launched the Rajiv Gandhi Grameen Vidyuteekaran Yojana for supporting States in creating rural electricity infrastructure and electrification of households with provision of 90 per cent capital subsidy to fulfil the objective of NCMP of electrification of all households in the next five years. There has, however, been a suggestion that the legal provision should be amended to reflect that the Central Government will also share the responsibility of rural electrification.

The Act presently provides for the reduction and elimination of cross subsidies. Rationalization of electricity tariff is essential for making the sector financially viable and for promoting energy efficiency. Very high-level of cross subsidies lead to high electricity tariffs for our industries adversely affecting their competitiveness. The tariff policy notified by the Government under the provisions of the Act gives a roadmap for reduction of cross subsidies. However, elimination of cross subsidies may not be feasible in the near future. Therefore, the Bill proposes deleting the provision of elimination of cross subsidies.

This is a major change that we would like to bring in. We will continue to pursue a progressive reduction of cross subsidies.

Another amendment proposed in the Bill is for clarifying that the theft of electricity is a cognizable offence to enable the police to investigate such offences. Keeping in view the recommendation of the Standing Committee, the language of this amendment is being now rephrased to make it unambiguous.

We have also proposed to provide that a special court shall be competent to take cognizance of the offence

without the accused being committed to it for trial. The theft, as you would appreciate, has been the bane of the electricity sector. The Electricity Act carries provisions to curb theft and other offences in this sector. The Government has further revisited the provisions related to the control of the theft with a view to making them more effective and also to consider the suggestion of the States for the same. The amendments to the Electricity Act passed sometime back by West Bengal have been particularly looked at. I propose official amendments to the Bill for the further strengthening of the provisions of the Act for control of theft of electricity.

One more official amendment proposed to the Bill is to clarify that the captive power plants are free to supply their surplus power to a distribution licensee or a consumer without the need of a licence. The Supreme Court had given a decision and that is why this amendment has been brought in this Bill.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Electricity being a concurrent subject, you must have consulted the State Governments also.

SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE: We have consulted the State Governments also. Not only that, we have consulted some Members of Parliament and some Parties also. Whatever is good has been taken. That is why I mentioned the name of the West Bengal Bill. Their Bill has been proving to be very good. That is why we have taken some of the provisions from that.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Motion moved:

"That the Bill further to amend the Electricity Act, 2003, be taken into consideration."

SHRI P. KARUNAKARAN (Kasargod): The Government has introduced the Bill without any notice. We have made this issue. ...(*Interruptions*)

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI): I think you are wrong in the procedure. It is not introduction. Introduction was done, Standing Committee has considered it. It is at the consideration stage now. Consideration does not need notice. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE: The Bill has already been introduced. These are just amendments. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: There is ample scope for discussion. In the discussion all those things will come.

Shri Kiren Rijju only will speak now.

SHRI KIREN RIJJU (Arunachal West): Mr. Chairman, Sir, this is a very important amendment Bill and I fully support the amendments being moved. But this amendment Bill is not very comprehensive and the Government could have considered some more points.

With regard to the amendment which the Hon. Minister has just mentioned on the connectivity in the villages, the Electricity Act of 2003 was widely supported by all Parties. The people in general accepted that important Act. However, there are some debatable points in that Act. That Act says that if one school or one community centre in a village is connected with electricity, that village is treated as electrified. After the Rajiv Gandhi Vidyutikaran Yojna was launched, the Government is now saying that there is now more relevance of the Electricity Act of 2003. How is the Government going to ensure that each and every household in the country is connected with electricity? That is very important. I hope the hon. Minister will take certain steps to consider this point which was mentioned in the amendment to Section 6 of the Act.

In various other sections, elimination of cross subsidies has been talked about. I feel that more consultation with the State Governments was required in this. I am totally in agreement with the fact that cross subsidies cannot be completely eliminated at this stage. For that we need more consultation with different players in the power sector, the stakeholders, the State Governments and the Ministry of Power. It is only after a much more comprehensive discussion that a solution to this can come. But there is no time frame given by the Government to do away with the elimination of cross-subsidies.

Secondly, the hon. Minister mentioned about Section 151, which is about the offences being committed, frauds in meter-readings committed throughout the country, etc. For that, may I know how the Government is going to check it? It is a very important issue; nearly 30 per cent of the power is being lost in the country in the process of transmission and distribution.

[Shri Kiren Rijju]

I am very much thankful to the hon. Minister because most of the recommendations of the Standing Committee have been accepted. They have been deliberated upon at length in the Standing Committee and the hon. Minister is kind enough to accept most of them. For dealing with the offences, of course, he is going to constitute special courts to try the cognizable offences committed by the perpetrators. *...(Interruptions)*

[*Translation*]

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT: Mr. Chairman, I have a reservation. This Bill contorus hon. Minister of Parliamentary Affairs' name instead of that of the hon. Minister of Power. What is the reason? *...(Interruptions)*

SHRI KIREN RIJJU: He is an hon. Member of my party. *...(Interruptions)*

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT: I would like to draw your attention towards the constitutional and parliamentary convention. In the end of the objective, and purpose of the Bill the name of hon. Minister of Power should appear. *...(Interruptions)*

[*English*]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please sit down. He is making his speech. You cannot speak now. Please sit down. Nothing is going on record.

*...(Interruptions)\**

[*Translation*]

SHRI KIREN RIJJU: Sir, we want your ruling in this regard.

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT: The name of hon. Minister of Power does not appear in this Bill. It has the name of hon. Minister of Parliamentary Affairs, Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi instead. As per rule, the name of the Minister heading the department that presents the Bill is given. How does the name of the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs appear here?

[*English*]

I want to draw your attention. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: How can two hon. Members speak at the same time?

*...(Interruptions)*

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT: You may kindly clarify this. *...(Interruptions)*

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): Let the discussion go on. *...(Interruptions)* I promise you that I will look into it. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Okay, Shri Rijju may continue.

[*Translation*]

SHRI LAKSHMAN SINGH (Rajgarh): Hon. Minister should apologise to the House. *...(Interruptions)*

SHRI KIREN RIJJU: It is a blunder that they have not mentioned the name of the hon. Minister. The name of the hon. Minister of Parliamentary Affairs has been mentioned in this paper. *...(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI KARUNA SHUKLA (Janjgir): Hon. Chairman, Sir, hon. Minister of Power is being sidelined. *...(Interruptions)*

[*English*]

SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE: I understand the point. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Only one hon. Member at a time may speak. Please be seated. Shri Rijju is on his legs. Only if he agrees to yield, the other hon. Member can speak. Please sit down.

*...(Interruptions)*

SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE: I understand the point. I promise that I will look into the matter. Till then, let the discussion go on. *...(Interruptions)*

[*Translation*]

SHRI KIREN RIJJU: Goel Saheb, kindly ask the hon. Minister to apologise. This would solve the matter. *...(Interruptions)* It can be rectified. *...(Interruptions)*

SHRI LAKSHMAN SINGH: Hon. Minister of Parliamentary Affairs should apologise first. ...*(Interruptions)*  
It cannot go on this way in the House. ...*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT: It is a blunder on the part of the Government. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please be seated.

...*(Interruptions)*

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT: Sir, there is a point of order. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: The point of order is being answered by the hon. Minister. You may please be seated.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE: In the year 2005, the then Power Minister, Shri P.M. Sayeed passed away. ...*(Interruptions)* Let me finish. ...*(Interruptions)*

When Shri P.M. Sayeed passed away at that time this entire matter was handled by Shri Priyaranjan Dasmuni as the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs. This Bill was printed during that time and that printed Bill is before the House. If any correction is required we can do it. ...*(Interruptions)*

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT: Sir, I am raising a point of order under Rule 376.... *(Interruptions)* This is understood. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE: Sir, if you see in the notice of amendments to the Electricity (Amendment) Bill, name of Sushil Kumar Shinde is mentioned here. ...*(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT: This point of order is under Rule 376. ...*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

Why Shri P.R. Dasmuni's name is appearing here? ...*(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNI: Rasa Singhji since you have asked for an explanation, I request you with folded hand. ...*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

All the amendments are listed in the name of our distinguished Minister of Power, Shri Sushil Kumar Shinde. Parliament is aware that a Bill may be introduced by a Minister of the earlier Government and that Bill continues to carry that name. It is the tradition. Even when the Bills introduced by the NDA Government are taken up in the House, they originally carry the name of Minister who introduced it. It so happened, Sir, that when our former Minister of Power Shri P.M. Sayeed died, temporarily till the new assumption was given I was asked to deal the Parliamentary obligations on behalf of Shri Sayeed. That is why if the introduction was done in my name at that time it does not mean that it has ceased out of the system. Amendments came in Shri Shinde's name when he assumed the charge. That is all I want to clarify.

*[Translation]*

SHRI KIREN RIJJU: Not taking much of time, I conclude.

*[English]*

I was talking about the issue of theft. Hon. Minister is a very experienced person. We must form a Committee. You must involve all the stake holders together and work seriously because this has been the topic of discussion for many-many times that 30 per cent of the power is being lost on the way during transmission and distribution process. A committee must be constituted involving all the experts and stake holders to see how this can be checked.

I come from a State which is averse with power. People are living without power. In various villages in the country we see electricity poles and transmission lines but the people living there are in darkness. Electricity Bill, 2003 was a revolutionary one and this is a step towards achieving the objective of Electricity Act, 2003. This is a very important Bill and I support the Bill with the suggestions that I have given. I believe that the hon. Minister will consider those points.



SHRI K.S. RAO (Eluru): Sir, I am happy that the hon. Minister has brought this amendment Bill. When all the Members of Parliament go to the villages, particularly in hamlets and areas where poor people live, they come to our rescue saying they do not have power supply. They request us to get them stand poles so that the lines can be drawn to that area. If we ask the State Governments they take years to do this. Power, which is being enjoyed by us, should not be the privilege of only the urban areas or the richer sections. That is why this Government has taken the decision to share the responsibility of providing electricity to all the villages.

We all know, Sir, today it will be economical to lay a pole and carry the line in cities because there will be thousand of houses which will share power whereas if the same power is to be taken to a village it requires a line to be drawn for kilometers together. That means to give connection to 100 poor people houses, it may cost lakhs and crores of rupees.

14.00 hrs.

Here is a Minister who has taken the responsibility and 90 per cent of capital subsidy is being given by the Government. Does any Member say that this facility should not be given or that it should be delayed further? This is in the interest of the poor people and the villages. Suppose we delay this, then what would happen? The people who are living in the villages are all flocking and migrating to urban areas. With the result, a lot of problems like law and order and *jhuggi-jhopri* are being created.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Members, it is time for Private Members' Business. So, you can continue afterwards.

14.01 hrs.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now we will take up Private Members' Business.

Shri Mohan Singh—Not present.

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**PRIVATE MEMBERS' BILLS—Introduced**

**(i) Tourism Promotion Corporation Of India Bill, 2007\***

*[English]*

SHRI K.S. RAO (Eluru): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for establishment of a Tourism Promotion Corporation of India to promote and develop

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\*Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II, Section-2, dated 4.5.2007.

tourism in the country and for matters connected therewith.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That leave be granted introduce a Bill to provide for establishment of a Tourism Promotion Corporation of India to promote and develop tourism in the country and for matters connected therewith."

*The motion was adopted.*

SHRI K.S. RAO: I introduce the Bill.

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14.01½ hrs.

**(ii) National Commission for Small and Tiny Industries Bill, 2007\***

*[English]*

SHRI K.S. RAO (Eluru): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for the setting up of a National Commission for Small and Tiny Industries and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That leave be granted introduce a Bill to provide for the setting up of a National Commission for Small and Tiny Industries and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto."

*The motion was adopted.*

SHRI K.S. RAO: I introduce the Bill.

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14.02 hrs.

**(iii) Constitution (Amendment) Bill, 2007\*  
(Insertion of new article 21B)**

*[English]*

SHRI K.S. RAO (Eluru): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India."

*The motion was adopted*

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\*Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II, Section-2, dated 4.5.2007.

SHRI K.S. RAO: I introduce the Bill.

14.02<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> hrs.

**(iv) Renewable Energy Resources Commission Bill, 2007\***

*[English]*

SHRI K.S. RAO (Eluru): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for setting up of a Commission to exploit renewable energy resources in the country and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That leave be granted introduce a Bill to provide for setting up of a Commission to exploit renewable energy resources in the country and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto."

*The motion was adopted.*

SHRI K.S. RAO: I introduce the Bill.

14.03 hrs.

**(v) National Information Technology Commission Bill, 2007\***

*[English]*

SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO (Khed): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for setting up of a National Information Technology Commission and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for setting up of a National Information Technology Commission and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto."

*The motion was adopted.*

SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO: I introduce the Bill.

\*Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary Part-II, Section-2 dated 4.5.2007.

14.03<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> hrs.

**(vi) Farmers Welfare Fund Bill, 2007\***

*[English]*

SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO (Khed): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for the constitution of Farmers Welfare Fund and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for the constitution of Farmers Welfare Fund and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto."

*The motion was adopted.*

SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO: I introduce the Bill.

14.04 hrs.

**(vii) Persons Living Below Poverty Line (Identification) Bill, 2007\***

*[English]*

SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO (Khed): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for identification of persons living below poverty line and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for identification of persons living below poverty line and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto."

*The motion was adopted.*

SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO (Khed): I introduce the Bill.

\*Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary Part-II, Section-2 dated 4.5.2007.

14.05 hrs.

**(viii) Widows' Welfare Bill, 2007\****[English]*

SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO (Khed): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for the protection and welfare of widows and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for the protection and welfare of widows and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto."

*The motion was adopted.*

SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

*[English]*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shrimati Archana Nayak—Not present.

Prof. Mahadeorao Shiwankar—Not present.

Shri Basudeb Acharia—Not present.

14.06 hrs.

**(ix) Constitution (Amendment) Bill, 2007\***  
(Insertion of new articles 16A and 16AA, etc.)

SHRI SURAVARAM SUDHAKAR REDDY (Nalgonda): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India."

*The motion was adopted.*

SHRI SURAVARAM SUDHAKAR REDDY: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

*[English]*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Ms. Ingrid Mcleod — Not present.

Shri Mohan Singh — Not present

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Shri Ramdas Athawale — Not present

14.06½ hrs.

**(x) Constitution (Scheduled Castes) Order (Amendment) Bill, 2007\***  
(Amendment of the Schedule)

SHRI K.C. SINGH 'BABA' (Nainital): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution (Scheduled Castes) Order, 1950.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution (Scheduled Castes) Order, 1950."

*The motion was adopted.*

SHRI K.C. SINGH 'BABA': Sir, I introduce the Bill.

*[English]*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri L. Rajagopal — Not present

Shri C.K. Chandrappan — Not present

14.07 hrs.

**PRIVATE MEMBER'S BILL—Withdrawn****Agricultural Workers Welfare Bill, 2005**

MR. CHAIRMAN: The House would now take up item no 46—further consideration and passing of the Agricultural Workers Welfare Bill, 2005.

Shri T. K Hamza — Not present

SHRI KIREN RIJU (Arunachal West): Sir, I rise to support the Bill meant to provide for the welfare of agricultural workers and to regulate their employment and conditions of service and for matters connected therewith. This is a very important Bill that has been introduced in this House. I would like to request the Government to consider this Bill at full length and see to it that it reaches

\*Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary Part-II, Section-2 dated 4.5.2007.

it logical conclusion thereby serving the cause of the millions of people working in this sector in this country who are left to fend for themselves. The Government, so far, in the 60th year of India's Independence has not been able to take proper care of their welfare and provide them with basic needs and has been unable to protect their interests. A majority of people in this country comes under this category. This unorganized sector has not been treated as a priority sector. Today, the hon. Minister for Labour and Welfare is present here and I believe he has taken some steps in the right direction about which I would not like to elaborate here.

The Krishi Shramik Samajik Suraksha Yojana which was introduced in 2001 covered only some districts. Initially, it was targeted to cover 50 districts all over the country. But I feel when we launch such important schemes, we should see to it that they should not be district-specific or State-specific. These are to be country-specific or the country as a whole. The unorganized sector is prevalent throughout the country. The labourers are spread out mostly in remote areas and 60 to 70 per cent area of India, as we all know, are inhabited by rural people. If we specify important programmes of the Government only for some districts, then this will not fulfil the basic idea and objective of those programmes. This programme also includes provision of life-cum-accident insurance, money back pension, superannuation and other benefits to the agricultural workers. This is very important but how far will this policy percolate down to those people who are actually looking for the benefits to come to them personally? We must develop a mechanism whereby this kind of an important programme launched by the Government reaches them.

Today, the workers of the unorganised sector are the most depressed and most tortured people in the country. We have many unions and organizations which claim to be representing those unfortunate people. But I do not see much of the problems being resolved by the so-called unions and organizations. Some union leaders today happen to be my colleagues, the hon. Members of Parliament also. Some Members have rigorously raised this issue many times but unfortunately, the Government of the day has not come up to the expectations of those downtrodden people.

How many people in India are covered under this sector? Around 91 per cent of the total population of the country are unorganized labourers. From time to time,

the Government has been telling about setting up of Committees to look into these particular problems. But these always remain in pieces of paper or in the stage of planning and the process always continues without any end. Today, the agricultural labourers particularly are one of the most deprived citizens of the country and I feel the hon. Labour Minister may discuss comprehensively with the Minister for Agriculture on how to take care of agricultural workers particularly. There are other sectors as well. Shri Oscar Fernandes can discuss with the various related Ministries dealing with this issue. He can discuss with the Minister for Industry, the Minister for Agriculture, the Minister for Food Processing and other Ministers concerned with the subject. Shri Subodh Kant is also present here. Many Ministries are involved in the matter. So, a group of Ministers who are involved and affected by the problems faced by such workers can come together and work out a mechanism whereby we can deliver some kind of justice to these people who have been neglected for all these years. The Government may be doing something for them but it seems that they are not doing anything in reality. Of course, they are doing something for this sector but that is not enough. They talk about constituting a committee of experts dealing with the subject. We must be able to give more time for these labourers and I believe the hon. Minister is giving time for this sector. He has been negotiating with the labour unions and all that. But he needs to give some more time. Shri Oscar Fernandes is involved in his party matters. He is involved in the negotiations with NSCN. Being the General Secretary of AICC, I really wonder how much time he can really give for the poor workers of the unorganized sector.

I hope that he will be able to devote some time towards this. We hope that some good results will definitely come out in the form of practical benefits. So many announcements and schemes are being made in this House and outside. Why I said practical benefits is that, until and unless it percolates down or reaches the people, then it does not have any meaning.

I must thank the hon. Member, Shri Hannan Mollah, for bringing this important piece of legislation in this House. Every Member of this august House, I believe, is with him and is supporting the whole move and the objective of this Bill.

I sincerely request the Government not to ask the hon. Member to withdraw the Bill, but to give its support

[Shri Kiren Rijiju]

with full force to the Bill in the interest of millions of workers, who are suffering from the neglectful attitude of all of us. I am not blaming only the Government. All of us are responsible for the whole system that is prevailing in the country.

We hope that the growth rate of nine per cent will really benefit the people who are actually the main force behind this growth.

14.16 hrs.

**PRIVATE MEMBERS' BILLS—Introduced—**  
*contd.*

**(xi) Non-resident Indians (Voting Rights and Welfare) Bill, 2007\***

*[English]*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Before I call the next Member to speak, I would call Shri C.K. Chandrappan to introduce his Bills, provided he apologises.

SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPPAN (Trichur): Sir, I am sorry that I could not be present when my name was called.

I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for voting rights and setting up of a National Commission for Non-Resident Indians for the purpose of providing assistance to them in the countries where they reside and work and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for voting rights and setting up of a National Commission for Non-Resident Indians for the purpose of providing assistance to them in the countries where they reside and work and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto."

*The motion was adopted.*

SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPPAN: I introduce the Bill.

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14.17 hrs.

**(xii) Integrated Child Development Services (Regularisation) Bill, 2007\***

*[English]*

SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPPAN (Trichur): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for regularization and universalisation of Integrated Child Development Services in the country and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for regularization and universalisation of Integrated Child Development Services in the country and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto."

*The motion was adopted.*

SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPPAN: I introduce the Bill.

**(xiii) Cashew Development Board Bill, 2007\***

*[English]*

SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPPAN (Trichur): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for the setting up of a Board for the development and promotion of cashew cultivation, cashew nut processing, marketing and research to improve its production and productivity and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for the setting up of a Board for the development and promotion of cashew cultivation, cashew nut processing, marketing and research to improve its production and productivity and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto."

*The motion was adopted.*

SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPPAN: I introduce the Bill.

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(xiv) Constitution (Amendment) Bill, 2007\*  
(Amendment of the Seventh Schedule)

[English]

MS. INGRID MCLEOD (Nominated): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India."

*The motion was adopted.*

MS. INGRID MCLEOD: I introduce the Bill.

[English]

SHRI KINJARAPU YERANNAIDU (Srikakulam): Mr. Chairman, Sir, with your permission, I want to put one important news before the hon. Minister of Parliamentary Affairs. In electronic media, today they are showing the issue of fake passports and impersonation, which is a shocking news. It has degraded the prestige of the Members of Parliament. There is wide publicity to this issue in the electronic media. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: How can you raise this issue at this stage?

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU: I want to bring this news to the notice of the hon. Minister. I am demanding a statement from the Government. This is a matter of public importance. The whole country is watching, through media, the conduct of MPs and MLAs. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: No, you please take your seat.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Yerrannaaidu, you are a very senior Member.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU: Wide publicity is given to this issue through the electronic and print media. The Government should make a statement. I am demanding a statement from the Government. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Nothing will go on record.

...*(Interruptions)\**

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Yerrannaaidu, you are a senior Member. You must know the procedure. You have to give the Chair a notice.

That cannot be tolerated. You must give a notice. You, at least, give me a notice. It is not a light business. It is a business run according to the rules. Anybody can come and say anything is not the procedure here.

...*(Interruptions)*

14.21 hrs.

PRIVATE MEMBER'S BILL—*Withdrawn—contd.*

Agricultural Workers Welfare Bill, 2005—*contd.*

[Translation]

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR (Chail): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to express my gratitude to you for providing me an opportunity to speak on the Agricultural Workers Welfare Bill, 2005. I rise to emphasise the points raised by my colleague Shri Hannan Mollah through this Bill. Hon. Minister is sitting here and he is very senior and senior most Minister. My other colleagues have also expressed their views about this Bill. All kinds of suggestions have been made in regard to the Bill presented here regarding employment to agricultural workers and regulating their working conditions.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, you know that we have had a very comprehensive discussion on this subject in this House, be it the problem of agricultural labourers or workers. India is agricultural dominated country even today. Even today 75 per cent of the rural population depends on agriculture. The wheat crop is being harvested these days. Uttar Pradesh is the heart of the country where elections are going on. Today, the biggest problem

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\*Not recorded.

[Shri Shailendra Kumar]

being faced by agriculture labourers on large-scale is how to harvest the crop, how it should be transported to the farmers house etc. The condition of agricultural workers is pitiable. We have had elaborate discussion in this House.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, today through you, I would urge the hon. Minister that the agricultural workers should also be insured since they also play a pivotal role in the country's development by way of increasing the production and also in the growth of the economy. The Government has launched the National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme providing for 100 days employment to the agricultural workers or labourers particularly at village level. However, has it ever been given a thought as to what the poor labourer or worker would be doing for the remaining 265 days? He cannot feed his family with hundred days employment. Today, in the wake of a discussion on the welfare of agricultural workers in the House, there is a need to bring home the fact that the Government should take guarantee for the entire year's employment in addition to the hundred days' employment. Only then we can speak of their welfare and the problem relating to employment of the agricultural workers can be solved. It has been seen that all the job cards being made are mostly made by the village officer or Panchayat's Pradhan at village level in which lot of irregularities are committed. If we view the situation in a village, we would find that the agricultural workers are in very large number but limited number of job cards are made which deprives most of them of employment and particularly the participation of women is very less, whereas it has been provided for in the National Rural Guarantee Scheme that women would be accorded priority. Today, there is a need to enforce this law more firmly; only then we can talk of their welfare. Often, it is found that agricultural labourers are exploited. In villages one would find that a herd of people would be transported to a place, where they would be made to work and at the time of payment they are not even given the minimum wages fixed by the Centre or the State.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Shailendra Kumar, please conclude. You have already spoken on the Bill. It was due to some omission that your name was called. I am sorry. Please be seated. It is enough. You have spoken well. Now, Shri Suravaram Sudhakar Reddy to speak.

[Translation]

SHRI SHAIENDRA KUMAR: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am concluding. The exploitation of agricultural workers should be stopped. The migration from villages to cities is the offshoot of unemployment at home. So, employment opportunities must be generated for them in the villages itself. Housing facilities should also be provided. Housing is a big problem in the villages. The future of their children is in dark. There should be an arrangement to send them to school compulsorily. Special attention should be paid to the health of the agricultural workers. Most of the agricultural workers are affected by T.B. With these words, I conclude and extending strong support to the Bill, I take my seat.

[English]

SHRI SURAVARAM SUDHAKAR REDDY (Nalgonda): Sir, I thank you very much for giving me this opportunity to speak on this Bill.

I would congratulate my colleague Shri Hannan Mollah for bringing forward this important Bill to provide for the welfare of agricultural workers and to regulate their employment and conditions of service and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto, to be taken into consideration by the House. I believe that the discussion on the Private Members' Bill will help the Government to bring forward a comprehensive legislation for the agricultural labour. In fact, this is being discussed again and again for almost three decades. Out of the total unorganized labour force which is more than 480 million in this country, I think about 50 per cent is agricultural labour force. The entire peasantry in this country is about 12,30,00,000 whereas the landless agricultural labour is more than 24 crore in this country. These workers are helping the agricultural operations. This agricultural labour force is asking for land to cultivate. The agricultural labours need a legislation which will give them some sort of a social security for them. First, when the agricultural operations are not there, they get very low wages. In spite of the labour laws, there is a gender discrimination in many parts of the country. Women workers are paid lesser amount than the men for the same type of work which they are doing.

14.29 hrs.

[SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL *in the Chair*]

The second thing is that though several State Governments have divided their States into some special zones and in each zone there is a declaration about the minimum wages that are to be paid for the agricultural labour, yet, unfortunately, the minimum wages are also not paid. For the last several years, I do not know why the State Governments refuse to update the minimum wages for agricultural workers. Sometimes, it is taking more than a decade. Really, the prevailing market wages are much higher than the minimum wages announced by the Governments in various States. But that is only seasonal. In the non-seasonal period, the wages are very much less.

That is the reason why the Left Parties and many other political parties demanded for the National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme. But the National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, which has been enacted by this Parliament, has its limitations. In fact, it will be doing justice if more than 200 days work is provided because most of the cultivation in India is dependent on rains. So, out of 365 days in a year, hardly 125 days or 150 days work is there for agricultural labour. For more than 200 days they do not get employment. Now, 100 days work for agricultural labour through the National Rural Employment Guarantee Programme is not really proving to be an alternative for them.

Secondly, the agricultural labour do not have any social security like ESI or provident fund. There is an Act in Kerala. That is a model Act. On the lines of the Act in Kerala, a comprehensive Bill is possible at the national level. Earlier, the Committee headed by Shri Gurudas Dasgupta had recommended that a comprehensive Central legislation should be brought. A legislation had also been proposed, but as several States did not agree, that legislation has been kept in cold storage. The States will not agree. It is not possible to go and request the States again and again. The Central Government has to take a decision about this. About 250 million agricultural labour are in a very difficult situation. We cannot depend on the mercy of some State Government Labour Ministers to give permission for this. The Central Government should immediately bring a comprehensive legislation for the welfare of these people.

Sir, in the National Common Minimum Programme also, it has been mentioned that a comprehensive legislation for unorganized labour would be passed. Amongst the unorganized labour the agricultural labour is the biggest chunk. So I demand that the Labour Ministry should take the initiative to get a unanimous resolution passed in this House. This will help the Labour Ministry to bring such a legislation which should include pension for all the agricultural labour over 65 years. It should provide for regular employment or compensation for agricultural labour during the days when they do not get any work they should have health insurance and life insurance facilities. Then, this legislation should also provide equal wage for equal type of work and also maternity benefits for the women among the agricultural labour.

These are the few minimum things that are necessary and this will help this largest section of unorganized labour in our country. About 25 per cent of the population of the country will get benefited by this type of legislation and I hope the Government will agree to pass this Bill. Finally, I, once again, congratulate Shri Hannan Mollah for bringing this Bill and I extend my full support to this Bill.

SHRI B. MAHTAB (Cutback): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I thank you for allowing me to participate in this Private Member's Bill which has been piloted by our friend Shri Hannan Mollah relating to the welfare of agricultural workers.

The crux of this Bill is to have a law enforcing agency to implement the Minimum Wages Act, 1948 and to have a law applicable on all India basis through which security of their employment, regulation of hours of work, provision of provident fund, settlement of disputes relating to agricultural operations etc. could be enforced.

These are the five major points in the Bill which Mr. Hannan Mollah has enshrined. The mover of the Bill presumes that by this enactment, it will go a long way in alleviating the measures of the agricultural workers and it would reduce their exploitation by land owners and other richer sections.

Mr. Chairman, you hail from a rural background and you are very much aware about the problems agriculturists face and what agriculture workers also face. I would rather extend the discussion to the unorganized sector about which we had also discussed earlier and agricultural worker is also a part of the unorganized sector.



[Shri Suravaram Sudhakar Reddy]

The welfare of workers in the unorganized sector constitutes 93 per cent of the total workforce which has also been discussed today and our predecessor, Mr. Kiren Rijju also mentioned this percentage. I will give you how we have arrived at this percentage. Who manufactured this 93 per cent? Reports are there, of course.

Among the several important failures of India's development of last six decades, so far the complete neglect of working conditions and social security for most of our citizens is one. That is especially marked. The National Labour Commissions, both, first and the second, did highlight the special and continual problems faced by workers in unorganized activities. But these have mostly been treated as reflecting a depressing reality rather as objects of policy intervention.

There have been some minor measures by the Central and respective State Governments towards some social security provisions to the deprived and marginalized categories, such as pension for widows for instance. But these have been so limited in scope and so paltry in amount that they have amounted to little or to nothing.

The first issue today is to define the term 'unorganized'. The May 2006 Report of the National Commission on Enterprise in the unorganized sector, which was chaired by Prof. Arjun Sengupta, focused on the 340 million workers in the informal sector. They constitute 86 per cent of the total employment in the country. According to that report, I am quoting. "They sweat for the livelihood, mostly on aided and uncovered by any social security measures". Beginning with Prof. P.L. Mahalanobis, the planners have been aware of the size and significance of the informal sector.

The Sengupta Commission was appointed by this UPA Government. The Commission's 281 page report and recommendations are worthwhile, no doubt, but misses the mark altogether. The Commission has failed itself in devising appropriate instruments for operationalising its benign social security package. It lost sight of the fact that its constituency comprises an awesome number, 340 million or 34 crores of workers or 1,700 million persons at five per worker per family and that they are unorganized. This is the figure. That is how he has arrived at it. I am of the opinion that any external supply of care and cash to them can succeed in its mission only if the recipients are first encouraged to form their own

associations. This is a precondition. On the contrary, what the Commission has proposed is a top down bureaucratic nightmare a National Social Security Board with State counterpart Boards; then comes District Committees and subsequently the local Committees. The process is to start with registration of individuals by District Committees. Imagine, 340 million workers being so registered by the official apparatus. I need not mention the amount and extent of corruption inherent in all types of official registration mechanism. The unorganized sector is defined by the Commission as referring to all unincorporated enterprises owned by individuals or households employing less than 10 people. The Commission estimates the number of workers in the unorganized sector to stand at 340 million in January 2000, and the total informal workers including those workers working without protection in the organized sector is at 362 million. This amounts to 86 per cent and 91 per cent respectively of the total employment in India at that time, that is seven years back.

The Commission divides—and this is very interesting—the social security problem of all informal workers into two categories. The first is seen to arise out of the capacity deprivation and basically relates to the terms, conditions and remuneration of employment about which this Bill very rightly speaks. The second category are problems those arising from both predictable and unpredictable or unforeseen adversity because of the absence of any safety nets to meet ill health, accidents, old-age and death. My suggestion is that there is no alternative to a very proactive role of the State in providing such security. There are very interesting international experiences also especially in some developing countries. Take the instance of China, Indonesia, Tunisia and Brazil. These are the four countries that I would like to mention. I think the Government can look into what measures those countries have taken relating to social security which helped to increase aggregate economic growth. The country need not wait until it is fully industrialized with high levels of *per capita* income to extend social security to those who have so far been excluded. There is a need for bold schemes. The question is whether it should be the rights based or it should be voluntary or contributory. My option is that whatever method in which it may be enforced, the scheme should be legally enforceable. Social security, after all, is a protective measure. It does not solve chronic problems. It is widely accepted internationally that the absence of social security

debilitates workers, affects labour productivity and has implications that extend far beyond the workers and their families themselves. Therefore, I am of the opinion that providing social security is a welfare measure for the unorganized agricultural labour.

I would very humbly mention here that today's official social security mechanism will be of little use. The problem is manifold, which the organized workers face today. For mitigation of the problem of the unorganized workers, especially the agricultural labour, the bureaucratic method will be of little help.

My suggestion is that you kindly adopt the model of Japan. Japan model should be inculcated. Japan has been a place of pilgrimage for India, Mr. Chairman, Sir, to study how its unorganized sector has been performing with notable economic efficiency. Japan has two types of associations. One is geographical and the second one is trade-wise.

Sir, I am opposed to a Central legislation, rather a Multi-purpose Service Centre will be of much help to the unorganized agricultural workers.

With these words, I conclude my speech.

SHRI K.S. RAO (Eluru): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I congratulate Shri Hannan Mollah for bringing such an important Bill. I wish that the hon. Minister will take it up on his own and bring forward a Bill. I wish that instead of discussing this Private Member's Bill we discuss it as the Government Bill.

I remember that the hon. Minister had also promised that he would bring a comprehensive Bill to take care of the security and welfare of the unorganized workers particularly in the agricultural sector. I am happy about that.

As my colleagues have already mentioned, agricultural workers are not organized. They are not aware of their rights, and they do not have Unions. They do not have negotiating power or the bargaining power. They do not have any control. They are at the mercy of the society. There is absolutely no obligation on the part of the employer who utilises the services. They do not know as to whom to approach and from where to get the security. I am happy that the Government is thinking in terms of going to their rescue. I am of the opinion that—it is not

their asking—it is our responsibility to provide at least basic things and not that we give lakhs and lakhs of rupees to them. As a part of the commitment made in the National Common Minimum Programme, the UPA Government is obliged to bring forward this Bill at the earliest and the hon. Minister is also thinking in terms of bringing it soon. I am happy about that.

I would like to mention some of the observations made to us when we go to the villages. We are all aware that agricultural labourers are having only seasonal work. They do not have work throughout the year. They have work only when the crop comes up. At best, possibly in the villages, work is available to them only for about four to five months in a year. If there is a second crop, then they may have work for another three months. If there is no second crop and if it is a dry land then they have work only for four months. Who will take care of them during the remaining eight months? The Government has to take care of them. I wish that the Government takes care of them by providing at least minimum basic things. It is for them to work hard, to educate their children and change their living standard once for all and for generations to come.

The minimum thing that I expect from the hon. Minister is this. At the moment we are supplying food grains at a subsidised price. It is a good thing. We are now providing rice, wheat, sugar, kerosene and edible oil. Some of the basic things that are required are *daal*, tamarind, chilly and onion. If some of those things are also supplied through the Public Distribution System, then we are providing the basic minimum things to them at a price which they can afford. I am sure that the hon. Minister is also thinking in terms of increasing those commodities.

The next important thing, which they want, is shelter. For thousands of years these poor people are working, but they are not in a position to save even a little money to have shelter on their heads. Now, the Government has also realized to provide them with permanent housing and also to increase the provisions from Rs. 25,000.

In Andhra Pradesh, apart from your increasing it to Rs. 33,000, the State Government is providing Rs. 10,000 extra as a loan at three per cent rate of interest. That means, now most of the poor people are coming forward to construct their houses. Without this help they could not afford. But with only just Rs. 33,000 they could not

[Shri K.S. Rao]

construct their houses, and their dreams would have remained only the dreams forever, for generations. So that is the way we are providing housing to the poor people in our State of Andhra Pradesh.

Sir, in this particular case, I wish to mention that the Government of Andhra Pradesh has taken *Indramapadakam*, where every poor man, who has no house, who is living below poverty line is being provided money irrespective of his caste, creed, religion or party affiliation. We are giving them house sites, we are giving permanent houses to all those people. I wish the hon. Union Minister to make a study on this aspect. If that has become possible in Andhra Pradesh, how is it that the same thing cannot be done in other States?

Madam Seljaji you are also here. In fact, I have told some of my friends also about the reverse hypothecation. We are providing house sites to the poor people, say in the urban areas. Take the case of Delhi. The cost of the house site is too much. We are providing 50 square yards, which is costing a couple of lakhs. If that being so, what is the difficulty in increasing the money by a little more amount for construction of houses? All right, presuming that the poor man is not in a position to pay; if it were to cost Rs. 1 lakh for reverse hypothecation, bankers are prepared to finance even on instalments on behalf of the poor man. If he would rise to the occasion and pay back the loan over a period of 15 to 20 years, he would retain the house; if he is a lazy man and if he does not want to have that house, which has been provided by the Government economically, he would lose it after 15 years. Then, it would become the property of the bank, and the bank would fix the price and auction it. We know what is the price of a small house nowadays. It is Rs. 5 lakh to Rs. 10 lakh. But here, we are providing the poor man a permanent *pucca* house, where he can live for 100 years. Mr. Minister, you may also think in those terms and please do not leave it to the fate of the poor man by giving him just Rs. 25,000 or Rs. 30,000 and think that your responsibility is over. The poor men cannot plan, they cannot visualize, they cannot think, and therefore, it is our duty to take care of them as regards their housing problem.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I think, this is the scheme of the National Housing Bank also.

SHRI K.S. RAO: Yes, Sir. All of them are there. That is why I am telling to them.

Madam Seljaji, it is not the question of just one house or 10,000 houses. You can take up millions of houses in Delhi and other cities. There is no shortage of money. All that is required is the planning. The banks are also ready to finance for reverse hypothecation. HUDCO and all the nationalized bank can finance. So, through that way we can provide permanent houses to all the poor people, where they can live for 100 years.

Sir the other issue relating to the agricultural labour is education. What an agricultural labourer expects is a free education to his children. I am happy that at least, we have realized that their dropouts have gone to 94 per cent by the time they reach college, and only six per cent of them are remaining in the colleges. So, to prevent their dropouts, all of us have provided an extra cess and Rs. 11,000 crore for primary education of those poor people. But I caution that this scheme would prove to be a flop unless the education that we are giving even at the primary stage, even at the secondary stage, is vocational. We need to give them vocational training. Suppose, we are giving them the education to the level of 10th class, and we force them to go for Intermediate, BA and MA. But there is no employment. And they do not have the confidence to live on their own. They would not get employment elsewhere also. That is why the parents of the poor families are thinking that when even after educating their children up to the level of MA, there is no job availability, why should they send them to schools at all? They think that instead of sending them to the school and colleges after which there is no job, why should they not send them to earn one more wage, and it would be helpful to their families also. That is the reason why the dropouts of the children of the poor men are going up.

That is why I would submit that if the quality of education and the type of education that we are imparting, do not enthuse confidence and skills in them, the rate of dropouts would go on rising. So, I want the Government to think in this direction in giving vocational education to all those poor people.

Sir, the other thing is healthcare. If a poor man were to go to a Government hospital, there is no doctor to take care of him. There is nobody to whom he can go to. If he wants to go to the corporate sector, he cannot pay the bill. What I am saying to the hon. Minister is this. Please bring a health insurance to all those people who are below poverty line. I am not asking for those

who are living above the poverty line. That does not cost much. I gave the statistics. It does not cost more than Rs. 10,000 crore. This amount of Rs. 10,000 crore can be shared by the Central Government and the State Governments by which we can provide a minimum amount of Rs. 30,000 for each year to a family. Everybody will not come. But it will give a confidence to the poor man that 'I am also taken care of by the Government in case of any eventuality of health hazard and accidents are also taken care of'. This is possible. More particularly, even the private sector is prepared to come to insurance and health sector.

The last aspect is the old age pensions. You have started this on a pilot project basis. But I do not want a pilot project. It must be universal. Earlier also I told in the House. As a Member of Parliament, if I were to be a one-term Member of Parliament, I am getting pension all my lifetime. What great service I have rendered to the society? Whether I do service or no service, still I am eligible for getting pension all my lifetime. Similar is the case with those who are in service. If they put in 20 years or 25 years of minimum service, apart from all the privileges they get protection in the shape of pension all their lifetime.

But what happens to these people? What is the crime that these poor people, agricultural labourers have committed? They work from the age of 10 to the age 60. They do not work not for six hours or eight hours; but sometimes they work for ten hours or twelve hours in the rural areas.

MR. CHAIRMAN: They work day and night.

SHRI K.S. RAO: Yes, Sir. It is a matter of right for them. We must think first about them and then about us. I would request the hon. Minister to make it a universal pension scheme to all those people living below the poverty line throughout the country. Once again it does not cost much. What I would like to say is this. The statistics which you gave after the national sample survey are there. You said that about 23.7 crore poor people, agricultural labourers are there in rural areas. Out of them at least some marginal farmers are also there. So, presuming that there are 11 to 12 crore of people living below poverty line in agricultural sector, it does not cost more than Rs. 20,000 crore in a year. You share it with the State Governments. You ask them — 'Can we not provide Rs. 10,000 crore for the work that they have

rendered to the society?' Please give some thought to that also .

[*Translation*]

MR. CHAIRMAN: The time for discussion on the bill is over.

[*English*]

If the House agrees, can we extend the time by half-an-hour or so, so that it can be completed?

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS: Yes, Sir.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you. Mr. Rao, kindly go ahead and try to conclude also. It is a very simple Bill.

SHRI K.S. RAO: Yes, Sir. In Andhra Pradesh we are giving insurance to all those poor people who are living below the poverty line, not to one or two persons. Earlier, in Andhra Pradesh, during the Telugu Desam Government, when a poor man were to go to the politician or to the officer, where about ten pensions are being given in a village they used to say that 'if one man were to die, then I will give you pension'. That means this man must see that one or the other must die. It was a very pathetic state of affairs. But today, no death is required. Irrespective of the number of people who have no land, who are living below the poverty line and whose children are not in a position to take of their parents, all of them are being given pension at the rate of Rs. 200 per head. Earlier it was Rs. 75. They are happy now. We do not need to provide Rs. 1,000 or Rs. 500. The payment of Rs. 200 to the old age people, living in the villages and in the agricultural sector makes them so happy and it takes care of them. I humbly request the hon. Minister to provide this pension on a universal basis to all those people living below the poverty line and who cross the age of 60 years.

Sir, I do not want to take much time. The few schemes that you have provided already like Swarna Jayanti Gram Swarogjar Yojana, Pradhan Mantri Grameen Sadak Yojana, Sampooma Grameena Rojgar Yojana and finally the National Rural Employment Programme did help definitely. But it is being done only in specific districts and not the entire country. More than that, if these minimum things are provided towards health insurance, towards old age pension etc. all these things will go a

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long way to help them and there will not be an opportunity for any middleman to cheat or to make them corrupt because universal insurance help.

15.00 hrs

Nobody can change it and nobody can make money out of it. So, I would like that the legislation is brought in such a manner that these minimum things are taken care of in respect of these agricultural workers who are in the unorganised sector and who are living like orphans now at the moment. It is a crime for us also not to look after them. It is our responsibility to look after their needs. I wish that the hon. Minister brings legislation, if not in this Session, at least before the next Session. If he brings it in this Session, hats off to him. I would request him to please bring it in this Session itself. We will be extremely grateful to him.

[Translation]

\*SHRI M. APPADURAI (Tenkasi): Hon. Chairman, the House has taken up the discussion on the Agricultural Workers' Welfare Bill moved as a Private Member's Bill by my esteemed colleague Shri Hannan Mollah. I support this Bill. We have been discussing about this for the past thirty years. A comprehensive Bill is yet to be formulated. About 48 crores of people in our population are in the unorganized sector. Among them about 28 crores of them live below the poverty line. When this United Progressive Alliance Government came to power, the Common Minimum Programme had spelt out that a comprehensive Bill for the welfare of the labour force in the unorganized sector would be brought before this House. Three years have elapsed. I feel it is unfortunate that there is a delay still. Most of the people in the unorganised sector especially the agricultural workers are Scheduled Caste people and tribal people. They do not have job guarantee in an adequate measure. It is a question still whether they get jobs through N.R.E.G.A. under which a hundred days of job is guaranteed to the rural poor. I learn that some States do not implement it fully. Even the daily wage of Rs. 80/- is also not paid properly. This has resulted in the defeat of ruling party in certain States in the recent polls. I consider it my duty to bring it to your notice. A comprehensive Bill what we contemplate now has been brought about in Kerala. Such a Bill must be brought before this august House. All India Kisan Sangam

under our Communist Party of India has been agitating for this move for the last 20 years. Whether Chennai or Delhi or for that any metropolitan city we find these unorganized labour. They are migrant workers from rural areas. They reside on the foot paths on the road sides. They have shifted or find themselves displaced from the rural areas in which they lived for years. These migrant labour do not have education and hence they do not get proper jobs and reasonable wages and so they do not get adequate food and live in unhygienic conditions. The living conditions of these people must be improved.

This was pointed out by my colleagues who spoke ahead of me. We are to celebrate 60 years of our Independence soon. But who has got freedom? Even after 60 years even the basic facilities have not reached the poor, especially the SCs and STs, the downtrodden people who suffer a lot. A suitable legislation must be in place to ensure social security measures to these hapless people. My colleague has brought this Private Member's Bill to emphasize the need to provide social security in adequate measure to the labour class, especially those who are in the unorganized sector and agricultural sector in particular. This is the right time to legislate a comprehensive Bill because the entire House is in favour of it and the Government is also enjoying the support from the majority of parties and groups. I urge upon this Government to make use of this conducive atmosphere and bring forth a comprehensive Bill to benefit the Agricultural workers.

DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA (Ujjain): Hon. Chairman, Sir, today we are discussing a class through the Bill about which a lot is said, but without results.

Sir, we know that even today the main occupation of our country is agriculture. Seventy per cent people of the country depend upon it. The area of agriculture land is decreasing day-by-day. The day will come when agricultural land will be less and the number of people dependent on it will be more. A lot is said about agriculture worker. Today, they cannot even earn their livelihood because they have small land holdings. Their income is not sufficient due to absence of means of irrigation. He does not get required income because of small area of land holdings *i.e.* 2-4-5 beegha. He has nothing but farming to survive upon. They do not get even work today. We call him agriculture labour but much has not left for him in the fields even because machines are taking his place. Machines sow and till. Some people

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

are employed for weeding. It is also being mechanized. Mechanisation has taken place in it. Why they should live in the villages in such circumstances? If they continue to live there, what should they do? When there is less work for them in the villages, they rush to cities.

The people who are sitting here are much experienced and know the circumstances in which they live. If there is some jungle around, they bring wood to city and come to city for work. They start living near nallahas for which nobody protests. They try to settle in such places. There are not thousands lakhs, but crores of people in the country towards which we are not paying any attention. They are not only socially weak class, but social circumstances are also against them. They do not even have economic resources so that they could start any small business and they do not have knowledge about it. There is illiteracy also. In such circumstances what can they do? They have nothing to do but physical labour. There is no scope for labour also. If any road is being constructed, there are machines for that. The things required for the road construction are all available there. They are not required for the construction of dams also.

We have formulated a Rozgar Guarantee Scheme few days back. The scheme provides 100 days employment. In case, employment is not given, allowance will be given. Though 100 days employment has certainly given some support but they cannot depend on it for livelihood. Rainy days are the worst period for them as they do not have houses. The Government have also no such scheme which could provide them pukka houses. The assistance being provided under Indira Awas Yojana is not sufficient to build a house. I have witnessed myself that the house built under Indira Awas Yojana is not able to tolerate heavy rains, it sometimes falls apart and the residents die under it. He becomes helpless in such circumstances. Moreover, his children get injured when it falls. There is no arrangements for their treatment, there are no roads. What measures have you taken to solve their problem? In view of their plight there is a need to consider the whole issue. The only thing we have done even after so many years of independence is discussion only. When I was in it, a scheme 'Krishi Shramik Samajik Suraksha Yojana', 2001 was formulated and it was implemented in certain districts also. This scheme was formulated in collaboration with life Insurance Corporation. It was formulated then, and I do not know about it now. Each Government takes some or the other initiative, does something and leaves the rest, and thinks that it has

performed its duty. What shape the work will take in such a condition? What shape the work will take now when this Bill has been brought? What are the living conditions? What can be the working conditions? What has been said is to be done. He has to come at 8.00 in the morning and will stay in the evening till his work is not completed. We are seeing this practice, it has become the same contract system, the days of bonded labour are back. If he has to prepare flower bed, he has to use his hands for breaking stones. If he does not do it, he will not get the wages. It means if he does it and his wife and children are around, they are there in sun or in rain also. This way, they are not at all secured there. There are Creches and NGOs in the cities, but there are no NGOs in the villages. There are no roads, there are no approach roads, such is the conditions there. So, it is our responsibility to think over it.

The Hon'ble Minister is here and no one can doubt his efficiency and capability. If he thinks seriously in this regard then I can rely on him. The Government have completed three years and only two years remain, three years have already passed but what has to be done within these two years? Now, he will ask what we did; we did make a start and I have no complaints whether we found anyone to take it further or not. Overall something has been done for them but their working conditions are very difficult, it is evident that they find it extremely difficult to make both ends meet. If they do not find work during rainy season, how will they feed themselves at the end of the day. They can hardly purchase items of daily use from the grocery shop in the village. We can see it that they are even deprived of roof over their heads. How we can use our knowledge to do something for them. Can we build such places in the villages, where they can take shelter when their houses get destroyed in the rains or some other misfortune occurs. We should construct such shelters in villages with a cost of Rs. 1 or 2 lakh so that the poor can stay there during hardship and community programmes can also be organized there. These places should be built to give them an opportunity to conduct such programmes. But the problem is that such people belong to the weaker section or scheduled castes and if other people overpower them and take possession of these places, they will hardly get an opportunity to derive its benefits. So, there shelters should be constructed in their colonies and be equipped with drinking water facilities. In such a difficult situation when their houses are destroyed in rains, we can extend

[Dr. Satyanarayan Jatiya]

them these facilities. You are mentioning working condition, they do not even have work to do, their condition is very bad, and is a cause of much concern and anxiety.

You all are aware that roads are being constructed in villages. Roads are being constructed under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana and twenty to twenty five lakhs rupees are being spent for constructing one kilometer of road. Hon'ble Chairman, Sir, you would agree that the process of constructing these roads is very slow and even sufficient number of contractors are not available for this purpose. Major contractors hail from Delhi, they pass on these small contracts to the small contractors and these contractors pass on these contracts to the petty contractor and in this way these works are passed on from one contractor to another and as I perceive in place of investment of twenty four lakh rupees, only five to seven lakhs rupees are spent these works. The Government does allocate twenty five lakh rupees but this allocation gets divided at the State level, district level and site level. I would say in this regard that it would be a good approach if Panchayats are provided Rs. Five lakh per K.M. to construct roads for connecting panchayats and if they construct good WVM roads then the means of transport will get improved. The roads in the rural areas are not in good condition and that is why public transport is not available there. They can work in the cities if they have facilities of public transport and they can take their family and parents, if not all, to other places during crisis. There are few opportunities of employment for the agricultural labourers now. We are anxious to know as to what alternative steps we are taking to give relief to such people bearing the brunt of unemployment. What do we propose to do to give them employment? This should be made public. There was a time when it was proposed to do mixed agriculture. But it proved to be a fiasco in our country. And that is why larger farm lands got divided into smaller ones.

Now I will talk about education. What the Government have done for the education of their children? Whether we can make arrangement for the education of their children by setting up "ashrams". If their children are grown up enough to be on their own, they can be educated in the ashrams built for this purpose in their villages or small "ashrams" can be set up at schools, places owned by panchayat. Their parents could not receive education but their children must receive education. These days Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan is being

implemented. It is true that through this campaign the message for education has been spread far and wide in the villages. But the quality of education being imparted is still rather poor. Therefore, with a view to give education to all, are we building such schools in which children of weaker section can get education properly. The Government may formulate big plans, do great works, spend crores of rupees and do good work in the interest of the country but even now there are twenty crore people who depend on agriculture, and do not even have agricultural land. What scheme the Government is formulating for such people?

Even the condition of the health sector is the same. In the absence of roads, health facilities are also not available. I recently asked some organizations to do some work in the health sector in villages by providing them funds from the MPLADS. Some organizations are willing to do so but they do not have proper medical facilities. In this way agriculture labourers do not have houses and education then what do they have. They are helpless and what plans the Government are preparing to their helplessness. The Government will say there is this Bill and we will consider it and bring out some good plans for them. Therefore we should keep this proposal aside. Shri Hannan Mollah has given a proposal and we are to set this proposal aside. The Government will not take it seriously? What will be the Government's stance regarding this proposal? What are the plans of the Government? How does the Government view this proposal? Has anything been done to take the labourers' Social Security Scheme forward. Had the work been done in this direction, the scene would have been something else. I have received reports from several districts and the scheme has been implemented in several districts. In this scheme a labourer had to deposit only one rupee and the same amount was contributed by the Government and in this way the labourers used to get the accrued amount of more than Rs. one lakh at his old age. The Government should come forward with more such schemes and funds for the same should be mobilized through the funds of other schemes being run for the rural areas which need big amount. The Government will have to arrange the funds. The Government should consider as to how to solve the problem of housing for such people. The Government should consider the possibilities of giving them employment because mere 100 days of employment provided under Rozgaar Guarantee Scheme can hardly fulfil their needs for 365

days. What are we going to do in this direction? Considering all these matters, it would be better if the Government will make some arrangements for regular employment.

Can we utilize their free time by extending skill training. It is true that there is cottage industry for them but there is no arrangement for the marketing of their products. If they produce something or the other using bamboos in the cottage industry, they do not have means to sell them in the market. Now-a-days plastic is widely used and cottage industry products lose out to it and they are not sold in the market. They can be trained to produce such things that are used in Government offices and other places and they should be trained according to their capability. If we can take steps to give their children proper education and health facilities then I believe we would certainly be able to do some thing for these labourers. It is our national responsibility to sail them out, this responsibility falls under social and economic justice and I believe that the Government would certainly take action to fulfil the social responsibility that we have towards the people of the country.

[*English*]

SHRI MADHU GOUD YASKHI (Nizamabad): Sir, I thank you for the opportunity given to me to speak on the most important subject, which is dear to my heart.

At the outset, let me congratulate Shri Hannan Mollah for bringing this Bill to protect the agricultural workers and to look after their wellbeing. I had an opportunity to meet him in New York when he came with the former Speaker, Shri Balayogi.

As we are all aware, the biggest chunk of agricultural workers in the country is living in a pathetic condition.

Let me share my little experience for a minute, the reason for my coming back to India from the US, after living there for about 15 years. There is one *mandal* in my District of Nizamabad called Machareddy *mandal*; highest number of farmers committed suicide in that *mandal*. Hon. Leader of the TDP is present here; his leader Shri Chandrababu Naidu once said that agriculture is a waste.

SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU (Srikakulam): Never.

SHRI MADHU GOUD YASKHI: It is a fact and I can quote it. At that time, the then Central Minister from my State, said:

[*Translation*]

Farmers commit suicide because they are not able to digest food,

[*English*]

More than 162 million people in the country are living with one meal a day. The average income of a farmer—according to the NSSO survey—is Rs. 2115 a month. The National Commission on Farmers states that in UP, the most populous State in the nation with the highest number of farmers in the country—the average income of farmers drips to Rs. 1630 per month. If this is the case of farmers, imagine the plight of agricultural workers. Many of the marginal farmers who own one or two acres of land are self-employed in the fields.

With this background, I came back to India; I was the first person to offer financial help to the families of the farmers who have committed suicide. Unfortunately, even today, farmers are committing suicide in quite a large number in my State also. I do not feel shy in accepting this fact. It is a fact; it is happening countrywide, not only in Andhra Pradesh.

It is also a good beginning by the UPA Government, fulfilling the commitments. The agricultural credit loan has been increased from Rs. 80,000 crore during the NDA time to Rs. 2,25,000 crore during this year. The UPA Government has also brought in the National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme which substantially helps people in my district too. I can proudly say that mine is the first district in the State to implement the project completely which helped the poor agricultural workers, in their bid to have some employment and some means to live.

It is our responsibility to bring a legislation which could protect them from exploitation by the landlords. You can take the example of my own district, Nizamabad. The average daily wages for women agricultural workers is Rs. 35, and Rs. 45 for men per day. Moreover, they do not get employment every day. When we move on to other districts of coastal areas in my own State, the minimum wages for women agricultural workers is Rs. 80, and Rs. 120 for men. The Minimum Wages Act



[Shri Kinjarapu Yerrannaidu]

of 1948 obviously is not bringing in uniform wages across the country. So, obviously this Bill definitely is very important to protect the poor people. It depends on the conditions also. When the farmer himself is not getting returns of the investment made, obviously he cannot afford to pay to the workers. Aam Admi Bima Yojana is a good beginning. When a worker is earning Rs. 40 or Rs. 50, how can he support himself and his family? He cannot spend much on his children's education and health. A study shows that quite a large number of people get into the debt trap because they have to pay a lot on maintaining their health. Subsequent Governments have failed to provide primary health facility to poor people, especially in rural areas. This has indirectly affected the living conditions of the agricultural workers.

Why we have such a pathetic conditions of the agricultural workers today? You may see the increase in the fertilizers cost. Three years ago, to cultivate 1000 hectares of land, the cost of seed used to be Rs. 2,200. The increase in its cost now is almost three times. Even the fertilizers' cost has gone up to 400 per cent. These indirectly contribute to farmers getting into debt trap and committing suicides. The condition of agricultural workers is more pathetic.

Though our State Government is providing free power to the agricultural workers but due to load shed power is provided in the midnight. So, the workers have to go to their fields in the middle of the night and most of them die either due to snake bite or are electrocuted. Obviously, the landlord does not compensate these workers. So, this Bill will definitely help such unfortunate workers whose only means of living is to work as workers in the field. If they die, their whole family is on the road. There are a number of such heartening incidents all over the country. Other hon. Members have already mentioned about them.

The UPA Government under the leadership of Shrimati Sonia Gandhi gives importance to the agriculture which is also evident from the Finance Minister's Budget speech which he gave 15 to 20 minutes to agriculture. He has not only brought in new initiatives to help the poor agricultural workers but has also supported the marginal workers who are self-employed and are also considered to be the agricultural workers.

My senior colleague from Andhra Pradesh, Shri K.S. Rao, did mention about various initiatives by the State and Central Government.

[*Translation*]

MR. CHAIRMAN: We had to extend the time for discussion on this Bill by half an hour. Three members

are yet to speak and the hon. Minister is also to give reply.

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH (Uluberia): Mr. Chairman, Sir, please extend the time till the discussion on this Bill is over, it would be better.

MR. CHAIRMAN: We all try to complete discussion on this by four o'clock so that other Bill may be introduced otherwise it would be possible to do so.

[*English*]

Everybody should be brief and precise, including yourself.

SHRI MADHU GOUD YASKHI: Unlike NDA and Opposition TDP, the Congress Party under the UPA and the State Congress Party Govt. have started a number of initiatives to help the farmers. Unless the farmer is paid for his work, we will not be able to protect the agricultural workers.

The other major threat these agricultural workers are facing in the rural areas is the new SEZ policy. Thousands of acres of cultivable land are given to the industrialists. Poor workers with no education or other employable quality are facing a threat. I would suggest that instead of thousands of acres of cultivable land a few acres of land, that too non-agricultural land, should be given to SEZ so that the agricultural workers are protected.

15.30 hrs.

[*DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY in the Chair*]

If it is necessary to give agricultural land, then the agricultural workers should be protected. They should be trained to get various other jobs. I have seen one of the SEZ companies doing this in Andhra Pradesh. But it should be done uniformly. It should be made compulsory that any SEZ company acquiring land should protect these agricultural workers. The farmers should be trained and told new methods of cultivation. High yield seeds should be provided to them. In Andhra Pradesh, in many areas the agents provide seeds but most of the times they provide adulterated seeds. The farmer is depending on it solely. He waits for the crop to come up but there is no scope of it coming up. With the result, they end up in committing suicides. The current Government, especially, hon. Prime Ministerji mentioned a few selected States of this country including Vidarbha region and in Andhra Pradesh. Thirteen districts are also covered by assistance

from the Central Government. They have been given a special package and over Rs. 900 crore have been given to Andhra Pradesh alone. That is a good beginning which would help these farmers substantially.

With these words, I would once again congratulate hon. Hannan Mollahji for bringing this Bill. I am sure we all agree to protect agricultural workers from exploitation by the landlords and other rich people. The Government should bring stringent and enforceable measures to see that the exploitation of the agricultural workers is stopped.

[*Translation*]

\*SHRI M. SHIVANNA (Chamrajanagar): I rise to support the Agricultural Workers Welfare Bill-2003 brought by Shri Hannan Mollah. The Hon. Minister of Labour and Employment, Shri Oscar Fernandesji is also present here. Shri Oscar Fernandesji is very sincere and honest a person. He is working for the welfare of the labour round the clock. He has always raised voice for the welfare of the labours. It is good that we are discussing here a very important Bill in the presence of Hon. Labour Minister.

As we all know more than 75% of our people live in villages. Still 70% people depend on agriculture. We can put agricultural workers in different categories such as small farmers, medium farmers and big farmers and daily wagers or coolies. Most of the small farmers are coolies.

I myself belong to peasant family. I am son of a farmer. I am very well aware of the difficulties of the agricultural workers. I can better understand the agony of the farmers. It is very unfortunate that even today in a large number of villages the landlords or the village Heads take decision as to how much wage should be fixed per Head. In many villages a meagre amount Rs. 50/- is paid to male workers, Rs. 25/- to female workers. And nobody can question the landlord. This is the prevailing situation in Rural India. Now in view of such a situation our Hon. Member has brought this timely historical Bill. People of all sections of the country are very happy about this Bill. I also appreciate this Bill from the core of my heart.

Today we have been noticing that people of urban areas can get any job for their livelihood. Whereas in rural area it is very difficult. When there is sufficient rain

they will get job opportunities. That is why people are selling off their land and migrating to urban areas to find means for their livelihood. Only those agricultural families who are having more lands, pump sets and irrigation facilities, are leading happy life in villages. Others are having only one option that is to work as coolie, which is also not available all the times. Today the UPA Government has brought a very good programme for providing free education for the children upto 10th standard under the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan. Because of this programme many farmers are sending their children to school. Otherwise it would be a very difficult task to agricultural workers to send their children to schools as these workers are earning only Rs. 50/- per day. How can an agricultural worker send his children to school paying fees when he is earning such a meagre amount. It is very difficult for an agricultural worker to send his children to study in engineering or medical colleges. It would be difficult for them. So I feel it is a very good scheme of UPA Government to take all the responsibilities to provide education for children. Otherwise it will be unimaginable to have education for children of agricultural workers. An agricultural worker, who is earning Rs. 50/- per day could not even get 4 kg rice with that amount. Because Minimum price of rice per kg. is Rs. 20/-. If there are 10 members in his family how can he feed them. Therefore I would like to suggest that common wage should be fixed without gender bias.

Apart from this we have been seeing every where in the country farmers committing suicide. It is a matter of grave concern. We should think as to why the farmers commit suicide why it is increasing day by day. I feel it is because there is no rain, no crops, severe drought, and famine condition over and above that credit burden. These are the factors which force farmers to commit suicide. So Government should come forward to rescue the farmers and take concrete steps to address the problem. I stress upon the Government to bring necessary legislation to fix same wage for same work. I would like to say that like Swarna Jayanti Shahari Rojgar Yojana the UPA Government has introduced N.R.E.G.A. Rs. 60/- is being paid to a person per day. This includes 5 kg. of rice plus Rs. 35 in cash. Under this programme a person can get job for 100 days. It will definitely help the people of the Rural India. Apart from this, my humble request to the Hon. Minister is that the Government should bring an insurance scheme to the workers of agriculture

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

and other sectors. The Government itself must pay the premium amount on behalf of the workers covered under the Insurance Scheme. The coolies and agricultural workers should be given top priority in that scheme.

A Government employee, may be able to pay his premium for his insurance policy and when he dies he would receive Rs. 5 lakh or 10 lakh. A coolie/an agriculture worker will not get even a single paise from any source, when he dies. Large number of workers are working in the field of construction of building, roads etc. There is no security for their life. So a coolie /agriculture worker may not be able to pay his /her premium that is why it would be a great help if Government steps in to pay for him.

Sir, it is a very serious matter that people particularly farmers have been migrating towards urban areas, they are not preferring to stay in villages as they are not getting jobs. But in urban areas people get jobs somehow and earn atleast Rs. 100/- per day. Whereas in villages people are not even getting jobs for Rs. 25/- or Rs. 30/- per day. That too they are being exploited by land lords, who are behaving like dictators even today. To control and stop such atrocities on village people particularly agricultural workers and coolies, I urge upon the Government to bring stringent law for getting equal wage by all agricultural and other workers.

Finally I would like to suggest on housing assistance. Government is providing financial assistance. Under the schemes like Indira Awas, Vambay Yojana. But a mere Rs. 20,000/- rupees is not enough to build a house. Therefore I request the Government to increase this financial assistance to atleast Rs. 50,000/- with this I conclude thanking once again Shri Hannan Mollah, Hon. Labour Minister Shri Oscar Fernandes Ji and I also express my gratitude to Hon. Chairman for giving me an opportunity to participate in this discussion. With this I conclude my speech.

*[English]*

SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU (Srikakulam): Sir, at the outset, I congratulate Shri Hannan Mollah who has brought this very important and crucial legislation before the House, namely, the Agricultural Workers Welfare Bill, 2005.

This is a very important legislation. The UPA Government has promised to bring a comprehensive legislation to benefit the labourers of the unorganized sector. Three years of their rule have lapsed and another two more years are left now. When will the Bill be brought to the floor of the House? If the Bill will get passed, then many problems of the unorganized labourers will be solved. More than 50 per cent of the unorganized workers are agricultural labourers. And so, we have to concentrate on agricultural labourers.

Everyone is talking about growth. Last year, we have achieved 9.2 per cent growth. Growth without equity is meaningless and fruitless. It is all right that we are earning money and we are increasing our GDP. Finally the fruits of Independence and fruits of democracy should percolate down to the poorest of the poor. Only then the GDP has got some meaning.

Shri N.T. Rama Rao was the Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh. He started his Party in 1982 and within nine months, he came to power in Andhra Pradesh. In his first Cabinet meeting, he took three policy decisions, namely, to provide shelter, permanent housing to the poorest of the poor and to provide clothes at 50 per cent subsidy, and to provide rice at Rs. 2 per kilo. These three decisions are intended for the welfare of the poorest of the poor in the society. Nowhere in the country has this happened in all these years. Every Chief Minister, in his election manifesto, promises rice for Rs. 2 per kilo, etc. But in the whole country, the TDP is the only Party which started all these welfare measures. Even now, there is so equality of social status for the agricultural workers. The farmer is not having access to education, health, safe drinking water, good roads, etc. His children are not educated properly. He is not getting proper wages. These are the problems being faced by agricultural workers.

We are the elected representatives of the people of the society. The Executive, the Judiciary and the media are playing their roles. We have organizations in every field like we have the autorickshaws union, union for car drivers, etc. They have unions in every field. But in the unorganized sector, there is no union. So, they have no influence on the Government as regards their problems. There is no unity among them. That is why, I say that the Centre as well as the States have to take care of the unorganized labourers, particularly agricultural workers.

The introduction of the National Rural Employment Guarantee Bill has not served its purpose fully. It is all right that we are providing employment temporarily and to some extent, it is a good legislation. But it does not give permanent remedy. It is meant to provide 100 days employment. If there is one crop cultivated, they will get employment for four to five months. As regards agricultural workers, the villages are situated in the project areas and if they get two crops, they get seven months employment and in India, most of the land is rainfed and they may not get four months real work in a year. For the remaining 150 days of employment, who will take care of them? The Government will have to take care of them. Employees of other sectors are entitled for pension, insurance and women workers are getting maternity benefits. Why is it not so in the case of agricultural workers?

They are also part of this nation. They are also doing hard work for increasing the GDP. In this society, different people are in different professions. Some are politicians; some are employees; some are journalists and some are judicial officers. Like them, these people are also working. They are providing food to the entire nation, to hundred crores of people. We should be ashamed if they are made to suffer.

Hon. Finance Minister, three days back, told the media that the revenues collected during the year 2006-07 was Rs. 4,70,077 crore. That was the kind of income that was generated. It was more than what is estimated in the Revised Estimates. It was Rs. 5,000 crore more than what is estimated in the Revised Estimates. So, the Government is getting more income. That income should percolate down to the poorest of the poor. Most of the people who suffer belong to the unorganized sector.

If you bring in a legislation in this regard, everybody will support you. The States will also support you. I am requesting Shri Oscar Fernandes, who is the champion of these people, to bring in a legislation to give the workers in the unorganized sector, particularly the agricultural workers, a legal status so that they can get pension, health benefits, insurance benefits, their children's education, hospitals etc. We are ready to support you. Without unorganized labourers, there is no industry, there is no farmer, and there is no wealth in this country. Seventy per cent of our people are dependent on agriculture and allied industries. Most of these workers are from agriculture.

In this situation, I am requesting the hon. Minister to bring in a legislation without any delay in consultation with the States. We are ready to support you. If you bring in that legislation, most of the problems of unorganized labourers, including the agricultural workers, will be solved.

SHRI T.K. HAMZA (Manjeri): Mr. Chairman, Sir, thank you for giving me this opportunity to say a few words.

First of all, I would congratulate Shri Hannan Mollah for having brought a Bill like this. We all know the fate of the Private Members' Bill. We all know that it is not going to be passed. But the intention of the Bill, I understand, is to bring their plight to the notice of the Government and to make the Government to think of them. The reason for the backwardness of this country is that we have forgotten agriculture and agricultural labourers. That is our failure. After Independence we have attained progress to a certain extent. But we have forgotten these people. Nothing has been done so far by the Government of India for their welfare, irrespective of which party was in power. This is a very important matter to be considered by the hon. Minister.

The first labour in the world is the agricultural labour. Then comes the fishermen, industrial labourers, etc. We have forgotten that. To what extent development is possible in other fields, without achieving development in agriculture? How can we feed the people? This is forgotten by us. That is our failure. That is my first point.

Secondly, as my learned friend has submitted, since they are not organized they are exploited. It is not an industry and it is not confined to one place. They are not united. It is very difficult to organize them. But they should not be exploited. Some legislation should be brought out to give benefits to help them all over India.

After Independence, I searched and found, no State has done anything to them so far, except the State of Kerala. In 1981, Kerala Assembly passed a Bill giving effect to Agricultural Labourers Pension Scheme. That is still continuing. I understand, in no other State such a Bill has been passed. So, to a certain extent, in Kerala agricultural workers are benefited. In addition to this, the Kerala Assembly passed another Bill for setting up Agricultural Labour Welfare Fund. They set up a Fund for providing some help to them.

[Shri T.K. Hamza]

There is a contribution by the owner, by the labour and by the Government. With that a lot of fund has been organized which will be beneficial to the agricultural labourers. I am not saying that we have achieved everything. At this juncture, we are going to celebrate 150 years of India's Freedom struggle and we have also completed 60 years of Independence. But we have not started to think about the agricultural labourers. However, because of this Bill, the hon. Minister may kindly look into the matter and take the initiative to have a legislation applicable to all over India as has been done in Kerala. It was done in 1981 in Kerala and no other State has done it. It was discussed and postponed again and again. There are a number of opinions about it, but nothing has been brought out so far. Therefore, my humble submission to the hon. Minister is that he may kindly think over on the proposal of this Bill. In the light of this Bill, Welfare Fund and agricultural labourers' pension and some other help also may kindly be considered and a fresh legislation may be brought in this House.

SHRIMATI C.S. SUJATHA (Mavelikara): I am happy that my colleague, Shri Hannan Mollah, has introduced a Private Members' Bill on Agricultural Workers' problems. It gives an opportunity for all of us to express our views on one of the most vital problems faced by the large number of poor people in this country, the unorganized workers especially the agricultural workers.

It may be recalled that the UPA in its National Common Minimum Programme has solemnly assured that they would bring forward such a legislation and enact it, if voted to power. I would like to remind you that you are in power for the last three years. During the course of these three years the hon. Minister of Parliamentary Affairs, Shri B.K. Handique, assured this House that such a Bill would soon be introduced. Now years have passed but the Bill has not yet been introduced.

Now when the Demands for Grants under the control of the Ministry of Labour were discussed, the young and the dynamic Minister, Shri Oscar Fernandes, assured the House again that he would introduce the Bill during this Session itself. Probably, this Session would come to an end in another ten days. So while replying the debate, we will eagerly wait for hearing from you when exactly you are going to introduce the Bill.

I may recall that in Kerala a legislation has been enacted almost three decades ago providing better

condition, job security and welfare to the agricultural workers. You may be interested to know that this legislation was discussed by Shrimati Indira Gandhi as a model legislation. In a letter to all the Chief Ministers, she recommended that such a legislation should be enacted by all the States. But, unfortunately, nothing has happened.

Why are we insisting for this legislation? Among the 93 per cent of the total workforce in India of which more than 50 per cent are women belonging to the unorganized sector. To them, all these years even minimum justice was denied. We are only saying that social justice should be done to these people. I remember late Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru's words while describing what should be the path of Indian economic development he unambiguously told that India needs economic growth with the social justice. It is that we are demanding.

[*Translation*]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): Hon'ble Chairman, Sir, at the outset, I'd like to thank you and all the members of the House, especially Shri Hannan Mollah who has presented this Private Member's Bill. I thank him on behalf of the Govt. as well as the Ministry of Labour and Employment. Besides, I'd also like to lay my written speech on the Table.

[*English*]

Sir, at the outset, let me express my gratitude to all the hon. Members, especially hon. Shri Hannan Mollahji, who have drawn the attention of this august House towards an extremely important and relevant issue with regard to the welfare of agricultural workers. Agricultural workers constitute a high percentage of workforce in India. According to the survey conducted by the National Sample Survey Organisation in 1999-2000, more than 60 per cent of the workforce in the unorganized sector is engaged in agricultural work. In spite of the fact that these agricultural workers have such a huge numerical strength, they are extremely vulnerable to exploitation on account of their low level of literacy, low level of awareness and persistent social backwardness.

Shri Hannan Mollahji has rightly pointed out that there is no uniform Act in the country with regard to conditions

of work and other social security measures like accident insurance, health and maternity benefits, etc. for agricultural workers. I fully agree with him that these sections are a deprived lot and a large number of them are living below the poverty line. The hon. Members have rightly pointed out that a majority of the agricultural workers belong to the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, Minorities and the Most Backward Classes. Successive Governments in the past have been attempting to address the issue relating to unorganized sector workers, especially those in the agricultural sector. Shri Hannan Mollahji has correctly stated that the Labour Ministers' Conference in 1981 also considered a Bill for agricultural workers but no conclusion could be arrived at as there were differences amongst the State Governments. Though some of these differences still persist, yet our Government is committed to bring about a comprehensive legislation for the welfare of workers in the unorganized sector which will include agricultural labourers. I have reiterated this the other day.

Again, I am reiterating it today. We are making all efforts to present this Bill sometime during this Session of Parliament itself. ...(*Interruptions*) We are bringing it forward in this Session itself.

I would also like to inform the House that the National Commission for Enterprises in the Unorganised Sector is also working on a Bill relating to the working conditions of workers in the unorganized sector. As soon as the recommendations of the Commission are received, we will start working on this Bill also.

Shri S.K. Kharventhan has rightly highlighted the problems of agricultural labour. He has also drawn the attention of the House towards certain health-related issues, including the insurance against accident.

Prof. Rasa Singh Rawatji made a mention about the absence of any social security, including insurance and pension, for agricultural labourers.

Shri Shailendra Kumarji indicated that a large number of labourers working in the field of agriculture, forestry, fishery and plantation fall in the category of landless labourers. The tasks that these labourers perform are hazardous in nature. Hence, there is a requirement for life and health insurance coverage, their pension and other such facilities.

16.00 hrs.

He also mentioned that as the workers are unable to get employment in rural areas, they migrate to cities. We are hopeful that the National Rural Employment Guarantee Programme will address this problem. The hon. Member has also drawn the attention of the House towards child labour. We have taken a number of steps including rehabilitation of child labour to tackle this issue.

Shri Sugrib Singh, while highlighting the plight of agricultural labour, expressed his desire that an insurance scheme be put in place for agricultural workers and unorganized labour. He also expressed apprehension over coverage of the existing insurance scheme. I would like to assure him that all his suggestions would be given due consideration while formulating the schemes for workers in unorganized sector.

Shri C.K. Chandrappan has correctly pointed out that there should be strong political will to bring about a legislation for the welfare of the workers in the unorganized sector. As mentioned earlier, our Government has commitment and desire to bring about such a legislation at the earliest. We have stated this in our National Common Minimum Programme also. The Prime Minister has, time and again, spoken about the commitment of the Government for bringing this Bill. The UPA Chairperson Shrimati Sonia Gandhi is very much concerned about the plight of workers in the unorganized sector. So, I again repeat that we are going to bring this Bill soon.

Shri Francis George drew the attention of the House towards the plight of farm workers on account of their being totally unorganized. He also pointed out that there is no enforcement of laws, specially the Minimum Wage Act, which is already in the Statute Book. The Members of this august House are aware that the enforcement of the Minimum Wages Act is primarily done by the State Governments. However, we have been writing to the State Governments to implement this Act in letter and spirit. I shall continue in my endeavour to impress upon the State Governments to strictly enforce the provisions of this law.

Dr. Sebastian Paul gave the example of Kerala with regard to various social security schemes. I would like to inform this august House that while formulating welfare schemes for workers in the unorganized sector, we are examining the schemes that are being presently

[Shri Oscar Fernandes]

administered by various State Governments, including the States of Kerala and Tamil Nadu which have brought in many welfare schemes.

Shri Mitrasen Yadav drew the attention of the House towards the plight of building and other construction workers. In this context, I would like to state that with a view to formulating and implementing welfare measures for building and other construction workers, a legislation was enacted in the year 1996. The implementation of this Act was to be undertaken by the State Governments. I must admit that all the State Governments have not been forthcoming in this regard. We have been taking up this issue with the State Governments in various fora and I shall continue to do so in future also. I have recently taken up this matter with the Labour Ministers of State Governments when I met them here at the National Conference on Labour and impressed upon them to take up this issue seriously.

Dr. R. Senthil, in his speech, has provided some useful suggestions with regard to the Bill presented by Shri Hannan Mollah. His suggestions will be useful to us while we consider formulating the Bill for the welfare of the workers in the entire unorganized sector.

Sir, today also, continuing the debate on the Bill, many Members have given their suggestions. Shri Kiren Rijju from Arunachal Pradesh spoke on 60 years of our Independence. I would like to assure him that at least on the occasion of 60th anniversary of our Independence we are going to bring in some relief to our agricultural workers and I congratulate Shri Hannan Mollah for bringing this Bill.

I would also like to say that a Group of Ministers are working on this Bill and may be within a very few days, we are going to take up the matter in the Cabinet. He has also said that we should consult other Ministries. That is exactly, why a Group of Ministers' team is constituted to go into the entire matter.

Shri Sudhakar Reddy has also given his valuable suggestions. He has emphasized that minimum wages are not paid to the agricultural workers uniformly all over the country. He has also said that it is not enough if we give 100 days of minimum work to our agricultural workers and that we should make it to 200 days. I think, first we have the responsibility to cover the entire country. We

have covered 200 districts and now we have extended it to 330 districts. Let us cover all the districts and then let us examine the scheme and see what we can do about it.

Shri Mahtab also gave very good suggestions about social security the Japanese Model and things like that. I think, we will go into these models before we finalise the scheme.

Shri K.S. Rao also spoke that the Government itself is bringing forward this Bill and he has given a lot of suggestions about providing housing and extending the benefits to the workers.

Shri Appadurai has also spoken about effective implementation. Shri Satyanarayan Jatiya, a former Labour Minister also spoke and said that they had made a beginning and we should progress. Shri Madhu Goud Yaskhi also said that we are all committed to the farming community. He has spoken about the suicides being committed by the farming community. It is very essential that we do something to prevent these suicides in the country.

Mr. Shivanna, Namaskara.

Shivannaji has spoken in Kannada for that I congratulate him.

Shri Yerranaidu, a senior Member of this House also said that the fruits of prosperity should be shared with the poor in the country, which is a very right expression and we are very much committed to do that.

Shri Hamza has said that priority should be given to the agricultural workers. Shrimati Sujatha has also spoken and has given very good suggestions that we should bring the Bill early.

Since, we are bringing this Bill in the Parliament in this Session itself, I would appeal to hon. Shri Hannan Mollah to kindly withdraw this Bill and not to press for passing of this Bill as a Private Members' Bill.

I thank once again the Chair and all the hon. Members for extending their full support in this debate.

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH: Hon. Chairman Sir, I congratulate the hon. Labour Minister for his reply and for accepting all the uniform suggestion of this whole House that such a Bill is required.

You know that we have discussed it at length. For three decades this movement is going on all over the country by the agricultural workers in the unorganized sector. About 97 per cent of the workers in the unorganized sector were living without an umbrella of law and without the protection of law for many years.

We are happy that this UPA Government has taken some initiatives and the Commissions have also prepared the draft. I have also been consulted to comment on the draft. There were certain limitations. I have already written about them because there is no provision of proper registration, maintenance of records and identification of those agricultural workers in the unorganized sector. There will create problem regarding migration. That provision, I have suggested, should be included. I have given in writing to the Commission that there are four or five points where it is lacking. I have also requested that all the suggestions made in the House should also be considered because about 21 Members from all the political parties have extended not only their support, but also they have given valuable suggestions on different aspects of these two Bills. The Government is proposing three Bills, one is for agricultural workers, one is for non-agricultural unorganized sector, and one is for pension and welfare for both the Bills. But I suggest that in the basic Bills, that should be mentioned. Either pension and welfare should be mentioned in these two Bills itself, or if they are not mentioned in the Bills, there should be a specific backing clause that pension and welfare will be provided according to the separate Bill being brought for the welfare. Legal backing should be there in the mother Bill, otherwise it will create some confusion. That is also necessary.

Another suggestion that many hon. Members have given is that these people should have right to form union. We fight for making a law and then we have to fight to implement it. In our country the basic problem is implementation. Many good laws are there but they are only in the shelf of the offices; they are not being implemented. If people know about their rights, and fight for their rights, the Government and officers are forced to implement it. The unorganised sectors should be organized; they should form their associations. They should bring pressure on the Government to implement the Bill. So we are very happy that our waiting period of three decades—so many years—is over. As he has promised that within this Session, this Bill will be brought. We hope that 97 per cent of the workers of the

unorganized sector of the country will get certain legal protection on the basis of which they can further build up their battle, their struggle to get a better deal in this country. I thank the Government; I thank all the Members. I hope that before this Session ends, we will go back home with the new Act for the welfare of the unorganized sector. Thank you, Sir.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Mollah, are you going to withdraw it, as the hon. Minister has assured you?

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH: Sir, on the basis of the assurance given on the floor of the House, I would like to withdraw the Bill with the support of the House.

I beg to move for leave to withdraw the Bill to provide for the welfare of agricultural workers and to regulate their employment and conditions of service and for matters connected therewith.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That leave be granted to withdraw the Bill to provide for the welfare of agricultural workers and to regulate their employment and conditions of service and for matters connected therewith."

*The motion was adopted*

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH: I withdraw the Bill.

[*English*]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Item No. 47, Shri Mohan Singh—  
not present.

Item No. 48, Shri Chandrakant Khaire.

16.14 hrs.

**PRIVATE MEMBER'S BILL—**  
*Under Consideration*

**Promotion of Self-employment Bill, 2006**

[*Translation*]

SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE (Aurangabad, Maharashtra): Sir, I beg to move:

"That the Bill to promote self-employment among educated youths and to provide for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto be taken into consideration."



[Shri Chandrakant Khaire]

Sir, I am happy that Shri Hannan Mollah started a discussion in the House on the unemployment prevailing in agriculture sector. The hon. Minister was present in the House during the discussion and he also gave reply. He is also going to introduce a Bill in this regard in future. Today, I rise here to initiate discussion about the condition of educated unemployed in India. The educated unemployed in the country account for approximately 3 crores and they have nothing to do. Parents provide education to their children with the hope that their children would do some kind of work or set up any industry that would further provide employment to the other unemployed. Assistance centres exist in all the States that are meant for the educated unemployed, but they are not well-equipped. There is a provision of granting of loan of rupees one lakh under the Pradhan Mantri Rozgar Yojana but the loan is not granted even after doing the rounds of the banks many times. Banks don't provide loan of more than 40-50 thousand rupees. Such an amount is not sufficient to start any business.

Presently, some pursue MBA, some Engineering, some civil or electronic engineering courses. Country needs computer engineers but they are hard to find. There are three crore educated unemployed people in the country. We should help them in some way.

Sir, I have introduced this Bill with the objective that its Centre should exist in every district. As District Industry Centres are there to assist the industrialists similarly, there should be a self-employment officer at district level. The said officer should be appointed to guide the educated unemployed. If anybody wants to start a business, that officer should be there to tell him about future prospects of that business. Such officers should meet at regular intervals. The officers should give information as to from which banks loan may be taken. This may help them become self-dependent.

The educated unemployed come to us and ask us to get them a job in some company, the reason being that we are public representatives. Many people ask us to get them job in any department of Central or State Govt. Presently, there are recruitment centres everywhere which have their own rules such as of railways, provident fund office, P&T, PSUs. Our Party, Shiv Sena has opened a Centre for the educated unemployed in Mumbai. Hon'ble Bala Saheb Thackeray always says that why run after jobs since they are not so much in number, so be self-

employed, start self-employment. Therefore our party has set up such a Centre in Shiv Sena Bhawan at Dadar in Mumbai where the educated unemployed are guided. If such Centres are set up in each district through Govt, the number of the educated unemployed would certainly decline and they become self-dependent leading to country's progress.

Today, the country is progressing a lot. Earlier, a lot of problems were there. It's computer era today. We are progressing in the field of electronics. Today, work is not done manually. All the work is carried out through machines. It leads to increasing unemployment. There's the MIDC in Maharashtra. Industries are set up through it. There's the GIDC in Gujarat. They have their corporations at different locations. Industrialists are provided land through Corporation. They also have a Centre of their own that assists the industrialists. Similarly, if small industry is set up, small business is started or small community Centre is set up for the educated unemployed, it would certainly help them more and more. They may certainly get work in all the big industries and medium projects. The Educated unemployed would be uplifted through job work and their number decrease day by day. It should be thought of. As Shri Oscar Fernandes ji has said that a scheme called EGS meant for the unemployed has been introduced in rural areas which provides for payment of rupees 60 per day in case of having no work. Such a scheme is meant for the rural labourers. But, sometimes in rural areas the educated unemployed have to plough the field, and they are not able to migrate to other places the reason being that who would look after their fields of five or ten acres in their absent. They should be provided education by the Deptt. of Agriculture. Many persons obtain B.Sc. degree and work at home. If the officer provides them also the self-employment in these centres, it would certainly go a long way in helping them a lot. Such centres exist in every district. Anyone seeking information could get it within five or seven minutes from the collector's office. But today, despite existence of such information and assistance centres, it is not possible to provide jobs to the unemployed owing to their large number.

Many people thought that Mandal Commission will provide jobs, but since vacancies were not advertised, how one could have got them? Today, many offices have vacancies, but departments, do not have budget for filling the same. At many places work has been outsourced to

decrease the expenditure, it has been happening for quite some time now. This way, how will one get Centre Government or State Government job? Suppose, we ask someone to fill in form after one thousand vacancies are advertised but after filling up form, when it comes to interview, one lakh candidates appear for interview for these vacancies, how will they compete? Hence such arrangements should be made that they get employment, then, I feel that there will be definite progress. Through you, I would like to request the hon'ble Prime Minister to do something in this direction. You have told that a Bill for the welfare of labour is being brought. You have given good assurance with regard to question raised by hon'ble Hannanji and other Members. I would like to say that our country has a very serious problem in the form of educated unemployed. They do not get job after completing their education and due to non-availability of jobs unemployment increases. Some arrangement should be made by the Central Government to provide assistance to these children. For this, a Bill providing for setting up of a Centre in each district which may provide assistance, be brought. Nationalised banks do not give money to them, there, my suggestion that a provision should be made for providing money to them. Today, I would like to say that this Bill should be passed. However, we can withdraw it if you wish. You should bring about the Bill after you have given the assurance because Central Government have also made a provision of nearly Rupees 200 crores.

I would not elaborate much but will say that it's a small Bill. Hannan ji's Bill was quite big. Hence bring a Bill for the same at the earliest. As per the record, today India has nearly three crore educated unemployed. This is my humble request that their problem may be solved.

*Motion moved.*

MR. CHAIRMAN:

"That the Bill to promote self-employment among educated unemployed youths and to provide for matter there with or incidental thereto be taken into consideration".

DR. KARAN SINGH YADAV (Alwar): Mr. Chairman, Sir, Shri Chandrakant Khaire has brought such an important Bill in the House today which draws our attention towards the basic problem of our country. India is a country where number of youth is quite high. This country has nearly 7% youths. Unemployment is the biggest problem of our country. On one hand, people are sitting idle in villages and educated youth in cities are

also idle on the other hand. Kindly try to analyse the state of those parents who provide education to their children by spending heavy amount and when he returns after completing his B.Ed or Nursing or Computer Course or ITI or engineering, it is hoped that he will get job. Unemployed youths move around the offices and keep applying for the jobs, but they do not get a job. In this depressed situation he gets involved in anti social activities. Today, behind every crime, there are educated and sharp and intelligent people. Those who do not find employment at right time find themselves into petty crimes and later involve into big ones. I would like to tell something about my area that a few days back a group of motor-cycle thieves was caught. Unfortunately these all were such people who were graduate and were in search of jobs. One stole a motor cycle. He sold it in Haryana at a throw away price, enjoyed for a few days and then again stole another motor-cycle and gradually they formed a gang. After Motor-cycle stealing they turn to car thefts, took a taxi on rent and on the way beaten up the driver of the car and thrown him down and sold the car. After that they started stealing trucks with ten tyres. Not only this, they also started extorting ransom amount for the same. Hence, the Bill brought by Shri Chandrakant Khaire is very important. This needs to be given thought as to how we can attract our youths towards self employment. Only getting degree. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Sir, Dr. Yadav it's 4.30 p.m., now we have to take up another item. Hence, you can continue with your speech, when we will take up this subject again. Now we are taking up another subject.

16.30 hrs.

## RESOLUTION RE: FORMULATION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF COMPREHENSIVE FOOD AND NUTRITION SECURITY SCHEME

[*English*]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, we will take up Item No. 51. But before we start discussion on the Resolution moved by Shri Naveen Jindal, I am to inform the hon. Members that two hours were allotted for discussion on the Resolution moved by Shri Naveen Jindal. Nearly, one hour and 55 minutes have already been taken for discussion on this Resolution, thus almost exhausting the

time allotted for it. I find that 16 more Members want to take part in the discussion on this Resolution. Therefore, the time for this Resolution has to be extended. Is it the pleasure of the House to extend the time for it by one more hour?

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS: Yes, Sir.

MR. CHAIRMAN: All right, the time is extended by one more hour for it.

Now, Shri Kiren Rijju to speak on this issue.

SHRI KIREN RIJJU (Arunachal West): Thank you, Mr. Chairman, Sir. I rise here to support the Resolution moved by my colleague Shri Naveen Jindal that:

"This House resolves that the Government should formulate and implement a comprehensive food and nutrition security scheme aiming at total eradication of hunger from the country."

The food security is the amalgam of food availability, distribution and accessibility issues. I really congratulate my colleague Shri Naveen Jindal for bringing this very important Resolution, and I hope that every Member of this House — including my Communist friends and everybody else—supports it. I also request the Government to come forward with a comprehensive policy to adopt this Resolution.

*[Translation]*

Sir allow me to give the picture of the whole country. I would like to give a picture of the country. South-East-Asia and Sub/Sahara countries are the worst affected countries in the world with regard to poverty and starvation. This is a matter of grief that our region falls in this only. Nearly 60-65 per cent population of South East Asia is below poverty line. India falls in it. Hence, we need to give it a serious thought.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, nearly 30-35 per cent population of India are unable to have two square meals. NDA's Prime Minister Shri Atal Behari Vajpayee had started targeted PDS and we were hoping that everyone will be provided foodgrains and no one will have to sleep empty stomach. Even today, we find that there is no change in the position. If you look at the records for the year 2001 to 2003, you will find that though, percentage has decreased but the number of BPL families has increased. This is creating a big problem to us. In 1997, a food

summit was organized in Rome in which it was stated that by the year 2015, starvation will be reduced to half of its number, but if we look at the figures after 10 years, we find that total starvation which was 823 million in 1991-92 is only 820 million today. It has decreased by three million only. It means that all our claims and steps taken, are not in the right direction. What is the policy of the Government of India in this regard? Minister of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution is also sitting here. We need to think it seriously as to where exactly we failed. I would like to talk in terms of the developing nations, about how China and Vietnam dealt with starvation. It has not been completely eradicated but has substantially decreased but why are we unable to do so. We need to see this simple aspect. On one hand, we need to rectify the PDS so that foodgrains do not get rotten in godowns and people should not die of hunger. On the other hand, we need to look at how to increase production. If we analyse China and Vietnam or Brazil and Peru, we find that there has been much increase in production by the small farmers. This has helped a lot in eradicating starvation. But this did not happen in our country. For the last four-five years our production is static at the same level. We need to look for ways to increase our production and to make it reach from fields to houses. Farmers should get right prices for foodgrains so that they do not have to commit suicides and at the same time, this foodgrain should reach the needy people. I feel that our programme for this purpose are not fully successful. Government of India have many programmes. There are several schemes for children under the ICDS, there is Sampooma Gramin Swarojgar Yojna, Programmes for drought prone areas, Annapooma Yojna and Antyodaya Yojna. There are so many programmes, but I do not think that people are getting much benefit from these programmes. An integrated approach is required to bring these schemes under one law. You should enact a law through this resolution. You can go through the report of the U.N., it has also mentioned about the fundamental rights and the issues to be brought therein. It has mentioned:-

*[English]*

"Right to balanced diet, clean drinking water, environmental, sanitary, primary healthcare and primary education."

*[Translation]*

We should include all these things in the Fundamental Rights. This matter will not be solved by running only one programme separately.

Even today, if you visit villages of our country you will not see any direct benefit of the policies being formulated by us in the House. Honourable Speaker, Sir, you yourself belong to that area. You are very senior Member and sitting in the chair. You can understand that 36-38 per cent people of our country do not get proper food even after 60 years of Independence. When we talk about progress what is the meaning of progress? Mani Shankar Aiyar is a Union Minister. I support his views about G.D.P. All the members of opposition agree that a common man does not get the benefit of growth registered in G.D.P. But the Prime Minister has not made it clear that who is right Mani Shankarji or Chidambaramji. I agree with Mani Shankarji that 9.2% growth rate of G.D.P. has no meaning. This growth has no meaning until its benefit reaches upto the common people of villages and there is equitable growth. Therefore, I believe that when we look at the remote areas, we can see that India is far behind. While sitting in Mumbai and Delhi, we can claim that India is making progress but growth has no meaning until rural areas of India are developed

*[English]*

"Food insecurity is the greatest threat to humanity."

*[Translation]*

Starvation and unemployment are the two biggest issues. After air and water, food is the life of the people, if we do not understand it, then all these programmes we are talking about will yield no result.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to quote an example here that farmers in our North-east areas grow bamboo flowers but lakhs and crores of rats eat and destroy it, whether it is in the field or in the godown. These people have no food security? I raised this issue in the House but the Government have not formulated any comprehensive programme for it so far. We have to walk for 6 to 7 days for reaching some areas over there. In some areas helicopters are sent and men and food are dropped there. Food is supplied according to the population of that area. The goods are taken to remote areas through L.M. and helicopters also take goods through it but when weather is not clear, helicopters can not go there. In such circumstances, how can we deliver food to our army personnel, employees and the people of villages? It is a matter of buffer stock related to public distribution system. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Rijijuji. Your speech is very good but we have to accommodate 16 other members also and only one hour is there so please be brief.

SHRI LAKSHMAN SINGH (Rajgarh): Sir, it is a matter of North Eastern States. ...*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

MR. CHAIRMAN: He has already taken ten minutes.

SHRI LAKSHMAN SINGH: He is making a very important point. Please give him more time.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I have only requested him. We have to accommodate other Members also.

*[Translation]*

SHRI KIREN RIJJU: Mr. Chairman, Sir, as there is limited time, so I would conclude within two-three minutes. My last point is that now we are talking about climatic change and global warming. Now-a-days the Chief Minister of Rajasthan has to visit this area for relief package for flood and the Chief Minister of Assam visits this place in regard to drought. Weather conditions have changed now. Whether the Government is prepared for that?

It does not seem to me that the Government is prepared to face the hovering danger and the likely losses to be incurred by India in near future due to global warming and climatic change. We are neither prepared to tackle the present problems nor ready to face the challenges in future. I, therefore, urge upon the Government to formulate different strategies for the flood-prone and drought-prone areas. No one should die of starvation during this emergency situation and there should be an effective mechanism to get food to the people trapped in such a situation. The Government should prepare such a comprehensive programme.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, you have given me less time to speak, hence, I am going to conclude. Lastly, I would like to thank my friend Shri Naveen Jindal and wish that such industrialists are elected to the House again and again. There are so many industrialists in India but very few of them give their time to Lok Sabha. Hence, we need industrialists like Shri Naveen Jindal. He has brought forward a very important resolution in the House and I hope that all the hon'ble Members will support him.

With these words, I, supporting this resolution, convey my thanks to him.

[English]

SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN (Palani): Thank you, Mr. Chairman, Sir, for giving me an opportunity to participate in this discussion.

Hon. Member Shri Naveen Jindal moved this Resolution for implementing a comprehensive food and nutrition security scheme aiming at total eradication of hunger from the country. This learned and young Member is one of the famous industrialists in the country. About one lakh people are working under him. I appreciate his thinking about the welfare of the poor people living in this country. I congratulate him for moving this Resolution and I support it.

First of all, I want to mention certain facts about our great country. Our country, ancient India, covers an area of 32,87,263 km. from Kanyakumari to Himalayas; it is the tenth industrialized country in the world; 7th largest country in the world with a length of 3,214 km from north to south and 2,933 km. from east to west. The total length of coastal line is 7,516.6 km. Indian rivers are classified into four groups—Himalayan rivers, Deccan rivers, coastal rivers and rivers of the inland drainage basin. In the case of population, as on 1.3.2001, there were 532.1 million males; 496.4 million females, totaling 1028 million; now, it is 110 crore.

Our learned friend has moved this important Resolution about food security. If we go back to 5,000 years, at that time, men were hunting animals for food; women were selecting plants for cultivation. Even now, in Arunachal Pradesh, there is one place called Along; there is a Donyi-Polo Temple, where we can see the portrait of a woman credited with introduction of rice into cultivation. That was the history 5000 years ago.

Now, during Independence period and during pre-Independence period, we were in a position to purchase food grains from foreign countries. Now, the situation has changed totally. Agriculture is the mainstay of Indian economy. Agriculture contributes to 22 per cent of GDP; about 65-70 per cent of the population is dependent on agriculture. Production of oilseeds in 2006-07 reached 2.34 metric tonnes; cotton alone contributed to 18.93 million bales each containing 170 kg. Production of jute and mesta reached 10.83 million bales, each containing

180 kg. Sugarcane production touched 273.16 metric tonnes; rice production touched 89-99 metric tonnes; wheat production reached 71.54 metric tonnes. Coarse and cereal reached 34.67 metric tonnes.

In the case of land utilization, in the year 1950-51, in agriculture, it was 1,187.5 lakh hectares; in 2003-04, it was 1,409.6 lakh hectares. Food security and nutritious food depends on the success of agriculture in this country. Highest wheat production was in the year 1999-2000, when we had 76.7 metric tonne. Now, food production is in crossroads. There are so many reasons for this. Unless we improve the food production, the problem of food security will not be solved.

One main reason for this is floods in the northern region and drought in the southern region; moreover, farmers are not able to get good seeds; farmers are not able to get unadulterated fertilizer, free electricity, etc. If you see the example of Tamil Nadu, from 1989, farmers are enjoying free electricity and they are able to produce very good variety of paddy, gram, etc. Furthermore, I want to emphasize one point.

Farmers are using free electricity, not for their own purposes, but for the purpose of country. They are producing wheat and rice for the consumption of 110 crore population of this country. The whole population is living on the wheat and rice produced by the farmers of this country. When they apply for electricity connection with the State Electricity Boards, they have to wait at least for 8-10 years. But those who are able to pay Rs. 50,000-Rs. 1,00,000, they are able to get the connection within 3-5 days. This is the situation. All the State Governments should be directed to give electricity connection within 24 hours to the farmers, when they apply. The ground water level is going down every year. So, farmers are not able to get water for irrigation purposes. This problem should be solved and water should be made available to them.

I would like to now mention about the diseases. We should control diseases like TB, Malaria, AIDS, Cancer, blindness, Leprosy and Mental Disorder. The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India, has taken a number of steps. I would particularly mention about the AIDS. In the year 2006, throughout the world people living with HIV AIDS are 39.5 million, out of which Adults are 37.2 million, women are 17.7 million, children are 2.3 million and newly infected people are 4.3 million.

Death due to AIDS in 2006 alone was 2.9 million. In India nearly 5.7 million people are living with AIDS out of which 5.2 million are adults between the age group of 15-49. In India leprosy patients are 1.49 lakh. Polio cases detected in 2006 alone were 672. Every year 2 million new Tuberculosis cases are detected in this country. Total cancer patients in this country are 8,50,000 and out of this, cervical cancer patients are 1,40,000, breast cancer patients are 80,000 and oral cancer patients are 17,000.

Also, since we are not able to give nutritious food to the pregnant women, most of the children are affected in the womb itself. For helping the pregnant women, Tamil Nadu Government introduced a scheme called 'Magapperu Udhavi Thittam' scheme. All the pregnant ladies are entitled to get during the last six months of their pregnancy Rs. 1000 per month. The State Government is providing funds for this scheme to get healthy children. In this country 214 million people are under-nourished, 40 million people are exposed to natural disorders and 50 per cent of children, mostly tribal in rural areas, are undernourished. Sir, 23 per cent of the children have low birth weight and 60 out of 1000 die before the age of one year. Most of the children are affected with anemia, under-weight and micro-nutrient deficiencies.

Way back, in the year 1954, our late Leader Kamraj was travelling in the Northern Tamil Nadu on April 14, 1954. In the streets, he saw the children and asked why they did not go to school and were in the garden. The children told him that they were not able to get food. Immediately he announced Free Noon Meal Scheme. That was implemented throughout the country for the welfare of the children.

In 1954 this was the situation and after 60 years we are exporting the food grains though our people are living below poverty line. The Government decides the poverty line. As mentioned by my colleague, 60 per cent of the population in this country lives below poverty line. Those who consume less than 2400 calories per day in rural areas and 2100 calories in urban areas are supposed to be living below poverty line. Combining both, those who consume 2250 calories per day are considered to be living below poverty line.

Income of an individual per month in rural area is Rs. 368 and in urban area it is Rs. 559. Elimination of hunger is the first requisite for eradication of poverty. Right to adequate food and clean drinking water should

be regarded as basic human right. In most of the villages, the Government has to take steps to provide potable good water for the public. Due to water alone people are affected with a number of diseases like cancer. Good food and good water should be given to all the poor people of this country. Mahatma Gandhi advocated Antyodaya and Vinoba Bhave advocated 'Sarvodaya'. We have to work for implementing these schemes. I support this Resolution and thank our young leader Shri Naveen Jindal bringing this Resolution. I also thank you for giving me this opportunity.

SHRI B. MAHTAB (Cuttack): Sir, I thank you for giving me this opportunity at this late hour of the day to discuss about the Resolution which has been moved by our friend Mr. Naveen Jindal. As has been expressed earlier, one is really surprised that Mr. Jindal, an hon. Member of this House has taken interest in nutrition and food security a subject other than his avocation for National Flag, he very heartily involves himself with passion. He belongs to the Treasury Benches yet as a Member of this House, he has moved this Resolution and the resolve is that the Government should formulate and implement a comprehensive food and nutrition security scheme aiming at total eradication of hunger from the country. The Minister for Food is here. It would have been better if the Minister for Women and Child Welfare was also present to participate in this discussion. It would be better if, in future, she could participate in the deliberation relating to nutrition and food security because ICDS plays a major role in providing nutrition and food security to the children and women who are the most affected population of this country.

What is the position in our country? We should pose this question to ourselves and not only to the Government. We should think about that. India accounts for 57 million of the world's 146 million malnourished children. India has the same report of malnutrition as Ethiopia which is 47 per cent and Nepal and Bangladesh have 48 per cent. This is in stark contrast with Thailand which has 18 per cent, Afghanistan which has 39 per cent and China which has 8 per cent—I hope the comrades are hearing this—according to the United Nations Children Fund report. Of course, at times, these statistics are alarming and also mind boggling.

The United Nations has set up the Millennium Development Goal to which all member countries have been signatories. The rate of progress at which our

[Shri B. Mahtab]

country is moving, it is very doubtful whether the Millennium Development Goal will at all be achieved. The intention of Millennium Development Goal was to halve child hunger by 2015. But I have my doubts whether it can be achieved by 2015. A report, named Progress for Children. A report Card of Nutrition 2006 states that it will not be achieved even by 2025. When this is the situation, then I would like to understand from the Minister concerned what the Government is thinking to do. Do you have any road map? What steps have you taken to address this problem?

16.59 hrs.

[SHRI GIRIDHAR GAMANG *in the Chair*]

The proportion of under weight children in developing countries has declined only slightly in the past 15 years falling just by five percentage points since 1990. One in four children under five in developing countries is under weight which is 27 per cent of 146 million people.

17.00 hrs.

The most alarming thing is nearly half of them live in India, Bangladesh and Pakistan accounting for the death of 5.6 million children under five, every year. If simple health intervention along with correct feeding practices were universally applied each year, then the death of six lakhs under five children could have been averted in India alone. Such is the alarming situation. I hope the mover of this Resolution also thought it fit to bring this Resolution realizing how alarming the situation is in our country.

It is also said that one out of three adult women is underweight and, therefore, at risk of giving birth to low weight babies. Severe malnutrition is more frequent amongst girls that is, 19 per cent than boys which is 16.9 per cent. While most infants in India are initially breast fed only 37 children are exclusively breast fed for four months. Malnutrition rates amongst children up to three years vary greatly across States. In Madhya Pradesh it is 55.1 per cent; in Bihar it is 54.9 per cent; in Orissa it is 54.4 per cent; in Uttar Pradesh it is 51.7 per cent; in Rajasthan it is 50.6 per cent; in Goa it is 28.6 per cent. There is an alarming fall. In Kerala it is 26.9 per cent. This report also suggests that half of all children in India under three years of age are underweight. A quarter

of all children are born with low weight. Three quarters of underweight children and half of adult women are anemic. What is the Government doing to improve upon the situation? Does it have any plan on war footing?

Malnutrition is not only about hunger but also because of early marriage and consequently early motherhood and also lack of sanitation. I would say, insufficient quantity of food is less to blame for a child's under-nutrition, than poor food quality and safety and women's low social status. My suggestion is that malnutrition can be reduced only by ensuring that new borns are given cholesterol. Infants are exclusively breast fed for six months and adequate supplementary foods are given three to five times a day after that. Children should be brought to health centres for immunization and nutrient supplementation. There is also a need now to propagate awareness on nutrition literacy. Integrated child development schemes should take up this job to create awareness. There is ignorance even amongst the literate people about nutrition. There is need to avoid junk food and go in for traditional dietary habits. Therefore, people should be made to accept the message of nutrition. Nutrition education can become a critical tool for a healthy generation.

Water, food, safety in diet for health are the rudiments of nutrition. Recently, economist Amartya Sen has released a report titled, "Focus on children under six" in which he has clearly stated that population of underweight children is not coming down in our country. Immunization efforts have not reached everyone and several health problems remain. This is a great failure and is a matter of national shame and sits uneasily with India's nine per cent growth story.

Such a failure in taking care of the wellbeing of the children and the nation's failure is not only morally untenable but also a major handicap in our progress. Very recently, our hon. Prime Minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh, has stressed that the benefits of growth should reach all. Suffering children are the most distressing aspect of the failure to ensure the broad spread of growth. All the concerned Departments should make a concerted effort at changing the ground realities.

The first step towards amelioration is always an acknowledgement of the severity of the problem. The Deputy Chairman of the Planning Commission, Dr. Ahluwalia has admitted that the much talked of ICDS

is not doing well across the country. More money is required and there is no doubt about it. But do we have the personnel? Are they equipped with knowledge and skill? I would stress that implementation is the key for success. The State Governments have been lax in this regard. There is no doubt about it. They have the tendency to pass on the buck. Does this mean that the Union Government should take up the cudgels? Whom does it help? If there is any lacuna in terms of facilities, training and manpower at the States' level, the Centre should go beyond funding and increase its involvement. More commitment is required.

Now, I come to my State, Orissa. Orissa sits over a vast reserve of mineral wealth, holds dense forest reserves and possesses a long productive coast. Yet, 57 per cent of the population suffer from chronic energy deficiency. It is a measure of chronic and severe under-nutrition and malnutrition.

Human Development Report, 2004 is regarding a study brought out by the Orissa Government with the support of the Planning Commission of India and the United Nations Development Programme puts the State in the category of 'severely food insecure' regions.

The present state of affairs has been attributed to the presence of a vulnerable rural population with poor livelihood access and susceptible to disasters. These are the three reasons which they have mentioned.

Ironically, prosperous States like Gujarat and Kerala have seen a rise in the number of malnourished children, at the same time. You see one example in the case of Orissa and another in the so-called prosperous States like Kerala and Gujarat. The number of malnourished children is rising. Both States saw an increase of 2 per cent between 1991-2000. Other States did worse. Madhya Pradesh, for instance, registered a rise from 54 per cent in 1991 to 60 per cent in 2001.

Another indicator of the poor state of affairs is the high infant mortality rate where India is bettered by Pakistan, China, Brazil and even Nigeria. The all-India average is 58 infant deaths for every 1000 live births and in States like UP, the number is 73, Rajasthan's position is 65, Arunachal Pradesh is at 61 and Gujarat is at the top of the list with 50.

I come to another aspect about which my predecessor has spoken and that is about hunger. The

most important issue of this Resolution is hunger. Which is the most dreaded disease today? If this question is posed not only in this House but outside also, then what will be the answer?

Do you think that it is cancer or AIDS? The answer is "No." Endless debates can go on, but by all accounts hunger in its different manifestations is the biggest killer of all. The United Nations Report on Hunger states that 854 millions out of the world's 6.55 billion people are hungry, under nourished, malnourished or starving. That is more than the combined population of the United States of America, Canada and the European Union. Most of them, about 820 millions, live in developing world; 25 millions live in trans-national countries; and nine millions live in industrialized countries.

What is the cause of hunger today? It is not the shortage of food. Billions remain hungry because of poverty, distribution and consumption pattern, which the hon. Minister, I hope, will attempt to address.

The situation is aggravated by politics. The statistics show that India's under nourished population is 221 millions; Sub-Saharan Africa's under nourished population is 203.50 millions; and China's, which comes third, under nourished population is 142.10 millions.

Geography of hunger has a direct bearing on the geography of diseases. Hungry are not those who experience famine and starvation. Just because we have a "free of famine" like situation today, it does not mean that we have solved hunger problem, for endemic under nutrition and malnutrition render people weak and makes them susceptible to not only diseases but also to conditions that stunt mental and physical growth.

World Health Organisation says that hunger and malnutrition are the number one risk to global health and kill more people than AIDS, Malaria and TB combined. Silent hunger is a covert cause of death, that remains virtually undetected and unaddressed as attention is appropriated by diseases that are symptoms of deeper malaise. Mr. Chairman, who can understand this better than you? You have seen hunger, the silent hunger. I need not explain it in more details.

The Union Minister of Agriculture, your senior, Shri Sharad Pawar was quoted in *The Economic Times* on 9th November, 2006 as saying:



[Shri B. Mahtab]

"If we take today's level, a situation will emerge by 2020 where India will be a major importer."

Why did he say this? He was addressing the Economic Editors during that period. It has come out in *The Economic Times*. This was said in the month of November. Now, we are in May, five months hence. What measures is the Government taking to meet this situation? Do we have any strategy in place?

My suggestion is, prepare an Action Plan and target fifty per cent of the area under wheat and paddy for enhancing the productivity; and identify specific districts. There is a need for paradigm shift in paddy production also. The tragedy today is, thirty years since India achieved food security, the country is nowhere near attaining nutritional security for millions of its people.

Dr. M.S. Swaminathan has come out with four volumes on our farm and farmers. He has stated that:

There is a vast untapped production reservoir available in Bihar, Orissa, Eastern UP, West Bengal and Assam even with technologies on the shelf.

We have the technology, but still it is not being utilized.

Time has come to verify our commitment to sustainable food security and sovereignty with home grown food.

The universal definition of food security is—"food security is obtained when food is available to all persons at all times with adequate access to food and that meets cultural tastes and preferences. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude. There are other Members who would like to speak.

SHRI B. MAHTAB: This is a subject which is very close to my heart though the Resolution has been moved by Shri Naveen Jindal. I would like to know the opinion of the mover of the Resolution. What does he think? I would like to know about it when he will be replying after the discussion. My view is that this is not imperfect. When India attained food self-sufficiency 35 years ago, why is it that 35 per cent of our population remains food insecure? We all know low incomes and high food prices prevent individual food security. The poverty line is based

on the access of a household to food grains. What is important to realize is that India's food security prospects are now tied up with overall policies for growth, trade and poverty elimination. Through decentralization and empowerment of the poor, Gram Panchayats are to play a pivotal role to check starvation death. Orissa has implemented a scheme, where Sarpanch is empowered to provide seven days ration to a starving family instantly free of cost and get it embossed from the Collector/District Magistrate.

Now starvation deaths, famines are not going to happen, but malnutrition is a problem which needs urgent attention.

Now Mid-Day Meal is doing a yeoman's service to a larger section of the country. Today more commitment is required for the upliftment of the poor, the under privileged. No progress can be truly meaningful unless it is reflected in the smiles of the poorest of our children.

I conclude my speech by quoting Mr. Winston Churchill. He had said many decades ago:

"There is no finer investment for any community than putting milk into babies."

I remembered this line when I went to Mexico some seven years back with a Parliamentary Delegation into the rural Mexican villages. They were speaking about us how milch cows were being provided to the impoverished families. I think a specific plan is necessary from the Government side to provide milch cows because it provides adequate nutritious food to the babies.

*[Translation]*

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer): Sir, it is said that—*Maya Se Maya Mile, Karkar Lambe Haath, Tutsi Hai Garib Ki Puchhey Nahin Koi Baa'*. I would like to congratulate the hon'ble Member of Parliament Shri Naveen Jindal for showing his sensitiveness towards the poor that he has moved a resolution regarding Comprehensive Food and Nutrition Security Scheme in the House. He has written that this House resolve that the Government will formulate and implement a Comprehensive Food and Nutrition Security Scheme to remove starvation from the country. I strongly support his sentiments and hope that the traditional saying of our country—'Bubhukshita Kim Na Karoti Papam', which

means that a hungry person can commit any sort of crime, is remembered. On account of this our philosophers said that 'Kshudharthe Bhojnam Tatha' which means that the most pious act is to feed the hungry person. The most pious act is to provide food and water to the hungry and the thirsty. No act is greater than that of providing food to the hungry person and removing poverty of the poor. It is like rain in the desert. Keeping in view the said concept, I support the resolution of Shri Naveen Jindal.

Sir, it is a reality that 'Roti Kapda Aur Makaan, Aaj Maang Raha Hai Hindustan. Same situation prevails everywhere even after 60 years of Independence. It is said that the number of millionaires and billionaires is increasing in our country but the rich are becoming richer and the poor are becoming poorer and the gap between these two is widening. As a result—

"Shwanon Ko Milta Dudh, Bhukhe Balak Akulatein Hain.

Maa Ki Chhati Se Chipak, Sisak-Sisak Reh Jatein Hain".

On one hand, there are rich people who don't know how to spend the money and on the other hand, there are poor people who live under the sky and are bound to consider earth as their bed and the sky as the bed sheet, and they are forced to suppress their hunger due to non-availability of food. A poet has written—Shwanon Ko Milta Dudh (Dogs get the milk). Dogs of rich persons travel in cars and get milk to drink. On the contrary, children of the poor face starvation. Their mother don't get nutritional food, hence they are unable to feed their children. As a result of this, the children remain hungry and thus, both the mother and the child remain malnourished. Due to this some of them suffer from liver problem, abdomen problem, eye problem and hearing problem etc. The child grows up with such health problems.

Sir, Subhadra Kumari Chauhan has written about childhood—

"Maine Hasna Seekh Liya Hai, Main Nahin Janati Rona, Pal Pal Barsa Karta, Mere Jeevan Mein Sona".

We can compare the childhood of the children belonging to the different strata of poverty. Why such a situation is prevailing after 60 year of Independence?

Green Revolution took place and we became self reliant in respect of food-grains. We have to be grateful to the farmers and our true leaders. America had discontinued to provide wheat to India after the 1965 war, then Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri by giving the slogan "Jai Jawan, Jai Kisan" encouraged the farmers as well as the rich people to make the country self-reliant in respect of food-grains by sowing wheat in the vacant land. People responded to his appeal and the country became self-reliant in respect of food-grains and thereafter the Green Revolution and the White Revolution followed. But today, under the regime of the UPA government we are again forced to import wheat. Wheat, rice and sugar are being imported from abroad. Why such a situation has arisen? Under the regime of the NDA government, godowns were full of wheat and famine affected States of the country used to be provided wheat open heartedly, but today the godowns are lying empty and the government are formulating such laws under which foreign companies are purchasing wheat from Haryana and Punjab and the Government agencies are helpless. Nobody approaches the farmers to sell their wheat and godowns are lying empty. On one hand, prices are sky rocketing and on the other hand, due to the coming up of SEZs, agricultural land is reducing and the population is increasing as a result of which there is an imbalance in the country. It is said about India that—

[*English*]

India is a country of plenty, but still the people of India are poor.

[*Translation*]

India is a country of plenty, but still the people of India are poor. Once India was called "Sone Ki Chidiya". "Hum Kya The, Kya Ho Gaye, Kya Abhi Honge, Aao Milkar Vichaarein Desh Ki Samasyein Sabhi". Once we were called "Sone Ki Chidiya". "Arun Ye Madhumay Desh Hamara, Jahan Phunche Anjaan Skshitij Ko Milta Ek Sahara". People from across the world used to visit India. They would take wealth of the country, but, today the country at large is facing the problem of starvation. Children, mother and sisters are suffering from malnutrition due to which various diseases are prevailing here. As per the report of the WHO, out of a total population of 700 crore of the world, 85 crore people are deprived and facing starvation and out of these 85 crore people, more than 22 crore people are living in India, out of which 20 lakh children are malnourished. They succumb to death without any substantial cause. 54% women fall prey to various diseases due to malnutrition and starvation. Who

[Prof. Rasa Singh Rawat]

is responsible for such a pitiable condition? If I portray the real picture—"Tu Idhar-Udhar Ki Baatein Na kar, Ye Data Kaafila Kyon Luta, Mujhe Rahjani Se Gurej Nahin, Sawal Teri Rehbari Ka Hai". We beat about the bushes but we should made it clear as to why such a situation has arisen and who is responsible for that? The party, which ruled the country for around 60 years, must introspect. The Congress party should introspect. They had powerful leaders like Jawaharlalji, Indiraji. They were powerful in all respects and had the support of the country, still such a situation has arisen, there must be a problem in the policy making due to which such a situation has cropped up.

Vajpayeeji who was leading the NDA government called a conference on 24th April, 2001 which was attended by people like Swaminathanji

[English]

Insecurity of food, food security,

[Translation]

He said about. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Members, the extended time for the discussion is over. Still I have a list of four more hon. Members who want to speak on this Resolution. If the House agrees, the time for the discussion on this Resolution may be extended by one more hour.

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS: Yes.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The time is extended. Prof. Rasa Singh Rawat, you may continue now.

[Translation]

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT: I was quoting Vajpayee's speech.

[English]

"The second mission for a hunger-free India needs the cooperative efforts of the Central and State Governments."

[Translation]

Be it the Union Government or the State Governments.

[English]

Local self government bodies, non-governmental organisations, international agencies and all should make concerted efforts.

[Translation]

In our country, we must care for our neighbours. It is the duty of the fellow countryment that no one dies of hunger.

We will have to inculcate humanitarian values in our citizens. Alongwith it, we need to check the ever increasing population because it is one of the major reasons of all the malaise. In our country, production is increasing arithmatically but the population is increasing geometrically. How will balance be attained? Nobody states the plain facts with a fear of incurring the displeasure of the public. We have greed for votes and as a result we are doing nothing to control the population. I would like to remind you all about the Indira regime during emergency and the steps initiated by her to control population. We need to take such steps to control population. China has been able to control its increasing population and here nobody is doing anything. Only those families, be it the BPL or the APL families, ought to be allowed to avail government facilities, which are contributing in population control or whose children are not beyond the fixed number. Then only population can be controlled, otherwise it will continue to grow manifold. This way, every month a new Australia is being produced here.

Everyone's cooperation is required in this regard.

[English]

All our citizens can indeed manage hunger free country.

[Translation]

In a short time we can eradicate hunger from the country. Let us resolve today, we should resolve today.

[English]

To make this mission substantially successful by 2007, which will mark the 60th anniversary of our independence

[Translation]

It was stated by them in 2001 and six years time was demanded for this. Today, we should take this resolution and take it on as a mission. The world has three kinds of people—Missionary, Mercenary and Machinery. Missionaries have a mission which they attain

inspite of all hurdles and problems. For them their mission is their priority. The second kind of people are mercenaries, they work for money offered to them and apart from that they would not do anything. The third kind of people are machinery. If button is pressed machine will work, and if it is stopped, they will stop too. This way mercenary and machinery can't do anything for the country. In order to sort out the problems of our country we need to become missionaries.

[*English*]

Basic approach with human dignity.

[*Translation*]

Making the human beings our priority, we need to look towards the issues of food security and food production. We need to develop a micro level action-plan for health education, women, and child welfare, rural, urban and tribal development. Though, we have got a National Development Council, and the ICDS, the Integrated Child Development Scheme, Mid-day Meal, Annapurna Scheme, Antodaya Scheme, Rojgar Guarantee Yojana, Rural unemployment eradication scheme—all these are good schemes, but these have not given desired results. Through the ICDS, lakhs of children have come to the Anganwadi centres, even pregnant women, young girls also go there. These Anganwadi centres are being run to remove illiteracy and provide food but still there is some mismanagement, which needs to be rectified. Apart from it, all those areas which have not been covered as as yet, should be covered, so that more and more children might come to schools they might feel inclined to join school abandoning the practice of dropping out. Mid-day meal scheme is a good scheme, different kinds of meals are served under the scheme like sweet rice, lassi and sweet fruits. The Government have made a rule that foodgrains are kept with the sarpanch for the families with no earning member, old persons above the age of 65 and physically challenged persons so that they do not die of hunger and can get wheat every month, according to their need. Apart from that, other provisions have also been made, but these are not being implemented properly. Hence we all need to work together to eradicate hunger from the country. We need to implement a comprehensive food and nutrition security scheme. Hence we need to adopt measures to save our crops from rodents and birds and save our crops from getting spoiled for want of buyers. We need to look at all aspects. For this purpose, there is only one way "Udyamen hi karyani sidhyanti na cha Manorathyh". Nothing can be achieved by thinking only. Only sincere efforts bring in desired results.

[*English*]

Where there is a will, there is a way.

[*Translation*]

If all the people of our country, all the leaders cutting across party lines accord priority to national interests and resolve to remove poverty and starvation from the country, then we can definitely attain this target. With this, I thank Sh. Jindal.

With these words, I thank you that you gave me the opportunity to speak.

[*English*]

SHRI FRANCIS FANTHOM (Nominated): Hon. Chairman, Sir, I rise to support the Resolution moved by my colleague, hon. Naveen Jindal which is to formulate and implement a comprehensive food and nutrition security scheme aiming at total eradication of hunger from this country.

I am happy that the hon. Minister for Food and Agriculture and Civil Supplies is here. The context in which we are discussing this matter is of great significance. The matter may not be of immediate impact in terms of the great issue that is before this country, but it is an issue that affects the future of this country. The significance, particularly, is in the context of global warming, of the scarcity of food that is operating globally, in the context of increasing population worldwide, in the context of desertification of our lands and encroachment of the agricultural land by denudation and deforestation, lack of irrigation facilities, lack of nutrients and vitamins and, perhaps, also in the context of the genome distribution that is gradually receding, and the bio-diversity which needs to be protected. It is in this wholistic context that this issue has been moved in terms of eradication of hunger and the provision that the nation needs and its children and the women require wholistic and complete nutrition for their health and for their growth.

Sir, in the context of the 60 years of this Nation's freedom, yet more than 38 per cent of the children lack adequate dietary support. We continue to have infant mortality. Both children and women are in poor health and they are undernourished. It is a sad story that 60 years after the nation's Independence, we continue to have the scourge of under-nourished children in our nation. The issue becomes all the more paradoxical or perhaps contradictory that on the one hand we say that the nation is growing and its prosperity is increasing by nearly 9.2 per cent on the other hand the opportunity that we give in terms of growth possibilities to our children and to our mothers is perhaps a matter that cannot be reconciled in these two domains as we look at it.

I was looking at some of the material that has been provided, and I was surprised to read it. I would just like

[Shri Francis Fanthome]

to quote very briefly. There is a newspaper report from Orissa. It says:

"A tribal woman died of starvation in Deogarh on 6th June, 2006. Her six-month-old daughter was admitted in hospital in a critical condition. This was the second starvation death in the district within two months."

This is a report from Orissa.

In Madhya Pradesh, "Six children and a woman died in June, 2006 because of malnutrition. The children were below the age of five, the woman was 22 years old. They belonged to the *Saharia* tribe and lived in Patalgarh Village of District Sheopur."

Sir, I also have a little quote from *The Tribune* of 27 September, 2006, which says: "Four commit suicide due to penury and hunger."

The *Times of India* on 25th September, 2006 reporting a survey on 'National Family and Health' stated, "75 per cent of infants suffer from malnutrition. Most of them are anemic."

Sir, as I said earlier in the context of 9.2 per cent growth in GDP, in the context of 60 years of self-rule and Independence in this nation, these notes in the newspapers are disconcerting. And, it is in this context that the Resolution that is moved by the hon. Member, Shri Naveen Jindal gets great significance, and I know that all our colleagues have supported the Resolution, which I also do, but I would like to mention, in particular, that we need to underscore the significance of this context in the way we are planning, because while right now we may not feel the impact it is the future of this nation that is to be our focus and we would like the hon. Minister, who himself is an extremely sensitive person, that he would undoubtedly keep this in mind as to how he would plan in terms of the nutrients availability and the food security system in this country.

To support him, I would like to quote from the National Common Minimum Programme (NCMP) of the UPA. The NCMP of the UPA, in terms of food and nutrition security states:

"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."

The same matter goes on, and the UPA Government's commitment is further stated:

"To strengthen the Public Distribution System, particularly the poorest and the backward blocks of the country, and also involve women's and ex-servicemen's cooperatives in this management. Special schemes to reach foodgrains to the most destitute and infirm will be launched."

This is the promise that we gave to this nation and through this Parliament in terms of the Government we put together. It is a commitment, and we need to see that it is fulfilled not as a distant dream, not as a pious intent of a possibility, not as a teasing illusion that we give as a promise or a dream to our children, but in terms of realization of a reality that we owe to the children and to the women of this country.

The compassion with which we need to address this issue is missing, and this discussion will perhaps awaken the sensitivities and extend the hand to reach the most in need for nutrition and for food...

DR. CHINTA MOHAN (Tirupati): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I have a point of order.

MR. CHAIRMAN: What is your point of order?

DR. CHINTA MOHAN: Sir, there is no quorum in the House and it is such an important issue that we are discussing. I think, it may be postponed for the next week.

MR. CHAIRMAN: All right, you want to raise the issue of quorum. The quorum bell is being rung...

MR. CHAIRMAN: This discussion will continue later.

Hon. Members, since there is no quorum, the House stands adjourned to meet on Monday, the 7th May, 2007 at 11.00 a.m.

17.52 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Monday, May 7, 2007/Vaisakha 17, 1929 (Saka).*

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