

LOK SABHA DEBATES

(English Version)

Ninth Session
(Fourteenth Lok Sabha)



Gazettes & Debates Unit
Parliament Library Building
Room No. FB-025
Block 'G'

Acc. No.....¹².....
Dated.....^{11 Sept 2007}.....

(Vol. XXIV contains Nos. 11 to 20)

LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI

Price : Rs. 80.00

EDITORIAL BOARD

P.D.T. Achary
Secretary-General
Lok Sabha

A.K. Singh
Joint Secretary

Hamam Dass Takker
Director

Dr. R.N. Singh
Joint Director-I

Prabhakar Mohanty
Joint Director-II

Dhani Ram
Editor

[ORIGINAL ENGLISH PROCEEDINGS INCLUDED IN ENGLISH VERSION AND ORIGINAL HINDI PROCEEDINGS INCLUDED IN HINDI VERSION WILL BE TREATED AS AUTHORITATIVE AND NOT THE TRANSLATION THEREOF.]

CONTENTS

[Fourteenth Series, Vol. XXIV, Ninth Session, 2006/1928 (Saka)]

No. 13, Friday, December 8, 2006/Agrahayana 17, 1928 (Saka)

SUBJECT	COLUMNS
ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS	
*Starred Question Nos. 242–245 and 247	1—40
WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS	
Starred Question Nos. 246 and 248–261	41—92
Unstarred Question Nos. 2434–2600	92—334
PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE	335—351
COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC UNDERTAKINGS	
Fourteenth Report	352
STATEMENTS BY MINISTERS	
(i) Status of implementation of recommendations contained in the 156th Report of the Standing Committee on Science and Technology, Environment and Forests on Demands for Grants (2006-07) pertaining to the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research	
Shri Kapil Sibal	352—353
(ii) Status of implementation of recommendations contained in the 13th Report of the Standing Committee on Energy on Demands for Grants (2006-07) pertaining to the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy	
Shri Vilas Muttemwar	353—354
BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE	354—358
CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE	
Situation arising out of recent floods due to cyclone and torrential rains in the districts of Krishna, Guntur and Prakasam of Andhra Pradesh resulting in loss of lives and property and steps taken by the Government in this regard	358—364
Shri Badiga Ramakrishna	358—359, 361—362
Shri Shivraj V. Patil	359—361

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

SUBJECT	COLUMNS
Shri Shailendra Kumar	362—363
Shri Suravaram Sudhakar Reddy	363—364
ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER	364—365
Business of the House	
GOVERNMENT BILLS—Introduced	
(i) Commissions for Protection of Child Rights (Amendment) Bill, 2006	365
(ii) National Waterway (Talcher—Dhamra Stretch of Rivers Geonkhali-Charbatia-Dhamra Stretch of Matai River and Mahanadi Delta Rivers) Bill, 2006	365—366
(iii) National Waterway (Kakinada—Pondicherry Stretch of Canals and the Kuluvelly Tank, Bhadrachalam—Rajahmundry Stretch of River Godavari and Wazirabad—Vijayawada Stretch of River Krishna) Bill, 2006	366—367
SUBMISSIONS BY MEMBERS	
(i) Re: Non-availability of EC Bond Forms for traders	370—372
(ii) Re: Need to bring forth a legislation for combating AIDS	372
INDIAN RIFLES (REPEAL) BILL, 2006	
Motion to Consider	381
Shri Shriprakash Jaiswal	381
Clauses 2 and 1	382
Motion to Pass	382
STATUTORY RESOLUTION RE: DISAPPROVAL OF INDIAN TELEGRAPH (AMENDMENT) ORDINANCE, 2006	
AND	
INDIAN TELEGRAPH (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2006	
Motion to Consider	382
Shri Dayanidhi Maran	383—384, 405—420
Shri Prabodh Panda	384—385
Shri P.S. Gadnavi	385—388
Shri Naveen Jindal	388—389
Shri P. Karunakaran	390—392
Shri Suresh Prabhakar Pradhu	392—395
Shri Shailendra Kumar	395—396
Prof. Rasa Singh Rawat	396—398
Shri Varkala Radhakrishnan	398—400
Shri B. Mahtab	401—403
Shri Girdhari Lal Bhargava	403
Shri Shankh Lal Majhi	404

SUBJECT	COLUMNS
Shri Kharabela Swain	404—405
Clauses 2 to 3 and 1	418—419
Motion to Pass	420
DEMANDS FOR SUPPLEMENTARY GRANTS (GENERAL) – 2006-07	426
DEMANDS FOR EXCESS GRANTS (GENERAL) 2004-05	426
DISCUSSION UNDER RULE 193	
Report on the state of Panchayats – A Mid-Term Review and Appraisal – 2006	420—426, 427—442
Shri Kharabela Swain	421—426
Shri Suresh Prabhakar Prabhu	427—431
Shri Lakshman Singh	431—432
Shri B. Mahtab	432—434
Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi	434—436
Shri Tapir Gao	436—439
Shri Kiren Rijju	439—440
Shri W. Wangyuh Konyak	440—441
Shrimati Jayaben B. Thakkar	441—442
MOTION RE: TWENTY-FOURTH REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON PRIVATE MEMBERS' BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS	442
PRIVATE MEMBER'S BILLS— <i>Introduced</i>	
(i) Constitution (Amendment) Bill, 2006 (Amendment of article 85) by Shri Gurudas Dasgupta	443
(ii) Constitution (Amendment) Bill, 2006 (Amendment of article 124, etc.) by Shri C.K. Chandrappan	443
(iii) Cinema Artists Welfare Bill, 2006 by Shrimati Jayaprada	443—444
(iv) National Commission for Small and Marginal Traders Bill, 2006 by Shrimati Jayaprada	444
(v) Beedi Workers Welfare Bill, 2006 by Shrimati Jayaprada	444—445
(vi) Constitution (Amendment) Bill, 2006 (Amendment of article 312) by Shri L. Rajagopal	445
(vii) Constitution (Amendment) Bill, 2006 (Amendment of article 370) by Shri Bachi Singh Rawat 'Bachda'	445

SUBJECT	COLUMNS
(viii) Constitution (Amendment) Bill, 2006 (Amendment of articles 102 and 191) by Shri Bachi Singh Rawat 'Bachda'	445—446
(ix) Constitution (Amendment) Bill, 2006 (Amendment of article 51A) by Shri Bachi Singh Rawat 'Bachda'	446
(x) Indidan Medical Council (Amendment) Bill, 2006 (Amendment of section 3, etc.) by Dr. R. Senthil	446—447
(xi) Constitution (Amendment) Bill, 2006 (Amendment of article 15) by Dr. R. Senthil	447
(xii) Women Welfare Bill, 2006 by Shrimati Archana Nayak	447
(xiii) Farmers (Old Age Pension) Bill, 2006 by Shrimati Archana Nayak	448
(xiv) Ban on Bogus Advertisements Bill, 2006 by Shrimati Archana Nayak	448
PRIVATE MEMBER'S BILL – under consideration	
Agricultural Workers Welfare Bill, 2006	449—494
Motion to Consider	449
Shri Hannan Mollah	449—459
Shri S.K. Kharventhan	459—463
Prof. Rasa Singh Rawat	463—467
Shri Shailendra Kumar	467—470
Shri Sugrib Singh	471—472
Shri C.K. Chandrappan	472—481
Shri K. Francis George	481—484
Dr. Sebastian Paul	484—485
Shri Mitrasen Yadav	486—487
Dr. R. Senthil	487—489
Shri T.K. Hamza	490—492
ANNEXURE I	
Member-wise Index to Starred Questions	495
Member-wise Index to Unstarred Questions	496—502
ANNEXURE II	
Ministry-wise Index to Starred Questions	503—504
Ministry-wise Index to Unstarred Questions	503—504

OFFICERS OF LOK SABHA

THE SPEAKER

Shri Somnath Chatterjee

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Shri Chamjit Singh Atwal

PANEL OF CHAIRMEN

Shri Giridhar Gamang

Dr. Satyanarayan Jatiya

Shrimati Sumitra Mahajan

Dr. Laxminarayan Pandey

Shri Balasaheb Vikhe Patil

Shri Varkala Radhakrishnan

Shri Arjun Sethi

Shri Mohan Singh

Shrimati Krishna Tirath

Shri Devendra Prasad Yadav

SECRETARY GENERAL

Shri P.D.T. Achary

LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

Friday, December 8, 2006/Agrahayana 17, 1928 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock.

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Pankaj Chowdhary, Q. No. 242.

[Translation]

Functioning of RRBs

*242. SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has assessed the working of Regional Rural Banks (RRBs);

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government proposes to formulate any plan for improvement in the functioning of these banks;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

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

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) to (e) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) and (b) The performance of Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) is reviewed every year by the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) and a Consolidated Review of RRBs is also laid on the Table of both Houses of Parliament. Concerted institutional strengthening measures, including other supportive action like capacity building of staff etc. by NABARD and sponsor banks have enabled RRBs to improve their performance. The review of performance for the period ended 31st March, 2006 on certain parameters is given below:

(Rs. in crores)

S.No.	Parameters	2004-05	2005-06*
1.	Business Level	95013.00	111041.00
2.	Deposit Outstanding	62143.00	71329.00
3.	Loans Outstanding	32870.00	39713.00
4.	Loss Making RRBs	30	22
5.	Amount of Accumulated Losses	2715.00	2626.47
6.	Loans disbursed for Agriculture	11926.82	15183.00
7.	Gross NPA (percentage)	8.53	7.28
8.	Net NPA (percentage)	5.15	3.90

*Data for 2005-06 is provisional.

(c) to (e) The sponsor banks have been made squarely responsible for the performance of the RRBs. In order to strengthen and improve the viability of RRBs, the Government initiated a process for structural consolidation of RRBs by amalgamating RRBs sponsored by the same bank within a State. The amalgamated RRBs would provide better customer service due to better infrastructure, computerization of branches, pooling of experienced work force, common publicity and marketing efforts etc. As on date, notifications for amalgamation of 137 RRBs into 43 entities have already been issued. As a result thereof, the number of RRBs has been reduced from 196 to 102.

[Translation]

SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) were set up for the convenience of the farmers. However, today, there is neither draft facility nor core banking system facility, nor ATM facility in Regional Rural Banks. I would like to know from the hon'ble Minister whether he would declare Regional Rural Banks as National Rural Banks so that all the account holders who are generally farmers could get the facility to operate their accounts from any part of the country.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Regional Rural Banks have specific areas in different States and are sponsored by various banks alongwith the respective State Governments. Districts are covered by specific RRBs and it is specified that a particular Rural Bank will provide services in a particular district. Banking facilities are provided in those areas through that bank only.

SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon'ble Minister has stated in his reply that the Regional Rural Banks are area specific and cater to that specific area where these are located. However, I would like to submit that the country is progressing and electronic banking facilities are rapidly increasing in the country. The children of the rural folk who have opened their accounts in these banks go out for study but they fail to avail the facility of those banks as they cannot make payment or get bank drafts through those banks. I would like to put my second supplementary. According a judgment of the Supreme the pay and allowances of the employees of rural banks should be at par with the employees of the sponsored banks. Though they are getting pay but they are not getting other facilities like

medical facility, leave, travelling facility, pension and halage allowance at par with the employees of the sponsored banks. I would like to know from the hon'ble Minister whether those facilities will also be provided to them so that they may put in their best performance and do their duty sincerely like the employees of other banks.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, as far as the allowances given to the employees of the said banks are concerned, such payment is guided by the relationship between the commercial banks and these employees and the allowances are paid to them accordingly. However, the pay differs and is fixed by their different boards. I would like to inform the hon'ble Member that it is on account of the wage revision done last year that the employees of rural banks are getting Rs. 55 crore more.

[English]

SHRI N. JANARDHANA REDDY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, these rural banks have been established in this country to take banking services to the rural farmers. But they have begun to function just like any other bank. That is why, I think, the Reserve Bank of India has appointed Chalapati Rao Committee to examine the functioning of rural banks. What happened to the Report of Chalapati Rao Committee? How have these banks been merged with regular banks?

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Sir, rural banks continue to service the small and marginal farmers, agricultural labourers and rural artisans. The emphasis is still on servicing these sectors and, for that, the performances, over the years, have increased because of the good internal working set up of these banks.

From time to time, the work is reviewed and today — despite the fact that we are amalgamating the banks for bringing in more efficiency in the working because infrastructural support etc. is available — the fact is that the number of branches have increased over the years. Today, the number of these branches is 14,495.

To strengthen the rural banks and to make them viable functioning institutions, the measures that have been taken from time to time include the setting up of the Task Force, which the hon. Member has referred to. It was set up two months back in the month of September and the report has to be submitted soon. We will certainly consider the report when it is presented to the Government.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN': Mr. Speaker, Sir, as per the Eleventh Five Year Plan estimates, nearly 65 crore people are going to be added to the army of unemployed who are in search of employment. Regional Rural Banks can be helpful to a great extent in solving the problem of unemployment. I would like to submit that cottage industry is required to be promoted for solving the problem of unemployment. I would like to know whether the Government would issue guidelines to Regional Rural Banks for providing loans to cottage industries in order to promote them.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, we have such a scheme. I would like to inform you that last year Rs. 701 crore were provided to rural artisans, Rs. 823 crore to small scale industries, Rs. 3925 crore to retail trade and Rs. 1458 crore were provided to self help groups. Thus, if any body approached the banks for loans and fulfils all the conditions, then loan is provided to him.

[English]

SHRI RAVICHANDRAN SIPPIPARAI: Sir, the PGP in South Tamil Nadu is a strong regional rural bank. What steps are proposed to be taken to further strengthen the PGP's branch network and lending to the priority sector?

MR. SPEAKER What is the PGP?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): Sir, it is one of the RRBs in Tamil Nadu. It is, of course, a very strong bank. In fact, along with another bank in Punjab, the Pandian Gramin Bank and Punjab Bank compete for first and second places over the last few years. A number of branch licences have been given to Pandian Gramin Bank, which extended its jurisdiction from Ramanathapuram to Sivaganga to Puddukottai and I think, they are now moving into a few other districts. It is a very strong bank. As and when the PGB applies for more licences, I am sure the RBI will consider those applications.

SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS: Sir, as the senior hon. Member, Shri N. Janardhana Reddy, pointed out, the Regional Rural Banks are set up to emphasise on rural marginal farmers and artisans. In our State, in Kerala, two RRBs are there, the South Malabar Gramin Bank

and North Malabar Gramin Bank. Both these banks are doing well among the total RRBs in the country.

May I know from the hon. Minister what steps are going to be taken by the Government to further strengthening of these RRBs, that is, South Malabar Gramin Bank and North Malabar Gramin Bank by opening up more branches in rural interior areas?

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: If they are doing well. I think, we should leave them alone to do well. If they apply for more branches, they will be granted more branches. The gramian banks together have something like 14,495 branches. As and when they apply for more branches, they will be given more branches. The hon. Member may please ask them to apply.

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Regional Rural Banks are closer to the rural masses. In present day times their importance is much more because despite all the efforts, commercial banks are not willing to open their branches in small suburbs and towns, in this situation barring North East and Jammu and Kashmir the financial condition of Regional Rural Banks is also improving which is a welcome development. The hon'ble Minister said in his statement that there are 14,400 branches of the said banks but I feel that these branches are not sufficient. These days rural people go to foreign countries. They work there. They are also working in big cities. When they send their money to their villages it is not transacted through these Regional Rural Banks. Since the main question is promotion and modernisation of business of the Regional Rural Banks, I would like to know whether the Government will make arrangement for handling of the foreign exchange through these banks so that the family members of those rural people who are working abroad would not face any difficulties.

[English]

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: One must not lose sight of the fact that the purpose of setting up the RRB was slightly different from the purpose of the commercial banks. The identity of RRBs must be preserved, and we must recognize a distinction between a commercial bank and an RRB. If RRBs become clones of commercial banks, then why have RRBs at all? Today, commercial

banks are expanding at a very fast rate. I concede that RRBs are not expanding their branch network at the same rate. Why? It is because, they are so fragmented. We have too many RRBs promoted by the same parent bank in the same district of the same State. Following the Chalapati Rao Committee's Working Group's interim Recommendations, we have now embarked upon a process of amalgamating the banks promoted by the same parent bank in one State with the consent of the State Government. That would result in bringing down the number to 102 from 196. Once the RRBs are amalgamated, we will have a much better balance sheet. Therefore, they can now expand more vigorously. I am confident that once the amalgamation process is complete they will grow at a very fast rate, and I would certainly urge upon the RBI to be liberal in granting branch licences to RRBs. But, I would submit with great respect that we must keep a distinction between commercial banks and RRBs so that the identity of RRBs is not lost and the purpose for which they were set up is not lost.

MR. SPEAKER: Well, I have decided upon five Supplementaries. But, for my self-protection, I have to ask Shri Prabhunath Singh.

It is not to be treated as a precedent. Do not be encouraged every day.

....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Gangwar, you are not Prabhunath Singh.

....(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have observed especially in Bihar that rural banks working under central bank are cover two-three districts. I feel that it is on account of this that the purpose of rural banks to serve rural areas is being defeated because the central bank is imposing its guidelines on those banks. Through you, I would like to know whether the purpose of rural banks for which the said banks were set up is not being defeated by assigning the status of rural bank to the central bank and imposing later's guidelines on rural banks.

[English]

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: In fact, that is how it should be. Now, we have made the parent banks squarely responsible for the performance of the Regional Rural Banks. In fact, there is one General Manager in each parent bank who is exclusively earmarked to oversee the working of the Regional Rural Bank. It is because of this change of policy that the RRBs are stronger; most RRBs are now profitable. If you take the profitable RRBs, the net profit of RRBs last year has increased over the previous year. I think the policy that we have devised, namely to make the parent bank squarely responsible for the performance of the RRB, is a correct policy. I would respectfully request the hon. members to give a fair trial to this policy.(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I was asking about the benefit to the consumers whereas the hon'ble Minister is talking about the profit to the banks. The quantum of profit being earned by the bank has nothing to do with it.(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: No more question.

....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: For being a very cooperative Member, I make some exception in favour of Shri Santosh Gangwar.

[Translation]

SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR: Just now my colleague had asked some questions. Though the said banks are called rural banks, however, when we go to villages we find that their branches located in rural areas are closed there and shifted to towns. If it is so, then I would like to know the views of the hon'ble Minister in this regard.(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I think, these are good lessons.

[Translation]

SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR: It will be commendable on the part of the banks if farmers credit cards are issued

without charging any money from the farmers. The Government should also ponder over it. The Government has reduced the number of these banks from 196 to 102 by amalgamating them. I would like to know whether the Government also propose to handover their responsibility to the nationalised banks of four zones because there is a rumour in the air that the Government propose to hand them over to nationalised banks. Just now the hon. Minister has said that it is profitable to reduce their number to 102, however, their expenditure is decreasing. I would like to know whether he will include the branches of these 102 banks with such banks or with any nationalised bank.

[English]

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Sir, maybe I did not express myself clearly. Each Rural Bank is sponsored and promoted by a commercial bank. Where the same parent bank has promoted more than one Rural Bank in a State, we are amalgamating them under one Rural Bank so that there will be one Rural Bank with a strong balance-sheet.

Now, opening of branches of commercial banks is a separate issue. Commercial banks have a very large number of branch networks and, I think, on an average every year they open about thousand branches.

Rural Banks have their own branch expansion policy, and branches are granted for Rural Banks as and when they apply through the parent bank. So, there is no question of handing over the responsibility of one to the other. The sponsoring parent bank is now made squarely responsible for the performance of the Regional Rural Bank promoted by it.

[Translation]

Valmiki Ambedkar Awas Yojana

*243. SHRI BAPU HARI CHAURE:
SHRI KRISHNA MURARI MOGHE:

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

(a) the details of the funds released to the State Governments for development of urban slum areas under

Valmiki Ambedkar Awas Yojana (VAMBAY) during each of the last three years, State-wise;

(b) whether the funds released by the Union Government under VAMBAY have been fully utilized by the State Governments;

(c) if so, the details of the utilisation of funds and the achievements made thereunder; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor and the action taken by the Government in this regard?

[English]

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

Statement

(a) Details of the funds released by the Government of India to State Governments for the development of urban slum areas under Valmiki Ambedkar Awas Yojana (VAMBAY) during each of the last three years, State-wise, are at Annexure-I enclosed.

(b) and (c) The funds released by the Union Government under VAMBAY have not been fully utilized by the State Governments. Details of the utilization of funds and the achievements made under the scheme are at enclosed Annexures II and III respectively.

(d) The reasons for under-utilisation of funds under VAMBAY scheme, *inter-alia*, include:

- (i) Low unit cost of the house,
- (ii) No provision of funds for the development of infrastructure,
- (iii) Lack of availability of suitable land for housing,
- (iv) Litigation pertaining to land.

As VAMBAY scheme has been implemented through the State Governments, the Government of India has been vigorously pursuing the matter with them for effective utilization of funds.

Annexure I

*Details of Funds released to State Governments/Union Territories under Valmiki Ambedkar
Awas Yojana (VAMBAY) during 2003-04, 2004-05 and 2005-06*

Sl.No.	Name of State/ Union Territory	Year 2003-04	Year 2004-05	Year 2005-06
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	5987.383	3492.490	7127.410
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	0.000	18.000	272.925
3.	Assam	0.000	0.000	0.000
4.	Bihar	10.000	0.000	3.600
5.	Chhattisgarh	383.470	0.000	1124.320
6.	Goa	0.000	0.000	0.000
7.	Gujarat	13.480	451.200	126.700
8.	Haryana	666.080	0.000	0.000
9.	Himachal Pradesh	0.000	0.000	0.000
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	112.930	64.250	78.810
11.	Jharkhand	0.000	718.800	696.400
12.	Karnataka	3957.580	406.000	1774.100
13.	Kerala	1398.680	200.000	1336.740
14.	Madhya Pradesh	286.700	376.000	50.000
15.	Maharashtra	5299.967	13244.968	1622.540
16.	Manipur	205.400	0.000	88.425
17.	Meghalaya	0.000	0.000	0.000
18.	Mizoram	0.000	0.000	0.000
19.	Nagaland	185.830	6.200	113.625
20.	Orissa	59.880	16.400	0.000
21.	Punjab	0.000	0.000	0.000
22.	Rajasthan	52.985	650.000	16.880
23.	Sikkim	0.000	0.000	0.000
24.	Tamil Nadu	2086.480	4705.630	1554.200

1	2	3	4	5
25.	Tripura	233.080	0.000	48.375
26.	Uttaranchal	218.680	0.000	0.000
27.	Uttar Pradesh	1922.480	1991.950	0.000
28.	West Bengal	150.400	470.200	166.770
29.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	0.000	0.000	0.000
30.	Chandigarh	0.000	0.000	0.000
31.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	0.000	0.000	0.000
32.	Daman and Diu	0.000	0.000	0.000
33.	Delhi	0.000	0.000	0.000
34.	Pondicherry	74.680	123.600	0.000
35.	Lakshadweep	0.000	0.000	0.000
Total		23278.165	26935.688	16401.820

Annexure II

*Cumulative Details of Utilisation of Funds under Valmiki Ambedkar Awas Yojana (VAMBAY)
since inception (2001-02 to 2005-06)*

Sl. No.	Name of State/Union Territory	Total GOI subsidy released	Utilization Certificates Due	Utilization Certificates (UCs) Received	Outstanding UCs
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andhra Pradesh	22925.855	15811.985	12412.555	3399.430
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	290.925	18.000	0.000	18.000
3.	Assam	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
4.	Bihar	13.600	10.000	0.000	10.000
5.	Chhattisgarh	2088.720	977.880	977.880	0.000
6.	Goa	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
7.	Gujarat	2641.900	2528.680	2153.330	375.350
8.	Haryana	652.600	666.080	0.000	666.080
9.	Himachal Pradesh	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000

1	2	3	4	5	6
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	367.830	302.500	127.570	174.930
11.	Jharkhand	1415.200	718.800	0.000	718.800
12.	Karnataka	9006.800	7246.180	7246.180	0.000
13.	Kerala	5493.590	4170.330	3956.850	213.480
14.	Madhya Pradesh	1705.750	1669.230	742.330	926.900
15.	Maharashtra	22197.575	20588.535	14133.057	6455.478
16.	Manipur	288.220	213.275	213.275	0.000
17.	Meghalaya	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
18.	Mizoram	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
19.	Nagaland	301.175	201.030	201.030	0.000
20.	Orissa	124.000	137.480	88.000	49.480
21.	Punjab	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
22.	Rajasthan	1766.385	1762.985	1032.105	730.880
23.	Sikkim	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
24.	Tamil Nadu	12859.330	10810.610	8889.640	1920.970
25.	Tripura	423.003	388.108	374.628	13.480
26.	Uttaranchal	401.350	414.830	88.150	326.680
27.	Uttar Pradesh	5438.460	5451.940	1652.460	3799.480
28.	West Bengal	2118.540	1965.250	1342.340	622.910
29.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
30.	Chandigarh	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
31.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
32.	Daman and Diu	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
33.	Delhi	50.000	50.000	50.000	0.000
34.	Pondicherry	218.300	231.780	184.390	47.390
35.	Lakshadweep	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
Total		92792.11	76335.490	55865.770	20469.720

Annexure III*Cumulative Dwelling Units taken up under Valmiki Ambedkar Awas Yojana (VAMBAY) during 2001-02 to-2005-06*

Sl.No.	State/U.T.	Dwelling units targeted from 2001-02 to 2005-06	Dwelling units covered from 2001-02 to 2005-06	Physical progress (As on 31.10.2006)		
				Completed	In Progress	Not started
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	Andhra Pradesh	39783	99190	63644	15909	19637
2.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	338	0	0	0	0
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	542	1293	0	0	1293
4.	Assam	8414	0	0	0	0
5.	Bihar	17577	68	0	0	68
6.	Chandigarh	1410	0	0	0	0
7.	Chhattisgarh	4991	8942	5825	3117	0
8.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	26	0	0	0	0
9.	Daman and Diu	91	0	0	0	0
10.	Delhi	21532	167	167	0	0
11.	Goa	755	0	0	0	0
12.	Gujarat	22737	20971	20213	0	758
13.	Haryana	6656	3263	0	0	3263
14.	Himachal Pradesh	1067	0	0	0	0
15.	Jammu and Kashmir	5146	1389	638	128	623
16.	Jharkhand	5859	6986	0	0	6986
17.	Karnataka	11745	33282	25904	37	7341
18.	Kerala	10879	27467	19784	0	7683
19.	Lakshadweep	23	0	0	0	0
20.	Madhya Pradesh	13493	7026	3357	1906	1763
21.	Maharashtra	70992	76365	52085	6019	18261
22.	Manipur	1634	1281	1012	129	140
23.	Meghalaya	1676	0	0	0	0
24.	Mizoram	1669	0	0	0	0

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
25.	Nagaland	880	1311	1046	0	265
26.	Orissa	7410	620	276	266	78
27.	Pondicherry	1407	1196	951	245	0
28.	Punjab	12521	0	0	0	0
29.	Rajasthan	21589	7767	3700	1300	2767
30.	Sikkim	178	0	0	0	0
31.	Tamil Nadu	28818	121541	103891	17326	324
32.	Tripura	1290	1880	1284	436	160
33.	Uttar Pradesh	48430	24926	8874	4420	11632
34.	Uttaranchal	2549	1849	464	401	984
35.	West Bengal	43495	8685	5815	731	2139
Total		417602	457465	318930	52450	85165

[Translation]

SHRI BAPU HARI CHAURE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the people living below poverty line are facing a serious problem of food, clothing and shelter. The hon. Minister has stated in his reply that out of the funds allocated under Valmiki Ambedkar Awas Yojana during the period 2001 to 2006, the total funds released were Rs. 92792.11 lakhs. Against the released funds, the utilization certificate has been issued for Rs. 55865.77 lakhs. He has also cited the reasons for under utilization of the funds. These include the low unit cost of the houses, no provision of funds for the development of infrastructure, lack of availability of suitable land for housing etc. Some of the State Governments are not serious enough to ask for their share of this Awas Fund. What directions are being issued by the Government to them alongwith the action being taken against them? I have another question also.

MR. SPEAKER: Please ask the second supplementary later.

KUMARI SELJA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, Valmiki Ambedkar Awas Yojna was launched in 2001 but it has been discontinued now. Such schemes have been taken up under National Urban Renewal Mission. Regarding the

question asked by the hon. Member, I would like to state that it was a demand driven scheme. We allocated the funds under this scheme but many States failed to avail the funds. In the written reply I, therefor have furnished the reasons due to which the scheme could not achieve the desired success. Many States failed to take the funds while others did not utilize the amount taken property.

SHRI BAPU HARI CHAURE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, Shrimati Indira Gandhi had launched Indira Awas Yojna in 1985-86 for the development of rural areas. The then Government had included it under its 20 point programme also. Indira ji had formulated this policy because she was of the view that housing was the biggest problem for poor people. Land prices are rising day by day both in urban as well as rural area. The people living below poverty line are not able to avail the benefits of the subsidy given to them for the construction of houses under the housing policy of the Government as they do not own a piece of land. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the Government propose to make any arrangements to acquire land in the suburban areas or the areas adjoining the rural habitation under a package and construct dwelling units for the poor.

KUMARI SELJA: Sir, I would like to tell the hon. Member that I will be able to reply about the urban

areas alone and not about the rural areas. The Government observed that the work on the slums which were being developed in the cities for BPL families, was not up to the mark. Therefore, now we are tackling it on a holistic basis under the new Jawahar Lal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission which was launched by the hon. Prime Minister last year on 3rd December. Cluster approach is being taken so that the State Governments could furnish us the entire slum project of their respective States. For the first time, urban poor and social housing have been included in the Common Minimum Programme and on that basis we are of the opinion that if possible the poor people should be given land and slums should be developed at the same place. Under certain circumstances, if the Government fails to provide land at the same place, the State Governments should identify land nearby and send us project in this regard for clearance.

SHRI KRISHNA MURARI MOGHE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister that there is a huge difference between the figures made available by the Government and the figures especially of Madhya Pradesh which are with me. I have received the figures of 286.700 for the year 2003-2004 whereas, on the contrary the figures received from Madhya Pradesh show it at 138.30. Similarly, here it shows 50 lakhs against the year 2005-06, however, the State Government shows it as nil. Will the hon. Minister take any initiative in this regard? Secondly, will the Government make special efforts to encourage those States which have done commendable work for the implementation of this scheme for poor people? And whether the Government have any Scheme to sort out the problems being faced under the scheme by making extra efforts for the effective implementation of this scheme?

KUMARI SELJA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, as I have stated already, this scheme has been discontinued now. However, we have made a provision of Rs. 75 crore in this year's budget to complete the on going programmes under this scheme. Now, new projects will be taken up under the Urban Renewal Mission only.

[English]

SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY: Sir, I have a very pointed question to ask.

May I know from the hon. Minister whether the Government has any proposals or consideration to set

up a Task Force in order to monitor the entire project so that projects are properly implemented and funds are properly utilized. If so, what are the details?

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: This scheme is no longer there, now a new Scheme has been launched.

[English]

Just now, she has said that this project is no longer there. That scheme has been changed. Now, there is a new programme.

Now, Shri Ravi Prakash. Verma;

[Translation]

SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, just now the hon. Minister has stated that VAMBAY Scheme will be implemented under the National Urban Renewal Mission. Moreover, she has mentioned four main hurdles in the implementation of this scheme. First,

[English]

low unit cost of the house was a problem.

[Translation]

due to which the work could not be undertaken. The second problem was non-availability of funds for infrastructure development. Nonavailability of land was the third problem. Litigation cases were also there. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether there is any provision to impart training to the corporators and stake holders under the Urban Renewal Mission so that these problems could be redressed in the mission.

KUMARI SELJA: The hon. Member has raised a very important question. We have observed many shortcomings in the Valmiki Ambedkar Awas Yojna. Training is a very strong component of this mission. Not only Corporators and councillors but the civil society has also been involved under the training programme of the Mission.

[English]

SHRI B. MAHTAB: Sir, the slum dwellers constitute more than 50 per cent of the urban population invariably in all urban areas except Kolkata, Chennai and

Hyderabad. The first Centrally-sponsored scheme to ameliorate the conditions of urban poor and slum dwellers started in 2001 during the NDA rule when the then Prime Minister from the ramparts of the Red Fort announced this VAMBAY project. But last year, in the last Budget, a new programme was announced and that was called the Integrated Housing and Slum Development Programme.

I am told that the IHSDP is funded in the ratio of 80 : 20 basis. As per the preliminary estimation of the Technical Group of the Ministry, the shortage of houses at the beginning of the Eleventh Five Year Plan would be 24.71 million in the urban areas.

My question is, as the programme is demand-driven, which are the States, which have submitted the plan. I would also like to know whether Orissa has also submitted the plan; if so, how much funds has been spent?

MR. SPEAKER: This Question strictly pertains to VAMBAY. You are going beyond its domain.

SHRI B. MAHTAB: Sir, two programmes have been subsumed.

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Minister has already said that VAMBAY has been abolished. Let us put a different question; and I would allow that.

I am sorry, a very pertinent question does not arise out of it. I know it very well.

Now, Q. No. 244 Shri Suresh Prabhakar Prabhu.

....(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Kindly have silence in the House.

SHRI B. MAHTAB: Sir, you may please ask the hon. Minister to write to me.

MR. SPEAKER: You write to her.

The hon. Minister will respond, in writing, to Mr. Mahtab.

Acquisition of SBI Shares

*244. † SHRI SURESH PRABHAKAR PRABHU:
SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to acquire Reserve Bank of India's shares in the State Bank of India (SBI);

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

(c) whether there is any resistance from various quarters in the matter; and

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

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

Statement

(a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Committee on Banking Sector Reforms (Narasimham Committee II), *inter-alia*, observed that it is inconsistent with the principles of effective supervision that the regulator is also an owner of a bank and this would require the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to divest its holding in banks and financial institutions. In its Monetary and Credit Policy for the year 2001-02, RBI announced its intention to transfer the ownership of shares in State Bank of India (SBI), National Housing Bank (NHB) and National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) in favour of the Government of India. Accordingly, RBI has sent a proposal to transfer its shares in these entities.

(c) and (d) The Committee on Fuller Capital Account Convertibility (FCAC) headed by Shri S.S. Tarapore has, in its report submitted to RBI on 31st July, 2006, recommended that given the imperative need for strengthening the capital of banks in the context of Basel II and FCAC, this transfer should be put on hold. However, SBI has a comfortable capital adequacy of 12.63% as on 30.09.2006, which is well above the minimum regulatory requirement of 9%. Further, the bank has a number of avenues, irrespective of its ownership, to strengthen its capital viz. by raising fresh equity, issue of Innovative Perpetual Debt Instruments (IPDI) eligible for inclusion as Tier I capital, issue of various capital instruments to shore up its Tier II capital, etc. Hence, transfer of RBI shareholding in SBI to the Government of India would not in any way adversely impact the capital raising ability of the Bank.

SHRI SURESH PRABHAKAR PRABHU: Sir, the answer to the Question about acquisition of RBI's equity into the State Bank of India, by the Government of India raises more questions than what is answered.

Firstly, about the recommendation of the Narasimhan Committee, it is true that this Committee gave its recommendations way back in 1992; and 14 years have lapsed since then. This Committee had recommended that there should be no conflict of interest because the RBI being the regulator, should not be holding its shares in the larger interest of the country. It is very obvious. But the Government continued that to happen in the last 16 years, and still has not acquired the same.

Secondly, the Reserve Bank of India is a regulator.

But now their shares are acquired by the Government of India when there are other nationalized banks and private sector banks. The Government acquiring their share is giving a signal that the State Bank of India is more preferred to the other banks. So, you want to acquire more equity. At the same time, the Government is already bringing legislation and trying to talk that you want to divest equity in other banks, and we are allowing them to raise equity in the market.

If at all the Reserve Bank of India's equity has to be acquired by the Government of India, there are other routes available. Why are they not pursuing that route? There, my question is this. Do you not think that by continuing RBI to hold shares in the last 15 years, after it was recommended by the Narasimham Committee, you have violated the spirit of the regulation, given unfair advantage to the State Bank of India and now you want to perpetuate it further?(*Interruptions*)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: It does not behove you.

[English]

I am sorry to say this.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: I will certainly answer my learned friend but I disagree with the conclusion he is trying to emphasize.

Sir, the RBI is the regulator. The RBI is also the monetary authority. The second Narasimham Committee, which was appointed only in 1996, gave its

recommendation thereafter and it said "It is inconsistent with principles of effective supervision that the regulator is also an owner of a bank and this would require the RBI to divest its holding in banks and financial institutions." I think this is a very compelling reason, a compelling argument and broadly, I agree with this argument.

Therefore, the Government has, in principle, decided that. Regarding the Government acquiring the RBI's holding in the State Bank of India should be favourably considered, the matter is under consideration. When a decision is taken, we will ensure that the acquisition takes place smoothly.

Just as the Government today is a majority shareholder in the nationalized banks, the Government will be the majority shareholder in the State Bank of India. The suggestion that the hon. Member made that the Government is bringing legislation to allow the Government holding in nationalized banks to be diluted or divested is wrong. We have made it abundantly clear, and I take this opportunity to reiterate the Government's position once again. The Government will always remain 51 per cent or more shareholder in the nationalized banks.

SHRI SURESH PRABHAKAR PRABHU: Sir, in fact, I will seek your protection. I would ask the Minister to be very emphatic on one issue. You allow a perpetuated system whereby the regulator enjoyed an undue advantage or the bank could have been benefited or other banks could not have been benefited by that. Therefore, the regulation was not in place properly because you continue to operate. In fact, since 1996, 10 years have passed, and, therefore, it has happened. That is the first part.

Secondly, the most important part is that the capital adequacy, as the Minister mentioned, will not be diluted. I do not understand what is the relationship between capital adequacy and change in share-holding. Just because the shareholding has simply changed, it does not mean that there is no opportunity for capital adequacy.

MR. SPEAKER: Please put your question.

SHRI SURESH PRABHAKAR PRABHU: But my fundamental question is this. Are we not going to allow this in this case? You could continue to be a majority shareholder even if you ask others to come and take over.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: RBI's holding of shares in the State Bank of India is a legacy issue. It is not something that we introduced or we made. It is a legacy issue. The Narasimham Committee, which was appointed around 1996, recommended that the regulator should not be the shareholder in the bank. I think that is a very compelling argument. That argument appeals to me and it appeals to my reason.

Now, after 1998 up to 2004, that recommendation was not acted upon. Surely, you cannot hold me responsible for not acting upon the recommendation between 1998 and 2004. When our Government came into office in 2004 and when RBI reiterated its proposal, we have taken it up seriously and we are close to reaching a final decision.

Now, what is the relationship between CRAR and the shareholding? It is because the Tarapore Committee suggested that if the shareholding is transferred, it may affect or impair the ability of the State Bank of India to raise fresh capital. I have given reasons why that apprehension is completely unfounded. The State Bank of India's CRAR is at a comfortable 12.63. It has many avenues to raise capital. It could and will raise capital, and the Government will fully stand by the State Bank of India when it raises more capital.

[Translation]

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to ask the hon. Minister of Finance – whether the policy of Government of India is in conflict with the policy of RBI with regard to commercial banks.

[English]

And is such conflict is necessary for competition with the foreign banks? If so the measures thereof?

MR. SPEAKER: I do not know how it is related. There is no relation.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: There is no difference of opinion. RBI is the regulator; Government is the majority shareholder and each one functions within its own province.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: Sir, according to the Government's own admission, only about 27 per cent of the Indian population have access to institutional support. In view of the continuing incidents of farmers' suicides, the agrarian crisis, the decline in agriculture is affecting our food security, the Government had made a

commitment that in the coming three years, agricultural credit will be doubled.*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: How is it related to this Question?

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: The Government has already set up a Committee to look into the issue of financial inclusion. My query is whether the Government's commitment to the agriculture and agriculturists and the commitment they propose to make through financial inclusion, it is not going to make a mockery of the commitment by such a measure of pseudo-privatisation of the SBI on the specious plea of the conflict between the regulator and the service provider.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Sir, I have great respect for the hon. Member, but with the greatest emphasis I reject the suggestion. There is no pseudo-privatisation. In fact, if Government becomes the direct major shareholder in State Bank of India, if anything that strengthens your policy, then Government must be the major shareholder in the major banks of India, including the nationalised banks. I reject the suggestion of pseudo-privatisation in the country.

MR. SPEAKER: He has more faith in RBI than in you.

IPO Scam

*245. SHRIMATI NEETA PATERIYA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has lifted restrictions on the banks found involved in the Initial Public Offering (IPO) scam;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the name of the banks against which restrictions have been lifted; and

(d) the corrective measures being taken to prevent such scams?

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

Statement

(a) to (d) The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has informed that it has imposed monetary penalties on ten commercial banks for their involvement in IPO

irregularities. These ten banks are Bharat Overseas Bank Ltd., Indian Overseas Bank, Vijaya Bank, ICICI Bank Ltd., HDFC Bank Ltd., Standard Chartered Bank, Citibank, IDBI Ltd., ING Vysya Bank and Centurion Bank of Punjab Ltd. It has also issued a number of directives and advices to the commercial banks to improve operational standards and risk management practices. It has, however, not imposed any restrictions on these banks.

As per the extant policy guidelines, RBI takes into consideration a number of factors, including the regulatory comfort, while processing authorization requests from banks. In view of the regulatory discomfort arising out of the involvement of these banks in the IPO related irregularities, the applications received from them for opening of branches, chests etc., were kept pending initially. However, after ascertaining from them of the steps taken/corrective actions initiated by them to avoid recurrence of the irregularities, necessary authorizations and other regulatory approvals are being issued.

The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has informed that it had passed ex-parte interim order in April, 2006 directing a few banks that were functioning as Depository Participants (DP) not to undertake any fresh business as a DP until the enquiry was completed and final order passed. Subsequently, this direction has been discontinued in case of some banks, including HDFC Bank Ltd., IDBI Bank Ltd. and ING Vysya Bank Ltd.

SEBI and RBI have taken various measures to prevent recurrence of such IPO irregularities. The measures taken by RBI include:

- (a) All scheduled commercial banks, excluding Regional Rural Banks (RRBs), have been advised to take a review of IPO financing and related matters, like opening of multiple accounts, adherence to Know Your Client/Anti Money Laundering guidelines, and RBI instructions on IPO financing, advances against shares, etc. and put up a report on the findings before their Audit Committees under advice to RBI.
- (b) On the basis of special examination of the internal control systems of the banks concerned, RBI has brought the deficiencies revealed by such examination to the notice of these banks for necessary corrective action. A Circular incorporating the deficiencies observed in the internal control system in these banks has been

issued to all banks (excluding RRBs) for taking appropriate action.

- (c) A directive has been issued prohibiting the banks from crediting 'account payee' cheques to account of any person other than the payee named therein.

The measures taken by SEBI include:

- (a) The depositories, on a directive from SEBI, have advised their respective DPs to verify the genuineness of the dematerialized account holders where 20 or more dematerialized account holders have a common address and to close those dematerialized accounts where the DPs were unable to do this verification.
- (b) The depositories have been advised to put in place a system including the necessary software to identify multiple accounts suspected to be benami/fictitious.
- (c) The depositories have been directed to issue directions to DPs making Permanent Account Number card compulsory for all categories of dematerialized account-holders in respect of all dematerialized accounts opened by them on or after April 1, 2006.
- (d) The depositories have been advised to activate International Securities Identification Number only on the date of commencement of trading on stock exchanges in case of IPOs.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI NEETA PATERIYA: Sir, through you, I would like to ask the hon. Minister of Finance - whether the Government has taken any action against banks and financial institutions involved in IPO scam? What steps have the Government taken to recover Rs. 50 crore involved in it? The Government in its reply has stated that the RBI and SEBI have issued some guidelines. I would like to ask as to how the Government would ensure compliance of the said guidelines by the banks involved in the said scam.

[English]

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Sir, my answer is a very detailed answer. In a whole page, I have set out all the

steps, all the penal actions taken by the RBI and the SEBI. If the hon. Member wishes to know more about any particular action taken, I am willing to answer, but my answer is a very detailed answer.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI NEETA PATERIYA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, he has not replied in detail. He has not stated how the credibility of banks on which restrictions were imposed has been restored? Whether the persons involved in said scam who made money through their firms have been penalised? What are the names of genuine investors whose applications have been rejected? Further, I would like to ask the hon. Minister—whether the government propose to keep a check on the firm which give attractive advertisements with false projections to lure the public before the launch of the IPOS?

[English]

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Sir, as far as IPO scam is concerned, the RBI has taken action against those banks because some of their branches facilitated multiple applications, but no bank lost money. The banks facilitated multiple applications. They were fined. Their applications for branch licence were put on hold and the banks were asked to completely revise their KYC norms and the manner in which the KYC norms are applied. As far as the other players are concerned, action against them has been taken by SEBI.

If I may say, SEBI has recently passed an unprecedented order. It is an order called the disgorgement order, which is for the first time in India. The SEBI has directed all the players involved in the IPO Scam, namely, the depositories, the depository participating jointly and severally, and they are being made liable. They are being asked to disgorge the profits. This is a quasi-judicial proceeding, and orders have been passed. Some of these orders have been challenged before the tribunal. I am sure that these proceedings will come to an end, and SEBI will continue these proceedings to ensure that unjust enrichment by these people is disgorged.

Once it is disgorged, I have advised SEBI that the next step would be to reallocate the shares from the persons who did not deserve to be allocated the shares to the persons who should have been allocated the shares. This is a long process, but this is the first case

of its kind. SEBI has already passed, what in my view is, a historic order.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI NEETA PATERIYA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister has not replied to my question as to what steps the Government have taken to check the companies which issue attractive advertisements?

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Will you control the advertisements?

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: These advertisements have come to the notice of SEBI also. I think that SEBI has advised them that these advertisements are not permissible, and I do not think that any advertisement has appeared since this period.

MD. SALIM: Sir, the Minister in his reply has pointed out the various measures to be taken up by the RBI and SEBI to prevent recurrence of such scams or irregularities as far as IPOs are concerned. But the Minister as well as the Standing Committee on Finance have also admitted that since this IPO came into being, the IPO route has been misused more than being used, and the recommendation also states this. Hence, I would like to ask this as part of the recommendation made by it. Will he look into all the episodes of IPO Scams since the IPOs came into being, and then come to the House and say how far these checks and balances have been worked out?

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Sir, what is an IPO Scam? It is not every issue that is tainted by this act of fraud. In a certain number of issues, the people took advantage of the lack of a system in the depositories and made multiple applications. Now, anyone is allowed to make only one application, but they made multiple applications. There was no system in either NSDL or CSDL to detect these multiple applications, and they took advantage of this.

I am not denying it, but we caught them too. It is not as though they escaped. We caught them, and we have punished them. Now, we are trying to put in place a system where multiple applications will be easily detected. Today, NSDL and CSDL are putting in place - I think, substantially, NSDL has put in place - a system where multiple applications will be detected. One of the

ways to detect multiple applications is that PAN be made mandatory. One cannot have a depository account without a PAN.

I would like to take this opportunity to make it very clear that 31 December 2006 is the last date for anyone to have a depository account without a PAN number. There are still about two lakh people who have not furnished their PAN number. If they do not furnish their PAN number by 31 December, then those accounts will be frozen, and they cannot operate their accounts thereafter. Therefore, I am confident that we will not have scams of this kind once PAN number is made mandatory, and the software is in place in NSDL and CSDL to track multiple applications. But I cannot say what other clever devices the people will adopt. We have to be vigilant, and I promise that we have instructed the RBI, SEBI, NDSL and CSDL to remain eternally vigilant to avoid such scams.

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: In the first paragraph of the answer, the hon. Minister has referred to 10 banks that have been involved in this scam. It includes only one public sector bank, and most of the banks are private banks. There are also two foreign banks, namely, Standard Chartered Bank and Citi Bank.

The hon. Minister had been speaking of the safeguards to prevent these irregularities as he has just answered the supplementary of my predecessor. But I would like to draw his attention to the fact that the Standard Chartered Bank and Citi Bank—which are mentioned in his answer — were also involved in the security scam in 1992-1993. A Parliamentary Committee looked into the matter, and I was a Member of that Committee.

My specific question to the hon. Minister is this. What steps the Government would like to take to discipline these foreign banks in India in view of the continuous irregularities or repeated irregularities being committed by a number of foreign banks?

MR. SPEAKER: It is a larger question.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Sir, I would once again say that we must understand what was this IPO Scam. This IPO Scam was ... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: Sir, I did not ask about the nature of the scam. I was asking about the misconduct of these banks. ... *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: He is mentioning about the types of misconduct.

... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Please allow me to explain this point. The bank itself was not involved in any misconduct as such. A branch of the bank was not vigilant to track multiple applications made by individuals. The Bharat Overseas Bank is there, which was a bank owned by public sector banks; Indian Overseas Bank is there; Vijaya Bank is there; foreign banks are there; and private banks are also there. The Branch Manager of that branch facilitated multiple applications without detecting that the same person is making multiple applications. It was not a scam in which the bank itself was involved. These are all in identified branches.

For example, in many banks the branches involved were only two or one or three. Therefore, we have now taken action — when this was detected — against the multiple applicants or multiple applications made by the same person. But the bank has suffered because a Branch Manager or more than one Branch Manager of the bank did not detect these multiple applications. The banks have been visited with monetary penalties, and their applications for branch licences were kept on hold throughout the year 2006. Even today, the Standard Chartered Bank and Citi Bank have not been given any branch licences for this year. Now, they have been asked to improve their KYC norms and KYC application, so that such multiple applications are not facilitated by the Branch Managers. I think that the banks have visited with the penalties. Therefore, we must put it behind this, and allow the banking system to grow.

I am aware that these banks were involved in the 1992-1993 scam, but so were other banks, and they were punished for it. They have paid their penalty, and we must move on now.

MR. SPEAKER: Q. No. 246, Shri Mohan Rawale - not present

Shri Asaduddin Owaisi — not present.

Is there no one for the senior citizens?

Expansion of NREGS

*247. ⁺SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR:
SHRI P.C. THOMAS:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has decided to extend National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (NREGS) in more districts by launching its second phase;

(b) if so, the number of districts to be covered and the estimated funds required for the purpose;

(c) whether the Government has approached the Planning Commission in this regard;

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

(e) the time by which the second phase of NREGS is likely to be finalized and implemented?

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH): (a) to (e) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) and (b) In accordance with Section 1(3) of NREG Act, 2005, the Act shall be applicable to the entire country within a period of five years from the date of its enactment. NREG Act was notified on 7th September, 2005 and has been implemented in 200 identified districts in the country with effect from 2nd February, 2006 in the first phase. Matter pertaining to expansion of NREGA in more districts in the second phase is under consideration of the Government.

(c) Yes, Sir. Districts to be covered in the first phase of implementation of NREGA were identified by the Planning Commission. The Planning Commission has been requested to identify the districts for coverage under the Act in its second phase.

(d) and (e) Planning Commission is still to finalize the names of districts to be covered in the second phase of implementation of NREGA.

[English]

SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR: Sir, I have two questions to put to the hon. Minister.

MR. SPEAKER: Please ask one by one.

SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR: Yes, Sir. This is the first time that I am asking a Question after many months.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I can assure you that there has been no discrimination.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR: Sir, I know that.

Firstly, this is a very important scheme, which is designed to benefit the rural unemployed, especially, those who are below the poverty line. I am going to be a little constituency specific. Nearly, 1,06,000 people are below poverty line of which – based on the latest information with me – only 31,000 people have been given job cards. Further, no one has been given allowance out of these 31,000 people. This is a very serious matter.

I do not know about the other States, but the implementation of this scheme has not been keeping pace certainly in Bihar. Firstly, job cards are not being issued to all those persons who need it; and when job cards are issued, then jobs are not being given; and when jobs are being given, then they are not being given the allowance. A total of Rs. 38 crore has been allocated for my constituency Aurangabad, out of which Rs. 6.2 crore has been spent only on paper.

This is less than 16 per cent. This is not the right way to implement this. Does the Government of India have any scheme or any plan to monitor the implementation of the scheme at the constituency level? From this will flow my second question.

MR. SPEAKER: That will come later.

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Member has raised an issue of his parliamentary constituency, district Aurangabad. It is true that a meagre amount out of the funds released to Bihar has been spent. Even job-cards have not been distributed properly in the Panchayat nor work has most been started properly. I had spoken to the concerned officers of the State Government a number of times. Even I have written to them. I have also written letters to the Chief Minister of the State twice so that the work is undertaken properly. First holding of Panchayat elections and later the onset of rain was stated as the reasons behind this. Now they have said that they are going to implement it with full fan fare. Four-five States are lagging behind in implementing it and we are concerned about them. The

Government would be happy if the people living below poverty line in a district are covered under the said scheme. There is lack of awareness, alertness and also shortage of staff. There in one Gram Sevak or a Secretary for three-four panchayats. Meanwhile, we have asked the State Government to appoint Programme Sevak, Programme-Coordinator or Programme Officer and that we would bear their salaries, but the States are not initiating action.

SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR: Sir, I heard the reply of the hon. Minister quite attentively. He has admitted that this scheme is not being implemented at the required pace in Bihar especially, in my constituency.

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is being implemented no where. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing to be recorded except Shri Nikhil Kumar.

[Translation]

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, you have asked not to record only my speech ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Your speech will be recorded only when you speak on your turn.

[English]

Do not interrupt him.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister has admitted that the scheme provides that the people who are willing shall be provided job-cards. However, efforts should be made to extend the benefit to those who live below poverty line. In my area, the number of people issued job-cards is very less. I would like to say that though some people have been issued job-cards but they are not getting the allowance as the Gram Sevaks are not able to maintain the rosters in the proper manner. Do the Government propose to impart any training or organise a workshop so as to make them understand that they are maintaining a wrong roster. They fail to maintain rosters for fear of any kind of mistake that may occur while maintaining it. It is quite strange that such fear comes in the way of proper implementation

of such an important scheme. I would like to ask the hon. Minister whether the Government propose to conduct any workshop or envisage any plan to train the Panchayat Sevaks?

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I compliment you for your supplementary.

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: We have chalked out a scheme for three tier training. We have made it mandatory for the State Government to constitute monitoring committees comprising members of Panchayats, their officers, employees and nine local beneficiaries. The entire expenditure incurred on training of these three categories of people shall be borne by the Central Government. We have deployed NIRDs and resourceful persons in a phased manner so that everyone can be trained in a phased manner as the officers and employees are not even conversant with it. Even persons concerned with the panchayati raj institutions are not conversant with the modalities. Therefore, we have devised a programme for vigorous training. All the States have been asked to cooperate but their attitude is lacklustre. It has made us more concerned. The law does not make any provision for people belonging to APL or BPL category. It provides for anyone who is willing to join. If people living in the villages desire and submit their applications their names will be registered and they will be issued with job-cards. On the receipt of job-cards if they submit petition stating their willingness to work, they will be issued with a receipt within 15 days. The law provides that if they do not get a job within 15 days they are eligible for unemployment allowance. Therefore, with a view to create awareness and also willingness amongst poor towards work, I have written letters to the leaders and Members of all the parties requesting them to apprise the people of this in their respective areas. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I am sorry. Shri Nikhil Kumar, it is not fair. He has said everything. No, please.

SHRI P.C. THOMAS: This is a prestigious scheme. I applaud the vision behind it. However, I would like to know from the Government as to what exactly is the

result and the outcome of the great ventures which has been taken up. I would also like to know as to what is the result of the implementation in my State, Kerala.

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Mr Speaker, Sir, 1 crore 11 lac 10 thousand and 946 families have demanded employment till date while 1 crore 46 lac 52 thousand and 081 persons of 1 crore 7 lac 39 thousand and 206 families have been provided employment. When we look at the average, it appears satisfactory and promising. Despite this the beginning in 4-5 States is not good for example Kerala. When this scheme was started in Kerala, Assembly elections were due after a month. Similarly, assembly elections were also due in Tamil Nadu, Assam and West Bengal. By election for an Assembly Constituency was due in Meghalaya. Panchayat elections were also due in Bihar. Therefore, the excitement for this scheme was missing in these 4-5 States. This scheme has been launched in only two districts of Kerala. We have received the information from Kerala that people are working with full fan fare. Due to elections this scheme was launched a little bit late.

SHRI RAM SINGH KASWAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, this is a very good scheme for giving employment to the poor and the unemployed. The Government are going to launch the second phase of this scheme but Rajasthan is being discriminated. Famines occur frequently there. Large number of people are unemployed there. People are migrating due to unemployment. Only six districts of Rajasthan have been included under the scheme, I would like to know from the hon. Minister through you whether my district Churu is likely to be included in the second phase or not? Other districts of Rajasthan have also not been included. *...(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Churu is a very important Zila.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM SINGH KASWAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, Churu district of Rajasthan has been facing famine for the last several years and people have no employment there. When this Bill was introduced in the House for the first time, I had requested that time also. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I have already mentioned about Churu district.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, Government have requested Planning Commission to launch the second phase. The way this scheme was launched in 87 thousand Panchayats of 200 districts in the first phase as per their criteria similarly, new districts will be selected as per the criteria of Planning Commission. If Churu fulfills the criteria, scheme will be launched there.

MR. SPEAKER: Churu should be selected.

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, this is a very good scheme. Hon. Minister has good intentions. He writes letters regularly and visits Bihar time and again. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: We do not have time. Please ask questions quickly.

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA: Mr. Speaker Sir, actual work often gets hampered. Elections in our country are not held simultaneously. Seasons are also different in the country. There is no work for 4 months in rural areas during rainy season. Works under the scheme are interrupted sometimes due to elections and sometimes due to by elections. Are the Government of India ready to remove such restrictions in consultation with Election Commission so that work under the scheme may be continued in each area.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: It is very good point.

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, we have written to Election Commission. We have told them that since it's a law passed by the Parliament model code of conduct should not come in this. They have conceded to a certain extent but have not given their full consent but we are pursuing it. The work will be interrupted due to model code of conduct, labourers will not get work and the State Government will have to pay Unemployment allowance, such thing should not happen. Therefore, we are repeatedly requesting Election Commission and hope that we will succeed.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I am deeply obliged to all sections of the House for the kind cooperation.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

Services to Senior Citizens

*246. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE:
SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of complaints received from senior citizens against banks for taxing the exempted earnings during the current year;

(b) whether the Reserve Bank of India has pulled up banks for taxing the tax exempt earnings of senior citizens as reported in the *Times of India* dated November 11, 2006;

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

(d) the steps taken by the Government to provide proper services to the senior citizens?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (c) A number of complaints have been received by the Government/Reserve Bank of India (RBI) relating to non-acceptance of Form No. 15H and 15G by banks and continuance of tax deduction despite the depositor filing or offering to file these forms. RBI has, therefore, reiterated instructions to banks for not making any deduction of tax at source where the depositor has filed the Form 15H or Form 15G or a certificate under Section 197(1) of the Income Tax Act, 1961.

(d) Services provided by banks to senior citizens, *inter-alia*, include higher rates of interest on fixed deposits under the Senior Citizens Savings Scheme, loans against pension, loans to meet medical expenses etc. Further, wherever practicable and especially at Personal Banking Service or Savings Bank branches, banks consider providing 'no queue' facility to senior citizens, offering assistance in filling up forms etc.

Extension of Watershed Programmes under DPAP

*248. SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has made any assessment of watershed programmes;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether some State Governments have sought extension for watershed programmes running under Drought Prone Areas Programme (DPAP);

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH): (a) and (b) The Ministry of Rural Development commissioned Impact Assessment Studies by different expert agencies to know the impact of projects taken up under watershed programmes (IWDP, DPAP and DDP) in various States as per enclosed Statement-I. As per these studies, due to implementation of watershed projects the overall productivity of land and water table had increased and there had been a positive and significant impact on overall economic development in the project areas. The green vegetative cover had also improved in watershed areas that would have a positive impact in checking soil erosion by water and wind. The availability of fuel wood and fodder had also increased. The impact assessment studies reveal positive outcomes of these programmes.

Under a project of the Ministry, National Remote Sensing Agency (NRSA), Department of Space, Government of India, completed mapping of all the wastelands in the country in 1998 and estimated an extent of 63.85 million hectares of wasteland in the country. Subsequently, in 2005, NRSA prepared the Wasteland Atlas of India and estimated the total extent of wastelands to be 55.27 million hectares. Thus there was a reduction of 8.58 million hectares during this period as per enclosed Statement-II.

(c) to (e) DPAP projects are implemented on watershed basis with a project period of 5 (five) years. Accordingly, projects sanctioned from 2001-02 onwards are yet to complete their term.

However, for those projects which have been sanctioned in 2000-01, this Ministry has decided, in principle, to provide an extension of one additional year. In case of fifth batch projects sanctioned in 1999-2000,

State Governments have been asked to review the performance of each project individually and give their specific recommendation for their continuance or otherwise. State-wise details of these projects are given in the enclosed Statement-III.

Statement I

Impact Assessment Study of Watershed Development Programme

Study objectives:

An impact assessment study was conducted by MoRD (Ministry of Rural Development) in 16 States covering the IWDP (Integrated Wastelands Development Programme), the DPAP (Drought Prone Areas Programme) and the DDP (Desert Development Programme) with the following objectives.

- (1) To assess the economic development of the village community that is directly or indirectly dependent on the watersheds, through:
 - (a) optimum utilization of the watershed's natural resources like land, water and vegetation that will mitigate the adverse effects of drought and prevent further ecological degradation, and
 - (b) employment generation and development of the human and other economic resources of the village to promote savings and other income-generating activities.
- (2) To assess the impact of the WDP on the restoration of ecological balance in the village, through
 - (a) sustained community action for the operation and maintenance of assets created and further development of the potential of the natural resources within the watershed, and
 - (b) simple, easy-to-use and affordable technological solutions and institutional arrangements that make use of, and build upon, local technical knowledge and available materials.
- (3) To assess the impact of the project in terms of improvement of economic and social conditions of the poor and the disadvantaged sections of

the community such as the landless and women, through

- (a) more equitable distribution of the benefits of community lands and water resource development and consequent biomass production, and
- (b) greater access to income generating opportunities and greater focus on their human resource development.

*Summary of Impact Assessment Studies
Impact on land, water and biomass*

Land use:

Overall improvement in land use was reported from all States following the implementation of the WDP. Increase in the net sown area, gross cropped area and area sown more than once was reported from Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Orissa, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, and Uttar Pradesh.

Irrigation:

The number of irrigation options was enhanced in all the areas where watershed projects were undertaken. This was especially the case in Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Orissa, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Uttaranchal, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal.

Fuelwood and fodder availability:

Fuelwood and fodder availability increased, especially in the areas under the IWDP, where considerable attention was paid to wasteland development and catchment area treatment. Several States including Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Orissa, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu and Uttar Pradesh reported positive changes in the availability of both fuelwood and fodder.

Livestock:

While some States reported changes in the actual numbers of livestock owned, there was a marked preference for improved breeds after the project. Some States also reported the emergence of fishery potential following the development of tanks and other water bodies.

Socio-economic impact**Cropping pattern:**

Several States reported changes in their cropping pattern from one to two crops annually. This was directly attributed to the availability of irrigation water in the dry season. Some States reported the adoption of improved crop varieties.

Only a few States have recorded pre- and post-project yields for dominant crops in the annual cropping cycle. Where data has been available, an increase in yields has been reported.

Income and employment generation:

Several States reported an increase in agriculture related employment opportunities among beneficiaries and in other sectors for non-beneficiaries. These included trade, dairy, poultry, masonry, etc. Physical works carried out under the WDP provided varying numbers of man-days of work in nearly all States. Changes in household income levels varied from none at all in some States to over 50% compared to pre-project levels in other States.

**Capacity building and people's participation
Institutional arrangements:**

All States reported having established institutional arrangements to undertake the WDP. Watershed Development Advisory Committees were set up at the

district level in all the watershed districts. It was preferred that Government departments acted as PIAs and a range of line departments including forest, agriculture, animal husbandry, soil conservation, planning, revenue, rural development, and minor irrigation assisted in project implementation. In some States, NGOs were also used as PIAs.

People's participation:

User groups/self-help groups were set up only in some States. Similarly WCs and WAs also were established in most watershed areas but some areas were still left out. This was attributed in some States to the lack of familiarity of government agencies in dealing with social and institutional issues without adequate orientation and training. In other States, the non-availability of NGOs also hampered the efforts at engaging with the people in a meaningful way.

Capacity building:

All the States reported investing in capacity building at various levels including the levels of beneficiaries, WC and WA members, and PIAs. In some States, this led to positive outcomes. In others, it was felt that the quality of training received as well as the frequency of the training programmes needed improvement. Mostly State agriculture departments and universities and in some cases, NOGs were also engaged in delivering capacity building programmes.

Statement II*Comparison of Wastelands Data (1986-2000 to 2003)*

S.No.	State	No. of Dist	Total Geog. Area	1986-2000		2003		Change
				W.L. Area	% to TGA	W.L. area	% to TGA	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1.	Andhra Pradesh	23	275068	51750.19	18.81	45267.15	16.46	-2.35
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	16	83743	18326.25	21.88	18175.95	21.7	-0.18
3.	Assam	23	78438	20019.17	25.52	14034.08	17.89	-7.63
4.	Bihar	37	94171	5880	6.2	5443.68	5.78	-1.75
5.	Chhattisgarh	16	135194	10185.98	7.53	7584.15	5.26	-2.27
6.	Goa	2	3702	613.27	16.57	531.29	14.35	-2.21
7.	Gujarat	25	198024	43021.28	21.95	20377.74	10.4	-11.55

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
8.	Haryana	19	44212	3733.98	8.45	3266.45	7.39	-1.06
9.	Himachal Pradesh	12	55673	31659	56.87	28336.8	50.9	-5.97
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	14	101387	65444.24	64.55	70201.99	6924	4.69
11.	Jharkhand	19	79706	15884	19.93	11185.26	14.01	-5.92
12.	Karnataka	27	191791	20839.28	10.87	13536.58	7.06	-3.81
13.	Kerala	14	38863	1448.18	3.73	1788.8	4.6	0.88
14.	Madhya Pradesh	49	308252	60732.53	19.7	157134.03	18.53	-1.17
15.	Maharashtra	33	307690	53489.08	17.38	49275.41	16.01	-1.37
16.	Manipur	9	22327	12948.62	58	13174.74	59.01	1.01
17.	Meghalaya	7	22429	9904.38	44.16	3411.41	15.21	-28.95
18.	Mizoram	8	21081	4071.68	19.31	4469.88	21.2	1.89
19.	Nagaland	7	16579	8404.1	50.69	3709.4	22.37	-28.32
20.	Orissa	30	155707	21341.71	13.71	18952.74	12.17	-1.53
21.	Punjab	17	50362	2228.4	4.42	1172.84	2.33	-2.1
22.	Rajasthan	32	342239	105639.11	30.87	101453.86	29.64	-1.22
23.	Sikkim	4	7096	3569.58	50.3	3808.21	53.67	3.36
24.	Tripura	4	10486	1276.03	12.17	1322.97	12.62	0.45
25.	Tamil Nadu	29	130058	23013.9	17.7	17303.29	13.3	-4.39
26.	Uttar Pradesh	70	240926	22971.6	13.17	16984.16	7.05	-6.12
27.	Uttaranchal	13	53483	16079.72	30.07	16097.46	30.1	0.03
28.	West Bengal	18	88752	5718.48	6.44	4397.56	4.95	-1.49
29.	Union Territory	20	10973	574.3	5.23	314.38	2.87	-2.37
TOTAL:		597	166412	638518.31	20.17	552692.26	17.45	-2.71

Statement III*Status of DPAP projects of 5th batch due for review*

Sl.No.	Name of State	Name of District	No. of District	No. of Projects	Remarks
1.	Jharkand	Chatra	1	19	
2.	Karnataka	Bidar	1	23	
3.	Maharashtra	Adilabad, Dhule, Nanded, Osmanabad, Sangli, Satara, Yavatmal	7	219	State Govt. should review the projects for decision on continuation of the project or otherwise.
4.	Uttar Pradesh	Sharavasti	1	12	
5.	Uttaranchal	Pauri Gharwal, Champavath	2	49	
Total			12	322	

Wind and Solar Energy

*249. SHRI JASHUBHAI DHANABHAI BARAD:
SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO:

Will the Minister of NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) the different types of renewable energy which are in use and those which are in the experimental stage;

(b) the allocations made and its utilization for the development of renewable energy during each of the last three years; and

(c) the concrete efforts being taken by the Government to patronize and encourage production of solar and wind energy in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY (SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR): (a) The principal new and renewable sources being harnessed for energy are wind, small hydro, biomass including bio-fuels and solar. These apart, renewable energy sources such as geothermal, ocean

thermal, tidal, synthetic fuels and hydrogen are in demonstration/experimental stage.

(b) Year-wise details of funds allocated to this Ministry at BE and RE stages and the actual expenditure incurred during last three years, i.e., 2003-04 to 2005-06 are given in the enclosed statement.

(c) To encourage harnessing of renewable energy, including solar and wind, fiscal and financial incentives are being provided that include capital/interest subsidy, accelerated depreciation, concessional duties and relief from taxes to attract private investment. These apart, preferential tariff for grid-interactive power is being given in most potential States. However, since the cost of grid-interactive solar photovoltaic electricity is placed at Rs.20/kWh (without battery back up); its generation has not taken off on account of it not being economically viable at this juncture. Publicity and awareness on the use of renewable energy systems/devices are created through print, postal and electronic media and special events like the Rajiv Gandhi Akshay Urja Diwas which are being organised. In addition, District-level Advisory Committees have been constituted in States to facilitate effective coordination of renewable energy schemes/programmes.

Statement

Year-wise details of amount allocated to this Ministry at BE and RE stages and the actual expenditure incurred during last three years, i.e., 2003-04 to 2005-06

Financial Year	Budget Estimate (BE)	Revised Estimate (RE)	Actual expenditure (% utilization w.r.t to RE)
2003-04	630.15	395.74	381.33 (96.36%)
2004-05	605.27	405.47	240.33 (59.27%)
2005-06	605.38	356.43	285.98 (80.23%)

Check Over Non-Banking Finance Companies

*250 SHRI UDAY SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has sought to bring about greater discipline in the Non-Banking Finance Companies (NBFCs) sector as reported in *The Statesman* dated November 6, 2006;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether certain NBFCs are not adhering to the guidelines of the Union Government/RBI issued from time to time;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b) Based on the recommendations of the Internal Group set up to

recommend a policy framework for level playing field in the financial sector. Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has placed in the public domain, for comments, draft guidelines on "Financial Regulation of Systemically Important NBFCs and Banks' Relationship with them", on November 03, 2006 and the revised draft circular on November 30, 2006. The revised draft guidelines, *inter-alia*, provide that:

1. All systemically important non deposit taking NBFCs shall:

- (i) maintain a minimum capital adequacy ratio of 10%;
- (ii) comply with single and group exposure norms, which are similar to those applicable to deposit taking NBFCs;

2. Banks may assume exposure on a single NBFC up to 10% of their capital funds, and to all NBFCs up to 40% of their capital funds. These limits may be exceeded by 5% and 10% of capital funds, respectively, if the additional exposure is on account of funds on-lent by the NBFCs to infrastructure sector.

(c) to (e) At present, non-deposit taking NBFCs are subject to minimal regulations by RBI. The regulatory and supervisory attention of RBI has been mainly focused on deposit taking NBFCs and RBI has been taking action against such deposit taking NBFCs which have not complied with the provisions of RBI Act and the directions thereunder or have shown weaknesses in the financial position. Such action includes prohibiting the companies from carrying on non-banking financial activity, acceptance of deposits and alienation of assets. Wherever the default is persistent in nature, RBI initiates winding up proceedings and also files criminal complaint against the directors of the NBFC. So far, RBI has filed winding up petition against 84 NBFCs, criminal complaints in 70 cases and 27 complaints under Section 420 of IPC for cheating members of public.

Sharing Service Tax with States

*251. SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total service tax collected during each of the last two financial years, State-wise;

(b) whether the Government has any proposal to share service tax with the States;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Empowered Committee on VAT has also made recommendations to this effect; and

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

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) The amount of service tax collected during the financial year 2004-05 and 2005-06 are Rs. 14,200 crore and Rs. 24,039 crore (provisional), respectively. Service tax collection is not collated State-wise.

(b) and (c) Presently, the proceeds of Service Tax are shared between the Centre and the States as per provisions of Article 270 of the Constitution of India. As part of the package to compensate the States for revenue loss on account of the proposed phasing out of the Central Sales Tax (CST), the Central Government has proposed collection and appropriation of the proceeds of certain specified services which are of intra-state nature.

(d) and (e) The Empowered Committee of State Finance Ministers (EC) had proposed in their letter dated 26.05.2006 that-

- (i) the share of States in Service Tax should be increased from 30.5% to 50% and the incremental 19.5% share should be distributed amongst the States in the ratio of CST collections, and
- (ii) 124 specified services of intra-State nature identified by the EC (including 67 Services presently being taxed by the Centre) should be transferred to the States for collection and appropriation of Service Tax.

Regarding increase in the share of States in Service Tax, the EC has been informed that the Central Government has no proposal at present to increase the share of States in Service Tax.

Regarding collection and appropriation of service tax by States on certain specified services, the consultation process with the EC continues.

Renewable Energy Plants

*252. SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY:
SHRI BALASHOWRY VALLABHANENI:

Will the Minister of NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has decided to set up renewable energy generation plants in the country;
- (b) if so, the details alongwith the locations thereof;
- (c) the total outlay of funds earmarked for the purpose;
- (d) the quantum of power likely to be generated from these plants; and
- (e) the time by which these plants are likely to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY (SHRI VILAS

MUTTEMWAR): (a) and (b) Ministry of New and Renewable Energy has been facilitating setting up of renewable power generation plants. Already, 9060 MW renewable power generation capacity (1860 MW small hydro power, 1100 MW bio power and 6100 MW wind power) has been established, upto 31.10.2006. In addition, plants aggregating 2456 MW capacity (434 MW small hydro power, 1322 MW bio power and 700 MW wind power) are under various stages of implementation as per State-wise details given in enclosed *statement*.

(c) A budget provision of Rs. 82.00 crore at B.E. stage has been made during 2006-07 towards subsidy for small hydro and bio-power projects.

(d) The estimated electricity generation from renewable power plants during 2005-06 was 14 billion kWh and is likely to be 17 billion kWh during 2006-07.

(e) Implementation period of renewable power projects is resource, technology, location and site specific. The normative completion time for small hydro and bio-power projects is 1-2 years whereas in wind power projects it is less than one year after site preparation.

Statement

State-wise details of renewable power projects under installation as on 31.10.2006

(in MW)

Sl.No.	State/UT	Small Hydro	Bio-Power	Total
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	13.90	97.00	110.90
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	41.27	—	41.27
3.	Assam	26.00	—	26.00
4.	Bihar	9.50	—	9.50
5.	Chhattisgarh	8.0	140.00	148.00
6.	Goa	—	—	—
7.	Gujarat	—	—	—
8.	Haryana	—	—	—
9.	Himachal Pradesh	28.25	—	28.25
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	5.56	—	5.56

1	2	3	4	5
11.	Jharkhand	34.85	—	34.85
12.	Karnataka	46.49	200.00	246.49
13.	Kerala	47.25	—	47.25
14.	Madhya Pradesh	24.20	—	24.20
15.	Maharashtra	25.75	233.00	258.75
16.	Manipur	2.75	—	2.75
17.	Meghalaya	3.28	—	3.28
18.	Mizoram	15.50	—	15.50
19.	Nagaland	12.20	—	12.20
20.	Orissa	40.92	—	40.92
21.	Punjab	2.00	75.00	77.00
22.	Rajasthan	—	45.00	45.00
23.	Sikkim	12.20	—	12.20
24.	Tamil Nadu	7.90	147.00	154.90
25.	Tripura	—	—	—
26.	Uttar Pradesh	—	365.00	365.00
27.	Uttaranchal	23.01	20.00	43.01
28.	West Bengal	3.80	—	3.80
29.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	—	—	—
Total		434.58	1322.00	1756.58*

*Excluding wind power projects estimated at 700 MW being implemented in Gujarat, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Tamilnadu and Kerala being potential States.

Hydro Power Generation

*253. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether India is lagging behind in hydro power generation in comparison to other countries despite its immense generation potential;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government has initiated efforts for accelerated development of Hydel power generation in

the country to meet its future power requirement;

(d) if so, whether the Government proposes to set up a Hydro Power Commission;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) whether Inter-State water disputes are coming in the way of hydro power projects; and

(g) if so, the steps taken by the Government to resolve these disputes?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE): (a) and (b) The re-assessment studies of hydro-electric potential of India, completed by the Central Electricity Authority in 1987, have placed the hydro power potential at about 84,044 MW at 60% load factor which when fully developed would result in an installed capacity of about 1,50,000 MW on the basis of probable average load factor. Out of the total exploitable hydro power potential, about 33,600 MW has already been developed, another 13,527 MW is under development. The extent of exploitable hydro potential and the status of its development in some of the countries is enclosed as Statement.

Some of the main reasons for slow development of hydro potential in the country are as follows:

- (i) Difficult and in-accessible sites.
- (ii) Problems encountered in acquisition of land.
- (iii) Resettlement & Rehabilitation problems.
- (iv) Law & order problems.
- (v) Long gestation period.
- (vi) Geological challenges in construction of projects in difficult Himalayan region.
- (vii) Inter-state disputes relating to water.
- (viii) Apportionment of project costs among various beneficiary States.
- (ix) Cumbersome procedures and delays in obtaining environment, forest and wildlife clearances.
- (x) Excessive burden on account of Net Present Value (NPV) imposed on diversion of forest land.
- (xi) Paucity of funds in the State sector.

(c) The Union Government has accorded top priority to the development of hydro potential in the country. The following measures have been taken by the Government for expeditious development of hydro power potential -

- (i) Policy on Hydro Power Development (1998) including measures to attract private participation.
- (ii) Creation of various Central/Joint Sector Corporations for implementation of Hydro Electric (H.E.) Projects.

- (iii) 3-stage clearance procedure for Central Public Sector Undertakings.
- (iv) Ranking Study by Central Electricity Authority in 2001-02 for prioritizing the projects.
- (v) Launching of 50,000 MW Hydro-Electric Initiative in May, 2003.
- (vi) Enactment of Electricity Act, 2003.
- (vii) National Rehabilitation & Resettlement (R&R) Policy, 2003.
- (viii) National Electricity Policy, 2005.
- (ix) National Tariff Policy, 2006.
- (x) Guidelines for determination of tariff by competitive bidding process for procurement of power by distribution licensees issued in January, 2005.
- (xi) Periodical review of projects under construction by the Ministry of Power and monitoring of the projects by Central Electricity Authority (CEA) including undertaking of regular field visits.
- (xii) Review meetings with manufacturers/suppliers of major equipments.
- (xiii) Regular coordination meetings with Ministry of Environment and Forests, Ministry of Water Resources, Central Water Commission and Central Electricity Authority for early clearances of the projects from environment, forest and wildlife angles, sharing of waters of Inter-State rivers and concurrence under the Electricity Act, 2003.
- (xiv) Advance action for identification of Hydro Electric Projects for benefits during 11th Plan and beyond.

(d) There is no proposal under consideration of the Government to set up a Hydro Power Commission.

(e) Question does not arise.

(f) and (g) At present, 36 hydro electric schemes with an aggregate installed capacity of 7260 MW are held up due to non-resolution of Inter-State water disputes.

The subject of 'Water including Water power' is a State subject under List II of the Schedule 7 of the

Constitution. The Ministry of Power recognizes that the hydro-electric should be developed without prejudice to the rights of the riparian States as determined by the Awards of the Tribunals/Agreements for a given river basin. The issue has been addressed in the Hydro Policy announced by the Ministry of Power, Government of India in August, 1998. It has been suggested that the selection and design of project be based on integrated basin wise

studies, so as to arrive at an optimal decision, ensuring that such projects do not in any way prejudice the claims of basin States or affect benefits from the existing projects. It has also been laid down in the Hydro Policy that a consensus would be evolved amongst the basin States regarding the location of such projects, basic parameters involved and mechanism through which each project would be constructed and operated.

Statement

Sl.No.	Name of country	Exploitable Potential (MW)	Potential Developed	
			(MW)	(%)
1.	China	395000	79000	20.00
2.	Canada	160000	69205	43.25
3.	India	150000	33600	22.40
4.	Brazil	93694	69087	73.70
5.	Norway	47000	27689	58.91
6.	Pakistan	45000	6595	14.65
7.	Nepal	43000	565	1.31
8.	Myanmar	39720	747	1.88
9.	Thailand	26440	3476	13.14
10.	Bhutan	16000	970	6.06

Source: Website of Water Power and Dam Construction Magazine.

[Translation]

Foreign Debt

*254. SHRIMATI SANGEETA KUMARI SINGH DEO:
SHRI THAWARCHAND GEHLOT:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the external debt of the country as on date;

(b) the position of India among the indebted countries of the world;

(c) the per capita burden of foreign debt on the country at present;

(d) the amount India has to pay as interest against the total debt every year;

(e) the total amount of principal and interest paid to foreign creditors during each of the last three years, country-wise and institution-wise; and

(f) the steps taken to reduce the debt burden of the country?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) According to the latest available information, India's total foreign debt amounted to US\$ 132.13 billion at end-June 2006 (comprising long-term debt of US\$ 122.93 billion and short-term debt of US\$ 9.20 billion). Of this, Government external debt amounted to US\$ 46.15 billion.

(b) According to the World Bank's Global Development Finance, 2006, India's position among the indebted countries of the world was eighth in 2004.

(c) The per capita burden of total foreign debt on

the country at end-March 2006 was US\$ 113 (Rs. 5,041) and per capita government debt was US\$ 41 (Rs. 1,829).

(d) Interest amounts paid against the total external debt for the last three years are given below in Table I:

Table I: Interest payments on India's external debt

(US\$ million)

Year	2005-06	2004-05	2003-04
Government	706	641	726
Other than Government	4,378	2,397	3,675
Total Interest payments	5,084	3,038	4,401

(e) Country-wise details of total amount of principal and interest paid on account of Government

external debt are given below for the last three years in Table II.

Table II: Government External Debt service Payments

(US \$ million)

	2005-06			2004-05			2003-04		
	Principal	Interest	Total	Principal	interest	Total	Principal	Interest	Total
A. Multilateral (1 to 4)	790	402	1,192	737	307	1,044	3,563	389	3,952
1. ADB	25	62	87	15	38	53	1,257	73	1,330
2. IBRD	133	153	286	111	68	179	1,751	141	1,892
3. IDA	619	184	803	598	198	796	542	172	714
4. Others	13	3	16	13	3	16	13	3	16
B. Bilateral (5 to 10)	1,348	304	1,652	1,301	334	1,635	2,498	337	2,835
5. Germany	100	19	119	121	22	143	119	24	143
6. France	45	14	59	51	16	67	50	17	67
7. Japan	486	222	708	501	251	752	502	241	743
8. Russian Federation	615	27	642	470	17	487	431	11	442
9. USA	101	22	123	117	26	143	126	29	155
10. Others	1	0	1	41	2	43	1,270	15	1,285
C. Grand Total (A+B)	2,138	706	2,844	2,038	641	2,679	6,061	726	6,787

(f) Prudent external debt management policies are pursued by the Government to maintain external debt within manageable limits. These include emphasis on raising funds on concessional terms and from less expensive sources with longer maturities, monitoring of short-term debt, prepaying high cost loans, rationalizing interest on NRI deposits and enforcing limits as well as restricting end-use of external commercial borrowings.

Voluntary Disclosure of Black Money

*255 SHRI KASHIRAM RANA:
SHRI V.K. THUMMAR:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has made any assessment regarding black money in the country;

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

(c) whether the Government proposes to launch any voluntary disclosure scheme for disclosure of black money;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the other steps being taken to control the black money?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b) There is no exact estimate of the amount of black money presently in circulation in the country. However, at the instance of the Government, the National Institute Public Finance and Policy (NIPFP) had attempted an estimate of black money in the country. According to the report of the NIPFP, the total amount of black money in the country during financial year 1983-84 was estimated between Rs. 31,584 crores and Rs. 36,786 crores. Subsequently no fresh study has been conducted by the Government on the amount of black money.

(c) and (d) Presently, there is no proposal to launch any voluntary disclosure scheme for disclosure of black money.

(e) The income Tax Department takes several punitive and deterrent steps to control black money. These include scrutiny of returns, surveys, search and seizure action, imposition of penalty and launching of prosecution in appropriate cases. Further, by the Finance Act, 2005, the Government have introduced two additional anti-tax evasion measures, namely, levy of Banking Cash

Transactions Tax to establish the trail of large cash withdrawals through banking channels; and, furnishing of quarterly returns of certain deposits as prescribed under Section 206A of the Income Tax Act.

Rural Markets

*256. SHRI HARIKEWAL PRASAD:
SHRI TUKARAM GANPATRAO RENGE PATIL:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the existing arrangements for setting up rural markets;

(b) whether there is any proposal to set up rural markets for marketing of the articles of handicraft produced by the artisans of the rural sector; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH): (a) to (c) The Ministry of Rural Development is not implementing any specific scheme for setting up rural markets. However, the Ministry has taken certain initiatives under its self-employment scheme Swarnajayanti Gramin Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY) for promotion of marketing of rural products produced by Self-Help Groups (SHGs) of rural poor. These initiatives include (a) organisation of fairs under the brand name of 'SARAS' all over the country; (b) creating marketing infrastructure at Delhi, State Capitals and District Headquarters; (c) special emphasis on marketing under SGSY Special Projects; (d) Allocation of Rs. 5 lakhs annually to DRDAs for management of professional inputs related to marketing research, value addition, product diversification or any other input which facilitates marketing of the produce; and (e) Articles of handicrafts produced by Self-Help Groups (SHGs) and artisans of the rural sector are also promoted by the Ministry.

So far 59 SARAS have been organized which have given a platform to rural poor for exhibiting and selling their products in major cities of the country. The Ministry has sanctioned 16 Special Projects under Swarnajayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY) for marketing of products of rural poor with a total cost of Rs. 15083.205 lakhs. Out of 16 projects, 9 projects are exclusively for creation of marketing infrastructure in 8 States namely Andhra Pradesh, Goa, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Madhya

Pradesh, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu and Uttaranchal with total cost of Rs. 8827.86 lakhs. Other projects are for brand building for poor and linking rural poor producers with markets.

Contaminated Water

*257. SHRI GIRIDHARI YADAV:
SHRI SURAVARAM SUDHAKAR REDDY:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether several lakhs of people residing in rural areas are forced to consume highly contaminated drinking water with fluoride, iron, nitrate, arsenic and saline salts;

(b) if so, the areas/districts identified in the country where the contamination is beyond permissible limits, State-wise;

(c) whether the Union Government along with State Governments have initiated any schemes to reduce the contamination in drinking water;

(d) if so, the details thereof along with the success achieved in this regard;

(e) whether any special package has been announced in this regard and if so, the details thereof;

(f) the funds released and utilized for supply of uncontaminated water during each of the last three years and current year, State-wise;

(g) the further action proposed to be taken by the Union Government for supply of safe drinking water in the affected areas of the country; and

(h) the details of water testing facilities, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH): (a) and (b) No, Sir. 96.13% of the 14,22,303 rural habitations in the country have been fully covered, and 3.55 % partially covered with safe drinking water supply as per the stipulated norms. Chemical contamination in ground water sources is mainly due to geogenic reasons. However, due to overexploitation of groundwater and other factors some of the drinking water sources become chemically contaminated and unsafe. The quality of drinking water of various sources is periodically monitored by the District

Water Quality Testing Laboratories with reference to the water quality standards laid down by the Rajiv Gandhi National Drinking Water Mission (RGNDWM) as per IS : 10500 standard. In some habitations, dual water supply policy is promoted and State Governments have been advised to mark unsafe/contaminated drinking water source with red paint to ensure that people do not use the same for drinking and cooking purposes but can be used for other purposes like washing and bathing. The number of water quality affected habitations in the country compiled as on 1.4.2006, as reported by State Governments in their Bharat Nirman Action Plans as per water quality survey ordered in March 2000, is 1,95,813. State-wise details are given in the enclosed Statement I.

(c) to (e) and (g) Rural drinking water is a State subject. Government of India provides financial and technical assistance to States through a Centrally Sponsored scheme, namely Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP), for supply of drinking water as per the stipulated norms. For tackling water quality problems due to chemical contamination a Sub-Mission programme was introduced in 1992-93 under ARWSP with funding pattern of 75 : 25 between the Centre and States. With effect from 1/4/1998, the State Governments were delegated powers to sanction projects under the Sub-Mission programme for which funds earmarked for water quality were to be utilized. 15% of ARWSP funds released to States were earmarked for tackling water quality problems, and 5% for taking up source sustainability measures like rainwater harvesting and water recharging. These measures, *inter-alia*, reduce contamination of ground water based drinking water sources. Fully covered States could utilize more funds for tackling water quality problems with the approval of Government of India. Following water quality tackling measures were taken up by the State/Central Governments under the Sub-Mission Programme -

- Setting up of de-fluoridation plants, de-salination plants, arsenic removal plants for existing ground water schemes, treatment and filtration plants.
- Providing Community de-fluoridation plants and domestic level filters.
- Aeration for treatment of iron contaminated water.
- Marking of safe and unsafe sources and social mobilization for usage of safe sources for drinking and cooking purposes.

Single and multi-village piped water schemes from alternative distant ground water/surface source.

The Twelfth Finance Commission has earmarked funds for tackling water quality problems in the acutely affected States e.g. Andhra Pradesh (Rs. 325 crore), West Bengal (Rs. 600 crore), Rajasthan (Rs. 150 crore) and Haryana (Rs. 100 crore).

The States have been asked to adopt an integrated approach to cover quality affected habitations by utilizing treatment units/domestic filters, rooftop rainwater harvesting structures, piped water schemes and recharging/strengthening of existing safe source and watershed based activities. With effect from 1.4.2006, under the Revised Sub-Mission programme under ARWSP it has been decided to retain upto 20% of ARWSP funds at the Centre and release funds only to State Governments, which have water quality problems.

Various measures undertaken by the State Governments supported by the Central Government result in reduction in number of quality affected habitations however, side by side some new quality affected habitations emerge from time to time due to over-exploitation of ground water. State Governments such as Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and Gujarat have reported coverage and reduction in number of quality affected habitations.

The Government has already launched the Bharat Nirman programme under which, all water quality problems in the country with priority to arsenic, fluoride and salinity contamination, are to be addressed in a phased manner during the period 2005-06 to 2008-09.

(f) The State-wise releases made under ARWSP during the last three years are given in the enclosed statement-II. 15% of these funds were earmarked for tackling water quality. State-wise releases made for the year 2006-07 as on 30.11.2006 against the allocations for tackling water quality problems under Revised Sub-Mission Programme of ARWSP is given in the enclosed Statement-III.

(h) The State-wise number of district water quality testing laboratories existing in the country as on 30.11.2006, as per information available from States, is enclosed as Statement-IV. A community based National Rural Drinking Water Quality Monitoring and Surveillance Programme has been launched in the country which aims at testing of all drinking water sources by the Grass-root level workers in each Panchayat by simple-to-use field test kits. One Field test kit would be provided to each Gram Panchayat in the country for this purpose. The positively tested samples would then be tested at the District/State level laboratories for confirmation. Funds to the extent of Rs. 57.84 crore have been released to all States during February/March 2006 under this Programme, which include IEC activities, HRD activities, procurement of field test kits, etc. State-wise funds released for the purpose is enclosed as Statement-V.

Statement I

Status of water quality affected habitations as on 01.04.2006

Sl.No.	State/UT	Habitations Affected by						Total
		Fluoride	Salinity	Iron	Arsenic	Nitrate	Multiple	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1497	1058	0	0	0	0	2555
2.	Bihar	383	0	21540	794	2000	0	24717
3.	Chhattisgarh	17	61	4932	11	0	0	5021
4.	Goa	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
5.	Gujarat	2563	1528	0	0	838	0	4929
6.	Haryana	119	72	0	0	0	145	336

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
7.	Himachal Pradesh	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
8.	Jharkhand	1159	0	129	18	1	41	1348
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	0	0	47	0	0	67	114
10.	Karnataka	5000	0	6633	0	4077	4460	20170
11.	Kerala	34	86	564	0	78	105	867
12.	Madhya Pradesh	3282	279	105	0	33	153	3852
13.	Maharashtra	2748	1424	2491	0	4552	0	11215
14.	Orissa	794	651	26136	0	0	435	28016
15.	Punjab	588	1289	164	0	0	0	2041
16.	Rajasthan	6992	4428	131	0	7693	12639	31883
17.	Tamilnadu	452	61	68	0	104	735	1420
18.	Uttaranchal	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
19.	Uttar Pradesh	2077	612	2375	0	11	1302	6377
20.	West Bengal	665	811	11883	5408	0	0	18767
21.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	0	0	16	0	0	10	26
22.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
23.	Daman and Diu	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
24.	Delhi	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
25.	Lakshadweep	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
26.	Pondicherry	0	65	17	0	0	0	82
27.	Chandigarh	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total		28370	12425	77231	6231	19387	20092	163736

NE States

1.	Arunachal Pradesh	0	0	353	0	0	213	566
2.	Assam	660	0	23841	730	0	2950	28181
3.	Manipur	0	0	37	0	0	0	37
4.	Meghalaya	0	0	124	0	0	0	124
5.	Mizoram	0	0	26	0	0	0	26

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
6.	Nagaland	0	0	136	0	0	0	136
7.	Sikkim	0	0	76	0	0	0	76
8.	Tripura	0	0	2653	106	0	172	2931
	Total	660	0	27246	836	0	3335	32077
	Grand Total	29030	12425	104477	7067	19367	23427	195813

Statement II

S.No	Name of the State	ARWSP Funds released (in Rs. Lakh)		
		2003-2004	2004-2005	2005-2006
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	11688.00	13084.00	22340.29
2.	Bihar	3159.50	7400.03	15324.00
3.	Chhattisgarh	1901.00	2269.80	5020.44
4.	Goa	0.00	0.00	182.45
5.	Gujarat	5537.00	6623.00	11205.00
6.	Haryana	1694.00	1974.00	3493.30
7.	Himachal Pradesh	4919.00	5427.00	10885.00
8.	Jammu and Kashmir	12800.00	12500.00	21908.00
9.	Jharkhand	2060.00	1859.83	6171.28
10.	Karnataka	10104.00	10045.89	17723.99
11.	Kerala	3497.76	3946.00	6170.65
12.	Madhya Pradesh	6079.00	7745.00	15039.88
13.	Maharashtra	15710.00	15971.00	31610.88
14.	Orissa	4213.81	6934.00	13880.94
15.	Punjab	2269.00	2815.00	4134.81
16.	Rajasthan	15694.51	20391.86	35891.34
17.	Tamil Nadu	4869.00	7075.13	11093.34
18.	Uttaranchal	2371.50	2957.97	6559.12
19.	Uttar Pradesh	10457.00	12991.00	28372.10

1	2	3	4	5
20.	West Bengal	6827.00	8270.21	15078.33
21.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	0.00	0.00	0.00
22.	Chandigarh	0.00	0.00	0.00
23.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	0.00	0.00	0.00
24.	Daman and Diu	0.00	0.00	0.00
25.	Delhi	0.00	0.00	0.00
26.	Lakshadweep	0.00	0.00	0.00
27.	Pondicherry	0.00	0.00	0.00
	Sub Total (A)	125851.08	150280.72	282085.14
28.	Arunachal Pradesh	3300.00	6125.00	9874.54
29.	Assam	5701.72	8782.82	14800.63
30.	Manipur	1824.15	2103.00	2713.67
31.	Meghalaya	1811.78	2422.00	3190.10
32.	Mizoram	1386.00	1737.00	2599.27
33.	Nagaland	1826.73	1702.00	2841.20
34.	Sikkim	783.00	731.00	1183.68
35.	Tripura	1903.00	1558.25	3199.86
	Sub Total (B)	18116.38	25160.87	40202.95
	Total (A+B)	143967.46	175441.59	322288.09

Statement III*Release of funds under Revised Sub-Mission programme during 2006-07 as on 30.11.2006*

SI.No.	Name of the State	No. of water quality affected habitations targeted	Allocation in Rs. crore	Funds released in Rs. crore
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	730	34.12	33.63
2.	Tamil Nadu	308	10.63	3.38
3.	West Bengal	648	142.00	88.30

1	2	3	4	5
4.	Tripura	361	4.61	4.05
5.	Assam	1589	44.22	35.90
6.	Arunachal Pradesh	14	0.69	0.52
7.	Jharkhand	446	21.01	16.62
8.	Karnataka	417	125.36	73.54
9.	Nagaland	5	0.16	0.16
10.	Rajasthan	7748	206.63	206.00
11.	Uttar Pradesh	507	50.13	19.47
12.	Orissa	1261	85.16	17.47
13.	Bihar	6429	79.41	22.46
14.	Chhattisgarh		13.27	Proposals received are under examination for release of funds
15.	Gujarat		58.38	
16.	Madhya Pradesh		60.23	
17.	Maharashtra		76.34	
18.	Haryana		2.98	
19.	Kerala		3.11	
20.	Manipur		0.04	
21.	Mizoram		0.03	
22.	Meghalaya		0.15	
23.	Jammu and Kashmir		0.28	
24.	Punjab		20.36	Proposal from the States are awaited
25.	Sikkim		0.09	
26.	Pondicherry		0.53	
27.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands		0.06	
Total			1040.00	521.50

Statement IV*Setting up of District Level Water Quality Laboratory (As on 30.11.2006)*

Sl. No	Name of the State/UT	No. of Districts	Status Stationary Laboratories					Under GOI Yet to be Established	Mobile laboratories	
			By centre		By State Established	Others Established	Total Established		Sanctioned	Delivered
			Sanctioned	Established						
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
1.	Andhra Pradesh	23	14	14	37	0	51	0	-	-
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	15	13	13	0	0	13	0	-	-
3.	Assam	23	21	21	2	0	23	0	-	-
4.	Bihar	38	35	35	2	0	37	0	1	1
5.	Chandigarh (UT)	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	-	-
6.	Chhattisgarh	16	16	6	2	0	8	10	-	-
7.	Goa	2	1	1	1	0	2	0	-	-
8.	Gujarat	25	13	13	4	0	17	0	1	1
9.	Haryana	19	18	18	1	0	19	0	-	-
10.	Himachal Pradesh	12	10	10	5	0	15	0	1	1
11.	Jammu and Kashmir	14	9	6	2	0	8	3	3	3
12.	Jharkhand	22	16	6	0	0	6	10	-	-
13.	Karnataka	27	21	9	0	0	9	12	-	-
14.	Kerala	14	4	4	10	0	14	0	-	-
15.	Madhya Pradesh	48	48	48	14	0	62	0	1	1
16.	Maharashtra	35	3	3	27	0	30	0	1	1
17.	Manipur	9	8	3	0	0	3	5	1	1
18.	Meghalaya	7	7	7	0	0	7	0	1	1
19.	Mizoram	8	4	4	0	0	4	0	1	1
20.	Nagaland	8	6	2	0	0	2	4	1	1
21.	Orissa	30	30	29	0	0	29	1	1	1
22.	Punjab	17	12	4	0	0	4	8	-	-
23.	Rajasthan	32	23	23	10	0	33	0	1	1
24.	Sikkim	4	3	2	0	0	2	1	1	1

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
25.	Tamil Nadu	30	24	24	6	0	30	0	1	1
26.	Tripura	4	3	3	3	0	6	0	1	1
27.	Uttar Pradesh	70	67	54	1	14	69	10	1	1
28.	Uttaranchal	13		3	0	0	3		-	-
29.	West Bengal	18	17	13	6	0	19	4	1	1
30.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	2	1	1	0	0	1	0	-	-
31.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	1	1	1	0	0	1	0	-	-
32.	Daman and Diu	2	2	2	0	0	2	0	-	-
33.	Delhi	9	0	0	6	0	6	0	1	1
34.	Lakshadweep	1	7	2	7	0	9	5	-	-
35.	Pondicherry	4	2	2	2	0	4	0	-	-
36.	DI. Jodhpur								1	1
37.	ITRC, Lucknow								1	1
38.	AIIPH&PH, Calcutta								1	1
All India		603	459	386	148	14	548	73	23	23

Note: *67 district water quality testing laboratories approved for erstwhile Uttar Pradesh, which included Uttaranchal also.

Statement V

National Rural Drinking Water Quality Monitoring and Surveillance Programme

Funds released in February/March 2006 to States/UTs

(in Rs. lakh)

Sl.No.	State/UT	No. of FTK 15%	No. of Demo kits	Total no. of kits	Total cost -FTK	Bact 15%	HRD 20%	IEC 20%	Hono to DL Surv. Co-ord.	SRI fee 3 month	Total cost
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
1.	Andhra Pradesh	3104	2171	5275	131.87	36.34	138.84	178.70	0.99	1.2	487.95
2.	Himachal Pradesh	152	186	338	8.44	1.02	8.30	2.81	0.68	1.2	22.45
3.	Assam	379	514	893	22.32	13.80	19.97	75.23	1.04	1.2	133.56
4.	Bihar	1312	1180	2492	62.31	25.92	62.36	240.11	1.67	1.2	393.56
5.	Chhattisgarh	1373	341	1714	42.84	15.02	58.15	53.78	0.72	1.2	171.71

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
6.	Goa	44	29	73	1.82	0.05	2.08	2.18	0.09	1.2	7.42
7.	Gujarat	2093	522	2615	65.37	12.85	88.72	102.57	1.13	1.2	271.84
8.	Haryana	814	271	1085	27.12	14.36	35.54	48.44	0.81	1.2	127.47
9.	Himachal Pradesh	445	189	634	15.85	5.36	19.84	17.74	0.54	1.2	60.53
10.	Jharkhand	544	487	1031	25.78	27.27	26.34	67.71	0.99	1.2	149.28
11.	Jammu and Kashmir	396	343	739	18.49	3.94	18.97	24.48	0.63	1.2	67.71
12.	Karnataka	839	432	1271	31.76	21.52	38.17	112.66	1.22	1.2	206.52
13.	Kerala	140	341	481	12.03	9.34	8.70	76.28	0.63	1.2	108.17
14.	Madhya Pradesh	3317	771	4088	102.20	31.53	140.93	143.30	2.16	1.2	421.32
15.	Maharashtra	4119	794	4913	122.83	30.34	172.02	180.35	1.49	1.2	508.24
16.	Manipur	0	86	86	2.15	0.71	1.19	5.88	0.41	1.2	11.54
17.	Meghalaya	88	100	188	4.70	2.45	4.64	6.00	0.32	1.2	19.30
18.	Mizoram	105	69	174	4.36	0.69	5.23	1.46	0.36	1.2	13.30
19.	Nagaland	8	129	137	3.42	0.12	1.68	5.29	0.36	1.2	12.08
20.	Orissa	930	719	1649	41.22	21.44	43.76	101.00	1.35	1.2	209.97
21.	Punjab	1776	328	2104	52.60	5.28	74.29	51.92	0.77	1.2	186.06
22.	Rajasthan	1392	571	1963	49.08	20.71	61.53	140.01	1.44	1.2	273.97
23.	Sikkim	25	31	56	1.40	0.25	1.48	1.55	0.18	1.2	6.06
24.	Tamil Nadu	1893	855	2748	68.70	28.63	82.95	112.84	1.26	1.2	295.58
25.	Tripura	159	93	252	6.31	6.48	7.23	8.57	0.18	1.2	29.96
26.	Uttaranchal	1120	230	1350	33.74	12.73	47.15	20.42	0.59	1.2	115.82
27.	Uttar Pradesh	7936	1839	9775	244.37	141.27	333.75	425.66	3.15	1.2	1149.40
28.	West Bengal	490	734	1224	30.61	54.26	25.29	186.83	0.77	1.2	298.95
29.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	0	21	21	0.53	0.00	0.27	0.78	0.09	1.2	2.86
30.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	2	24	26	0.64	0.21	0.27	0.55	0.05	1.2	2.92
31.	Daman and Diu	1	6	7	0.18	0.06	0.15	0.33	0.05	1.2	1.97
32.	Delhi	0	82	82	2.05	0.00	1.17	3.12	0.41	1.2	7.94
33.	Lakshadweep	1	22	23	0.58	1.59	0.26	0.11	0.05	1.2	3.78
34.	Pondicherry	2	13	15	0.36	0.02	0.28	1.05	0.09	1.2	3.01
35.	Chandigarh	3	6	9	0.22	0.00	0.21	0.30	0.05	1.2	1.98
Total		35000	14529	49529	1238.23	545.56	1531.72	2400.00	26.64	42.00	5784.15

[English]

National Bio-Tech Policy

*258. SHRI L. RAJAGOPAL: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has implemented the National Bio-tech Policy in the country;

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

(c) the details of the areas benefited and success achieved so far under the said policy;

(d) the manner in which the target set for bio-technology industry in the coming years is to be achieved looking at the slump in bio-technology in the last couple of years; and

(e) the current status of the Government's plan to set up a separate Council for Biotechnology to boost this sector?

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) and (b) A Draft National Biotechnology Development Strategy has been formulated by Department of Biotechnology, Government of India, after detailed consultation with various stake holders, scientists, NGOs, civil society, policy makers and industry. The Draft Strategy has been sent to Cabinet for approval.

The Draft National Biotechnology Development Strategy aims at creating such tools and technologies that address the problems of the largest section of the society, provide products and services at affordable prices and make India globally competitive in the emerging bio-economy. The basic goal of the Draft National Biotechnology Development Strategy is to enable emergence of an ecosystem that promotes innovation. The Strategy provides for producing more world class researchers, establishing centres of excellence and interdisciplinary networks in the university system, strengthening technology transfer and patenting skills, promoting biotech clusters and parks, building a strong regulatory system, improving transnational movement of biologicals, building new institutes in a few key areas where there is deficiency and link international partnerships to national goals. The Draft Strategy is a comprehensive road map for addressing cross-cutting issues related to

human resource development, infrastructure strengthening, promotion of industry and trade and public awareness, and an action plan for specific sub-sectors. The strategic action plan will direct the future priorities and activities in different sectors of biotechnology.

(c) Although the Draft Strategy is yet awaiting the Cabinet approval, some new initiatives on ongoing schemes have already been taken such as launch of the Small Business Innovation Research Initiative (SBIRI) to support pre-proof-of-concept stage funding to SME's for promotion of innovation; establishing Centres of excellence for promoting innovation and improvement in quality of Human Resource and Infrastructure through creation of pool of physician scientists, increased number of Ph.D. and post doctoral fellowships, rapid grant scheme for younger scientists and teachers training programme. Reforms in the biotechnology regulation as recommended by Mashekar Committee have been adopted with effect from 1st April 2006. Special incentives for the industry have been announced to give a boost to the growth of the industrial sector.

(d) In the Draft National Biotechnology Development Strategy special incentives have been provided for, to promote the biotechnology industry, which would help increase the trade in the biotechnology sector and also create new avenues of employment. Currently the Biotechnology Industry is growing at a rate of approximately 40% and has achieved a turnover of US\$1.5 billion. It is expected that the annual turnover of the biotech industry would cross US\$ 9.00 billion by 2010, with employment opportunities for atleast 1 million. The enabling factors to facilitate this growth relate to simplification and streamlining of procedures for import, clearance and storage of biologicals; harmonization of the regulatory approvals for biotech products; promoting international trade opportunities to guide R&D investments and fostering research, trade and industrial partnerships. Incentives have also been provided for promoting industrial growth such as exemption of biotech sector from compulsory licensing; permitting 100% Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in the sector; reducing the qualifying area criteria of Special Economic Zones to bring it at par with Information Technology sector; providing fiscal incentives to in-house R&D units in terms of exemption of custom duty on capital goods and 150% weighted deduction against expenditure incurred on in-house R&D.

(e) The government has no plans to set up a separate council for biotechnology, however in the Draft Biotechnology Strategy an independent Biotechnology Commission has been proposed.

Expansion Plan of NHPC

*259. SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA:
SHRI KAILASH NATH SINGH YADAV:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Hydroelectric Power Corporation (NHPC) has worked out an ambitious expansion Plan for 2007-12;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the cost of the plan and funding thereof; and

(d) the steps taken to implement it?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE): (a) and (b) A capacity addition of 5837 MW has been envisaged by National Hydroelectric Power Corporation Limited (NHPC) in the 11th Plan (2007-12) through implementation of 14 hydroelectric projects. The details of these projects are given in the enclosed Statement.

(c) The tentative outlay envisaged for 11th Plan for NHPC is about Rs. 30,000 crores. Of this projected fund requirement, Rs. 6,045 crores would be met through Net Budgetary Support (NBS) and remaining Rs. 23,955 crores would be mobilized through Internal & Extra Budgetary Resources (IEBR).

(d) Out of 14 hydroelectric projects (HEPs) indicated in the Statement, 12 projects are already under construction and concurrence has been accorded by Central Electricity Authority (CEA) in respect of two projects, viz. Kotli Bhel Stage-1A HEP (195 MW) and Kotli Bhel Stage-1B HEP (320 MW) in the State of Uttaranchal.

Statement

Sl. No.	Name of the Project	State	Installed Capacity (MW)
1.	Teesta-V	Sikkim	510
2.	Parbati-II	Himachal Pradesh	800
3.	Sewa-II	Jammu and Kashmir	120
4.	Teesta Low Dam - III	West Bengal	132
5.	Subansiri Lower	Arunachal Pradesh	2000
6.	Uri-II	Jammu and Kashmir	240
7.	Chamera-III	Himachal Pradesh	231
8.	Parbati-III	Himachal Pradesh	520
9.	Teesta Low Dam - IV	West Bengal	160
10.	Omkareshwar*	Madhya Pradesh	520
11.	Nimoo Bazgo	Jammu and Kashmir	45
12.	Chutak	Jammu and Kashmir	44
13.	Kotli Bhel-IA	Uttaranchal	195
14.	Kotli Bhel - IB	Uttaranchal	320
Total			5837

*The Project is being implemented by Narmada Hydroelectric Development Corporation Ltd. (NHDC), a Joint Venture between NHPC and Government of Madhya Pradesh.

Unclaimed Money in Banks

*260. SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL:
DR. DHIRENDRA AGARWAL:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the quantum of amount lying unclaimed in the various banks due to the non-operation of the accounts by the customers for a long period, bank-wise;

(b) whether the Reserve Bank of India has issued guidelines to the banks to find out the whereabouts of the customers, whose accounts are inoperative for more than a year or so;

(c) whether the Government is aware that instead of making efforts to find out the whereabouts of such customers, many banks start deducting annual service fees;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether the Government proposes to do away with this practice and issue directions to the banks in order to safeguard the interests of the customers; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reported that, as per their records, the total amount of money in unclaimed accounts as on December 31, 2005 is Rs. 929.54 crore. A statement indicating bank-wise details of unclaimed deposits is enclosed.

(b) RBI has instructed banks to ensure that their branches segregate and maintain, in separate ledger(s), deposit accounts which have not been operated upon for two years. In case of accounts that have remained inoperative for one year, banks are required to advise their customers. In case the advice letter is returned undelivered, the branch is expected to enquire into the whereabouts of such customers, or about their legal heirs.

(c) to (f) In terms of extant instructions, banks have been given freedom to fix service charges for various types of services with the approval of their respective Boards. However, banks have been advised that while fixing service charges for various type of services provided by them, they should ensure that customers with low volume of activities are not penalized, and charges are

reasonable and not out of line with the average cost of providing these services. The scope of the Banking Ombudsman Scheme has also been enlarged to cover customer complaints in areas such as levying service charges without prior notice to the customer and non adherence to the fair practices code as adopted by individual banks. An independent Banking Codes and Standards Board of India (BCSBI) has also been set up by the RBI in February, 2006 as an independent watchdog to ensure that banks deliver services in accordance with the Codes and Standards to which they have agreed.

Statement

The Unclaimed Deposits of Various Banks (More Than 10 Years Old) As on 31.12.2005

S.No.	Name of the Bank	Total unclaimed deposits (In Rs.)
1	2	3
State Bank of India & Associates		
1.	State Bank of India	952402966
2.	State Bank of Bikaner & Jaipur	99130842
3.	State Bank of Hyderabad	82253000
4.	State Bank of Indore	61520246
5.	State Bank of Mysore	102468706
6.	State Bank of Patiala	3317627
7.	State Bank of Saurashtra	21082736
8.	State Bank of Travancore	80505119
SBI Group Total		1402681242
Nationalised Banks		
1.	Allahabad Bank	44884462
2.	Andhra Bank	222235943
3.	Bank of Baroda	328267002
4.	Bank of India	194904797
5.	Bank of Maharashtra	215084934
6.	Canara Bank	1448122920
7.	Central Bank of India	539229099
8.	Corporation Bank	49132110

1	2	3
9.	Dena Bank	90349492
10.	Indian Bank	169331675
11.	Indian Overseas Bank	346078514
12.	Oriental Bank of Commerce	146964508
13.	Punjab National Bank	1232965000
14.	Punjab & Sind Bank	199740000
15.	Syndicate Bank	432365147
16.	Union Bank of India	718738541
17.	United Bank of India	131776105
18.	UCO Bank	270275385
19.	Vijaya Bank	174342035
Other Public Sector Banks		
1.	IDBI Ltd.	0
2.	Nationalised Banks	6954787669
Public Sector Banks Total		8357468911
Private Sector Banks		
1.	The Bank of Rajasthan Ltd.	88799095
2.	Bharat Overseas Bank Ltd.	24077179
3.	The Catholic Syrian Bank Ltd.	30341942
4.	Centurian Bank of Punjab Ltd.	489438
5.	City Union Bank Ltd.	17362657
6.	Development Credit Bank Ltd.	23150000
7.	The Dhanlakshmi Bank Ltd.	7725068
8.	The Federal Bank Ltd.	60407304
9.	The Ganesh Bank of Karundwad Ltd.	920536
10.	HDFC Bank Ltd.	0
11.	ICICI Bank Ltd.	1266710
12.	Indusind Bank Ltd.	698000
13.	ING Vysya Bank Ltd.	107248934

1	2	3
14.	The Jammu & Kashmir Bank Ltd.	35364203
15.	The Kamataka Bank Ltd.	64048649
16.	Kotak Mahindra Bank Ltd.	0
17.	The Karur Vysya Bank Ltd.	15004251
18.	The Lakshmi Vilas Bank Ltd.	28310851
19.	Lord Krishna Bank Ltd.	527419
20.	The Nainital Bank Ltd.	10420317
21.	The Ratnakar Bank Ltd.	8782392
22.	SBI Commercial & International Ltd.	0
23.	The Sangli Indian Bank Ltd.	57208243
24.	The South Indian Bank Ltd.	691421
25.	Tamilnad Mercantile Bank Ltd.	57391247
26.	UTI Bank Ltd.	0
27.	The United Western Bank Ltd.	2554034
28.	Yes Bank	0
Private Sector Banks Total		642789890
Foreign Banks		
1.	ABN Amro Bank	81375
2.	Abu Dhabi Commercial Bank	643501
3.	Antwerp Diamond Bank	0
4.	Arab Bangladesh Bank Ltd.	0
5.	American Express Bank	11089915
6.	Bank of America	5023589
7.	Bank of Tokyo-Mitsubishi	5207384
8.	Bank International Indonesia	0
9.	Bank of Bahrain & Kuwait	0
10.	Barclays Bank	7775
11.	Bank of Ceylon	0
12.	BNP Paribas	1149527

1	2	3
13.	Bank of Nova Scotia	71688
14.	Calyon Bank	30205
15.	Chohung Bank	0
16.	Chinatrust Commercial Bank	0
17.	Citibank	6778127
18.	DBS Bank Ltd.	0
19.	Deutsche Bank	0
20.	Hongkong & Shanghai Banking Corpn. Ltd.	40131709
21.	Krung Thai Bank Public Company Ltd.	0
22.	Mizuho Bank	0
23.	Mashreq Bank	154092
24.	J.P. Morgan Chase Bank	0
25.	Oman International	2738271
26.	State Bank of Mauritius Ltd.	0
27.	Sonali Bank	0
28.	Societe Generate	34707
29.	Standard Chartered Bank	221995444
30.	UFJ Bank	0
Foreign Bank Total		295137309
All Scheduled Commercial Bank		9295396111

Banks Frauds

*261. SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY:
SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has set up/proposes to set up an independent body on the lines of the Central Vigilance Commission (CVC) to investigate and prosecute cases relating to frauds in banks and financial institutions;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the creation of Commercial Courts is also under consideration to deal with cases relating to frauds in banks and financial institutions;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the other steps contemplated to check frauds in banks and financial institutions?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (e) There is no proposal under consideration of the Government to set up an independent body on the lines of the Central Vigilance Commission (CVC) to investigate and prosecute cases relating to frauds in banks and financial institutions or for creation of Commercial Courts to deal with such frauds.

However, Government and the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) have taken several measures to prevent the occurrence of frauds in Banks. Banks have been advised from time to time to strengthen the vigilance set up and introduce preventive and prohibitive measures. The Fraud Monitoring Cell of RBI receives reports on all frauds involving Rs. 1 lac and above detected at Commercial Banks and Financial Institutions. The names of borrowers in frauds of Rs. 5 lacs and above are circulated among all banks advising them to carry out in depth inquiries before granting any credit facilities to them. Modus operandi of frauds are also circulated amongst banks to alert them against perpetration of such frauds. In all the cases of frauds, banks are advised to file complaints with Police/CBI, make efforts to recover the amount involved, examine staff accountability, review systems and procedures in order to prevent recurrence of similar frauds and get all cases of frauds of Rs. One crore and above reviewed by the Special Committee of the Board. RBI has been advising Banks/Fis from time to time about the common fraud prone areas and the measures to be taken by them to prevent/reduce the incidence of frauds.

[Translation]

Kota and Suratgarh Power Projects

2434. SHRI JASWANT SINGH BISHNOI: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for inclusion of Kota and Suratgarh Super Thermal Projects in the import list of coal;

(b) whether imported coal proves costlier than indigenous coal for both these projects; and

(c) if so, the remedial measures taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE): (a) In order to bridge the gap between demand and supply of coal from domestic sources, it was decided that power utilities would have to import around 13 Million Tonnes (MT) and 20 MT of coal during the 2005-06 and 2006-07 respectively. The thermal power stations were considered for import of coal on the basis of following criteria:

- (i) Coastal Power Stations.
- (ii) Stations where availability of coal is a constraint.
- (iii) Stations situated at long distances from pithead.
- (iv) Stations which are traditional importers.

Kota and Suratgarh Super Thermal Power Stations, being situated at long distance from the pit-head, were included for import of coal.

(b) and (c) The quantum of coal to be imported by any power station has been limited to 10-15% of its annual coal requirement, in order to enable blending of imported coal with domestic coal keeping in view boiler design considerations. It is observed that additional impact of imported coal on the cost of generation is marginal due to high calorific value and low ash content of imported coal resulting in improved operational performance and savings in maintenance cost and railway freight; apart from meeting the norms specified by Ministry of Environment and Forests.

Circulation of Coins

2435. DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY:
SHRI CHANDRA MANI TRIPATHI:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government proposes to discontinue the circulation of coins upto one rupee in the country;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to replace them with some other kind of currency; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

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

- (b) Does not arise.
- (c) No Sir.
- (d) Does not arise.

[English]

Motor Insurance Bank

2436. SHRI A. K. MOORTHY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to set up a motor insurance bank; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) and (b) No, Sir. However, Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority (IRDA) has set up a pool for sharing the motor third party insurance amongst all insurance companies transacting motor insurance business in India. The General Insurance Corporation of India will act as the manager for the pool which will come into effect from 1st January 2007.

[Translation]

Purchase of Shares of Private Companies

2437. SHRI CHANDRA MANI TRIPATHI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government Financial Institutions purchase shares of private companies;

(b) if so, the criteria thereof;

(c) whether the Government Financial Institutions have purchased shares of some companies whose 'book value' was very low;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor and loss incurred, if any;

(e) whether the Government proposes to inquire into cases where shares have been purchased in this manner; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) and (b) Government Financial Institutions acquire shares of private companies. The criteria for such acquisition are set by the Board of Directors of each Institution. Generally, the shares are purchased as a part of overall project funding, or as a part of need based restructuring.

(c) and (d) Shares with low book value are acquired by way of conversion of liabilities and quantification of loss is not possible owing to many such companies being unlisted.

(e) and (f) No, Sir. These are commercial decision of Financial Institutions, powers for which are vested with the Board of Directors.

[English]

Employment Generation in Rural Areas

2438. SHRI GANESH PRASAD SINGH: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is planning any programme for generation of employment in rural areas of about five lakh persons below the poverty line under assured employment opportunities in rural textile sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether this programme is to be covered under National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, 2005; and

(d) if so, the manner in which it is proposed to finance the programme and the time frame proposed for its implementation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Houses for Tsunami Affected People

2439. SHRI K.C. PALLANI SHAMY: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the CPWD has started construction of houses for the benefit of Tsunami affected people of Andaman & Nicobar Islands and Tamil Nadu;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the amount earmarked for the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN): (a) CPWD has started construction of Houses for the benefit of Tsunami affected people of Andaman & Nicobar Islands. No work has been taken up by CPWD in Tamil Nadu.

(b) Details of islands in which houses are constructed by CPWD in Andaman & Nicobar Islands are given in the enclosed Statement.

(c) The total project cost has now been estimated as Rs.1,221/- crores.

Details of Houses to be Built in Andaman and Nicobar Islands

S.No.	Island	No. of Dwelling Units to be Built by CPWD
1.	Hut Bay	965
2.	Car Nicobar	3941
3.	Chowra	346
4.	Terresa	506
5.	Kamorta	518
6.	Nancowry	269
7.	Katchal	315
8.	Great Nicobar	995
9.	Little Nicobar	111
10.	Port Blair	0
Total:		7966

Earthquake Prone Areas

2440. SHRI K.S. RAO: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the earthquake prone areas, cities and other habitations in different States & UTs;

(b) the standards and specifications prescribed for safe building structures;

(c) the steps taken to protect the existing structures and buildings to withstand the danger of damage from earthquake;

(d) whether the Government proposes legal remedies to ensure all constructions of buildings and structures with adequate safeguards against earthquake, etc. 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.

Insurance Cover on Saving Banks Deposits

2441. SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether some of the nationalized banks have started insurance cover to savings bank deposit holders;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government proposes to issue directions to all the nationalized banks to adopt the scheme to facilitate the account holders;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) and (b) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reported that some banks have been offering deposit products to their customers with personal accident cover in respect of which the insurance premium is being recovered from the customers.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) RBI guidelines provide that banks need not obtain its prior approval for engaging in insurance agency business or referral arrangement without any risk participation. However, as the participation by a bank's customer in insurance products is purely on a voluntary basis, it should be stated in all publicity material distributed

by the bank in a prominent way. There should also be no 'linkage' either direct or indirect between the provision of banking services offered by the banks to its customers and use of the insurance products.

[Translation]

Private Insurance Companies

2442. SHRI SANJAY DHOTRE:
SHRIMATI BHAVANA PUNDLIKRAO GAWALI:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether private insurance companies are facing great difficulties due to ban imposed by the Reserve Bank of India on loans taken from corporate bodies of different countries;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) and (b) No, Sir. However, as per the information provided by the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority (IRDA), the private insurance companies are permitted to raise funds through the equity route. These funds are raised from their promoter shareholders.

(c) Does not arise.

[English]

Tax Benefits for Banking Sector

2443. SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Banks Association has demanded tax benefits for the banking industry; 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) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Memorandum of the Indian Banks' Association contains numerous tax proposals. Such tax proposals are considered during the budgetary exercise and the decision of the Government gets reflected in the Finance Bill.

Private Insurance Companies

2444. SHRI MANJUNATH KUNNUR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of private players in the insurance sector in the country;
- (b) whether more number of insurance companies are entering into the field;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether the Government took any initiative in publicizing the need, value and importance of various insurance projects for the human life;
- (e) if so, the details thereof; and
- (f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) The Insurance Regulatory & Development Authority (IRDA) has reported that as on date there are 24 private players in the insurance sector, of which 15 are in the life sector and 9 are in the non-life sector.

(b) and (c) IRDA has informed that it has received expression of interest/applications from a few companies viz. Principal PNB Life Insurance Co. Ltd., Future Generali India Life Insurance Co. Ltd., for life insurance sector and Future Generali India Insurance Co. Ltd. for general insurance sector.

(d) to (f) IRDA has reported that it had launched extensive insurance awareness campaigns on All India Radio and Doordarshan (including regional channels). In addition, IRDA also takes assistance from Non-governmental Organisations (NGOs) and e-choupals to create awareness about insurance in the rural areas for providing coverage to backward classes and economically weaker sections.

[Translation]

Agriculture Meteorology Services

2445. SHRI RAGHUVVEER SINGH KOSHAL:
SHRI E.G. SUGAVANAM:

Will the Minister of EARTH SCIENCES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of information being collected in Agriculture Meteorology Services;

(b) the number of districts where Department of Meteorology is presently providing information by collecting the facts;

(c) whether there is a major shift in monsoon rainfall pattern in the country for the past few years;

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

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

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) India Meteorological Department (IMD) operates specialized Agrometeorological Observatories and collects the data on rainfall, temperature (maximum, minimum), humidity (morning & afternoon), wind direction and speed, duration of bright sunshine, evaporation, evapotranspiration, soil moisture and soil temperature. This information along with weather forecast and also information on crop stages and state and occurrence of pests and diseases at different parts of the country through the state Agriculture department are used for preparation of the farmer advisories.

(b) IMD is communicating crop specific advisories on real time basis to the farmers all over the country through the well distributed network of Agromet Advisory Services Units of IMD. At present these services are being provided to 23 States.

Agro-advisories are also being prepared by the National Centre for Medium Range Weather Forecasting (NCMRWF) based on its model forecast, the inputs received from its Agromet Advisory Service (AAS) units spread over the country and India Meteorological Department. The country is divided into 127 Agro climatic zones with each zone covering about 3-5 districts. At present NCMRWF has established AAS units in 107 Agro climatic zones. Agromet Advisory Bulletins comprising of expert advise on crop, soils and weather are made available to the farming community through media and direct contact.

Based on a well established network of raingauge stations, districtwise weekly rainfall summary is being provided to the Ministry of Agriculture in the weekly Crop Weather Watch Group meetings.

(c) There is no major shift in monsoon rainfall pattern in the country as a whole during the past few years.

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

[English]

Performance of Power Stations

2446. SHRI E.G. SUGAVANAM: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether many of the power stations of State Electricity Boards (SEBs) are under-performing in the country;

(b) if so, whether the National Thermal Power Corporation proposes to adopt these under-performing power stations; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) At present there is no proposal of National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) to adopt underperforming power stations in the country. However, NTPC being one of the better performing utilities in the country, have signed the agreement of partnership with State Power Utilities and Damodar Valley Corporation for improving the performance of 15 power stations by adopting better operation & maintenance (O&M) practices, training of O&M personnel, carrying out comprehensive overhaul/essential renovation & modernization works based on Residual Life Assessment (RLA) studies under Partnership in Excellence (PIE) programme. In addition, NTPC has formed a joint venture company viz., Vaishali Power Generating Company (a joint venture of NTPC & Bihar State Electricity Board) for O&M of Muzaffarpur Thermal Power Station (2 x 110 MW) in Bihar.

[Translation]

Expansion of Power Projects

2447. SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has given approval for expansion of power projects in Maharashtra;

(b) if so, the details of the power projects included in the expansion programme;

(c) the additional quantum of power to be generated from these projects;

(d) whether any financial assistance is being provided by the Union Government for the purpose; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE): (a) to (e) As per Electricity Act, 2003 enacted on 10.06.2003, the requirement of according Techno-economic clearance by Central Electricity Authority has been dispensed with for thermal generation. However, a generating company intending to set up a hydro-generating station has to prepare and submit the scheme to the Authority for concurrence involving a capital expenditure such sum as may be fixed by the Central Government from time to time by notification.

At present, two extension projects i.e. Parli Extn. U-2 (250 MW) and Paras Extn. U-2 (250 MW) are under construction. In addition, action has been initiated in respect of Khaperkheda Extn. (500 MW) and Bhusawal Extn. (1000 MW). The projects are being executed by MAHAGENCO. Power Finance Corporation and Rural Electrification Corporation of Ministry of Power have sanctioned over Rs. 7000 crores as loan against these projects.

Houses for Poor in Urban Areas

2448. SHRI KAILASH BAITHA: Will the Minister of HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to provide houses to the people living below poverty line in the urban areas on the pattern of Indira Awaas Yojana;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the manner in which the list of BPL is likely to be prepared?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION (KUMARI SELJA): (a) and (b) The Government has already been implementing a Centrally Sponsored Scheme called Valmiki Ambedkar Awas Yojana (VAMBAY) with effect from 2.12.2001, to ameliorate the conditions of urban slum dwellers living below poverty line, who do not possess adequate shelter. The Scheme of VAMBAY

has the primary objective to facilitate construction and upgradation of dwelling units and to provide health and enabling urban environment through community toilets. The Scheme of VAMBAY has since been subsumed in the newly launched programme of Basic Services to the Urban Poor (BSUP) under Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission for the 63 Mission cities and in the Integrated Housing and Slum Development Programme (IHSDP) for the towns/cities other than the Mission cities. The BSUP/IHSDP has been launched on 03.12.2005.

(c) Selection of beneficiaries under Valmiki Ambedkar Awas Yojana (VAMBAY) has done by the States through State Urban Development Authority (SUDA)/District Urban Development Authority (DUDA) in consultation with the local authorities. The programmes under BSUP/IHSDP is being undertaken on the whole-slum basis.

[English]

Opening of Entry Gates of Government Colonies

2449. SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the norms laid down by the CPWD in regard to the opening/closure of entry and exit gates in the Government colonies in Delhi/New Delhi areas particularly Minto Road area;

(b) whether Hon'ble High Court of Delhi has also issued directions in regard to the opening and closure of entry/exit gates;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether these directions are being followed by the CPWD in the Government colonies;

(e) if not, the reasons therefor and the corrective steps being taken to implement them;

(f) whether the Government has received any complaints/representations from the residents of Government colonies particularly from Minto Road area in respect of opening of entry gates during the day time; and

(g) if so, the details thereof and the action taken to resolve the issue?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN): (a) CPWD does not regulate the opening and closure of entry and exit gates of Government colonies in Delhi/New Delhi.

(b) to (e) This Ministry has not received any directions from Hon'ble High Court of Delhi on this subject.

(f) and (g) Only one Complaint/representation has been received from Residents Welfare Association of Minto Road Hostel. The matter not being within the purview of the Ministry/CPWD, it is for RWA to resolve the issue internally.

Loan for Illegal and Unauthorised Structures

2450. SHRI EKNATH MAHADEO GAIKWAD:

SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether banks are giving loans even for illegal and unauthorised structures;

(b) if so, the number of such cases have come to the notice during the last three years, bank-wise;

(c) the action taken/being taken by the Government against such banks; and

(d) the measures taken by the Government to streamline the procedure for granting loans by banks to avoid avoidable losses to the banks?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) The banks have been advised by Reserve Bank of India (RBI), vide its circular dated 1st March, 2006, while appraising loan proposals involving real estates, it should be ensured that the borrowers should have obtained prior permission from the concerned competent Government authorities for the project, wherever required. In order to ensure that the loan approval process is not hampered on account of this, the proposals should be sanctioned in normal course and the disbursement should be made only after the borrowers has obtained requisite clearance from the Government authorities.

(b) and (c) According to available information, one of the Public Sector Banks, i.e. Canara Bank has reported that it has come to know of such a case at Delhi some time ago. The Bank has taken steps to recover the loan.

(d) The RBI has, in pursuance of the orders of Hon'ble High Court of Delhi, issued instructions to all Scheduled Commercial Banks on November 17, 2006, indicating the observations/directions of the Hon'ble High Court for strict compliance. Copy of the RBI circular No.DBOD.Dir.BC. Nb.43/08.12.01/2006-07 dated November 17, 2006, is available on internet at the site of RBI, i.e..www.rbi.org.in/scripts/Notification_User.aspx.

Norms for IPO Funding

2451. SHRI SUGRIB SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether norms for Initial Public Offerings (IPOs) funding has become tougher;
- (b) if so, the details in this regard;
- (c) whether RBI has issued any order in this regard;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether any restriction has been made for single investor; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) to (f) The Reserve Bank of India has sent a draft circular on 17th November, 2006 to Banks proposing certain modifications in the existing guidelines on bank's exposure to capital markets, including norms for IPO funding, and seeking their comments on the same. The draft circular is available on its website (www.rbi.org.in).

Pending Proposals under Swajaldhara Scheme

2452. SHRI MITRASEN YADAV: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of the proposals received from various States particularly Rajasthan under Swajaldhara Scheme for approval and funding during 2005-06;
- (b) the details of the proposals out of them returned to the State for want of clarifications;
- (c) whether the State Government has resubmitted all those proposals with necessary clarification to the Union Government recently; and

(d) if so, the details alongwith the present status thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU): (a) to (d) Presently projects under Swajaldhara Scheme for rural drinking water supply are not sanctioned by Government of India. Only in the year 2002-03 project proposals were obtained from the States/UTs and cleared by Government of India. Swajaldhara Guidelines issued in June, 2003 stipulate that proposals under Swajaldhara would be approved by the District Water and Sanitation Committee (DWSC) or the State Water & Sanitation Mission (SWSM). Funds under Swajaldhara are allocated to the States every year as per the inter-state Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP) allocation ratio fixed for the year. States then consider specific proposals at DWSC/SWSM level and approve them in conformity with Swajaldhara Guidelines. Details of proposals received and cleared by the DWSC/SWSM in States are not maintained by Government of India. Individual projects from Gram Panchayats, Districts or States, including Rajasthan, are not received by the Government of India for sanction.

Manual Scavenging

2453. SHRI P. MOHAN:
SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL:
SHRI SUGRIB SINGH:
SHRI JOACHIM BAXLA:
SHRI M. SREENIVASULU REDDY:

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

- (a) whether manual scavenging is still a disgusting reality in most of the States despite the enforcement of Act banning it;
- (b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto;
- (c) whether the workers who clean open gutters, manholes and septic tanks are exposed to great risks are not covered by the Act;
- (d) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (e) the measures being taken by the Government for effective implementation of Act;

(f) whether there is any programme to demolish dry latrines across the States; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION (KUMARI SELJA): (a) Water flush latrines are not available to the entire population in the country and dry latrines and manual scavenging still exists in some parts of the country.

(b) Planning Commission has formulated a National Action Plan for total Eradication of Manual Scavenging.

(c) and (d) The Employment of Manual Scavengers and Construction of Dry latrines (Prohibition) Act, 1993 prohibits to engage or employ a person for manually carrying human excreta.

(e) States have been requested to implement the Act effectively.

(f) and (g) The Act, 1993 provides that the State Governments may by notification specify that no person shall construct or maintain a dry latrine.

Hospital Waste Management Scheme

2454. PROF. M. RAMADASS: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the funds allocated under the Hospital Waste Management Scheme have been surrendered;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the corrective measures being taken to implement the said scheme effectively?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The scheme for providing financial assistance for setting up of Bio-Medical Waste Facility as Pilot/ Demonstration Projects, launched by the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare in 1999 was transferred to this Ministry from Ministry of Health & Family Welfare in May, 2005. An amount of Rs. 1 crore was allocated for the scheme during 2005-06. As specific expertise on the subject matter was not available with Ministry of Urban Development, the scheme was transferred back to Ministry of Health & Family Welfare.

(c) The corrective measures are taken as per the provisions of Bio-Medical Waste (Management and Handling) Rules, 1998 notified by the Ministry of Environment & Forests which is governed by Environment Protection Act, 1986. M/o Health & Family Welfare, Central Pollution Control Board, State Governments/Union Territories, State Pollution Control Board etc. are the implementing agencies of the aforesaid rules.

[Translation]

Issue of Ordinance

2455. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of ordinances promulgated by President during each of the last three years;

(b) the total number of ordinances accorded approval by the Parliament and the number of ordinance lapsed;

(c) whether some ordinances are yet to be ratified; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ): (a) The details of the Ordinances promulgated from 01-01-2004 to 06-12-2006 (year-wise) are as follows:

Ord. No.	Name of the Ordinance
1	2
2004	
1.	The Prevention of Terrorism (Repeal) Ordinance, 2004.
2.	The Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Amendment Ordinance, 2004.
3.	The Banking Regulation (Amendment) and Miscellaneous Provisions Ordinance, 2004.
4.	The Securities Laws (Amendment) Ordinance, 2004.
5.	The Enforcement of Security Interest and Recovery of Debts Laws (Amendment) Ordinance, 2004.

1	2
6.	The National Commission for Minority Educational Institutions Ordinance, 2004.
7.	The Patents (Amendment) Ordinance, 2004.
8.	The Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority Ordinance, 2004.

2005

1. The Central Excise Laws (Amendment and Validation) Ordinance, 2005.
2. The Citizenship (Amendment) Ordinance, 2005.
3. The Manipur University Ordinance, 2005.
4. The Taxation Laws (Amendment) Ordinance, 2005.

2006

1. The National Commission for Minority Educational Institutions (Amendment) Ordinance, 2006.
2. The National Council for Teacher Education (Amendment and Validation) Ordinance, 2006.
3. The Indian Telegraph (Amendment) Ordinance, 2006.

(b) (1) The total number of Ordinances accorded approval are as follows:

2004	8 (Eight)
2005	4 (Four)
2006	3 (Three)

(2) The number of Ordinances lapsed

2004	1 (One)
2005	1 (One)

(c) and (d) Yes, the National Council for Teacher Education (Amendment and Validation) Ordinance, 2006 and the Indian Telegraph (Amendment) Ordinance, 2006.

[English]

Traffic Congestion in Cities

2456. SHRI BADIGA RAMAKRISHNA: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has initiated a study to develop an infrastructure model to ease traffic congestion in 30 cities with the help of a US-based traffic and transportation planning company;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of cities that have been identified for this purpose, State-wise;

(d) whether any time-frame has been fixed within which the report is to be submitted by the said company; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN): (a) and (b) A comprehensive study on traffic and transportation policies and strategies in urban areas in India has been awarded to M/s Wilbur Smith Associates Pvt. Ltd. The firm is registered in India with headquarters at Bangalore. The aim of the study is to establish a comprehensive baseline of traffic and transport scenario in Urban areas in India, establish an independent and reliable basis for the formulation of future policies and programmes for the management of Urban Transport in India and form a reliable database for future research in the area of Urban Transport.

(c) State-wise list of cities is given in the enclosed Statement.

(d) and (e) Yes, Sir. The date of submission of final report is May, 2007.

Statement

Sl.No.	Name of State/UT	Name of City
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	Hyderabad
2.	Assam	Guwahati
3.	Bihar	Patna
4.	Chhattisgarh	Raipur
5.	Chandigarh	Chandigarh
6.	Delhi	Delhi
7.	Goa	Panaji

1	2	3
8.	Gujarat	Ahmedabad, Surat
9.	Himachal Pradesh	Shimla
10.	Karnataka	Bangalore, Hubli, Dharwar
11.	Kerala	Kochi, Thiruvananthapuram
12.	Madhya Pradesh	Bhopal
13.	Maharashtra	Greater Mumbai, Nagpur, Pune
14.	Orissa	Bhubaneswar
15.	Pondicherry	Pondicherry
16.	Punjab	Amritsar
17.	Rajasthan	Bikaner, Jaipur
18.	Sikkim	Gangtok
19.	Tamil Nadu	Chennai, Madurai
20.	Uttar Pradesh	Agra, Kanpur, Varanasi
21.	West Bengal	Kolkata

Review of Electricity Act, 2003

2457. SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH:
SHRI SWADESH CHAKRABORTTY:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Electricity Act, 2003 passed by the Government sought to trifurcate the functioning of State Electricity Boards (SEBs) work into Generation, Transmission and Distribution as part of the reforms suggested by International Monetary Fund (IMF) and World Bank in electricity generation and supply in the country;

(b) if so, whether the Government is aware about the disastrous experience in 13 States where these reforms were implemented;

(c) if so, whether the Government proposes to review the Electricity Act, 2003; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE): (a) The Electricity Act, 2003 evolved through extensive consultations involving, States, State Power Utilities, Industry Associations, individual experts, Trade Unions, Central Public Sector Undertakings, Employee Associations etc. After its introduction in Lok Sabha, the Electricity Bill had also been referred to the Parliamentary Standing Committee which, after a process of extensive consultations with all stakeholders, gave its recommendations, most of which were accepted by the Government.

The Act carries provisions for taking measures conducive to development of the electricity industry, promoting competition therein, protecting interest of consumers and supply of electricity to all areas, rationalisation of electricity tariff, ensuring transparent policies regarding subsidies, promotion of efficient and environmentally benign policies and, *inter-alia*, for reorganization of the State Electricity Boards (SEB). Under the Act, State Government can allow extension of time for continuation of its SEB for such period as may be agreed by the Central Government. Central Government has, from time to time, agreed to requests for continuation of the SEBs for some more time.

(b) Central Government has awarded a study to the Indian Institute of Public Administration (IIPA) on the impact of reorganization of SEBs. The study is in progress.

(c) Consequent to review of the Electricity Act, 2003, the Electricity (Amendment) Bill, 2005 has been introduced in the Lok Sabha.

(d) The following amendments to the Electricity Act, 2003 have been proposed in the Bill:

- (i) Amendment to section 6 so as to provide that the concerned State Governments and the Central Government shall jointly endeavour to provide access to electricity to all areas including villages and hamlets through rural electricity infrastructure and electrification of households.
- (ii) Amendment to relevant sections so as to do away with the 'elimination' of cross-subsidies. However, reduction of cross subsidies will continue.

- (iii) Amendment to section 151 so as to clarify the position that the police would be able to investigate the cognizable offences under the Act. To expedite trial before the special courts, it is also proposed to provide that a special court shall be competent to take cognizance of an offence without the accused being committed to it for trial.

[Translation]

Foreign Funds to Madrasas

2458. PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR:
SHRI SHISHUPAL N. PATLE:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it has come to the notice of the Government that Madrasas in the country are being provided foreign funds every year through 'hawala';

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

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

(d) the concrete steps taken/being taken to check such hawala transactions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) Some instances of receipt of funds from abroad through hawala channels have been reported.

(b) and (c) The matter is under investigation.

(d) Vigil is being maintained against receipt of funds through such channels.

[English]

Competition Commission

2459. DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA: Will the Minister of COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Competition Commission is facing some problems in its working:

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

(c) the steps being taken by the Government to resolve the problem?

THE MINISTER OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA): (a) to (c) The Competition Commission of India (CCI) was set up on 14th October, 2003. The appointments made were subject to legal challenges in the Supreme Court as a result of which CCI could not be made fully functional. The Supreme Court delivered its judgement on the matter on 20.1.2005. Keeping in view the judgement of the Apex Court a Bill, the Competition (Amendment) Bill, 2006, suggesting amendments to the Competition Act, 2002 was introduced in Lok Sabha on 9th March, 2006. The Bill has been referred to the Standing Committee on Finance. After the Amendment Bill is passed by the Parliament, the full functioning of the Commission would be facilitated.

Rehabilitation of Tehri Dam Oustees

2460. SHRIMATI ARCHANA NAYAK: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of people displaced due to construction of Tehri dam have not been rehabilitated so far;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the total number of families displaced due to construction of Tehri dam and the number out of them have been rehabilitated so far; and

(d) the time by which remaining displaced families are likely to be rehabilitated?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE): (a) to (d) All the eligible fully affected 5291 urban families displaced by Tehri Dam construction have already been rehabilitated. Out of the 5429 eligible rural families, all families residing upto the reservoir level of 790 meters have been paid full compensation. As the full reservoir level is likely to be achieved over the period of next 3-4 years, the remaining 462 eligible rural families residing above the level of 790 meters are being rehabilitated pari passu with the reservoir filling, in line with the directions of the Supreme Court. The resettlement and rehabilitation (R&R) works of Tehri Dam Project are being handled by the Government of Uttaranchal with the funds being provided by Tehri Hydro Development Corporation (THDC). An attractive and a liberal

rehabilitation package has been evolved, which has been improved from time to time. The sufficiency of the rehabilitation package has also been upheld by the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India. While the rehabilitation directorate of Government of Uttaranchal has offered to pay compensation to all the remaining eligible families residing above 790 m, they are presently not coming forward at this point of time, as the reservoir will fill up only after a period of three to four years. These families would move out at the appropriate time as they are cultivating their lands presently, which are not yet submerged.

Metro Rail Project in Thiruvananthapuram

2461. SHRI PANNIAN RAVINDRAN: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received any proposal from the Government of Kerala for financial assistance for Metro Rail Project of Thiruvananthapuram;

(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) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

Hydro Power Project on Barak River

2462. SHRI LALIT MOHAN SUKLABAIYA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has assessed the hydro power potential on Barak river and its tributaries in Assam;

(b) if so, whether any site has been identified to set up a hydro power plant in the Barak Valley; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE): (a) As per re-assessment studies of hydro electric potential carried out by Central Electricity Authority (CEA), the hydro power potential of Barak river and neighbouring rivers was assessed as 3908 MW at 60%

load factor. 60 hydro electric schemes with total aggregate installed capacity of 6679 MW were identified. None of these identified schemes is located in Assam.

(b) and (c) Under 50,000 MW Hydro Electric Initiative, the Pre Feasibility Reports (PFRs) of 20 schemes viz. 3 in Manipur, 11 in Meghalaya, 3 in Mizoram and 3 in Nagaland on Barak river and neighbouring rivers have been prepared. The details of these schemes are given in the enclosed Statement. Out of these, 6 schemes in the State of Meghalaya have been identified as low tariff hydro electric schemes for carrying out detailed survey and investigation.

Statement

Hydro electric Schemes on Barak river and neighbouring rivers considered under 50,000 MW Hydro Initiative

State	S.No.	Schemes	Capacity (MW)
1	2	3	4
Manipur			
	1.	Khongnum Chakk	67
	2.	Nungleban	105
	3.	Pabaram	190
Meghalaya			
	1.	Mawablei	140
	2.	Mawthu	120*
	3.	Mawput	21
	4.	Nongkoait	120*
	5.	Nongam	50*
	6.	Rangmaw	65*
	7.	Selim	170*
	8.	Sushen	65
	9.	Umduna	57*
	10.	Umjaut	69
	11.	Umngi	54
Mizoram			
	1.	Boinu	640
	2.	Lungleng	815

1	2	3	4
	3.	Tlawng	45
Nagaland			
	1.	Dikhu	140
	2.	Tizu	150
	3.	Yangnyu	40
Total (20 schemes)			3,123

*Identified as low tariff scheme for carrying out detailed survey and investigation.

[Translation]

Irregularities in Payment of Service Tax

2463. SHRI AJIT JOGI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether mobile companies are committing irregularities in payment of service tax;

(b) if so, the details of the companies found guilty of committing irregularities in the payment of service tax during each of the last three years;

(c) whether the Government has taken any action against all these companies;

(d) if so, details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) Yes sir. In certain cases irregularities in payment of service have been noticed in respect of mobile companies.

(b) to (d) A Statement is enclosed.

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

Statement

Name of the Company	No. of cases booked during last three years	Service tax amount involved in such cases (Rs. in lakhs)	Action Taken and the present status of the case
1	2	3	4
Aircel Ltd.	1	4.2	Amount recovered
Aircel Digilink India Ltd., Jaipur	1	3.3	Amount recovered
Bharati Televenture Ltd.	4	711.3	Within appeal period
Bharati Cellular Ltd., (Airtel), Kochi	3	36.5	Rs 10.23 lakh recovered. Remaining amount is pending in appeal.
Bharti Cellular Ltd.	2	61.3	Rs 53.41 lakh recovered. Remaining amount is within appeal period.
Bharti Hexacome India Ltd., Jaipur	3	120.4	Pending in appeal
BPL Mobile Cellular Ltd.	9	192.9	Rs 184.34 lakh recovered. Remaining amount is within appeal period.
BPL Mobile Communication Ltd.	3	152	Pending in appeal
BSNL, Jaipur	1	21.8	Recovery of the amount is under persuasive action.

1	2	3	4
BSNL Mobile Services, Trivandrum	1	192.1	Within appeal period
BSNL, Agra	1	384.9	Pending before the Committee on disputes
BSNL, Ambala	2	511	Pending before the Committee on disputes
BSNL, Karnal	1	178.8	Pending before the Committee on disputes
BSNL, Kochi	2	5.0	Rs 0.08 lakh recovered. Remaining amount is within appeal period
BSNL, Kolhapur	1	0.8	Pending in appeal
BSNL, Moradabad	1	1.8	Within appeal period
BSNL, Ranchi	1	1118	Within appeal period
BSNL, Siliguri	2	36.2	Pending in appeal
BSNL, Ujjain	1	3.3	Amount recovered
Escotel Mobile Communication Ltd., Kochi	1	17.6	Pending in appeal
Fascel Ltd	1	1500	Case within appeal period
Hutchison Essar South Ltd.	1	1.7	Amount recovered
Hutchison Max Telecom P. Ltd.	3	232	Pending in appeal
Idea Cellular Ltd.	3	39	Within appeal period
Idea Mobile Communication Ltd., Kochi	1	0.5	Pending in appeal
Idea Mobile Communication, Sonapat	1	75.7	Amount recovered

Sealing in Delhi

2464. SHRI PARAS NATH YADAV:
SHRIMATI ARCHANA NAYAK:
SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL:
SHRI SITA RAM SINGH:

Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the total loss of public property suffered during the bandhs observed in protest against the sealing in Delhi during the last few months;

(b) the number of shops and commercial establishments sealed during 2006, so far;

(c) whether thousands of businessmen rendered jobless due to sealing; and

(d) if so, the measures taken by the Government for their rehabilitation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN): (a) Certain reports have been received of damage to public property mainly by stone pelting and burning of DTC buses during bandhs observed by traders in Delhi during September-November this year. The total loss of public property has not been computed in detail by this Ministry. Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) has also reported that no such detail is available with it.

(b) MCD has reported that pursuant to the directions of Supreme Court it has sealed about 19,123 premises, till 01.12.2006, out of which a substantial number of premises has been desealed subsequently.

(c) MCD has reported that no such detail is available with it.

(d) No policy has been formulated by the Government in this regard.

Setting up of Power projects

2485. SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR:
SHRI KRISHNA MURARI MOGHE:
SHRI G.M. SIDDESWARA:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received proposals from various State Governments for setting up power projects in their States;

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

(c) the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE): (a) to (c) As per Electricity Act 2003 enacted on 10.06.2003, the requirement of according Techno-economic clearance by Central Electricity Authority has been dispensed with for thermal generation. However, a generating company intending to set up a hydro-generating station has to prepare and submit the scheme to the Authority for concurrence involving a capital expenditure such sum as may be fixed by the Central Government from time to time by notification.

During the Current Five Year Plan, 16 hydro schemes of 6575.56 MW were received. Out of these 3 hydro schemes of 1423 MW were granted concurrence of Central Electricity Authority while 13 hydro schemes of 5152.56 MW were returned to the project authorities as essential clearances/inputs were not tied up. State-wise break-up is given below:

State	Received		Cleared		Returned	
	No.	MW	No.	MW	No.	MW
Chhattisgarh	1	60	1	60		
Kerala	1	163	1	163		
Sikkim	4	2100	1	1200	3	900
Jammu & Kashmir	3	1893			3	1893
Andhra Pradesh	2	559.56			2	559.56
Karnataka	2	720			2	720
Tamil Nadu	1	500			1	500
Uttaranchal	1	480			1	480
Madhya Pradesh	1	100			1	100
Total	16	6575.56	3	1423	13	5152.56

At present no proposal is pending with Central Electricity Authority for grant of concurrence.

Involvement of Officials in Bank Frauds

2466. SHRI M. ANJAN KUMAR YADAV:
SHRI TUKARAM GANPAT RAO RENGE PATIL:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Public Sector bank officials charged under cases of fraud and corruption during the last three years, bank-wise;

(b) the number out of these removed from service during the said period; and

(c) the corrective measures, taken to check frauds and corruption in banks?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) and (b)

The Bank-wise number of officials charged under cases of fraud and corruption during the last three years i.e. 2003, 2004 and 2005 and the number of officials out of these removed from the service during the said period are given in the enclosed Statement I & II.

(c) Reserve Bank of India as a part of its supervisory process has been sensitizing banks from time to time about common fraud prone areas, modus operandi of frauds and the measure to be taken by them to prevent/reduce the incidence of frauds in banks. On receipt of fraud report from banks, RBI advises the concerned banks to report the case to CBI/Police, examine staff accountability and complete proceedings against the erring staff expeditiously, take steps to recover the amount involved in the fraud, claim insurance wherever applicable and streamline the system and procedures so that frauds do not recur.

Statement I

The bank-wise number of officials charged under fraud cases and the number of officials out of these removed from service during the last three years, i.e. 2003, 2004 and 2005

Sl.No.	Name of the Bank	2003		2004		2005	
		No. of officials charged under cases of fraud	No. of officials removed from service	No. of officials charged under cases of fraud	No. of officials removed from service	No. of officials charged under cases of fraud	No. of officials removed from service
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Allahabad Bank	83	18	64	19	77	12
2.	Andhra Bank	101	28	97	18	89	17
3.	Bank of Baroda	44	26	21	16	20	13
4.	Bank of India	116	31	28	19	11	10
5.	Bank of Maharashtra	49	7	48	12	36	9
6.	Canara Bank	76	49	91	40	79	35
7.	Central Bank of India	65	24	77	30	97	38
8.	Corporation Bank	19	10	17	12	7	2
9.	Dena Bank	12	10	38	8	21	9

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
10.	Indian Bank	66	42	41	31	37	26
11.	Indian Overseas Bank	56	20	68	21	133	18
12.	Oriental Bank of Commerce	27	9	40	7	38	13
13.	Punjab & Sind Bank	24	5	61	10	104	21
14.	Punjab National Bank	151	38	89	40	86	26
15.	Syndicate Bank	38	25	26	19	24	15
16.	UCO Bank	105	12	128	15	119	31
17.	Union Bank of India	79	19	36	10	84	22
18.	United Bank of India	127	15	35	8	45	12
19.	Vijaya Bank	44	10	67	6	45	5
20.	State Bank of India	683	107	562	78	383	74
21.	State Bank of Bikaner & Jaipur	43	9	38	10	13	12
22.	State Bank of Hyderabad	60	22	17	11	27	12
23.	State Bank of Indore	27	6	12	0	12	0
24.	State Bank of Patiala	10	6	13	4	5	3
25.	State Bank of Mysore	66	24	58	11	39	10
26.	State Bank of Saurashtra	13	3	9	1	20	1
27.	State Bank of Travancore	4	4	7	5	8	7
TOTAL		2188	579	1786	461	1659	451

Statement II

The bank-wise number of officials charged under cases of corruption and the number of officials out of these removed from service during the last three years, i.e. 2003, 2004 and 2005

Sl.No.	Name of the Bank	2003		2004		2005	
		No. of officials charged under cases of corruption	No. of officials removed from service	No. of officials charged under cases of corruption	No. of officials removed from service	No. of officials charged under cases of corruption	No. of officials removed from service
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Allahabad Bank	0	0	0	0	1	0
2.	Andhra Bank	0	0	0	0	0	0

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
3.	Bank of Baroda	0	0	3	2	1	0
4.	Bank of India	24	15	4	2	2	2
5.	Bank of Maharashtra	0	0	0	0	0	0
6.	Canara Bank	6	3	10	10	19	8
7.	Central Bank of India	107	20	101	21	126	18
8.	Corporation Bank	11	0	15	1	19	0
9.	Dena Bank	0	0	0	0	0	0
10.	Indian Bank	3	1	3	1	2	0
11.	Indian Overseas Bank	0	0	3	0	4	4
12.	Oriental Bank of Commerce	60	10	82	8	75	6
13.	Punjab & Sind Bank	2	1	3	2	0	0
14.	Punjab National Bank	4	1	6	0	5	2
15.	Syndicate Bank	83	16	53	3	52	8
16.	UCO Bank	3	0	5	2	0	0
17.	Union Bank of India	3	0	0	0	0	0
18.	United Bank of India	49	4	26	2	8	0
19.	Vijaya Bank	18	1	32	2	26	2
20.	State Bank of India	96	7	93	9	126	8
21.	State Bank of Bikaner & Jaipur	32	3	15	1	2	0
22.	State Bank of Hyderabad	0	0	3	1	0	0
23.	State Bank of Indore	10	0	24	2	11	0
24.	State Bank of Patiala	0	0	1	1	0	0
25.	State Bank of Mysore	32	2	31	1	47	2
26.	State Bank of Saurashtra	4	0	0	0	0	0
27.	State Bank of Travancore	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL		547	84	513	71	526	60

*[English]***Beautification of Towns**

2467. SHRI SARBANANDA SONOWAL: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of towns to be upgraded with all modern infrastructure and communication facilities in Assam in the near future;

(b) whether the Government has any plan for upgradation/beautification of Dibrugarh and Guwahati towns; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the funds allocated for the purpose?

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

Mega Power Projects

2468. SHRI N.S.V. CHITTHAN:
SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU:
SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any time bound programme for setting up of Mega power projects in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the power projects out of them proposed to be set up before 2010, State-wise;

(c) the details of private sector Mega power projects functioning in the country as on date;

(d) whether the Government proposes to constitute any task force to ensure proper and smooth implementation of Mega Power projects; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE): (a) and (b) Details of the 'certified' mega power projects which are presently under implementation State-wise are enclosed as statement. The likely commissioning period has been indicated against each. Out of these 12 projects with an aggregate capacity of 14368 MW are likely to be commissioned by 2009-10 as indicated.

(c) No mega power project certified in the private sector has yet commenced generation.

(d) and (e) Monitoring mechanism of power projects including mega power projects has been strengthened by Central Electricity Authority (CEA) for achieving capacity addition targets. Nodal officers have been nominated for each project. Regular site visits are being undertaken to assess the actual progress of work at site. Regular review meetings are being held in the Ministry with different manufacturing units of Bharat Heavy Electricals Ltd. (BHEL) for timely supply of materials and erection and commissioning of equipment at site.

Statement*List of Certified Mega Power Projects presently under implementation*

Name of the project	Project promoter	Capacity (MW)	Likely Commissioning by
1	2	3	4
Andhra Pradesh			
Simhadri-II Thermal Power Project	NTPC Ltd.	1000	December, 2010
Arunachal Pradesh			
Kameng HEP*	NEEPCO	4x150=600	2009-10
Subansiri Lower	NHPC	8 x 250=2000	2010-11

1	2	3	4
Assam			
Bongaigaon	NTPC Ltd.	750	July, 20 10
Bihar			
Kahalgaoon Super Thermal Power Project*	NTPC Ltd.	Phase-I- 1000 Phase-II- 500	2007-08
Barh Super Thermal Power Project	NTPC Ltd.	1980	2010-11
Chhattisgarh			
Sipat Super Thermal Power Project (Stage-I)*	NTPC Ltd.	3x660=1980	2009-10
Sipat Super Thermal Power Project (Stage-II)*	NTPC Ltd.	2x500=1000	2007-08
Raigarh TPP	Jindal Power (Private Sector)	4x250=1000	March, 2008
Gujarat			
Alkhalhol GBPP*	Torrent Power (Private Sector)	3x376=1128	U-I - August, 2007, U-II- Dec., 2007, U-III- February, 2008.
Kawas Expansion	NTPC Ltd.	1300	2010-11 (Subject to gas availability)
Jhanor Gandhar Expansion	NTPC Ltd.	1300	2010-11 (Subject to gas availability)
Haryana			
Jhajjar	NTPC Ltd.	1500	September, 2010 (1st Unit)
Himachal Pradesh			
Koldam Hydro Power Project*	NTPC Ltd.	4 x 200 = 800	2008-09 (400 MW) 2009-10 (400 MW)
Parbati-II*	NHPC	4 x 200 = 800	2008-09 (400 MW) 2009-10 (400 MW)
Parbati-III	NHPC	520	2010-11
Jharkhand			
Maitihon TPP*	DVC	2x500=1000	Unit- 1: Dec., 2009 Unit-2: March, 2010
North Karanpura Super Thermal Power Project	NTPC Ltd.	1980	October, 2011
Madhya Pradesh			
Vindhyachal Super Thermal Power Project*	NTPC Ltd.	2x500 = 1000	U-10- 2007-08
Maharashtra			
Ratnagiri Gas & Power Pvt. Ltd.*	NTPC-GAIL and Others' joint venture project	2150	Subject to availability of gas

1	2	3	4
Sikkim			
Teesta-V*	NHPC	3x170 = 510	2007-08
Tamil Nadu			
Ennore Thermal Power Project (JV with TNEB)	NTPC Ltd.	1000	December, 2010 (1st Unit)
Uttaranchal			
Loharinag Pala HEP	NTPC Ltd.	600	2011-12
Tapovan Vishnugad HEP	NTPC Ltd.	520	2011-12
West Bengal			
Purulia Pump Storage Hydel Project*	State Sector project	900	2006-07 (225 MW) 2007-08 (675 MW)

*Projects likely to be completed before/by 2009-10.

Political Parties Registered with Election Commission

2469. SHRI DALPAT SINGH PARSTE:
SHRI KULDEEP BISHNOI:
SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL:

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

(a) the number of national, regional and unorganized political parties registered with the Election Commission;

(b) the number of unrecognised parties contested the elections during the last Lok Sabha/Legislative Assembly elections;

(c) whether the Government proposes to audit the accounts of these unrecognised political parties; and

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

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ): (a) There are 6 National Parties, 46 State Parties and 818 registered unrecognised political parties with the Election Commission.

(b) 173 unrecognised political parties contested the last Lok Sabha elections, held in the year 2004 and in the year 2006, 60 unrecognised parties contested the

last Legislative Assembly elections, held in Assam, Kerala, Pondicherry, Tamil Nadu and West Bengal.

(c) and (d) The process of reforms/changes of electoral laws and other related matters is a continuous and ongoing process and can be carried out only through consensus among political parties.

Decline in Capital Formation in Agriculture Sector

2470. SHRIMATI P. SATHEEDEVI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a decline in capital formation in agricultural sector of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any survey has been conducted to assess the same;

(d) if so, the details of the results; and

(e) the methods adopted by the Government to solve these issues?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) to (e) Gross capital formation in Agriculture sector (including forestry and fishing) at 1999-2000 prices increased from Rs. 50151 crore in 1999-2000 to Rs. 52839 crore in 2004-05 (Quick estimates).

Service Charges on Policy Holders

2471. SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has any plan to withdraw various service charges and alternation fees introduced on the insurance policy holders; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) Does not arise.

Service Tax Collection

2472. DR. M. JAGANNATH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the target fixed for collection of service tax during the current financial year;

(b) the steps taken to achieve the target;

(c) whether the Government proposes to put in place a comprehensive legislation instead of amending the Finance Act every year;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) The budget estimate of financial year 2006-07 for service tax collection is Rs. 34,500 crore.

(b) Number of measures including media publicity to create awareness among tax payers, special survey and processing of information from various sources to identify potential service providers, assisting through help centres, undertaking audit of large assesseees, expediting adjudication of show cause notices, are being taken to achieve the targeted collection of service tax.

(c) to (e) The Constitution (Eighty eighth Amendment) Act, 2003 enables the Parliament to formulate, by law, principles for (i) determining the modalities of levying service tax by the Central Government, (ii) collection of the proceeds by the Centre and the States and (iii) sharing of the proceeds between the Centre and the States. Central Government is in discussion with the Empowered Committee of State Finance Ministers to

identify specified services and empower the States to collect and appropriate service tax on these services. In view of the above, at present, a comprehensive legislation in place of Finance Act, 1994 is not under consideration of the Central Government.

Evasion of Service Tax

2473. SHRI J.M. AARON RASHID: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Directorate General of Central Excise Intelligence (DGCEI) have booked several top companies in cases of Service Tax Evasion;

(b) if so, the details and amount of evasion of tax by these companies;

(c) whether Non-Banking Financial Institutions are also involved in the matter; and

(d) if so, the details of those companies and the action taken by Government to recover the amount?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) The total number of Service Tax evasion cases booked and the amount involved for last three financial years and the current financial year (upto October, 2006) are as follows:

Year	No. of cases	Amount (in lakhs)*
2003-2004	30	962.26
2004-2005	422	34564.71
2005-2006	505	54362.59
2006-2007	231	36619.33

*In some cases the investigations are still in progress and the final amount is not quantified as yet.

The details of cases involving Service Tax amount of more than Rs. ten crore are given in the enclosed statement-I.

(c) Yes Sir.

(d) The number of cases booked against Non-Banking Financial Institutions and the amount involved for last three financial years and the current financial year (upto October, 2006) are as follows:

Year	No. of cases	Amount (in lakhs)*
2003-2004	0	0
2004-2005	2	206.19
2005-2006	18	3626.74
2006-2007	7	103.79

*In some cases the investigations are still in progress and the final amount is not quantified as yet.

The details of cases against Non-Banking Financial Institutions are given in the enclosed Statement-II. Action as per the Central Excise Act, 1944 and the rules made thereunder is being taken by Government to recover the amount in cases where investigations have been completed.

Statement I

Details of cases involving Service Tax Evasion of more than 10 Crore

Sl.No.	Name of the party	Amount involved (Rs. in lakhs)
1	2	3
2004-05		
1.	HAL, Kolkata	1100
2.	Karam Chand Thapper & Brothers	2299.87
3.	HAL, Bangalore	1500
4.	State Bank of India, MICR cheques processing centre, Mumbai & RBI	4900.00
5.	Airport Authority of India, New Delhi	13,433.00
2005-06		
1.	M/s M S Associates	2094.49
2.	GSPC Ltd., Ahmedabad	1000
3.	Indian Airlines, Delhi	1500.00
4.	Jet Airways, Mumbai	1635
5.	The Clearing Corporation of India	1539
6.	Aryan Coal Beneficiation Pvt. Ltd., Dipeeka	1856.92
7.	National Securities Clearing Corporation Ltd., Mumbai	1696
8.	National Commodity & Derivatives Exchange Ltd. (ST)	1000
9.	Various Airlines operating in India (ST)	3100
10.	Transocean Group of Companies (ST)	2500
11.	Indian Institute of Planning & Management, Chennai	1000.00
12.	Hyundai Motors India Ltd., Irungattukottai	1000.00
13.	United Breweries, Bangalore	1200

1	2	3
2006-07		
1.	Indian Airlines, Delhi	2730.00
2.	Sahara Airlines, Lucknow	1000.00
3.	Sahara India, Lucknow	3700.00
4.	Xerox India Ltd., Gurgaon	2000.00
5.	Karnataka State Beverages Corpn Ltd., Bangalore	1100
6.	SAP India Pvt Ltd., Bangalore	2500
7.	IBM India (P) Ltd., Bangalore	7225.49
8.	M/s G S Atwal & Co (Engg) Pvt. Ltd. (KZU) Kolkata	1000
9.	M/s M S Associates (Diff) New Delhi	1994.49

Statement II

Sl.No.	Name of the Company	Amount of Evasion of Service Tax (in lakhs)	Action Taken to Recover Revenue
1	2	3	4
2004-2005			
1	Awas Financial Services, Navi Mumbai	6.19	SCN issued. Pending adjudication.
2.	ST evasion by various Mutual Fund distributors	200.00	Under investigation
2005-2006			
1.	Madhya Pradesh Financial Corporation, Indore	17.29	SCN issued. Pending Adjudication
2.	Small Industries Development Bank	2.52	SCN issued. Pending Adjudication
3.	The Clearing Corporation of India	1539	Under investigation
4.	National Securities Clearing Corporation Ltd., Mumbai	1696	Under investigation
5.	Bank of India Shareholding Ltd., Mumbai	24	Under investigation
6.	Birla Sunlife Distribution	11.7	SCN issued. Pending adjudication
7.	IL and FS	2.56	SCN issued. Pending adjudication
8.	Various Merchant Bankers	123.23	SCN issued. Pending adjudication
9.	SBI Fund Management	5.51	SCN issued. Pending adjudication

1	2	3	4
10.	SBI Mutual Fund	8.87	SCN issued. Pending adjudication
11.	J.M. Morgan Stanley Fin. Services	0.91	Under investigation
12.	Crystal Info financial Services Ltd, Pune & M/s Crystal Financial Services Ltd, Pune, M/s. Credentials, Pune	41.46	SCN issued. Pending adjudication.
13.	SIDBI, Kanpur	90	Under investigation
14.	Rajasthan Finance Corp. Jaipur	30	Under investigation
15.	Muthoot Finance Pvt. Ltd. Delhi	26.49	Investigation Completed. SCN put up for approval.
16.	U.P. Financial Corp., Kanpur	12.18	Under investigation
17.	H.P. Finance Corp., Shimla	5.2	SCN issued
18.	Delhi Finance Corp., Delhi	2	SCN issued

2006-07

1.	Weizmann Capital Ltd.	0.79	SCN issued. Pending adjudication.
2.	HDFC CHUPP General Insurance Ltd.	4.5	Under investigation
3.	Centrum Capital Ltd., Fort, Mumbai (Meena, Supt)	20	Under investigation
4.	Anand Rathi Securities Pvt. Ltd.	Not quantified	Transferred to Commissionerate
5.	ASK Raymond James	0.5	Transferred to Commissionerate
6.	Keynote Corporation	Not quantified	Transferred to Commissionerate
7.	India Bulls Securities Ltd., Gurgaon	78	The Company has deposited the tax liability detected so far. However matter is under investigation

*[Translation]***Freehold of Land Allotted to Schools**

2474. SHRI BHUPENDRASINH SOLANKI:
SHRI MAHESH KANODIA:

Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received requests from some public schools of Delhi for converting their

land into freehold which was allotted to them by the Delhi Development Authority (DDA);

(b) is if, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN): (a) to (c) A representation has been received from Federation of Public Schools on 27.11.2006 regarding conversion of

land allotted by Delhi Development Authority (DDA) to educational institutions from lease hold to free hold. The current policy of conversion of lease hold land to free hold is not applicable to land allotted for institutional purposes.

The representation has, therefore, been referred to DDA for comments.

[English]

Amendment of SEBI Act

2475. SHRI P.S. GADHAVI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal is under consideration of the Union Government to amend the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) Act; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) SEBI has sent a proposal seeking amendments in the Securities and Exchange Board of India Act, 1992 and other securities laws. The proposal includes amendments to provide for establishment of an Investor Education and Protection Fund, nomination facility for holders of securities, disgorgement of unlawful gains, settlement of administrative/civil proceedings, etc.

Managing Pension Funds

2476. SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is considering to allow the Life Insurance Corporation of India and State Bank of India to manage the pension funds;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government is also considering to allow private players for this purpose; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) to (d) In terms of Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA) Bill, 2005, Government proposes to open up pension funds to competing operators, including private operators. These pension funds would be selected and regulated by PFRDA.

[Translation]

Foreign Banks

2477. SHRI BHUVANESHWAR PRASAD MEHTA: Will the Minister of COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Monopolies and Restrictive Trade Practices Commission (MRTPC) has issued notices to some foreign banks for fraud and false promises;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken against those foreign banks?

THE MINISTER OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) A statement is attached.

Statement

Sl.No.	Enquiry No.	Title of Enquiry	Details of the case
1	2	3	4
1.	UTPE* No. 25/97	DG (I & R)** Vs. Citi Bank & Others	The commission received complaint filed by Shri M.D. Rajput against Citi Bank under section 36A alleging that the Car Loan Agreement of the Respondent Bank contains restrictive and unfair clauses. The matter was referred to DG (I & R) for investigation. The DG (I & R) filed

1	2	3	4
2.	UTPE No. 205/98	Shri Rakesh Vaid, Faridabad, Vs. Bank of America & Another	preliminary investigation report stating that the respondent bank is following restrictive trade practices within the meaning of section 2(0) (ii) of the Act. The matter is listed for final argument on 26.2.2007. This is a complaint filed by Shri Rakesh Vaid against Bank of America & Another under section 36B(a) of the MRTPE Act***, 1969. It is alleged that the respondent bank confiscated the car of the complainant, purchased by availing loan from the respondent bank, on failing to pay some of the instalments. The matter is listed for final arguments on 16.1.2007.
3.	UTPE No. 106/2002	Shri Jainender Kumar Jain, Ghaziabad, U.P. Vs. Standard Chartered Bank, New Delhi	This is a complaint filed by Shri Jainender Kumar Jain against Standard Chartered Bank under section 36A of the MRTPE Act, 1969. It is alleged that the respondent bank confiscated the car of the complainant, purchased by availing loan from the respondent bank, on failing to pay some of the instalments. The matter is listed for framing of issues on 9.3.2007.
4.	UTPE No. 14/2003	Shri Ravi Luthra, New Delhi Vs. Citi Bank, NA, New Delhi — R-1 Shelters, New Delhi — R-2.	This is a complaint filed by Shri Ravi Luthra against Citi Bank NA & Shelters, agent of Citi Bank NA, under section 36B(a) of the MRTPE Act, 1969. It is stated that the respondent bank has not sanctioned the promised loan for purchasing residential plot. It is alleged that the respondent No. 2 (Shelters) had collected fee towards processing of the loan, which was agreed to be refunded to the complainant if loan is not granted by respondent No. 1. The matter is listed for cross-examination of the complainant's witness on 5.2.2007.
5	UTPE 25/2004	Shri Raghav Lal Lucknow, U.P. Vs. Standard Chartered Bank (ANZ Grindlays Bank)	This is a complaint filed by Shri Raghav Lal against Standard Chartered Bank (ANZ Grindlays Bank). It is regarding alleged breach of conditions notified at the time of issuance of credit card. The matter is listed on 28.2.2007 for cross-examination of respondent witness.

1	2	3	4
6.	UTPE 53/2004	Shri Ravi Chand Vs. Standard Chartered Bank	This is a complaint by Shri Ravi Chand against Standard Chartered Bank under section 36A of the MRTP Act. It is alleged that the bank made false promises regarding sanctioning of car loan. The matter is listed on 17.1.2007 for consideration of issuance of Notice of Enquiry.
7.	RTPE **** No. 5/2006	Shri Ashok Vaid, Delhi Vs. ABN Amro Bank, New Delhi	This is a complaint filed by Shri Ashok Vaid against ABN Amro Bank, New Delhi alleging that the standard loan agreement of the bank contains restrictive clauses within the meaning of sections 33 (1) (a), (b), (c), (j) and 2(0) of the MRTP Act. It is further alleged that bank is resorting to unfair and restrictive trade practices. The matter is listed on 8.12.2006 for further consideration.
8.	UTPE 74/2006	Shri Shalabh Khanna, Delhi Vs. Citi Bank, Chennai	This is a complaint by Shri Shalabh Khanna against Citi Bank under section 36B(a). It is alleged that the respondent has resorted to unfair trade practice by illegally debiting the amount from his account. The matter is listed on 5.1.2007 for further consideration.

- * UTPE—Unfair Trade Practices Enquiry.
- ** DG(I & R)—Director General (Investigation & Registration).
- *** MRTP Act—Monopolies and Restrictive Trade Practices Act.
- **** RTPE—Restrictive Trade Practices Enquiry.

[English]

**Demand and Supply of Coal and Gas
for Power Generation**

2478. SHRI KISHAN BHAI V. PATEL:
SHRI SUGRIB SINGH:
SHRI VIJOY KRISHNA:
SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a huge shortage of coal and gas for power generation in the country;

(b) if so, whether any study has been conducted regarding demand and supply of gas and coal for power generation;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the measures taken by the Government in this regard; and

(e) the advantages/disadvantages of natural gas as a fuel over the fuel for power generation?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE): (a) to (d) Presently, there is marginal shortage of coal supply from domestic sources but there is significant shortage of gas for power generation in the country.

The feasible capacity addition during 11th Plan has been assessed as 66,463 MW including 42,625 MW coal, 2,114 MW Gas/LNG and 1,375 MW lignite. Coal requirement for power utilities during 2011-12 is expected to be of the order of 537 million tonnes (MT) whereas the projected availability of coal for to power sector from domestic sources has been assessed as 478 million tonnes (CIL 382.35 MT; SCCL 29.40 MT; Captive Block and others 65.95 MT). Gas requirement for power generation at normative PLF works out to about 69 Million Metric Standard Cubic Metre per day (MMSCMD) during 2011-12. The gas availability scenario is not clear at present.

While, the gap between demand for coal and its supply from domestic sources is being bridged through import of coal, shortage of gas is being mitigated through fall back arrangements made by NTPC for supply of Regassified Liquefied Natural Gas (RLNG) and procurement of Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) from time to time through spot market.

In addition, new coal blocks are being allocated to power producers/utilities for captive mining to meet requirement of their power plants in the coming years.

Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas has initiated following actions to improve the availability of gas:

1. Augmenting production of natural gas from the existing gas fields/wells.
2. Increasing availability of gas from domestic sources by awarding gas blocks for exploration & production (E & P) activities in various basins of the country under the New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP).
3. Encouraging import of gas in the form of Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG).

(e) The advantages/disadvantages of natural gas as fuel over coal are as under:

- Thermal efficiency of natural gas based power plants is higher (about 43-46 %) as compared to 35-40 % of coal based power plants.
- Capital cost of natural gas based power plants is much less as compared to coal based power plants.

- Requirement of land and water is much less for Natural gas based power plants as compared to coal-based power plants.
- Natural gas is environment friendly due to absence of ash generation and less green house gas emission.
- Gestation period for Natural gas based power plants is less i.e. about 24-28 months as compared to 30-48 months for coal based power plants.

However, availability of gas at reasonable prices is a critical issue not only for the projects which are due for commissioning but also for the existing gas based capacity in the country. There is generation capacity of over 13,580 MW based on gas and liquid fuels, bulk of which constitutes base load and runs under combined cycle operation. Due to shortage of fuel, PLF of these plants remains very low at about 54% as compared to 90% at which they are capable of operating and generation loss of about 18 Billion Unit was experienced during April - November, 2006.

[Translation]

Increase in Desert Land

2479. SHRI BRAJESH PATHAK:
SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that the area of the desert land is increasing day by day in the country;

(b) if so, the State-wise details for the last three years and current year along with the reasons therefor;

(c) the steps taken by the Government to check such extension of the desert land; and

(d) the success achieved thereafter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU): (a) Under a project of this Ministry, Department of Space, Government of India had published a Wasteland Atlas in 2000 and estimated desert land area of about 10.58 million hectares. Again National Remote Sensing Agency (NRSA) has published Wasteland Atlas in 2005 and estimated desert land area of about 8.83 million

hectare. Thus from the above datas, desert land area has decreased by 1.75 million hectare.

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

(c) Ministry of Rural Development has been implementing Desert Development Programme (DDP) on watershed approach since 1995-96 to combat desertification in 235 blocks of 40 districts in 7 States of the country through activities like soil-moisture conservation, water resources development, crop protection, afforestation, pasture development etc.

(d) So far 15746 projects have been sanctioned under Desert Development Programme (DDP), out of which 2674 projects have completed covering an area of 13.37 lakh hectare.

[English]

Private Participation in Wasteland Development

2480. SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to introduce any scheme to encourage private entrepreneurs to come forward in development of wasteland;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any project has been sanctioned in this regard till now; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU): (a) No Sir. The Planning Commission had set up a committee on development of bio-fuel (2003), which recommended for launching of a National Mission on Bio-diesel with special focus on plantation of *Jatropha curcas* in forest and non-forest areas, especially in waste lands. Accordingly, this Ministry has taken steps to launch the Bio-diesel Mission Scheme. There is no proposal to encourage private entrepreneurs to come forward in development of wasteland.

(b) to (d) In view of the above, not applicable.

Revival of Power Projects

2481. SHRI VJOY KRISHNA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to revive some of the power projects in the country;

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

(c) the amount earmarked for the purpose; and

(d) the time by which these projects are likely to be revived?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The details of Thermal Power Stations proposed to be taken up for revival and the amount earmarked for each of them is tabulated below:

Sl.No.	Name of the Thermal Power Station (TPS) & Capacity	Name of the State	Units revival	Amount earmarked for
1.	Muzaffarpur TPS (2x110MW) Barauni TPS(2x110MW)	Bihar	Unit 1&2 Unit 6&7	Rs. 506 crores
2.	Patratu TPS(2x110MW)	Jharkhand	Unit 9& 10	Rs. 120 crores*
3.	Obra TPS (5x40 MW)	Uttar Pradesh	Unit 1-5	Rs. 486 crores*
4.	Barauni TPS (2x50 MW)	Bihar	Unit 4&5	**
5.	Chandrapur TPS (2x30 MW)	Jharkhand	Unit 1&2	**
6.	Chandrapur TPS (3x120 MW)	Jharkhand	Unit 4-6	**

*Estimated amount.

**As the detailed scope of works for revival of the units is yet to be finalized, no specific fund allocation has been made for their revival.

(d) The benefits on revival of power plants would be available in the 11th Plan. However, the quantum of benefits cannot be assessed at present.

FDI in Real Estates

2482. SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL:

SHRI BRAJESH PATHAK:

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

(a) whether there is a spurt in FDI in real estates in the country;

(b) if so, the details of the areas where FDIs have been allowed by the Government; and

(c) the extent to which FDI in real estates may thwart the activities of land mafia and ensure easy availability of dwelling units to needy at reasonable price?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION (KUMARI SELJA): (a) Yes, Sir. The year-wise break up of FDI inflow received during 2003 to April, 2006 is as under :

(Rs. in crores)

Year	FDI inflow received
2003	212.09
2004	641.99
2005	599.76
2006	756.74

(b) FDI has been allowed in the construction development projects including Housing, commercial premises, resorts, educational institutions, recreational facilities, city and regional level infrastructure and township etc.

(c) The increase in FDI in Real Estate is expected to have salutary effect on the availability of dwelling units at reasonable price.

Declining Trend in Aptitude for Science

2483. SHRI RAKESH SINGH:

SHRI JASWANT SINGH BISHNOI:

Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether a declining trend has been noticed in aptitude for science due to rapid development in the fields such as IT;

(b) if so, whether the Government proposes to chalk out any scheme to promote the sciences; and

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

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) It has been noticed in recent times that meritorious students prefer disciplines other than sciences for their studies, like IT-related engineering areas, commerce, business economics, etc., because of better career options available to them in these sectors of economy. The flight away from study of pure sciences starts quite early, right from the 10+2 stage. The India Science Report, prepared by the National Council of Applied Economic Research for the Indian National Science Academy, reveals that 22% of the students at the Class VI-VIII level want to study pure science at higher levels of education. But when it comes to students in Class XI and XII, only 13.4% want to study pure science at the graduate and post-graduate level.

(b) and (c) The Government has already instituted several schemes to attract meritorious students and scientists to a career in science — from the attractive Kishore Vaigyanik Protsahan Yojana scholarships at the School and College level to the Shyama Prasad Mookerjee fellowships, Swarnajayanti fellowships, young scientist projects and awards, JC Bose and Ramanujan fellowships at the research level. These are supplemented by relatively liberal research grants available today to active researchers. Through the Fund for Improvement of Science and Technology (FIST) programme and by establishing research facilities and centres of excellence, the Government has also tried to make available competitive research infrastructure to our basic science researchers. More recently, three new Indian Institutes of Science Education and Research (IISERs) have been set up at Kolkata, Pune and Chandigarh, which, apart from

carrying out frontline and internationally competitive research, would offer integrated M.Sc. programmes in a multi-disciplinary and academically flexible and research-oriented environment.

The Government, in the XI Plan, is also proposing to launch a new scheme called INSPIRE (Innovation in Science Pursuit for Inspired Research). The main features of the proposed scheme will be (1) innovation funding in schools (one million young innovators); (2) summer camp with science icons (for high performers); (3) assured opportunity schemes for proven talent force; and, (4) retention of talent in public funded research through public-private partnerships.

Construction of Houses in Karnataka

2484. SHRI M. SHIVANNA: Will the Minister of HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Karnataka has sent any proposal to the Union Government for constructing 34,531 houses [23,886 under ISDP and 10,645 under JNNURM];

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION (KUMARI SELJA): (a) to (c) 8 Detailed Project Reports (Bangalore City-7 and Mysore City-1) under Basic Services to the Urban Poor (BSUP) and 23 Detailed Project Reports under Integrated Housing and Slum Development Programme (IHSDP) were received from the State of Karnataka. Out of these, 2 DPRs (Bangalore-1 and Mysore-1) of BSUP have been approved with the central share of Rs. 123.21 crore by the Central Sanctioning and Monitoring Committee covering 14,391 Dwelling Units. 19 Detailed Project Reports under IHSDP are under appraisal and 4 DPRs were returned since these were not in accordance with the scheme guidelines.

JNNURM

2485. DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM) is adversely affecting the urban poor and their livelihoods;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the measures taken to protect the rights of urban poor and promote their livelihoods?

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

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[Translation]

Detection of Tax Evasion

2486. SHRI HEMMAL MURMU:
SHRI RAGHURAJ SINGH SHAKYA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether some professionals in the country are engaged in development of devices to detect and collect information regarding tax evasion;

(b) whether any study is being done to plug the loopholes and identify new ways of tax evasion;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) to (d) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[English]

National Land Records Development Mission

2487. SHRI CHENGARA SURENDRAN: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government proposes to set up National Land Records Development Mission (NLRDM); and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU): (a) and (b) No decision has so far been taken for setting up of National Land Records Development Mission (NLRDM).

Acquisition of Land by DDA

2488. SHRI REWATI RAMAN SINGH: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Delhi Development Authority (DDA) acquired land at cheap rates from the farmers;

(b) if so, the details thereof for the last three schemes;

(c) whether DDA is selling flats/plots at market rates;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether the Government has renounced their policy of providing dwelling units to the needy people at reasonable rates; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN): (a) and (b) The Delhi Development Authority (DDA) has informed that it does not acquire land directly from the farmers. Acquisition is carried out by Land & Building Department of Government of NCT of Delhi (GNCTD) based on the requisition sent by DDA to that Department. The rates of compensation are determined by Land & Building Department and the amount so determined is deposited by DDA with GNCTD for making necessary payment to the farmers.

(c) to (f) DDA has further informed that it allots plots under Rohini Residential Scheme, 1981 to the registrants and alternative plots to the farmers/land owners, whose land is acquired, at pre-determined rates. Remaining residential plots are auctioned as per provisions of the Delhi Development Authority (Disposal of Developed Nazul Land) Rules, 1981.

The allotment of flats is made to the registrants through computerized draw. The cost of the flat is worked out on the principles of standard costing, where land cost is based on pre-determined land rate and the construction cost is based on actual cost of construction.

[Translation]

Hostels and Holiday Homes for Central Government Employees

2489. SHRI ALOK KUMAR MEHTA:
DR. K. DHANARAJU:

Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of holiday homes and hostels are being run in different parts of the country by his Ministry;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the accommodation available;

(c) whether the said accommodation is allotted to retired Government servants also;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government proposes to add more rooms at these holiday homes and hostels;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) All holiday homes and hostels are open to retired Government officials also.

(e) At present, no such proposal is under consideration in Directorate of Estates.

(f) Does not arise.

(g) Holiday homes and hostel accommodation are prioritized after regular residential accommodation and office space are made available.

*[English]***Rural Electrification**

2490. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Will the Minister of NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal has been received from the Government of Bihar regarding electrification of remote villages in the State;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the decision taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY (SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR): (a) to (c) The Ministry is implementing a Programme for electrification through non-conventional energy, of those remote villages/hamlets where grid connectivity is either not feasible or not cost effective. The task of identification of such villages/hamlets has been entrusted to the Rural Electrification Corporation, who have so far not identified any such village in Bihar. As such, there are no proposals for electrification of remote villages from Bihar.

*[Translation]***World Bank Loan for Poverty Alleviation and Human Resources Projects**

2491. SHRI K. C. SINGH "BABA": Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the World Bank has provided any loan for projects pertaining to poverty alleviation and other human resources development during each of the last three years, till date;

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

(c) the number of projects cleared and the amount likely to be allocated/allocated for each of the project by the World Bank; and

(d) the details of implementing agencies of the projects, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. Assistance has been committed for seven projects in poverty alleviation and human resources development by the World Bank during the FYs 2004-05, 2005-06 and 2006-07 (till date). Details of the projects and their respective implementing agencies is given in the enclosed statement.

Statement

World Bank Poverty Alleviation and Human Resource Development Projects Committed during FY 2004-05, 2005-06 & 2006-07 (Till date)

(Amount in US \$ Million)

Sl. No.	Project Name	Sector	State/ Centre	Financial Year	Date of Approval	Commitment Amount	Implementing Agency
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Karnataka Health Systems	Health	Karnataka	2006-07	22 Aug. 2006	141.8	Government of Karnataka
2.	Reproductive & Child Health Second Phase	Health	Central Sector	2006-07	22 Aug. 06	360.00	Ministry of Health and Family Welfare
3.	Second National Tuberculosis Control Project	Health	Central Sector	2006-07	22 Aug. 2006	170.00	Ministry of Health and Family Welfare

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
4.	Tamil Nadu Empowerment and Poverty Reduction	Poverty Alleviation	Tamil Nadu	2005-06	12 July 2005	120.0	Government of Tamil Nadu
5.	Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan-I	Education	Central Sector	2004-05	20 Apr-04	500.0	Ministry of Human Resource Development
6.	Integrated Disease Surveillance Project	Health	Central Sector	2004-05	8 July 2004	68.0	Ministry of Health and Family Welfare
7.	Tamil Nadu Health Systems Project	Health	Tamil Nadu	2004-05	16 Dec. 04	110.8	Government of Tamil Nadu

Recovery of Loans under PMRY

2492. SHRI MOHD. TAHIR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the loans given under Pradhan Mantri Rozgar Yojana (PMRY) by banks during the last three years are being returned back by the debtors in various States;

(b) whether the number of defaulters, who have not returned the amount of loan given under this scheme, is increasing continuously during the last few years;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps taken by the Union Government for recovery of loan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) to (c) The recovery position under Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana (PMRY) during the last three years was as under:

As on	Recovery - %
March 2004	34.96
March 2005	35.39
March 2006	35.25

However, in some of the States, the recovery rate is less than 30 per cent.

(d) The following steps have been taken to improve recovery under PMRY:

1. States/UTs have been requested to notify the PMRY loan overdues as revenue under the Public Debt Recovery Act.

2. Joint recovery drives by the banks along with officers of the concerned District Industries Centres.

3. Filing of the First Information Report (FIR) against mis-utilization of loans and wilful defaulters under PMRY.

4. To provide, as an incentive, additional targets to States under PMRY whose loan recovery performance is better.

5. Less allocation of targets to States where recovery is below 30 per cent.

Setting up of Power Station at Dehrighat

2493. CH. MUNAWAR HASSAN: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether any survey has been conducted to set up a Power Station at Dehrighat in Mau district of Uttar Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government proposes to set up a Power Station at Dehrighat;

(d) if so, the time by which the work on the projects is likely to be started; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE): (a) to (e) As per Electricity Act, 2003 enacted on 10.06.2003, the requirement of according Techno-economic clearance by Central Electricity Authority has been dispensed with for thermal generation. However, a generating company intending to set up a hydro-generating station has to prepare and submit the scheme to the Authority for concurrence involving a capital expenditure such sum as may be fixed by the Central Government from time to time by notification.

No proposal for setting up of power projects at Dehrighat in Mau District of Uttar Pradesh has been received in Central Electricity Authority.

[English]

Scheme for Senior Citizens

2494. SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL:
SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has constituted an Expert Group to ensure that the interests of small investors will be protected and they will be given new avenues for safe investment of their savings;

(b) if so, whether the Expert Group has suggested any new scheme called Senior Citizens Inflation Protection Savings Scheme in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the time by which the said scheme is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The Expert Group on Protection of Interests of Small Investors and New Avenues for Safe Investment of their Savings, *inter-alia*, recommended a new scheme, to be called "Senior Citizens Inflation Protection Savings Scheme", to ensure a certain real rate of return to senior citizens.

(d) In view of the continuing benign inflation scenario and absence of inflationary expectations, such a scheme is not required.

Joint Fund for Development of Science and Technology

2495. SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA:
SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO:
SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL:

Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state

(a) whether India and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) have agreed to create a joint fund for development of science and technology in the region;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any consensus have been reached to design a regulatory framework; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) and (b) The 12th Technology Summit & Technology Platform 2006 organized by the Confederation of the Indian Industry (CII) in association with the Department of Science and Technology, with ASEAN as the Partner, was held in New Delhi on 6-7 November, 2006. At this Summit, as a part of the Co-Chairmen's Statement on India-ASEAN Science and Technology Cooperation, a proposal has been made for the creation of a common India-ASEAN S&T Development Fund to consider undertaking collaborative R&D and the Technology Development in areas of common interest including bio-technology, pharmaceuticals, agriculture for food security and advanced materials.

(c) and (d) Details are still to be worked out to design a regulatory framework in relation to Bio-technology products and the Agricultural Processing Industry.

Research Work by NIRD

2496. DR. K. DHANARAJU Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Institute of Rural Development (NIRD) provides training, research and consultancy for rural development; and

(b) if so, the details of research works taken up during 2005-06 and 2006-07 indicating those which have been completed within the stipulated time frame?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) National Institute of Rural Development (NIRD) had taken up twenty research projects in 2005-2006 as enclosed Statement-I. The stipulated time for completion of these studies was 31st March, 2006. Six studies were completed within the stipulated time, nine studies were completed after the stipulated time. The remaining five are nearing completion.

Thirty eight research projects as enclosed Statement were taken up by NIRD during 2006-2007. The stipulated time frame for completion of these projects is 31.3.2007.

Statement I

Research Projects undertaken during 2005-2006 by NIRD

S.No.	Title	Date of Completion
1	2	3
1.	Coping up of Disabilities with Self Help: A case Study of Velugu Project	31-03-2006
2.	Suicides and Coping mechanisms by the Rural Women	31-3-2006
3.	Empowerment of Rural Youth: A Study of Youth Development Centres	31-3-2006
4.	Predictors of Motivation and Job Satisfaction among Rural Development Functionaries	31-3-2006
5.	Special study on 'GRAMSAT - Utility and Effectiveness'	31-3-2006
6.	Economic Upliftment of Minorities through Micro Credit Finances: An Evaluation	31-3-2006
7.	Community and Government Initiatives in Rain Water Harvesting for Drinking Water in Tamil Nadu	April, 2006
8.	Study on Disparities between Rural and Urban Areas	April, 2006
9.	Collaborative Study 'Establishing Participative Transparent and Accountable Governance through participation of social movements in electoral politics' (in collaboration with TISS Mumbai)	April, 2006
10.	GIS Based Development Atlas for India at micro level	May, 2006
11.	Collaborative Study on 'Right to Information and PRIs'	May, 2006
12.	Food Grains Delivery Mechanism under SGRY—A Study in Two States	June, 2006

1	2	3
13.	Documentation of Successful ICT Practices	July, 2006
14.	Fund Utilisation For Creation of Durable Assets - A Study of DRDA/ZP in three States	August, 2006
15.	Stress Audit - a Study on RD institutions at the District and below	October, 2006
16.	Food Security for the Poor through State Intervention: A Study across the States	31-12-2006
17.	Comparative Study of Institutional Arrangements and Farming Systems: Viable Options for Small and Marginal Farmers	31-12-2006
18.	Socio-Economic Status of the Scheduled Caste Women working as Traditional Birth Attendants (TBAs)	31-1-2007
19.	Implementation of Watershed Projects under HARIYALI: A Study in selected States: A Process Study	31-12-2006
20.	Implementation of IAY: Issues and Achievements - A Nation wide Study	31-12-2006

Statement II

List of Research Projects taken up by NIRD in 2006-07

S.No.	Research Study Title
1	2
1.	Community Mobilisation for Promoting Elementary Education: A case study of Janshala Model
2.	Socio-economic Impact of the proposed Polavaram project on the life of Tribals in the affected areas
3.	Tribal Community Empowerment: A study of some models
4.	Governance in Tribal Areas <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. PESA, Participatory Democracy and Governance 2. Governance of Land and Land Based Resources 3. Governance of Forests 4. Governance, Development and Naxalism
5.	Competency Mapping : A Study on Rural Development Functionaries
6.	Development of Entrepreneurship among Rural Women
7.	Impact of Community Radio on Communication Needs of Rural People
8.	Role of Panchayats in Decentralised Delivery of Services with particular reference to Health and Education

-
- | 1 | 2 |
|-----|---|
| 9. | Effectiveness of Watershed Development on Environment Conservation: A Study in Jharkhand & Madhya Pradesh |
| 10. | Approaches to Forest Management: A Comparative Study of JFM and Self Initiated Forest Management |
| 11. | Incentive Structure in Joint Forest Management: A case Study |
| 12. | Stake-holders Participation in Watershed Development: A study in two States |
| 13. | Initiatives taken up for augmenting resources in Gram Panchayats—Case Studies in Four States |
| 14. | Good practices in Non-farm sector under SGSY |
| 15. | A Comprehensive Rural Marketing Plan for a District |
| 16. | Interventions for Women Empowerment |
| 17. | Enabling Factors for Collective Micro Enterprises of Women |
| 18. | Partnership Strategies for Marketing of SGSY products: A study of Private Sector Linkages |
| 19. | Credit Delivery Mechanism of Commercial Banks, Regional Rural Banks and Cooperative Banks to support SGSY and other anti-poverty programmes |
| 20. | Role of Micro-Finance Institutions in Providing Credit to Rural Poor |
| 21. | Management of Common Property Resources: A comparative study of the Management of Community Forest in Nagaland and Meghalaya |
| 22. | Voluntary Action for Self-Reliance : A Study of Chitrakoot, Loni and Periyar Development Model |
| 23. | Pro-poor Strategy for Micro-credit Delivery systems |
| 24. | A Study on Community Based Monitoring System - Deferred from last year |
| 25. | Roles and Impact of Federation for Sustainability of SHGs |
| 26. | Rehabilitation of Tribal evicted from the Rajiv Gandhi National Park - A study in Karnataka |
| 27. | Study on Developmental Interventions for Naxalite affected Backward Regions and appropriate Development Packag |
| 28. | Economic Determinants for Sustainable Livelihoods of Forest Dwellers: A Case of Minor Forest Produce |
| 29. | Problems and Prospects of Value Addition of Agri-Horti products for Improving market supply chain in NE Region |
| 30. | Self-Employment opportunities in Sikkim |
| 31. | Impact of Watershed Development Project for Shifting Cultivation Areas (WDPSCA), 'A study of Umshyrkew Watershed, Ri Bhoi District, Meghalaya using GIS and RS technology |
| 32. | Study of Women Entrepreneurs in Rural North East |
| 33. | Study and Documentation of Indigenous Agricultural Practices across the Agro-Climatic Zones of Assam |
-

1

2

Action Research Projects

34. Precision Agriculture Modelling Using GIS, GPS, RS & Micro Weather Station
35. Participatory GIS Model for NIRD Action Research Gram Panchayats in Nizamabad and Jhansi Districts
36. Capacity Building of SIRDs for Networking and Information Resources Sharing
37. Networking DRDAs and PRIs with Media/Social Sector
38. Training Interventions for Community Empowerment of Weaker Section for Integrated Development

IMF Reforms

2497. SHRI L. RAJAGOPAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the first phase of reforms in the International Monetary Fund (IMF) have begun recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reasons for not accepting India's views in the first phase of reforms; and

(d) the time by which the second phase of reforms is going to begin and the areas in which reforms are going to take place?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The first stage consisted of a modest ad hoc increase in quotas for China, South Korea, Mexico and Turkey.

(c) Over 85 percent of the voting strength of the IMF voted in favour of the first stage.

(d) The second stage of reforms will begin when a majority of the IMF voting strength votes in favour of a new quota formula, and at least 85 percent of the current voting strength votes for an increase in the level of Basic Votes. The reforms aim to revise quota allocations in line with changing relative economic strength of the member countries of IMF and give greater voice to emerging and developing countries.

Street Vendor

2498. SHRI K.C. PALLANI SHAMY:
SHRI RANEN BARMAN:
SHRI SUBRATA BOSE:

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

(a) whether the Government proposes to enact a legislation on street vendors;

(b) if so, the salient features thereof;

(c) whether the urban vendors are facing impediments to earn their livelihood due to modernisation drive;

(d) if so, whether the Government proposes to take steps to eradicate their problem; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION (KUMARI SELJA): (a) and (b) Street vending is a State subject. Central Government does not have the mandate to enact legislation on street vending.

(c) Urban Street Vendors face problems such as forced evictions by the local and police authorities, lack of basic amenities like public toilets, drinking water, electricity, solid waste disposal, storage facility for their wares.

(d) and (e) Even though the street vending is State subject, this Ministry formulated National Policy on Urban Street Vendors in January, 2004 in order to provide and promote a supportive environment to the street vendors

for earning livelihoods, as well as to ensure absence of congestion and maintenance of hygiene in public spaces and streets and circulated the Policy to all the States/UTs for appropriate adoption to suit local conditions and also respecting court decisions, if any. The salient feature of the National Policy on Urban Street Vendors are enclosed as statement.

Statement

Salient Features of the National Policy for Urban Street Vendors

This Policy aims to ensure that Urban Street Vendors, an important segment of the urban population, find recognition for their contribution to society and is conceived of as a major initiative for urban poverty alleviation by provision of and support to dignified livelihood. The basic objectives of the Policy are:

- to give vendors legal status by amending, enacting, repealing and implementing appropriate laws and providing legitimate hawking zones in urban development/zoning plans.
- To provide facilities for appropriate use of identified space including the creation of hawking zones in the urban development/zoning plans.
- To eschew imposing numerical limits on access to public spaces by discretionary licenses and instead moving to nominal fee-based regulation of access. Where market forces like price, quality and demand will determine the number of vendors that can be sustained. Such a demand cannot be unlimited.
- To make Street vendors a special component of the urban development/zoning plans by treating them as an integral and legitimate part of the urban distribution system.
- To promote self-compliance amongst Street vendors.
- To promote organizations of Street vendors e.g. Unions/Co-operatives/Associations and other forms of organization to facilitate their empowerment.
- To set up participatory mechanisms with representation by urban vendors' organizations (Unions/Co-operatives/Associations), Voluntary organizations, local authorities, the police, Residents Welfare Association (RWA) and others for orderly conduct of urban vending activities.
- To take measures for promoting a better future for child vendors by making appropriate interventions for their rehabilitation and schooling.
- To facilitate/promote social security (pension, insurance etc.) and access to credit for Street vendors through promotion of SHGs/co-operatives/Federations/Micro-Finance Institutions (MFIs) etc.

Dividend from PSEs

2499. SHRI ASADUDDIN OWASI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government is seeking higher dividends from the public sector enterprises (PSEs) to increase the internal generation for funding the Government's ambitious social sector programme;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any direction in this regard has been issued to the PSEs;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) if so, whether the Ministry of Railways has sought exemption from paying dividend to Union Government for the next five years to help building dedicated freight corridor project; and

(f) if so, the decision taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) and (b) Public Sector Companies are expected to pay dividend to the Government as any company would pay dividend to its shareholders. As per the guidelines issued by the Government, profit making public sector companies with majority holding by the Government are required to pay a minimum dividend on equity of 20% (subject to availability of disposable profits) or a minimum dividend payout of 20% of post tax profits, whichever is higher. The minimum dividend payout in respect of Oil, Petroleum, Chemical and Infrastructure companies is stipulated at 30% of post tax profit. The above are only guidelines,

and PSUs with large cash/free reserves are expected to pay higher dividend according to their capacity.

(c) and (d) Government issues instructions every year reiterating the above guidelines to ensure that all Public Sector Undertakings pay dividend in accordance with the guidelines.

(e) Ministry of Finance has not received any proposal from Ministry of Railways for exemption from dividend payment to General Revenues.

(f) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Telemetry Stations

2500. SHRI RAGHUVeer SINGH KOSHAL: Will the Minister of EARTH SCIENCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has made any efforts to study/monitor the geological changes;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the India Meteorological Department has any plan to establish Telemetry Stations in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) Studies relating to monitoring the geological changes in various parts of the country are carried out primarily by Geological Survey of India and various other institutions in the country. Geological Survey of India has been carrying out studies and monitoring on some aspects of geological changes like landslides, glacial studies, quaternary geological mapping, active fault mapping, etc. India Meteorological Department (IMD) is engaged in monitoring the seismic activity in and around the country.

(b) Geological changes are primarily of two kinds viz. Exogenic and Endogenic. Geological Survey of India carries out studies on both these aspects. The temporal and spatial distribution of seismic activity, being monitored by IMD, in various parts of the country would also throw light on the ongoing geological/seismo-tectonic processes in the region.

(c) and (d) India Meteorological Department (IMD) is already operating a satellite based seismic telemetry system consisting of 16 field stations for close monitoring of seismic activity around Delhi region. This telemetry system is being upgraded to consist of 24 stations. IMD is also in the process of setting up a similar telemetry system in North East India. These telemetry systems would enable close monitoring of seismicity in time and space with better resolution and also evaluate hazard potential of various geological faults in the region.

[English]

Incentives for Bio-Tech

2501. SHRI SURESH PRABHAKAR PRABHU: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have a proposal to bring new bio-technology policy;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government is also going to announce some incentives for young scientists; and

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

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) and (b) A Draft National Biotech Development Strategy has been prepared by the Department of Biotechnology, Government of India in consultation with various stake holders, concerned ministries and departments, NGOs and policy makers. The basic goal of the Biotechnology Strategy is to facilitate emergence of an ecosystem that promotes and sustains innovation.

The Draft Strategy is a comprehensive road map for addressing cross-cutting issues related to human resource development, infrastructure strengthening, promotion of industry and trade, setting up of biotech parks, regulatory mechanism and public awareness, and an action plan for specific sub-sectors. The strategic action plan will direct the future priorities and activities in different sectors of biotechnology. After extensive discussion on the draft document, a Note for approval of the Cabinet has been circulated.

(c) and (d) Under the proposed strategy, the policy goal is to ensure a steady flow of young scientists and

technologists in life science sector. Special incentives such as increased number of Ph.D and Post-doctoral fellowships, overseas fellowships in niche areas, a special rapid travel grant scheme for young scientists and priority R&D support to facilitate young scientists to receive grant-in-aid for research projects have been envisaged. In addition an Innovative Young Biotechnologist Award has been instituted to nurture outstanding young scientists with innovative ideas and help them to pursue their research efforts.

Health Insurance

2502. SHRI SUGRIB SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority proposes to set up a separate health unit as reported in *The Times of India* dated November 17, 2006;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the recommendations made by the Working Committee on Health Insurance; and

(d) the action taken by the Government on such recommendations?

The MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) and (b) Yes. Sir. The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority (IRDA) proposes to set up a separate Health Insurance Department, headed by an Executive Director, to give special focus to health insurance.

(c) and (d) The Working Group on Health Insurance set up by IRDA in November, 2004 had recommended setting up of the Data Sub-group, which in turn recommended the setting up of the following three sub-committees:

1. Sub-committee to take forward the recommendations of the Data sub-group on Health Insurance data.
2. Sub-committee to look into Product Innovations in Health Insurance and specifically into the definition of 'Pre-existing diseases'.
3. Sub-committee to look into registration of Stand-alone Health Insurance Companies.

The three sub-committees submitted their reports to the Working Group. Further action is being taken by IRDA.

Training to Officials under DRUM

2503. PROF. M. RAMADASS: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of officials to be trained under the Distribution Reforms Upgrades and Management (DRUM);

(b) the number of officials imparted training so far;

(c) the impact of such training on the progress and performance of Accelerated Power Development and Reforms Programme (APDRP); and

(d) the time span within which all the officials are likely to be trained?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE): (a) to (d) Ministry of Power has set target of training 20,000 distribution utility engineers, managers as well as staff personnel of regulatory commissions of various States by September 2008 under Distribution Reforms Upgrades and Management (DRUM) project being assisted by United States Agency for International Development (USAID). 7563 participants have already been trained under the programme till the end of October 2006.

The training activity under DRUM programme is regionally spread, and delivered through several geographically dispersed Indian Institutions. The main achievement of the training programmes under DRUM is in dissemination of knowledge on commercially viable electricity distribution systems and establishment of commercial framework, which are the programmatic goals of Accelerated Power Development and Reforms Programme (APDRP). The programme has caused favourable impact on implementation of the APDRP by preparing and building cadre of engineers and officers, well versed and knowledgeable on all aspects of distribution business, interface with consumers and all technical commercial and operational aspects of distribution.

Starvation Deaths

2504. SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of starvation deaths reported in the country despite operation of the National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (NREGS), State-wise; and

(b) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU): (a) No incident of starvation death has been reported for any State/Union Territory Administration.

(b) Question does not arise.

[Translation]

Increase in Revenue after Petroleum Price Hike

2505. SHRIMATI SANGEETA KUMARI SINGH DEO:
DR. DHIRENDRA AGARWAL:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether revenue proceeds of the Union Government and the State Governments get augmented as a result of increase in petroleum prices;

(b) if so, the quantum of increase in revenue receipts of the Union and State Governments as a result thereof during each of the last two years; and

(c) the quantum of such increase at Centre level and at State level during the said period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) to (c) Revenue collection from petroleum products by States is not maintained by the Ministry of Finance. With effect from 1.3.2005, excise duty on petrol and diesel is a combination of ad-valorem and specific rates as under :

Petrol : 8% + Rs.13 per litre

Diesel : 8% + Rs. 3.25 per litre

Excise duty collections from petrol and diesel, separately for the ad-valorem and specific components of the duty, are not available. Therefore, it is not possible to indicate the quantitative impact of price change on revenue collection. Customs and excise duties collection from the petroleum products during the financial years 2004-05 and 2005-06 (provisional) was Rs. 56395 crore and Rs. 63144 crore respectively.

Rate of Interest on Deposits

2506. SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY:
SHRI K.C. PALLANI SHAMY:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware of the problems being faced by the small savings account holders/pensioners who are dependent on interest income due to lower returns; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) and (b) The small savings schemes are designed keeping in view the needs of different segments of investors. The schemes enjoy a number of incentives like zero risk, regular income, tax-concession and easy accessibility. A new savings scheme, viz., Senior Citizens Savings Scheme 2004 was introduced with effect from 2nd August, 2004. The scheme is designed to meet the need of a regular flow of income for the senior citizens and retired persons alongwith security of investment, liquidity of funds and operational convenience. The deposits under the Scheme carry a uniform rate of interest of nine per cent per annum payable quarterly which is higher than the interest available on any other comparable savings instrument in the market.

Grants under APDRP

2507. SHRI BAPU HARI CHAURE:
SHRI SANJAY DHOTRE:
SHRIMATI BHAVANA PUNDLIKRAO GAWALI:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has received proposals from some State Governments for providing special grants to meet the loss in power distribution under the Accelerated Power Development and Reforms Programme (APDRP);

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the decision taken by the Union Government thereon; and

(d) the time by which the grant is likely to be released to the State Governments?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE): (a) to (d) The Ministry received 86 projects for approval from the States for strengthening and upgradation of their electricity distribution network with an objective to reduce their loss under Accelerated Power Development and Reforms Programme (APDRP). The APDRP Steering Committee, constituted for implementation of Accelerated Power Development and Reforms Programme (APDRP), accorded 'in-principle' approval to these proposals with an outlay of Rs. 1587.62 Crore. This approval is subject to the approval of continuation of APDRP by the Government for the 11th Five Year Plan and provided utilities agree to abide by the entire conditions to be incorporated in the restructured format of APDRP during the 11th Five Year Plan.

[English]

Disinvestment of PSUs

2508. SHRIMATI NEETA PATERIYA:
SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL:
SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government proposes to review the proposals on disinvestment of its share in Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs);

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the further action taken by the Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) On 8th July 2006, the Government decided to keep all disinvestment decisions and proposals on hold, pending further review, which is yet to be completed.

(b) and (c) In view of reply to (a) above, do not arise.

Growth of Power Sector

2509. SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether as per the assessment made by the Planning Commission the power sector in the country remains an area of serious concern;

(b) if so, whether the Government has identified the major bottlenecks in the growth of the power sector;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE) : (a) to (d) According to the Planning Commission, shortage of power and lack of access continue to be a major constraint in economic growth and that the greatest weakness in the power sector is on the distribution side which is entirely in the domain of the States.

The Government has launched following major initiatives to overcome the problems of the power sector and to make it competitive and viable:

- A meeting of Power Ministers of State was held and it was agreed that immediate action be taken for the commencement of new projects in the State sector as well as through competitive bidding. Adequate preparatory work regarding provision of land, water, clearance, and fuel tie up should be undertaken. Timely placement of order as well as project execution should be carefully monitored to see that targets are achieved.
- Development of Ultra Mega Power Projects of about 4000 MW capacity each under tariff based competitive bidding route.
- In order to reduce Aggregate Technical and Commercial losses, improving quality of supply of power, increasing revenue collection, improving consumer satisfaction, Accelerated Power Development and Reforms Programme (APDRP), has been launched.
- Periodical ratings of State power utilities for assessing the progress of reforms.
- Permitting stand alone systems for accelerating electrification in rural areas.
- Accelerated rural electrification of villages and rural households and introduction of High Voltage Distribution System for reducing power pilferage for reduction of losses.

- Transparent policies regarding subsidies.
- Promoting trading of electricity for better utilization of generation assets.
- Accelerated Generation and Supply Programme (AG&SP) to support capacity augmentation through renovation and modernization and new generation schemes.
- Power stations with low PLF have been identified and are linked with better performing stations under the scheme "Partnership for Excellence" for adopting better operational practices.
- Enhancement of Inter-State and Inter-regional transfer of power by strengthening of interregional transmission links eventually leading to formation of National Grid.
- Implementation of energy conservation measures. Bureau of Energy Efficiency has been set up under the Energy Conservation Act.
- Open access in distribution in phases as per regulations framed by State Electricity Regulatory Commissions.

Housing Schemes/Projects of HUDCO

2510. SHRI JASHUBHAI DHANABHAI BARAD:
SHRI JOACHIM BAXLA:
SHRI HARIKEWAL PRASAD :

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

(a) the details of the housing schemes/projects completed by HUDCO during the last three years, State-wise;

(b) the details of housing schemes/projects likely to be launched by HUDCO to solve the housing problems in urban areas in the near future;

(c) whether HUDCO provide loans to State Governments, Corporate Sector, NGOs and Charitable Trusts/Institutions for construction of community toilets and sanitation facilities; and

(d) if so, the details thereof during the last two years, category-wise and State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION (KUMARI SELJA): (a) The State-wise details of housing loans sanctioned by HUDCO in the last three years is given in the enclosed Statement-I.

(b) and (c) HUDCO provides loan assistance to the State Governments, Housing Boards, Development Authorities, Cooperative Societies and various other public sector and private sector organizations for housing, urban infrastructure, land acquisition, slum and environmental improvement schemes, etc.

(d) The details of category-wise and State-wise loan sanction in the last two years is given in the enclosed statement-II.

Statement I

Category-wise Loan Sanctioned during the Year 2003-2004

As on 31/03/2004

(Rs. in lakhs)

Sl.No.	Names States/UT's	No of Schemes	Housing Projects						ILCS/BS	Urban Inera	Total	
			EWS (R)	EWS(U)	LIG	MIG	HIG/ Others	Land Acq.				
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Non Con :Onclude Cge, Remunerative, Private Builders and Working Capital.												
States												
1.	Andhra Pradesh	32	30015.41	0.00	0.00	0.00	19543.70	0.00	49559.11	35321.26	61390.36	146774.23
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	6	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	763.23	0.00	763.23	0.00	0.00	763.23

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
3.	Assam	10	0.00	555.50	841.50	624.00	1465.00	0.00	3486.00	0.00	1190.00	4676.00
4.	Bihar	1	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
5.	Chhattisgarh	11	0.00	2420.00	0.00	0.00	1234.00	0.00	3654.00	263.22	2735.00	6642.22
6.	Delhi	4	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	3817.80	0.00	3817.80	0.00	5200.00	8017.80
7.	Goa	3	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	200.00	0.00	200.00	0.00	13500.00	13700.00
8.	Gujarat	14	0.00	2314.75	0.00	0.00	10751.68	0.00	13066.43	0.00	77548.00	90614.42
9.	Himachal Pradesh	9	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	28761.52	761.60	29523.12	0.00	45044.06	74567.16
10.	Jharkhand	2	0.00	4000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	4000.00	0.00	656.59	4656.59
11.	Jammu & Kashmir	6	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	31025.00	31025.00
12.	Kerala	7	5512.50	835.50	0.00	0.00	500.13	0.00	6851.13	0.00	18151.34	25002.47
13.	Karnataka	57	14356.14	8522.70	6214.70	5662.68	7706.89	0.00	42463.12	0.00	204733.64	247196.83
14.	Meghalaya	3	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	290.00	0.00	290.00	0.00	10950.00	11240.00
15.	Maharashtra	24	0.00	450.00	0.00	0.00	4330.44	0.00	4780.44	0.00	191637.00	196417.46
16.	Manipur	4	0.00	0.00	802.00	198.00	0.00	0.00	1000.00	0.00	0.00	1000.00
17.	Madhya Pradesh	27	0.00	86.00	237.47	131.40	9349.67	3867.71	13672.25	0.00	27180.66	40052.91
18.	Mizoram	3	0.00	200.00	150.00	151.00	0.00	0.00	501.00	0.00	0.00	501.00
19.	Nagaland	16	0.00	5.00	32.00	32.00	2933.14	0.00	3002.14	0.00	1924.00	4926.14
20.	Orissa	13	2500.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2500.00	0.00	60570.00	63170.00
21.	Punjab	6	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1827.59	1827.59
22.	Rajasthan	12	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	3000.00	0.00	3000.00	0.00	54396.00	87396.00
23.	Tamil Nadu	30	6707.29	0.00	0.00	0.00	5366.00	0.00	22073.29	0.00	41511.79	53585.07
24.	Tripura	2	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
25.	Uttaranchal	9	0.00	388.60	0.00	0.00	2702.52	13894.00	16985.12	0.00	1700.00	18625.12
26.	Uttar Pradesh	23	0.00	526.59	48.74	592.03	41795.40	377.13	43340.69	0.00	49570.72	92911.61
27.	West Bengal	22	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	3116.00	0.00	3116.00	0.00	98063.00	101179.00
Union Territory												
28.	Pondicherry	2	0.00	0.00	0.00	150.00	0.00	0.00	180.00	0.00	0.00	150.00
Total		364	59091.34	20307.64	8326.50	7542.11	147627.12	18900.44	261795.16	35577.53	1031105.25	1329478.00

Total Sanctions including HUDCO Niwas
Loan Amount : 1341531.00 Lakhs

*Categorywise Loans Sanctioned During the Year 2004-05**As on 31.03.2005*

(Rs. in lakhs)

Sl.No.	Names States/UTs	No of Schemes	Housing Projects						ILCS/BS	Urban Inera	Total	
			EWS (R)	EWS(U)	LIG	MIG	HIG/ Others	Land Acqu.				
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
States												
1.	Andhra Pradesh	24	11700.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	11280.14	0.00	22980.14	0.00	142847.45	165827.00
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	5	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	190.00	0.00	190.00	0.00	360.00	550.00
3.	Assam	18	0.00	63.40	2002.60	4000.00	1218.00	94.00	7978.00	0.00	1595.37	9373.27
4.	Bihar	2	125000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	170.00	0.00	125170.00	0.00	0.00	125170.00
5.	Chhattisgarh	10	0.00	0.00	10000.00	0.00	3093.73	0.00	13093.73	0.00	1254.00	14347.73
6.	Delhi	3	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	7270.00	7270.00
7.	Goa	1	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	5000.00	5000.00
8.	Gujarat	10	0.00	63.06	0.00	0.00	12200.00	0.00	12263.05	0.00	114600.90	126863.06
9.	Himachal Pradesh	5	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	404.60	246.61	651.21	0.00	11272.33	11923.54
10.	Haryana	2	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	3397.00	0.00	3397.00	0.00	0.00	3397.00
11.	Jharkhand	3	50000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	50000.00	0.00	10055.00	60035.00
12.	Jammu & Kashmir	4	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	995.94	235.71	1231.65	0.00	315.00	1346.63
13.	Kerala	5	0.00	0.00	9100.00	0.00	435.00	0.00	9535.00	0.00	5708.00	15243.00
14.	Karnataka	30	8300.00	22242.52	0.00	0.00	18025.00	0.00	46567.52	0.00	83475.00	130042.52
15.	Meghalaya	1	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1000.00	1000.00
16.	Maharashtra	38	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	6475.00	0.00	6475.00	0.00	324375.00	330830.00
17.	Manipur	1	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
18.	Madhya Pradesh	35	0.00	1346.51	0.00	1052.26	1416.92	48.27	3865.98	0.00	123256.62	127122.80
19.	Mizoram	1	0.00	0.00	500.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	500.00	0.00	0.00	500.00
20.	Nagaland	25	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.003	3356.00	0.00	3356.00	0.00	5070.00	8426.00
21.	Orissa	14	5250.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	650.00	0.00	5910.00	0.00	33293.00	45203.00
22.	Rajasthan	5	0.00	2500.00	0.00	0.00	3000.00	4364.00	9864.00	0.00	10000.00	19664.70
23.	Tamil Nadu	22	0.00	441.35	0.00	0.00	701.60	0.00	1142.95	0.00	46563.41	47706.38
24.	Uttaranchal	6	0.00	343.92	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	343.92	0.00	3072.00	3415.92
25.	Uttar Pradesh	16	0.00	53.51	54.22	744.44	12992.63	3300.00	17145.00	0.00	52316.00	69461.00
26.	West Bengal	27	0.00	0.00	0.00	100.00	14690.00	0.00	14790.00	249.17	31582.59	46631.76

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
18.	Madhya Pradesh	18	0.00	494.50	0.00	0.00	2106.92	0.00	2603.42	0.00	101327.00	103930.48
19.	Mizoram	6	0.00	0.00	165.00	835.00	0.00	0.00	1000.00	0.00	2777.00	3777.00
20.	Nagaland	21	0.00	0.00	120.00	130.00	2750.00	15.00	3015.00	0.00	4790.00	7305.00
21.	Orissa	5	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	200.00	0.00	200.00	0.00	39600.00	39600.00
22.	Punjab	3	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	4.16	3797.00	3801.16
23.	Rajasthan	4	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	9800.00	0.00	9800.00	0.00	55130.45	84930.46
24.	Tamil Nadu	6	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1806.83	0.00	1200.00	0.00	1200.00	3006.83
25.	Tripura	2	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	5400.00	5400.00
26.	Uttaranchal	5	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2625.00	0.00	2625.00	0.00	2210.96	4835.96
27.	Uttar Pradesh	9	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	10000.00	8567.00	18587.00	0.00	27113.12	45620.12
28.	West Bengal	14	0.00	0.00	0.0	0.00	9212.00	0.00	9212.00	0.00	12250.00	21462.00
Union Territories												
29.	Chandigarh	1	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	35.00	0.00	35.00
30.	Pondicherry	1	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	55388.00	55388.00
Total		224	4800.00	17118.22	2305.00	1036.28	114811.66	8582.00	148655.16	38.16	855343.94	1004038.31

Total Sanctions including HUDCO Niwas

Loan Amount : 1009919.31 Lakhs.

Statement II

Loan Sanctioned under Housing Schemes during the Year 2004-05

(Rs. in crores)

State	Loan Amt. Sanctioned to State Govts./Housing Boards/Dev. Authorities	Loan Amt. Sanctioned to Corporate/Private Sector	Loan Amt. Sanctioned to NGOs/Charitable Institutions/Trusts
1	2	3	4
Andhra Pradesh	117.00	112.80	
Arunachal Pradesh	1.90	0.00	
Assam	70.79	8.99	
Bihar	1250.00	1.70	
Chhattisgarh	136.07	5.71	

1	2	3	4
Gujarat	101.21	22.00	
Himachal Pradesh	6.51	0.00	
Haryana	0.00	33.97	
Jharkhand	500.00	0.00	
Jammu and Kashmir	12.32	0.00	
Karnataka	395.43	70.25	
Kerala	111.50	0.00	
Madhya Pradesh	21.70	17.44	
Maharashtra	0.00	71.75	
Mizoram	5.00	0.00	
Nagaland	33.00	0.56	
Orissa	54.10	5.00	
Rajasthan	98.64	0.00	
Tamilnadu	4.42	7.02	
Uttar Pradesh	63.72	107.73	
Uttaranchal	3.45	0.00	
West Bengal	146.90	1.00	
Total	3133.66	465.92	0

Loan Sanctioned under Housing Schemes during the Year 2005-06

(Rs. in crores)

State	Loan Amt. Sanctioned to State Govts./Housing Boards/Dev. Authorities	Loan Amt. Sanctioned to Corporate/Private Sector	Loan Amt. Sanctioned to NGOs/Charitable Institutions/Trusts
1	2	3	4
Andhra Pradesh	0.00	9.55	0.00
Assam	50.00	6.33	0.00
Bihar	0.00	11.49	0.00
Chhattisgarh	36.04	10.28	0.00
Gujarat	352.00	26.90	2.00
Himachal Pradesh	4.98	0.00	0.00

1	2	3	4
Haryana	0.00	100.00	0.00
Jharkhand	48.00	5.00	0.00
Karnataka	125.00	0.00	0.00
Kerala	37.24	0.00	0.00
Madhya Pradesh	4.95	21.50	0.10
Maharashtra	100.00	179.50	0.00
Mizoram	10.00	0.00	0.00
Nagaland	25.15	5.00	0.00
Orissa	0.00	2.00	0.00
Punjab	0.00	0.09	0.35
Rajasthan	0.00	98.00	0.00
Tamilnadu	0.00	22.33	0.00
Uttar Pradesh	85.67	100.00	0.00
Uttaranchal	0.00	26.25	0.00
West Bengal	0.00	92.12	0.00
Total	879.03	716.34	2.45

Smuggling of Chemicals

2511. SHRI UDAY SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence has recently busted a multi crore rupee smuggling ring that smuggled Ketamine (date drug) and other banned chemicals out of country by hiding them in paintings;

(b) if so, the *modus operandi* of the smuggling ring and whether the same have been investigated;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The *modus operandi* of the smuggling ring was to smuggle the Ketamine out of country through courier and concealing the same in the packages containing paintings. In this regards, total quantity of 400 kgs of Ketamine valued at Rs.1.40 crores in illicit market was seized and one Taiwanese national has been arrested.

(d) All Customs field formations including Directorate of Revenue Intelligence are alert and vigilant to prevent and thwart smuggling of Ketamine (date drug) and other banned chemicals out of country.

Lapse Insurance Policies

2512. SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that a large number of insurance policies are lapsed every year;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) and (b) The Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) has reported that around 5% of its policies lapse every year and details of the policies which lapsed during the last three years are as under:—

Year	Mean Business in force	Number of policies lapsed during the year	% lapsed
2003-04	14,63,53,011	76,37,200	5.22
2004-05	15,84,36,032	85,33,424	5.39
2005-06	17,12,57,388	95,50,596	5.58

(c) LIC has reported that it has taken following corrective steps in this regard:

- (i) Premium Notices for payment of premium are sent one month before the due date.
- (ii) First Lapse Notice is sent after three months in case, the premium is not paid on due date.
- (iii) Final Lapse Notice is issued after six months in case, the premium is still not paid.
- (iv) Floating of Special Revival Campaign.

Metro Rail for Kochi

2513. SHRI P.C. THOMAS:
SHRI M.P. VEERENDRAKUMAR:

Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether a detailed project for Metro Rail for Kochi and its suburbs is pending with the Union Government for approval;

(b) if so, the present status thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN): (a) and (b) An elevated Light Metro System in Kochi is proposed to be implemented by the Government of Kerala, on a Public Private Partnership (PPP) basis. This is proposed as a 25.3 Km line from Alwaye to Petta and is estimated to cost Rs.1966 crores. The State Government has invited expressions of interest for the same. A private partner is yet to be selected by them. The State Government has also been advised to adopt a technology-neutral bidding process.

(c) The question of Central Government taking a decision arises only if the formal proposal, indicating the quantum of viability gap support needed, is received from the State Government.

Implementation of Tarapore Committee Report

2514. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA:
SHRI REWATI RAMAN SINGH:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether several quarters have expressed strong reservation on implementation of recommendations particularly on Full Capital Account Convertibility made in Tarapore Committee Report; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) and (b) The report of the Committee on 'Fuller Capital Account Convertibility' was placed in the public domain by Reserve Bank of India on their website (www.rbi.org.in) but they have not, so far, received any expression of strong reservation on implementation of recommendations of the Committee. However, a number of editorial comments/newspaper articles have appeared in various financial newspapers in the wake of submission of the report. Some have advocated accelerated liberalization while others have suggested a cautious approach.

[Translation]

Gas based Power Projects

2515. SHRI KASHIRAM RANA:
SHRI V.K. THUMMAR:
CH. MUNAWAR HASSAN:
SHRI G.M. SIDDESWARA:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of proposals regarding Gas based Power projects pending with the Government;

(b) the date on which such proposals were received by the Government;

(c) the reasons for delay in clearing the said proposals; and

(d) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE): (a) There are no proposals seeking clearance for setting up of Gas based power projects pending with this Ministry.

(b) to (d) In view of above, do not arise.

Vanished Companies

2516. SHRI HARIKEWAL PRASAD:
SHRI TUKARAM GANPAT RAO RENGE PATIL:
SHRIMATI BHAVANA PUNDLIKRAO GAWALI:
SHRI SUNIL KUMAR MAHATO:

Will the Minister of COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Central Coordination and Monitoring Committee has been constituted to look into the issues relating to vanishing companies and their promoters and to monitor the progress of action against them;

(b) if so, the number of such companies and promoters against whom action has been taken so far, and

(c) the amount of recovery made from them till date?

THE MINISTER OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) Government has taken the following action against companies identified as vanishing and their Promoters/Directors:

(i) filing of FIRs in respect of 102 companies and their Promoters/Directors for the offences punishable under Sections 420, 406, 403, 415, 418 & 424 of the Indian Penal Code (IPC).

(ii) filing of prosecutions under provisions of the Companies Act, 1956 in respect of 107 out of a total of 114 companies, which remain identified as vanishing companies as on date.

(iii) SEBI has 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.

(c) Besides taking action as stated above, Petitions have also been filed with the Company Law Board (CLB) under Sections 397/398/402/408 read with Section 406 of the Companies Act, 1956 in respect of two selected Vanishing Companies to disgorge the properties/monies obtained by Promoters/Directors of these two Vanishing Companies. The Company Law Board has dismissed the Petition in case of M/s. Nuline Glassware (India) Ltd. (presently known as M/s. Pur Opale Creations Ltd.) against which the Ministry has filed an appeal before the Gujarat High Court. The other case of M/s AVI Industries Ltd. is pending adjudication by the CLB.

Maintenance of Residences of MP

2517. SHRI MITRASEN YADAV: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government provide annual funds to Central Public Works Department for the maintenance of the residences of the Members of Parliament;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether out of the amount allotted by the Government, there is a provision for allotment of funds for the maintenance of the residence of each Member of Parliament; and

(d) if so, the details of the funds released for the maintenance of the residences of Members of Parliament during each of the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) During the year 2006-07, for the first time a separate allocation of Rs. 17 crores (ordinary repairs works) has been made available for maintenance of residences of the Hon'ble Members of Parliament. Earlier the maintenance was carried out by CPWD from the General maintenance Budget.

(c) No, Sir.

two more ranney wells for augmenting water supply by 45.4 mld.

(d) Not applicable in view of (c) above.

(iv) For Mewat area of Haryana, the NCRPB has approved a project with an estimated cost of Rs. 205.91 crore for augmenting water supply of 5 towns and 503 villages.

Shortage of Drinking Water

2518. SHRI AJIT JOGI : Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is severe shortage of drinking water in Delhi and its neighbouring areas;

(v) The Ghaziabad Development Authority has undertaken works for augmenting water supply of Ghaziabad and NOIDA by 100 cusecs from the Ganga River.

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government so far to solve this problem;

(c) Yes, Sir.

(c) whether the ground water level in Delhi and NCR is going down;

(d) and (e) Water being State subject, necessary steps are taken by the respective State Governments. However, the Ministry of Water Resources has prepared a Concept Report titled "Master Plan for Artificial Recharge to Ground Water" for identifying areas requiring artificial recharge of ground water. The Central Water Ground Authority has circulated a manual/guide on artificial recharge to ground water to the States and Union Territories to enable them to formulate areas specific artificial recharge schemes. The Artificial Recharge of Ground Water Advisory Council has also been constituted under the Union Minister of Water Resources.

(d) if so, whether the Government has taken any steps in the matter; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN): (a) The Delhi Jal Board (DJB) has informed that the overall availability of water is largely satisfactory. The total requirement for drinking water in Delhi is about 900 million gallons per day (mgd) against which the total availability of water in Delhi is about 725 mgd.

The National Capital Region Planning Board (NCRPB) has informed that while there is adequate drinking water supply in New Okhla Industrial Development Authority (NOIDA) and Greater NOIDA, there is shortage of drinking water in other areas of the National Capital Region.

In so far as National Capital Region is concerned, it has been made mandatory for all new buildings in Delhi on plot area of 100 sq.m. and above to provide for rain water harvesting. The Government of Haryana and Uttar Pradesh have also made rain water harvesting mandatory for buildings on plot areas of 100 sq.m. and 500 sq.m. or more respectively. The Government of Rajasthan has also prepared a plan for promoting artificial recharge of ground water by utilizing rain water in Alwar District.

(b) The NCRPB has indicated the steps taken by the authorities/local bodies concerned as under:—

[English]

(i) The Municipal Corporation of Faridabad (MCF) has installed 57 new tubewells and replaced 32 existing tubewells to augment the water supply by an additional 40 million litres per day (mld).

Duty Exemption on Concentrated Milk

2519. SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(ii) The MCF and the Haryana Urban Development Authority (HUDA) have implemented Phase-I of a scheme for augmentation of water supply for Faridabad by constructing two ranney wells and 18 tubewells.

(a) whether the Government has exempted concentrated milk from excise duty;

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

(iii) MCF and HUDA have decided to take up Phase-II of the scheme in Faridabad by constructing

(c) whether despite such exemption the prices of milk is still not in reach of common men of the country; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) and (b) With effect from 9th September, 2004, Government had exempted excise duty on concentrated milk, not containing added sugar or other sweetening matter.

(c) and (d) It is reported that milk is mainly reconstituted using raw milk, milk powder and white butter. Even if concentrated milk is used, it is in a very small quantity. As such, impact of excise duty exemption on concentrated milk on the overall price of milk is very limited. Price of any commodity, including milk, depends on a number of factors like demand and supply, general state of economy, inflation, etc. and excise duty is only one of the elements. So far as Central Government is concerned, it has exempted milk, including concentrated milk, from excise duty thus eliminating one of the elements, which may have increased its price.

Revision of pay and allowances of PSU Employees

2520. SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry of Finance has received any proposal to set up a Committee for revision of pay and allowances of employees of Central Public Sector Undertakings;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Ministry of Finance and the further action taken/being taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) and (c) The proposal from Department of Public Enterprises was to set up the next Pay Revision Committee for Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs). The Committee would examine the structure of pay, allowances, perks and benefits for the following categories of employees of the CPSEs:

- (i) Board level functionaries;
- (ii) Below Board level executives;
- (iii) Non-unionized supervisory staff.

Ministry of Finance has concurred with the proposal. Department of Public Enterprises has notified the constitution of the Committee on 30-11-2006.

Poverty Alleviation

2521. SHRI BALASHOWRY VALLABHANENI:
SHRI G. V. HARSHA KUMAR:
SHRI SARVEY SATYANARAYANA:
SHRI HITEN BARMAN:

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

(a) whether according to the mid-term appraisal of Tenth Five Year Plan, the Government is lagging behind in the achievement of targets set by it for poverty alleviation;

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

(c) whether the Government proposes to restructure the 20-point programme with the focus on poverty alleviation and improving life of the poor with particular reference to economic reforms, liberalization and globalisation of the economy;

(d) if so, the present position of poverty prevailed in various States, State-wise;

(e) the funds allocated and utilized for the poverty alleviation programmes in the States during each of the last three years, State-wise;

(f) whether the objectives of the 20-point programme were yet to be achieved; and

(g) if so, the present status thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION (KUMARI SELJA): (a) and (b) A target for reduction of poverty by 5 percentage points by the year 2007 and by 15 percentage points by year 2012 has been set for the Tenth Five Year Plan (2002-2007) period.

In the urban areas, Ministry of Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation is implementing an employment oriented Urban Poverty Alleviation Programme named Swarna Jayanti Shahari Rozgar Yojana (SJSRY), on all India basis, through States/Union Territories, with effect from 01.12.1997. The scheme envisages to provide gainful

employment to the urban unemployed and underemployed poor through, firstly, encouraging the setting up of self - employment ventures by those who have not studied beyond 9th standard and, secondly, providing wage employment by utilizing their labour for construction of socially and economically useful public assets.

During the Tenth Five Year Plan (2002-07), on all India basis, targets to provide employment opportunities to 4,00,000 urban poor, through setting up of micro/group enterprises and to impart skill training to 5,00,000 persons have been fixed under Swarna Jayanti Shahari Rozgar Yojana. During the first four years of the Tenth Plan, i.e. from 2002-03 to 2005-06, as reported by the States/Union Territories through Quarterly Progress Reports, cumulatively, 4,50,949 urban poor have been assisted to set up micro-enterprises and 4,89,737 urban poor have been provided skill training.

(c) The Government has approved the restructuring of Twenty Point Programme and this will be called the Twenty Point Programme-2006 (TPP-2006). A list of 20 Points and items coming under each point is given in the enclosed statement-I.

(d) The State-wise, number and percentage of poor in urban areas, as estimated by the Planning Commission in 1999-2000, is given in the enclosed statement-II.

(e) The State-wise Central funds released and expenditure reported during last three years under Swarna Jayanti Shahari Rozgar Yojana is given in the enclosed statement-III.

(f) and (g) The main objectives of the 20-point programme are to eradicate poverty and improve the quality of life of the common man. Achieving these objectives is a continuous process. The restructured TPP-2006 shall be operationalised with effect from 1.4.2007. Till 31.3.2007, the existing TPP-86 will be in force.

Statement I

List of items to be Monitored under TPP-2006

Point No.	Item No.	Name of the points/items
1	2	3
I. Garibi Hatao [Poverty Eradication] Rural Areas		
	1.	Employment generation under the National Rural Employment Guarantee Act
	2.	Swaranjayanti Gram Swarajgar Yojana
	3.	Sampoorna Grameen Rojgar Yojana
	4.	Rural Business Hubs in Partnership with Panchayats
	5.	Self help Groups
		Urban Areas
	6.	Swaranjayanti Shehari Rojgar Yojana
II. Jan Shakti [Power to People]		
	7.	Local Self Government (Panchayati Raj and Urban Local Bodies)
		— Activity Mapping for devolution of functions
		— Budget Flow of Funds
		— Assignment of Functionaries
	8.	Quick and Inexpensive Justice—Gram Nyayalayas and Nyaya Panchayats

-
- | 1 | 2 | 3 |
|---|---|---|
|---|---|---|
-
9. District Planning Committees
- III. Kisan Mitra [Support to Farmers]
10. Water shed development and Dry land farming
11. Marketing and infrastructural support to farmers
12. Irrigation facilities (including minor and micro irrigation) for agriculture
13. Credit to farmers
14. Distribution of waste land to the landless
- IV. Shramik Kalyan [Labour Welfare]
15. Social Security for Agricultural and Unorganised Labour
16. Minimum Wages Enforcement (including Farm Labour)
17. Prevention of Child Labour
18. Welfare of Women Labour
- V. Khadya Suraksha [Food Security]
19. Food security
- (i) Targeted Public Distribution system,
- (ii) Antodaya Anna Yojana,
- (iii) Establishing Grain banks in chronically food scarcity areas
- VI. Subke Liye Aawas (Housing for All)
20. Rural Housing - Indira Awas Yojana
21. EWS/LIG Houses in Urban Areas
- VII. Shudh Peya Jal [Clean Drinking Water]
22. Rural Areas
- Swajaldhara
- Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme
23. Urban Areas
- Accelerated Urban Water Supply Programme
- VIII. Jan Jan Ka Swasthya [Health for All]
24. Control and prevention of major diseases:
- (a) HIV/AIDS (b) TB (c) Malaria (d) Leprosy (e) Blindness
-

1	2	3
	25.	National Rural Health Mission
	26.	Immunisation of Children
	27.	Sanitation Programme in — Rural Areas — Urban Areas
	28.	Institutional Delivery
	29.	Prevention of Female Foeticide
	30.	Supplementary nutrition for Mothers and Children
	31.	Two Child norms
	I. Sabke Liye Shiksha [Education for All]	
	32.	Sarv Shiksha Abhiyan
	33.	Mid Day Meal Scheme -Compulsory Elementary Education
	X. Anusuchit Jaati, Jan Jaati, Alp-sankhyak evam Anya Pichhra Varg Kalyan [Welfare of Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, Minorities and OBCs]	
	34.	SC Families Assisted
	35.	Rehabilitation of Scavengers
	36.	ST Families Assisted
	37.	Rights of Forest dwellers - Owners of minor forest produce
	38.	Primitive Tribal Groups
	39.	No alienation of Tribal lands
	40.	Implementation of Panchayats (Extension to Scheduled Areas) Act [PESA]
	41.	Welfare of Minorities
	42.	Professional education among all minority communities
	43.	Reservation of OBCs in — Education — Employment
	XI. Mahila Kalyan [Women Welfare]	
	44.	Financial Assistance for Women Welfare
	45.	Improved participation of women in (a) Panchayats (b) Municipalities (c) State Legislatures (d) Parliament
	XII. Bal Kalyan [Child Welfare]	
	46.	Universalisation of ICDS Scheme

1	2	3
	47.	Functional Anganwadis
XIII. Yuva Vikas [Youth Development]		
	48.	Sports for all in Rural and Urban areas
	49.	Rashtriya Sadbhavana Yojana
	50.	National Service Scheme
XIV. Basti Sudhar [Improvement of Slums]		
	51.	Number of Urban poor families assisted under seven point charter viz. land tenure, housing at affordable cost, water, sanitation, health, education and social security.
XV. Paryavaran Sanrakshan evam Van Vridhi [Environment Protection and Afforestation]		
	52.	Afforestation
	(a)	Area Covered under Plantation on - Public and Forest Lands
	(b)	Number of Seedlings planted on - Public and Forest Lands
	53.	Prevention of pollution of Rivers and water bodies
	54.	Solid and liquid waste management in
		— Rural Areas
		— Urban Areas
XVI. Samajik Suraksha [Social Security]		
	55.	Rehabilitation of handicapped and orphans.
	56.	Welfare of the aged
XVII. Grameen Sadak [Rural Roads]		
	57.	Rural Roads – PMGSY
XVIII. Grameen Oorja [Energization of Rural Area]		
	58.	Bio-diesel Production
	59.	Rajiv Gandhi Grameen Vidyutikaran Yojana
	60.	Renewable Energy
	61.	Energising Pump sets
	62.	Supply of Electricity
	63.	Supply of Kerosene and LPG
XIX. Pichhara Kshetra Vikas [Development of Backward Areas]		
	64.	Backward Regions Grants Fund
XX. E-SHASAN [IT enabled e-Governance]		
	65.	Central and State Governments
	66.	Panchayats and Municipalities

Statement II**Number and Percentage of Population below Poverty Line by States in Urban Areas—1999-2000**

Sl. No.	State/U.T.s	Urban	
		No. of Persons (Lakhs)	% of Persons
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	60.88	26.83
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	0.18	7.47
3.	Assam	2.38	7.47
4.	Bihar	49.13	32.91
5.	Goa	0.59	7.52
6.	Gujarat	28.09	15.59
7.	Haryana	5.39	9.99
8.	Himachal Pradesh	0.29	4.63
9.	Jammu and Kashmir	0.49	1.98
10.	Karnataka	44.49	25.25
11.	Kerala	20.07	20.27
12.	Madhya Pradesh	81.22	38.44
13.	Maharashtra	102.87	26.81
14.	Manipur	0.66	7.47
15.	Meghalaya	0.34	7.47
16.	Mizoram	0.45	7.47
17.	Nagaland	0.28	7.47
18.	Orissa	25.40	42.83
19.	Punjab	4.29	5.75

1	2	3	4
20.	Rajasthan	26.78	19.85
21.	Sikkim	0.04	7.47
22.	Tamil Nadu	49.97	22.11
23.	Tripura	0.49	7.47
24.	Uttar Pradesh	117.88	30.89
25.	West Bengal	33.38	14.86
26.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	0.24	22.11
27.	Chandigarh	0.45	5.75
28.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	0.03	13.52
29.	Daman and Diu	0.05	7.52
30.	Delhi	11.42	9.42
31.	Lakshadweep	0.08	20.27
32.	Pondicherry	1.77	22.11
All India		670.07	23.62

Note:

- Poverty Ratio of Assam is used for Sikkim, Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Manipur, Nagaland and Tripura.
- Poverty Line of Maharashtra and expenditure distribution of Goa is used to estimate poverty ratio of Goa.
- Poverty Line of Himachal Pradesh and expenditure distribution of Jammu & Kashmir is used to estimate poverty ratio of Jammu & Kashmir.
- Poverty Ratio of Tamil Nadu is used for Pondicherry and A & N Islands.
- Urban Poverty Ratio of Punjab used for urban poverty of Chandigarh.
- Poverty Line of Maharashtra and expenditure distribution of Dadra & Nagar Haveli is used to estimate poverty ratio of Dadra & Nagar Haveli.
- Poverty Ratio of Goa is used for Daman & Diu.
- Poverty Ratio of Kerala is used for Lakshadweep.

Statement III

State-wise Central Fund released and Expenditure reported during last three years under Swarna Jayanti Shahari Rozagar Yojana (SJSRY)

(Rupees in lakhs)

Sl.No.	State/UTs	2003-2004		2004-2005		2005-2006	
		Central Fund Released	Central Fund Expenditure reported*	Central Fund Released	Central Fund Expenditure reported*	Central Fund Released	Central Fund Expenditure reported*
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1	Andhra Pradesh	1390.19	1390.19	1116.41	319.88	1528.17	289.97
2	Arunachal Pradesh	7.84	140.34	7.69	26.16	0.00	125.11
3.	Assam	0.00	669.94	245.07	405.94	0.00	538.51
4.	Bihar	425.38	425.38	468.09	468.09	681.66	0.00
5.	Chhattisgarh	229.65	170.00	119.31	115.06	405.67	146.52
6.	Goa	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
7.	Gujarat	260.19	170.04	164.36	283.12	0.00	572.16
8.	Haryana	569.95	435.52	668.47	432.88	681.12	673.71
9.	Himachal Pradesh	32.58	60.09	2.17	38.59	45.36	34.45
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	30.41	106.20	128.17	72.25	9.06	55.92
11.	Jharkhand	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
12.	Karnataka	577.46	985.44	1165.15	796.92	822.99	756.29
13.	Kerala	610.50	610.50	554.95	554.95	681.28	117.91
14.	Madhya Pradesh	818.32	687.70	931.49	886.47	1596.76	1196.69
15.	Maharashtra	322.56	1335.80	1508.66	1835.83	2552.92	2055.94
16.	Manipur	0.00	184.45	0.00	0.00	111.39	232.70
17.	Meghalaya	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
18.	Mizoram	522.79	522.79	491.04	491.04	351.90	351.90
19.	Nagaland	1.90	59.67	34.02	34.02	194.51	194.51
20.	Orissa	0.00	291.61	48.91	162.04	469.86	211.92
21.	Punjab	0.00	199.77	0.00	107.35	39.68	36.65

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
22.	Rajasthan	122.96	151.86	256.29	217.68	495.38	497.69
23.	Sikkim	163.21	34.62	0.00	92.43	0.00	36.26
24.	Tamil Nadu	648.58	648.58	511.69	511.69	924.36	397.61
25.	Tripura	354.26	146.10	352.18	434.68	0.00	130.49
26.	Uttaranchal	46.27	41.39	160.31	11.12	309.14	16.08
27.	Uttar Pradesh	1571.74	1732.80	2622.61	2811.28	3071.43	3155.45
28.	West Bengal	883.26	739.08	424.02	767.88	617.47	755.29
29.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	0.00	31.97	0.00	58.16	0.00	63.67
30.	Chandigarh	278.37	73.90	28.64	49.84	0.00	42.12
31.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	14.63	69.29	0.00	7.35	0.00	0.00
32.	Daman and Diu	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
33.	Delhi	0.00	21.09	0.00	25.30	0.00	20.81
34.	Pondicherry	191.00	55.76	191.00	235.34	0.00	401.59
TOTAL		10074.00	12191.87	12200.70	12253.10	15588.09	13107.92

*The Expenditure includes the funds spent from the releases made during earlier Scheme of SJSRY is an on going Scheme.

Disposal of Confiscated Properties

2522. SHRI EKNATH MAHADEO GAIKWAD:
SHRI KIRTI VARDHAN SINGH:
SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Department of Revenue has seized a number of properties in the process of tax recovery as reported in the *Times of India* dated October 7, 2006;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has disposed of or any proposal to dispose of these properties;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) Sir,

Attachment of properties and their auctioning is a continuous process of the tax recovery mechanism of the Income Tax Department. However, properties purchased by the Appropriate Authority under Chapter XX-C of the IT Act, 1961 are not seized/attached properties as Appropriate Authority has never been part of the tax recovery process as reported in the *Times of India* dated October 7, 2006. Therefore, the Department's right to preemptive purchase of properties is totally different from tax recovery.

(b) Details of attached properties are not centrally maintained. The collection of information would require time and effort which will not be commensurate with the objective sought to be achieved. As regards the preemptive purchase of properties made under Chapter XX-C of the Act, 55 properties purchased by the Appropriate Authority are free from litigation.

(c) and (d) Does not arise in respect of attached properties in view of reply to (a) and (b) above. However, seven properties purchased by the Appropriate Authority under Chapter XX-C of the IT Act 1961 have been sold in auction in the current financial year.

(e) Instructions are given from time to time to dispose of the properties in auction or by other modes of disposal.

LIC Agents

2523. SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to provide social security benefits to LIC agents by bringing them under the purview of Sales Promotion Employees (Condition) Act, 1976;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has any other plan to ensure social security benefits to LIC agents; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) The Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) has informed that as per Agents rules 1972, LIC agents are eligible for various benefits which, *inter alia*, include gratuity/Term Insurance, advances for purchase/repair of vehicles, office equipments, Medical treatment, family ceremonies, purchase/repair of a house. They are also reimbursed various expenses such as stationery, electricity, entertainment, visiting cards, letter heads, and envelopes as per their entitlement. In addition, they are eligible for benefits under the Group Mediclaim Scheme and Group Insurance Scheme.

Solar Water Heating System

2524. DR. M. JAGANNATH:

SHRI S. MALLIKARJUNIAH:

SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA:

SHRI TUKARAM GANGADHAR GADAKH:

SHRI KULDEEP BISHNOI:

SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR:

Will the Minister of NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has prepared any plan to accelerate the development and deployment of solar water heating system across the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of solar water heating system deployed during the last three years in public buildings and private households under the plan; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to popularize the said programme in rural areas of the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY (SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR): (a) and (b) A scheme for promotion of solar water heaters is being implemented through banks and financial institutions for accelerated development and deployment of solar water heating systems in the country which provides for upfront interest subsidy so that loans are available at an effective interest rate of 2% to domestic users, 3% to institutions and 5% to commercial establishments. 26 banks and financial institutions are participating in the implementation of the scheme. Capital subsidy equivalent to upfront interest subsidy is also available to registered institutions and commercial establishments that do not avail loans.

(c) A total of around 7.5 lakh sq. m. of collector area was installed for solar water heating systems during the last three years. Besides, installations in public institutional buildings, industry and commercial establishments, about 2.5 lakh homes are estimated to have been covered during this period.

(d) Steps taken to promote the use of solar energy in the country include financial assistance for installation of solar energy devices/systems through capital subsidy or interest subsidy, depending on the type of system and end-use application; and various promotional measures by State Governments. Though the scheme is open to urban as well as rural areas, solar water heaters are becoming popular mainly in the urban areas. Water heating in rural areas in most parts of the country is not a priority requirement.

Requirement of Trains for Delhi Metro Project

2525. SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether work of first phase of the Delhi Metro Project has completed as per the schedule fixed;

(b) if not, the details of the progress made so far;

(c) whether the number of trains required for first phase of Delhi Metro Project has been acquired by DMRC;

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Arunachal Pradesh	14.470									
Assam	224.740									
Bihar	1025.470	10.000	0.000	10.000	50	0				
Chandigarh	82.280									
Chhattisgarh	291.170	369.990	0.000	369.990	1850	0	1850	0		
Dadra and Nagar Haveli	1.500									
Daman and Diu	5.360									
Delhi	1256.270									
Goa	44.020									
Gujarat	1326.560									
Haryana	388.350	652.600	0.000	652.600	3263	0				
Himachal Pradesh	62.260									
Jammu and Kashmir	300.240	99.450	0.000	99.450	442	0	21	128		
Jharkhand	341.820									
Karnataka	685.150	3326.100	618.000	3944.100	14978	3080	14629	37	2490	490
Kerala	634.650	1385.200	0.000	1385.200	6926	0	6926	0		
Lakshadweep	2.780									
Madhya Pradesh	787.180	255.220	0.000	255.220	1024	0	913	109		
Maharashtra	4141.820	5286.467	0.900	5286.467	22700	0	20559	429		
Manipur	43.670	191.920	0.000	191.920	853	0	853	0		
Meghalaya	44.790									
Mizoram	44.590									
Nagaland	23.490	172.350	0.000	172.350	766	0	766	0		
Orissa	432.320	46.400	0.000	46.400	232	0	166	66		
Pondicherry	82.090	61.200	0.000	61.200	408	0	334	74		
Punjab	730.480									
Rajasthan	1259.550	39.505	0.000	39.505	200	0	200	0		
Sikkim	4.740	0.000	0.000	0.000	0	0	0	0	0	0
Tamil Nadu	1681.340	2073.000	0.000	2073.000	14684	0	14684	0	0	0

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Tripura	34.450	219.600	0.000	219.600	976	0	540	436		
Uttar Pradesh	2825.430	1899.000	0.000	1899.000	8462	0	1496	3669		
Uttaranchal	148.710	205.200	0.000	205.200	1098	0	101	279		
West Bengal	2537.540	136.920	0.000	136.920	685	0	672	13		
TOTAL	23850.000	22403.965	618.000	23021.965	107120	3090	87285	10388	2490	460
Govt. of India funds released under various sub-components i.e demonstration project, MIS, Dissemination of information, Research & Studies, Training for Staff				793.600	1040	0	0	224		
Grand Total				23815.565	108160	3090	87285	10612		

Statement II*Statewise Details of VAMBAY Schemes where GOI Subsidy has been released during the Year 2004-05*

(Rs. in lacs)

State/U.T.	Allocation (GOI Subsidy)	GOI subsidy released			Units covered		Physical progress (As on 30.9.2006)			
		Housing	Toilets	Total	Housing	Toilet	Housing		Toilets	
							Compld.	in Prog.	Compld.	in Prog.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Andhra Pradesh	2731.00	3492.490	0.000	3492.490	16148	0	8845	5789		
Andaman and Nicobar Islands	23.000									
Arunachal Pradesh	17.000	18.000	0.000	18.000	80	0	0	80		
Assam	264.000									
Bihar	1207.000									
Chandigarh	97.000									
Chhattisgarh	343.000									
Dadra and Nagar Haveli	2.000									
Daman and Diu	6.000									
Delhi	1477.000									
Goa	52.000									
Gujarat	1561.000	50.000	401.200	451.200	250	2006			276	180

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Haryana	457.000									
Himachal Pradesh	73.000									
Jammu and Kashmir	353.000	47.250	17.000	64.250	210	85	10	0		
Jharkhand	402.000	700.800	18.000	718.800	3504	90				
Karnataka	806.000	0.000	406.000	406.000	0	2030				
Kerala	747.000	200.000	0.000	200.000	1000	0				
Lakshadweep	0.000									
Madhya Pradesh	926.000	360.000	16.000	376.000	1500	80	0	800		
Maharashtra	4873.000	8968.868	4276.100	13244.968	40915	21394	23868	4236	18721	2734
Manipur	51.000									
Meghalaya	53.000									
Mizoram	52.000									
Nagaland	28.000	0.000	6.200	6.200	0	31	0	0	31	0
Orissa	509.000	16.400	0.000	16.400	82	0	4	0		
Pondicherry	97.000	123.600	0.000	123.600	618	0	447	171		
Punjab	859.000									
Rajasthan	1482.000	650.000	0.000	650.000	2700	0				
Sikkim	6.000									
Tamil Nadu	1978.000	2895.630	1810.000	4705.630	34519	9050	34067	452	8700	350
Tripura	41.000									
Uttar Pradesh	3324.000	1960.950	31.000	1991.950	8835	155	0	600	0	10
Uttaranchal	175.000									
West Bengal	2986.000	437.200	33.000	470.200	1782	165	95	454	10	31
Total	28058.000	19921.188	7014.500	26935.688	112143	35086	67076	12482	25738	3305
Govt. of India funds released under sub-component Dissemination of information				5.473	0	0				
				28941.161	112143	35086				

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Nagaland	24.000	113.625	0.000	113.625	505	0	240	0		
Orissa	451.000									
Pondicherry	86.000									
Punjab	763.000									
Rajasthan	1315.000	16.880	0.000	16.880	67	0				
Sikkim	5.000									
Tamil Nadu	1756.000	1754.200	0.000	1754.200	24546	0	22126	2086		
Tripura	36.000	48.375	0.000	48.375	215	0	55	0		
Uttar Pradesh	2950.000									
Uttaranchal	155.000									
West Bengal	2649.000	166.770	0.000	166.770	809	0	189	116	0	0
TOTAL	24900.000	16117.820	284.000	16401.820	89772	1420	36881	10568	394	685

Completion of Thermal Power Projects

2527. SHRI BRAJESH PATHAK: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Thermal Power Projects of NTPC under construction in each State as on date;

(b) the additional power likely to be added therefrom, State-wise; and

(c) the number of projects likely to be completed during the current financial year?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE): (a) There are 10 No. of Thermal Power projects of NTPC which are presently under construction in the following States:

CHHATTISGARH

1. Sipat STPP St.-I, U-1, 2, 3 (3x660 MW)
2. Sipat STPP St.-II, U-4&5 (2x500 MW)
3. Korba STPP St.-III, U-7 (1x500 MW)
4. Bhilai Expn. TPP, U-1&2 (2x250 MW) (JV with SAIL)

MADHYA PRADESH

1. Vindhyachal STPP, U-10 (1x500 MW)

BIHAR

1. Kahalgaon STPP St.-II, Ph-I, U-5&6 (2x500 MW)
2. Kahalgaon STPP St.-II, Ph-II, U-7 (1x500 MW)
3. Barh STPS, U-1,2&3 (3x660 MW)

UTTAR PRADESH

1. National Capital Power Project St.-II, U-1 (1x490 MW)

WEST BENGAL

1. Farakka STPS, St.-III, U-1 (1x500 MW)

(B) an additional power of 8950 MW comprising of 3980 MW in Chhattisgarh, 500 MW in Madhya Pradesh, 3480 MW in Bihar, 490 MW in Uttar Pradesh & 500 MW in West Bengal shall be added from the above projects.

(c) During the current financial year, the following Thermal Power Projects are likely to be completed as indicated against:

Sl. No.	Name of Project	Completion Schedule
1.	Sipat STPP St-II, U-4 (1x500 MW), Chhattisgarh	02/2007
2.	Vindhyachal STPP, U-10 (1x500 MW), Madhya Pradesh	01/2007
3.	Kahaigaon STPP, St.-II, Ph-I, U-5&6 (2x500 MW), Bihar	02/2007, 03/2007

*[English]***Statement I****Rehabilitation of Scavengers**

Statewise beneficiaries covered under the National Scheme of Liberation and Rehabilitation of Scavengers and their dependents (NSLRS)*

2528. SHRI BADIGA RAMAKRISHNA:

SHRI HARIN PATHAK:

SHRI HITEN BARMAN:

SHRI RANEN BARMAN:

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

(a) the number of beneficiaries under the National Scheme of Liberation and Rehabilitation of Scavengers in the country during each of the last three years, State-wise;

(b) the details of funds allocated by the Government under this scheme during each of the last three years to the States alongwith the details of funds utilised by them, State-wise; and

(c) the measures taken by the Government to eliminate manual scavenging in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION (KUMARI SELJA): (a) A Statement-I is enclosed herewith.

(b) The details of funds released by the Government under this scheme to the States during the last three years is enclosed as Statement-II. The details of funds utilized by the States under the scheme since its inception is enclosed as statement-III.

(c) The Planning Commission has formulated National Action Plan for total eradication of Manual Scavenging.

Name of the State	Beneficiaries Assisted for	
	Training	Rehabilitation
1	2	3
YEAR:- 2002-03		
Assam	855	300
Gujarat	Nil	1451
Haryana	48	153
Himachal Pradesh	807	377
Karnataka	678	1809
Kerala	Nil	14
Madhya Pradesh	1494	5118
Maharashtra	1994	752
Orissa	250	1049
Tamil Nadu	661	NA
Uttar Pradesh	Nil	834
West Bengal	359	207
Chhattisgarh	Nil	256
TOTAL	7146	12320
YEAR :- 2003-04		
Andhra Pradesh	660	3243
Gujarat	0	844

1	2	3
Himachal Pradesh	591	518
Karnataka	355	5780
Madhya Pradesh	1010	5149
Rajasthan	0	624
Tamil Nadu	33	13
TOTAL	2649	16171
YEAR :- 2004-05		
Bihar	43	126
Gujarat	Nil	1587
Himachal Pradesh	499	499
Karnataka	1262	2694
Maharashtra	3351	1256
Orissa	250	320
Uttar Pradesh	Nil	2876
West Bengal	Nil	384
Meghalaya	80	Nil
Total	5485	9742

*As reported by the State Governments.

Statement II

State-wise Central Assistance Released under the National Scheme of Liberation and Rehabilitation of Scavengers and Their Dependents (NSLRS)

(Rs. in crores)

YEAR :- 2003-04	
Assam	1.63
Gujarat	3.74
Himachal Pradesh	3.09
Madhya Pradesh	1.25
Orissa	2.85
Uttar Pradesh	5.37
West Bengal	1.60
Chhattisgarh	1.89
Total	21.41
YEAR :- 2004-05	
Karnataka	12.19
Madhya Pradesh	1.37
Total	13.56
YEAR:- 2005-06	

No funds allocated for the financial year 2005-06 under the scheme.

Statement III

State-wise Utilisation of Funds Released under the National Scheme of Liberation and Rehabilitation Of Scavengers and their Dependents (NSLRS)*

(Rs. in crores)

(As On 30-09-2006)

Sl.No	Name of the State/UT	Cumulative Release	Total UCs Receivec	Total UCs Due
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	55.78	23.87	31.91
2.	Assam	7.50	5.82	1.68
3.	Bihar	11.27	0.00	11.27
4.	Delhi	5.28	0.98	4.30

1	2	3	4	5
5.	Gujarat	30.61	0.00	30.61
6.	Haryana	18.37	10.06	8.31
7.	Himachal Pradesh	8.62	5.51	3.11
8.	Jammu and Kashmir	1.03	0.00	1.03
9.	Karnataka	41.32	22.80	18.52
10.	Kerala	0.55	0.00	0.55
11.	Madhya Pradesh	119.12	107.16	11.96
12.	Maharashtra	46.22	26.86	19.36
13.	Meghalaya	0.03	0.00	0.03
14.	Nagaland	0.11	0.00	0.11
15.	Orissa	19.61	11.33	8.28
16.	Pondicherry	0.075	0.0363	0.04
17.	Punjab	6.63	0.00	6.63
18.	Rajasthan	44.48	8.67	35.81
19.	Tamil Nadu	57.80	24.52	33.28
20.	Uttar Pradesh	227.75	205.98	21.77
21.	West Bengal	7.23	3.92	3.31
22.	Chhattisgarh	16.89	0.00	16.89
23.	Jharkhand	10.85	0.00	10.85
24.	Uttaranchal	10.00	0.00	10.00
Total		747.11	457.52	289.59

*As reported by the State Governments for the total funds released since inception of the scheme in 1991-92.

Foreign Exchange Reserve

2529. SHRIMATI ARCHANA NAYAK: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the foreign exchange reserve of the country at present;

(b) the foreign exchange reserve position during each of the last three years; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to enhance the foreign exchange reserve?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) India's foreign exchange reserves (comprising of foreign currency assets, gold, Special Drawing Rights and reserve position in the International Monetary Fund), stood at US\$ 172.8 billion as on November 24, 2006.

(b) The foreign exchange reserves stood at US\$ 113.0 billion, US\$ 141.5 billion, and US\$ 151.6 billion, as at end-March 2004, end-March 2005 and end-March 2006 respectively.

(c) India's foreign exchange reserves at present are considered to be at a comfortable level. Management of foreign exchange reserves is calibrated to meet the emergent needs of economy and to ensure the sustainability of the current account of the Balance of Payments.

State Finance Corporations

2530. SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Finance Corporations (SFCs) have been restructured/recapitalised as per the recommendations of the Gupta Committee; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL) : (a) and (b) The Committee constituted under the Chairmanship of Shri G. P. Gupta, the then Chairman & Managing Director, Industrial Development Bank of India (IDBI) for looking into the functioning of State Finance Corporations (SFCs) had recommended that the cost of infusing Rs. 3600 crores should be shared by Government of India (Rs. 900 crores), Reserve Bank of India (RBI) (Rs. 900 crores), State Governments (Rs. 900 crores), IDBI (Rs. 450 crores) and Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) (Rs. 450 crores). Since RBI and Government of India are not shareholders of SFCs, it was not possible for Government of India to infuse funds into SFCs. However, Government of India worked out a package for restructuring the liabilities of SFCs in association with SIDBI subject to a tripartite Memorandum of Understanding between SIDBI, State Government and SFCs. The package involves the following:

- a. Reduction in interest rate on outstanding refinance/LOC by 2%.
- b. Rebate of 2% on fresh lending.
- c. One year moratorium on repayment of refinance.
- d. Restructuring/refinance repayment over 10 years.

National Resettlement and Rehabilitation Policy

2531. SHRI K.S. RAO: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the salient features of the National Policy on Resettlement and Rehabilitation; and

(b) the mechanism available or proposed to be developed to meet the requirements of Social Impact Assessment and Environmental Impact Assessment of a project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU): (a) The salient features of the National Policy on Resettlement and Rehabilitation-2003 (NPRR-2003), which is in force since February, 2004, are:

- This Policy is applicable to the Projects displacing 500 families or more *en masse* in plain areas and 250 families or more *en masse* in hilly areas, Desert Development Programme (DDP) blocks or areas mentioned in Schedule V or Schedule VI of the Constitution of India.
- This Policy is in the form of broad guidelines for guidance of all concerned, and offers minimum provisions, while the States or PSUs may offer better benefit packages.
- This Policy document provides R&R benefits to those Project Affected Families (PAFs) who have lost their land or house. These benefits are also be available to small and marginal farmers, agricultural and non-agricultural labourers, rural artisans/small traders/self-employed youths whether belonging to Below Poverty Line (BPL) or non-BPL category.
- The above said categories of PAFs are entitled to get R&R benefits like allotment of house sites, grants for construction house and cattle shed, grant for land development and agricultural production, construction of shop/working-shed to rural artisans and grant for monthly subsistence allowance to Project Affected Families.
- The tribal PAFs get 25% higher R&R benefits in monetary terms in addition to other R&R benefits.

- A Grievance Redressal Cell is to be set up at Project level and a Monitoring Cell at National level for monitoring the progress of various R&R projects.

(b) The following mechanism have been proposed in the draft National Rehabilitation Policy-2006 (NRP-2006) to meet the requirements of Social Impact Assessment and Environmental Impact Assessment of a project -

- Any physical displacement of 400 or more families *en masse* in plain areas, or 200 or more families *en masse* in tribal or hilly areas, DDP blocks or areas mentioned in Schedule V or Schedule VI of the Constitution of India, due to land acquisition for projects or for any reason, where Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) is required as per existing laws, rules and guidelines, a Social Impact Assessment (SIA) report shall be prepared, in the prescribed proforma, simultaneously with the EIA Report, and submitted it to the agency prescribed in respect of EIA by the Ministry of Environment & Forests.
- In cases to which the above procedure is applicable, the SIA report will be examined concurrently with the EIA report by the multi-disciplinary expert group, which considers the EIA report.
- In cases where there is no requirement of obtaining EIA clearance, the SIA report will be placed before a multi-disciplinary expert group constituted by the Requiring Body, if displacement is due to projects involving land acquisition, and in all other cases, by the concerned State Government. The above expert group shall examine the SIA report and accord clearance as per the procedure and within time limits.
- Where both SIA and EIA are undertaken, the public hearing (to be organised by the State Government) done in the project affected area for EIA shall also cover issues related to SIA. Where there is no requirement for EIA, the SIA report shall be made available to the public hearing before it is placed before the expert group.
- Conditions laid down during SIA clearance shall be duly taken into account by the Administrator for R&R while preparing and implementing the R&R plan.

[Translation]

Appointment of Judges

2532. SHRI KRISHNA MURARI MOGHE: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Law Commission has made any recommendation regarding appointment of judges in accordance with the population;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI K. VENKATAPATHY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Law Commission in its 120th Report has recommended that the present strength of 10.5 judges per one million population be increased to 50 judges per million population.

(c) The last Triennial Review of the Judge strength of the various High Courts was held in 2003. As a result, it was decided to increase the Judge strength of various High Courts from the existing strength of 655 to 749 Judges. With regard to subordinate judiciary, the Supreme Court, in its judgment of 21st March, 2002, in All India Judges' Association & Ors Vs. Union of India & Ors, has directed that an increase in the Judge strength from the existing 10.5 or 13 per 10 lakh people to 50 judges per 10 lakh people should be effected and implemented within a period of five years in a phased manner to be determined and directed by the Union Ministry of Law. The Central Government have filed an affidavit in the Supreme Court praying that the increase in judge strength in the Union Territories for which Central Government is administratively responsible be allowed based on workload and pendency of cases. The matter is sub-judice.

All State Governments are also party to this case. Under article 235 of the Constitution of India, the administrative control over the members of subordinate judiciary in the States vests with the concerned High Court and the State Government. Accordingly, the Central Government has requested all the State Governments for taking necessary action.

**Deductions in Second Instalment of
Funds under IAY**

2533. SHRI JASWANT SINGH BISHNOI: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether deductions are being made in the second instalment of Indira Awas Yojana (IAY) for the year 2006-07;

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

(c) whether due to non-completion of BPL census work, no relaxation is likely to be given in the second instalment of Indira Awas Yojana; and

(d) if so, the facts 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) As per Indira Awaas Yojana (IAY) guidelines, deductions are made from the annual allocation of funds of the States/UTs on account of excess carry over of funds from the previous year beyond the permissible limit of 10%, non-release of State matching share or late submission of application. Deductions on account of Excess Carry Over of funds, have been made from the following States out of the second instalment releases made so far during the current year:

1. Kerala	Rs. 0.87 lakh
2. Madhya Pradesh	Rs. 1.96 lakh
3. Uttar Pradesh	Rs. 2.69 lakh
4. West Bengal	Rs. 542.73 lakh

(c) and (d) The condition for preparation of permanent IAY wait lists has since been relaxed for the current year. However, the DRDAs are required to furnish a certificate on or before 31.03.2007 that the permanent IAY wait lists have been prepared.

Outsourcing by Banks

2534. SHRI HEMMAL MURMU:
SHRI RAGHURAJ SINGH SHAKYA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Public Sector Banks including the banks operating in foreign countries are outsourcing their activities;

(b) if so, the details of activities outsourced by these banks; and

(c) the reduction in operational cost by outsourcing, bank-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) and (b) To achieve strategic aims, banks across the world are increasingly using 'outsourcing' as a means of both reducing cost and accessing such specialist expertise which is not available internally. Typically, outsourced financial services include applications processing (loan origination, credit card), document processing, marketing and research, supervision of loans, data processing, back office related activities etc. Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has issued guidelines on *Managing Risks and Code of Conduct in Outsourcing of Financial Services* by banks on 03.11.2006. The guidelines address the risks that the banks would be exposed to in a milieu of growing outsourcing activity and to ensure that the bank concerned and the RBI have access to all books, records and information available with the service provider. The guidelines also cover issues relating to safeguarding of customer interests. However, the banks, which choose to outsource financial services, cannot outsource core management functions including Internal Audit, Compliance function and decision-making functions like determining compliance with Know Your Customer (KYC) norms for opening deposit accounts, according sanction for loans (including retails loans) and management of investment portfolio.

(c) The existing reporting system of RBI does not generate the information asked for.

[English]

Service Tax on Public Amenities

2535. SHRI REWATI RAMAN SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has decided not to levy service tax on the user charges for the use of public amenities; and

(b) if so, the details of facilities/services that are covered by the definition of amenities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) and (b) Taxable services are specified under section 65(105) of the Finance Act, 1994. "Public amenities" are not specified under the above section.

[Translation]

Meeting of Power Ministers

2536. SHRI ALOK KUMAR MEHTA:
DR. K. DHANARAJU:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether a meeting of the Power Ministers of States was convened in November, 2006; and

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

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The key conclusions of the Conference, *inter-alia*, are:

- (i) Best possible monitoring to be done by all concerned for projects of over 43,000 MW that are under execution and are scheduled for commissioning by March, 2010.
- (ii) Initiate action for project preparation and placement of orders for new projects for benefits in the later half of the 11th Plan to provide power for all taking into account the higher GDP growth rate now envisaged.
- (iii) Commensurate enhancement of capacities for supply of equipment and project execution.
- (iv) Ministry of Power would facilitate provision of coal linkage/coal block and environment clearance.
- (v) Central Electricity Authority would assist States in identification of sites.
- (vi) Power Finance Corporation would assist States in development of new projects through competitive bidding for tariff through shell companies with land, water and fuel tie up etc.

[English]

Solar Energy System in Government Buildings

2537. SHRI E.G. SUGAVANAM: Will the Minister of NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to switch over all electrical systems in the Government Buildings in Delhi to solar energy;

(b) if so, the details and the present status thereof;

(c) the estimated savings to the exchequer therefrom; and

(d) the time by which the project is likely to become operational?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY (SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Does not arise.

Encroachment of DDA Land

2538. SHRI VIJOY KRISHNA: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of Delhi Development Authority (DDA) land under encroachment indicating location and type of encroachment;

(b) the details of illegal/unauthorised colonies partly or fully situated on DDA land or on land notified as Development Area; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government for removing encroachment on DDA land?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN): (a) Delhi Development Authority (DDA) has reported that approximately 1400 acres of land acquired by it is under encroachment. The encroached land is located within various revenue villages. The nature of encroachment is mainly in the form of JJ clusters, unauthorised colonies, commercial and religious structures.

(b) DDA has reported that 228 unauthorised colonies in Development Area and 128 unauthorised colonies outside Development Area are situated either fully or partly on DDA land.

(c) DDA fixes demolition programmes every month throughout the year for reclaiming its land. Besides, court cases involving land under encroachment are actively followed up for vacation of stay orders.

[Translation]

Setting up of Power Exchanges

2539. SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether any Detailed Project Report has been prepared for setting up of power exchanges in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the efforts being made by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE): (a) to (d) In line with the responsibility cast under section 66 of the Electricity Act, 2003, the Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (CERC) issued a draft Staff Consultation Paper on 20.07.2006 for development of Power Exchange for electricity trading and invited comments and suggestions from all stakeholders.

Setting up of Land Customs Station

2540. SHRI KAILASH BAITHA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the procedure of setting up land customs station on international borders;

(b) whether there is any proposal to set up Land Customs Station (LCS) at Balmikinagar in Bihar on Indo-Nepal border;

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

(d) the total number of LCS in northern Bihar with locations thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) Land Customs Stations on India's international borders are notified by the Ministry of Finance in consultation with other Departments/Ministries concerned like Directorate of Revenue Intelligence, Ministry of Home Affairs, Department of Commerce and Ministry of External Affairs, from angles of anti-smuggling, security, availability of infrastructure and availability of a counterpart Land Customs Station on the other side of the Border respectively.

(b) No such proposal for setting up a Land Customs Station at Balmikinagar in Bihar on Indo-Nepal border is under consideration of this Ministry.

(c) Does not arise in view of reply at (b) above.

(d) There are nine Land Customs Stations in Northern Bihar which are located on the Indo-Nepal border at Raxaul, Jogbani, Galgalia, Bhimnagar, Jainagar, Sonbarsa, Bhitamore, Baigania and Kunauli.

[English]

Raising Additional Capital

2541. SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has decided to allow power sector public undertakings to come out with Initial Public Offerings (IPO) to raise money from the market to meet their additional capital requirements;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the details of the power sector public undertakings allowed therefor; and

(c) the funds likely to be generated through IPOs?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE): (a) and (b) Government has allowed the proposals of Power Finance Corporation (PFC), Rural Electrification Corporation (REC) and Power Grid Corporation of India Ltd. (PGCIL) for Initial Public Offer (IPOs) to raise money from the market to meet their additional capital requirement.

(c) The amount of funds to be mobilized through the IPOs would be known after assessment by professional agencies for which the necessary work is yet to begin. Therefore, it is too early to give an estimate in this regard.

Overseas Liabilities

2542. SHRI SUGRIB SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether overseas liabilities on Indian commercial banks are increasing each year;

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

(c) 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) Yes, Sir. The outstanding total international liabilities of Indian commercial banks were Rs. 1,76,694 crore Rs. 2,06,852 crore and Rs. 2,45,533 crore as at end of March 2004, 2005 and 2006 respectively. The international liabilities are increasing mainly due to increase in foreign currency borrowings, issue of ADRs/GDRs and equities of banks held by non-residents.

(c) In the Mid-Term Review of Annual Policy Statement for the year 2006-07, Reserve Bank of India has proposed to modify, *inter-alia*, the norms for authorized dealer banks to borrow funds from their overseas branches and correspondent banks (including borrowings for financing export credit, ECBs and overdrafts from their Head Office/Nostro account) up to a limit of 50 per cent of their unimpaired Tier I capital or US \$ 10 million, whichever is higher, as against the earlier overall limit of 25 per cent (excluding borrowings for financing export credit). Short-term borrowings up to a period of one year or less, however, should not exceed 20 per cent of unimpaired Tier I capital within the overall limit of 50 per cent.

Tax Exemption for Power Sector

2543. SHRI SURESH PRABHAKAR PRABHU:

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR:

SHRI ALOK KUMAR MEHTA:

DR. K. DHANARAJU:

SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry of Finance has received any proposal from the Ministry of Power for tax exemption on equipment and fuel for the power sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the decision taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) and the Central Board of Excise & Customs (CBEC) have received proposals from the Ministry of Power for tax exemptions for the power sector. Such proposals are considered during the budgetary exercise and the decision of the Government gets reflected in the Finance Bill.

Alliance between BSE and London Stock Exchange

2544. SHRIMATI NEETA PATERIYA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE) and the London Stock Exchange (LSE) are in dialogue with possible alliance;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government is considering all the pros and cons of such an alliance; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) and (b) The Bombay Stock Exchange Limited have informed that they are in the process of identifying suitable entities for induction as strategic partners. Several leading exchanges, including London Stock Exchange, have visited them for making a preliminary assessment in this regard.

(b) and (d) Any such alliance has to be in compliance with the securities laws, the corporate laws and the foreign investment policy, which have been framed keeping the public interest in view.

Fast Track Courts

2545. SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has decided to set up more Fast Track Courts in the country;

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

(c) the extent to which these Fast Track Courts have been helpful in reducing the burden of long pending cases in the High Courts?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI K. VENKATAPATHY): (a) to (c) Fast Track Courts (FTCs) have been set up by the State Governments to deal with the long pending cases at the Sessions level. Government has extended the scheme of financial support to the 1562 FTCs set up by the State Governments that were operational as on 31.3.2005 for a further period of five years. It has no proposal under consideration to enhance the coverage in terms of number of the FTCs under the scheme. As on 31.10.2006 these FTCs have disposed of 10,43,022 cases out of 18,22,684 cases transferred to them.

Rural Insurance

2546. SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether anti-money laundering regulation has affected rural insurance;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the action taken to ensure simplification and smooth process of rural insurance?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) to (c) Anti-money Laundering (AML) guidelines to insurers were issued by the Insurance Regulatory & Development Authority (IRDA) (effective from 1st August, 2006 in the case of life insurance companies and 1st January, 2007 in the case of non-life insurance companies) to ensure compliance with "The Prevention of Money Laundering Act, 2002". These guidelines are applicable to all the products of both life and general insurance industry except for the exempted products specifically given out in the guidelines i.e. Standalone Medical/Health Insurance products, Group Insurance business and Term Life Insurance contracts. IRDA has further reported that it has not received any feed back on the impact of these guidelines on rural insurance. However, it does not envisage any adverse effect of these guidelines on rural insurance.

Implementation of RGGVY Project in Kerala

2547. SHRI P.C. THOMAS: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government of Kerala has pointed out the difficulties to implement Rajiv Gandhi Grameen Vidyutikaran Yojana (RGGVY) project in the State on turnkey basis involving Franchisees;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken in this regard;
- (c) whether the State Government has requested that the remaining districts in the State may also be taken for implementation under RGGVY; and
- (d) if so, the response of the Union Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE): (a) Yes Sir, Kerala State Electricity Board (KSEB) had requested Rural Electrification Corporation (REC) for permission to execute the projects departmentally as against execution on turn-key basis and also to exempt Kerala from introducing franchisee system.

(b) In a meeting convened to resolve the above issues, Kerala Government, REC & Ministry of Power agreed that -

- (i) Since franchising was mandatory under RGGVY and is a part of tripartite agreement, KSEB has to implement franchisee system which was agreed to by KSEB;
- (ii) The services of National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) for preparation of fresh DPR and implementation of RGGVY in one or two districts of Kerala shall be availed by KSEB.
- (iii) KSEB shall award project to lowest bidder in Idduki district on turnkey basis.

(c) and (d) REC has received 14 projects for 14 districts of Kerala. So far 7 projects have been sanctioned at the cost of Rs. 221.75 crore. The balance 7 projects have been given "in principle" approval so that preliminary works until tendering can be initiated and the projects are ready for implementation by the time they are approved.

Monitoring of Hydro-Electric Power Projects

2548. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been time and cost-overruns in almost all hydro-Electric projects built so far;

(b) if so, whether the Government has examined thoroughly the reasons behind such delays and cost-overruns;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government is considering to constitute a Task Force for planning and monitoring the project implementation for hydro-electric projects;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE): (a) There has been time and cost overruns in execution of some of the hydroelectric projects.

(b) and (c) A Standing Committee is constituted by the Central Government to examine the reasons for time and cost overruns in any hydroelectric project implemented by a Central Public Sector Undertaking (CPSU) and fix responsibility for the same. The main reasons behind time and cost overruns are given below -

- (i) Difficult and in-accessible sites of the hydro electric projects.
- (ii) Problems encountered in acquisition of land and delays in handing over of the land to the project authorities.
- (iii) Resettlement & rehabilitation problems.
- (iv) Geological challenges/surprises encountered in construction of projects in the difficult Himalayan terrain.
- (v) Law & order and labour related problems.
- (vi) Natural calamities like floods, landslides etc.

(d) No, Sir. Progress of construction of projects is regularly monitored by the Central Electricity Authority and by the Ministry of Power during the quarterly reviews of

CPSUs and as and when any specific project gets delayed.

(e) and (f) Do not arise.

[Translation]

Beautification of Delhi

2549. SHRIMATI SANGEETA KUMARI SINGH DEO: SHRI GIRIDHARI YADAV:

Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state

(a) the details of works assigned to the Delhi Development Authority (DDA);

(b) whether the DDA has not been able to complete the works already assigned to it by the Government as a result of which Delhi could not be made beautiful and clean;

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

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN): (a) to (d) The object of the Delhi Development Authority (DDA) is to promote and secure the development of Delhi according to plan and to do anything necessary or expedient for the purpose of such development. DDA has undertaken acquisition of land, development of housing and commercial complexes as well as greens and sports complexes with a view to promote planned development of Delhi. DDA has reported that all efforts are made to complete the works. Residential and commercial areas are transferred to local body after development for upkeep and maintenance of civic services. The green areas developed by DDA are being maintained by DDA.

Housing Finance Companies

2550. SHRI HARIKEWAL PRASAD: SHRI TUKARAM GANPAT RAO RENGÉ PATIL:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has made any provision for regulation of housing finance companies;

(b) if so, details thereof;

(c) whether the cases of fraud/cheating have come to the notice of the Government by these companies; and

(d) if so, the steps taken to check fraud/cheating of customers by these companies and to safeguard the interest of the investors?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE) (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) and (b) Housing Finance Companies (HFCs) are regulated by National Housing Bank (NHB) under the provisions of National Housing Bank Act, 1987.

(c) NHB has reported that one HFC was found accepting public deposits in contravention of the Certificate of Registration (COR) issued to it. The COR issued to the Company has since been cancelled by NHB and public notice issued. Since the Company was found to have forged the COR, criminal proceedings have also been instituted by the NHB and action has also been taken by the NHB for winding up of the Company under the Companies Act, 1956.

(d) NHB has issued directions in 2001 with a view to safeguarding the interest of depositors and promoting healthy growth of Housing Finance Companies in the country. A system of off-site surveillance involving submission of periodic returns and periodic on-site inspections of HFCs has been put in place with the aim of tracking the financial health of the companies. Further, on receipt of any complaint regarding fraud, etc., against the HFCs, the same are investigated and enquired into by the NHB. Also, the status of frauds, etc., is monitored in the State Level Coordination Committee (SLCC) meetings convened by the RBI at their regional offices where the State Police are also participants.

Import of LNG by NTPC

2551. SHRI MITRASEN YADAV: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) has signed any agreement with Nigeria for import of Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG);

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Nigeria has agreed to allot 'coastal gas block' under this agreement;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the total quantity of gas likely to be imported from there?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE): (a) to (e) No, Sir. However, NTPC has proposed to set up a 500 MW Coal based and a 700 MW Gas based combined cycle power station in Nigeria. NTPC has also proposed to assist Nigerian power sector by improving its power plants' performance and providing training to its Operation & Maintenance (O&M) staff. In return, Federal Government of Nigeria (FGN) is offering for allocating to NTPC a proven Gas block/gas resources of upto 3 Million Tons Per Annum (MTPA) to establish an LNG plant for exporting LNG to India. Presently, NTPC is in discussions with FGN.

[English]

Setting up of Bio-Gas Plants

2552. SHRI L. RAJAGOPAL:

SHRI MOHD. TAHIR:

PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR:

Will the Minister of NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of bio-gas and bio-mass plants functioning in each State as on date;

(b) the grants/subsidy provided and utilised during each of the last three years, State-wise;

(c) whether the Government proposes to set up more such plants by launching any special programme for promotion of bio-gas and bio-mass in the country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY (SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR): (a) Information on number of family type biogas plants, which are based on cattle dung as the main source of biomass feedstock, set up during 1981-82 to 2006-07 (April to October, 2006) under the Centrally

Sponsored Scheme - National Biogas and Manure Management Programme (NBMMP) is given in the enclosed statement-I. The functionality of plants varies from State to State and area to area due to various reasons, including quality of construction and proper operation and maintenance of plants.

(b) Information is given in the enclosed statement-II.

(c) and (d) The Government is already implementing NBMMP and a target of setting up of about one lakh biogas plants during 2006-07 has been allocated to different States and agencies.

Statement I

Cumulative total number of family type biogas plants set up during 1981-82 to 2006-07 (April-October, 2006) under National Biogas and Manure Management Programme (NBMMP)

State	Number of plants set-up
1	2
Andhra Pradesh	408716
Arunachal Pradesh	2210
Assam	58723
Bihar	124967
Chhattisgarh	17824
Delhi	677
Goa	3708
Gujarat	381410

1	2
Haryana	49721
Himachal Pradesh	44884
Jammu & Kashmir	2122
Jharkhand	2174
Karnataka	392621
Kerala	110096
Madhya Pradesh	249583
Maharashtra	724257
Manipur	2128
Meghalaya	4306
Mizoram	3470
Nagaland	2626
Orissa	224397
Punjab	81912
Rajasthan	66950
Sikkim	5682
Tamilnadu	210871
Tripura	2442
Uttaranchal	6862
Uttar Pradesh	409200
West Bengal	267469
Total	3862008

Statement II

Funds released and utilised by and large during each of the last three years, i.e. 2003-04, 2004-05 and 2005-06 under National Biogas and Manure Management Programme (NBMMP)

State/Agency	Fund released (Rupees in crore)		
	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06
1	2	3	4
Andhra Pradesh	5.75	2.41	4.32
Arunachal Pradesh	0.13	0.51	0.33

1	2	3	4
Chhattisgarh	-	0.39	1.24
Gujarat	2.32	1.19	1.98
Haryana	0.47	0.21	0.12
Himachal Pradesh	0.15	0.07	0.06
Karnataka	2.36	-	-
Kerala	0.93	0.80	0.17
Madhya Pradesh	1.86	1.47	3.66
Maharashtra	1.24	2.66	2.64
Manipur	0.11	0.27	0.18
Meghalaya	0.37	0.12	0.16
Mizoram	0.24	0.28	0.06
Nagaland	0.18	-	0.06
Orissa	4.73	1.68	2.25
Punjab	-	0.22	0.18
Rajasthan	0.06	0.02	-
Sikkim	0.25	0.62	0.26
Tamilnadu	0.63	0.31	0.36
Tripura	0.71	-	-
Uttaranchal	0.08	-	0.26
Uttar Pradesh	1.55	1.47	0.40
West Bengal	6.07	2.41	5.03
Khadi and Village Industries Commission, Mumbai	3.85	3.50	3.19

Investment Proposals

2553. SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Investment Commission has identified a number of Investment proposals pending action on the part of different State Governments, Indian partners or Corporate bodies;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps being taken to expedite the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The details of projects identified by Investment Commission are in given in the enclosed statement.

(c) The recommendaoons of the Investment Commission have been sent to the State Governments for follow up action.

Statement*Projects identified by Investment Commission*

Category/Sector	Project/Proposal	Estimated Investment (Project Cost)
Infrastructure Sectors		
Power	AES plans to expand OPGC capacity in Orissa by 500 MW	\$400-500 million
Power	AES 1000 MW Generation project in Chhattisgarh	\$1 billion
Power	Reliance Energy 10,000 MW Hirma Power Project in Orissa	\$12 billion
Ports	Gujarat Pipavav Port Ltd. (GPPL) Maersk led Project	\$220 million
Telecom	STT consortium investment in Idea Cellular	\$130 million (equity investment)
Manufacturing		
Metals - Steel	POSCO 12 MMT Steel project in Orissa	\$10 billion
Electronic Hardware	LG Mobile handset manufacturing	\$800 million
Semiconductor manufacturing	Intel-Chip (IC) Assembly Test facility	\$250 million (Phase I)
Chemicals	Dow	Significant (estimated \$10 billion)
Services		
Banking	Citigroup, Barclays, Royal Bank of Nova Scotia	\$2- \$3 billion (equity investment)
Banking	Commonwealth Bank and Macquarie Bank	
Trading — Cash and Carry Wholesale	Metro Cash & Carry	\$400 million
Retail	Wal-Mart, Tesco	\$200 million
Real Estate & Construction	Trikona Capital, MSREF, Rothschild & Getty Trusts	\$300 - \$500 million equity investment (with leverage \$1 billion+)
Media	Space TV Ltd.	\$650 million
Natural Resources		
Mining	Lafarge India Mining Lease for Cement plant	\$200 million

Bungalow in Lutyen Zone

2554. SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether most of existing bungalow in Lutyen Zone has completed their life-span and their maintenance has become expensive manifold;

(b) if so, the average annual maintenance cost bungalows in Lutyen Zone during 2004-05 and 2005-06;

(c) whether the Government proposes to change the face of Lutyen Zone by demolishing the existing bungalows and constructing a complex of duplex houses for VIPs; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN): (a) Yes, Sir. Bungalows and flats have outlived their normal life-span and their maintenance is getting progressively expensive due to ageing.

(b) Maintenance expenditure per bungalow:

	Bungalow	Flat
2004-05	Rs. 3.46 lakh	Rs. 0.75 lakh
2005-06	Rs. 0.75 lakh	Rs. 0.65 lakh

(c) There is no proposal to change the face of LBZ. There is no proposal for construction of duplex houses for VIPs in LBZ under consideration at present.

(d) Not applicable in view of (c) above.

Financing Special Economic Zone

2555. SHRI EKNATH MAHADEO GAIKWAD:
SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Reserve Bank of India has advised the banks to treat Financing Special Economic Zone at par with the real estate;

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

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) to (c) Keeping in view the current market conditions, Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has issued guidelines on 20th September, 2006 advising commercial banks that the exposure of banks to entities for setting up Special Economic Zones (SEZs) or for acquisition of units in SEZs which include real estate would be treated as exposure to commercial real estate sector with immediate effect and banks would have to make provisions as also assign appropriate risk weights for such exposures as per the existing guidelines. Banks are required to comply with guidelines issued by RBI.

Charitable Companies

2556. SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: Will the Minister of COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has taken any steps to promote Charitable Companies in the light of growing industrialisation in the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

The MINISTER OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA): (a) No, Sir, the Central Government has no proposal/scheme to promote Charitable Companies in the light of growing industrialization.

(b) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Stock Exchanges

2557. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of stock exchanges in the country alongwith locations thereof;

(b) the stock exchange-wise details of the shares listed and the total transaction carried out during each of the last three years;

(c) the steps taken to protect the interests of the share-holders and to enhance the awareness among people towards the shares;

(d) whether the Government has received any representation for improvement in the functioning of stock-exchanges; and

(e) if so, the action taken or proposed to be taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) The details are given in the enclosed statement-I.

(b) The details are given in the enclosed statement-II.

(c) The mandate of SEBI is to protect the interests of investors in securities and to promote the development

of, and to regulate, the securities market. The regulatory and enforcement measures taken by SEBI aim at investor protection. The recent initiatives taken by SEBI in this regard include optional grading of public issues, corporate governance standards, reduction in demat charges, introduction of capital protection fund, etc. It has also

launched a comprehensive education campaign, christened—"Securities Market Awareness Campaign" (SMAC), aimed at investors in securities market.

(d) and (e) SEBI has informed that it has not received any specific representation for improvement of stock exchanges.

Statement I

Sl.No.	Name of Stock Exchange	Address
1	2	3
1.	Bombay Stock Exchange Limited	Phiroze Jeejeebhoy Towers, 26th Floor, Dalai Street, Mumbai -400 001
2.	National Stock Exchange of India Ltd.	Exchange Plaza, Plot No. C/1, G Block, Bandra-Kurla Complex, Bandra (E), Mumbai - 400 051
3.	Ahmedabad Stock Exchange Limited	Kamdhenu Complex, Opposite Shahjanand College, Panjarpole, Ahmedabad - 380 015
4.	The Calcutta Stock Exchange Association Ltd.	7, Lyons Range, Kolkata - 700 001
5.	Madras Stock Exchange Ltd.	Exchange Building, Post Box No. 183, 30, Second Line Beach, Chennai - 600 001
6.	The Delhi Stock Exchange Association Ltd.	DSE House, 3/1, Asaf Ali Road, New Delhi - 110 002
7.	Hyderabad Stock Exchange Ltd.	6-3-654, Adjacent to Erramanzil Bus stop Somajiguda, Hyderabad-500 082
8.	The Ludhiana Stock Exchange Association Ltd.	Feroze Gandhi Market, Ludhiana - 141 001.
9.	Madhya Pradesh Stock Exchange Ltd.	"Palika Plaza", Phase II, 201 IInd Floor, M.T.H. Compound, Indore — 452 001
10.	Bangalore Stock Exchange Ltd.	Stock Exchange Towers, 51, 1st Cross, J.C Road, Bangalore - 560 027
11.	Cochin Stock Exchange Ltd.	MES Dr. P K Abdul Gafoor Memorial Cultural Complex, 36/1565, 4th floor, Judges Avenue Kaloor, Cochin-682 017
12.	The Uttar Pradesh Stock Exchange Association Ltd.	Padam Towers, 14/113, Civil Lines, Kanpur - 208 001
13.	Pune Stock Exchange Ltd.	"Shiveleela Chambers", 752, Sadashiv Peth, R.B.Kumthekar Marg, Pune - 411 030
14.	Gauhati Stock Exchange Ltd.	Saraf Building, Annexe A T Rd., Gauhati - 781 001
15.	Magadh Stock Exchange Ltd.	9th Floor, Ashiana Plaza, Budh Marg, Patna - 800 001
16.	Jaipur Stock Exchange Ltd.	Stock Exchange Building, Jawaharlal Nehru Marg, Malviya Nagar, Jaipur - 302 017

1	2	3
17.	Bhubaneswar Stock Exchange Ltd	6th Floor, IDCO Towers, Netaji Subhash Marg, Janpath, Bhubaneswar - 751 022
18.	Saurashtra Kutch Stock Exchange Ltd.	Popatbhai Sorathia Bhavan, Sadar Bazar, Rajkot-360 001
19.	OTC Exchange of India	92, Maker Towers, "F", Cuffe Parade, Mumbai-400 005
20.	Vadodara Stock Exchange Ltd.	Fortune Tower, Sayajiganj, Vadodara — 390 005
21.	Coimbatore Stock Exchange Ltd.	Stock Exchange Building, 683-686 Trichy Road, Coimbatore - 641 005
22.	Inter—connected Stock Exchange of India Ltd.	International Infotech Park, Tower 7, 5th Floor, Sector 30, Vashi, Navi Mumbai - 400 703

Statement II

Sl. No.	Stock Exchange	No. of companies listed (As on 31.10.06)	Value of transactions (one sided) (Rs. crore)			Value of transactions (one sided) (Rs. crore)		
			Cash Segment			Derivatives Segment		
			2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1.	Bombay Stock Exchange Limited	4790	5,02,618	8,16,074	6,64,467	12,452	16,112	9
2.	National Stock Exchange of India Ltd.	1127	10,99,534	11,40,072	15,69,558	21,30,649	25,47,053	48,24,250
3.	Ahmedabad Stock Exchange Limited	2576	4,544	Nil	Nil	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
4.	The Calcutta Stock Exchange Association Ltd.	2960	1,928	2,800	2,602	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
5.	Madras Stock Exchange Ltd.	1391	101	27	5	N.A.	NA	N.A.
6.	The Delhi Stock Exchange Association Ltd.	2941	3	Nil	Nil	NA	NA	N.A.
7.	Hyderabad Stock Exchange Ltd.	785	2	14	89	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
8.	The Ludhiana Stock Exchange Association Ltd.	344	Nil	Nil	Nil	N.A.	NA	N.A.
9.	Madhya Pradesh Stock Exchange	343	Nil	Nil	Nil	N.A.	NA	N.A.
10.	Bangalore Stock Exchange Ltd.	370	Nil	Nil	Nil	N.A.	NA	N.A.
11.	Cochin Stock Exchange Ltd.	201	Nil	Nil	Nil	N.A.	NA	N.A.
12.	The Uttar Pradesh Stock Exchange Association Ltd.	710	11,751	5,343	1,486	N.A.	NA	N.A.
13.	Pune Stock Exchange Ltd.	248	Nil	0.3	Nil	N.A.	NA	N.A.
14.	Gauhati Stock Exchange Ltd.	259	Nil	Nil	Nil	N.A.	NA	N.A.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
15.	Magadh Stock Exchange Association	158	Nil	Nil	91	NA	NA.	N.A.
16.	Jaipur Stock Exchange Ltd.	786	Nil	Nil	Nil	NA.	NA.	N.A.
17.	Bhubaneswar Stock Exchange	59	Nil	Nil	Nil	NA.	NA.	N.A.
18.	Saurashtra Kutch Stock Exchange Ltd.	206	Nil	Nil	Nil	N.A.	NA.	N.A.
19.	OTC Exchange of India	103	16	0.01	0.01	NA.	NA.	N.A.
20.	Vadodara Stock Exchange Ltd.	502	Nil	Nil	Nil	N.A.	NA.	N.A.
21.	Coimbatore Stock Exchange Ltd.	174	Nil	Nil	Nil	N.A.	NA.	N.A.
22.	Inter-connected Stock Exchange of India Ltd.	10	Nil	Nil	Nil	N.A.	NA.	N.A.
Total			16,20,497	16,66,896	23,90,103	21,43,101	25,63,165	48,24,259

[English]

Micro Credit to Self-Help Groups

2558. SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether micro-credit based Self-Help Groups (SHGs) are caste driven as reported in the *Hindustan Times* dated November 9, 2006;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether recent study conducted by NGO has revealed that in some States the minority share in SHGs is less than 7% and even zero in some States; and

(d) if so, the steps taken or being taken by Government to ensure that minorities get their share in SHGs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL) (a) to (d) No, Sir. The objective of SHG-Bank Linkage Programme facilitated by NABARD through the banks is to promote financial access of rural poor to the formal rural banking system. The poor include marginal farmers, landless agricultural labourers, small farmers and others belonging to weaker sections without any bias towards caste, creed or religion. The SHGs are organised by the SHG promoting agencies on the basis of homogeneous socio-economic background and common interest and not driven by caste considerations.

(d) The programme has made inroads in minority concentration districts of the country as well. The cumulative number of credit linked SHGs in about 44 districts in 11 States with minority concentration has increased from 33,698 SHGs as on 31 March, 2002 to 1,93,573 SHGs as at March 2006, registering a four-fold growth.

Technology Partnership

2559. SHRIMATI ARCHANA NAYAK: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government and the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) have signed a Memorandum of Understanding to promote technology partnership between Indian Industry, Institutes within India and abroad;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the role of Global Innovation Technology Alliance in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) Yes, Sir. An Agreement on "Global Innovation and Technology Alliance (GITA)" between the Government of India, Department of Science and Technology (DST) and the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) was concluded in New Delhi on 6th November, 2006. The Agreement provides for CII and DST to further strengthen and undertake joint activities related to promotion and

facilitation of International Technology Partnership for the benefit of the Indian Industry and other Organizations.

(b) The broad objective of GITA is to promote and facilitate technology partnerships between overseas and Indian Industry/Institutes with the aim to enhance technology competitiveness of Indian Organizations. Such technology partnerships will take place through various modes under the framework of national/international laws -

- (i) Joint Development
- (ii) Technology Transfer/Licensing etc.
- (iii) Joint Venture/Collaboration
- (iv) Any other mode.

(c) GITA will endeavour, through various mechanisms, towards generation of new technology opportunities for the benefit of the Indian Industry and other Organizations. The mechanisms, among others, will cover organization of Technology/Design/Intellectual Property Rights Summits as well as expositions/exhibitions, both in India and abroad, from time to time.

[Translation]

IDSMT Scheme

2560. SHRI CHANDRABHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal of the Government of Madhya Pradesh pertaining to IDSMT Scheme in Damoh District is under consideration of Union Government;

(b) if so, the action taken thereon;

(c) whether any amount in respect of IDSMT Scheme Tendu Kheda, M.P. is due; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN): (a) to (d) Under Integrated Development of Small and Medium Towns (IDSMT) Scheme, three towns namely Hatta, Damoh and Tendukheda have been covered in Damoh District.

Proposal for release of final/balance Central Assistance amounting to Rs. 45.00 lakh for only Hatta town is under consideration.

Full Central Assistance amounting to Rs. 48.00 lakh has been released to Tendukheda town. Therefore, no balance Central Assistance is due for release to this town.

Hindu Marriage Act, 1955

2561. SHRI HEMMAL MURMU: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Supreme Court has suggested to amend Hindu Marriage Act, 1955 with a view to add grounds for divorce;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ): (a) to (c) Irretrievable breakdown of marriage is not a ground for divorce under the Hindu Marriage Act, 1955. The Supreme Court in Navin Kohli Vs. Neelu Kohli J.T.2006(3) SC 491 held that because of the change of circumstances and for covering a large number of cases where the marriages are virtually dead and unless this concept is pressed into service, the divorce cannot be granted. The Court further observed that in our considered opinion the legislature must consider irretrievable breakdown of marriage as a ground for grant of divorce under the Hindu Marriage Act, 1955. The proposed amendment in the Hindu Marriage Act, 1955 requires consultation with various persons/bodies.

[English]

FDI Proposals

2562. SHRI E.G. SUGAVANAM: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of FDI proposals pending as on date; and

(b) the steps taken for early clearance of these proposals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) As on 1.12.2006, 53 FDI proposals are pending. Details are given in the enclosed statement.

(b) Foreign investment proposals received in the Foreign Investment Promotion Board (FIPB), if complete in all respects, are generally placed before the Board

within 15 days of their receipt and decision of the Government in all cases is communicated in time bound manner.

Statement

Sl.No.	Name of the applicant	Activity
1	2	3
1.	M/s. Akar Info-media Pvt. Ltd., Ahmedabad	Print Media Sector
2.	M/s. Barclays Capital Security Asia Ltd., Hong Kong	Asset Reconstruction
3.	M/s. Ankar India Special Situation Ltd., Mauritius	Asset Reconstruction
4.	M/s. Prozone Enterprises Pvt. Ltd., Mumbai	Mall Management service and downstream investment in construction/development activities
5.	M/s. Parry Murray & Company Ltd., UK	Trading in Textile Products
6.	M/s. The Nuance Group AG Switzerland	Duty Free Shops
7.	M/s. WEILBURGER LACKE HANDELSGESELLSCHAFT mbH, Germany	Manufacture of high quality specialized industrial coating and paints
8.	M/s. Erminegildo Zegna Holditala SPA	Setting up of single brand Zenga Retail store
9.	M/s. Desnet Ballestra Rosedowns India (P) Ltd.	Manufacture of Oil mill machinery - mechanical presses and parts.
10.	M/s. Zee News Ltd., Noida	Uplinking of News and current affairs TV channel
11.	M/s. Wire & Wireless (India) Limited, Mumbai	Cable Network
12.	M/s. Delta Plus India Pvt. Ltd., Kolkata	Warehousing & Export of Industrial safety products
13.	M/s. Bloomingdale Hotels Pvt. Ltd., Bangalore	Heritage Tourism Resort
14.	M/s. Haymarket Media (India) Pvt., Ltd.	Publication of speciality magazine
15.	M/s. Triveda Fine Arts Pvt. Ltd., New Delhi	Trading in paintings, curios and related items
16.	M/s. Davinci Leather (P) Ltd., Chennai	Manufacture of leather shoe uppers
17.	M/s. UFO Moviez Pvt. Ltd., New Delhi	Investment in companies engaged in distribution of films and other media content.
18.	Shri Puran Multimedia Ltd., Kanpur	FM radio broadcasting and related services
19.	M/s. ATC Tower Company of India Pvt. Ltd., New Delhi	Infrastructure provider (IP-I)

1	2	3
20.	M/s. Independent Mobile Infrastructure Mauritius Ltd.	Infrastructure provider (IP-I)
21.	M/s. Federal Express Europe Inc., USA	Courier Services
22.	M/s. Nokia Network India Pvt. Ltd., Delhi	Manufacture and trading of Telecommunication equipments
23.	M/s. Sincere Watch Ltd., Singapore	Duty free shops
24.	M/s. Dearim Enterprise Co. Ltd., Korea	Business of auto parts and other related products for auto sector
25.	M/s. Interface Europe BV, Netherland	Technical and marketing service, bulk export or ex-bonded warehouse sale
26.	M/s. Bitzer Kulmaschinenbau, GmbH & Co. Holding KG, Germany	Cash and Carry wholesale trading
27.	M/s. Spartam College of Aeronautics & Technology India Pvt. Ltd., New Delhi	Establishment of aircraft maintenance Engineering schools
28.	M/s. IDEA Cellular Ltd, Gandhinagar	Cellular Mobile Telephone Services
29.	M/s. D.E. Shaw Composite Investment (Mauritius) Ltd., Mauritius	Printing of Newspapers
30.	M/s. D.E. Shaw Composite Investment (Mauritius) Ltd., Mauritius	Publishing of Newspapers
31.	M/s. Veolia Transport, France	Infrastructure Transport
32.	M/s. New Kolkata International Development Pvt. Ltd., Kolkata	Integrated infrastructure development project
33.	M/s. Universal Success Enterprises Ltd.	Downstream investment in the development of convention centre
34.	M/s. Universal Success Enterprises Ltd.	Downstream investment in the development of convention centre
35.	M/s. Universal Success Enterprises Ltd.	Downstream investment in the development of convention centre, tourism and township
36.	M/s. Ontrack Systems	Information Technology and IT-Enabled Services
37.	M/s. DOTs Trustees Ltd., Mauritius	Setting up of Trust
38.	M/s. Mission Bio-fuels India (P) Ltd.	Downstream investment in development of seeds
39.	M/s. OZ Management LLC, New York	Asset Reconstruction
40.	M/s. Raytheon Spectrum Holdings LLC, USA.	Establishment of a earth station to receive environmental data

1	2	3
41.	M/s. Cable & Wireless Global (India) Pvt. Ltd., Mumbai	Integrated Telecom and IT Infrastructure projects
42.	M/s. Takata Corporation, Japan	Manufacture of automotive airbag modules and steering wheels
43.	M/s. Cadmus Hong Kong Ltd.	Export trading in packaging products
44.	M/s. Kortek Electronic (India) Pvt. Ltd., Noida	Market and trade electronic goods and setting up of restaurants
45.	M/s. Raj Television Network Ltd., Chennai	Broadcasting of TV channels and up-linking of news and current affairs
46.	M/s. Bank Muscut (SAOG), UAE	Banking business
47.	M/s. Old Lane L.P., New York	Credit enhancement services
48.	M/s. Hilton International Co., USA	Hotel business
49.	M/s. Peninsula Realty Fund, Mumbai	Setting up of Realty Fund
50.	M/s. Urban Infrastructure Venture Ltd., Mumbai	Development of Urban Infrastructure sector
51.	M/s. JM Financial Trustee Company Ltd., Mumbai	Making private equity investments in sectors of IT and IT-enabled services, manufacturing, pharmaceuticals and healthcare and media sectors
52.	M/s. AES (India) Pvt. Ltd.	Setting up 3 coal based power plants
53.	M/s. Visa Comtrade Limited, Kolkata	Undertake high sea sales, wholesale cash and carry of minerals

Development of Science and Technology in Northern India

2583. SHRIMATI NEETA PATERIYA: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that Northern India is lagging behind in the science and technology development and research;

(b) if so, the steps the Government proposes to take to promote science and technology development in Northern India;

(c) whether Government is considering to set up an Indian Institute of Science and Technology in backward areas particularly in Northern India; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) and (b) The Government has been promoting science & technology development and research in the country by way of setting up scientific institutions, universities and funding extramural research & development (R&D) in various institutions across the country. In this context, the Northern India is not lagging behind in S&T infrastructure and research.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. Government has decided to set up an Indian Institute of Science Education and Research (IISER) at Mohali, Punjab, in order to give further boost to basic research.

Shelter for Homeless People

2564. SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY: Will the Minister of HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of homeless people in the metropolitan cities at present;

(b) whether there is a time-bound programme for providing adequate shelter to them; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION (KUMARI SELJA): (a) Number of homeless people in million plus cities as per Registrar General of India for the year 1991 and 2001 is given in the enclosed statement-I.

(b) Government of India has launched the Jawaharal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM) to assist cities and towns in taking up housing and infrastructural facilities for the urban poor in 63 cities in the country under the Basic Services to the Urban Poor (BSUP) Programme. For non-Mission cities, the Integrated Housing and Slum Development Programme (IHS DP) has been launched with the objective to strive for holistic slum development, with a healthy and enabling environment by providing adequate shelter and basic infrastructure facilities to the slum dwellers including the displaced. Both BSUP and IHS DP are under implementation since December 2005. The duration of JNNURM would be seven years beginning from 2005-06.

(c) Details of progress made under these schemes are given in the enclosed statement-II.

Statement I*Houseless Population in Million Plus Cities—1991 and 2001 Censuses*

Sl. No.	Name of City	Houseless 2001	Population 1991
1	2	3	4
1.	Greater Mumbai (M Corp.)	39,074	38,763
2.	DMC (U) (M Corp.)	21,895	17,671
3.	Kolkata (M Corp.)	67,676	33,204
4.	Chennai (M Corp.)	27,329	19,044
5.	Bangalore (M Corp.)	12,104	8,163
6.	Hyderabad (M Corp.)	13,638	12,260
7.	Ahmedabad (M Corp.)	7,787	2,723
8.	Kanpur (M Corp.)	26,305	12,347
9.	Pune (M Corp.)	2,565	3,847
10.	Surat (M Corp.)	22,307	4,898
11.	Lucknow (M Corp.)	7,469	11,813
12.	Nagpur (M Corp.)	2,225	2,752
13.	Jaipur (M Corp.)	8,529	3,552

1	2	3	4
14.	Indore (M Corp.)	4,885	4,501
15.	Bhopal (M Corp.)	5,895	4,288
16.	Ludhiana (M Corp.)	4,590	110
17.	Patna (M Corp.)	5,624	3,782
18.	Vadodara (M Corp.)	7,638	21,951
19.	Agra (M Corp.)	1,942	N.A.
20.	Thane (M Corp.)	2,610	4,753
21.	Kalyan-Dombivli (M Corp.)	2,751	2,752
22.	Varanasi (M. Corp.)	1,711	3,262
23.	Nashik (M Corp.)	2,995	N.A.
24.	Meerut (M Corp.)	3,427	N.A.
25.	Faridabad (M Corp.)	1,446	N.A.
26.	Pimpri Chinchwad (M Corp.)	548	1,040
27.	Haora (M Corp.)	2,443	4,524

Statement II

*Progress made under Basic Services to Urban Poor (BSUP)
(Cumulative Status as on 30.11.2006)*

(Rs. in crore)

No. of project approved	Project cost approved	Project approved		Additional Central Assistance released by Ministry of Finance during	
		Central share	1st Instalment (25% of central share)	2005-06	2006-07
66	4047.63	2127.90	528.13	72.1442	180.5124

*Progress made under Integrated Housing & Slum Development Programme (IHSDP)
(Cumulative Status as on 30.11.2006)*

(Rs. in Crores)

No. of Project	Project Approved		
	Total approved cost	Approved central share	1st Instalment of Central share released
76	823.43	602.71	301.35

*[Translation]***Foreign Banks**

2565. SHRIMATI SANGEETA KUMARI SINGH DEO:
SHRI V.K. THUMMAR:
SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO:
SHRI M. APPADURAI:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the foreign banks functioning in the country at present;

(b) whether the Government earns income from foreign banks functioning in the country; and

(c) if so, the total amount earned by the Government from these banks during each of the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) The details of the 29 foreign banks functioning in the country as on 30th September, 2006 are given in the enclosed statement-I.

(b) and (c) The details of remittance of taxes to Government of India by Foreign Banks having presence in India for the years 2003-04 and 2004-05 are given in the enclosed statement-II. The details for the year 2005-06 are being collected and would be laid on the Table of the House, to the extent available.

Statement I

List of Foreign banks operating in India - Country-wise as on September 30, 2006

S.No.	Name of the Bank	Country of Incorporation	Number of branches in India
1	2	3	4
1.	ABN-AMRO Bank N.V.	Netherlands	24
2.	Abu Dhabi Commercial Bank Ltd.	UAE	2
3.	Arab Bangladesh Bank Ltd.	Bangladesh	1
4.	American Express Bank Ltd.	USA	7
5.	Antwerp Diamond Bank N.V.	Belgium	1
6.	Bank International Indonesia	Indonesia	1
7.	Bank of America	USA	5
8.	Bank of Bahrain & Kuwait BSC	Bahrain	2
9.	Bank of Nova Scotia	Canada	5
10.	Bank of Tokyo-Mitsubishi UFJ Ltd.	Japan	3
11.	BNP Paribas	France	8
12.	Bank of Ceylon	Sri Lanka	1
13.	Barclays Bank Plc.	UK	1
14.	Ceylon Bank	France	5
15.	Citi Bank N.A.	USA	39

1	2	3	4
16.	Shinhan Bank	South Korea	1
17.	Chinatrust Commercial Bank	Taiwan	1
18.	Deutsche Bank	Germany	8
19.	DBS Bank Ltd.	Singapore	2
20.	HSBC	Hongkong	45
21.	J.P. Morgan Chase Bank N.A.	USA	1
22.	Krung Thai Bank Public Co. Ltd.	Thailand	1
23.	Mizuho Corporate Bank Ltd.	Japan	2
24.	Mahraqbank PSC	UAE	2
25.	Oman International Bank SAOG	Sultanate of Oman	2
26.	Standard Chartered Bank (SCB)	UK	81
27.	Sonali Bank	Bangladesh	2
28.	Societe Generale	France	2
29.	State Bank of Mauritius	Mauritius	3
Total			258

Statement II*Details of Remittance of Taxes to Government of India by Foreign Banks having presence in India*

(Rs. in crore)

Name of the bank	2003-04	Remarks	2004-05	Remarks
1	2	3	4	5
1. ABN AMRO Bank N.V.	130.00		134.00	
2. Abu Dhabi Commercial Bank	36.80	\$#	2.52	##
3. American Express Bank Ltd.	18.83		13.03	**
4. Antwerp Diamond Bank N.V.	4.81		5.73	
5. Arab Bangladesh Bank Ltd.	2.17		1.89	
6. Bank Internasional Indonesia	0.00		0.00	
7. Bank of America N.A.	45.00		01.00	

	1	2	3	4	5
8.	Bank of Bahrain & Kuwait	2.82		0.84	
9.	Bank of Ceylon	2.49		2.83	Ser.Tax -0.07
10.	Barclays Bank PLC	51.03		38.50	
11.	BMP Paribas	8.29		14.38	
12.	Chinatrust Commercial Bank	1.30	Service Tax-Nil	0.30	Ser. Tax.- 0.05
13.	Cho Hung Bank	3.94		4.88	
14.	Citibank N.A.	433.75	Service Tax-39.31	429.00	Service Tax-70.38
15.	Ceylon Bank	33.00		12.00	
16.	Deutsche Bank AG	211.03		118.20	
17.	JP Moigan Chase Bank	12.45		39.70	
18.	Krung Thai Bank P.C.L.	0.07		0.07	
19.	Mashreq Bank psc	5.98		0.42	
20.	Mizuho Corporate Bank Ltd	1.71		4.15	
21.	Oman International Bank	0.00		0.00	
22.	Societe Generate	0.99		0.09	
23.	Sonali Bank	0.99		1.00	
24.	Standard Chartered Bank	410.20		336.97	
25.	State Bank of Mauritius Ltd.	2.20		3.20	
26.	The Bank of Nova Scotia	26.78		17.94	
27.	The Bank of Tokyo-Mitsubishi	8.75		5.92	
28.	DBS Bank Ltd.	4.90		7.56	
29.	The Hong. & Shanghai Bkg.	298.77	Ser. Tax. 17.02	367.47	Ser. Tax. 28.04
30.	UTI Bank Ltd.	0.001		0.80	

\$Tax deducted at source.

#Tax liability as per return Rs. 1.75 crore (remaining amount is refundable by the Income Tax Dept.)

##Tax liability-Nil.

*Also paid Rs. 49.88 crore for previous years.

**Also paid Rs. 39.22 crore for previous years.

*[English]***Power Generation**

2566. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA:
 SHRI M. SREENIVASULU REDDY:
 SHRI BRAJESH PATHAK:
 SHRI NAVEEN JINDAL:
 SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO:
 SHRI M. APPADURAI:
 SHRI RABINDRA KUMAR RANA:
 SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL:
 SHRI VIJOY KRISHNA:
 SHRI A.K. MOORTHY:
 SHRIMATI JAYABEN B. THAKKAR:
 SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO:
 SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA:
 SHRI EKNATH MAHADEO GAIKWAD:
 SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the target fixed for power generation during the Tenth Five Year Plan;

(b) whether the capacity addition in power generation fall much below the fixed target during the 10th Five Year Plan period as reported in the *Times of India* dated November 17, 2006;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the corrective measures taken by the Union Government to achieve the target?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE): (a) to (d) At the time of Mid-term Appraisal of the Tenth Plan, target of 36955 MW was set. Based on the current status of projects capacity addition of 30,641 MW is considered feasible.

The main reasons for short falls in capacity addition target in the 10th Plan have been delays in project preparatory work, clearances and investment decisions. Non-availability of gas has led to some projects not being pursued. Delays in supplies by a few months with reference to contractual commitment have also been reported.

A meeting of Power Ministers of State was held and it was agreed that immediate action be taken for the commencement of new projects in the State Sector as

well as through competitive bidding. Adequate preparatory work regarding provision of land, water, clearances, and fuel tie up should be undertaken. Timely placement of order as well as project execution should be carefully monitored to see that targets are achieved.

*[Translation]***Interest on Outstanding IT**

2567. SHRI HARIKEWAL PRASAD:
 SHRI TUKARAM GANPATRAO RENGE PATIL:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to charge interest on the outstanding amounts of Income Tax and Excise Duty; and

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the proposed rate of interest?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) and (b) So far as income-tax is concerned, Section 220 of the Income Tax Act, 1961 provides for charging of interest if any demand of income-tax is not paid within the stipulated time. The rate of interest chargeable in this regard is one per cent for every month or part of the month comprised in the period of delay.

As far as charging of interest on the outstanding amounts of Excise Duty is concerned, Section 11AB of Central Excise Act, 1944, provides for charging interest on outstanding amount of central excise duty at the rate fixed by the Government. Presently, the interest rate has been fixed at 13% per annum by the Government.

*[English]***Growth of LIC**

2568. SHRI L. RAJAGOPAL:
 SHRI M. APPADURAI:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the life insurance industry has registered high growth in the second quarter of the current fiscal as compared to the last year;

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

(c) the share of Lift Insurance Corporation (LIC) in the growth of policies;

(d) the profit earned by LIC during each of the last three years and the current year; and

(e) the new products launched/proposed to be launched by LIC during the current year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) has reported that it has shown a growth rate of 2.13% in policies and 139.20% in First Year Premium Income (FPI) in the current fiscal as compared to the last year. This increase is attributable to the specialized training being imparted to the field staff, launching of new products, quality service to the satisfaction of the customers, etc.

(c) The market share of policies of LIC as reported by it, as on 30.09.2006, was 80.09%.

(d) The surplus disclosed by LIC as a result of Actuarial valuation during the last three years is as under:

Year	Surplus (Rs. in crore)
2003-04	10935.08
2004-05	13904.21
2005-06	12404.82

(e) The new products launched/proposed by LIC during the current year are as under -

Sl.No.	Launched	Proposed
(i)	Market Plus	Two Children Plans
(ii)	New Bima Gold	Unit Linked Assurance Plan
(iii)	Jeevan Madhur	

Compensation Policy

2569. SHRI DALPAT SINGH PARSTE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Banks Association has formed any Committee on the Compensation Policy to customers on account of poor services rendered by Banks;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there is any proposal to make changes in the cheque collection policy; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Indian Banks' Association has set up a Working Group to draft Model Policy documents covering certain areas related to banker customer relationship, including compensation policy.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has, vide its guidelines dated 1st November, 2004, advised all scheduled commercial banks to formulate a Board approved comprehensive and transparent policy covering issues relating to (i) immediate credit of local/outstation cheques, (ii) time frame for collection of local/outstation cheques and (iii) interest payment for delayed collection. While formulating their policies, the banks have been advised to take 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.

Setting up of Matrimonial Disputes Tribunals

2570. SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to set up a separate Matrimonial Disputes Tribunals; and

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

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ): (a) and (b) As per the Family Court Act, 1984 the State Government in consultation with High Court may set up Family Courts with a view to promote conciliation and to secure speedy settlement of disputes relating to marriage and family affairs for which Central assistance on 50-50 basis is provided by the Department of Justice. Presently, the Government has no proposal for setting up of separate Matrimonial Disputes Tribunals.

Institute of Science Education and Research

2571. SHRIMATI ARCHANA NAYAK: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any demand for setting up an Institute of Science Education & Research in Kerala;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Mass Transport Projects in Mumbai

2572. SHRI SURESH PRABHAKAR PRABHU: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the steps being taken by the Government of India to encourage environmentally friendly and affordable mass transport project in Mumbai; and

(b) the proposed investment and time frame for these projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN): (a) Urban Transport being a State subject, it is for the State Governments to formulate appropriate proposals for public transport systems in their cities. Under the National Urban Transport Policy (NUTP), the Government of India encourages all large cities to develop city-specific plans for mass transit systems, using such technologies as are appropriate, keeping in view the likely demand and other techno-economic factors. The government also offers financial support in the form of equity or viability gap funding, subject to fulfilment of specified conditions. The Government of Maharashtra has prepared a master plan for introduction of Metro Rail System in 9 corridors covering 146.5 Km. to be implemented in 3 Phases. 40% of cost of study was borne by Government of India.

(b) The quantum of investment and the timeframe differs from project to project. The details in respect of first two lines of first phase are as under:

	Estimated investment (Rs. in Cr.)	Proposed Time frame
Versova-Andheri-Ghatkopar	2356	4 yrs.
Colaba-Mahim-Charcop	8825	6 yrs.

Supply of Power

2573. SHRI E.G. SUGAVANAM: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the actual requirement and supply of power to Tamil Nadu from the Central Power Sector Public Undertakings;

(b) the details of undertakings from which power is supplied to Tamil Nadu;

(c) whether Tamil Nadu has recently requested for additional quota of power to meet the increasing demand in the State; and

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

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE): (a) The actual requirement of power of Tamil Nadu during the current year (April -October, 2006) was 36,457 million unit (MU), out of which 11,752 MU was supplied from Central Public Sector Undertakings (CPSUs).

(b) Power is supplied to Tamil Nadu from three CPSUs, namely NTPC Limited, Nuclear Power Corporation Limited and Neyveli Lignite Corporation Limited.

(c) and (d) No request has recently been received from Government of Tamil Nadu for additional allocation to meet the increasing demand in the State. However, Tamil Nadu Electricity Board has requested for continuance of special allocation of 180 MW of power from NTPC stations in the Eastern Region beyond 31st March, 2007 for continued sharing of 50% of the capacity of Kayamkulam CCGT by them.

Measures to Control Borrowings

2574. SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to work out certain measures to control borrowings to promote growth; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) and (b) The Central Government has been following a comprehensive policy, as enjoined by the Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management Act, 2003 and rules made thereunder, to achieve fiscal consolidation and thus moderation in growth of Central Government borrowings. The Act provides, *inter alia*, a legal and institutional framework to eliminate revenue deficit, bring down fiscal deficit and contain the growth of public debt in proportion to GDP within a time frame by March 31, 2009.

[Translation]

Electoral Expenses

2575. SHRIMATI SANGEETA KUMARI SINGH DEO:
SHRI M. ANJAN KUMAR YADAV:

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

(a) whether any expenditure ceiling has been prescribed for elections to Lok Sabha and State Assemblies;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the average expenses of Lok Sabha and Assembly elections during the last General Elections;

(d) whether electoral expenses are on the rise in India; and

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

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ): (a) and (b) The existing maximum limit of election expenses in a Parliamentary/Assembly Constituency in respect of all the States and Union territories as prescribed under the Conduct of Elections Rules, 1961 is given in the enclosed statement.

(c) The expenditure incurred by the Central Government on conduct of elections for the 14th Lok Sabha in the year 2004, as per the provisional estimate is approximately Rs. 1093,06, 81,319/-. Further, the Government is not aware of the expenses on Assembly Elections in the States.

(d) and (e) The cost escalation on the election expenditure over the years has been due to general price rise, significant increase in the number of contestants and voters, which has consequently resulted in increased expenditure on polling booths and other election materials.

Statement

Sl.No.	Name of State or Union territory	Maximum limit of election expenses in any one	
		Parliamentary constituency	Assembly constituency
1	2	3	4
I. STATES			
1.	Andhra Pradesh	25,00,000	10,00,000
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	17,00,000	6,00,000
3.	Assam	25,00,000	10,00,000
4.	Bihar	25,00,000	10,00,000
5.	Goa	14,00,000	5,00,000

1	2	3	4
6.	Gujarat	25,00,000	10,00,000
7.	Haryana	25,00,000	10,00,000
8.	Himachal Pradesh	25,00,000	7,00,000
9.	Jammu and Kashmir	25,00,000	
10.	Karnataka	25,00,000	10,00,000
11.	Kerala	25,00,000	10,00,000
12.	Madhya Pradesh	25,00,000	10,00,000
13.	Maharashtra	25,00,000	10,00,000
14.	Manipur	22,00,000	5,00,000
15.	Meghalaya	22,00,000	5,00,000
16.	Mizoram	20,00,000	5,00,000
17.	Nagaland	25,00,000	5,00,000
18.	Orissa	25,00,000	10,00,000
19.	Punjab	25,00,000	10,00,000
20.	Rajasthan	25,00,000	10,00,000
21.	Sikkim	17,00,000	5,00,000
22.	Tamil Nadu	25,00,000	10,00,000
23.	Tripura	25,00,000	5,00,000
24.	Uttar Pradesh	25,00,000	10,00,000
25.	West Bengal	25,00,000	10,00,000
26.	Chhattisgarh	25,00,000	10,00,000
27.	Uttaranchal	25,00,000	7,00,000
28.	Jharkhand	25,00,000	10,00,000

II. UNION TERRITORIES

1.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	17,00,000	
2.	Chandigarh	14,00,000	
3.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	10,00,000	
4.	Daman and Diu	10,00,000	
5.	Delhi	25,00,000	9,00,000
6.	Lakshadweep	10,00,000	
7.	Pondicherry	20,00,000	5,00,000

1. Subs. By Notifn.No.S.O.1232 (E), dated the 24th October, 2003.

*[English]***FDI in Insurance Sector**

2576. SHRI L. RAJAGOPAL:
SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has accorded approval to foreign investment in insurance sector;

(b) if so, whether the Government proposes to increase the scope of investment;

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

(d) whether any assessment has been made by the Government regarding adverse effects on domestic insurance sector due to foreign investment in insurance sector, and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) Section 2 (7 A) (b) of the Insurance Act, 1938 provides for foreign joint venture partner in an Indian insurance company to hold upto 26% equity stake. The opening up of insurance sector has resulted in entry of 15 and 9 players in the life and non-life segment respectively.

(b) and (c) A proposal to increase the FDI limit from 26% to 49% is under consideration of the Government.

(d) and (e) The entry of new insurance companies with joint venture partners has led to the growth of the insurance sector. The benefits of the opening of insurance sector *inter alia* include increased insurance penetration, growth in premium underwritten, product innovation and employment generation opportunities.

*[Translation]***Facilities in NCR**

2577. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the areas in the States adjoining Delhi falling under the National Capital Region (NCR); and

(b) the efforts made by the Union Government to provide facilities at par with Delhi in these areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN): (a) The National Capital Region Planning Board (NCRPB) has informed that the National Capital Region comprises the following:—

- > National Capital Territory of Delhi (1,483 sq.kms.)
- > Haryana Sub-region: Eight districts namely Faridabad, Gurgaon, Rohtak, Sonapat, Rewari, Jhajjar, Mewat and Panipat (13,413 sq.kms.)
- > Rajasthan Sub-region: Alwar District (7,829 sq.kms.)
- > Uttar Pradesh Sub-region: Five districts namely Meerut, Ghaziabad, Gautam Buddha Nagar, Bulandshahr and Baghpat (10,853 sq.kms.)

(b) The NCRPB prepares the Regional Plan for development of the National Capital Region. The Regional Plan-2021 was notified on 17.9.2005. The Board also provides loan assistance to the constituent States/its implementing agencies for implementation of the plans including infrastructure projects in the National Capital Region. Since 1985, the NCR Planning Board has disbursed loans amounting to Rs. 2282.58 crore for 167 infrastructure projects in the region. The projects pertain to land development, water supply, power, transport, sewerage and drainage and other infrastructure development projects.

*[English]***Seizure of Heroin**

2578. SHRI SARVEY SATYANARAYANA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence has seized heroin worth crores of rupees during the recent time;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether foreign nationals are involved in these activities;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps being taken by the Union Government to check such activities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) and (b)

Yes, Sir. Details of Heroin seized during the recent time are as follows:—

Sl.No.	Year	No. of cases	Quantity seized (in Kgs)	Value Rs. in crores (International price)
1.	2005-06	16	130.722	130
2.	2006-07 (upto Oct., 2006)	11	138.104	138

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. Details are as follows -

Sl.No.	Year	No. of foreign nationals involved	Nationality
1.	2005-06	10	All Nigerians
2.	2006-07 (upto Oct., 2006)	05	Filipino-1 South African-1 Zambian-2 Indonesian-1

(e) All field formations including Directorate of Revenue Intelligence have been sensitized to gather workable intelligence regarding drug trafficking.

Duties from Oil Majors

2579. SHRI SURENDRA PRAKASH GOYAL:
DR. RAJESH MISHRA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited has paid sales tax of Rs. 8812 crore in 2005-06 as compared to Rs. 5318 crore paid in 2001-02, an increase of Rs. 3494 crore;

(b) if so, the reasons for payment of incremental sales tax to State Governments paid by HPCL and not reducing the tax burden;

(c) the total increase in sales tax paid by each public sector oil companies during the accounting year 2001-2002 and 2005-2006;

(d) the amount of oil subsidy given to these companies in 2005-2006;

(e) whether the Government would consider withdrawing subsidy to oil companies as the same amount is used to pay taxes to State Governments; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

Poverty Eradication

2580. SHRI M. APPADURAI: Will the Minister of HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of deaths reported/registered due to poverty for the last two years in the country, State-wise; and

(b) the steps taken by the Government to eradicate poverty?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION (KUMARI SELJA): (a) No death has been reported in urban areas due to poverty.

(b) In order to ameliorate the living conditions of the urban poor in the country, Ministry of Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation is implementing an employment oriented urban poverty alleviation programme named Swarna Jayanti Shahari Rozgar Yojana (SJSRY) since 1.12.1997. Further, to address the housing and basic services needs of the urban poor living in slums and poor localities, the Sub-Mission of basic Services for the Urban Poor (BSUP) under Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM) has been launched in selected 63 Mission Cities since December 2005. For the towns/cities other than the Mission Cities, the Integrated Housing & Slum Development Programme (IHSDP) is also being implemented since December 2005, to provide housing and basic services to the urban poor.

[Translation]

Ceiling on Loan

2581. SHRI SRICHAND KRIPLANI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal with respect to ceiling of total loan under article 293(3) instead of the condition of getting the Union Government's concurrence for taking every loan;

(b) the limit of total loan for each of the States for the year 2006-2007;

(c) whether the Government propose to abolish the source based ceiling of loan;

(d) whether the Government propose to give permission to the States to seek loans from banks for their State projects;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) Yes, Sir. Consequent to the recommendation of Twelfth Finance Commission, Govt fixes net borrowing ceilings for each State under Article 293(3) of the Constitution of India.

(b) Borrowing ceiling of each State for the year 2006-07 is given in the enclosed statement.

(c) and (d) No, Sir.

(e) and (f) Does not arise.

Statement

Borrowing ceiling of the States for the year 2006-07

(Rs in crore)

S.No.	States	Borrowing ceiling
1.	Andhra Pradesh	9230
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	355
3.	Assam	2180
4.	Bihar	1957
5.	Chhattisgarh	1492
6.	Goa	870
7.	Gujarat	9654
8.	Haryana	1312
9.	Himachal Pradesh	1634
10.	Jammu & Kashmir	1510
11.	Jharkhand	3405
12.	Karnataka	4946
13.	Kerala	4672
14.	Madhya Pradesh	6305
15.	Maharashtra	20986
16.	Manipur	396
17.	Meghalaya	341
18.	Mizoram	249
19.	Nagaland	212
20.	Orissa	1677
21.	Punjab	4320
22.	Rajasthan	6759
23.	Sikkim	195
24.	Tamil Nadu	6968
25.	Tripura	544
26.	Uttar Pradesh	14710
27.	Uttaranchal	1904
28.	West Bengal	11546

*[English]***Strengthening of Drug Law Enforcement Agencies**

2582. SHRI K. FRANCIS GEORGE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has evaluated performance of the Narcotics Control Bureau in terms of seizure of narcotic drugs and dismantling of clandestine heroin/morphine manufacturing laboratories for the last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken/being taken to strengthen the existing drug law enforcement agencies to combat with increasing drug trafficking in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The performance of Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) in terms of seizures of narcotic drugs and dismantling of clandestine heroin/morphine manufacturing laboratories/facilities is continuously evaluated by the Government.

Seizures affected by NCB during the last three years (2006 figures up to October 2006) are as under:

(all figures in kg)

Sl.No.	Drug	2004	2005	2006 (upto Oct.)
1.	Opium	20	0	920
2.	Heroin	468	260	235
3.	Ganja	10520	5572	14900
4.	Hashish	394	430	880
5.	Cocaine	3	1	200

The number of clandestine heroin/morphine manufacturing laboratories/facilities detected/destroyed by various drug law enforcement agencies in the country are as follows:

Drug	2004	2005	2006
Heroin	3	1	0
Morphine	0	1	1

(c) To strengthen the existing drug law enforcement agencies, the following steps have been taken by the Government:

- (i) Financial assistance provided annually to eligible States for strengthening their narcotics units.
- (ii) Creation of Coastal Police Stations in all coastal States to prevent various crimes including narcotics.
- (iii) Declaration of certain agencies as Lead Intelligence Agencies (LIA) to coordinate and exchange intelligence among the various field agencies.

Solvency Margin

2583. SHRIMATI MANORAMA MADHAVARAJ: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the extent to which the Life Insurance Corporation (LIC) of India has been able to meet the Solvency Margin bench-mark set by the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority (IRDA);

(b) whether the Government proposes to amend the Life Insurance Corporation Act to empower it to build its own reserves to meet Solvency Margin and other liabilities; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) has reported that as at 31st March, 2006, it has provided solvency margin of 130% against 150% as mandated by the Insurance Regulatory & Development Authority (IRDA).

(b) and (c) LIC has proposed an amendment to the LIC Act, 1956 to enable it to build up reserves.

*[Translation]***E-Filing for Companies**

2584. SHRI RASHEED MASOOD: Will the Minister of COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has made e-filing mandatory for all companies; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA): (a) Yes Sir,

(b) Consequent to the Companies (Amendment) Act, 2006 and in pursuance of powers conferred under Section 610B of the Companies Act, 1956, Companies (Electronic Filing and Authentication of Documents) Rules, 2006, have been notified by the Central Government mandating e-filing of statutory documents by all companies with effect from 16th September, 2006.

[English]

Private Cooperative Society

2585. SHRI RANEN BARMAN:
SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN:

Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has any plan to bring reforms in the functioning of cooperative societies and encourage private co-operative societies or other agencies to build houses on small plots in order to meet the fast growing needs of the people; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN): (a) and (b) The Delhi Development Authority (DDA) has informed that the cooperative societies function under the provisions of the Delhi Cooperative Society Act, 2003 and rules framed thereunder. The minimum size of the plot on which the construction of flats can be undertaken by Cooperative Group Housing Societies (CGHS) is 3000 sq.m. There is no proposal to reduce the plot size and allow building of flats on small plots by private cooperative societies or any other agency.

The Registrar of Cooperative Societies (RCS), Government of NCT of Delhi (GNCTD) has reported that it has taken the following steps to bring reforms in the functioning of the CGHS—

(i) Declaration of vacancies in the societies through advertisement in leading newspapers and inviting objections for proposals regarding clearance of membership has been made compulsory.

(ii) The process of transfer of membership and issuance of no objection certificates by societies has been rationalised.

(iii) Indicating the details of Permanent Account Number, Bank Account, attestation of the photograph and signature of the member by a gazetted officer has been made mandatory for all the members of the group housing societies to ensure genuineness of membership.

(iv) Rule 24 (2) of Delhi Cooperative Society Rules 1973 has been amended to ensure enrolment of new members in a transparent and fair manner.

(v) Revival of defunct Cooperative Group Housing Societies has been banned.

[Translation]

Viability Gap Funding

2586. SHRI SANJAY DHOTRE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether viability gap funding is being provided to projects of public private partnership in infrastructure; and

(b) if so, the details thereof, project-wise and State-wise, since inception?

The MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) and (b) Yes Sir, 17 proposals have been granted "in principle approval" so far. All these 17 proposals are from Road Sector, out of which 3 projects are from Gujarat, 2 projects are from Maharashtra, 5 projects are from Madhya Pradesh and 7 projects are from Rajasthan.

Loans to National Capital Region

2587. SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether assistance/loans has been provided to the selected districts of National Capital Region; and

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the work-wise detail of the funds provided therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN): (a) and (b) The National Capital Region Planning Board has informed that it has provided loans for implementation of infrastructure projects in 13 districts of the National Capital Region and the 5 Counter Magnet Areas of the National

Capital Region. As on 30th November, 2006 the Board has disbursed loans amounting to Rs. 2313.11 crore for 167 infrastructure projects in the National Capital Region. The details of the projects funded by the Board are given in the enclosed statement.

Statement

Details of Projects funded by NCR Planning Board in the National Capital Region

(Rupees in crore)

Sector	No. of Projects	Cost of Project	Loan Sanctioned	Loan Released
(I) PROJECTS ALREADY COMPLETED				
Power	1	16	12	12
Land Development	79	2969.9433	949	871
Water Supply	7	142.01	78.5359	34.2859
Transport	13	135.417	92.4075	87.1625
Sewerage/Sanitation/Solid Waste Management	6	18.23	13.68	8.75
Others	1	2.45	1.83	1.83
TOTAL	107	3284.050	1148.046	1015.218
(II) ONGOING PROJECTS				
Power	7	487.8376	365.8515	213.0526
Land Development	15	1328.4796	563.064	477.4294
Water Supply	16	730.3981	547.8235	165.4335
Transport	4	160.7838	115.955	99.735
Sewerage/Sanitation/Solid Waste Management	13	326.6284	259.0507	145.687
Others	5	552.7076	334.1114	196.5514
TOTAL	60	3586.835	2185.856	1297.889
GRAND TOTAL (I) + (II)	167	6870.885	3333.902	2313.107 Say 2313.11

*[English]***Duty Evasion by Corporates**

2588. SHRI P.S. GADHAVI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Board of Excise and Customs has issued show cause notices to Corporates for Custom, Excise & Service tax evasion during the last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the revenue involved in these cases;

(d) whether any investigations have been carried out by the Government;

(e) if so, the findings thereof; and

(f) the action taken thereon?

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

Private Builders

2589. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether DDA has handed over large amount of land reserved for group housing societies to private builders;

(b) if so, the details for the last five years and thereafter alongwith the reasons therefor;

(c) the manner in which the DDA proposes to make over the shortage of houses and shops in Delhi giving the number of shortage of houses and shops at present; and

(d) the time by which the shortages are likely to be met?

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

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

(c) and (d) The Delhi Development Authority (DDA) has reported that the Draft Master Plan for Delhi (MPD)-2021, has estimated additional requirement of housing stock as 24 lakh dwelling units for the projected population up to the year 2021. This includes 4 lakh dwelling units considered as the backlog, as per the census of 2001, comprising one lakh net housing shortage and the remaining for replacement of the dilapidated and kucha structures. To meet the total requirement of housing stock, the draft MPD 2021 envisages upgradation/densification of the existing housing stock and creation of additional housing in the NCT of Delhi, as also generation of additional housing stock in NCR Region. Further, to accommodate the required commercial space in an integrated manner, the draft MPD 2021 envisages five-tier system of commercial activities viz. Convenience Shopping Centres, Local Shopping Centres, Community Centres, District Centres and Metropolitan City Centres, besides provision for retail shopping of desired level in all work centres and transportation nodes. In addition, components of commercial use are also provided under mixed use, non-hierarchical commercial centre, informal sector and in the selected areas along the MRTS corridor.

*[Translation]***Unauthorised Construction in Government Quarters**

2590. CH. MUNAWAR HASSAN: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether cases of unauthorised constructions and sub-letting by the allottees in the Government colonies have come to the notice of the Government;

(b) if so, the number thereof reported during the last one year and current year; and

(c) the action taken against the erring officials?

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

Transfer of DDA to Delhi Government

2591. SHRI MOHD. TAHIR:
PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR:

Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government is considering to transfer the Delhi Development Authority (DDA) to the control of Delhi Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the decision is likely to be taken in the matter?

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

(b) and (c) Does not arise in view of reply to (a) above.

[English]

Regional Offices of New and Renewable Energy

2592. SHRI K.C. PALLANI SHAMY: Will the Minister of NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) the names of places where the Regional Offices of Ministry of New and Renewable Energy are located State-wise and its main functions thereof;

(b) whether there is any proposal to wind up some of the Regional Offices of Ministry of New and Renewable Energy;

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

(d) the steps taken to promote the rural based renewable energy schemes/programmes in the country particularly in Tamil Nadu?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY (SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR): (a) to (c) The Regional Offices of the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy are located at the following places:

- (1) Chandigarh
- (2) Ahmedabad
- (3) Lucknow
- (4) Guwahati
- (5) Bhopal
- (6) Hyderabad

(7) Bhubaneswar

(8) Chennai and

(9) Patna.

The main functions of the Regional Offices are to maintain liaison with the State Government/Departments and implementing agencies apart from facilitating monitoring activity. However, with the setting up of State Nodal Agencies in most States, the utility of Regional Offices has declined. Rationalisation of the Ministry's organizational structure in keeping with its needs is an ongoing process.

(d) Several promotional schemes/programmes are there for deployment of renewable energy systems/devices in rural areas, including those in Tamil Nadu which include family and community type biogas plants, biomass gasification systems and solar cookers/dryers programmes and the Remote Village Electrification programme for villages not likely to receive grid-connectivity under the Rajiv Gandhi Grameen Vidyutikaran Yojana. To promote renewable energy schemes/programmes in rural areas, including those in Tamil Nadu, fiscal and financial incentives are being provided that include capital/interest subsidy, accelerated depreciation, concessional duties and relief from taxes to attract private investment. Publicity and awareness on the use of renewable energy systems/devices are created through print, postal and electronic media and special events like the Rajiv Gandhi Akshay Urja Diwas which are being organised. In addition, District-level Advisory Committees have been constituted in States to facilitate effective coordination of renewable energy schemes/programmes.

[Translation]

Complaint Redressal System

2593. SHRI RAGHUVVEER SINGH KOSHAL: Will the Minister of COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that the Delhi based headquarters of Registrar of Company and Company Affairs Department have received large number of complaints from share-holders and citizens that are yet to be redressed;

(b) if so, the details of the complaints pending, received and redressed during the last year and the current year;

(c) the reasons for slow redressal of complaints at New Delhi based Headquarters;

(d) whether the Government proposes to take any steps to simplify complaint redressal system for time-bound disposal of complaints; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA): (a) The complaints by investors/ share holders in companies received at the Investor Protection Cell in the Ministry of Company Affairs and nominated nodal officers in each of the field offices of Regional Directors and Registrar of Companies (ROC) are taken up with the company in question for redressal and initiating legal action wherever warranted.

(b) During the year 2005-2006, 2440 complaints were received at ROC Delhi and Head Quarters of Ministry of Company Affairs, and all these complaints were processed and forwarded to the concerned companies for their speedy redressal and followed up by way of reminders wherever required. Of these 150 complaints were satisfactorily redressed by the companies. In the current year, of the 1640 complaints received, 1634 were immediately forwarded to the concerned companies for redressal. The companies have redressed 262 complaints. Six complaints are under process.

(c) to (e) The Government has taken following steps in this regard—

(i) A system has been introduced to facilitate investors and depositors to lodge their complaints online, through the use of internet, with the Investor Protection Cell in the Ministry of Company Affairs, without having to send their grievances in writing through post.

(ii) The following websites have been sponsored and aided by the Ministry of Company Affairs under the Investor Education and Protection Fund (IEPF) (a) www.watchoutinvestors.com to inform investors about companies that have been indicted by various regulatory bodies for economic offences/defaults etc. and (b) www.investorhelpline.in to provide a mechanism for creating investor awareness and to assist investors in redressal of their grievances free of charge.

[English]

Setting up of Small Hydro Power Plants

2594. SHRI VIJOY KRISHNA:
SHRI RASHEED MASOOD:
SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH:

Will the Minister of NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether power from Small Hydro Power Projects in the country is cost effective and environment friendly;

(b) if so, whether the Government has invited private companies for setting up the small Hydro Power Projects; and

(c) if so, the details of private companies which have been allowed to set up such projects in the country, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY (SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR): (a) Small hydro-power (SHP) is one among the energies available from renewable resources having its own advantages and risk factors, which are location and site specific.

(b) and (c) Sixteen States have announced policies for attracting private investment in SHP projects. SHP sites are allotted by State Governments to private companies based on their technical capabilities and financial status, in keeping with extant policies, mainly through competitive bidding.

Profession from Residential Properties

2595. SHRI REWATI RAMAN SINGH: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has allowed Lawyers, Doctors, Architects and Chartered Accountants to operate their profession from residential properties in Delhi; if so, the details in this regard;

(b) whether the Government is considering to add more profession in this list; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN): (a) In accordance with the Notification dated 7.9.06 regarding mixed use regulation, professional activities are permitted in residential premises in plotted development and group housing, subject to following conditions—

- (i) Professional activity shall be permitted if carried out by the resident him/herself.
- (ii) Professional activities shall mean those activities involving services based on professional skills namely Doctor, Lawyer, Architect and Chartered Accountant.
- (iii) Professional activity shall be permitted on any floor subject to maximum of 50% of the permissible or sanctioned FAR, whichever is less, of each dwelling unit.
- (iv) In the case of plotted development with single dwelling unit, professional activity shall be permissible on any one floor only, but restricted to less than 50% of the permissible or sanctioned FAR, whichever is less on that plot.

(b) and (c) Government has recently received the report of the Committee set up on 31.10.06 to look into the representations received from various quarters proposing changes in the mixed use regulations in respect of professional activities.

[Translation]

Special Package for Farmers

2596. SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether banks are not waiving off interest on loan to farmers despite announcement of Special Package by the Government;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor and the action taken by the Government thereon;
- (c) whether the Cooperative Banks of Maharashtra are opposing the Government's scheme of providing loan at concessional rate of interest to farmers;
- (d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government in this regard and for implementation of the Special Package?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL) : (a) and (b) As per Special Package of Relief Measures in respect of Agricultural credit for the 31 identified debt stressed districts in four States of the country, the entire interest on overdue loans as on 01.07.2006 will be waived by the banks and the farmers will have no past interest burden as on that date. NABARD has already issued guidelines to Cooperative banks and Regional Rural Banks functioning in the affected districts for implementing this scheme. Banks have already waived interest to the extent of Rs. 604.79 crore in the six debt stressed districts of Vidarbha region of Maharashtra. In respect of the remaining 25 districts in 3 States of Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Kerala, the process for the implementation of the package has already been initiated.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) As per Relief Package announced for Vidarbha region, Government of India would share 50% burden of interest waiver. Government has already released Rs.125 crores towards its share of interest waiver for disbursement to Cooperative Banks of this region. Further, to enable Cooperative Banks to lend at a rate of interest of 7% p. a., Government of India has also decided to provide refinance to all Cooperative Banks at concessional rates of interest from NABARD and an interest subvention of 2% to them on the amount disbursed from their own resources.

Delay in Granting Loans under PMRY

2597. SHRI RAGHUVVEER SINGH KOSHAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is aware that the banks delay a lot in granting loans to the unemployed youths selected under the Pradhan Mantri Rojgar Yojana or they are returned bare hands after they have waited long for the same;
- (b) whether there is a time bound provision for granting loan under the scheme;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the number of cases cleared within fixed time schedule during each of the last three years, State-wise and bank-wise;

(e) whether the Government proposes to make a provision of quarterly review of the accountability of district industry centres and banks regarding full implementation of the said scheme; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) Applications for loans under the Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana (PMRY), are processed after due scrutiny by the Task Force which involves the District Industries Centre (DIC), officials from related Government Departments and Banks. Thereafter, applications based on an interview of candidates are sponsored by the Task Force to the Bank Branches by the DIG. The bank branches in turn undertake detailed scrutiny of the applications. Eligible applicants, considering the targets of the individual banks, are sanctioned loans by the banks. Processing of cases, therefore, may take some time. Applicants who do not

fulfil the eligibility criteria of the PMRY guidelines are not sanctioned loan.

(b) and (c) Banks have been instructed by RBI to dispose of applications for loans up to Rs. 25,000/- within 2 weeks, and up to Rs. 2 lakh (limit under the scheme), within 4 weeks provided the loan applications are complete in all respects and accompanied by a 'check list'. To avoid unnecessary delay and harassment of the applicants in trying to obtain 'No Dues Certificate', from other banks in the area, it has now been decided that in the event of non-receipt of the same from the referred bank within a period of 15 days, it may not be insisted upon and will be deemed as if the applicant is not having any dues with the concerned bank.

(d) State-wise and Bank-wise details of total number of Applications disbursed under PMRY during the years 2003-04, 2004-05 and 2005-06 are given in the enclosed statement I and II respectively.

(e) and (f) At the District level, the District PMRY Committee under the Chairmanship of District Collector/ Dy. Commissioner of the District reviews and monitors the Scheme.

Statement I

State-wise number of Applications disbursed by Scheduled Commercial Banks under PMRY during 2003-04, 2004-05 and 2005-06

Sl.No.	Name of State/ Union Territories	Number of Applications Disbursed		
		2003-04	2004-05	2005-06
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Haryana	NA	7755	9372
2.	Himachal Pradesh	7277	2853	2919
3.	Jammu & Kashmir	2862	639	286
4.	Punjab	656	8372	7849
5.	Rajasthan	7558	12919	13635
6.	Chandigarh	12769	206	84
7.	Delhi	68	819	689
8.	Assam	NA	8256	5119

1	2	3	4	5
9.	Manipur	5844	387	355
10.	Meghalaya	520	568	551
11.	Nagaland	403	109	1936
12.	Tripura	53	1747	2016
13.	Arunachal Pradesh	2043	440	423
14.	Mizoram	668	142	414
15.	Bihar	NA	10396	11541
16.	Jharkhand	9860	4804	4526
17.	Orissa	4774	11339	11753
18.	West Bengal	8779	3796	3995
19.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	2822	142	103
20.	Sikkim	182	32	28
21.	Chhattisgarh	NA	3276	3158
22.	Madhya Pradesh	3275	20642	19591
23.	Uttar Pradesh	19748	42534	39030
24.	Uttaranchal	5361	6637	7366
25.	Gujarat	NA	6408	6297
26.	Maharashtra	6755	21819	23371
27.	Daman and Diu	17230	4	14
28.	Goa	3	45	43
29.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	116	22	24
30.	Andhra Pradesh	NA	22542	17820
31.	Karnataka	17729	13931	15165
32.	Kerala	11929	16553	21404
33.	Tamil Nadu	14024	16902	19374
34.	Lakshadweep	12738	4	5
35.	Pondicherry	17	329	407
	Not Specified	294	897	1397
	ALL INDIA	176357	248264	252040

Note: NA = Not available.

Statement II*Bank-wise Number of Applications disbursed under PMRY During 2003-04, 2004-05 and 2005-06*

Sl.No.	Name of Banks	Number of Applications disbursed		
		2003-04	2004-05	2005-06
1	2	3	4	5
Public Sector Banks				
1.	State Bank of India	55680	58105	53236
2.	State Bank of Bikaner & Jaipur	4402	4921	5565
3.	State Bank of Hyderabad	5122	6931	6018
4.	State Bank of Indore	3785	1923	2449
5.	State Bank of Mysore	2433	1595	711
6.	State Bank of Patiala	3129	3235	3686
7.	State Bank of Saurashtra	742	612	619
8.	State Bank of Travancore	3875	3524	4934
9.	Allahabad Bank	9034	9475	10106
10.	Andhra Bank	3546	7256	4747
11.	Bank of Baroda	14731	15132	14828
12.	Bank of India	11321	12990	13458
13.	Bank of Maharashtra	5194	6100	6975
14.	Canara Bank	8251	14664	15441
15.	Central Bank of India	10089	16452	12404
16.	Corporation Bank	1731	2138	2132
17.	Dena Bank	2423	3432	3299
18.	Indian Bank	4817	5743	6799
19.	Indian Overseas Bank	NA	4247	6284
20.	Oriental Bank of Commerce	4830	5220	5783
21.	Punjab National Bank	19632	21067	22202
22.	Punjab & Sind Bank	2095	2536	2164
23.	Syndicate Bank	8101	8387	8417

1	2	3	4	5
24.	Union Bank of India	10380	10774	11490
25.	United Bank of India	2582	4434	5641
26.	UCO Bank	7254	3078	3533
27.	Vijaya Bank	3090	3475	3837
Total		208229	237446	236758
Private Sector Banks				
1.	ICICI Bank Ltd.	539	250	1376
2.	Bank of Rajasthan Ltd.	699	421	758
3.	Bharat Overseas Bank Ltd.	96	126	160
4.	Catholic Syrian Bank Ltd.	863	966	1290
5.	Dhanlakshmi Bank Ltd.	4981	660	611
6.	Federal Bank Ltd.	1467	1315	2375
7.	J & K Bank Ltd.	808	841	786
8.	Karnataka Bank Ltd.	697	332	786
9.	Karur Vysya Bank	674	726	880
10.	Laxmi Vilas Bank Ltd.	530	450	589
11.	Ratnakar Bank Ltd.	180	217	181
12.	Sangli Bank Ltd.	89	56	29
13.	South Indian Bank Ltd.	1033	1339	1602
14.	Tamil Nadu Mer.Bank Ltd.	492	542	666
15.	United Western Bank Ltd.	604	514	767
16.	Vysya Bank Ltd.	956	1112	1187
17.	Nainital Bank Ltd.	378	368	469
18.	City Union Bank Ltd.	392	426	512
19.	Lord Krishna Bank Ltd.	220	157	258
Total of Pvt. Sector Bks		11215	10818	15282
Total of All Banks		219444	248264	252040

Note: NA=Not available

*[English]***Disinvestment of PSUs****Voting Right**

2598. SHRI EKNATH MAHADEO GAIKWAD:
SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE:

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

(a) whether Government proposes to make voting right mandatory;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the time by which it is likely to be made mandatory; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ): (a) to (c) There is no proposal under consideration with the Government to make voting right mandatory. The issue has been considered by the Committee on Electoral Reforms, 1990 (Dinesh Goswami Committee) and also in the meeting of all political parties held in 1998. The measure was, however, not accepted because of the practical difficulties involved in its implementation.

2599. SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the extent of disinvestment affected in Public Sector Undertakings as contemplated by the end of the 10th Plan;

(b) the amount credited to the National Investment Fund so far and that targeted for the 10th & 11th Five Year Plans; and

(c) the strategy contemplated in this regard for the 11th Five Year Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) The details of disinvestments from 2002-03 till date are given in the statement enclosed.

(b) and (c) There has been no accrual so far to the National Investment Fund (NIF), which was constituted on 23rd November, 2005. No targets have been fixed for accruals to NIF for the 10th and 11th Five Year Plans.

Statement*Receipts From Strategic Sale from 2002-03 till Date*

Sl. No.	Name of company	Type of Disinvestment	Per-centage of Company's equity sold out of GOI holding	Amount realised (Rs. crore)
1	2	3	4	5
2002-03				
1.	Hindustan Zinc Limited	Strategic sale	26%	445.00
2.	Indian Petrochemicals Corporation Limited	Strategic sale	26%	1,490.84
3.	India Tourism Development Corporation Limited			
	(i) Kovalam Ashok Beach Resort	Strategic sale	89.97%	40.38
	(ii) Manali Ashok	Strategic sale	89.97%	3.66
	(iii) Khajuraho Ashok	Strategic sale	89.97%	2.19
	(iv) Varanasi Ashok	Strategic sale	89.97%	8.38

1	2	3	4	5
	(v) Aurangabad Ashok	Strategic sale	89.97%	16.50
	(vi) Kanishka, New Delhi	Strategic sale	89.97%	92.38
	(vii) Indraprastha, New Delhi	Strategic sale	89.97%	43.38
	(viii) Chandigarh Project	Strategic sale	100%	17.27
	(ix) Hotel Ranjit, New Delhi	Strategic sale	89.97%	29.28
	(x) Hotel Airport Kolkata	Strategic sale	89.97%	19.39
4.	Modern Foods Industries (India) Limited	Sale of residual shares to Hindustan Lever Limited, the Strategic Partner (Put Option).	25.995%	44.07
		Sub Total		2,252.72
2003-04				
1.	Hindustan Zinc Limited	Sale of shares to Sterlite Opportunities & Ventures Limited, the Strategic Partner (Call Option).	18.92%	323.88
		Sub Total		323.88
		Grand Total		2,576.80

Receipts from Strategic Sale related transactions from 2002-03 till date

Sl. No.	Name of company	Type of transaction	Percentage of Company's equity sold out of GOI holding	Amount realised (Rs. crore)
1	2	3	4	5
2002-03				
1.	Maruti Udyog Limited	Paid by M/s. Suzuki Motors Corporation towards Control Premium for renunciation of Rights Offer	—	1,000.00
2.	Hotel Corporation of India Limited - Centaur Hotel Airport, Mumbai	Strategic sale	100%	*83.00

1	2	3	4	5
3.	Hindustan Zinc Limited	Employees Share Purchase Scheme	1.46%	6.9
4.	CMC Limited	Employees Share Purchase Scheme	6.08%	6.07
Sub Total				1,095.26
2003-04				
1	Jessop & Co. Limited**	Strategic sale	72%	**18.18
Sub Total				18.18
2004-05				
1.	Indian Petrochemicals Corporation Limited	Employees Share Purchase Scheme	4.58%	64.81
Sub Total				64.81
Grand Total				1178.25

*Proceeds went to Air India.

**Amount received by BBUNL, the holding company.

Receipts from Sale of Small Portions of Government Equity Etc. from 2002-03 till date

Sl. No.	Name of company	Type of transactions	Percentage of Company's equity sold out of GOI holding	Amount realised (Rs. crore)
1	2	3	4	5
2003-04				
1.	Maruti Udyog Limited	Initial Public Offering	27.51	993.34
2.	Indian Petrochemicals Corporation Limited	Offer for Sale	28.95	1,202.85
3.	IBP Company Limited	Offer for Sale	26.00	350.66
4.	CMC Limited	Offer for Sale	26.25	190.44
5.	Dredging Corporation of India Limited	Offer for Sale	20.00	221.20
6.	GAIL (India) Limited	Offer for Sale	10.00	1,627.36
7.	Oil & Natural Gas Corporation Limited	Offer for Sale	10.00	*10,558.40
8.	ICI Limited	Offer for Sale	9.2	77.10
Sub total				15,221.35

1	2	3	4	5
2004-05				
	National Thermal Power Corporation Limited	Initial Public Offering	5.25	2,684.07
	Sub total			2,684.07
2005-06				
	Maruti Udyog Limited	Sale to public sector financial institutions and public sector banks through the differential pricing method and 20 shares each to willing employees of Maruti Udyog Limited.	8.01	1,569.68
	Sub total			1,569.68
	GRAND TOTAL			19,475.10

*This includes an amount of Rs. 15.99 crore actually received in 2004-05.

[*Translation*]

Service Tax

2600. SHRI RAGHUVVEER SINGH KOSHAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware of the problems being faced by the traders on account of demands made with respect to service tax as reported in *Rajasthan Patrika* daily dated November 07, 2006;

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

(c) the further machinery available for solving their problem alongwith the steps to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) It was reported in the *Rajasthan Patrika* dated November 07, 2006:

(i) that the following issues have been raised by the traders,—

- they are facing problem on account of the demand notices issued to the photography and colour labs;

- lack of knowledge of service tax law is causing difficulties for them. Department should organize seminars to provide information regarding service tax.

(ii) that the Assistant Commissioner has informed the traders that it is a policy matter and that the issues would be brought to the notice of the senior officers.

(c) (i) The demand notices will be adjudicated in terms of the provisions of law.

(ii) The field formation is providing help to the assessee in getting solution to their problems. Help centres are also functioning from the premises of Trade and Industry Association for this purpose. Department is also organizing seminars, trade awareness camps, meetings of Regional Advisory Committee and Public Grievances Redressal Committee with the trade representatives, and undertaking publicity in media for educating taxpayers of service tax.

12.00 hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

[English]

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE): I beg to lay on the Table -

- (1) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under section 179 of the Electricity Act, 2003:
 - (i) The Central Electricity Authority (Installation and Operation of Meters) Regulations, 2006, published in Notification No. 502/70/CEA/DP & D in Gazette of India dated the 22nd March, 2006.
 - (ii) The Central Electricity Authority (Procedure for Transaction of Business) Regulations, 2006, published in Notification No. CEA/5 - 28/Secy./2006 in Gazette of India dated the 22nd August, 2006.
 - (iii) The Joint Electricity Regulatory Commission for the States of Manipur and Mizoram (Salaries, Allowances and other Conditions of Service of Chairperson and Members) Rules, 2006, published in Notification No. G.S.R. 480 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 14th August, 2006.
 - (iv) The Appeal to Appellate Authority (Amendment) Rules, 2006, published in Notification No. G.S.R.537(E) in Gazette of India dated the 7th September, 2006.
 - (v) The National Load Despatch Centre (Amendment) Rules, 2006, published in Notification No. G.S.R. 629(E) in Gazette of India dated the 12th October, 2006.
 - (vi) The Electricity (Amendment) Rules, 2006, published in Notification No. G.S.R. 667 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 26th October, 2006.
- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at item No. (i) of (1) above.

(Placed in Library, See No. LT—5238/2006)

- (3) A copy of the Notification No. L/68(84)/2006-CERC (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated the 28th August, 2006, making certain amendments in the Indian Electricity Grid Code, issued under section 178 of the Electricity Act, 2003.

(Placed in Library, See No. LT—5239/2006)

- (4) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619 A of the Companies Act, 1956 -
 - (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Tehri Hydro Development Limited, Tehri, for the year 2005-2006.
 - (ii) Annual Report of the Tehri Hydro Development Limited, Tehri, for the year 2005-2006, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

(Placed in Library, See No. LT—5240/2006)

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): I beg to lay on the Table-

- (1) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Institute of Urban Affairs, New Delhi, for the year 2005-2006, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (2) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Institute of Urban Affairs, New Delhi, for the year 2005-2006.

(Placed in Library, See No. LT—5241/2006)

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): I beg to lay on the Table-

- (1) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under section 296 of the Income Tax Act, 1961:-
 - (i) S.O. 1571 (E) published in Gazette of India dated 19th September, 2006 together with an explanatory memorandum specifying the Cost Inflation Index as 519 for the Financial Year 2006-07.

(ii) S.O. 1743(E) published in Gazette of India dated 10th October, 2006 together with an explanatory memorandum authorizing every Chief Commissioner/Director General of Income-tax to issue orders, in writing, for the exercise of powers and performance of functions concurrently by all the Assessing Officers subordinate to him with any other Assessing Officer or Assessing Officers.

(iii) The Income-tax (11th Amendment) Rules, 2006, published in Notification No. S.O. 1796 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 19th October, 2006, together with an explanatory memorandum.

(iv) The Income-tax (Thirteenth Amendment) Rules, 2006, published in Notification No. S.O. 1938 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 9th November, 2006, together with an explanatory memorandum.

(v) S.O. 1977(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 16th November, 2006 together with an explanatory memorandum notifying the Secretariat of Indian Ocean Memorandum of Understanding on Port State Control as the body and any income arising to the said Secretariat by way of interest on deposits with a banking company to which the Banking Regulation Act, 1949 applies as the specified income for the purposes of section 10 of the Income Tax Act 1961.

(Placed in Library, *See* No. LT—5242/2006)

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ): I beg to lay on the Table-

(1) A copy of the Delimitation of Council Constituencies (Uttar Pradesh) Amendment Order, 2006 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. S.O. 1994 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 21st November, 2006, under sub-section (3) of section 13 of the Representation of the People Act, 1950.

(Placed in Library. *See* No. LT—5243/2006)

(2) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the International

Centre for Alternative Dispute Resolution, New Delhi, for the year 2005-2006, alongwith Audited Accounts.

(ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the International Centre for Alternative Dispute Resolution, New Delhi, for the year 2005-2006.

(Placed in Library, *See* No. LT—5244/2006)

(3) A copy of the Notification No. S.O. 1605 (E) (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated the 26th September, 2006 containing Presidential Order regarding Delimitation of Council Constituencies (Andhra Pradesh) Order, 2006, issued under section 3 of the Andhra Pradesh Legislative Council Act, 2005.

(Placed in Library, *See* No. LT—5245/2006)

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): I beg to lay on the Table -

(1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Academy of Sciences, Allahabad, for the year 2005-2006, alongwith Audited Accounts.

(ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Academy of Sciences, Allahabad, for the year 2005-2006.

(Placed in Library. *See* No. LT—5246/2006)

(2) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Centre for Liquid Crystal Research, Bangalore, for the year 2005-2006, alongwith Audited Accounts.

(ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Centre for Liquid Crystal Research, Bangalore, for the year 2005-2006.

(Placed in Library, *See* No. LT—5247/2006)

- (3) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Vigyan Prasar, NOIDA, for the year 2005-2006, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Vigyan Prasar, NOIDA, for the year 2005-2006.
- (Placed in Library, *See* No. LT—5248/2006)
- (4) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Wadia Institute of Himalayan Geology, Dehradun, for the year 2005-2006, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Wadia Institute of Himalayan Geology, Dehradun, for the year 2005-2006.
- (Placed in Library, *See* No. LT—5249/2006)
- (5) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Accreditation Board for Testing and Calibration Laboratories, New Delhi, for the year 2005-2006, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Accreditation Board for Testing and Calibration Laboratories, New Delhi, for the year 2005-2006.
- (Placed in Library, *See* No. LT—5250/2006)
- (6) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Indian Institute of Astrophysics, Bangalore, for the year 2005-2006, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Indian Institute of Astrophysics, Bangalore, for the year 2005-2006.
- (Placed in Library *See* No. LT—5251/2006)
- (7) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the International Advanced Research Centre for Powder Metallurgy and New Materials (A.R.C.I.), Hyderabad, for the year 2005-2006, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the International Advanced Research Centre for Powder Metallurgy and New Materials (A.R.C.I.), Hyderabad, for the year 2005-2006.
- (Placed in Library, *See* No. LT—5252/2006)
- (8) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Birbal Sahni Institute of Palaeobotany, Lucknow, for the year 2005-2006, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Birbal Sahni Institute of Palaeobotany, Lucknow, for the year 2005-2006.
- (Placed in Library, *See* No. LT—5253/2006)
- (9) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Consultancy Development Centre, New Delhi, for the year 2005-2006, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Consultancy Development Centre, New Delhi, for the year 2005-2006.
- (Placed in Library, *See* No. LT—5254/2006)
- (10) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619 A of the Companies Act, 1956 -
- (i) Review by the Government of the working of the National Research Development Corporation, New Delhi, for the year 2005-2006.

- (ii) Annual Report of the National Research Development Corporation, New Delhi, for the year 2005-2006, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

(Placed in Library. *See* No. LT—5255/2006)

THE MINISTER OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA): I beg to lay on the Table a copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (3) of section 620A of the Companies Act, 1956—

- (1) G.S.R. 546 (E) published in Gazette of India dated 9th September, 2006, granting Nidhi status to the companies mentioned therein.
- (2) G.S.R. 517(E) published in Gazette of India dated 31st August, 2006, making certain amendments in the Notification No. G.S.R. 978 dated 28th May, 1963.

(Placed in Library, *See* No. LT—5256/2006)

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY (SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR): I beg to lay on the Table—

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Centre for Wind Energy Technology, Chennai, for the year 2005-2006, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) of the Centre for Wind Energy Technology, Chennai, for the year 2005-2006.

(Placed in Library, *See* No. LT—5257/2006)

- (2) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619 A of the Companies Act, 1956 —

- (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2005-2006.
- (ii) Annual Report of the Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency Limited, New

Delhi, for the year 2005-2006, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

(Placed in Library, *See* No. LT—5258/2006)

- (3) A copy of the Memorandum of Understanding (Hindi and English versions) between the Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency Limited and the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy for the year 2006-2007.

(Placed in Library, *See* No. LT—5259/2006)

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION (KUMARI SELJA): I beg to lay on the Table—

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Cooperative Housing Federation of India, New Delhi, for the year 2005-2006.
- (ii) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the National Cooperative Housing Federation of India, New Delhi, for the year 2005-2006, together with Audit Report thereon.
- (iii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Cooperative Housing Federation of India, New Delhi, for the year 2005-2006.

(Placed in Library, *See* No. LT—5260/2006)

- (2) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Building Materials and Technology Promotion Council, New Delhi, for the year 2005-2006, alongwith Audited Accounts.

- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Building Materials and Technology Promotion Council, New Delhi, for the year 2005-2006.

(Placed in Library, *See* No. LT—5261/2006)

making certain amendments in the Notification No. 14/2002-CE (N.T.) dated the 8th March, 2002.

- (vi) G.S.R. 611 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 30th September, 2006 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 38/2001-CE (N.T.) dated the 26th June, 2001.

(Placed in Library. *See* No. LT—5269/2006)

- (6) A copy of the Notification No. G.S.R. 630 (E) (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated the 12th October, 2006 together with an explanatory memorandum prescribing the forms for filing monthly/quarterly return for production and removal of goods and other relevant particulars and CENVAT Credit, issued under the Central Excise Rules, 2002.

(Placed in Library. *See* No. LT—5270/2006)

- (7) A copy of the Service Tax (Fifth Amendment) Rules, 2006 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 612 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 30th September, 2006, under sub-section (4) of section 94 of the Finance Act, 1994, together with an explanatory memorandum.

(Placed in Library. *See* No. LT—5271/2006)

- (8) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (3) of section 48 of the Life Insurance Corporation Act, 1956 -

- (i) The Life Insurance Corporation of India (Staff) Amendment Rules, 2006 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 668 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 26th October, 2006.
- (ii) The Life Insurance Corporation (Amendment) Rules, 2006 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 669 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 26th October, 2006.

(Placed in Library. *See* No. LT—5272/2006)

- (9) A copy of the General Insurance (Employees' Pension (Amendment) Scheme, 2006 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. S.O. 1794 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 19th October, 2006 under sub-section (5) of section 17A of the General Insurance Business (Nationalization) Act, 1972.

(Placed in Library. *See* No. LT—5273/2006)

- (10) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Pratchi (India) Trust, Delhi, for the year 2005-2006, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Pratchi (India) Trust, Delhi, for the year 2005-2006.

(Placed in Library. *See* No. LT—5274/2006)

- (11) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Centre for Policy Research, New Delhi, for the year 2005-2006, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Centre for Policy Research, New Delhi, for the year 2005-2006.

(Placed in Library. *See* No. LT—5275/2006)

- (12) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Centre for Development Economic, Delhi School of Economics, Delhi, for the year 2005-2006, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Centre for Development Economic, Delhi School of Economics, Delhi, for the year 2005-2006.

(Placed in Library. *See* No. LT—5276/2006)

- (13) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Institute for Social and Economic Change, Bangalore, for the year 2005-2006, alongwith Audited Accounts.

- (ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Institute for Social and Economic Change, Bangalore, for the year 2005-2006.
- (Placed in Library. *See* No. LT—5277/2006)
- (14) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Institute for Studies in Industrial Development, New Delhi, for the year 2005-2006, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Institute for Studies in Industrial Development, New Delhi, for the year 2005-2006.
- (Placed in Library. *See* No. LT—5278/2006)
- (15) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Council for Applied Economic Research, New Delhi, for the year 2005-2006, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Council for Applied Economic Research, New Delhi, for the year 2005-2006.
- (Placed in Library. *See* No. LT—5279/2006)
- (16) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Institute of Public Finance and Policy, New Delhi, for the year 2005-2006, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Institute of Public Finance and Policy, New Delhi, for the year 2005-2006.
- (Placed in Library. *See* No. LT—5280/2006)
- (17) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619 A of the Companies Act, 1956 -
- (a) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Industrial Investment Bank of India Limited, Kolkata, for the year 2005-2006.
- (ii) Annual Report of the Industrial Investment Bank of India Limited, Kolkata, for the year 2005-2006, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.
- (Placed in Library. *See* No. LT—5281/2006)
- (b) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Industrial Development Bank of India Limited, Mumbai, for the year 2005-2006.
- (ii) Annual Report of the Industrial Development Bank of India Limited, Mumbai, for the year 2005-2006, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.
- (Placed in Library. *See* No. LT—5282/2006)
- (18) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (4) of section 19 of the Banking Companies (Acquisition and Transfer of Undertakings) Act, 1970 and 1980 -
- (i) The Central Bank of India (Officers') Service (Amendment) Regulations, 2006 published in Notification No. CO/HRD/IRP/2006-07/386 in Gazette of India dated the 29th July, 2006.
- (ii) The United Bank of India (Officers') Service (Amendment) Regulations, 2006 published in Notification No. 2/2006 in Gazette of India dated the 16th September, 2006.
- (iii) The Punjab and Sind Bank (Officers') Service Amendments Regulations, 2006 published in Notification No. PSB/Staff/OSR/2006/ PSB/Staff/OSR/1982/5 in Gazette of India dated the 20th October, 2006.
- (iv) The Andhra Bank (Officers') Service (Amendment) Regulations, 2006 published in Notification No. 666/3/A1/1441 in Gazette of India dated the 28th August, 2006.

- (v) The Punjab National Bank (Officers') Service (Amendment) Regulations, 2006 published in Notification No. HRDD/MR/POL/91 in Gazette of India dated the 8th September, 2006.
- (vi) The Allahabad Bank (Officers') Service (Amendment) Regulations, 2006 published in Notification No. HO/Admn./04608 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 10th November, 2006.
- (vii) The Indian Bank (Officers') Service Amendment Regulation, 2006 published in Notification No. S.O.02 in Gazette of India dated the 16th October, 2006.
- (19) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at item No. (i) of (18) above.
- (Placed in Library. See No. LT—5283/2006)
- (20) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (3) of section 30 of the Regional Rural Banks Act, 1976 –
- (i) The Andhra Pradesh Gramēena Vikas Bank (Officers and Employees) Service Regulations, 2006, published in Notification No.AP GUP/Per/A/06-07 in Gazette of India dated the 25th October, 2006.
- (ii) The Satpura Kshetriya Gramin Bank (Officers and Employees) Service Regulations, 2006, published in Notification No.HRD- 01/2006-2007/2326 in Gazette of India dated the 18th October, 2006.
- (iii) The Rajasthan Gramin Bank (Officers and Employees) Service Regulations, 2006, published in Notification No.76 in Gazette of India dated the 4th May, 2006.
- (21) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at item No. (iii) of (20) above.

(Placed in Library. See No. LT—5284/2006)

12.01 hrs.

COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC UNDERTAKINGS

Fourteenth Report

[English]

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL (Hooghly): I beg to present the Fourteenth Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Committee on Public Undertakings on National Highways Authority of India - National Highways Development Project, Phase-I.

12.01½ hrs.

STATEMENTS BY MINISTERS

- (i) **Status of Implementation of recommendations contained in 156th Report of the Standing Committee on Science and Technology, Environment and Forests on Demands for Grants (2006-07) pertaining to the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research**

[English]

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): I beg to lay this statement in pursuance of Direction No. 73A of the Hon'ble Speaker, Lok Sabha issued vide Lok Sabha Bulletin, Part II, dated 1st September, 2004 to inform the esteemed House about the status of implementation of recommendations contained in the One hundred fifty sixth report of Department Related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Science & Technology, Environment & Forests. This report relates to the consideration of the Demands for Grants of Department of Scientific & Industrial Research (DSIR) for the year 2006-07. The Committee reviewed the progress made by DSIR during the reporting period and considered the Demands for Grants (2006-07) in detail.

The Committee, while reviewing the working and considering the detailed Demands for Grants of DSIR, analyzed the Demands for Grants with reference to the aims, objectives and achievements of the Department and

*Laid on the table and also placed in Library, See No. LT 5285/2006.

presented the 156th Report thereon to the House on the 18th May 2006. The report contains twelve recommendations, some of which are advisory in nature. Other recommendations mainly relate to:

- training of human resource and creating an enabling environment for patentable innovations;
- setting-up a special Technology Dissemination Cell in all CSIR laboratories;
- the supply of rich human resource right from school level at the lower end to rich dividends produced in the market by way of intellectual property finally;
- emphasis on grass-root innovation;
- more participation from the industry with good track record into R&D activities for distribution of both risks and rewards;
- new generation fuels;
- innovative ways to bring down the cost of drugs by shouldering the responsibility along with other departments of the Government;
- set up a Herbal Research & Development Institute in a location where all the variation of biodiversity can be tapped; and
- development of paan molecule for treatment of cancer by IICB.

All the twelve recommendations of the committee have been considered in the Department of Scientific & Industrial Research. The Department has furnished a detailed Action Taken Note on these recommendations to the Committee in August 2006. Further clarifications/elucidations were sought by the Committee. Department has responded to these comments in September 2006. The current status on the action taken is detailed in the Annexure are laid on the Table.

12.02 hrs.

- (ii) **Status of implementation of the recommendations contained in the 13th Report of the Standing Committee on Energy on Demands for Grants (2006-07) pertaining to the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy**

[English]

*THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY (SHRI VILAS

*Laid on the table and also placed in Library. See No LT 5286/2006.

MUTTEMWAR): I am laying this statement on the status of implementation of the recommendations contained in the 13th Report of the Standing Committee on Energy (14th Lok Sabha) in pursuance of direction 73 A of the Hon'ble Speaker Lok Sabha vide Lok Sabha Bulletin-Part-II dated 1st September 2004.

1. The 13th Report of the Standing Committee on Energy was presented to the Lok Sabha on 22nd May 2006. The Report relates to the Examination of the Demands for Grants of the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy for 2006-07.
2. Action Taken Statement on the recommendations/observations contained in the 13th Report of the Committee had been sent to the Standing Committee on Energy on 21st September 2006.
3. There are 17 recommendations made by the Committee in the said Report wherein action is called for on the part of the Government. These recommendations pertain mainly to issues like augmenting budgetary resources and implementation issues related to various renewable energy programmes.
4. The present status of implementation of various recommendations made by the Committee is indicated in the Annexure to my statement, which is laid on the Table of House. I would not like to take the valuable time of the House to read out the contents of this Annexure. I would request that these may please be treated as read.

12.03 hrs.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

[English]

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYARANJAN DASMUNSI): With your permission, I rise to announce that Government Business during the week commencing Monday, the 11th December, 2006 will consist of –

1. Consideration of any item of Government Business carried over from today's Order Paper.

[Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi]

2. Discussion and voting on the following Demands and introduction, consideration and passing of the related Appropriation Bills –
 - (a) Supplementary Demands for Grants (General) for 2006-07; and
 - (b) Demands for Excess Grants (General) for 2004-05.
3. Consideration and passing of the English and Foreign Languages University Bill, 2006, as passed by Rajya Sabha.
4. Consideration and passing of the Dalmia Dadri Cement Limited (Acquisition and Transfer of Undertakings) Amendment Bill, 2006.
5. Consideration and passing of the following Bills, after they are passed by Rajya Sabha -
 - (a) The Sikkim University Bill, 2006
 - (b) The Tripura University Bill, 2006
 - (c) The Rajiv Gandhi University Bill, 2006

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA (South Delhi): Sir, next week is the last week of this Session.

[Translation]

Whether you will introduce Women Reservation Bill next week or not?

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: It is for him to respond.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, I am reporting the Bills and other businesses for which time has been allotted by the BAC. If there are any other important Bills, I will inform the House immediately.

Please do not get worried; all the businesses of our UPA Government shall be transacted.

SHRI P.C. THOMAS (Muvattupuzha): The following items may please be included in next week's agenda.

- (i) The need to treat Sabarimala, a great pilgrimage in Kerala where lakhs of pilgrims are going every year from all over the nation and abroad as an international pilgrimage centre and to allot

sufficient funds from the Centre for improving the infrastructure thereto. The satellite pilgrimage centres of this centre, like Erumeli, Ranni, Pathanamthitta, Chottanikkara, etc. are also to be improved by allotting special funds from the Centre.

- (ii) The need to have a legislation against slander and spread of false and fictitious stories against religions and religious practices. In secular India, where anyone can practice one's own faith and religion, efforts to scandalize such practices directly or indirectly should be banned by law.

SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA (Rampur): I wish to submit that the following items may be included in the next week's agenda –

1. Need to provide loans on easy terms to Self Help Groups irrespective of their grade.
2. Need to bring suitable legislation to protect NRI marriages.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN (Chirayinkil): I request the hon. Speaker to include the following items in the next week's agenda:

1. The rural agricultural debt accumulated in the nation being the main reason for committal of suicide of farmers in the country, this is a serious issue; this may be included in the next week's agenda.
2. The recent by-elections have conclusively proved the necessity of electoral reforms. This may be included in the next week's agenda.

[Translation]

SHRI HARISINH CHAVDA (Banaskantha): Mr. Speaker. Sir, through you, I would like to request the Hon. Minister of Parliamentary Affairs to include the following items in the next week agenda

1. Need to provide a special package to solve the severe problem of drinking water, to prevent desertification, for poverty alleviation and construction of houses for the poor people in the extremely backward area of Banaskantha in Northern Gujarat;

2. Need to conduct an enquiry into the irregularities noticed in the procurement of mustard oil last year and procurement of mustard from the maximum number of farmers at the minimum support price owing to bumper crop this year.

[English]

SHRI P.S. GADHAVI (Kutch): The following items may please be included in the next week's agenda.

- (i) Regarding amendment or relaxation in the guidelines/norms of Pradhan Mantri Gramin Sadak Yojana (PMGSY).
- (ii) Cost of gas to be linked to distance of delivery.

MD. SALIM (Calcutta-North East): Sir, I am on a point of order. There is the question of propriety of the House.

MR. SPEAKER What is that?

MD. SALIM: We are taking up item no. 15, about next week's agenda of the House. Hon. Minister of Parliamentary Affairs made the statement pertaining to that and the hon. Members are making their submissions. The hon. Minister is not present and it is the question of propriety of the House.

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Minister of State is present here. He is very competent. Otherwise, it would have been better, had that Minister been present, but I cannot say that it is an impropriety.

[Translation]

SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA (Kheri): Mr Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to submit to the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs that the following items may be included in the next week's agenda for discussion:

1. Irrespective of its tall claims, Sarv Shiksha Abhiyan of the Government of India has been a failure in achieving its targets. It is clear from the CAG's report 15/2006. So there should be a discussion on this issue;
2. Bio-farming is spreading its wings in India. So, in order to protect the interests of the consumers, for export promotion and quality control, there is a need to enact a law regarding these subjects through the House.

SHRI GANESH SINGH (Satna): Sir, I would like to submit that the following items may be included in the

next week's agenda:

1. A petroleum depot, operational since 1940 has been closed down by Indian Oil, now the supply of oil is being carried out to Satna and other five districts from Sagar (a distance of 350 km) and Jabalpur (distance 250 km) through tankers, leaving very high chances for adulteration.
2. Approval may be granted for constructing an overbridge on the level crossing in the Mehar city on National Highway 7.

SHRI RAJNARAYAN BUDHOLIA (Hamirpur, U.P.): Sir, I would like to submit that the following items may be included in the next week's agenda:

1. The construction of a bridge over the Bethwa river, Uttar Pradesh Highway, Bheri District Hamirpur, Pathrainta District Jalaun has come to a halt due to the hindrances created by the forest department all of a sudden. There is an urgent need to remove the hurdles created by the forest department.
2. There is an urgent need to grant a special financial package to the most backward area of UP, Bundelkhand on the lines of the one given to Vidarbha.

SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR (Sagar): Sir, I would like to submit that the following items may be included in the next week's agenda for discussion:

1. Arrangements should be made in the coming budget for converting Dr. Hari Singh Gaur University into a Central University.
2. Work has started in Bina refinery, local educated youth and workers should be provided with maximum opportunities of employment in the construction work of the said refinery as technical employees and workers.

12.12 hrs.

CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

Situation arising out of recent floods due to cyclone and torrential rains in the districts of Krishna, Guntur and Prakasam of Andhra Pradesh resulting in loss of lives and property and steps taken by the Government in this regard

[English]

SHRI BADIGA RAMAKRISHNA (Machalipatnam): Sir, I call the attention of the Minister of Home Affairs to the

[Shri Badiga Ramakrishna]

following matter of urgent public importance and request that he may make a statement thereon –

"The situation arising out of recent floods due to cyclone and torrential rains in the districts of Krishna, Guntur and Prakasam of Andhra Pradesh resulting in loss of lives and property and steps taken by the Government in this regard."

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL): Sir, during the year 2006, the State of Andhra Pradesh has experienced cyclonic/heavy rains in three spells causing floods in many parts of the State. The 1st spell of heavy rains was in the months of July-August, 2006 impacting 16 districts in the State. The State experienced the 2nd Spell of heavy to very heavy rains in 15 districts during the period 14th-22nd September, 2006. The 3rd spell of heavy rains was caused by cyclonic storm named 'OGNI' during 28th October to 4th November, 2006, affecting 6 districts.

These cyclonic/heavy rains have resulted in loss of 247 human lives and 3.66 lakh livestock including poultry birds, besides damage to 3.22 lakh houses and cropped area of 8.14 lakh hectares. In addition, there are reports of extensive damage to infrastructure under various sectors.

In view of the precarious situation caused by heavy rains and floods, I have myself visited some of the affected areas once on 9th August and again on 7th November, 2006 to review the situation. Shrimati Sonia Gandhi has also visited this area. The Government of India had released on 24th August, 2006, an amount of Rs. 400.00 crore comprising Rs. 200.00 crore as advance release of Central share of Calamity Relief Fund (CRF) and Rs. 200.00 crore as 'on account' release from National Calamity Contingency Fund (NCCF). In addition, the 1st instalment of Central share of CRF for the year 2006-07 amounting to Rs. 135.48 crore was earlier released on 2nd June, 2006. Taking these releases and the State's share of CRF of Rs. 90.32 crore, an amount of Rs. 626.80 crore was available with the State Government for undertaking rescue and relief operations.

According to available reports the Government of Andhra Pradesh has so far incurred an expenditure of Rs. 589.59 crore on managing various natural calamities during the year 2006-07. This includes, *inter-alia*, Rs. 489.93 crore on management of cyclone/ heavy rains, Rs. 76.43 crore on drought, 0.42 crore on earthquake/ tsunami and Rs. 5.17 crore on hailstorm.

MR. SPEAKER: I think you can lay it on the Table of the House. It is a long Statement.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: If the Member is satisfied, I can lay it.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Ramakrishna, I think you have a copy of it.

SHRI BADIGA RAMAKRISHNA: Sir, I have a copy of this.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: Sir, I lay the remaining part of my Statement on the Table of the House.

"The Ministry of Home Affairs constantly monitored the situation and coordinated provision of logistic support to the State for rescue and relief operations. This includes deployment of five helicopters from Navy, 38 Naval Diving Teams and one Engineering Task Force Team of the Army with 10 BAUTS and 10 OEMs. The IAF also undertook 182 sorties for these operations.

The Government of Andhra Pradesh has taken all necessary rescue and relief measures on the ground which include evacuation of people to safer places, operation of relief camps, distribution of essential commodities and health and sanitation measures to prevent outbreak of any post-flood epidemic.

An Inter-Ministerial Central Team visited the State from 17th to 20th August, 2006 for assessment of damage and requirement of funds in the wake of heavy rains/floods during July August, 2006. As per laid down procedure, the report of the Central Team along with the recommendations of the Inter-Ministerial Group are being placed before the High Level Committee for consideration and approval of funds from NCCF.

Another Central Team has visited the State from 9th to 11th November, 2006 to assess the damage and requirement of funds for heavy rains/floods of September, 2006 as well as of October-November, 2006. The report of the Central Team has recently been received, which is being considered as per the laid down procedure.

I would like to assure the august House that Government of India will continue to render all necessary assistance to Andhra Pradesh to provide succor to the

*This part of the speech was laid on the table and also placed in Library, See No. LT 5287/2006.

affected people. Appropriate Central assistance will also be provided as per established procedure for long-term reconstruction of infrastructure damaged during these natural calamities.*

SHRI BADIGA RAMAKRISHNA: Hon. Speaker, Sir, I would like to mention a few points in Telugu. I have taken your permission for that.

*Mr. Speaker Sir, I would like to bring to the notice of Hon'ble Home Minister the devastation cause by cyclone "OGNI" in Andhra Pradesh. I am pained to say that the coastal districts of Krishna, Guntur and Prakasham were severely affected by cyclone "OGNI". However, its severity was less in West Godavari district. The rainfall that used to be recorded in a year was witnessed in a span of 2-3 days. Such a heavy rainfall was never witnessed in the recent past. Many old persons could not recall an instance of such huge rainfall in the past 70-80 years. Sir, farmers feed the nation. They have never made big demands. They ask for some support only when they are severely affected by natural calamities. They are the back bone of our nation and play a vital role in the development of the country. But, their lot is very poor and is frequently exposed to unprecedented vagaries of nature. Under such circumstances, their sustenance becomes difficult. In fact, they are totally dependent on monsoon. In spite of several hardships and adversities, they consider agriculture as a sacred avocation. The condition of lakhs of farmers is pathetic. Similar is the condition of weavers and artisans who have lost their shelter and livelihood. They run the risk of catching serious diseases.

Sir, women, children and other weaker sections are most vulnerable sections of society. In the past, farming community has braved many national calamities. But, the devastation caused by this calamity is beyond imagination. They are, infact, left with nothing. They don't have fodder to feed their cattle. Sir, their problems should be considered with utmost sympathy. Our State Government has responded in time by evacuating thousands of people to safer places. Thus, saving their lives. Our Chief Minister himself visited affected places to review the situation and gave directions regarding relief measures. He expressed his sympathy to them and assured that the Government is with them. To review the situation, Hon'ble Home Minister Shri Shivraj Patil, Smt. Sonia Gandhi Ji, and the

Officers accompanying them visited these places. I myself had been there to take stock of the situation. Some villages were cut off from the mainland, inspite of that relief measures were carried out at these places. Hon'ble Minister mentioned the loss caused. I would not repeat those figures again. To face such unprecedented calamities Central Government should extend immediate assistance to the affected people.

The State Government has asked for the Central assistance keeping in view the realistic assessment. In this context, I urge upon you to extend special aid to aggrieved farmers. Existing loans should be waived off. There should be distribution of seeds and fertilizers to farmers and fresh loans may be given to them at the lowest interest rates. A special package may be announced for weavers and artisans. Sir, it is most important that crop loss should be assessed at village level, not at the Mandal level, so that aggrieved farmers can claim their crop insurance. Farmers and agricultural labourers are not in a position to get their livelihood for next 4-6 months. Hence, I request that till the time they earn their livelihood, Government should give them a helping hand. Similarly, National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme may be made applicable in the areas affected by this natural calamity.

In the end, I would like to conclude with a popular adage, which says, "The hands that serve are better than the lips that pray".

Sir, the hands that give are more powerful than the lips that pray. Sir, ours is a helping hand. With this, I would appeal to the august House and the hon. Minister to consider the relief package immediately and in an expeditious way and also to consider taking insurance aspect on the village basis and not on Mandal basis.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Rayapati Sambasiva Rao – Not present.

[*Translation*]

Shri Shailendra Kumar, do you like to ask a question in this regard?

SHRI SHAIENDRA KUMAR (Chail): Mr Speaker, Sir, I would like to ask a single question to the hon. Minister.

This calling attention motion is related to Andhra Pradesh, but through you I would like to ask the Minister

*English translation of the speech originally delivered in Telugu.

[Shri Shailendra Kumar]

that time and again discussions were held in the House about many areas affected by cyclones, floods and droughts and such incidents occur in the area of every MP. Be it Bihar, U.P. or any other State these types of natural calamities are a regular phenomena all over the country. When we visit the States we fail to provide assistance to the destitute, innocent and the affected people though willing to do so. Through this House, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether any provisions will be made for enabling the MPs to directly assist the people using the MPLAD funds?

[English]

SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA (Rampur): Sir, I associate myself with him.

MR. SPEAKER: Do you support him?

SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA: Yes, Sir.

SHRI SURAVARAM SUDHAKAR REDDY (Nalgonda): Sir, the hon. Member, Shri Ramakrishna, has effectively put the plight of the Andhra Pradesh peasants who are badly affected by the unprecedented floods. The Union Government did give some help. But there is a big gap between the help the Government of Andhra Pradesh has requested and the amount that is given by the Union Government. The Union Government took too much time to sanction the amount and it is not even 20 per cent of what the Government of Andhra Pradesh has asked. Due to the unprecedented floods on the one side and drought on the other side, Andhra Pradesh has lost very heavily.

I would like to know whether the Government is ready to consider the special request of Andhra Pradesh for more funds.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: Sir, we had the opportunity of seeing what had actually happened in the State. It is true that many people have suffered, their houses have been damaged and their land also has been damaged. It is necessary for us to help them.

The Government of India has been helping the State Governments and giving funds to them to meet the requirements of the people over there. One of the funds which is used is Calamity Relief Fund. As it is called a Relief Fund, it is a relief which is given. The second fund which is used for this purpose is the National Calamity Contingency Fund. If it is not possible to meet the demands of the people under the first Fund, the second Fund is used for giving them the relief. The

Government of India has, as I have stated in my statement, given Rs. 625.80 crore and this amount is given for immediate relief. If they need utensils, if they need medicines and if they need some shelter for sometime and if they need employment for a few days, then this amount may be used by the State Government. I must say that the State Government has done well and they have helped the people in a splendid manner. They have actually spent Rs. 589.59 crore which are given to them to give relief. When Shrimati Sonia Gandhi and myself had gone there, one of the points which was made by the hon. Chief Minister and others was that they would like to have the canals rebuilt and strengthened. They were telling us that they would need a lot of money for that purpose.

In Godavari delta and Krishna delta, the canal system was built by the British long ago. That has been damaged and they are asking a lot of money to repair it. The amount of money required by them is very huge. They are asking for nearly Rs. 10,000 crore. This is a very big amount and all the same, it is necessary for us to see that this canal system has to be reconstructed. That is why, we requested the State Government to prepare a scientific plan with the help of engineers and others. Let us know the time frame with which they would be able to reconstruct and strengthen the canal system. When that kind of a plan is sent to the Union Government, it would be examined by the Planning Commission and the matter would be put up to the Union Government Cabinet and it can be considered as to what kind of help can be given to them. This is the position. We would like to take steps to see that some permanent solution to this problem is also provided. It has to be provided not on the basis of a memorandum or a letter. It has to be provided on the basis of a plan prepared and that is what we have suggested to the Government of Andhra Pradesh. The Government of Andhra Pradesh is also in the process of preparing the plan and once we receive that plan, we would definitely consider that plan and see what can be done in this matter.

12.27¹/₂ hrs

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

Business of the House

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, I have received a request from the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs requesting that item Nos. 20, 21 and 22 listed in today's

Order Paper regarding Statutory Resolution, Indian Telegraph (Amendment) Bill, 2006 and Indian Rifles (Repeal) Bill, 2006, be taken up today and disposed of before we take up Private Members' Business and if necessary lunch hour be dispensed with.

If the House agrees, we may take up the Statutory Resolution and the Government Legislative Business at 1 p.m. and these items be disposed of before 3.30 p.m. by sitting during lunch hour.

I think the House agrees to this proposal.

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS: Yes, Sir.

12.28 hrs.

GOVERNMENT BILLS—*Introduced*

(I) Commissions for Protection of Child Rights (Amendment) Bill, 2006*

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to amend the Commissions for Protection of Child Rights Act, 2005.

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to amend the Commissions for Protection of Child Rights Act, 2005."

The motion was adopted.

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: I introduce the Bill.

12.29 hrs.

(II) National Waterway (Talcher-Dhamra stretch of Rivers Geonkhali-Charbatia Dhamra Stretch of Matai River And Mahanadi Delta Rivers) Bill, 2006*

[English]

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): I beg to move for

*Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II, Section-2 dated 8.12.2006.

leave to introduce a Bill to provide for the declaration of the Talcher-Dhamra stretch of Brahmani-Kharsua-Dhamra rivers, Geonkhali-Charbatia stretch of East Coast Canal, Charbatia-Dhamra stretch of Matai river and Mahanadi delta rivers between Mangalgadi and Paradip in the States of West Bengal and Orissa to be a national waterway and also to provide for the regulation and development of the said stretch of the rivers and the canals for purpose of shipping and navigation on the said waterway and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for the declaration of the Talcher-Dhamra stretch of Brahmani-Kharsua-Dhamra rivers, Geonkhali-Charbatia stretch of East Coast Canal, Charbatia-Dhamra stretch of Matai river and Mahanadi delta rivers between Mangalgadi and Paradip in the States of West Bengal and Orissa to be a national waterway and also to provide for the regulation and development of the said stretch of the rivers and the canals for purpose of shipping and navigation on the said waterway and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI T.R. BAALU: I introduce** the Bill.

12.29¹/₂ hrs.

(III) National Waterway (Kakinada-Pondicherry stretch of Canals and the Kaluvelly Tank, Bhadrachalam-Rajahmundry stretch of River Godavari and Wazirabad-Vijayawada stretch of River Krishna) Bill, 2006*

[English]

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for the declaration of the Kakinada-Pondicherry stretch of canals comprising of Kakinada canal, Eluru canal, Commamur canal, Buckingham canal and the Kaluvelly tank, Bhadrachalam-Rajahmundry stretch of river Godavari and Wazirabad-Vijayawada stretch of river Krishna in the States of

Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II, Section-2 dated 8.12.2006.

**Introduced with the Recommendation of the President.

[Shri T.R. Baalu]

Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu and the Union Territory of Pondicherry to be a national waterway and also to provide for the regulation and development of the said stretch of the rivers and the canals for purpose of shipping and navigation on the said waterway and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for the declaration of the Kakinada-Pondicherry stretch of canals comprising of Kakinada canal, Eluru canal, Commamur canal, Buckingham canal and the Kaluvelly tank, Bhadrachalam-Rajahmundry stretch of river Godavari and Wazirabad-Vijayawada stretch of river Krishna in the States of Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu and the Union Territory of Pondicherry to be a national waterway and also to provide for the regulation and development of the said stretch of the rivers and the canals for purpose of shipping and navigation on the said waterway and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto."

The motion was adopted

SHRI T.R. BAALU: I introduce** the Bill.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: The House will now take up matters of urgent public importance. Shrimati Jayaprada.

SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA (Rampur): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to draw the attention of the hon. House and of the Government to an important matter. We have lakhs of beedi workers in our country in general, and Uttar Pradesh in particular, who are dependent on this profession. In Uttar Pradesh, we have lakhs and lakhs of beedi workers. In my constituency, there are more than 40,000 beedi workers who are dependent on this profession.

[Translation]

Some of them are card holders and a few others are unregistered ones. The Central Government's housing scheme includes the States of Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand,

Karnataka but it is unfortunate that the said scheme does not cover the State of Uttar Pradesh. Especially, I would like to point out that a large number of people are dependent on the said profession in my parliamentary constituency of Rampur and even women are engaged in that work. I would like to ask the Government why this type of step-motherly treatment is being meted out to us? ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: She has been permitted to raise an issue.

.... *(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA: Sir, to the best of my knowledge, the planning commission has made provisions to provide one lakh houses. These housing provisions are available for the people who have land. The people who own the land, may be allotted houses.

Sir, if these people manage to make thousand beedis in a day, they get about only Rs. 30 and these people are dependent upon daily wages. On the one hand, they have to look after their children and on the other they also have to make the Beedis. If they make less than 1000 Beedi, ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Shrimati Jayaprada ji, please refer to your demand.

....*(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA: This is an important issue. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: That is why I have called you to raise the matter.

....*(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA: I have to explain the issue.*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: But it cannot be a debate.

....*(interruptions)*

**Introduced with the recommendation of the president.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA: I would like to point out that a provision of Rs. 40 thousand has been made for construction of their houses. I would request that this amount should be raised to Rs. 1 lakh so that a proper house can be constructed for each of them. They are engaged in such a profession which affects their health. They are unable to pay proper attention to the education of their children and there is also lack of proper schools. Their hands get decayed and lungs get infected while making 'bidis' and they suffer from tuberculosis but there is no special hospital for their health-care ...*(interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Jayapradaji, you should think over it how can a full fledged discussion be held. You raise the vital issue.

[English]

If you want a proper discussion, give a notice. I will allow a full discussion on this.

...*(interruptions)*

SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA: I request the Government to see this in all seriousness ...*(interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You can speak on the discussion on the unorganized workers.

SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA: I request the Central Government to give a package so that hospitals

[Translation]

and schools can be constructed and colonies developed for them. The Government should protect them by announcing a package for them.

DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY (Mandsaur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, on the one hand import of wheat is being made by the Central Government, major wheat growing States are not being provided adequate power on the other. Madhya Pradesh is also one of these States. There is a shortage of 250 megawatt in the power supply being made to the State. It is having an adverse impact on farmers. Apart from it, it is affecting wheat and other agro and industrial production adversely. Besides, instead of good quality of coal ordinary coal is being supplied to the thermal power stations, which is also affecting the power stations in Madhya Pradesh. I would like to request the Government to immediately withdraw the power curtailment and supply the maximum and good quality of coal to these thermal power stations.

[English]

SHRI A.V. BELLARMIN (Nagercoil): Sir, I wish to invite the considered attention of the Government over the pitiable plight of the fishermen in the coastal as well as in the inland villages of Kanyakumari District of Tamil Nadu. Apart from their lives being toned up by the tsunami killer waves two years back, they are languishing in life due to the tardy implementation of the relief measures by the Government. They are not giving adequate relief for the losses suffered due to natural calamities such as frequent high tides, seasonal gales and gusts in the seas. They are being deprived of monetary assistance announced as distress relief by the Government.

It is pleaded that the Government should immediately come forward to give distress allowance for fishermen's subsistence who are prevented by the Government from venturing into seas during the fertilizing seasons, at least for three months. It should be paid to those who are prevented by the natural disturbances in the seas. Such allowance should also be given to the womenfolk who are solely dependent on fishing and to those in the inland villages, who live on sea products. Importantly, the loans raised from the banks by the fishermen who were affected by the tsunami should be waived off. Central relief of Rs. 1 lakh should be announced for the legal heirs of tsunami affected villagers. It should be paid for the remaining heirs, who have not been paid so far.

12.37 hrs.

SUBMISSIONS BY MEMBERS

(i) Non-availability of E.G. Bond Form for traders.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN (Indore): Mr. Speaker Sir, on the one hand we want people to invest money in Public Sector Undertakings but it seems that the Government itself does not want the people to make investments in the above undertakings.

[English]

Section 54 EC of the Income Tax 1961 provides that capital gain arising from the transfer of a long-term capital asset shall not be charged to tax to the extent such gains are invested in long term specified asset within a period of six months after the date of such transfer.

[Shrimati Sumitra Mahajan]

[*Translation*]

Earlier several undertakings like NABARD, NHAI, REC etc. were kept under it. Through an amendment to this effect only two of them i.e. National Highway Authority of India and the R.E.C. have been kept. It was stated that these undertakings would produce public issues but their public issues are not available in the market even today. The people who had transferred property of such capital gains are facing a lot of difficulties. It was also been stated in this regard that they would launch public issues worth only Rs. 1500 crores and Rs. 4500 crores. It is a meagre amount. It also requires some consideration. The total amount of property to be transferred would be up to the tune of Rs. 6000 crores in the entire country. How such a meagre amount will work? Even then, their issue which were scheduled to be floated in July has not been brought in the market as yet. Therefore, it has been stated that its due date has been extended upto December 31, 2006. The people who have transferred such property from June 1, 2006 to June 30, 2006 are not likely to be benefited by extension of date upto 31st December, 2006. Therefore, there are a number of such people at present who have sold their assets in this way and want to make investment but non-availability of forms in the market is causing a lot of difficulty to them. I would like the hon'ble Minister of Finance to pay attention to this as well and provide such facilities so that they can invest in the R.B.I. It would be better if such facilities are provided.

[*English*]

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): Sir, let me clarify that two windows were open. An amount of Rs. 6000 crore was allowed under these windows. They have been oversubscribed. So, I am now considering not only extending the time but also opening an additional window so that these people can be taken.(*Interruptions*)

SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN: The time was fixed up to 31st December. So, are you going to extend the time? ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: He is proposing to extend the time also.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: The time will be extended. ...(*Interruptions*) Both will be done.

SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN: I would like to know whether forms will be available or not. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Yes.

MR. SPEAKER: It is good. You have got your decision.

SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN: Thank you very much.

MR. SPEAKER: You are always welcome.

12.41 hrs.

(ii) **Need to bring forth a legislation for combating AIDS.**

[*English*]

SHRIMATI ARCHANA NAYAK (Kendrapara): Thank you very much. I would like to raise the following matter for the consideration of the hon. Minister of Health and Family Welfare –

It is really shocking to hear that India has topped in the number of persons affected with AIDS in the world. Almost 39 per cent of AIDS patients are women in India. The HIV prevalence rate in young women exceeded that of young men. In the 15 to 24 age group, while prevalence rate of HIV in men is 0.22 per cent, it is 0.46 per cent in women in the same age group.

Gender inequalities in society left girls and young women socially and economically disadvantaged, greatly increasing their vulnerability. The culture of silence surrounding sex issues led them to remain ignorant of its spread and prevention. Social constraints also limited their access to prevention services. Early marriage also posed risks to young women. This is relevant as 50 per cent of them were married by 18 years. A significant proportion of HIV infections in India occurred in married women infected by unprotected sex.

Therefore, I urge upon the Government to bring in an effective legislation at the earliest to fight against the spread of AIDS, to create awareness amongst the rural people and to prevent discrimination against AIDS patients in the country.

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI): Sir, yesterday only our Cabinet cleared a huge package for the entire programme. As the hon. Member may be aware, more than few hundred crore is allotted for AIDS fund and that will be entirely spent for this country and for this programme.

[English]

SHRIMATI K. RANI (Rasipuram): Sir, I am thankful to you for giving me a chance to make my submission on Export Development Centre at Namakkal.

Sir, I am proud to say that Namakkal in my constituency in Tamil Nadu stands first in the production of eggs and other poultry products. Regarding setting up of an Export Development Centre at Namakkal and also to export eggs to Dubai, I met the hon. Minister of Commerce and Industry, Shri Kamal Nath, along with my constituency representatives. He extended whole-hearted support by sending a delegation to Dubai. Later, we were asked to make an announcement like 'bird flue free zone', which we did in September. Even after that, they are not willing to buy eggs from Namakkal, and we did not get any other feedback from them. I request the hon. Minister to kindly let us know what is the current position regarding that.

People in my constituency are exporting eggs, through their own efforts. To further develop the export of eggs and to earn more foreign exchange, I would request the Government to consider sanctioning one such Export Development Centre in Namakkal, exclusively to take care of export of eggs and other poultry products. The Government should also provide financial assistance in case of need through banks for doing exports of eggs and poultry products. If the Government agrees to this in principle, the modalities can be worked out later. Hence, I want a concrete action from the hon. Minister of Commerce.

SHRI P.C. THOMAS (Muvattupuzha): Sir, empowerment of women is a very important step which we have taken up including the Parliament with a Committee also.

Many of the women in India are now employed as *Mahila Pradhans* and also in the Postal and National Savings areas. A lot of problems are being faced by these women. The commission is also very low. Though the interest rate has been increased in some cases for National Savings, yet in some other cases it is still very low. I would also submit that in the Post Offices, they face a lot of problems by way of deposits which they have to make. The number of employees posted in the Post Offices is very low. Therefore, special counters are required for them to act and to deposit their money. There is also a limit fixed for some of the deposits. The limits

were fixed a number of years back. For example, Rs. 10,000 can be deposited in one scheme per day by one agent. This is also very low because many of them are able to collect more money. Many other problems are there. I have mentioned only one or two things. So, I would like to mention that these problems may be looked into.

[Translation]

SHRI ALOK KUMAR MEHTA (Samastipur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, fruits and vegetables worth about Rs. 50 crores get perished in the country due to lack of preservation and inadequate distribution system. Other fruits and vegetables including potatoes are preserved in cold storages in the country. The potato crop of farmers are, however, insured by the insurance companies but other fruits and vegetables are not insured. There have been complaints regarding non payment of compensation or claim to farmers which in case vegetables and fruits get perished in certain cold storages in the country as there is no insurance cover for these commodities. At such places the vegetable growers are compelled to sell their produce at throw away prices instead of putting them in the cold storages and consequently they do not get even the cost invested therein by them. I would demand the Government to issue directions to the insurance companies to extend insurance cover to even other fruits and vegetables preserved in cold storages in addition to the crop of potatoes.

SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR (Bareilly): Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to thank the Ministry of Communications.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Santosh Gangwar. You are occupying a different seat. Very well, I will allow you. You are not in your seat.

SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR: I am sorry, Sir.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you for your cooperation.

SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR: Sir, I thank you for allowing me. I am sorry.

[Translation]

Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to thank the Ministry of Communications that they have started

[Shri Santosh Gangwar]

putting advertisement of the 'Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan' on the postcards. It is a very good convention and procedure. It is also good that advertisements are being issued in other regional languages. It promotes regional languages.

Sir, I would like to submit that there are two problems in this regard. Firstly advertisements have been put on postcards in very small fonts which are illegible. Secondly, I would urge that it would be better if advertisements are brought out in all regional languages. If the postcards are published in Delhi. They should be in both Hindi and English. Through you, I would congratulate the Ministry of Communications and desire that this procedure should continue and we should work unitedly to create awareness among the people in the entire country about the 'Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan'.

[English]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura): Sir, the Industrial Development Bank of India was functioning under the name of the Industrial Finance Department, an integral part of the Reserve Bank of India from its inception. The IDBI was formally de-linked from the RBI in the year 1977 and accorded the status of a wholly-owned Government institution, an apex financial institution.

The IDBI Act was repealed in the year 2003. It was converted into a deemed Banking Company to carry on banking business in addition to its development bank role. When this Repeal Bill was debated, we raised certain questions that after conversion of it into a Banking Company, what would happen to the employees, their service condition and their salary.

Sir, you know very well that this matter was debated in this House and while replying to the debate, the former Finance Minister gave an assurance that the character of the IDBI as a development finance institution would remain even after its conversion as a deemed banking company. With regard to service conditions and other matters pertaining to employees, he assured that the interests of employees would be safeguarded and that the employees would continue to enjoy the same terms and service conditions even in the new dispensation.

Sir, a wage agreement has been finalized between the IDBI Employees Association and the management of the IDBI six months back and it is still lying with the Finance Ministry. The Finance Ministry is objecting that unless the linkage clause is deleted from the agreement,

it would not clear it. So far, the employees of the IDBI are getting salary at par with the employees of the Reserve Bank of India. Suddenly, this condition is now being imposed that the linkage clause should be deleted and then only it would be cleared.

The employees of the IDBI had to go on a hunger strike for four or five days and now they will go on strike on the 13th and 14th January, 2007. So, I demand that the assurance given by the former Finance Minister on the floor of this House in regard to service conditions and protection of interests of the employees should be fulfilled. The Finance Minister is present here. I would request him that he should immediately clear the wage agreement reached between the IDBI management and IDBI employees and they should not be forced to go on strike next month for two days. The Finance Minister is present here. He should respond to it now.

MR. SPEAKER: He is repenting that he is here!

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Sir, this is a very serious issue.

MR. SPEAKER: You have made your point very well. You don't to have to repeat it.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Sir, for six months this agreement is lying with the Finance Ministry. The Finance Minister should clear it immediately.

MR. SPEAKER: You have put it very forcefully.

[Translation]

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA (Jaipur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I'm gong to raise a very small issue. The National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme has been launched in some districts of Rajasthan. Rajasthan is one of the poorest States.

MR. SPEAKER: It's a very important issue, not a small one.

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA: In the phase-I of the said scheme, 200 districts of Rajasthan out of about 600 districts from across the country have been covered. Rajasthan is not densely populated. The State has a vast population of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes and less per capita income. Agricultural produce as well as wages in agro-sector is also less there. In any circumstance, only one percent of the total water of

the country is made available to the people of Rajasthan. A strange situation prevails in Rajasthan. Even today, all The districts of the Western Rajasthan are inundated due to floods. Banner and Jaisalmer are flooded. Other districts of the State are also facing problems. The State Government has made efforts to drain out the water, but in vain.

I would just like to tell the hon. Minister that he has done justice to other States. The SC & ST population in Rajasthan is 29.8 percent while in Andhra Pradesh and Maharashtra, this ratio is 22.8 per cent & 19.1 per cent respectively. The per capita income in Rajasthan in the year 2003-04 was Rs. 15,485 while in case of Andhra Pradesh & Maharashtra, it was Rs. 20,757 & Rs. 29,204 respectively. Despite this, only 6 districts out of 32 districts of Rajasthan have been selected for phase-I of this scheme, whereas 13 districts out of 23 districts of Andhra Pradesh as well as 12 districts out of 35 districts of Maharashtra have been covered thereunder while in respect of area, Rajasthan has a vast territory.

I think there are limited possibilities of setting up of industries and expansion of agriculture in Rajasthan due to limited water resources and vast desert area of the State. In such a situation, the demand for employment for livelihood is more. 12.47 lac persons have sought employment in only 6 selected districts of the State. Thus, the demand for 2.08 lacs employment per district is the highest in the country. Comparatively, the average demand for employment in 13 districts of Andhra Pradesh is 1.63 lacs and in 12 districts of Maharashtra it is 0.33 lacs. Whereas 28 districts out of 38 districts of Bihar have been selected under phase-I of this scheme, the average demand for employment per district is 0.31 lacs. 20 districts out of 22 districts of Jharkhand have been selected under phase-I of this scheme. The per district average demand for employment in Jharkhand is 0.32 lacs. About 60% area of the State is desert, but not even a single district of this area has been covered under this scheme so far. Therefore, I request the hon. Minister to revise the criteria so as to cover ten more districts under the scheme thereby increasing the number of districts to 16. The hon. Minister may cover atleast ten more districts by revising the criteria so that Rajasthan can be benefited under the National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme. I demand the Union Government to extend this scheme and cover more districts. It's imperative to remove the existing anomaly by covering the districts of the State as per the objectives and criteria of the programme at the time of extension of the programme.

MR. SPEAKER: I have said in the morning that the Planning Commission will look into this matter.

[English]

SHRI DUSHYANT SINGH (Jhalawar): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to associate myself with the matter raised by Shri Girdhari Lal Bhargava.

SHRI P. KARUNAKARAN (Kasargod): Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the Government, especially, the Finance Minister to the PF Scheme.

MR. SPEAKER: He is repenting being here!

SHRI P. KARUNAKARAN: Sir, when the people are in the service, they are considered and regarded. At the same time, when they are not in the service, really their issues are not taken care of. Under the Employees Provident Fund Pension Scheme Act 1995, there was no provision for DA under the scheme. But at the same time, a relief was given to the pensioners annually to neutralize the effect of inflation. Unfortunately, this has been discontinued since April 2000.

Sir, the Parliamentary Standing Committee on the Ministry of Labour has recommended strongly for giving the relief to PF pensioners. Though the Parliamentary Committee has made such a recommendation, the Government has not taken it seriously.

The other issue is that under the Scheme of 1995, the beneficiaries were ensured a minimum pension of Rs. 5,000 per month as assured in the Parliament. The Parliament has assured this. But unfortunately, I would like to say that this concept has been done away with subsequently without any logic or any reason and in 1996 bringing down this minimum pension to Rs. 265 per month only.

Sir, it is very sad to say that a person gets a monthly pension of Rs. 265. So, I would request the hon. Finance Minister to take this issue seriously.

SHRI P.C. THOMAS: Sir I associate with him. Many of them are in very difficult situation, the pensioners with no interim relief.

MR. SPEAKER: He has very ably put it.

SHRI P.C. THOMAS: Sir, I would request you to see whether the hon. Finance Minister could look into the matter seriously.

MR. SPEAKER: I am sure, he is looking seriously into every matter. I find that at least he is hearing all of them.

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH (Maharajganj, Bihar): Mr. Speaker, Sir, under the Golden Quadrilateral scheme, Kolkata-Delhi road was being constructed as main route wherein a bridge was also under construction between Barun and Dehri Anson. The said bridge was to be dedicated to the country and the countrymen within a week. But a part of the bridge collapsed on the sixth day of the month. Afterwards, as per my telephonic talk with the local people there, more than 31 workers are reported to be buried under the debris and three dead bodies have been recovered therefrom yesterday. We presume it as human failure. We are very proud of the N.H.A.I. that it is doing a good job in the country. But, due to such an incident, N.H.A.I. has also been brought under suspicion. I certainly can't deliberately say but at least I can contend that the company functioning there has carelessly executed the work leading to such a result.

Through you, I demand from the Government that a compensation of Rs. Five lac each to the families of those buried and died therein and a compensation of Rs. One lac each to the families of those injured and hospitalized, be given and the persons responsible for the incident be investigated and prosecuted against. This is my demand to the Government.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Ajit Kumar Singh is associated with this matter.

[English]

SHRI K. FRANCIS GEORGE (Idukki): Sir, the Electricity Act 2003 has created far-reaching consequences in the power generation and distribution sector in our country through its various provisions like Tariff Policy, Open Access Regulation and the formation of State Regulatory Commissions. Central projects like APDRP, RGGVY, Mega Power Projects, Ultra Mega Power Projects, etc. are being formulated according to the new Act.

The Act stipulates that State Electricity Boards shall be reorganized as different companies for generation, transmission, distribution and trading of power. Pending reorganization, the State Boards have been allowed to

continue as State Transmission Utility and Licencee up to December 9, 2006. Also, the Act stipulates that the assets of the Boards shall be revalued and vested with these newly formed companies and the tariff should be fixed in such a way so as to get 14 per cent profit for the capital investment, making the consequent increase in tariff, unbearable for ordinary consumers. A review of this policy has become very necessary.

So, I request the Government to extend the period of State Electricity Board, especially of Kerala State Electricity Board, as a State Transmission Utility and Licencee from December 9, 2006 to December 9, 2007.

13.00 hrs.

Secondly, I would request the Government to allow States to retain the Boards in the Public Sector to carry out its operations together and to formulate policies according to the needs of each State in conformity with the federal nature of our country.

Thirdly, I would request the Government to scrap the Open Access Regulation policy requiring to bring in private companies into the power distribution sector using the Boards transmission facilities which will be detrimental to the interests of the low income groups in our society.

Fourthly, I would request the Government to review the policy regarding cross subsidy to BPL, APL category consumers and the stipulation to ensure 14 per cent profit in the distribution sector.

Fifthly, to review policy regarding Mega and Ultra Mega Projects and grant Kerala 1200 MW from these projects instead of the 200 MW sanctioned now.

Finally, I would request the Government to revamp the Electricity Act, 2003, as promised in the Common Minimum Programme of the UPA Government.

SHRI P. KARUNAKARAN: I also associate with him. This is the major issue of Kerala.

MR. SPEAKER: Okay.

Hon. Members, we have already taken 15 matters of urgent public importance. There are other matters, but we have decided that at 1 o'clock we shall take up this. There will be no luncheon recess. There is one matter relating to the Indian Telegraph (Amendment) Bill, but I am told that on the Indian Rifles (Repeal) Bill, there will be no discussion.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Yes, Sir.

13.01 hrs.

INDIAN RIFLES (REPEAL) BILL, 2006

MR. SPEAKER: Now, Item 22 may be taken up first for quick disposal.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): On behalf of Shri Shivraj Patil, I beg to move:

"That the Bill to repeal the Indian Rifles Act, 1920, as passed by Rajya Sabha, be taken into consideration."

This Bill meant to repeal the Indian Rifles Act, 1920, a very archaic Act, was introduced in Rajya Sabha and was unanimously passed by voice vote on 30th November, 2006. The provisions of the Act are as under.

This Act may be called the Indian Rifles Act 1920. All police officers enrolled under the provisions of any Local, Territory Police or Rifles Act shall be subject to the discipline and penalties prescribed by such Act wherever serving in India.

The Indian Rifles Act, 1920 was enacted with a view to provide for better discipline of police officers enrolled in Military Police or Rifle battalions who were enrolled under various local Acts prevalent or applicable in different Territories of pre-Independent India. The said Act was relevant when there were many princely States in pre-partition India. At present, the police forces are governed either by the respective State or Union Territory Police Act or the Indian Police Act, 1861 or by the Acts governing the Central Police Forces.

As such, the Indian Rifles Act 1920 has become obsolete. So, there is no need to keep the act on the statute book and hence the said Act is to be repealed.

With these words, I commend this Bill for consideration of the House.

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That the Bill to repeal the Indian Rifles Act, 1920, as passed by Rajya Sabha, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura): Sir, I have given my name.

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Your name is not for the Rifle Bill.

[English]

The House will now take up clause-by-clause consideration of the Bill.

The question is:

"That clause 2 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 2 was added to the Bill.

Clause 1, the Enacting Formula and the Long Title were added to the Bill.

SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL: I beg to move:

"That the Bill be passed."

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That the Bill be passed."

The motion was adopted.

13.03¹/₂ hrs.

STATUTORY RESOLUTION RE DISAPPROVAL OF INDIAN TELEGRAPH (AMENDMENT) ORDINANCE AND INDIAN TELEGRAPH (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2006

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you for your cooperation.

Now, Items 20 and 21. Shri Prabodh Panda.

13.04 hrs

[SHRI MOHAN SINGH in the Chair]

SHRI PRABODH PANDA (Midnapore): I beg to move:

"That this House disapproves of the Indian Telegraph (Amendment) Ordinance, 2006 (No. 3 of 2006) promulgated by the President on 30 October, 2006."

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI DAYANIDHI MARAN): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move:

"That the Bill further to amend the Indian Telegraph Act, 1885, be taken into consideration."

The Universal Service Obligation Fund was established under the Indian Telegraph Act, 1885, with the fundamental objective of providing access to basic telegraph services to people in the rural and remote areas at affordable and reasonable prices.

The telecom sector in India is witnessing a period of unprecedented growth in the last few years. Overall teledensity has increased from 2.9 in March 2000 to 15.70 in October 2006. However, while urban teledensity has increased by more than five times from 8.2 to 44.05, rural teledensity has moved up from 0.7 to 1.86 only.

It is cheaper to provide mobile telephone services as compared to fixed lines and the operational expenditure is also lower. In this background, a decision was taken to create shareable infrastructure in rural, remote and inaccessible areas and to support telecom service providers to use this infrastructure for provision of mobile services.

At the time when this scheme was envisaged, it was pointed out that the definition of the Universal Service Obligation in Clause (1A) of Section 3 of the Indian Telegraph Act, 1885 included the word 'basic'. Though the word 'basic' is not defined in the Act, in usage the word 'basic' refers to wire line and fixed wireless terminals. It was felt that because of this connotation which the word 'basic' had, it would not be possible to support the mobile infrastructure activities from the Universal Service Obligation Fund. The Department of Legal Affairs opined that it would be necessary to delete the word 'basic' by a suitable amendment. Also the Department of Telecommunications would be safeguarding itself from possible litigation.

In several debates in Parliament, hon. Members of Parliament have urged that provision of telecommunication facilities to the rural and remote areas should be given the topmost priority. Further, there is consensus on the need to provide support for taking mobile telephony into the rural and remote areas. In order to extend support for cellular services in rural and remote areas from the Universal Service Obligation Fund require this amendment in the Indian Telegraph Act, 1885.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Motions moved:

"That this House disapproves of the Indian Telegraph (Amendment) Ordinance, 2006 (No. 3 of 2006) promulgated by the President on 30 October, 2006."

"That the Bill further to amend the Indian Telegraph Act, 1885, be taken into consideration."

Now, Shri Prabodh Panda.

SHRI PRABODH PANDA: Hon. Chairman, Sir, in fact, I am not against the content of this Bill but I must protest about the route which is taken, that is, promulgation of this Ordinance. Sir, the explanation given by the hon. Minister is not satisfactory and not convincing.

The Indian Telegraph (Amendment) Bill, 2006 was introduced in this august House on 19th May, 2006. After the introduction of this Bill in this august House, this Bill has been referred to the Standing Committee on Information and Technology. The Standing Committee also recommended, and that recommendation had been placed but the Bill has not been discussed in this House. In the meanwhile, this Ordinance has been promulgated. The reason that is given is:

"The reason is that the Department of Telecommunications was of the opinion that the promulgation of an Ordinance would be necessary because waiting for process of the Bill already before the Parliament would delay the launching of the scheme by several months."

Sir, this Ordinance was promulgated on 30th October, 2006. The Winter Session of this House commenced on 22nd November, 2006. So, what is the reason of saying that it would be delayed by several months? What is the reason behind it? Rather, this sort of word is misleading the House and giving misinformation to the House. So, promulgation of this Ordinance is quite unfair, unconvincing and unwarranted.

Sir, let me remind the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs that when they were sitting in the Opposition benches during the last Lok Sabha, each and every time, they used to protest the procedure and method of bringing the Ordinance. But now, same case is being repeated by this Government itself.

That is why I am moving this Resolution for disapproval of this Ordinance. I think, this would be

considered and the hon. Minister will give a satisfactory reply on this aspect. I am not opposing the content. That is my view.

SHRI P.S. GADHAVI (Kutch): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise to express my views on the Indian Telegraph (Amendment) Bill, 2006.

The Amendment in question was brought in by the Ordinance, as was told by my learned friend, just now.

This is a very important Amendment. Instead of an Ordinance, this type of Amendment should be brought before Parliament so that the hon. Members could discuss this thoroughly and the same could be passed by Parliament. But it has become the normal practice with the UPA Government to bring such important Amendments by way of Ordinances, which is very unfortunate.

Sir, this Amendment envisages for providing support to the cellular mobile services in the rural areas from the universal obligation fund, besides the basic telegraph services.

The Indian Telegraph (Amendment) Bill, 2006 was introduced in the Lok Sabha on 19th May, 2006 and the same was referred to the Standing Committee on Information Technology, which had submitted its Report on 31st July, 2006.

Sir, under the new Telecom Policy of 1999, during the tenure of the NDA Government, it was envisaged to achieve 'Telephone on Demand' in the rural areas by the year 2002, and to increase the rural teledensity from the level of 0.4 to four by the year 2010.

As on 30th April, 2006 while the urban teledensity, largely spearheaded by mobile phones, increased to 40.65 from 14.3 in March, 2003. But the rural teledensity increased marginally to 1.86 from 1.05 in March, 2003.

It is evident that the cellular mobile services, which have brought about a revolution in the urban areas can be effectively used to provide services to the people in the rural remote areas, that too at affordable and reasonable prices.

As you know, in our country even now, many remote areas and hilly areas do not have cellular mobile services. I may bring it to the notice of the hon. Minister that I come from Kutch district. In area it is the third largest

area of our country. It is on the border of Pakistan. There is one place known as Khadir, which is surrounded by the Rann of Kutch, which is very remote. More than 20 hamlets are there; and they do not have any telephone connectivity. With all efforts, there was one connection given in the one village known as Dhologira. But other areas do not have any telephone connections. From the Taluka headquarters, distance of that area is more than 200 kilometres. Like that, there are so many other areas, which require telephone connections. It is a very good thing that you are providing the cellular mobile services almost everywhere. Here, I would request the hon. Minister that the remote area of Khadir and also other remote and hilly areas should get the cellular mobile services. In this regard made I have submission earlier also.

Sir, it is also evident that landline services are costlier option owing to difficulties of terrain and cost of laying of copper cable, OFC etc. We know, it is difficult. Landline telephone becomes costlier.

Hence, to facilitate telecom penetration in the rural areas, it becomes imperative to support new wireless technologies which are cheaper, and they can be rolled out much faster. With the advancement of new technologies, the cost of mobile handsets has also come down. So, this type of spreading is a welcome thing.

Now, the need for present amendment, as it is stated in the Statement of Objects and Reasons, is that, "Section 9-A of the Indian Telegraph Act, 1885 provides for the establishment of a Fund called the "Universal Service Obligation Fund". As per clause (1A) of Section 3 of the said Act, Universal Service Obligation means the obligation to provide access to basic telegraph services to people in the rural and remote areas at affordable and reasonable prices."

As per the view of the Department, at present the USO fund is being provided only for the basic telegraph services, that is, wire line and fixed wireless terminals. But USO Fund cannot be utilized for cellular mobile services.

Therefore, in order to facilitate telecom penetration in the rural areas, it was considered desirable to support new wireless technologies which can be rolled out much faster.

Accordingly, the financial support from the USO Fund is required to be provided for cellular services in such areas.

[Shri P.S. Gadhavi]

The USO Fund was established with effect from 1st April, 2002. Various telecom service licensees are paying licence fee to the Government at the rate of 6-10 per cent of Adjusted Gross Revenue (AGR). Out of such licence fee, five per cent of the AGR is towards USO Fund contribution.

Thus, Rs. 10,787 crore has been collected as Universal Service Obligation Fund levy as on 31st March, 2006. Surprisingly, out of the same, an amount of only Rs. 3,581.43 crore has been allotted and disbursed and the balance amount to the tune of Rs. 7,206.42 crore has not been released so far. The DoT maintained that the amount allocated to the service providers is grossly inadequate to meet their needs. The Standing Committee has also expressed their dissatisfaction over the inadequate release of money to the USO Fund for meeting the universal service obligation. They strongly support the views expressed by the DoT and are of the opinion that the very purpose of creating the USO Fund is defeated when the amount needed for providing basic telephone facilities in the rural and remote areas is not provided for.

The Committee, therefore, had recommended that all out efforts should be made for releasing the full amount to the USO Fund so that the Department of Telecommunications is able to discharge the functions of universal service obligation in an effective manner.

Sir, I would like to submit here that the object of providing USO Fund to cellular mobile services could have been very well achieved without amending the Section 3 of the Indian Telegraph Act but this could have been achieved by making suitable enabling provisions/ amendments in the rules framed under the Indian Telegraph Act, 1885. If you could have made some amendments in the rules, it could have been made. You could have achieved the object instead of waiting for this much period. It was not necessary to make an amendment. It is not the only solution to make the amendment and to delete the word 'basic'. Without deleting that word 'basic', if you could have made amendments in the enabling provisions of the rules, you could have achieved the object. However, you have brought this amendment. It is a good thing. Otherwise, this object could have been achieved. There should have been no need for going in for Ordinance and this put delay. Therefore, this was the view expressed by the Standing Committee also.

Lastly, I would like to submit that the Government should avoid making amendments to the Acts by resorting to Ordinance. This is my humble submission that the Government should have avoided, as far as possible, to resort to Ordinance. Moreover, the object of bringing this amendment could have been very well achieved because if the Government had a sincere will, they could have made suitable enabling provision/amendment in the Rules framed under the Indian Telegraph Act, 1885.

It is a good thing. So, I welcome it. Wherever the remote and hilly areas are there in our country, they should have telephones. Now a days, telephone is not a luxury. It is very much a necessity. Now, day by day, mobile services are expanding all over the country. So, I welcome this move. Therefore, I support this Bill.

SHRI NAVEEN JINDAL (Kurukshetra): Hon. Chairman, Sir, I am very happy to get this opportunity to speak on and support the Indian Telegraph (Amendment) Bill, 2006.

Sir, I compliment *Thiru* Dayanidhi Maran, the hon. Minister for Communications and Information Technology for bringing this Bill to the House. He is a young Minister who has brought great changes in the telecom sector in a very short span of time. I have always admired his young ideas, bold initiatives and futuristic perspective. That is what the House and the country expect from a young Minister.

Sir, the Bill is very brief and simple in its content. It seeks to omit the word 'basic' from section 3 clause 1(a) of the original Act of 1885. However, it is very significant in its aim and its objectives. Sometimes, the omission or addition of one word in a Bill has far-reaching ramifications. This is one such Bill.

As part of its commitment to change the face of rural India, the UPA Government has launched several schemes for rural housing, employment, education, power supply and better connectivity through roads and other means of communication. The present Bill is a link in that chain. The purpose of the present Bill is to provide financial support for cellular services in rural and remote areas of our country from a Fund called Universal Service Obligation Fund. This Fund was set up under the Act of 1885, but it could be utilised only for wire-lined and fixed wireless terminals.

During the last two years, we have made major strides in the field of telecommunication. The UPA Government has assured that every village of the country will be connected with telephone facility. Now, we have to expand this facility in a big way and narrow the gap between urban and rural tele-density. Every month, about 50 lakh telephones are being added in the urban areas, but the rural areas are lagging behind. We have not only to eliminate this gap but we also need to provide telephone facility to our villagers at very reasonable rates so that people can easily afford those services. Even if we have to subsidise this in the beginning, we should do so.

It has been stated that the Government has certain ambitious target of 250 million connections by December, 2007 and more than 50 million rural connections are to be provided in the next three years. This indeed is a tall order, but I am confident that with the vision of our hon. Prime Minister and the dynamism of a young Minister, Thiru Maran, it is not beyond our reach.

I will emphasise on mobile telephone services which are much cheaper than the fixed lines. Whatever support is necessary to be given to service providers should be given to create a sustainable infrastructure in the rural areas, particularly in remote areas, in mountainous areas and in the deserts. Once such an infrastructure is ready, it will change the lifestyle of people living and working in rural areas. All the information they need will be available to them at their doorsteps. It will help in preventing the influx of people to the cities.

Sir, I will conclude by making two suggestions. When we are planning to have a big network of telephone facility in rural and remote areas, it is necessary to provide service centres also close to the villages.

Please allow these centres to be manned by the people from these areas itself, so that it will provide them gainful employment.

The Indian Telegraph Act was passed in 1885, which was more than a century ago. Almost everything has changed during this long period. It is right time that the Government is having a fresh look at the Act, and revamping it to bring it in line with the latest developments, and those that are in the offing.

With these words, I support the Bill and oppose the Statutory Resolution. I wish Thiru Maran and Dr. Shakeel Ahmad all the success in their endeavours.

SHRI P. KARUNAKARAN (Kasargod): Sir, this Bill was introduced in this House, and it was referred to the Standing Committee. There were intense discussions on this Bill in the Standing Committee, and there were also some dissenting notes. I was one among them, who had given dissenting notes.

The Standing Committee Report has come in this House, but it is unfortunate that it does not include the recommendations or the deliberations of the Standing Committee. I am saying this because the Ordinance had already come before we took this Bill in this House. The Ministry has to take the spirit of the Standing Committee's intense discussion on this issue into account. I really appreciate the initiative taken by the hon. Minister in dealing with many of the issues, which are coming in the telecom sector.

The Indian Telegraph Act was passed in 1885, that is, during the British rule. The Ministry of Telecommunications has amended this Act many times. Now, a new amendment has come, and we are discussing about it. I think that the main issue is this. In the original Act, the word 'basic' was used. The objective of this Act is to delete the word 'basic'. But there was no definite definition given to the word 'basic' in the original Act itself. But it is presumed that the word 'basic' refers to the landline as also the fixed wireless line.

I think that it is true that BSNL and MTNL are doing a lot of work, and we are able to see this when we go to the rural areas. I am talking specially about the functioning of BSNL. But we cannot say that any of the private companies are going to the rural areas. Hence, we have given this dissent note on this specific issue itself.

We have been discussing about increasing the teledensity. There is tremendous change in the telecom sector, which was stated by our hon. Minister also. In India, the teledensity has increased to 14.10 in 2006 from 2.5 in 2000. In urban areas, there is a big change to 44.05 from the earlier 8.22. It is also true that it is very insignificant in the rural areas, that is, an increase to 1.86 from 0.7.

There are at least 5,000 new connections every year in the urban areas. I do understand that it is in the context of this issue that the Government has come for an amendment. The main objective of the amendment is to use the Universal Service Obligation (USO) fund. It

[Shri P. Karunakaran]

was used by landline, and the Department has now decided to use it for mobile services also. If this amendment comes, then it is my apprehension that it would reduce the share of USO fund to BSNL and MTNL, which really are the public undertakings. This may also enable the private companies to get more USO funds.

I would like to go through some of the answers given by the Government to the questions asked in the Lok Sabha. In reply to Q. No. 2,281 of 5 December 2004, the Government has given the break-up of the operational loss incurred by BSNL for providing telephones in the villages. In the answer, it is given that there was a loss of Rs. 2,587.79 crore in 2001.

In 2001-02 it was Rs. 6,913.16 crore. In 2002-03 it was Rs. 7,880.80 crore. In 2004-05 it was Rs. 9,528.88 crore. The total loss comes to about Rs. 26,000 crore. During the same period, they received only Rs. 6,000 crore or Rs. 7,000 crore from this fund. It means that there is a loss of about Rs. 20,000 crore for the BSNL. But you see that no private company has come forward to give connectivity in the rural areas. At the same time, they are concentrating their business in the urban areas because they are profitable to them and there is no risk involved for them in those areas. When we speak about the rural areas, we see the geographical difficulties and uneven development. So, private companies do not go there.

Why I have given a dissent note is that nowadays the mobile service has grown very fast. There is a lot of scientific progress seen in the mobile service. So, there is not much expenditure or loss incurred in providing mobile services. But it is entirely different as far as the line service that we see in the rural areas is concerned. No company is willing to go to those areas. In this context, if we divert this Universal Service Obligation Fund which is mainly meant for the benefit of the public undertakings, the BSNL and the MTNL, and of course if these amendments come, it is true that the private people may get a share but on the hand it would result in a reduction in the share of the public undertakings. That is why I expressed this apprehension. Sir, if you see the years 2000 to 2006 you will find that the two public undertakings have incurred heavy losses since only they undertook this obligation of providing service in rural areas and no other company has come forward to do that.

While I am not opposing this Bill, my suggestion is that it is only a justification on the part of the Government

to access the PSUs financial assistance for the loss that they have incurred for the year 2006. That is a duty of the Government itself. The infrastructure that is there is done only by the Government, by the BSNL or MTNL, and not by any private company. Even in the era of globalization, we need to get some assistance and the losses incurred by the BSNL have to be compensated by the Government.

With these words I conclude.

SHRI SURESH PRABHAKAR PRABHU (Rajapur): Sir, while I would like to support the spirit of the Bill and the Bill itself, I am a little bit amazed by the fact that the Government has to think about such a novel idea only during the period when the Parliament is not in session. I do not understand why the Government wore the thinking cap only when the Parliament is not in session. If something like this had to be introduced, I do not see any reason why - across the political parties everybody is supporting this - we should bring about an Ordinance for this. Therefore, something like this should now become as a practice that Ordinance will actually legislate and the Parliament then will be told that we have made an Ordinance, why do not you support? I think it is a good idea. I hope that in the future, the Minister who is efficient and very dynamic take Parliament more seriously and make sure we will actually not legislate outside Parliament but through the Parliament.

13.35 hrs.

[SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL *in the Chair*]

Rural telephony is a big challenge. In fact for our country the urban rural divide itself is a challenge. While India continues to grow at nine per cent or close to that, there are areas which in fact are registering negative growth.

Now, villages which are becoming distant than the cities are always called as rich city's cousins. But now we will have to say that we cannot call them cousins any more because they look so distant. Therefore, it is about time we should try to bridge this gap. One of the best ways to do that is through communication. Therefore, communication provider has to incentivise to go to the rural areas. Therefore, the USO Fund was really created. Therefore, the USO Fund has to be used now for the rural areas. That is why the Government is trying to introduce this legislation. Hence, I support it. While doing

that, I would like to really request the Minister to tell us that while bringing the change in the legislation, which only enables him to use the Fund for some purposes, which he has not able to do it before, is there a guarantee that the problems in rural areas would be solved totally? My constituency is 93 per cent rural; there are 1,200 villages; there are several hamlets which are more than 6,000 to 7,000 in number, each of the hamlets is like a village. What has happened is that you are trying to say that we would meet the demand by such and such a period. How would you actually estimate the demand? We have seen now that the Telecommunications Department is refusing to accept applications unless there are more than 150 or 200 people coming in and saying that they would like to buy this. Tell me a village or a hamlet which has a small density where you want to increase the tele-density. What about the density of population in certain parts of India which is not very high? How do you make sure that demand would get registered to begin with? If it is not, then, how would you be catering to the demand? Your supply can follow when the demand is known. But here, you are not able to capture the reality of demand. Therefore, my first request to the Minister would be that if you want universal service obligation, universality demands that each and every person must have the right to register himself as a potential consumer. If you are not doing that the USO Fund would not really serve the purpose. First of all, let the Minister assure the House that he would change the policy and make sure that anybody can go and register as a potential consumer for telecommunication services. If he does that, the concept of universality can really be implemented. So, this is my first request.

Secondly, we are saying and the TRAI itself has said that by 2010 it would not be able to attain tele-density of more than four per cent. Even if your colleague from your State is very generous and give Rs. 30,000 crore - I hope he does that - and if you are not going to get that type of budgetary support and you are going to solely depend on the USO Fund to meet the new demand as well as the existing ones, I do not really see any way in which you can actually attain this target. Therefore, the law was not holding you back there in bringing in this universal coverage of telecommunication services. It is something more than the law. You have the support of the House but I would also like to know from the Communications and the Finance Ministers together because in these days of convergence, I hope they would converge in this objective of meeting universal demand by all the consumers in the shortest time. How

are you going to provide money if the USO Fund is not enough to meet it? By what time, you think, you would be able to meet it because TRAI has already raised a cautious signal? They say that it is not going to be possible.

The third issue I am trying to flag off is to find out this. How are you really thinking about the telecommunications sector where the regulation has really succeeded? Why has it succeeded? What is the measure of that success? Have the tariffs fallen? That is something very good but if the consumer does not know and the sector is growing, then, there is something seriously wrong. Here, in the sector in which consumers are also benefiting besides of course, the telecommunications itself is benefiting. We have no problem with that. But here, are you thinking about - I am just raising the issue and I would like to know your views - creating a regulatory framework exclusively to deal with by giving more focus on rural areas? I am thinking of this now because now the cross-subsidisation is not something which you are contemplating. The USO Fund is actually a separate fund which is going to be used for separate purposes or by separate institutions. How are you thinking about it? I would like to know about that because you are actually thinking about creating a passive infrastructure. What you are saying is this. In the future rather than creating more and more towers, one tower be shared by more than one service provider. It is a good idea. It is prevalent in the US; it actually could reduce the cost eventually. But for that you need a strong regulation; it cannot happen if the person who is going to create the tower or the passive infrastructure as is known, is not going to be regulated properly. At the same time, it could not happen if it is not incentivized enough. But more than that, if more than one company has to share the same services, on what basis it is going to be done - that is actually an important issue. Therefore, are you thinking of making such a thing?

Sir, I am from the rural area; you must give me some more time. Rural people do not get opportunities to speak. You are also from the rural area.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Rural people stay in urban cities - that is also an issue. Okay, kindly conclude now. You have taken more than ten minutes.

SHRI SURESH PRABHAKAR PRABHU: Sir, the Minister is from the urban area; let me give him the rural flavour.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Everybody is sympathetic towards rural area, but still that is starving.

SHRI SURESH PRABHAKAR PRABHU: Sir, there is an enabling provision. There is a new amendment, which is wide enough to cover various services. Is he thinking of using the USO Fund? This is really required. We talked about convergence, a little earlier. So, please do not just confine it now to rural telephony by way of saying that it will give the mobile phones. Internet is also important; in fact, multi-media is also important; it is not just voice that should be heard. But I hope, it will be heard because sometimes, they provide it but we do not hear. So, it should be data transfer; that should also happen at the same time.

Is he thinking of using the USO Fund, for not just one, but for multimedia, Internet and other connectivity. Why is this important? Why am I saying this? It is because once we lay the infrastructure, it should be sufficient enough to capture and to make sure that all these issues are properly taken care.

I hope the Minister will be unequivocally saying this that in future irrespective of number of consumers coming forward to register the demand, actually they will do it. Therefore, I request him to do that.

[Translation]

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am grateful to you for giving me an opportunity to speak on the Indian Telegraphs (Amendment) Bill, 2006.

Sir, the hon. Minister is sitting here. A number of hon. Members have given their views and suggestions on this Bill. This Bill has been introduced for making amendment to the Act of 1885. So far as the telecommunications system in rural areas is concerned, it is very miserable. I'd not like to go in details. Earlier, arrangements were made to link the villages with communications system by installing the WLL towers in rural areas. But the Department of Telecom had to suffer a great loss as the system didn't work properly. So far as the mobile phone is concerned, landline phones have proved better to a great extent in rural areas even today. Landline phones have a good capacity and facility to provide good service for a long time. Landline telephones have proved more effective in rural areas as compared to mobile phone. If we see, today, people don't like to have landline telephone, rather they like to have mobile

phone. Farmers or workers in rural areas belonging to the weaker section and to middle class, if they afford, could have a communication by it from anywhere. We have to strengthen and improve the condition of rural areas by way of telecommunications. As several hon. Members have expressed their concern, and if we also see, natural calamities such as flood, drought, cyclone or unpleasant incidents somewhere do occur even today in rural areas. If for example fire breaks out somewhere, we have to inform about it to the institutions like Police, Tehsil and fire brigade to save ourselves from such a natural calamity. Due to the lack of telecommunication system, such untoward incident continue to happen causing loss of lives and properties.

So far as Telephone Network is concerned, we see that there is no network problem in cities but it exists in villages. So, we have to strengthen the network there. In cities, we could communicate by landline phones, mobile phones or by PCO, but in far-flung areas people are fed up with network problem even at present. So there's a need to spend funds in these far-flung areas so as to strengthen the telecom network there. Even today, the networks of the private companies are proving more effective as compared to that of the BSNL. Their networks work properly everywhere and provide good services too. Today, it is an era of competition. So, Government telecom companies have to compete with the private companies of the country as well as with the multinational companies. Therefore, special attention has to be paid towards strengthening the telecom system more.

With these words, I conclude and strongly support this Bill.

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer): Mr. Chairman, Sir, though I support this Bill yet, I regret the fact that before bringing this bill, an ordinance was promulgated on 30th October 2006 despite the fact that the Parliament Session was to commence from 22nd November. What emergency circumstances had emerged within these 22 days which forced the hon'ble Minister to say that we could have been deprived of the service. I think there is some other reason for it. The bill was presented in the Parliament on 19th May, 2006. Subsequently, it was referred to the Parliament Standing Committee. The bill proposes to remove the word basic. The Telegraph Act provided for only fixed land lines telephone facility. However, the Parliamentary Standing Committee submitted its report on 31st July expressing its views on the matter. Thereafter, an ordinance was promulgated on 30th

October. Meanwhile, the Monsoon Session was also held and the bill could have been introduced in that session itself. It seems there is something fishy about it. I would like to submit to Shri Maranji that in India—the largest democracy of the world, an ordinance is promulgated in special circumstances or due to unavoidable reasons. We have been repeatedly saying this in the House.

Telephone and mobile services have become essential services in rural areas. However, these services are confined to urban areas only. When we visit our constituencies, people often complain that they did not get the land line connection even after depositing Rs. 1000 some 5-7 years back. Even out of my parliamentary quota of 100 phones, 25 phones have not been installed as yet.

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI): The hon'ble member does not require any telephone, he is blessed with a pretty loud voice.

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT: People in Rural areas are facing a lot of difficulties in regard to telephones. The hon'ble Minister is living in Urban area, he may not realise it. People in rural areas of my constituency often say that though I represent them in Parliament but am I not able to provide a telephone connection to them? Besides, it is also stated that whenever people approach the officers of the telephone department regarding non-installation of telephones they are told to get the booking amount refunded. The case is similar for land line or mobile phone connection. In cities even the rickshaw pullers and vegetable vendors are using mobile phones. However, people living in remote, hilly and forest areas face difficulties in getting telecommunication services. In the absence of this facility they are unable to communicate with their families on telephone. Though Cellular Service has been started and VPTs have been installed at several places in these areas, also a national telecom policy has been formulated but it has not proved much beneficial for them. Earlier 'MAR' system was installed in rural areas but that system is no longer in use now. However, it has not been replaced with the new system. In Gram Panchayats the old MAR-System VPTs were to be replaced with the new ones but that has not been done. Waiting list of connections is still pending in various villages. 7000 people are in the waiting list in Ajmer district. Area-wise, Rajasthan is the largest State of the country. There are deserts, hilly and remote areas in this

State. On requesting the department to install WLL, they simply reply that the required number of machines have not been received and are likely to reach there by 31st March. However, the machines have not been made available even after 31st March. High power mobile phone towers should be installed on hills so that an area upto 25 km. could be covered. These towers should be able to work even in freak weather conditions. Sir, this is the agony of the people of my area. Mr. Chairman, Sir, I need your protection. Private Sector companies propagate their products through advertisements. BSNL, MTNL are providing their services in the rural areas even while suffering losses. The Government introduced USOF to compensate the losses. The private companies paid lakhs of rupees as fine but did not fulfil the target fixed for rural areas. These companies, be it TATA, Hutch or Reliance have not entered villages. Therefore, some restrictions should be imposed on them so that government undertaking may not suffer losses. The private companies claim through advertisements to provide free life time service but how can they do so when they have been awarded licenses for one year only? In this way they are playing fraud with the people but attention is not being paid to it. These companies advertise that the subscriber will not have to pay anything for the incoming and outgoing calls. Actually they are exploiting the subscribers. BSNL should change its approach. They should refrain from the earlier mind set of going on strikes and all that as new companies have entered into competition with them. We are thankful to BSNL for they are trying to provide service in the rural areas.

The Hon'ble Minister should clarify the time by which the waiting list is likely to be cleared. Telephone connections are available in the cities on demand. Similar facility should be provided in rural areas. Most of the defence personnel are living in rural areas.

[English]

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN (Chirayinkil): I am for the disapproval of the Ordinance. The Bill is for replacing the Ordinance. Now, I would like to submit that as per article 123 of the Constitution if at any time, except when both Houses of Parliament are in Session, the President is satisfied that circumstances exist which render it necessary for him to take immediate action, he may promulgate such Ordinances.

[Shri Varkala Radhakrishnan]

Now here is a case wherein the Bill was introduced in this House as early as on 19th May, 2006. The Bill was circulated on that day. It was also mentioned that the President having been informed of the subject matter of the Indian Telegraph (Amendment) Bill, 2006 has recommended introduction and consideration of the Bill under article 117. So, the Bill was introduced and circulated in this House on the recommendation of the President. The Bill was referred to the Standing Committee and they have made some recommendations. In legal parlance, the House is seized of the matter. We are considering the Bill. When we have taken cognizance of the Bill and when such is the case, how can the President issue an Ordinance? ... *(Interruptions)* I am speaking for disapproval of the Ordinance. Once the President has recommended the consideration of the Bill, subsequently, can he issue an Ordinance when the House is not in Session?

MR. CHAIRMAN: You cannot discuss the authority of the President here.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: Then I will stop here.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I am only objecting your mentioning about the authority of the President. Can we discuss the authority of the President here? You are a lawyer. You know it.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: I have already moved a resolution for the disapproval of the Ordinance and on that basis, I am speaking. I am speaking on the basis of a resolution which I have already moved.

Now, I would like to draw the attention of the House to one point. You may be aware that an Ordinance is a committed legislation. The House cannot make any amendment because the Executive has already committed certain points and they will have to be passed as they are without amendments. That is why I say that the powers of the House are curtailed. It is more or less like delivering a child by a caesarian operation and not normally. My humble submission is this. The House is deprived of its powers. It is a fraud on the Constitution for having issued an Ordinance when the House has taken cognizance of the matter. When the House has referred the Bill to the Standing Committee, the President has no powers to issue an Ordinance. The President has already recommended to the House to consider the Bill and we have taken cognizance of the Bill. And the

Bill was subsequently referred to the Standing Committee. In the meanwhile, the Executive should inform us as to what was the urgency and emergency. Even admitting that the President has already issued an Ordinance, he must convince the House of the emergency. After going through the Bill, it will be seen that in 1985, the Telegraph Act was passed introducing the Universal Service Obligation Fund. This Fund has been there for years. Then what was the necessity for issuing an Ordinance for operation of a Fund which has been in existence since 1985? The Universal Service Obligation Fund is already there. What was the necessity to issue an Ordinance for the utilization of the Fund which had come into existence in 1985?

The Bill was naturally introduced, we have taken cognizance of it and we were discussing it. My humble submission is, this being a matter of no urgency, the Government should not have resorted to emergency provision. They could have brought it in the normal course. After all, these mobile phones are used in rural areas. What was the necessity to issue an Ordinance? I humbly request the Chair that this is a matter which ought to have been done in the usual course by bringing a Bill. The Bill could have been discussed by the House and passed. Without doing that, unfortunately, they have resorted to the emergency provision of the Constitution. They are not entitled to use that power since it is only a normal business. On this ground, I strongly oppose the issue of Ordinance. About the Bill, I have no objection.

14.00 hrs.

I have no objection over the Bill. But I object to the way in which it has been done. Had a Bill been introduced, I would not have opposed it. Had a Bill been introduced, I would have supported it in the natural course. But resorting to ordinances is not good. As a Member of the House, I have a power to make amendments in the Bill. That power is being taken away by issuing ordinances. That is why I oppose it. I am not opposing the Bill. I oppose the way in which the ordinances are issued.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you. Well done.

... *(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Nothing will be recorded.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI B. MAHTAB (Cuttack): Mr. Chairman, thank you very much for giving me an opportunity to participate in the discussion on The Indian Telegraph (Amendment) Bill, 2006. This reminds us of the National Telegraph Policy of 1999. It had set a target of achieving rural tele density from the level of 0.4 in 2002 to 4.0 by the year 2010. We are told that the rural tele density has increased to 1.77 by the year 2005 and that there is a need to facilitate telecom penetration in the rural areas. The Government has taken recourse to an easy way of utilizing the USO Fund to extend cellular mobile phones. The logic that has been put forth is that the cellular mobile services can be deployed for rapid expansion of telephony in rural and remote areas at affordable and reasonable prices.

The amendment that has been proposed is to remove the word "basic". On the face of it, this amendment looks very simple. But it is not so. Despite the Standing Committee objecting to it, the Government is going ahead with this amendment. I would just like to mention that the difference in the definition between the cellular and basic phones came into existence only in 1994. We are deliberating on an Act of 1885, The Telegraph Act. As per clause 1 (A) (A) of Section 3 of the Indian Telegraph Act, 1885, telegraph means :

"any appliance, instrument, material or apparatus used or capable of use for transmission or reception for signs, signals, writing images and sounds or intelligence of any nature by wire, visual or other electronic and electro magnetic emissions, radio waves or hertzian waves, galvanic electric or magnetic means. As wire as well as radio waves and electro magnetic emissions are stipulated in the definition, it covers both wire and wireless services."

I would like to understand as to why the Minister has said, while introducing the Bill in this House, that the Legal Department insisted on it. The Legal Department also met the Standing Committee. Yet, the Standing Committee said, "We are not convinced". We would like to hear from the Government as to why this necessity has come. The amendment or the definition which has come in 1994, was not incorporated in the Act. It is just for our understanding that cellular and basic telephones have been differentiated. But when you are removing the word "basic", a larger connotation is pregnant in that amendment. That is my concern and that concern, I think, is more or so of Shri Varkala Radhakrishnan or of anyone who represents a rural area. I would like to understand from the hon. Minister as to what is the reason behind

removing the word "basic". What repercussion is there? The repercussion is, diversion will be there and more stress will be on cellular mobiles. I am of the opinion that more stress should be given on fixed landlines. Mobile telephone is for the richer person and he who has more income prefers a mobile telephone. ...*(Interruptions)*

We have six lakh villages in this country and still around 50,000 or 60,000 villages are to be provided with a single telephone. It means around ten per cent of the villages of this country are yet to be provided with a telephone facility. ...*(Interruptions)* I am talking about the eligible villages, villages which has a population of more than a fixed number say 300 or 500 persons who live in the village. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI B. MAHTAB: When these great strides have been made in expanding telephone facility in this country, manifold increase has been done. More input also has come in with the introduction of optical fiber. But, of course, more investment is required to lay optical fiber to provide fixed landlines. But here the Government is taking recourse to cellular and BSNL which is a public sector undertaking, is provided with certain job to do and certain targets to meet. But now that is being shared. Earlier, a person of rural background was getting a telephone at a cheaper rate. Now, he is forced to buy the instrument. The instrument may be costing him around Rs. 3,000 or Rs. 40,000. ...*(Interruptions)* But by this way, the telephony system is being confined to a specific section of the society. A large section of the society who is invariably poor, especially in a State like Orissa where around 50 per cent of the people are below the poverty line, how do you provide a telephone in a village? By cellular mobile? This is my concern. So, I would like to have an assurance from the hon. Minister. Of course, a large number of political parties representing here in this Parliament are in favour of providing cellular mobile in rural areas.

Sir, I am in a minority. I am aware of it. But my only concern is that I need an assurance from the hon. Minister and from this Government. Please do not divert money from USO, at least keep a portion of USO fund for fixed landline. This is a policy decision which is being taken and there is a shift in the existing policy. There is a shift in the existing policy by removing the word "basic". But

[Shri B. Mahtab]

I am really alarmed the manner in which this Bill is being piloted. I am sure it is going to be approved. But my concern here is - I want to record it - that underprivileged people are being denied the service that was assured by the new Telecom policy.

[Translation]

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA (Jaipur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, my views are almost similar to what other hon'ble members have spoken before me. The hon'ble Minister himself has admitted that tele-density is less in rural areas. He had admitted this fact in the House on 14th December. He has introduced a praiseworthy bill. His endeavour is to provide ten thousand more mobile telephones in rural areas. It is a commendable step. The hon'ble Member who has been the Speaker of Lok Sabha, has mentioned about the ordinance that it should not have been promulgated.

I think it would have been better had the ordinance been introduced if there was a gap of two-three months. Therefore, I oppose the ordinance route. Undoubtedly, a very good bill has been brought but I would like to mention that the towers installed in rural areas are out of order. I would like to thank Shri Rajeshji the ex-Minister of Communication for connecting the rural areas with cities. Therefore, though the mobile telephony is providing good services, yet, here and there we see sign-boards displaying that telephone connections are available at cheaper rates. Some service providers claim that they are providing telephone free of cost and others lure subscribers to make one time deposit and get life time free service. There is a need to pay attention towards this trend and also towards the out of order towers installed in hilly areas due to which the local people face difficulties in communicating on telephones. Now new companies have entered into this sector and all of them are providing different facilities. He has introduced a praiseworthy bill. I welcome it. However, the ordinance should not have been promulgated. I am not opposing it but it would be better if the tower system is improved and villages are connected with mobile services. Therefore, I welcome this bill. There is no doubt that it is a very good bill. With these words, I conclude my speech.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Bhargavaji, very kind of you.

[Translation]

SHRI SHANKHLAL MAJHI (Akbarpur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I thank you for giving me this opportunity to speak on Indian Telegraph (Amendment) Bill. This country has made great progress in the field of telegraphs, telephones in the last decade. So, we congratulate the Ministry and particularly the honourable Minister. I want to state that numerous applications for landline connection were received in all the States of the country in 2002 but no connection has been provided to anybody till now and their money is also lying unspent. They wanted to convey a message to the people of villages that they are connecting each and every village with telephone, they will provide as many connections as needed in the villages but those who submitted applications for connections have neither got the connection nor their money. This highlights the inefficiency of this department. Our country has made sufficient progress in the field of communications, it was the dream of late Shri Rajiv Gandhi to make telephones and T.V. accessible to all and that is why he gave all his support to the field of communications instead of agriculture and labour, horticulture and fishery. As a result, our country has made progress in this field. I only want to state that B.T.S tower has been set up in Ambedkar Nagar in my Lok Sabha Constituency of Akbarpur but it has a very poor networking. Now various companies like Tata mobiles, Reliance, Airtel etc. have entered this field but still the people in villages have a craze for M.T.N.L. As such it is my demand that the B.T.S tower set up in my Lok Sabha Constituency be properly operated to solve its networking problem. With these words, I conclude.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: I thank you for your kind cooperation. Shri Kharabela Swain. Please take two minutes.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN (Balasore): Sir, I shall be brief.

At the very outset, I would like to say that I am not against this Bill *per se*. But a paradoxical situation has already developed. Now, thousands of people are waiting for a fixed telephone line in the rural areas. My district Balasore in Orissa is having the highest number of wait-listed persons in Orissa. The Telephone Department keeps on assuring the wait-listed persons that the waiting list would be wiped out. But it never materializes. For the last so many years, we have been talking to the hon.

Minister and we are being told that due to the cancellation of the global tenders, the BSNL is unable to procure the instruments. That is the reason for which the BSNL is unable to install telephones on demand in the rural areas.

Mr. Minister, it is said that you are a dynamic person. I also agree that you are a dynamic person.

But I think that he should show his dynamism here by keeping his words. He said several times on the floor of the House that telephone would be provided on demand. I hope that he would do it because everyday people are coming to us with the demand that telephone should be provided to them. We have been telling them that they would get it in three or four months, but it does not materialize and so we are the people who are blamed for this. I would like to say that it is a paradoxical situation because when there is such a long waiting list, three million people have already returned their landline telephones and more and more people are returning it. Why are they returning it? Even now, I saw a news item in the newspaper that the Chairman of the BSNL is going to write letters to those persons who are returning their fixed line phones not to do so and even the Lineman is now going to function as a Salesman. What is the hon. Minister going to do about this? Why are they returning their telephones? Is it not because of the inefficiency in providing quality service? Will the Minister do something about it so that they do not return their landline telephones?

Sir, let us take the example of mobile service. I find that there are many people who are now shifting from BSNL to other private mobile service providers. What is the reason for this? One of the main reasons is that there is a lot of congestion in the BSNL mobile network and for hours together we do not get the signal. How is the Minister going to deal with this situation? We are fond of the Government of India, we are fond of BSNL and we are having BSNL mobile phones. But when we face this problem, we feel very sorry about it. So, I would appeal to the hon. Minister that he should do something to rectify this problem.

Lastly, I would like to know whether the Government has any plan to take the Broadband facility to rural areas through optical fibre. At the time of reply, I hope the Minister will reply to my questions.

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI DAYANIDHI MARAN): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I thank all the hon. Members

who have participated in this discussion. Most of the Members, I can say all the Members, have supported the Bill, but all of them have not supported the way in which it was brought.

Sir, the Standing Committee, in the 34th Report presented to the Lok Sabha on 31.07.2006, has supported the proposal to take mobile service to the rural areas and made the following observation in Part II of the Report. I quote:

"The Committee are, therefore, convinced that the cellular mobile services which have brought about a revolution in the urban areas can be effectively used to provide cellular service to the people in the rural and remote areas also at affordable and reasonable rates. The Committee, therefore, fully endorses the proposal for extension of support from the Universal Service Obligation Fund for provision of cellular service in rural, remote and inaccessible areas. But the Committee do not agree with the Indian Telegraph (Amendment) Bill, 2006 seeking the amendment of Clause 1 (A) of Section 3 of the Indian Telegraph Act, 1885 by deleting the word 'basic' from the expression 'basic telegraph services'. The Committee is of the view that there is no bar even now for extending subsidy support for the cellular service because the word 'basic' does not have any meaning and qualifies the word that follows. The definition of 'telegraph' is comprehensive and sufficiently wide to cover any type of technology."

But the Department clarified that it could appropriately be done by making a suitable amendment to the Act. We sought legal opinion on this. When we are trying to take the success of cellular services in the cities to the cousins in our villages, why should we have any legal dispute? The Legislative Department said that we should bring an amendment and we should go ahead and remove the word 'basic' from the expression 'basic telegraph services'.

Then, most of the Members asked as to why the promulgation of Ordinance was necessary. The Monsoon Session of Parliament ended on 25th August, 2006. The preparatory work on the scheme of support infrastructure for cellular services in rural and remote areas was at an advanced stage. If we had waited for the passing of the Bill, the scheme would have been pushed back by several months. Delaying of launching the scheme would affect the provision of not only voice telephony, but also the

[Shri Dayanidhi Maran]

effort of extending the broad band connectivity in the rural and remote areas.

Keeping in view the strong sentiments expressed in the Standing committee, the Consultative Committee and in the debates in the Parliament about the urgent need, to bring telecom services in the rural areas, it was felt that promulgation of Ordinance would help the early launching of scheme.

It is pointed out that after the issuing of the ordinance, a draft scheme has been placed on the web site of the Department of Telecommunications and notice inviting tenders will be issued in the third week of December.

Sir, we have seen telecom in India. I am a witness and most of the senior Members are witness to those old days when we had to file an application form for telephone and wait for years together. It was in 1980s when our late Leader Rajiv Gandhi brought the telecom revolution in India and we saw the STD booths mushrooming in all the villages, which brought about a telecom revolution in the fixed line service.

But technology changed. Today, we have mobile services. Mobile services were introduced way back in 1994. When it came in 1994, the cost per minute was Rs. 16.80. We had to pay for both sides, that is, the calling party as well as the receiving party had to pay. We had such expensive bills which were to be paid. So, mobile was thought of as if it was only for the rich, for the elite. The common man was not even eligible to use the mobile. The cost of the mobile phone was something like, Rs. 50,000. The service was so exclusive and limited to only cities. When this UPA Government took over, we had 75 million users. Today, we have 180 million users. The growth is tremendous. This January, our growth was five million. There were five million new users. In fact, I had an opportunity to meet the Prime Minister of Finland. He asked me, how is the telecom growth in India. I jokingly told him, 'we are adding your population to the number of new users in India'. This is what we have today. Last month, it was 6.2 million. For the previous month, it was 6.8 million. We are touching seven million.

Today, the mobile phone is not the sole property of the rich, the mobile phone is for the whole masses. Today, mobile phone has become so common that today we see a rickshaw-walla, a bhaji-walla, a farmer, everyone is using a mobile phone. It has changed the way we do business.

Thanks to the policies taken by this UPA Government, we have reduced the long distance licence fee, we have reduced the long distance international licence fee from Rs. 100 crore to Rs. 2.5 crore. Sir, today, could anyone think of calling from any part of India, from Kashmir to Kanya Kumari, at the cost of Re. 1. It is happening. It is happening in India. Today, we have the lowest tariff compared to other sectors.

MR. CHAIRMAN: We must congratulate you.

SHRI DAYANIDHI MARAN: That is also increasing the telecom sector. In the last two years, after the UPA Government has taken over, we saw a reduction of telecom tariff. We are doing it. The growth is coming. We never kept quiet. We also capitalize the growth. Today, we have capitalized the growth and said that we will not import all the equipments which are needed to be used in our country. Today, we can see Nokia, Motorola, etc. are all setting up their plants in India, manufacturing in India to ensure that they make them in India and supply to Indians. We have this growth.

MR. CHAIRMAN: This has brought proud to our country.

SHRI DAYANIDHI MARAN: This growth has come and it is because of this phone technology. We should take this growth.

Yes, it is a paradox, as Shri Swain has said. We saw that the teledensity in cities is 48 per cent. When we go to the rural areas, it is bad. We have taken a conscious decision, this House has taken a conscious decision to make the Department of Telecommunication into a public sector unit. We have now made BSNL and MTNL to behave like private players. When we want them to compete, we should let them compete. We cannot say, after making a Department of Telecommunication into the public sector unit that they should be what they were as the Government of India.

At the outset, we have opened up the telecom now. We have so many private operators and everyone is trying to compete. Naturally, with the capital market what they do is that they all go to the cities where they can make profit and that is exactly what has happened. All the telecom companies are now mostly in Delhi, Mumbai and in the cities only. But they have been going on. Today, if any telecom service provider has to go, he has to go to the rural areas.

We have also moved forward. We have the Universal Service Obligation Fund. It is a fund which is collected from the licence fee of the operators. So, five per cent of the licence fee is collected from them. We too now have collected about Rs. 10,800 crore. Out of this, the Finance Minister was kind enough, we have been able to allot Rs. 3,600 crore, we still have Rs. 7,200 crore. This amount keeps on adding. We try different schemes.

An hon. Member mentioned that we had MARRs; so many equipment came and they did not work. One successful thing is mobile be it GSM or CDMA. It has been successful. We want to take it to the rural areas. How do we incentivise them? We have the USO Fund. We are not giving this fund for them to put tower in Delhi or Mumbai or Chennai; we are asking them to go to the remote villages where there are no towers....
(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: He is not yielding. Please sit down.

... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI DAYANIDHI MARAN: Let me complete...
(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: He is coming to the rural areas.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Minister, kindly go ahead.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: I think, the hon. Minister is competent to reply. Mr. Minister, kindly reply.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI DAYANIDHI MARAN: I have not completed my reply. Let me complete. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Let him complete and then you can say something, if you are unsatisfied.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI DAYANIDHI MARAN: An hon. Member was asking as to how many MARRs were replaced. Out of 1,86,872 MARRs to be replaced, we have already replaced 1,63,436 MARRs as on 31.10. 2006. The remaining MARRs will be completed by the year 2007.

In fact, we want to utilize the Universal Service Obligation Fund not to put towers in cities, in urban areas but in rural areas, in villages and in inaccessible areas where you want. That is what the Government of India wants to do. We are trying to take these towers to cover the areas where the population is more than 2000. We are trying to introduce this process. Sir, 8,000 towers are going to come up. These towers are going to cover the length and breadth of the country where no single operator had put these towers. Is it not what you want? We want to take this cellular revolution which India is going through to our rural customers, to our villages. I am from Tamil Nadu. Probably I am elected from Chennai but I am also aware of all the rural problems. We feel that operators do not want to go. We have to incentivise them. The incentive is that we are trying to subsidise the cost of the passive infrastructure. We are subsidizing the tower cost, the diesel, the shelters, the switches needed. We are not only going to use them for voice; we want to use them for broadband also. In fact, we are going to subsidise for five years so that we feel that in the five years time it will be profitable enough for these operators; it can be BSNL, it can be Tatas, it can be Reliance, it can be Airtel, it can be anyone. We are allowing maximum three people to be fixed in this and share those towers so that they may be able to provide service to the people in the rural areas.

We will have 250 million phones by the end of next year. The speed at which we are going, we will be achieving much faster. We have also realized that in 2006 that we have to have targets. For the first time, the Department of Telecommunications is setting up targets. The targets such as the number of owners of telephone connections or tele-density we should have, we have never had this earlier. It is only in the last two years, after the UPA Government has taken over that we are putting targets and targets are being achieved, and we will be definitely over shooted also. By the year 2010, we will have 500 million mobile phones. Today, I can say we have joined the elite club of hundred million mobile users.... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: Sir, several times he said that he has set target but it has not been achieved...
(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Let the Minister complete his reply. After the Minister completes his reply, I will allow you to put one or two questions.

Now, Mr. Minister, you kindly go ahead.

SHRI DAYANIDHI MARAN: Sir, we have six lakh villages in India. Only 66,822 villages were to be covered. Out of these 66,822 villages, we have already covered 36,014 villages. The remaining villages will be covered by November, 2007. Sir, it is a continuous process.

Shri Swain has asked as to why we are not going to the fixed line and he said that we should invest in that. We never said that we would shy away from using the USO Fund for fixed line; wherever viable it will definitely be done.

Shri Swain wanted to know why people are surrendering the fixed line. It is a good question. Today, everyone wants a mobile phone. The husband carries a mobile phone; the wife carries a mobile phone; the son or the daughter carries a mobile phone; and they feel that when they have to pay rent for all these mobile phones, they do not want to pay for a landline. That is why they are surrendering the landline connections. Sir, we have reduced the cost under BSNL so as to reduce their bill. Today, everyone is paying less.

Sir, new formula will come. When things are changing, then our priorities will have to be changed. At this point of time, I would like to mention that India for once is on the right track, and what we are doing for mobile is on the right track. We are trying to push this success to the villages, to connect the villages and to take the telephone connections, broadband and other new technologies, to the villages. The world is talking about WiMAX technology. Two years back, we decided to set up WiMAX Research Centre in India, and the world is expecting us to come out with the technology. We will be coming out with the technology. Today, we will be the first one to come out with WiMAX technology, and we will be the leaders. We will be putting up the new technology. Every time when we reach somewhere, the technology will always lead us to go forward.

Let us do what we know. Let us take the success of mobile to the villages. Let us try to do that. With these words, I seek the support of all the sections of this House in passing this Bill.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: Mr. Minister, do you give us the date by which the waitlist numbers will be wiped out? If you give us the date now, then we can mention to our people that the hon. Minister has promised on the floor of the House that the waitlist numbers would be wiped out by such and such a date. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, Shri Chandrappan. Please be brief.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Nothing will be recorded except what Shri Chandrappan says.

*...(Interruptions)**

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Minister, let all the questions come first. After that, you can answer.

Now, Shri C.K. Chandrappan.

SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPPAN (Trichur): Sir, very appreciable things have come in the telephone sphere and we appreciate it. We face a serious problem especially in the hilly areas where you connect WLL connection. The complaint is perpetual. People are sending memorandums to take away this WLL connection because they could not contact anybody but they have to pay for it. What is the remedy that you are suggesting? Is there any time bound programme by which you will find a solution to this?

SHRI K. FRANCIS GEORGE (Idukki): I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the Minister for all the fast development that has taken place in the Ministry. The problem is this. He has already mentioned that. I have to highlight it. I represent the hilly area constituency, and people in the hilly areas have been waiting for years, for almost 9 to 10 years, for getting the connection. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please put your question.

SHRI K. FRANCIS GEORGE: Sir, he has to understand the problem. The USO funds are going to be used for providing towers. What I am suggesting is that preference should be given to the hilly areas. It is because those towers which have come up in the hilly areas cannot cover major areas, they cannot cover 20 kilo metres due to the hilly terrain. What is happening now is because of the coverage under WLL and mobile, no landline is being given, no new exchanges are being constructed and no landline is being put up. As a result, people have been waiting extraordinarily for a long time, for almost five to ten years to get a fresh connection. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. George, your point is already taken. Please take your seat now.

... (Interruptions)

SHRI K. FRANCIS GEORGE: So, Sir, thrust has to be given on those sectors.

There are also new secondary switching areas. ... (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Put a very pointed question straightaway. There is no need to elaborate. Otherwise, nothing of what you speak would go on record.

SHRI K. FRANCIS GEORGE: Give me, just one minute.

I am requesting the hon. Minister to form a new secondary switching area because my Constituency covers three districts plus Lakshadweep. The development work there is progressing at a snail's pace. So, new secondary switching area has also to be formed. ... (Interruptions)

MR CHAIRMAN: Now, Mr. Prabhu.

.... (Interruptions)

SHRI KIREN RIJJU (Arunachal West): Sir, North-East is also there. Kindly allow me also to speak... (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: I know, North-East is there. Kindly allow Mr. Prabhu to speak now. I would give you a chance.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: I will give you a chance after Mr. Prabhu.

SHRI SURESH PRABHAKAR PRABHU (Rajapur): What has been accomplished so far, nobody is questioning. Let the hon. Minister assure the House. What we are discussing is not a party issue, the Opposition issue or the Government issue; we are discussing the rural population, rural telephone issue, which has to be properly addressed. There are three possibilities.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Kindly be very brief.

SHRI SURESH PRABHAKAR PRABHU: I am asking very specific questions. There are fixed lines, there is

WILL, that is, wireless in local loop; and there is a cellular phone. Of course, there is a multimedia. I would request the hon. Minister to tell us very categorically. We represent the people. All these facilities should be available to the consumers. You please do not say only fixed line or cellular.

In the rural areas, the consumer must have the right and the choice to choose between the fixed telephone, cellular and wireless in local loop. The consumers want to register the demand. The BSNL must be directed that all demands would be registered; may be there is one person who is registering from the village. It is because, what is happening today is that many BSNL officers are refusing to register their demand by saying that at least, 150 demands should be there ... (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Members, kindly cooperate. Now, Shri Rijju.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI B. MAHTAB: Sir, let me also ask one or two points.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Mahtab, you have already spoken. He has not spoken in the debates. He is from the North-East.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI B. MAHTAB: I am not making any debate now. ... (Interruptions)

SHRI KIREN RIJJU: Mr. Minister, you may kindly go back to your statement. You have said that you have gone ahead of the target. Now, we had invited you for the meeting with the Members of Parliament from the North-East, where unfortunately, you failed to come. Your Secretary came. All the promises given there are not being met with. Now, for example, take the entire districts of Arunachal Pradesh. Forget about mobile, there is no landline connection even.

I just want to ask you a specific question, Mr. Minister. When are you coming to my State and what are you going to do for those places where you said, it is economically not viable? If you see everything from the economic point of view, what about our saying of Welfare State? The BSNL should consider welfare as one of the major approaches. Thank you.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, the hon. Minister.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI B. MAHTAB: May I ask a specific question?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Kindly be very brief.

SHRI B. MAHTAB: Yes, Sir. By November, 2004, some 66,000 odd villages were yet to be covered with telephony. By December, 2005, 17,000 villages had already been covered within 13 months time. You are diverting funds from USO for cellular mobile. Another 49,000 odd villages are yet to be covered. I wanted an assurance from the Minister and I am yet to get that.

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mehtab ji, this issue is over, he has replied on this point very comprehensively.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI B. MAHTAB: Will this USO fund be provided for expansion of landline telephone, village public telephone to those villages in a faced manner? The assurance is there that by 2007 all villages will be covered.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, the hon. Minister. You would also be very brief and precise. Otherwise, it would be an unending discussion.

SHRI DAYANIDHI MARAN: Sir, all the hon. Members wanted to know about the waiting list. ...(Interruptions)

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer): Mr. Chairman, Sir, may I ask a small point? ...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

Sir, my point ...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Rawat ji, you have already asked your question.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Prof. Rawat, you had asked and he had responded.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: It is not a Question Hour. Everybody cannot enjoy this facility. You have already spoken. The hon. Minister had noted down your points, and he had responded some points, in between also.

Now, kindly allow the hon. Minister to reply.

SHRI DAYANIDHI MARAN: Sir, all the hon. Members raised very valuable questions. I am sure, hon. Members do realize and I also do realize when they go to their Constituencies, they are faced with a lot of questions.

We have this process. We understand and the hon. Member should also understand that today in Orissa, we have a waiting list of 20,777. But what happens is that while we try to complete the waiting list, fresh waiting list is coming. It is an ongoing process. I can say that today we are able to provide "mobile connection" on demand for more than 90 per cent or 95 per cent of the people. I say "mobile connection". Mobile connection is now available on demand.

The hon. Member has also asked what technology is going to be used. It will be a judicious mix. Basically we are now going through the tender process. So, it is going to be a mixture. Wireless technology is required for these towers. It can be CDMA technology or GSM technology. It is going to be a judicious mix. We are allowing three people to come. So, it all depends on who wins the bid and who wants to come there and do it. So, we are trying to do that.

Regarding North-East, I am sure that we are closely following North-East. Let me say at this point, as we talk, that we have already realized the congestion problem. The BSNL cable was going there. We had frequent cuts. The cable used to get cut in North-East and North-East is used to get cut. We are using satellite medium to connect North-East but the traffic is too much. We already have, as I speak, 64 STM systems in North East, which is being extended to improve the bandwidth for both voice and data. As I speak, after this Parliament Session is over, I will be sending my colleague, Dr. Shakeel Ahmad. ...(Interruptions) Do you not want the Minister of State to be sent there? ...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please address to the Chair. Do not address the Members.

SHRI DAYANIDHI MARAN: I will be sending the Minister of State to go and assess the problem. But I

can also say that since you all want the BSNL to do the welfare activities, we have taken it. Even before this happens, we have already taken it because the BSNL has assured me that it is going to take the year 2007 as the welfare year for the North-East.

Also, in Kashmir we are going to make sure that we are going to increase our presence. We are going to increase the capacity both in North-East and in Kashmir. With this, I conclude my speech. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: How can I do that? He is responding. What can I do?

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT: I mentioned about Rajasthan. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI DAYANIDHI MARAN: I am very surprised. Kerala people are the luckiest people in our country. The maximum tele-density is from their State. The maximum coverage is from their State. Even then there is no satisfaction. They want more and more, and we are ready. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Do you want to respond to Rajasthan?

SHRI DAYANIDHI MARAN: I can say that by 2010, under the scheme, by these 8,000 towers, we are trying to cover the villages with population of more than 2000. If these hill areas are eligible, they will definitely be covered. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: All right. It is not a Question Hour. I cannot force the Minister to reply as we desire or you desire. Now, Mr. Prabodh Panda.

....*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Kindly go to the Minister as a delegation and discuss with him. He will assure you and the work will be completed. This is not the only forum.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Nothing will be recorded except Mr. Prabodh Panda's speech.

...*(Interruptions)**

SHRI PRABODH PANDA (Midnapore): Hon. Chairman, Sir, I must thank the Minister for his

encouraging reply and the assurance which he has given in this august House. But, at the same time, I am disappointed with regard to his reply which is related to the promulgation of the Ordinance.

However, considering the importance of this Bill, I am not pressing with the Statutory Resolution. Sir, I beg to withdraw this Statutory Resolution.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Is it the pleasure of the House that the Resolution moved by Shri Prabodh Panda be withdrawn?

The Resolution was, by leave, withdrawn.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That the Bill further to amend the Indian Telegraph Act, 1885, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, the House will take up clause by clause consideration of the Bill.

Clause 2

Amendment of Section 3

Amendment made

Page 1, line 4,—

after "Indian Telegraph Act, 1885"

insert "(hereinafter referred to as the principal Act)".
(2)

(Shri Dayanidhi Maran)

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That clause 2, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 2, as amended was added to the Bill.

Motion Re: Suspension of Rule 80(i)

SHRI DAYANIDHI MARAN: Sir, I beg to move:

"That this House do suspend clause (i) of rule 80 of Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok

[Shri Dayanidhi Maran]

Sabha insofar as it requires that an amendment shall be within the scope of the Bill and relevant to the subject matter of the clause to which it relates, in its application to the Government amendment No. 3 to the Indian Telegraph (Amendment) Bill, 2006 and that this amendment may be allowed to be moved."

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That this House do suspend clause (i) of rule 80 of Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha insofar as it requires that an amendment shall be within the scope of the Bill and relevant to the subject matter of the clause to which it relates, in its application to the Government amendment No. 3 to the Indian Telegraph (Amendment) Bill, 2006 and that this amendment may be allowed to be moved."

The motion was adopted.

New Clause 3

Repeal and Saving

Amendment made:

Page 1, *after* line 6, *insert* —

Ord. 3 of 2006 "3.(1) The Indian Telegraph (Amendment) Ordinance, 2006 is hereby repealed.

(2) Notwithstanding the repeal of the Indian Telegraph (Amendment) Ordinance, 2006, anything done or any action taken under the principal Act, as amended by the said Ordinance, shall be deemed to have been done or taken under the principal Act, as amended by this Act." (3)

(Shri Dayanidhi Maran)

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That new clause 3 be added to the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

New Clause 3 was added to the Bill.

Clause 1

Short Title and Commencement

Amendment made:

Page 1, *for* line 3, *substitute* —

"1.(1) This Act may be called the Indian Telegraph (Amendment) Act, 2006.

(2) It shall be deemed to have come into force on the 30th day of October, 2006." (1)

(Shri Dayanidhi Maran)

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That clause 1, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 1, as amended, was added to the Bill.

The Enacting Formula and the long title were added to the Bill.

SHRI DAYANIDHI MARAN: I beg to move:

"That the Bill, as amended, be passed."

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That the Bill, as amended, be passed."

The motion was adopted.

14.48 hrs.

DISCUSSION UNDER RULE 193

Report on the State of Panchayats—A Mid-Term Review and Appraisal-2006—Contd.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: We now take item no. 23.

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI): Sir, I may submit that discussion on the Panchayati Raj Mid-Term Review and Appraisal-2006 which was inconclusive may be taken just now. Since few speakers were left on that day, they may speak now. Thereafter, the Minister will reply.

MR. CHAIRMAN: All right. Shri Kharabela Swain.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN (Balasore): Sir, may I speak from this seat?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Yes, I allow you to speak from this seat.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: Sir, at the outset, I thank the hon. Minister for bringing this subject for discussion in this House. He has already prepared and circulated three volumes on the state of the panchayats. While I rise to speak on the Mid-Term Review and Appraisal, I find that discussion has already taken place and there is not much of time left today. So, I am not going to make an elaborate speech on this, but I would like to highlight the basic points with regard to this Panchayati Raj System which does not belong to any particular political party; it belongs to the country as a whole.

I am very happy that it has really brought in a social revolution, as has already been mentioned by the hon. Minister in his book. I fully endorse his view of panchayati raj bringing a social revolution. He has already mentioned in his book that late lamented Rajiv Gandhi wanted just social revolution. It will at least take a generation to fully unfold. I fully agree with this.

The hon. Minister wanted course correction, and my speech for about 10 minutes will basically focus on course correction. I would try to enumerate my feelings with regard to the Panchayati Raj system as a representative of the people, and as the Chairman of the Vigilance and Monitoring Committee of my district. I shall bring it in, and I will appeal the hon. Minister to go into it. Where does the difficulty lie in it? Where all do we need this course correction? The course correction is required for the effective implementation of the Panchayati Raj.

The first requirement of the Panchayati Raj system is for the people to take their own decision. There will be a Gram Sabha, and the people will gather in the Gram Sabha to take decisions about their budget; about the money, which is available with them; or the developmental work that they want to do in future, etc. This is the basic reason of convening the Gram Sabha. But I am very sorry to tell the hon. Minister, through you, that most of the times the Gram Sabha turns into a Sarpanch Sabha. I do not know about other States, but in my State Orissa this is the position. It has turned into a Contractor Sabha most of the time. I am saying this

because it is the contractor who convenes the meeting most of the time, and not the Sarpanch. Further, the only decision taken there is with regard to the person who will get the work order in stead of taking other decisions in the Gram Sabha. This is the only issue being decided there, and you will be surprised to know that most of the contractors—with the help of their vehicles and by paying money—bring people from the rural areas to these meetings. ...*(Interruptions)*

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY (SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR): This is not happening everywhere. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: I am not saying that it is happening everywhere. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: He is talking about his own State.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: Sir, if you think that I am hinting about U.P., then I have told that I am not hinting about U.P. I am just talking about the course correction. If you are not really interested to listen to me, then I am also not interested to tell you anything. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Kindly go ahead with the business before the House, and kindly address the Chair.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: Sir, I do not accept this behaviour of theirs. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: The problem will ease if you address the Chair. Kindly go ahead with your speech.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: The concerned Minister will not be able to reply to this discussion today if you start interrupting me like this. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Kindly cooperate with the Chair.

....*(Interruptions)*

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: Otherwise, I will also take a long time to conclude my speech, and you are very well aware that I will not sit that easily. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: There are only five speakers left to speak on this issue from your side. Kindly allow them to speak freely. Please go ahead with your speech.

....*(Interruptions)*

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: I would like to suggest that there should be a fixed date for convening the Gram Sabha all over India. Perhaps, it could be convened in a time interval of two months or one month or three months, but there should be a certain fixed date and a fixed place for it. It should be announced or notified by the BDO or by the Block Office. This would allow everybody to know that the Gram Sabha will be held on such and such date, time and place. This would allow the people to come there, and they will not be left to the mercy of the Panchayats, Mukhias, Sarpanch, etc.

I would like to make one more point. I have found—as the Chairman of the Vigilance and Monitoring Committee—that in some cases the Sarpanch is unwilling to summon the Gram Sabha, and he is not summoning the Gram Sabha for months together. Hence, the money remains unspent as there is no action-plan, which is to be undertaken by them.

The money remains unspent for years together and the District Magistrate is unable to take any action against the Sarpanch who does not convene the Gram Sabha intentionally.

Earlier, the District Magistrate - we call him a Collector in Orissa - had the power to suspend a Sarpanch but he does not have that power now. One will have to go to court in such cases. What will happen in such cases? We just feel helpless that Gram Sabha is not being convened. So, my appeal to the hon. Minister is to make a rule that if the Sarpanch does not convene the Gram Sabha, the BDO should be allowed to convene the Gram Sabha on his behalf. If the BDO is given this power, the Gram Sabha could be held even if the Sarpanch does not convene the meeting in spite of several reminders.

With regard to issuance of work order, I have just said that Gram Sabhas have been turned into Contractor Sabhas. It is the Contractors who are fighting with each other in Gram Sabhas and it leads to violence and

bitterness in most of the cases. So, my appeal to the hon. Minister is that a list of eligible Contractors be prepared and it should be serialized. As the works keep coming, Contractors should be awarded those works as per their serial number in the list so that every time one does not have to fight in the Gram Sabha for works and on issues like who would get work and who would not.

On the issue of Indira Awas, I am very happy that the hon. Minister of Rural Development has now issued an order. He is probably not listening to me. I thank him for making a rule for the preparation of list for the next five years. ... *(Interruptions)* Shri Uday Singh says that it was his idea and I thank him for that. I thank the Minister also for implementing it. I appreciate it, it is a very good idea that a permanent list be prepared. But, Sir, do something about who selects the beneficiaries under old-age pension scheme and widow pension scheme. This is another problem. Till now, it all depends upon the mercy of the Sarpanch or the *Mukhiya* because it is only they who take the decision. Who says it is decided in the Gram Sabha? Most of the times, it does not happen that way. When you have changed a rule to prepare the list for the next five years, on the same lines a list for the next five years for the old-age pension beneficiaries and widow pension beneficiaries should also be prepared.

In most of the cases, the media, and we ourselves also, say that the people in the village should take their own decisions on the activities of the village and MLAs and MPs should not be involved. Going by this, it appears that MLAs and MPs are the most corrupt people in the country and the rural representatives are *Dharma Yudhishtiras*. However, I tell you that by decentralizing the work, you have only decentralized corruption. That is the only thing that I would say. ...*(Interruptions)* You go and see for yourself in the rural areas. It is decentralization of corruption. If you go and see you will find that most of the Sarpanchs accumulate more than Rs.15 lakh to Rs. 20 lakh after completion of their term of five years. We know that pretty well.

15.00 hrs.

I would like to appeal to the Minister that in the process of decision-making in the Panchayats, MLAs and MPs or at least their representatives should also be involved. In most of the cases, since the MLAs, MPs, Zila Parishad Members and Sarpanchs belong to different parties if their representatives remain present, then it would be very difficult to resort to corrupt practices. That

is why, I would like to appeal to you that there is thinking that he is the only person who is honest and who would take the decision. There should not be involvement of the MLAs and MPs because people would come and say that they are the most deserving persons for getting grants under the *Indira Awas Yojana*; they are the most deserving persons for getting widow pension; and they are the most deserving persons to get old-age pension. In such a situation, being the MP, I am helpless. I cannot do anything. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Kindly conclude.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: You give me three or five minutes more.

MR. CHAIRMAN You have already taken 10 minutes. You can take one or two minutes. Be brief and precise.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: Thirdly, representatives of the MLAs and MPs should be involved so that decision making would be fair.

What happens is, there is a feeling everywhere, including media, that the MPLAD Scheme fund is totally swindled by MPs and that they swindle everything. This is the general impression everywhere. Even people published voluminous books to the effect that this should be scrapped.

What is our Panchayati Raj System? Members of *Zila* Parishad or Panchayat Samiti should sit together and chalk out an action plan. But what happens is, at least in my State, I know, that the total amount that is made available is being distributed equally among the Members of the *Zila* Parishad and Panchayat Samiti, who are asked to recommend projects for that amount of money. Not only that, they are also given the power to issue work orders and they also recommend as to who would get the work order and who would become the contractor. That means, Mr. Minister, by this way, we have been able to create a cover for the Panchayat Samiti Members and Panchayati Raj Members. It is just the same thing because every Member knows that he is entitled to recommend projects for this much of amount. They can also recommend the executants and you know as to what is the meaning of recommending the executant executioner. You yourself understand it; I need not tell you anything more.

My appeal to you is that a serialized list of permanent contractors be prepared in the Zila Parishad and the work should be given to them and nobody should be allowed to say that who should be executant.

I also do not know what to do about this. It is a very good thing that women are having 33 per cent and 50 per cent reservation. In this way, we are gradually building up the real women leadership but in most of the cases, it is the relatives or the male Members who actually take the lead and they are the real people. I would request the hon. Minister to respond to this point.

Lastly, salaries and allowances of these representatives in the panchayati raj institution should be enhanced because that is also one of the major obstruction. Somebody works everyday, day in and day out for five years, without doing any other work, and gets sometimes Rs. 500 and sometimes Rs. 1,000 per month. It is a pittance. Hence, I would appeal to the Minister that this also should be given some consideration and the salaries and allowances of these representatives are increased so that they can function better.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you for your kind cooperation.

15.04 hrs.

DEMANDS FOR SUPPLEMENTARY GRANTS—GENERAL-2006-2007

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): Sir, I beg to present a statement (Hindi and English versions) showing the Supplementary Demands for Grants in respect of the Budget (General) for 2006.07.

(Placed in Library, *See* No. LT—5287A/2006)

15.04½ hrs.

DEMANDS FOR EXCESS GRANTS—GENERAL-2004-2005

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): Sir, I beg to present a statement (Hindi and English versions) showing the Demands for Excess Grants in respect of the Budget (General) for 2004-05.

(Placed in Library, *See* No. LT—5287B/2006)

15.04³/₄ hrs.

DISCUSSION UNDER RULE 193

Report on the State of Panchayats—A Mid-Term Review and Appraisal—2006—Contd.

[English]

SHRI SURESH PRABHAKAR PRABHU (Rajapur): Sir, firstly I would like to compliment the Minister because there is a forum available for discussing the role of panchayats.

15.05 hrs.

[SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN in the Chair]

As a result of that, we will be able to establish the linkage between the apex body where we are sitting today and the grassroots where the panchayats will operate.

The same people elect the Members of Parliament as well as the gram pradhans and the sarpanchs. As a result of that, there is a lot of confusion. People elect them; the electorate is the same. The same people elect at the village level, taluk level, district level, all the functionaries, State level MLAs and national level MPs.

Sir, the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs wanted me to be brief; therefore, I am just giving the points. Now, I expect that he will tell the Chair not to ring the bell and to allow me to speak for some time.

The point that I am saying is that the same people elect different functionaries and so, there is a lot of overlapping of responsibilities and people are confused about who is supposed to do what. Therefore, having done something, having created institutions at the local level and the national level, we really need to codify the roles and responsibilities, the functions and the duties of each of the functionaries like Member of Parliament, the MLA and the local representative. If we do not do that, there is going to be a lot of confusion. People expect the Member of Parliament to do the same thing that they expect from the representatives at the local level.

Therefore, this is extremely important that the Ministry or the Government makes an attempt to codify the roles and the responsibilities. This is very important.

The second point is this. This is a very good appraisal. How can you do the appraisal? There are three important changes that are brought by the 73rd and the 74th Amendments - functions, functionaries and finances. They are the three 'F's; they are exclusively given to the local self-government. If you want to do a proper evaluation, it is important to know that the functions which have been earmarked to local self-government as the exclusive responsibility. How many panchayats have been able to exercise their powers on each of these functions? In the absence of this information, it will not be proper to evaluate them.

To the best of my knowledge, not several State Governments are very keen to give away their powers, as a result of which the responsibility is with the local self-government, but the functions have not been exclusively demarcated and handed over to them.

Secondly, we have the functionaries. Maharashtra is the State which actually initiated the Panchayati Raj System long time back. Yashwantrao Chavan, the founder of modern Maharashtra should be appreciated for doing that. Even in the State of Maharashtra, I know that the functionaries are still given by the State Governments to the local self-government. This is not the prerogative of the local self-government to employ them. Therefore, this is about the second 'F', where we are really not able to succeed.

The third 'F' is finances. Even today, after 12 Finance Commissions, for the first time, we have directly given the money to the local self-government. Till that time, we are not able to give any money to the local self-government and they are routed through the State Government. It is a Constitutional issue and I appreciate it. But at the same time, if one Constitutional provision, the 73rd and the 74th Amendment, can give this exclusive responsibility to the local self-government, how can we not give them the finances?

Therefore, I would request the hon. Minister, having done a very great job—his passion and mission is panchayati raj - let him now make a real and honest evaluation and present it before the House, on these three 'Fs'.

So that we may understand as to how many panchayats have really been able to perform and implement the spirit of this Constitution which we have passed in this august House.

My second point is about planning. It is a very fundamental issue. Planning at district level should be done at district level itself. All our successive Five Year Plans have failed because the Plans have not really realized the ground realities that prevail at the village level. That is why, in our collective wisdom of the Parliament, we have decided that planning should be handed over to the District Planning Boards, which should be headed by the Zila Parishad Head. I would request the hon. Minister tell us in how many States this has happened.

Drawing from my own experience in my own constituency, in my own State, the planning is done by the District Planning Committee, which is headed by the Planning Minister. So, the guardian Minister is not supposed to do the job because this is an exclusive responsibility of the planning process. ...*(Interruptions)* I know, it is still to be observed. The law may have been passed but we are not implementing it. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude.

SHRI SURESH PRABHAKAR PRABHU: Sir, please allow me to speak. You have always been my inspiration.

MR. CHAIRMAN: All these points have already been elaborated.

SHRI SURESH PRABHAKAR PRABHU: Once we give this responsibility at the local level, as my friend was saying, are we creating local self representatives or a new breed of contractor? This should really be made clear. We should now think about making sure that the local-self Government representatives will not be able to contract to themselves because there will be direct conflict of interest. Unfortunately, in our Parliament there is an Office of Profit law but there is no Conflict of Office law. You can still continue to hold office. I can continue to engage myself in a business as long as it is not with the Government. Therefore, Sir, this is an issue which should also be addressed at the local level as well as at the national level.

We can give away the responsibilities of various types to the local self-Government. The issue that comes in is of quality. Who is to do the quality control? Some of the roads that come out of the MPLADS, are made by some of the Party functionaries who have turned contractors and that road does not last even one monsoon. Therefore, quality control is an extremely important issue. I would

request the Minister to address this issue also because when you are giving more power, more funds, there has to be more accountability and measurement of standards of productivity to make sure that quality control is properly taken into consideration.

As I was saying, we must give away this power directly and find out a mechanism wherein the Central funds can go straight to the local panchayats and they will be able to disburse them. Capacity building again is an issue and I think when you do the appraisal, please let us know State by State what is the capacity building that has really taken place.

I strongly urge the Ministry of Panchayati Raj to make sure that deserving issues are exclusively handled by the local self-Government. One of them is water. Water is going to be a very crucial issue for us and, therefore, the responsibility of water conservation and water management should exclusively be given at the small village level. When we were passing the Employment Guarantee Bill....*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude. Your time is over.

SHRI SURESH PRABHAKAR PRABHU: I am just winding up, Sir.

I was talking about the issues like water and electricity distribution. We should encourage people to go in for distributed generation. The Electricity Act, 2003, which in fact I had the honour of placing it before the House, gives opportunity to a village panchayat to generate electricity and distribute it also. The Minister of New and Renewable Energy Sources, the new name given to the Ministry, Shri Vilas Muttemwar is sitting here and he will tell you that there is so much of biomass available, so much of renewable sources of energy are available. Shri Sushil Kumar Shinde, who is piloting Rajiv Gandhi Gramin Vidutikaran Yojana will be happy if these powers are exercised by the local self government wherein you can generate electricity and distribute also. This is something which should happen.

Rural Business Hub is an idea which in my own constituency I was trying to introduce. There is so much of local entrepreneurships available in our villages that somehow over a period of time we are killed.

We have not allowed them to come up. As a result of this, people are migrating from village to city in search

[Shri Suresh Prabhakar Prabhu]

of jobs and they have become slum dwellers. The real entrepreneurs have become slum dwellers and slum dwellers are becoming the oustees and eyesores in the eyes of others. Therefore, the rural entrepreneurship is something which should be encouraged.

My last point is about their own resources. The success of any local self-government will come if you can raise local resources. I think the Minister should have mentioned it in the Appraisal how many local self-governments have been able to raise their own resources. If they are not being able to do that, I think they are not self-governments but they are remote governments and that is what should not happen.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: This big book tells you what they have been doing on that.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude now. Your last point is over.

SHRI SURESH PRABHAKAR PRABHU: Sir, all right. I conclude.

[Translation]

SHRI LAKSHMAN SINGH (Rajgarh): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I will take just one minute. A provision for 'Nyaya Panchayat' was made in Panchayati Raj but unfortunately these 'Nyaya Panchayats' have not started functioning as yet. Poor people are unable to get justice in the Panchayats. You know that getting justice is very costly and poor people can not afford to hire a lawyer and approach a court of law. Sir, through you, I would like to give one example to this House. When Shri Shyamacharan was the Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh, an adivasi was going to the market for marketing. On his way, he came upon a field of pumpkin and he plucked one, the owner of that field lodged a complaint in the police station against him. The sub-inspector registered a case against him and that Adivasi was locked up in the jail for a week in the case of theft of pumpkin and was set free on bail only after a week. Panchayati Raj was constituted in view of, such incidents. We considered as to how to mete out justice to the poor and as a result provision of 'Nyaya Panchayat' was made. I know that the honourable minister is very concerned about setting up 'Nyaya Panchayats'. A discussion in this regard was held with him and he has constituted a committee on this issue. He must have received its report, we hope he would tell us about it in his reply. I would request him to

take action in this regard as early as possible, to put in place 'Nyaya Panchayats' so as to provide justice to the poor. I thank you for giving me this opportunity to speak.

[English]

SHRI B. MAHTAB (Cuttack): Sir, because of constraint of time, I may be allowed to lay a little bit of my speech.

I would first thank the Minister for bringing out three volumes on the Mid-Term Appraisal. Though the amendment was made in 1993 and since then more than 13 years have passed but the Mid-Term Appraisal is about your tenure from 2004 till date. But going into the history, since 1948 in Orissa, Panchayati Raj institutions had come up. In 1957, the Zila Parishads came up and in 1962, the three-tier system came up in Orissa. Of course, a revolutionary change came in 1992 in Orissa before the amendment came up in Parliament that most of the amendments that have been incorporated were initiated by our late lamented leader, Mr. Biju Patanaik.

Now, I would come to the point right away. Panchayati raj in India happens to be the greatest experiment today in democracy. More number of women are being elected at the grass roots level. That is one of the greatest experiments in democracy ever done anywhere in this world. Not less than 10 lakh women have been elected and in Bihar 50 per cent reservation is there. These are momentous decisions which have been taken.

I would like to come to the basics. In early 90s, the Panchayati Raj institutions had become the medium to transform rural India and that has been very aptly mentioned by our former Prime Minister, Mr. Rajiv Gandhi. He had envisaged of empowering Panchayat Raj institutions to function as:

"Institutions of self-government which is to plan and implement programmes of economic development and social justice."

These are the three major components on which the late former Prime Minister had insisted upon and the challenge today as you have also defined is not only to institutionalize this system of local self-governance but to make it a mechanism of participatory democracy. I would insist on participatory democracy. My friend, Shri Swain, was mentioning about Gram Sabhas. As I was the editor of a newspaper, I have some experience about Gram Sabhas. Gram Sabha has become a sabha of quarrels.

Often partisan attitude rules the roost. During my limited experience in Parliament since 1998, I had tried to find out why the Gram Sabhas have become *Kali Sabhas* or sabhas for quarrel. My impression is this. The Gram Sabha is held to elect the Village Level Leader, it is not held to find out the contractor. The gram sabha has to elect the VLL. But that Leader is entrusted with the job of executing the job. He is to supervise the job that has to be executed by a different person. But the VLL takes upon himself the work that is to be executed. So, supervision turns into execution of the job. And there actually lies the problem. Bureaucracy at the taluka level or at the Block level or at the mandal level, as we call it, conveniently shifts the responsibility to VLL. As far as I understand, it is the VLL who is supposed to supervise and monitor the work. But he becomes the executant and the engineers and the Block staff become the supervisors. Can't we stop this reversal?

My second point is devolution of power to panchayati raj institutions is still a distant dream. Many States are yet to empower the PRIs. I fully agree that activity maps are precursors to the rationale devolution of finances as also for assignment of functionaries to the panchayat level to which their responsibilities and the funds are devolved. So far as good. But the basic question that perturbs me is, should PRIs especially the gram panchayats be self-reliant or dependent on doles from other bodies? You are providing an umbrella but you are not building a roof over its head and umbrella is a temporary thing. Gandhiji's gram swaraj meant self-reliance. Mira Behn vouched this. But today, panchayati raj institutions are becoming delivery mechanisms for development, an extended branch of the State.

The Planning Commission has laid down detailed guidelines to State Governments on 24th October, 2005 and 25th August, 2006 on bottom-up planning through panchayats, municipalities and District Planning Committees. But here, I would like to say that there is a need to make panchayats at all the three levels to be incentivised to ensure greater transparency and accountability. There is a need to have corruption free panchayats. But Gram Sabha is not the answer. Long back, Balwantrai Mehta in late 1950s had said that every village will be a republic or panchayat having full powers. Every village has to be self-sustained and capable of managing its affairs. What is the true picture today?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude. Your time to speak is over.

SHRI B. MAHTAB: I would conclude shortly. I will lay the rest of my speech on the table of the House.

The Panchayati Raj Minister has an ambitious plan to bring uniformity in the functioning and structures of panchayati raj system. My point here is, there are differences amongst the States. Even among Andhra Pradesh and Orissa, there is a difference. The Minister has tried to address this question.

My questions are: Should elections be held on party basis? Should posts be identical throughout the country? Have you reached consensus? Today, the bureaucracy is expected to work under the guidance and supervision of the elected representatives of the panchayats. But that is not happening. The solution that is emerging is there is an urgent need to sensitize and re-orient the functions of social and administrative system. There is a need to make people aware about rationale, responsibilities and rights of elected panchayat leaders.

In Orissa we have adopted two-child norm. Some are saying that it is discriminatory. I would rather say, "Why not implement it in case of legislatures and also for Parliament?"

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA (Panskura): Mr. Chairman, Sir, the Private Members' Business has been listed for 3.30 p.m. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Yes, I know that. Your intervention is not required.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, I may submit on behalf of the Government, through you, to the House that the principal Opposition could not take part in this debate on the other day. They have made a request that a few of their Members may be allowed to speak. So, hopefully he is the last Member to speak. So, till he concludes please allow it to continue. The Minister's reply can be reserved for some other day. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: There are three more Members to speak. They won't be able to conclude before 3.30 p.m. Exactly at 3.30 p.m. I will take up Private Members' Business.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, my appeal through you, with folded hands on behalf of the Government, to the House is that I want to conclude the debate on panchayati raj today. The Minister will reply the other day. Let the last Member be allowed to speak. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: If the House agrees, I have no objection.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: The hon. Parliamentary Affairs Minister has mentioned that the Minister will reply the other day. If the Minister can reply the other day, why can the Members not speak the other day? Why do you eat into the time of Private Members' Business? ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: I am not eating into the time of Private Members' Business. We can extend the time. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: It is not convenient to us. At 3.30 p.m. we can have Private Members' Business. After Private Members' Business, you can again continue with the discussion. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: If fifteen minutes is encroached on the time of Private Members' Business, fifteen minutes can be extended further. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: We would not be able to conclude the discussion within fifteen minutes.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: I want to take the sense of the House. Now, the Parliamentary Affairs Minister has requested for extension of fifteen minutes. Does the House agree to it? If the House agrees to it, I have no objection.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Yes.

MR. CHAIRMAN: All right. The Private Members' Business will be taken up at

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: I would like to inform the Parliamentary Affairs Minister that we would not be able to conclude the discussion by 3:45 p.m.

It is because there are three or four more speakers who want to speak. So, it will not be possible humanly to complete the discussion within 15 minutes. So, let us not encroach upon the time of the Private Members' Business. We start the Private Members' Business as scheduled and we will take the other speakers next time. The hon. Minister will also reply on the next day.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, I may again submit to you one thing. I got the word from an important leader of the Principal Opposition Party that their four Members will take part in the discussion. Now, if they extend their list, then it is not cooperation. ...*(Interruptions)* I did it on that basis. I never betray the House. This is not fair. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

You people will boycott the House one day and ask to debate on another day. How long can we continue this discussion. Then you will approach the hon Speaker. If you go on doing this we will follow suit. I have talked Swainji and he said that there were four speakers from your party. Now it is being said that additional four Members would speak.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN (Balasore): No, it is not so.

[English]

SHRI TAPIR GAO (Arunachal East): Sir, we are extending our cooperation. ...*(Interruptions)* I want only three minutes to speak. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: I can agree if there is only one speaker to take part in the discussion.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, this has been decided on the floor of the House. I talked to Shri Kharabela Swain, the important leader of the Opposition Party. He told me that only four speakers will take part in the discussion. Accordingly, I have scheduled my time. Now, if they say that many more speakers will speak, then this unending debate will never be replied in this Session. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA (Panskura): Sir, in that case, let us take a decision. Now, we begin with the Private Members' Business. You can decide about it on

the next day. They all can speak and the reply will be on that day. ...*(Interruptions)* It cannot be done like this. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, I know the Business of my Government. I know the next Private Members' day's Business. I cannot ensure and guarantee that this Business will be completed during this Session. It is very difficult. I have to schedule my timing. How long I keep the Minister waiting every day and everyday the discussion will go on like this? ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: No. They are not agreeing with your proposal what you are saying. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: If they do not agree, I cannot help. I will have to schedule the time as I feel. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: Sir, let us begin the Private Members' Business.

SHRI UDAY SINGH (Purnea): No, let the hon. Member speak, if he is not coming on another day. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, let me know the sense of the House. Do you want the extension or not?

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, I did cooperate with them. Since now they are changing their policy that more Members will speak, it is very difficult.

Sir, I say you start the Private Members' Business. They will speak when the time will come. ...*(Interruptions)*

Shri Swain, you told me the other day. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

Shri Suresh Prabhu, Shri Swain has told that Shri Tapir Gao will speak first. Now Dr. Pandey is saying that four more members will speak. How is it possible today.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: We had submitted our list.

[English]

We stand by our words.*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Let Shri Tapir Gao speak. ... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: Sir, how long this discussion will continue? Let us know the time. Hon. Speaker has talked with them, but we are not aware of anything.*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, I would request that up to 3.45 p.m. this discussion should be concluded. The Minister will not reply today.*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, please leave it to the Chair. I will decide. The House has already taken a decision to continue with this discussion up to 3.45 p.m. and at 3.45 p.m., the Private Members' Business will be taken up.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI TAPIR GAO: Mr. Chairman, Sir I could have completed my speech by this time. ... *(Interruptions)*

Sir, in this important discussion, I just want to add a few feathers on the wings of the hon. Minister of Panchayati Raj. I still remember in Asiad Village auditorium how Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar, the hon. Minister, was organizing the Panchayat Local Self-Government Convention with our beloved leader Shri Rajiv Gandhi in those days. Still, I have got the literature of those days with me. At the moment, I have not brought that with me.

I have got a few suggestions to make here. I am not standing here to say anything which would embarrass a man of your stature as the Panchayati Raj Minister. I have seen your three volumes of books. I could not complete this literature. But I am really happy that you are still continuing the hard work that you have started since Rajiv ji's days. We are lucky that you are the Minister of Panchayati Raj. Here, I would like to suggest a few points.

My first point is that in your literature, it has been mentioned that this is under the State List. But if any State were to fail to implement it through the Panchayati Raj institutions, then, what are we going to do? Let us have the example of my State. You have visited my State. On the floor of the House, you have assured me. But still, devolution of power, the financial power to the elected representatives of panchayats has not taken place. With

[Shri Tapir Gao]

my State, you have signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Panchayati Raj Minister there. But no impact has been made. An elected representative of the panchayat has gone to the High Court, Guwahati and the verdict came out in favour of the elected representative of the panchayat saying that through devolution of power, finances should be given to the elected representatives. But still, no impact has been made. So, I would like to request you to find out a solution so that there can be compulsory implementation of it though the subject is in the State List.

My other point is that this is a very good institution rooted to the ground level. But we are not having a training institution at the national level. We are not having any separate training institution for the panchayati raj institutions even at the State level and district level. Therefore, under your dynamic leadership, I would like to urge upon you to see that a separate, completely devoted training institution is permanently established at the national, State and district levels so that the true spirit of Gandhi's dream of panchayati raj can be implemented.

Our hon. Rural Development Minister has left. There is always a complication. In the districts, we are having a Monitoring and Vigilance Committee. Being Members of Parliament, we are monitoring this but no power has been given to the panchayati raj institutions. So, I feel that in respect of all the Centrally-sponsored Schemes of the RD Ministry, the involvement of the panchayati raj institution is compulsory. It is impractical to implement because there is no such involvement of the panchayats in the implementation of the Centrally-sponsored Schemes.

Therefore, with these words, by seeing the time, I would request the hon. Minister to kindly take note of my suggestion for setting up of a training institution at the national, State and district levels.

SHRI KIREN RIJJU (Arunachal West): Sir, at the very outset, I would like to say that the hon. Minister is really working hard in the Panchayati Raj Ministry. He is not taking the Panchayati Raj Ministry as an ordinary Ministry but he is taking it as a passion. I really respect that spirit because somebody is there.

I need not dwell upon the subject due to paucity of time. But with you as the Minister who knows about the North-East very well, I do not need to explain things. Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi, Shri Oscar Fernandes and Shri Shinde are all well-versed with Arunachal Pradesh

and the North East. During your tenure if nothing happens, then it is very difficult that we get the light of the day.

Today, I would just pinpoint one important issue. As per Schedule 11 of the Constitution, the State Legislature has to endow the powers to the Panchayati Raj Authority. And, as per Part-IX of the Constitution, the Minister of Panchayat has to oversee that it is implemented thoroughly.

Sir, I was very happy when I saw the National Common Minimum Programme because it is mentioned that the fund going to panchayati raj institutions will neither be diverted nor misused. But what happens in Arunachal Pradesh is just the opposite. In reply to my question, the hon. Minister said that his Ministry has no knowledge of the fact that either the fund has been diverted or misused. But actually Rs. 24.36 crore, which the Government of India has granted to Arunachal Pradesh in 2004-05, has been parked in the State Bank of India. I would call it as diversion of fund. The Minister may say that is a holding. But this is completely going against the spirit of the Constitution and the work that the Minister is carrying on. How can we strengthen the panchayats if this kind of diversion of money is always practised?

Then, one district of Arunachal Pradesh is without a panchayat for the last so many years. The Minister may say that this is a State Subject, but there is no panchayat in the whole district. There are 7 Members in the Legislative Assembly, but there is no panchayat there for the last several years. I would call it a murder of democracy at the grassroots level. This is a very vital issue. So, the hon. Minister should personally intervene in this matter and do something about it.

Sir, I have many points, but due to paucity of time I do not want to speak more. But I would request the hon. Minister that he should see that we do not face this kind of a problem again in future and he should also see that more powers are given to panchayati raj institutions in the district and in the grassroots level.

SHRI W. WANGYUH KONYAK (Nagaland): Mr. Chairman, Sir, in the entire country, I think, it is only in Nagaland we do not call it panchayat, but we call it village council. The hon. Minister is well aware of it.

Sir, the Village Development Board was first established in Nagaland and the Government of India has copied the Nagaland model in all the States of the country. I hope the hon. Minister would agree with me.

THE MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ, MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS AND MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): Absolutely!

SHRI W. WANGYUH KONYAK: Sir, I want that this system or model should be implemented properly in the entire country. We do not call it 'panchayat', but we call it 'village council'. During the tenure of the Government headed by Shri Rajiv Gandhi, the Government of India had accepted this traditional system of Nagaland and I appreciate that.

I would like to make a suggestion to the hon. Minister. Now, the money is going to panchayats from the Ministry of Rural Development, but the implementation is done by the Ministry of Panchayati Raj. So, I would like to suggest that there should be a Coordination Committee between the Ministry of Panchayati Raj and the Ministry of Rural Development so that we can implement all the Centrally-sponsored schemes properly in the entire country and more particularly in Nagaland.

[*Translation*]

SHRIMATI JAYABEN B. THAKKAR (Vadodara): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I congratulate the honourable Minister for his efforts for the overall development of the country through the Panchayati Raj. Gujarat has taken some very good steps to strengthen this three tier arrangement. I would say it in brief that it should be made compulsory to hold the meetings of Gram Panchayats regularly and all the concerned officers should be compelled to be present in such meetings. Besides this, efforts should be made to ensure the presence of the concerned Member of Parliament and the Legislature also in these meetings. Clear directions should be issued in this regard by the Union Government—E-Gram and E-Governance system should be implemented under which all the three panchayats—Gram Panchayat, Taluka Panchayat and Zila Panchayat should be connected to the revenue court and to the B.D.O. office through internet. After that, we can do whatever we want to, because we are diverting all the funds to Gram Panchayats. This will help them in maintaining their records properly and they will be able to give the desired results. Third point is to activate website namely "E - Dhara" maintaining land record so that every villager could access the land records easily and quickly and it would put an end to corruption, it has this purpose only.

The second programme is "Vishwagram" the issue of connecting all the villages with the whole world has been dealt with very efficiently. I would request the hon. minister to pay attention towards this issue also. Earlier there was arrangement to solve the matters at the village level itself under Thirthgram. Today, cases are being registered in courts where there is huge pendency and cases drag on for years.....(*Interruptions*) I am raising a very important issue. Thirthgram programme implemented by the Government of Gujarat also a commendable programme worthy of implementation. It should be strengthened and efforts should be made to implement it all over the country. With regard to '*Samras Gram*' Gujarat Government had announced an award of Rs. two lakhs for holding elections of Gram Panchayats without any violence and heavy expenditure. It was not as if a large bribe was being offered. If Gram Panchayat elections are conducted in a smooth way and that too without incurring much expenses, then it is a good thing to offer an award, it should also be implemented. Others should also follow the example of the Government of Gujarat which has issued good instructions and carried out commendable works.

[*English*]

MR. CHAIRMAN: The discussion is concluded and only the hon. minister's reply remains.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The House shall now take up Private Members' Business. We now take up Item No.25.

15.46 hrs.

MOTION RE: TWENTY-FOURTH REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON PRIVATE MEMBERS' BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

SHRIMATI ARCHANA NAYAK (Kendrapara): Sir, I beg to move:

"That this House do agree with the Twenty-fourth Report of the Committee on Private Members' Bills and Resolutions presented to the House on the 6th December, 2006."

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That this House do agree with the Twenty-fourth Report of the Committee on Private Members' Bills and Resolutions presented to the House on the 6th December, 2006."

The motion was adopted.

15.47 hrs.

PRIVATE MEMBER'S BILLS—Introduced

**(i) Constitution (Amendment) Bill, 2006*
(Amendment of Article 85)**

[English]

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA (Panskura): 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 GURUDAS DASGUPTA: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

15.47½ hrs.

**(ii) Constitution (Amendment) Bill, 2006*
(Amendment of Article 124, Etc.)**

[English]

SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPPAN (Trichur): 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 C.K. CHANDRAPPAN: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

15.48 hrs.

(iii) Cinema Artists Welfare Bill, 2006**

[English]

SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA (Rampur): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for measures for the welfare of cinema artists and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for measures for the welfare of cinema artists and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto."

The motion was adopted.

SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA: Sir, I introduce** the Bill.

15.48½ hrs.

(iv) National Commission for Small and Marginal Traders Bill, 2006*

[English]

SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA (Rampur): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for the setting up of a National Commission to protect the interests of small and marginal traders 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 National Commission to protect the interests of small and marginal traders and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto."

The motion was adopted.

SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA: Sir, I introduce** the Bill.

15.49 hrs.

(v) Beedi Workers Welfare Bill, 2006*

[English]

SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA (Rampur): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for measures for welfare of beedi workers and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for measures for welfare of beedi workers and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto."

The motion was adopted.

*Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II, Section-2 dated 8.12.2006.

*Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II, Section-2 dated 8.12.2006.

**Introduced with the recommendation of the President.

SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

[English]

15.49¹/₂ hrs.

(vi) **Constitution (Amendment) Bill, 2006***
(Amendment of Article 312)

SHRI L. RAJAGOPAL (Vijayawada): 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 L. RAJAGOPAL: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

15.50 hrs.

(vii) **Constitution (Amendment) Bill, 2006***
(Amendment of Article 370)

[Translation]

SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT 'BACHDA' (Almora): 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.

[Translation]

SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT 'BACHDA': Sir, I introduce the Bill.

15.50¹/₂ hrs.

(viii) **Constitution (Amendment) Bill, 2006***
(Amendment of Articles 102 and 191)

[Translation]

SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT 'BACHDA' (Almora): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India.

*Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II, Section-2 dated 8.12.2006.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India."

The motion was adopted.

[Translation]

SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT 'BACHDA': Sir, I introduce the Bill.

15.51 hrs.

(ix) **Constitution (Amendment) Bill, 2006***
(Amendment of Article 51A)

[Translation]

SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT 'BACHDA' (Almora): Sir, I beg to move for leave for to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India."

The motion was adopted.

[Translation]

SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT 'BACHDA': Sir, I introduce the Bill.

15.51¹/₂ hrs.

(x) **Indian Medical Council (Amendment) Bill, 2006***
(Amendment of section 3, etc.)

[English]

DR. R. SENTHIL (Dharmapuri): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Indian Medical Council Act, 1956.

*Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II, Section-2 dated 8.12.2006

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Indian Medical Council Act, 1956."

The motion was adopted.

DR. R. SENTHIL: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

15.52 hrs.

(xi) Constitution (Amendment) Bill, 2006*
(Amendment of article 15)

[English]

DR. R. SENTHIL (Dharmapuri): 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.

DR. R. SENTHIL: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

15.52¹/₂ hrs.

(xii) Women Welfare Bill, 2006*

[English]

SHRIMATI ARCHANA NAYAK (Kendrapara): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for welfare measures for women and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for welfare measures for women and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto."

The motion was adopted.

SHRIMATI ARCHANA NAYAK: Sir, I introduce** the Bill.

15.53 hrs.

(xiii) Farmers (Old Age Pension) Bill, 2006*

[English]

SHRIMATI ARCHANA NAYAK (Kendrapara): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for old age pension to farmers and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for old age pension to farmers and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto."

The motion was adopted.

SHRIMATI ARCHANA NAYAK: Sir, I introduce** the Bill.

15.53¹/₂ hrs.

(xiv) Ban on Bogus Advertisements Bill, 2006*

[English]

SHRIMATI ARCHANA NAYAK (Kendrapara): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to put a ban on bogus advertisements and publicity of products and services and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to put a ban on bogus advertisements and publicity of products and services and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto."

The motion was adopted.

SHRIMATI ARCHANA NAYAK: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

*Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II, Section-2 dated 8.12.2006.

**Introduced with the recommendation of the President.

*Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II, Section-2 dated 8.12.2006 .

**Introduced with the recommendation of the President.

15.55 hrs.

PRIVATE MEMBER'S BILL—*under consideration*

Agricultural Workers Welfare Bill, 2006*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, we shall take up Item No. 40 Agricultural Workers Welfare Bill, 2005.

Shrimati Hannan Mollah. I am sorry. Shri Hannan Mollah, you can continue your speech.

....*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: There is no harm in calling you like that.

....*(Interruptions)*

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH (Uluberia): Sir, is it a ruling?
....*(Interruptions)*

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI): Sir, if it is a ruling, then I will convey it to his wife. ... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH: Mr. Chairman, Sir, thank you for giving me this opportunity. Sir, I have already moved the following motion on the 24th November, 2006:

"That the Bill to provide for the welfare of agricultural workers and to regulate their employment and conditions of service and for matters connected therewith, be taken into consideration."

Sir, it is a very important matter. In this era of globalization, the marginalized sections of the population are suffering the most. Those people who are in the lowest rank, the poorest of the poor, rural and urban poor people are having the most difficult days to cope up with the situation in the changing economic scenario. It will be more difficult for them when there is no legal protection for them.

Sir, we have completed 60 years of our Independence but in this long period, hundreds of Acts had been passed by this Parliament for different sections of the people,

and all sections of the people in our country have legal protection. Sir, even animals, in our country, have legal protection; even jungles and forests have legal protection. But it is surprising that in our country, these ten crore people, who sweat and labour to produce things and survive, have no legal umbrella on their head. There is no legal protection for this section. There is no Act for the agricultural workers of our country.

Sir, this is one of the single largest sectors of the working force in our country, and they are the rural working class. Their number is more than ten crores in the country. Till today, there is no uniform Act in the whole country about their wage, about their hours of work, about their condition of work, about their accident benefits, about the maternity benefits of the women workers, and about their social security measures. All these sections are a deprived lot. A large section of them are living below the poverty line. The maximum people under this section are living below the poverty line.

Another thing is that in our caste divided society, a majority of the agricultural workers belong to the Scheduled Castes, the Scheduled Tribes, the minorities and the most backward classes. They are the most downtrodden and neglected sections of our population.

16.00 hrs.

Continuously, for several years, the democratic movement in the country had been pressing for this demand that there should be a Central Act for the agricultural labourers. This demand was not heeded to for several years. The All India Agricultural Workers Union, had been also continuously for the last 25 to 30 years raising this demand that a comprehensive Central Legislation was required to protect this section of our Indian society.

Sir, after the raising of this consistent demand for several years in the House, ultimately the Government took note of it.

Sir, such a law was first enacted in Kerala in 1974. At that time, it was the Left-led Government there in Kerala. The Government of Kerala, for the first time, enacted a State law in the Kerala Assembly, known as the Agricultural Workers Act, 1974 for the welfare of agricultural workers. It is because of that Act only that the agricultural workers in the State of Kerala are in a better position than those in the other parts of the country.

[Shri Hannan Mollah]

Sir, after the passing of that Act, this demand became louder and louder in other parts of the country, and everybody demanded that on the pattern of the Kerala Act, a national Act should be passed. It was the result of this demand that the Government in May, 1975 in the Second Meeting of the Standing Committee on Agricultural Labour discussed the need of a Central law. For the first time, the Central Government responded to this matter; and after that in July, 1975, the 26th Session of the Labour Ministers' Conference commended the legislation of the Kerala Assembly and suggested a uniform Central legislation on those lines. Therefore, in 1975, the Central Government took note of this demand and started working on this. After that, on the recommendation of the Government, the Central Standing Committee on Rural and Unorganised Labour was set up in September, 1978. This Standing Committee formed a Sub-Committee to suggest the framework of a Central Bill.

Sir, I am trying to give the chronology of events as to show how this movement developed, how this demand developed. Perhaps, this was the reason that the Central Government took note of it and starting functioning in that direction. The Sub-Committee then drafted the Agricultural Workers Bill on Kerala model and circulated it in the Labour Ministers' Conference in 1981, but no conclusion was arrived at. There were a lot of differences. Many State Governments opposed it. As all of us know, land is a State subject. Agricultural workers are also related to land. So, because of that, many State Governments had differing views. They could not agree.

In the Labour Ministers' Conference held in 1981, a draft was placed. But it was also not agreed upon; this matter remained pending. But in September, 1982 all the State Governments were advised by the Central Government to pass such a law. But only the Government of Tripura has passed such a law in the year 1986. After the State of Kerala, after getting instructions from the Central Government, Tripura Assembly had passed such a law for the agricultural labourers. In the rest of the country, no such law has been passed so far.

It is because of that we are demanding this. I have been raising it for the last 25 years in this House. Almost every year I raise it. I drafted this Bill for several times. It lapsed and lapsed. It has come now for the first time for discussion. I am thankful to you. At least after 25 years of shouting, I have now brought this issue before the national forum, and everybody can now contribute by

saying that this Act is necessary, though we have been raising it for the last 25 years.

During Rajiv Gandhi's time, in the Budget Speech on 28th February 1987, there was an announcement for appointing a National Commission for Rural Labour for this purpose. So, gradually the Government's attention was drawn and the Government also took note of it. Then, accordingly, the National Commission for Rural Labour was set up on 11.8.1987 and it was notified on 5.9.1987.

A Sub-Committee of Parliamentary Consultative Committee on Ministry of Labour was set up on 17th December, 1986 to inquire into and make recommendation about the problem of agricultural labour. So, this is about certain committee. Chronologically, the attempt was made. This sub-committee, as you know, is known as Gurudas Dasgupta Committee. Shri Gurudas Dasgupta was the Convenor of that sub-committee. That committee also worked for three years and it visited all parts of the country. Ultimately, they suggested that a Central Act is necessary for the agricultural workers.

The National Commission for Rural Labour also recommended for a comprehensive Central legislation. In between, several meetings were held. The Government called the Conference of Labour Ministers. In all the Labour Ministers' Conferences, it was placed. It was discussed. There were several drafts prepared by different Governments. They were discussed in the meetings but it could not take a concrete shape to make a law by this Parliament.

Since I raised it earlier, I know. I raised it during the time of so many Labour Ministers. Our former Minister, Shri P.A. Sangma called a meeting with us. Then, Mr. Arunachalam came. Half a dozen Labour Ministers, by this time, came and they called meetings and discussed this issue. But we could not reach any conclusion because there was resistance from the land owning class from different parts of the country. Also, there was resistance from certain State Governments. It is because of that, it could not be passed.

Another thing is this. Earlier all the Labour Ministers at least called a meeting of our organizations and unions and discussed that such a law is required. But during NDA Government, my friend, Mr. Jatiya was there as the Minister. He gave a reply in the Rajya Sabha that agricultural workers in India are in a better position. They

do not need a Central legislation. For the first time, the Government said we do not require it but we did not agree with this. We are fighting for the agricultural workers.

I have been working for their union for the last 25 years. I think this cannot be accepted, and we continued the demand for a Central Act. After this, the new Government came. Before the UPA Government came into office, it was discussed in their Common Minimum Programme. We insisted that that also should be included in the Common Minimum Programme, and we are happy that it was accepted in the Common Minimum Programme of this UPA Government.

So, I gave you this chronology of the last 60 years, year after year how this matter was raised and how it was not responded properly. Anyway, now we found that this has been accepted. This UPA Government has assured that they will take action. After the UPA Government came to power at the Centre, they had constituted Arjun Sengupta Committee. That Committee also collected materials of all sorts. I hope that this matter should not be further delayed because already 60 years have passed and we have been lamenting. Agricultural workers are running from pillar to post for legal protection. People from all sections of our country have legal protection except these unfortunate 10 crore of people belonging to the lowest rung of the poorest section.

In such a situation, I decided to move this Bill. When you gave me the permission to move and discuss this Bill, I thought that this Bill may now see the light of the day. That will be my expectation. I hope, the entire Parliament will stand by this poorest section of the population.

I have formulated this Bill according to the suggestions of various Sub-Committees which have been constituted from time to time. They had recommended that there should be a Central legislation for agriculture workers. There should be provided a basic framework for improving their working conditions. Measures should be taken for their wages and social security. Besides, it should provide for a mechanism for resolving disputes. There should be age-old pension for people of this section. There should be maternity benefits for the women agricultural workers. Then, there should be equal wage for equal work with respect to women agricultural workers. They should have the facility of accident benefits. There should be a system of fixing minimum wage for them, its

timely revision and its linkage with CPI (Consumer Price Index) should also be there. They should be provided subsidised ration. All these were the recommendations of several Committees.

A watchdog committee at the block, district and State level should also be there to oversee the implementation of this law. These are the recommendations. The case and other details may be left out for the States to decide because after we pass the law here, the State Government can make rules according to their local needs and local conditions. Those details can be included in the rules. Then, it can be implemented in the whole of the country. These are the recommendations which were there in the Commission's Reports.

As an activist of the agricultural workers, I hope that the Committee, which is considering the new draft, would take all these matters into consideration. The Bill which I have prepared is in line with the Act which is there in Kerala. That Act is a comprehensive Act, but it is for the State of Kerala. Such an Act is already there in Kerala and Tripura. If the model of my Bill is taken into consideration by this Commission, the present Commission, it will serve our purpose, for which we have been fighting for so many years. The condition of about 10 crores of agricultural workers in our country is very bad. All sections of our society, as I said, have legal protection except this section.

There is another problem which I have seen among the agricultural workers. They are not getting work. They have no specific wages. Different States have different wages. Different districts have different wages. Even in different regions, wages are different. During peak cultivation season, they get a little more. After that, during the lean season, they are either unemployed or getting meagre wages. They have no financial or social security. Hence, they are suffering because of this situation.

They do not have specific hours of work. They are working from morning till evening or even till night. The children and the women of their family are all forced to work. A section of them are still working as bonded labour as they are linked with the landlords. Therefore, they cannot go home, and they cannot have liberty. They work like bonded labour. In practice, there are many agricultural workers who are still working under the condition of bondage even though bonded labour has been abolished as per the law.

[Shri Hannan Mollah]

There is also no system of pension. Even after they have given us everything for 60 years to keep us alive by producing food, etc., we do not think about the kind of situation in which they live. They do not have any security measure like pension, etc. after attaining 60 years of age. There is no such system or other social securities available for them. Therefore, all these matters should be taken into consideration when an Act is to be drafted by the Government.

The condition of their family is also very bad as most of them belong to the SC, ST or other backward sections of the population. They are the weaker sections economically, socially and caste-wise also. They are neglected from all points of view. The maximum amount of illiteracy is also in their families. How can we expand the reach of literacy among the agricultural workers if this is the situation?

There is also the issue of child labour. Their children are also forced to work. The worst situation being faced by the children of our country is from the agricultural labour family, and we talk of emancipation of children in the whole country.

We have also seen cases of starvation deaths among the agricultural workers. We have seen many people die due to starvation in different parts of the country in the last 3-4 years, and they are all agricultural workers and most of them belong to the BPL category. We have to take these points into consideration when we make a special package for them.

16.18 hrs.

[SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN *in the Chair*]

As regards their habitation, if you visit any village of the agricultural labourers, then you will see the condition in which they live. For example, if you enter a village and see big and good roads, then you will come to know that the richer section lives there. If you go further, then you will see brick roads and you will come to know that poor people live there. If you go further inside, then you will see mud roads, and you will come to know that poor people live there. If you go further inside the village, then you will see some huts and no roads, then you will invariably come to know that this is the place where the agricultural labourers live. Further, you come to know that the village of the agricultural workers has started from the place from where the

election posts end. They have no proper house. All this deprivation starts from the village of the agricultural labourers. This is the situation prevailing in their habitation.

There is no drinking water facility, and a section of them are also untouchable. They are denied the right to fetch water from the upper-caste areas. Such inhuman and barbaric situation is prevailing in our country. There is no provision of power, and no sanitation. They have no concept of sanitation. They actually live in rotten situations. There are no roads and other facilities. How can we improve their condition of life? Their education, health and other aspects of life also should be taken care of while preparing a scheme for their development.

Another point is, the problems faced by women labourers. We should make specific provisions in the Act to ensure that women agricultural labourers are paid wages equal to that of male labourers. They should be guaranteed other social benefits also. They should not be forced to work beyond regular hours and they should not be made to work for extended hours. Women are socially, economically and sexually the most exploited among the agricultural labourers. This fact should be kept in mind.

Another phenomenon I have seen is of migration. Agricultural labourers migrate from one State to another in search of work. Many agricultural labourers go from Bihar to Punjab and Jammu and Kashmir. We have seen during the days of extremism in Punjab how such agricultural labourers lost their lives in that State. If work is available at his own place, no agricultural labourer would think of migrating from his place of origin. The only way to check such migration is to provide work for them at their own places. We have to take note of this.

Caste is a curse on the agricultural labourers and they are suffering badly because of that. About sixty per cent of the agricultural labourers belong to either Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, the lowest rungs of Backward Classes and minorities. There is social oppression of these classes. Atrocities are committed on these classes. It is more or less common in different parts of the country. This point should also be taken into consideration.

While formulating the Bill, I tried to bring all these things in its purview. I suggest that all the agricultural labourers should be registered to start with. They should be registered block-wise and panchayat-wise and their

names should be available on record. Based on the registration they can be given work. It should not be that anybody at any time can be given work. That kind of registration will guarantee work for those people. They will not have to migrate to other places for work.

I have provided for security of employment and welfare. If a person is a permanent worker in an area, he should be given preference and given work from either the Block level list or Panchayat level list. Normally, some people are taken in for work this year and thrown out the next year. That should not be the case. Those who have been working consecutively for three years should be given preference employment in the rural areas. That should be taken care of.

In the Bill, I have dealt with the disputes. There are disputes arising between agriculture labour and agriculture labour, between agriculture labour and migration labour, there are disputes between agriculture labour and land-owners. So, there should be a proper dispute settlement mechanism. For that purpose, there should be a Conciliation Officer. I have said that this Conciliation Officer can find out what is the dispute and try to settle it. If he cannot do that, he will refer it to the District Collector. If it is not settled at that stage, it will go to a tribunal. We have proposed setting up of a tribunal. The tribunal will give the final judgment and that would be binding on all.

Dispute settlement is one of the major issues that should be dealt in the Act.

I have suggested that the Government should frame a Scheme which should be called the Agricultural Workers Welfare Fund Scheme. This Fund is necessary. Funds of the Scheme should be controlled and managed by the Agricultural Welfare Board. A provision should also be included for providing this Scheme in the Act. Contributions for the Welfare Fund may be from the Government, land owner and agricultural labourers. Details of the Board should be described in the Act.

Regarding the hours of work, I would like to say that no fixed hours of work is mentioned in the Act. The wages for overtime should also be there. If they have to work after the fixed hours of work, extra wages should be paid and these details should also be mentioned in the Act.

A provision indicating penalty measures should also be there in the Act. Those who make false statement or

breach the settlement awards, etc. should be covered under this. Conciliation Officer should look into cases of those who stand in the way and those should be punished.

There should be a legislation of the agricultural workers and all those unfair labour practices should also be prohibited because in every area where there is a labour population, there are unfair labour practices, people stopping labourers from forming unions or organizing movements. To prevent false statements by landlords and other such acts of unfair labour practices, provisions should be made in the Act so that all these matters are taken note of.

I have drafted the Bill on the lines and basis of the Acts prevalent in Kerala and Tripura. It is a national level Bill. Funds should also be ensured by the Central Government. That is one of the important areas because the State Governments have to implement it and they run short of funds. Though funds flow from land owners but still for the implementation of this Act, for the implementation of the pension programme and other welfare programmes and other social security programmes, they need funds. Most of the State Governments may have problem in regard to funds. Hence, I would like to request you that the Central Government should ensure that they also provide funds. At least, they should provide funds for the Central Welfare Board. Or at least a corpus should be created by the Central Government for this purpose so that recurring expenditure could be met. Later on collections can be made. This matter should also be taken into consideration. We have to take action on these things properly.

There are many schemes also for the benefit of agricultural labourers. Earlier, 100 to 150 days of work was available for the agricultural labourers. Now, we found out that agricultural workers are not even getting job for more than 50 to 70 days. How will they live for 365 days when they get income for just 70 days work? This is a very serious situation. Hence, the Government should give serious thought about this aspect.

The UPA Government have passed the National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme. If the same is properly implemented, it would be beneficial for the agricultural labourers. But there are a lot of lacunae in implementation. We have to see that those laws are properly implemented so that agricultural workers can get the guaranteed employment in rural areas.

[Shri Hannan Mollah]

I appeal to all sections of the House to stand by the downtrodden section of the society; they are working hard to protect us. Due to their effort, we are leading a better life and we are surviving; they produce food for us; they produce the necessities. It is our duty that we should see that they also lead a life as human beings, with proper living conditions. So, I request the House to suggest better measures for them and pass this Bill so that agricultural workers of this country, after 60 years of our Independence, feel independent. They are not now independent; they are bonded - bonded to poverty, bonded to land owners, bonded to upper caste's oppression and they are bonded to many things. So, in the 60th year of our Independence, we should come together to give them freedom for which our country fought for. We are free, but we want that section also to feel free and really feel independent in their lives.

With these words, I commend this Bill to this House, to discuss and consider it; and I appeal to the House that it may be passed.

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Motion moved:

"That the Bill to provide for the welfare of agricultural workers and to regulate their employment and conditions of service and for matters connected therewith, be taken into consideration."

SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN (Palani): I am very much grateful to the Chair for giving me this opportunity to discuss about the welfare of the neglected section in the labour community. Our hon. Member, Shri Hannan Mollah introduced this Bill and also he elaborately discussed the problems faced by farm labourers in this country.

Yesterday, Shri D. P. Yadav initiated a discussion for the welfare of the unorganized sector. This is one of the wings in the unorganized sector in this country. If we calculate the labourers working in the unorganized sector, it is 36.9 crore; out of that, 23.21 crore labourers are employed in the agricultural field. This is the time to discuss about the problems faced by the farm labourers of this country.

While we are discussing the farm labourers, the success of agriculture only made a good result in the welfare of the farm labourers. If there is a failure of agriculture, we cannot protect the farm labourers. In the present scenario of our country, day-by-day, agricultural

profession is sinking due to so many problems. Firstly, farmers are not able to raise proper crop at the proper time due to failure of monsoon or flood or due to poverty, due to indebtedness and other problems.

Moreover, everywhere, agricultural lands are sold out for starting industries or factories, etc. Agricultural lands are decreasing day-by-day and agricultural profession is sinking. Farm labourers are finding it difficult to survive. The labourers are not only involving themselves in farming; they are working in the field of agriculture; they are working in poultry, which is a part of agriculture; they do dairying. But whether they are getting proper salary and whether they are able to live properly, we do not know. In the villages, they are facing so many problems. If you go to any village in any part of our country, the farm labourers, those who work in the field, we can see that there is no time schedule for them. But a person who is working in the Government office or any institution or a mill, can work for eight hours and go home. The farm labourer cannot decide as to how many hours he has to work in the field. He is working day and night. If a snake bites a farm labourer, he is going to the Government Hospital. Three injections are to be given to cure him from the snake bite. That injection is not available in any private hospital. So, what the Government doctors does is, he gives him only two injections and take away the third injection either to his private clinic or sell it. As a result the health of the farmer labourer is affected.

The farm labourers are moving from one place to other. For example in a field 50 labourers work for harvesting the paddy crop. Then they go to the other field. How will they go to the field? Are they going there by bus or train? They are going by taking either a lorry or a goods carrying vehicle and travel a number of places. They start their journey in the early morning. We see 30 labourers travelling in a lorry and going from one place to other. Late at nights they are return home, after the harvest is over, in the same lorry. So, while travelling in the lorry, whether in the morning or in the evening, if they met with an accident, if anybody dies, he is not paid any compensation. The Insurance Company in the court will say that since the vehicle used was the goods carrying vehicle, and not to be used for carrying persons from one place to another, so they are not liable to pay any compensation. Automatically, the risk goes to the owner of the vehicle. He may be a penniless fellow. The vehicle will be seized by the Court. The labourers will not get anything. He is not able to get any compensation

from the court. This is one area where a strict direction should go from the Centre to all the State Governments that goods vehicle should not be used to transport labourers from one place to other. Under the Motor Vehicles Act, if a driver kills a person or ten or one hundred persons, the minimum fine imposed will be Rs. 3000.

Labour Ministry alone cannot solve this problem. All the women involved in the agricultural labour. In the morning whether they are taking food or not, taking tea-coffee or not but they daily purchase 10 packets of Pan Masala, Gutaka or Pan Parag. Finally, because of this they suffer from cancer. They are not able to get any treatment. To protect particularly the women farm labourers, the Government has to close all the factories producing either Pan Masala, Gutaka or Pan Parag. The first beneficiary of this step of the Government will be the women farm labourers.

Another pathetic condition of the farm labourers, who are residing in huts of remote villages, is that they are not getting good water. They get either salty water or water containing fluoride. As a result of this, their health is totally spoiled. They either suffer from cancer or tuberculosis. Even in my Palani Parliamentary constituency, there are Natham and Kangayam talukas, there are very big hospitals - 40-50 bedded hospitals having all equipment - but there are neither doctors nor nurses. A poor labourer who earns Rs. 60 to Rs. 70 daily, how can he afford to go to Apollo Hospital or big hospital and spend lakhs and lakhs on their treatment? So, health care is very important for the farm labourers of this country.

Another important area is housing. The Government of India's scheme, *Indira Awas Yojana*, is implemented through Panchayats. The Gram Sabhas are only selecting the beneficiaries. Below Poverty Line families are benefited in getting houses under this scheme. Out of the ten houses allotted six or seven to the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes and three or four houses go to Other Backward Class people. All these people are farm labourers. I would say that the whole selection process is wrong. Poor Coolie and other labourers are not able to get houses. The situation in the country is that they do not have house, electricity, drinking water or proper food. By enacting law alone the Government cannot solve this problem. It is a matter to be solved

jointly by the State and the Centre. They have to work together for the welfare of the farm labourers of this country. Then only this problem can be solved.

If we look at the income of the farmers, it is very low. If the farmers can live happily then only the farm labourers can live happily. Here I want to mention certain facts. The household income of a farmer in this country varies from State to State. If you see the highest per month income of a farmer, in Jammu and Kashmir, it is Rs. 5488; in Punjab, it is Rs. 4960; in Kerala, it is Rs. 4004; in Assam, it is Rs. 3168; in Haryana, it is Rs. 2882; in Madhya Pradesh, it is 1430; in Rajasthan, it is 1490; in Uttar Pradesh, it is Rs. 1633; in Bihar, it is Rs. 1624; and in Orissa it is the lowest at Rs. 1062. If a farmer is getting only Rs. 1000 per month how could a farm labourer get good income? That is the state of affairs.

My learned friend, Shri Hannan Mollah mentioned the Kerala model. Due to many agitations which were held in Kerala, out of 63 lakh of families, 34 lakh families earn their livelihood from this informal sector. The Government decided to form 20 Welfare Boards for the welfare of the farm labourers. In 1969, 32 social security schemes were introduced. All these Boards ran successfully for a certain period but many of them are non-functional now. For example, the Toddy Tapper Welfare Board, the Fishermen Welfare Board, Construction Workers Welfare Board, Agricultural Workers Welfare Board and Bamboo Workers Welfare Board all these are working. The Government contributed 10 per cent to the Toddy Tappers Board. The toddy tappers are living in poor conditions everywhere. If you go to South Tamil Nadu in areas like Tirunelveli, Trichur, Kanyakumari and Nagore, you would find that most of the people are toddy tappers. There is small safety for a person who is going to the upper portion of the tree. If he falls down, there is no insurance and no medical facilities for him. If he sustains any fracture in the head or leg or hand, he will have to remain without any treatment. He may be a bread winner of the family and his whole family would collapse. So, the situation is very bad. These are all the schemes introduced by the Kerala Government. Our friend suggested that Kerala model should be followed. But where are the Boards which they constituted? There is a total failure. Around three per cent of the total budget of the State is necessary for the success of these Boards. Today, no Board is running properly. The Government of India has to identify the workers. Today, the agricultural workers are not continuing in the same profession. If you

[Shri S.K. Kharventhan]

go to our district of Coimbatore, you cannot purchase even a single acre of land for agricultural purposes. All the lands are sold out for the factories and IT institutions. I am a farmer but I am not able to get any farm labourers. All the labourers have been taken by the mini-buses to textile mills. They are getting Rs.100, tiffin, and tea. They are not ready to go to the fields. That is the situation. So, day-by-day, the number of farm labourers is shrinking. For example, in 1961, the farm labourers were 73.54 per cent of the total labourers but it is only 54.04 per cent in 2000. So the number is going down day-by-day. The Government of India under the leadership of Dr. Manmohan Singh and Madam Sonia Gandhi introduced NREGP for protecting the labourers in the villages. But these schemes are not sufficient to protect them. Hence our Government has to frame a comprehensive Act to protect all the labourers. It should first identify the labourers and then they should be given housing facilities, accidental benefits, maternity benefits, insurance, etc. through an Act.

[Translation]

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer): Madam Chairman, I support Agricultural Labourers Welfare Bill, 2005 presented by Shri Hannan Mollah Ji and congratulate him for presenting the Bill for the welfare of unorganized labourers.

Madam, I recall:

"Maya se maya mile kar-kar lambe haath
Tulsi hai Garib ki pooche na koi baat,"

In fact, agricultural labourers community is the most poor and harassed community of the society. When the weather is fair and sowing is done in time, he gets work. If Rabi and Kharif crops do well, he gets work, but rest of the months of the year he has to face starvation and unemployment. This Bill has been brought for the welfare of such labourers. Several commissions and committees have been constituted in this regard. Many a Governments ruled many a labour ministers extended assurances, yet no law has been enacted for the welfare of agricultural labourers even after 59 years of independence. What could be more unfortunate?

Madam Chairman, when we talk of welfare State, then it becomes the responsibility of the State to ponder over the pitiable condition of the agricultural labourers.

These helpless poor people do not have any insurance policy or social security. They neither get pension nor do they get their wages in time. There are no facilities of accommodation or education for them. As a result they wander here and there. They stay wherever they get work. It is a matter of regret that these people belonging to the scheduled castes and scheduled tribes community constitute the poorest, weakest and most suppressed section of the society. These people are victims of exploitation and work in the fields. They work hard and get almost nothing in return. Women are ill-treated. It is also a matter of regret that if the State is hit by drought, they move to some other State in search of work. They do farming there. Kashmir is facing terrorism even today, while Punjab faced it earlier. These innocent people work hard throughout the day and go to bed at night, few lines of a poet seem appropriate for them:

"Shwanon ko milta doodh dahi, Bhookhe bachche
akulate hain, Maa ki chhati se chipak sisak-sisak rah
jate hain."

The condition of these children is even more pitiable. When they are fast asleep at night they are killed by the terrorists bullets. There is no provision to provide them compensation. As per the survey conducted by National Sample Survey Organisation in 1990-2000, the number of labourers working in both organized and unorganized sector is 39.7 crore in total. Out of this, only 2.8 crore labourers are from organized sector, while remaining 26.9 crore labourers are of unorganized sector. Out of 36.9 crore unorganized labourers, 23.7 crore are agricultural labourers, whereas remaining 1.7 crore labourers work in different other sectors. Our country is pre-dominantly an agricultural country and life pattern is based on agriculture. I would like to say one thing to my colleagues from Bengal, I hope they will not take it otherwise.

Madam Chairman, recently we have witnessed the case of Singur. Once Zameindari System was prevalent in Bengal and agricultural labourers used to work on fields. The Government abolished the Zameindari System there and the land has been given to agricultural labourers. They are called "batai daar" (crop sharer). Now, agricultural land in that area has been acquired for Tata group. The big landlords got their money but small poor farmers got nothing. When they did not get their due they got agitated and Singur incident occurred. Now, the situation is such that the poor farmers did not get compensation and agricultural activities have also come to a halt. Not only Singur, but many other parts of the

country are also facing the same problem. I urge upon the Government that SEZs may not be created on cultivable land. Only barren land or uneven land may be used for this purpose. Whatever factories or something else may be built, but if cultivable land is acquired, it is the labourers who suffer. Big landowners rest under shade and enjoy hukka, it is the labourers who have to work. If they do not find work, unemployment will increase. If their land is acquired, their children and the farmers whose land is acquired should be given jobs. I, therefore, would like to say that India is predominantly an agricultural land. Our economy and the rural economy is based on agriculture, but even in the agriculture based sectors the hapless labourers who reap riches by toiling hard in the fields are forced to live in very pitiable conditions.

Through you, I demand from the Government that now the time has come. The UPA Government with much fanfare say that they have included this in the common minimum programme, then why haven't they brought it. About 2 and a half years are going to elapse and even after the passage of such time they did not bring it. Hannan Saheb's parties are giving full support to it. You exert pressure on them. The Bill has been introduced after so many years, that too modelled on the Bills passed by the small States like Kerala and Tripura for the welfare of the un-organised agricultural workers belonging to those States. Based on those State Government's Bills, this comprehensive Bill was prepared and presented before the Parliament. The objective of the Bill which finds a mention in the Bill is to provide job security to the agricultural workers and to regularize the working hours. Working hours should be fixed for the people who toil in the night, morning and evening. Regularisation of working hours, making provisions for provident fund for the womenfolks engaged in agricultural works and other related matters concerning them, in order to address all these issues a law should be enacted by the Parliament, efforts should be made to implement labour laws and to ensure that the said laws are implemented all over the country. In this light, the said Bill was introduced keeping in view the needs of the whole country. First of all they have defined the term 'agricultural worker' and also identified the type of farming in which they are involved. They have also made a mention about setting up of an agency. There is also a mention about the inspector who will monitor that there is no exploitation of the farm labourers. He will also monitor whether the labourers are getting wages or not and there is proper arrangement in place for their safety. There is also a mention of the appointment of Inspectors. What should the Government

do for the safety and welfare? Constitution of the board, funds etc. is a good move. The most important thing is that there is a provision for setting up of a welfare fund for the farm labourers because if someone meets untimely death, if someone falls prey to any diseases, for example there was a mention about cancer caused by eating Gutkhas. Many helpless labourers are uneducated, they are exploited by making them work all the day. I know that in the evening in order to alleviate their woes and weariness they consume liquor procured from some dubious source before going to sleep. They don't even take food as they lose their consciousness, consequently they become TB or Cancer patients. Such people should be given treatment through the welfare funds. ESI card etc. should be made available for them or arrangements for their treatments be made in hospitals as well. Nearer to their settlements, mobile units should be stationed so that they can be treated in the said units. All these measures are incorporated in this Bill. Provision has been made in this Bill to initiate attachment proceedings or other type of action against the owners, who do not take care of the interests of the labourers. Apart from Rabi and Khariff seasons, everyone is aware that the Budget of India is a monsoon gamble, good rainfall means good crops, then everything is fine and the labourers also flourish as they get opportunities for employment but excess rainfall also poses dangers as does the scant rainfall. If the country witnesses a draught it is a perilous situation, if the country is affected by floods, it is also a dangerous condition. Thunder strikes, hailstorm, extreme winter, all the time—Farm labourers bear the brunt of these crisis. That's why provision has been made for employment guarantee to them. The Government has introduced this employment guarantee scheme but for the time being the said scheme has been implemented in only 200 districts of the country.

Madam, Chairman, the said scheme has not been implemented in the proper manner as it should have been done. I feel that provision for employment guarantee should be made for all such labourers. Arrangements have been put in place for resolving disputes among them, if any. Provision has been made in this Bill to resolve any disputes between the owner and the servant. Farm labourers and their owners. Many laws are enacted in this country, but they are not strictly followed. Therefore I would like to tell Shri Hannan Mollah Sir that "Kathani Thothi Jagath mein, Kami Uttam Saar" (Action speaks louder than the words). It is easier for us to preach. These people do talk about the interests of the labourers, but schemes and laws which should have been made for

[Prof. Rasa Singh Rawat]

the welfare of the labourers have not been formulated. With their support Government has completed 2½ years in power, but till now laws in the interest of the farmers have not been framed. Through you, I request the Government that laws in the interests of our farmers and labourers should immediately be introduced so that the crisis hovering around our food-providers who reap riches by toiling hard in our soil should be redressed and their welfare can be taken care of in the true sense. Along with this, I would like to state one or two points. Ration at low-price should be provided to the farm labourers through PDS stores. Besides, arrangements should be made for the education of their children. With these words I conclude my speech.

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR (Chail): Madam, Chairman, our colleague Shri Hannan Mollah ji has introduced Agricultural Workers Welfare Bill, 2005 in the House on 24th November, 2006 and today a discussion is being held in the House regarding the provisions of the Bill about the welfare, employment, regularization of their working hours and related issues. Under Rule 193, yesterday only discussion was held regarding the welfare of the labourers of unorganized sector initiated by Shri Devendra Prasad Yadav Ji. Many hon'ble Members have expressed their views on both these subjects. Today we are deliberating how to protect the interests of 15 crore farm labourers of the country, but we couldn't formulate an appropriate law for them. It can be seen that the workers engaged in agriculture, forestry, fishing and plantation sectors come under the category of farm labourers. As Shri Hannan Mollah Ji has mentioned in his statement, now we have enacted laws for trees, plants and animals but we have failed to formulate any laws for farm labourers and unorganized labourers and thirty years have passed in waiting for such type of a law to be brought before this House. Government are regularly giving assurances that an effective Bill will be brought in this regard but unfortunately such a law has not been enacted till date. We live in hopes. Government say that they are going to introduce a very effective Bill for the unorganized labourers. Their number is very large in rural areas and especially majority of scheduled castes and scheduled tribes constitute the said category. From cradle to the grave a discriminatory attitude is meted out to them. The situation has reached such an ugly head that there are separate worship places, public lodgings, cremation grounds for them. They are neglected by the society every where, be it in the Government offices, police stations or courts. Wherever you go, you can see an attitude of discrimination being meted out to them.

Madam, we are having a discussion on the Bill to enact laws for making arrangements of regular employment to the farm labourers and workers due to the diminishing size of farm lands. Many of the farm labourers in the country have only 2, 3 or 5 Biswa land, they don't have land in the range of Bighas. By cultivating on this limited area, they are leading their lives. If we take into account the entire population of the country, as per the report of the National Sample Survey Organisation for the year 2000, 26% of the total population is living below the poverty line, but so far we haven't conducted any survey to gather information about the poverty levels among the farm labourers so that after finding about their actual number, we could make arrangements for their employment, proper living and education.

17.00 hrs.

All kinds of hazardous works are being done by those labourers, but there is neither the facility of life insurance, nor health insurance, nor pension, nor old age pension scheme for them. All these kind of problems are being faced by them, but the Government has promised to enact a comprehensive legislation in this regard and it is committed to do so and I think this would be brought in this session only.

As far as minimum wages payable to them are concerned, the provision of paying Rs. 120.37 per day to the unskilled workers and Rs. 161.47 to the skilled workers has been made for the cities of Delhi, Kolkata, Chennai, Hyderabad, Bangalore and Lucknow, but even today no social security cover has been provided to them. Yesterday as we were discussing the matter in the House, the commission headed by Shri Arjun Sengupta also submitted its report, but we would be able to consider the recommendations made by it only after the introduction of the Bill. However, some State Governments have taken the initiative in this regard which has provided some relief to them. They include small farmers agricultural labourers, small scale industry workers and daily wagers. Farm labourers constitute a large chunk of them in the entire country. This Government has implemented all kinds of schemes. The largest is National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme, under which employment of 100 days is given to a person but what shall the labourers do for the rest of 265 days? This question is still haunting us. The commission constituted under the Chairmanship of Shri Arjun Sengupta has recommended setting up of a National Social Security Fund for the unorganised work force who earn less than Rs. 5000/- per month, which

includes agricultural labourers and it has been said that for the constitution of this fund 25% contribution would be made by workers, 3/4th by the Union Government and the rest by the State Government. A huge budgetary allocation would be required in this regard, but it can be implemented only when all of us resolve to do this and change our mind set and thinking.

As far as the issue of providing pension and health insurance and other facilities to 30 crore workers of the unorganised sector is concerned, we would be able to do it only when our mind set is changed and we work honestly in this direction. After all, they are also human beings who play a major role and put in their hard work for the development of the country.

Today, the employment opportunities are also shrinking. The people in rural areas are not getting employment. The machines have replaced human work force, for instance, there is Carbine Harvester Machine, which does the work of 250 labourers alone at a less cost. The farm labourers charge Rs. 900 for harvesting a field and this machine harvests the entire crop for just Rs. 500. Earlier when machines were not available, the labourers used to get work for 9-10 months a year but in this era of machines, if a labourer gets work for just two months, its a great achievement. Due to this, these labourers have taken the occupation of vegetables sellers, scrap-seller, painters and masons. When they do not get employment in rural areas, they migrate to cities. One must have observed that there are labour chowks at the crossroads in the cities. All of them do not get employment. Those who get the job are lucky enough and those who do not get the job, do not even get a square meal. It is no secret that they take loan and some how bring up their children. Even today, most of the children studying in the government schools are of agricultural labourers and small farmers. 85% of the students studying in the Government Schools belong to SC/ST, whether it is a primary school or junior high school. Yesterday also, it was discussed in the House. I recall Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia ji's slogan. He said that the employment should be given to all the unemployed otherwise at least give them unemployment allowance. If we are unable to provide them employment, we should bring a bill for providing unemployment allowance to them. Then only their life style will improve.

I would like to recommend that keeping in view the condition and meagre income of these poor people, essential commodities like wheat, rice, pulses, kerosene, sugar, tea leaves, soap, clothes etc. which are sold at

fair price shops should be provided to the agricultural labourers, the unorganised workers at half the rate. It can be done through canteen or any other means but this facility has to be made available at half of the rate. They still are not being respected in the society. They are ill-treated by the police, as Prof. Rasa Singh Rawat was saying that in case the male member of the family goes to city to earn livelihood and the female some how gets some kind of job in the village she is ill-treated and the education of their children also gets suffered. Therefore, children are also compelled to work to supplement the family income and become child labourers. Then only they get a square meal. The mothers encourage child labour, as they are apprehensive whether their father will get job or not. Today, there is a need to pay consideration to this issue. I would like to demand that the Government should identify such labourers on the line of initiative taken by some State Governments and provide free electricity to them. We have to make arrangement for providing drinking water, health facilities, education etc. to their children, then only the problem, about which we are concerned, can be solved.

There is another point I would like to raise. These people have been exploited time and again and injustice and atrocities have been committed against them Bonded labour system should be abolished. In villages, generations of these people have been working in the upper class households. They are a kind of bonded labourers. There is a need to rescue such persons and make arrangements for their self-employment at home itself. Today, 71 percent of the labourers families spend only Rs. 420-500 per month to meet their needs. I would also like to speak about another major problem that is of women labourers. Yesterday also we discussed it. There are thousands of graduate women in Manipur, who even today work in the fields during sunny days. They embalm their bodies with sandal paste to save themselves from scorching heat. Creche facility should be provided for their kids. Then only can we improve their condition. Some days back, I visited Athens, Greece. I saw 2-2.5 thousand people from Punjab over there working in big farm houses. Today there is need to ponder over the fact that due to lack of employment opportunities our labourers, unorganised sector workers have migrated to foreign countries. A provision should be made in this bill, so that we are able to give them facilities.

With these words, I conclude my speech.

*SHRI SUGRIB SINGH (Phulbani): Thank you Chairperson Madam, Today Hon'ble member has brought in a very important Bill. I rise to support the Bill. Ours is an agricultural country. Agriculture is the primary occupation of majority of our population. The number of agricultural workers is very large too. Yesterday in this august House we were discussing about the labourers in the unorganized sector. Fortunately today we are discussing about another vital component of our population, the agricultural workers. Hon'ble member Shri Hannan Mullah has brought in this very appropriate and timely Bill.

Madam, as per the census report of 2001 more than ten crores of agricultural labours are there in our country. But in reality the number will be much larger. Our country is heavily dependant on agriculture. Agriculture is our main source of livelihood. We simply cannot survive without agriculture or the agricultural workers. Agricultural workers play a vital role in our economy. Hence its very unfortunate that we have never paid any serious attention to the needs of these people. Whether its their health, education, living condition they are a neglected lot. We have never bothered to make their condition better.

Whatever has been done so far is very negligible. The agricultural workers toil hard to feed the teeming millions in this country. Neither in the Governmental level nor in the private sector this section has received any attention. They do not have access to some basic necessities of life nor to a decent standard of living. Whether it is the Central Government or the State Government, nobody is concerned about their welfare. I do acknowledge that at different points of time the wages of agricultural workers have been increased both at the Central and State Government levels. But it's a very insignificant hike to make any real impact.

While contesting elections every political party promises to improve their lot, but after coming to power they simply forget the agricultural workers. The Central Government introduces high sounding schemes and programmes for these people which sometimes falls flat midway. The time has come to analyse these schemes as to how far they have succeeded or failed. We need to take a stock of the situation. As per the census report 26% of BPL people are agricultural workers who lead a deplorable life. They belong to the lowest strata of society and are abysmally poor.

The Government has introduced many schemes for their welfare like Swarna Jayanti Swa-Rozgar Yojna, Sampooma Grameen Yojna, Pradhanmantri Gram Sadak Yojna, National Social Assistance Programme, Indira Awas Yojna etc. In the recent past UPA Government has brought in an umbrella programme named National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme which envisages to provide at least 100 days work in a year to a member of every BPL family. In reality however, this scheme seems to be very complex. If a person is a certified labour he is not getting the benefit. The complexities in the NREGP has made it difficult to find beneficiaries. Thus, this scheme needs to be simplified in order to the benefit the rural masses. We need to analyse and examine every aspect.

The agricultural workers put in a lot of hard work in the field from dawn to dusk. Sometimes they fall prey to accidents, succumb to injury and illness. But they do not have access to insurance cover. The Government has schemes like Janashri Bima Yojna, Universal Health Insurance Scheme, meant for the poorer segment of the population. Are they reaching out to the people? The Government needs to take periodical stock of things. If these people are not sure about their two square meal per day, can they be sure about paying a premium?

Therefore, Sir I would demand here that an Insurance Scheme be introduced where the target would be the agricultural workers and unorganized labours. I would also demand for a hike in the daily wages of workers. There should be uniformity of wages in all the States of India. The Central Government should take suitable legal steps to bring in this uniformity. Sir I would not take much time. Sir I extend whole-hearted support to this Bill and demand that the Central Government should bring in a new legislation keeping in view the welfare of agricultural workers. Thank you, Sir, for giving me this opportunity.

17.18 hrs.

[SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN *in the Chair*]

[*English*]

SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPPAN (Trichur): Sir, I congratulate Comrade Hannan Mollah for bringing this Bill and thereby helping this House to have an opportunity to discuss one of the most vital problems the people are facing today. Yes, we have to wait for 24 years to discuss this. Anyway, discussion is taking place; that is more

*English translation of the speech originally delivered in Oriya.

important. When this discussion is taking place, it is good that Shri Handique is sitting here.

Shri Handique, do you remember that three Sessions before you made an assurance to this House while participating when I was participating in a Debate that by the end of that Session or the beginning of the next Session, you will bring that Bill for the unorganized sector? Do you remember that?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): I remember that. There are some problems which I did not explain.

SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPPAN: That is the problem. The problem is this. There is something very common between Congress and BJP, I will not say anything bad, that is, forgetfulness, lack of political commitment, and lack of political will. In the last elections, was it not one of the main slogans raised by the Congress Party that *aam aadmi* and their problems will get their prior attention?

Prof. Rasa Singh Rawat and his colleagues are here. Prof. Rawat, your speech was amazing. You were supporting it. It is good.

Sir, for six years, their Party was in Office but they had not spent not even six minutes to discuss this. So, forgetfulness and lack of political will are common to both of them. Now, I do not want to say anything about them because it is a gone case. ... *(Interruptions)* Sitting in the Opposition, it is easy for you to support it. Sitting as the Ruling Party, you had not even spent six minutes to discuss this. You had never tried. I have no hope. ... *(Interruptions)* Now, let me talk about the UPA. ... *(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: You kindly address the Chair.

SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPPAN: Sir, I am addressing you, and through you, everything is going to both the sides.

Sir, the UPA Government made a promise in their Common Minimum Programme that they are committed to bring forward a legislation regarding the unorganized workers. Yesterday we were discussing it. I know what would be the fate if you forget it this way or you have problems. ... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE: We have not forgotten it. There is still two and a half years time for us. ... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPPAN: The problem is that they cannot say anything. Now, the problem is the lack of political will. I do not want to say anything more on this.

Sir, at the head of the Freedom Movement when the Congress Government was there, the first Planning Commission was set up under the Chairmanship of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru. Eminent people like Shri Subash Chandra Bose were there as members in that Commission. What was the recommendation made by that Commission, in the nutshell? Sir, you will remember because you are a freedom fighter. What the Commission said was economic growth with social justice. That was the essence of it. I need not elaborate it. For all these sixty years, that economic justice is denied to all the unorganized workers. That is the case.

You said that you would find a solution to it when you were speaking about *aam aadmi* and propagating your Common Minimum Programme. Now, two and a half years have passed. Please remember that. The sunset has started; the sunrise is over. This is the time to introspect. Please do not think that at the time when you are going out of Office, you would bring a legislation and put it here, and nobody would believe that kind of whitewash. ... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE: Still two and a half years are there for us. ... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPPAN: You are asking us to wait for two and a half years more. That is precisely what I am saying. ... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE: It may come sooner. ... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPPAN: For the last two and a half years, you have failed. I do not have any faith that you would do it in another two and a half years. ... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI SURESH PRABHAKAR PRABHU (Rajapur): What do you think will happen to them? ... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPPAN: What happened to you will happen to them. So, I am giving a warning to the UPA Government. If you do not want that to happen to

[Shri C.K. Chandrappan]

you, then think hundred times and bring forward this Bill, if not in this Session, at least in the coming Budget Session. Can you make that promise now? ...
(*Interruptions*)

SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE: Let us see. Definitely ...
(*Interruptions*)

SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPPAN: That is the problem. You cannot make that promise. ... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE: I can say this much that I can prevail upon the Government to bring such a Bill, as desired by the hon. Members. ... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPPAN: You see how cleverly he is speaking. ... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI B. MAHTAB (Cuttack): That is why, he is the Minister. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPPAN: I support this Bill. I do not want to go into the details of this Bill.

Sir, we are faced with a problem. There is a lack of political will. That is the problem. There was a legislation regarding the unorganized workers in Kerala in 1974. Sir, 32 years ago, a poor State like Kerala could forward this legislation.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, your friend or your *Guru*, Achut Menon was the Chief Minister of Kerala at that time.

You must know, this Bill gives such facilities to the workers that Mrs. Indira Gandhi, at that time, who was the Prime Minister, commended that in Parliament. At that time, I was also a Member of Parliament here. She said "I would write to all the Chief Ministers..." She might have written, "...to bring that kind of a legislation in every State." But not a single Chief Minister, Mr. Handique! responded to Indira Gandhi. I do not know, how far they would listen to you today, when even in those days of emergency they did not listen to you!

Sir, the problem is that they have no interest. They only talk. But they should not think that the people would forget all these things.

Mr. Minister, you may be aware, two weeks ago, there was a massive procession of workers — workers of the manufacturing industry and workers of the unorganized sector especially the agricultural labourers.

They came in lakhs. They were the people who voted for you last time when you promised in your Common Minimum Programme - a new life, a new future. They voted for you. In that procession, they were so angry and they felt that they are betrayed by these people. We told them 'let us see.'

SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE: You change your mind.

SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPPAN: You stand up and say... (*Interruptions*) I can yield; you stand up and say.

SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE: I thought, you yielded.(*Interruptions*)

SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPPAN: Mr. Chairman, see, he does not stand up to make a promise.(*Interruptions*)

SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE: Yes.(*Interruptions*)

SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPPAN: You are so eloquent. Why not?(*Interruptions*)

SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE: I asked, just change your mind.(*Interruptions*)

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): Today, I want to be eloquent through my silence... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPPAN: That is another feeling; you know that.(*Interruptions*)

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: No. I think, Mr. Chandrappan, you should realize that in a complex country like ours with 1.5 billion people, it is fundamental for our country to move forward, and for that we must reach the poor. Right?

SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPPAN: Yes.

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: We must also have enough resources to reach the poor. So, all this must go hand in hand. Economic growth, investment in the rural sector, reaching agricultural worker...

SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPPAN: ..and social justice.

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: Yes, also social justice. They must go hand in hand, because there will be no growth without equity. Right? I can assure you that in the course

of five years, even though you think, the sun is setting, at the end of the five years, you will see, it rises again.(Interruptions)

SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPPAN: That is what they said 'India is shining.'(Interruptions) After the sunset, they told "Look, India is shining."

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: You see, here sun sets and rises every five years.

SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPPAN: Yes.

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: It will happen.(Interruptions)

SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPPAN: Sun sets and rises every five years, bringing new people there and bringing new people here; let us not forget that.

SHRI SURESH PRABHAKAR PRABHU: I think, probably, what he said was that after five years, sun would start rising from here again.

SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPPAN: That is what I am reminding them.(Interruptions)

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: No, no. The sun normally rises from that side. That is the east.(Interruptions) That is why in politics, in Parliament, we sit in such a way that the sun always rises in the Opposition and always sets in the Treasury Benches.

SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPPAN: That is good.

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: Do not worry.

SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPPAN: I asked, you should be worried.(Interruptions)

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: You will be with us; you will stand by us; you will fight with us; and the sun will rise together. So, do not worry about that.

SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPPAN: We are standing with you, and therefore, we are more worried. Along with you, we should not sink ourselves....(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Chandrappan, your time is over. Please conclude.

SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPPAN: Sir, I am coming to the last part of my speech.

MR. CHAIRMAN: It cannot be a mutual discussion.

SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPPAN: Sir, we are keeping you there, and then discussing it.(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: There is a time factor also. Your time is over.

SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPPAN: Sir, let me conclude.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Normally, the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs is a silent person.

....(Interruptions)

SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE: That would be too cruel.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Handique, you have always been keeping silence. Here, why do you respond every time?

....(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Normally, he is silent in the House. But today, he appears to be responding every time.

....(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: For that, the credit goes to you Mr. Chandrappan.

SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE: It is the first time. I told him that I can assure him that such type of a law would be a reality soon.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Okay. Thank you.

Yes, Mr. Chandrappan.

SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPPAN: Now what I am saying is that there should be a strong political will to do this.

Sir, you are from Kerala. I am from Kerala. Is it that the legislation was passed because there were so much of resources that we can spend any way, this way or that way? No. We decided that this should be given a priority.

You see, there is a difference between you and communists. You please understand that. In 1936 in Karachi, the famous Karachi Resolution was adopted.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Your time is over.

SHRI SURESH PRABHAKAR PRABHU: We have to extend the time. It is a good subject.

MR. CHAIRMAN: We have a long list of Members to speak. Let others also be given a chance. You have taken much more time.

SHRI B. MAHTAB: Hardly there is a Member from the Treasury Benches. It is all from this side. Sir, if we take you also, you are from this side.

SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPPAN: So, we are all together here.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude.

SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPPAN: I am concluding.

I was speaking about how this Karachi Resolution would be enacted. The first time the communists were voted to power in Kerala was in 1957. Then, Mr. E.M.S. Namboodripad was the Chief Minister. What did he say? There were a lot of apprehensions that the communists are coming and everybody will be finished and all that. He said "Do not worry. We will try to implement what the Congress has forgotten, that is, the Karachi Resolution." Sitting from the Chair, the first order issued was that there would be no more eviction of tenants. There would be no more eviction of sharecroppers. There would be no more eviction of hutment dwellers. Then, a measure was taken for legislating it. Sir, you know the then history of the liberation struggle.

We were ousted. Then we came back finally in 1971. At one stroke, the full land reforms were implemented. At one stroke, from A-Z, the land reforms were implemented. I can say that till today that land legislation of Kerala remains a landmark legislation. This legislation about which we are talking is part of that. Jawaharlal Nehru and Subash Chandra Bose told this country that social justice should be done. We also thought that social justice should be done. You do justice to these people. We have done it.

You will be amazed. I was reading the reports that the toddy tappers are wretched of the wretched. No, they are not wretched. There are toddy tappers' legislation. They are welfare legislation. They did very well. They have all the means. Their children, the second generation

people, are engineers, teachers, scientists and all that. So, we are building a new life. We are bringing light into the miseries of the common man. We are talking about the agricultural legislation. They provide for pension. There are methods to help the widows. There are daughters. At the time of their marriage, the Welfare Fund will take care of them. There are very vast measures of helping the common people.

But in Kerala do we have those resources? You said after you get resources, you will have all social justice and it should go hand in hand. It did not go hand in hand for the last 60 years.

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: I did not say that. I said it should go hand in hand. It is because our rates of growth have increased in our country. Social justice has reached a lot of people in our country. The middle class is 400 million today. In Kerala, despite the education, the poverty levels are the same. If you want to talk about numbers, I will give you a lot of numbers.

SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPPAN: I can also give.

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: Where is the legislation in West Bengal? You talk about communists. Let this be a friendly discussion. Otherwise, I will give you some numbers that you will be a little bit embarrassed about.

SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPPAN: No, it is not that. It is a very friendly discussion in the sense that it is to remind you to(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude. Shri Francis George is to speak.

....(Interruptions)

SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPPAN: This is to make you feel that you should bring that legislation; otherwise, you will not be able to come back to power again.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude.

SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPPAN: I am concluding.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You are concluding for a long time.

....(Interruptions)

SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPPAN: This is the final conclusion. ... (Interruptions)

I fully support this Bill moved by comrade Hannan Mollah. Let there be a promise from the Government that the contents of this Bill will be accepted by the Government and let them bring a comprehensive legislation for all the unorganised sector.

Thank you very much. Sir, I conclude. I thank you for your indulgences.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Francis George. You are not in your seat.

SHRI K. FRANCIS GEORGE (Idukki): Sir, I am a little afraid to sit there. I was alone. So, I was feeling very lonely. So, I came to this side.(Interruptions) That is why, I came here to be in a good company.(Interruptions) I wanted to speak from here. So, I came here.(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: I allow you to speak from where you are standing because there is no time for an argument(Interruptions)

SHRI K. FRANCIS GEORGE: Thank you. Sir, first of all, I congratulate our elder colleague, Shri Hannan Mollah for coming out with a piece of legislation which, as all other respected colleagues who spoke before me said, has been long over-due in this country.

Sir, of late, we have been talking a lot and discussing a lot about issues connected with the agriculture sector. Our agriculture sector is in real crisis for the last several years. I do not know whether Shri Kapil Sibal may object again. I am not saying that the crisis started just because of the new economic policies that have been introduced; there are so many reasons. Maybe, those policies were one of the reasons. Anyway, it was in the year 1991 when we started these new economic policies, which I do agree that we cannot stay away from for a long time. We have to be a part of the world.

Sir, we have been talking of the crisis, but the crisis has reached such a stage that farmers are committing suicides every day. There have been thousands of cases of suicides all over the country, especially in States like Andhra Pradesh, Kerala and Vidarbha. We have been talking about farmers and helping the farmers in the farm sector. There have been many policies. After this new Government came to power, a lot of money through the Budgets has been allocated for the farm sector. Maybe, the results will take a little more time. We do appreciate

that. But farmers and farm workers are two sides of the same coin. My party was the first to say in this country that farm workers and farmers go together and they have to go together. They are the two sides of the same coin, but the plight of our farm workers, agricultural workers has been in a state of misery and they are totally unorganised. Maybe excepting Kerala and Tripura, I think no other State probably - maybe I am wrong and I wish I am wrong - has come out so far with a comprehensive Bill to help these hapless sections of our society.

As Shri Hannan Mollah has said, there are 10 crore people working in the farmlands, in the fields and the agricultural land. It is high-time that these people are organised and the benefits, that are available to other working sections in our country, are extended to them. This is the intention of the Bill. I hope that the Government will take a serious note of this and come out with an umbrella legislation so that these rules and regulations will be implemented throughout the country in a uniform manner. The crisis, which I have mentioned earlier, has affected not only the farmers but probably the farming workers most.

In my own constituency in Kerala, namely, Idukki district - which is a land of cash crops and spices, and a land of tea and coffee estates - the workers are in a very bad situation now. The ordinary farmers are practically getting nothing from their farm land due to very low income. Therefore, they are not doing any kind of work in their farms, and no seasonal work is being carried out now. One has to do seasonal work in the case of cardamom, pepper and other spices, but the farmers are doing away with these kinds of seasonal works due to lack of proper income from these crops. This is directly affecting the farm workers.

There is no manuring, pruning, application of chemicals, and there are a whole lot of things involved in it. Nothing can be taken up by the farmers due to the crisis in this particular sector, that is, due to the steep fall in prices. This has affected the farm workers the most. Hence, many have migrated, as has been mentioned earlier by my colleagues here. Many of them have migrated to cities and towns seeking job, and thereby again affecting the farm sector.

This particular section does not have any kind of security of employment, which has been mentioned in the Bill. There is no regulation of hours of work, and there is no PF. There is no enforcement of law, that is,

[shri K. Francis George]

the Minimum Wages Act that is already there in the Statute Book. There is no enforcing agency as far as these sections are concerned. The members of the family are also in a state of utter penury due to the very meagre income that they get from it.

They cannot educate their children properly; they cannot attend to the family's healthcare needs, etc. These workers are finding it very difficult to even provide the basic necessities to their family members.

Now, mechanization has come into force. I am not against mechanization because we have to move with the times. We will have to mechanise our farms, but the mechanization has also affected these farm workers in one way or the other.

The hon. Minister for Science and Technology is very much present here in the House. Therefore, I would like to request him that we have to extend the benefits of our research, achievements made by our country in science and technology to the farms and to the fields. This is a must, and we have to ensure it. Up till now, we have not succeeded fully in this aspect. We have done many things.(Interruptions)

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: I just want to give you an information. In fact, I have myself looked at this issue, and I have looked at the planning of all the States in India. If you look at any of their plans, then you will find that there is not a single sentence on science and technology in the plans of the State Governments.

Recently, I called the representatives of all the State Governments and I conveyed to them that the Centre is willing to collaborate with them and enter into a partnership with them. It is because each State has a different agricultural strategy, and each State has a different cropping pattern. The North grows wheat, and there is rice in the South and North East, and you also have spices like cardamom, tea, coffee and other cash crops. Therefore, each State has to have a different strategy.

I undertake to partner with each State in Science and Technology, and transfer the benefits of R&D to the agricultural sector. Unfortunately, the State Governments are not extending a helping hand to us. Therefore, I appeal to you to ask your Chief Ministers to collaborate with us, so that we can give them the benefits of Science and Technology.

Quite frankly, the growth rate in the agricultural sector today is 1.7 per cent. The general growth rate in the last quarter was 9.2 per cent. Hence, the gap between the rich and the poor is increasing. We have to be very careful about the agricultural sector because 700 million people are involved with it.

I would request you to come to us for the kind of help that you are talking about in this House.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. George, he has clarified your points. Hence, you can conclude your speech now.

SHRI K. FRANCIS GEORGE: I will take just a minute, Sir.

As has been pointed out by hon. Sibalji, I would request him to call a special meeting of all the Agriculture Ministers or even the Chief Ministers of all the States.

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: I have called a meeting of the Agriculture Ministers.

SHRI K. FRANCIS GEORGE: Or else, we can approach them during the National Development Council meeting.

Sir, as has been pointed out by the hon. Minister, our aim is to have a growth rate of nine per cent and we have earmarked four per cent for the agriculture sector. If we have to reach that target, an all-out effort from all sections has to be made.

I would request the Government to take a proper view of what we should do about this particular sector. We should have a proper assessment, a survey conducted about the state of affairs of the agricultural workers in the country in all the States. We should verify the welfare measures that are being implemented in all the States and come out with an umbrella legislation which will be applicable throughout the country. I once again congratulate my elder colleague Shri Hannan Mollah and also the hon. Ministers who are very much present and very actively participating and encouraging us in all these discussions.

With these words I conclude.

[Translation]

*DR. SEBASTIAN PAUL (Emakulam): Sir, Yesterday, we discussed at length about the labourers in the

*English translation of the speech originally delivered in Malayalam.

unorganized sector. Today, we are discussing the Agricultural Workers Welfare Bill; introduced by Comrade Hannan Mollah.

The Bill is to ensure the welfare of the agricultural labourers and to draw the attention of the Government to legislate along these lines. We know, that eventually this Bill will be withdrawn, but I hope, the valuable suggestions made during the course of discussion will be included in a government-sponsored legislation.

Moving this Bill, Comrade Hannan Mollah spoke about Kerala and Tripura. In 1957, when the Communist Party came to power in Kerala, they first thanked the agricultural labourers who had voted for them not by words, but by deeds. They stopped the forcible eviction of landless agricultural labourers and guaranteed job security to them and also introduced pension and other welfare measures for the labourers.

Kerala became a role model for the rest of the country. The Central Government too should legislate on the same lines, and the other States too should follow suit. As we know the entire agricultural sector is facing a crisis in the age of globalization. The farmers and agricultural labourers are both facing a very difficult situation. India, had undergone a major green revolution. But today in the age of globalization, unless we redress the problems in the agricultural sector, it will affect the entire economy.

Wayand Vidharbha are living examples of this crisis that has affected the agricultural sector. When we demand the welfare of the agricultural labourers it also includes the welfare of the workers in the unorganized sector and the deprived classes at large. We have to ensure means of livelihood for this section to bring about social justice.

So, the twin objectives of social justice and economic prosperity can be achieved by solving the problems afflicting the farmers and agricultural labourers. The discussions that followed Shri Hannan Mollah's speech contained suggestions and guidelines to tackle the crisis.

I hope the Government will include the suggestion and go for a more inclusive legislation. Following the examples of Kerala and Tripura the Central Government and other State Governments should legislate the Agricultural Welfare Bill.

With this hope I conclude.

SHRI MITRASEN YADAV (Faizabad): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am grateful to you for providing me an opportunity to speak on this Bill. I would like to thank the hon'ble and learned Member comrade Hannan Mollah for introducing this Bill in the House. He has brought a Bill in regard to the welfare of the labourers. Through this Bill the hon'ble Member has sought to provide guaranteed work for labourers working in the fields and also a guarantee for their wages, their education, health and all the basic needs due for a human being. This has not been undertaken so far in our country in the interest of the 15 crore labourers. The hon'ble Member, Shri Chandrapan cited many arguments and resolutions of the late veteran leaders in this regard and gave vital examples of several places.

Sir, hon'ble Minister Shri Kapil Sibpal has left the House; I wanted to address this question to him to figure out who enacted such a law in this country that if a person travelling in an aeroplane dies in an accident, the next of his kin gets Rs. Ten lakh as compensation whereas if a farm labourer dies he does not get Rs. Ten thousand or, if exactly such a law has ever been enacted. We have very good laws for the rich and big wigs. However, we have no laws for the poor who contribute in the enrichment of the rich. We study all kinds of logics and model principles of all kinds of laws. There is no dearth of principles here. This country is enriched with Gita, Ramayana, Vedas, Koran, Puranas. Had the teachings of these scriptures been translated into action, there would not have been social and economic disparities and anomalies. This time we have support to our Union Government from our leftist colleagues. If we wish to enact any laws for the poor peacefully, it will also turn out to be a proof for a pro-poor approach.(Interruptions) They should say that they will not support the hon'ble Minister from the next day. Unless they take such a step, the common minimum programme will not be implemented. I extend my heartiest support to the Bill presented by Shri Hannan Mollah in favour of the labourious workers on whose toil depends the income of the country and the life of crores of people of the country.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: The time allotted for this discussion is over. I have a long list of speakers on this Bill. If the House agrees, time for discussion may be extended by one hour.

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS: Yes, Sir.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The time for discussing this Bill is extended by one hour, but may not be today.

'Zero Hour' would be taken up after 6 p.m.

[Translation]

SHRI MITRASEN YADAV: I have seen that the farm labourers migrate from villages to Mumbai, Kolkata, Navsari, Bharounch, Ahmedabad cities etc. They operate machines, manufacture lakhs of metres of fabric and one metre fabric costs Rs. Five hundred. Ironically, the people who manufacture thousands of metres of cloth costing Rs. 500 per metre have their children warming their hands by lighting dry mango leaves during winters and their wives and children do not get clothes to wear. They do not get quilt in winter season. In Mumbai, I have seen that the labourers engaged in the construction of high rise buildings, board machines like birds and in case they fall one does not even get a trace of their body and there is no one to inform their family. When these buildings are ready rich people move in and the poor move out and live under polythene sheets along the drains where mosquitoes bite them. Ironically, the people who construct buildings live under polythene sheets where mosquitoes bite them and the ones who do not touch soil, live in buildings.*(Interruptions)*

I would particularly request my leftist colleagues to fight for the cause of labourers for which they are known not only in the country but across the world and take up cudgels for the welfare of the labourers. Today the way, the condition of labourers is worsening, they should firmly take up their cause and compel the alliance Government to enact laws for the welfare of these labourers. For this purpose, I assure them that we would extend them our full support. At present, it is in your hands to compel the Hon'ble Minister to take effective decision with regard to the Bill introduced by Hon'ble Hannan Mollah. Do not wait for the sun to shine. To save your skin from the punishment, compel the Government to enact laws in the favour of the poor. I thank you for providing me an opportunity to speak and with these words I conclude.

[English]

DR. R. SENTHIL (Dharmapuri): Thank you, Mr. Chairman, Sir, for giving me this opportunity to speak. I congratulate Shri Hannan Mollah for raising this very

important issue for discussion. This Bill has got many important things which have to be welcomed. He has made a very genuine attempt to develop a social security system for the farmers of this country who have been neglected. He has developed a system whereby the farmers of this country will be ensured a fixed time of work, will have some facility like guarantee in job and will have some guarantee of minimum wages. With these three objectives, he has developed this Bill. I appreciate him for the genuine attempt.

There are a few concerns which I would like to raise. Basically, for overseeing or for ensuring that this is implemented, he has suggested developing an agricultural tribunal which will be actually headed by officers and ultimately, the head being the District Collector. I have full regards for the Executives of this country. But we must develop a system whereby we do not depend entirely on our officers or the District Collector for implementation of programmes. I realize that we are putting more and more pressure on the District Collector and almost making him the king of the district. He is vested with implementation and supervision of activities in the district; I do not know how far this will go.

If you want the administration to be scientific, you must develop such a system which can take care of that better. For example, he is the authority for health of that district; he is the authority for implementing justice in the district; he is the authority for overseeing the police activity in the district. How can one single person be vested with all these activities? We must develop a system where the administration will be very scientific. With respect to giving the responsibility of overseeing the activity of it to the officers, I would suggest that we should give the responsibility to the panchayats.

18.00 hrs.

That would increase the power of the panchayats and thus implementation would be better.

Secondly, in a suggestion regarding security of employment in Chapter 3, he has suggested, "Notwithstanding anything contained in the provisions of this section, no land owner shall be under an obligation to employ an agricultural worker who is more than 60 years of age." He has given the retirement age of 60 years for a farm worker. I would disagree on this point for a simple reason that agriculture worker can be employed for any age. My father was 76 years of age

and he was still working when he died. He opened a farm and could work up to that age. Only the extent to which a person can work varies. So, I do not think that we should fix a retirement age for the agricultural worker.

Similarly in Chapter 4, section 17, he has mentioned, "Same as otherwise expressly provided in this Act, no agricultural worker shall be required to work for more than eight hours in any day and no adolescent or child for more than six hours in a day". Like in any other employment, I think an adolescent or a child must not be employed even in agriculture. By making child labour legal, even in agriculture, I think we are making something wrong. I believe, we should make sure that children are not employed even for agricultural activities and they must go to schools. These are some of the suggestions on the Bill.

Largely, what they are trying to do is give more income for the agricultural community through agricultural employment. If you look at it, 60 per cent of our population is dependent on agricultural income. What is happening to the agricultural income? Take the example of Tamil Nadu. From 25 per cent of the Gross State Domestic Product in 1991 it has come to 13.3 per cent in 2001. With this scenario of decreasing income in agriculture and large number of population depending on agriculture income, this proportion of contribution of agriculture to GDP is going to decline further. With this scenario, we are looking at a situation where so many people are dependent on so small income. I do not see a situation where the agriculture income is going to increase. I think the Government should plan to bring more and more people from the agricultural activity and give them alternate employment; educate, empower and train them for skilled work, increase their bargaining power and shift them to some other employment.

Finally, there was a discussion over China model, etc. China is a good model. It has shown to the world how it can increase its income and do social justice simultaneously. China had an infrastructure that can be upgraded with more income. We do not have infrastructure that can be upgraded. So, I congratulate the hon. Member for attempting to develop infrastructure and social security system that can be developed with more and more income coming to the country.

With these few words, I once again thank the mover of the Bill and the Chairman.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri T.K. Hamza can speak for one minute and then continue next time.

SHRI T.K. HAMZA (Manjeri): First of all, I thank you for giving this opportunity to speak a few words on the Agricultural Workers Welfare Bill, 2005, introduced by Shri Hannan Mollah.

The agricultural workers are included in the unorganized sector. Like the other workers in the unorganized sector, agricultural workers are also not able to pursue their common interest due to constraints, like the casual nature of employment, invariably absence of definite employer-employee relationship, ignorance and illiteracy.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You can continue your speech next time.

SHRI J.M. AARON RASHID (Periyakulam): Sir, in Andaman and Nicobar Islands 40 young junior engineers were appointed in PWD on temporary basis to work on the Tsunami devastated area. At the time of Tsunami, no regular employee, regular engineer, was willing to go to the far deep areas because in one day water was rising by one feet or two feet, receding sometimes and sometime even not receding. In those difficult days, these 40 engineers did not care about their lives and went into the interior areas. They worked for the improvement of the Andamans and for the welfare of tribals in particular. They gave water and electricity connections to the people. They even took out bodies. There is nobody to help them. There is no coolie in the far away islands. They themselves cut the leaves of coconut trees. They even bury the bodies. They have put in much hard work.

Now it seems that PWD, Andaman and Nicobar Islands, is recruiting 40 new engineers. I do not know why are they recruiting these new engineers. At the time of Tsunami, these people helped the persons who were suffering without caring about their lives.

So I would request that either they should be retained on *ad hoc* basis or be absorbed on a permanent basis. I had brought this matter to the notice of the hon. Prime Minister, the Chairperson of UPA, Shrimati Sonia Gandhi, hon. Home Minister, and also the Minister of State for Home Affairs. These 40 engineers are very hard working. They were given an assurance that they would be absorbed. Therefore, I would request that they should be retained or they should be absorbed on a permanent basis.

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH (Uluberia): Sir, I would like to raise an issue which is pending before the nation for so many years. It relates to according the statehood to the Andaman and Nicobar Islands. It is a very old demand. As we know, Andaman and Nicobar Islands is a union territory. The democratic right of the people of Andaman to have their elected Government is being denied. Ultimately, the panchayat system has been extended and Zila Parishad and other systems are there. From the beginning, Andaman people are demanding that Andaman should be given the statehood. We raised this matter on several occasions in this House. In this context, one Private Member's Bill was also moved in this House by Shri Basu Dab Acharia. When it was discussed, all sections of the House supported it. While replying to the debate, the then Home Minister assured that this is under the consideration of the Government. So I demand that we should not delay it further. The system of present administration is not working properly. After Tsunami, the reconstruction and rehabilitation works have not yet been completed. If there is an elected Government, then they will be in a better position to complete this work.

Therefore, I would request the Government that Andaman and Nicobar Islands should be given statehood status as early as possible.

SHRI B. MAHTAB (Cuttack): Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the House to an important matter of urgent public importance.

With the approval of the Government of India, the Orissa Government established the Orissa Maritime Academy in 1993 with a view to train seamen for Indian and foreign shipping companies. The syllabus and intake per batch were approved by the Government of India. It is the only institution of its kind in the East Coast and it is training candidates from other States as well. The quality of training imparted by this institution has been acclaimed by the ship owners and independent examiners. The Academy has also obtained ISO accreditation. During the period 1st April, 1993 to 1st July, 2006, a number of batches have undergone training. Employment for earlier batches was ensured in shipping companies. However, due to pressure of local trade unions and major ports, the candidates from Orissa Maritime Academy are finding it difficult to get employment.

I would urge upon the Government to impress upon the Shipping Corporation of India to induct candidates who are trained and who pass through examination. The

Director-General, Shipping, may be instructed to conduct examinations for all seamen for recruitment in shipping sector and ensure a level-playing field for candidates throughout the country.

[Translation]

SHRI SHISHUPAL N. PATLE (Bandara) Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to draw your attention towards the farmers of this agriculture dominated country. Farmers are involved in several agitations with regard to their demands. Farmers are agitating for their demands in Maharashtra as well. This agitation is mainly in nine districts of Maharashtra against the support price announced by the Government for the paddy crops. The Government has announced fairly low support price. Instead of acceding to the demands of the farmers, the Government are opening fire on them. The farmers have been drawing the attention of the Government through peaceful demonstrations, yet the Government have not viewed their demands seriously. That is why, today the farmers have come out on roads to press for their demands and to draw the attention of the Government. I request the Government to pay attention to the nine districts where paddy is grown and where the farmers have been demanding to increase the support price of paddy to Rs. 1000 per quintal for the last so many years. The Government have not paid any attention towards it and have announced the support price at Rs. 580 per quintal. This way the Government have committed atrocities on the poor farmers. A gap of Rs. 356 per quintal exists between the cost price of farmers and the support price of the Government. They are selling their paddy at a loss of Rs. 356 per quintal. That is why, on behalf of the farmers, I demand the Government to declare the support price of paddy at least at Rs. 1000 per quintal. Ironically, the Government is barbarically opening fire on them instead of giving a sympathetic consideration to their problems. This is not fair. I demand the Government to desist from opening fire on them and to increase the price of their paddy crop to at least Rs. 1000 per quintal.

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer): Mr. Chairman, Sir, through you, I would like to submit to the Government that the provision of reservation in the constitution of India for educationally and socially backward, weaker sections and for the people belonging to the scheduled castes and scheduled tribes and other backward classes has been made on the basis of educational and social backwardness. However, the constitution makers had outrightly rejected reservation on religious grounds. The

partition of the country was precipitated by reservation on religious grounds etc. We should now become careful. However, it is regretted that certain political parties in the country are seeking reservation on religious grounds for the sake of vote bank and they are taking up the Sacchar Committee Report in order to disintegrate the country. Whereas Islam and Christianity follow the principle of equality and there is nothing as higher or lower castes in those religions. The Committee constituted by the Constituent Assembly under the Chairmanship of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel on the issue of reservation for minorities did not recommend for reservation on religious grounds and had opposed it. Leaders like Pt. Jawahar Lal Nehru, Dr. Ambedkar were members of this Committee. The Chairman of the Committee Sardar Patel submitted the report on 25th May 1949, wherein reservation for the people belonging to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes was accepted unanimously. However, there was no proposal for reservation for minorities. Members like Begum Ehjaz Rasool, Tajjum Hussein and Maulana Hasrat Mohani had also opposed reservation for minorities.

Therefore, the Government are requested not to make any provision of reservation in the name of Dalit Muslim, Dalit Christian or on the basis of religion.

SHRI PUNNU LAL MOHALE (Bilaspur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I demand for the widening of the Chakarbhata airstrip and introduction of air service for Bilaspur district of Chhattisgarh.

Bilaspur, the second capital of Chhattisgarh is a major city. The Chakarbhata air strip of Bilaspur should be widened for air services from Bilaspur to Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkatta, Lucknow, Agra and other parts of the country. Chakarbhata air strip of Bilaspur is normal at present. There is a need for widening it so that air services can be started from there. Only then we can get the benefit of air services from there.

There is a railway zone, High Court, Korba E.C.C.L. office, Coal India Office, N.T.P.C. office in Bilaspur. Bilaspur is equipped with many facilities and only lacking in this passenger service due to which many passengers are not able to travel. Therefore, Chakarbhata air strip of Bilaspur district of Chhattisgarh should be widened and air services should be started.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: The House stands adjourned to meet on Monday, the 11th December, 2006 at 11 a.m.

18.18 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Monday, the 11th December, 2006/ Agrahayana 20, 1928 (Saka).

ANNEXURE I

Member-wise Index to Unstarred Questions

Member wise Index to Starred Questions

Sl.No.	Member's Name	Question Number
1.	Shri Acharia, Basudeb	253
2.	Dr. Agarwal, Dharendra	260
3.	Shri Barad, Jasubhai Dhanabhai	249
4.	Shri Chakraborty, Ajoy	252
5.	Shri Chaure, Bapu Hari	243
6.	Shri Chowdhary, Pankaj	242
7.	Shri Chowdhury, Adhir	261
8.	Smt. Deo, Sangeeta Kumari Singh	254
9.	Shri Gehlot, Thawarchand	254
10.	Shri Kumar, Nikhil	247
11.	Shri Kumar, Shailendra	244
12.	Shri Meghwal, Kailash	260
13.	Shri Moghe, Krishna Murari	243
14.	Shri Owaisi, Asaduddin	246
15.	Smt. Pateriya, Neeta	245
16.	Shri Prabhu, Suresh Prabhakar	244
17.	Shri Prasad, Harikewal	256
18.	Shri Rajagopal, L.	258
19.	Shri Rana, Kashiram	255
20.	Shri Rao, Rayapati Sambasiva	249
21.	Shri Rawale, Mohan	246
22.	Shri Reddy, G. Karunakara	248
23.	Shri Reddy, Suravaram Sudhakar	257
24.	Shri Renge Patil, Tukaram Ganpatrao	256
25.	Shri Satpathy, Tathagata	251
26.	Shri Scindia, Jyotiraditya M.	259
27.	Shri Singh, Uday	250
28.	Shri Thomas, P.C.	247
29.	Shri Thummar, V.K.	255
30.	Shri Tripathy, Braja Kishore	261
31.	Shri Vallabhaneni, Balashowry	252
32.	Shri Yadav, Gindhari	257
33.	Shri Yadav, Kailash Nath Singh	259

Sl.No.	Member's Name	Question Number
1	2	3
1.	Shri "Baba", K.C. Singh	2491
2.	Shri Aaron Rashid, J.M.	2473
3.	Shri Acharia, Basudeb	2514, 2546, 2566
4.	Shri Adsul, Anandrao V.	2494, 2495, 2508, 2541, 2566
5.	Dr. Agarwal, Dharendra	2505
6.	Shri Ahir, Hansraj G.	2447, 2479, 2539, 2576, 2596
7.	Shri Appadurai, M.	2565, 2566, 2588, 2580
8.	Shri Athawale, Ramdas	2455, 2478, 2526, 2557
9.	Shri Baitha, Kailash	2448, 2540
10.	Shri Barad, Jasubhai Dhanabhai	2510
11.	Shri Barman, Hiten	2521, 2528,
12.	Shri Barman, Ranen	2498, 2528, 2585
13.	Shri Baxta, Joachim	2453, 2510
14.	Shri Bhakta, Manoranjan	2524
15.	Shri Bishnoi, Jaswant Singh	2434, 2483, 2533
16.	Shri Bishnoi, Kuldeep	2469, 2524
17.	Shri Bose, Subrata	2498, 2526
18.	Shri Chakraborty, Swadesh	2457
19.	Shri Chaure, Bapu Hari	2507
20.	Shri Chitthan, N.S.V.	2468
21.	Shri Chowdhary, Pankaj	2506

1	2	3
22.	Shri Chowdhury, Adhir	2520
23.	Smt. Deo, Sangeeta Kumari Singh	2505, 2549, 2565, 2575
24.	Dr. Dhanaraju, K.	2489, 2496, 2536, 2543
25.	Shri Dhotre, Sanjay	2442, 2507, 2586
26.	Shri Gadakh, Tukaram Gangadhar	2524
27.	Shri Gadhvi, P.S.	2475, 2588
28.	Shri Gaikwad, Eknath M.	2450, 2522, 2555, 2566, 2598
29.	Shri Gangwar, Santosh	2465, 2524, 2587
30.	Smt. Gawali, Bhavana P.	2442, 2507, 2516
31.	Shri Geete, Anant Gangaram	2468
32.	Shri George, K. Francis	2582
33.	Shri Goyal, Surendra Prakash	2579
34.	Shri Harsha Kumar, G.V.	2521
35.	CH. Hassan, Munawar	2493, 2515, 2590
36.	Dr. Jagannath, M.	2472, 2524
37.	Dr. Jatiya, Satyanarayan	2459
38.	Smt. Jayaprada	2443, 2512, 2546
39.	Shri Jindal, Naveen	2566
40.	Shri Jogi, Ajit	2463, 2518
41.	Shri Kanodia, Mahesh	2474
42.	Dr. Kathiria, Vallabhbbhai	2485
43.	Shri Khaire, Chandrakant	2577
44.	Shri Kharventhan, S.K.	2441, 2585
45.	Shri Koshal, Raghuvveer Singh	2445, 2500, 2593, 2597, 2600

1	2	3
46.	Shri Kriplani, Srichand	2581
47.	Shri Krishna, Vijoy	2478, 2481, 2538, 2566, 2594
48.	Shri Kumar, Shailendra	2543
49.	Shri Kunnur, Manjunath	2444
50.	Smt. Madhavaraj, Manorama	2583
51.	Shri Mahato, Sunil Kumar	2516
52.	Shri Mallikarjuniah, S.	2524
53.	Smt. Mane, Nivedita	2450, 2522, 2555, 2566, 2598
54.	Shri Masood, Rasheed	2584, 2594
55.	Shri Meghwal, Kailash	2469
56.	Shri Mehta, Alok Kumar	2489, 2536, 2543
57.	Shri Mehta, Bhubneshwar Prasad	2477
58.	Dr. Mishra, Rajesh	2579
59.	Shri Moghe, Krishna Murari	2465, 2532
60.	Shri Mohan, P.	2453
61.	Shri Mohd., Tahir	2492, 2552, 2591
62.	Shri Mollah, Hannan	2457
63.	Shri Moorthy, A.K.	2436, 2566
64.	Shri Murmu, Hemlal	2486, 2534, 2561
65.	Smt. Nayak, Archana	2460, 2464, 2529, 2559, 2571
66.	Shri Owaisi, Asaduddin	2499, 2543, 2558
67.	Shri Pallani Shamy, K.C.	2439, 2498, 2506, 2592

1	2	3
68.	Dr. Pandey, Laxminarayan	2435
69.	Shri Pannian Ravindran	2461
70.	Shri Parste, Dalpat Singh	2469, 2569
71.	Shri Patel, Kishanbhai V.	2453, 2478, 2525
72.	Smt. Pateriya, Neeta	2508, 2544, 2563
73.	Shri Pathak, Brajesh	2479, 2482, 2526, 2527, 2566
74.	Shri Pathak, Harin	2528
75.	Shri Patil, Balasaheb Vikhe	2464, 2482
76.	Shri Patle, Shishupal N.	2458
77.	Shri Ponnuswamy, E.	2480, 2530
78.	Shri Prabhu, Suresh Prabhakar	2501, 2543, 2572
79.	Shri Prasad, Harikewal	2510, 2516, 2550, 2567
80.	Shri Radhakrishnan, Varkala	2471, 2523, 2556, 2570
81.	Shri Rajagopal, L.	2497, 2552, 2568, 2576
82.	Prof. Ramadass, M.	2454, 2503
83.	Shri Ramakrishna, Badiga	2456, 2528
84.	Shri Rana, Kashiram	2515
85.	Shri Rana, Rabindra Kumar	2566
86.	Shri Rao, K.S.	2440, 2531
87.	Shri Rao, Rayapati Sambasiva	2565, 2566
88.	Shri Reddy, G. Karunakara	2509, 2545, 2564, 2574
89.	Shri Reddy, Magunta Sreenivasulu	2453, 2566
90.	Shri Renge Patil, Tukaram Ganpatrao	2466, 2516, 2550, 2567

1	2	3
91.	Adv. Satheedevi, (Shrimati) P.	2470
92.	Shri Sathyanarayana, Sarvey	2521, 2578
93.	Shri Scindia, Jyotiraditya M.	2504, 2553, 2599
94.	Shri Shakya, Raghuraj Singh	2486, 2534
95.	Shri Shivajirao, Adhalrao Patil	2449, 2495, 2566
96.	Shri Shivanna, M.	2484
97.	Prof. Shiwankar, Mahadeorao	2458, 2552, 2591
98.	Shri Siddeswara, G.M.	2465, 2515
99.	Shri Sidhu, Navjot Singh	2524
100.	Shri Singh, Chandra Bhushan	2476
101.	Shri Singh, Chandrabhan	2560
102.	Shri Singh, Ganesh Prasad	2438
103.	Shri Singh, Kirti Vardhan	2522
104.	Shri Singh, Prabhunath	2490, 2589, 2594
105.	Shri Singh, Rakesh	2483
106.	Shri Singh, Rewati Raman	2488, 2514, 2535, 2595
107.	Shri Singh, Sitaram	2464
108.	Shri Singh, Sugrib	2451, 2453, 2478, 2502, 2542
109.	Shri Singh, Uday	2511
110.	Shri Solanki, Bhupendrasinh	2474
111.	Shri Sonowal, Sarbananda	2467
112.	Shri Sugavanam, E.G.	2445, 2446, 2537, 2562, 2573
113.	Shri Suktabaidya, Lalit Mohan	2462
114.	Shri Surendran, Chengara	2487

1	2	3
115.	Smt. Thakkar, Jayaben B.	2566
116.	Shri Thomas, P.C.	2513, 2547
117.	Shri Thummar, V.K.	2515, 2565
118.	Shri Tripathi, Chandra Mani	2435, 2437
119.	Shri Tripathy, Baraja Kishore	2519, 2554
120.	Shri Vallabhaneni, Balashowry	2521
121.	Shri Veerendrakumar, M.P.	2513

1	2	3
122.	Shri Verma, Ravi Prakash	2494, 2495, 2508, 2566
123.	Shri Yadav, Anjan Kumar M.	2466, 2575
124.	Shri Yadav, Giridhari	2549
125.	Shri Yadav, Mitrasen	2452, 2517, 2551
126.	Shri Yadav, Paras Nath	2464
127.	Shri Yerrannaidu, Kinjarapu	2468

ANNEXURE II

Ministry-wise Index to Starred Questions

<i>Company Affairs</i>	
<i>Earth Sciences</i>	
<i>Finance</i>	242, 244, 245, 246, 250, 251, 254, 255, 260, 261
<i>Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation</i>	243
<i>Law and Justice</i>	
<i>New and Renewable Energy</i>	249, 252
<i>Power</i>	253, 259
<i>Rural Development</i>	247, 248, 256, 257
<i>Science and Technology</i>	258
<i>Urban Development</i>	

Ministry-wise Index to Unstarred Questions

<i>Company Affairs</i>	2459, 2477, 2516, 2556, 2584, 2593,
<i>Earth Sciences</i>	2445, 2500
<i>Finance</i>	2435, 2436, 2437, 2441, 2442, 2443, 2444, 2450, 2451, 2458, 2463, 2466, 2470, 2471, 2472, 2473, 2475, 2476, 2486, 2491, 2492, 2494, 2497, 2499, 2502, 2505, 2506, 2508, 2511, 2512, 2514, 2519, 2520, 2522, 2523, 2529, 2530, 2534, 2535, 2540, 2542, 2543, 2544, 2546, 2550, 2553, 2555, 2557, 2558, 2562, 2565, 2567, 2568, 2569, 2574, 2576, 2578, 2579, 2581, 2582, 2583, 2586, 2588, 2596, 2597, 2599, 2600
<i>Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation</i>	2448, 2453, 2482, 2484, 2498, 2510, 2521, 2526, 2528, 2564, 2580
<i>Law and Justice</i>	2455, 2469, 2532, 2545, 2561, 2570, 2575, 2598
<i>New and Renewable Energy</i>	2490, 2524, 2537, 2552, 2592, 2594
<i>Power</i>	2434, 2446, 2447, 2457, 2460, 2462, 2465, 2468, 2478, 2481, 2493, 2503, 2507, 2509, 2515, 2527, 2536, 2539, 2541, 2547, 2548, 2551, 2566, 2573
<i>Rural Development</i>	2438, 2480, 2487, 2496, 2504, 2531, 2533
<i>Science and Technology</i>	2483, 2495, 2501, 2559, 2563, 2571
<i>Urban Development</i>	2439, 2440, 2449, 2452, 2454, 2456, 2461, 2464, 2467, 2474, 2479, 2485, 2488, 2489, 2513, 2517, 2518, 2525, 2538, 2549, 2554, 2560, 2572, 2577, 2585, 2587, 2589, 2590, 2591, 2595.

INTERNET

The original version of Lok Sabha proceedings is available on Parliament of India Website at the following address :

<http://www.parliamentofindia.nic.in>

LIVE TELECAST OF PROCEEDINGS OF LOK SABHA

Lok Sabha proceedings are being telecast live on L.S.T.V. Live telecast begins at 11 A.M. on everyday the Lok Sabha sits, till the adjournment of the House.

LOK SABHA DEBATES ON SALE

Printed copies of Lok Sabha Debates of English and Hindi Versions and other Parliamentary Publications are available for sale at the Sales Counter, Parliament House, New Delhi-110 001.

© 2006 By LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT

Published under Rules 379 and 382 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha
(Eleventh Edition) and printed by Jainco Art India, New Delhi.
