

LOK SABHA DEBATES

(English Version)

Sixth Session
(Fourteenth Lok Sabha)



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CONTENTS

(Fourteenth Series, Vol. XIV Sixth Session, 2005/1927 (Saka))

No.5, Tuesday, November 29, 2005/Agrahayana 8,1927 (Saka)

SUBJECT	COLUMNS
ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS	
*Starred Question Nos. 82 and 83	1-25
WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS	
Starred Question Nos. 84-101	25-59
Unstarred Question Nos. 856-1080	59-408
OBSERVATION BY THE SPEAKER	
Business transacted during the last week	408-409
PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE	409-416
STANDING COMMITTEE ON PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES, LAW AND JUSTICE	
Thirteenth Report	417
ELECTIONS TO COMMITTEES	417-419
(i) Council of Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore	417
(ii) National Shipping Board	418
(iii) National Welfare Board for Seafarers	418-419
RE: NEED FOR PROVIDING RELIEF AND REHABILITATION TO THE PEOPLE AFFECTED BY FLOODS IN TAMIL NADU & PONDICHERRY	420-426
SUBMISSION BY MEMBERS	426-443
(i) Re: killing of an official of the Border Roads Organisation in Afghanistan by Taliban extremists	426-428
(ii) Re: Killing of an official of Indian Oil Corporation in Uttar Pradesh while discharging his duties	429-436
(iii) Re: implementation of recommendations of Mahajan Report regarding Belgaum being part of Karnataka	437-442
(iv) Re:Expeditious completion of four laning of National Highways 41 and 6 besides upgrading it to six lanes	442-443
MATTERS UNDER RULE 377	446-455
(i) Need to provide immediate relief to the people affected by natural calamities in J & K Chaudhary Lal Singh	446

* 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
(ii) Need to release a commemorative stamp on 14.1.2006 in honour of great farmer 'Kalingara Gounder' of Erode district, Tamil Nadu Shri S. K. Kharventhan	446-447
(iii) Need to release payment of pending insurance claims under Crop Insurance Scheme to the farmers of Amreli Parliamentary Constituency, Gujarat for the year 2004-05 Shri V.K. Thummar	447
(iv) Need to extend train No. 4041-4042 Dehradun-Delhi Express upto Jaipur with stoppage at important stations of Alwar, Khairthal and Rajgarh in Rajasthan Dr. Karan Singh Yadav	448
(v) Need to declare the birthday of Sant Baba Guru Ghasidasji on 18 December as a public holiday in the country Shri Punnu Lal Mohale	448-449
(vi) Need to start work of gauge conversion on Rewari - Sadulpur and Sadulpur - Hisar routes Shri Ram Singh Kaswan	449
(vii) Need to withdraw the move providing for reservation based on religion/community in educational institutions and jobs Yogi Aditya Nath	449-450
(viii) Need to direct Food Corporation of India to procure paddy from the farmers in KBK districts of Orissa Shri Dharmendra Pradhan	450
(ix) Need to include Pithoragarh Almora, Bageshwar and Champawat districts in Uttaranchal under 'Sam Vikas Yojana' Shri Bachi Singh Rawat 'Bachda'	450-451
(x) Need for six laning of Madurai-Kodaikanal road for the convenience of the tourists. Shri P. Mohan	451-452
(xi) Need to take suitable measures to ensure that the employers and sponsors do not retain the passport of candidates while recruiting to jobs in foreign countries Shrimati P. Satheedevi	452
(xii) Need to provide financial assistance to the Government of Uttar Pradesh for solving acute drinking and irrigation water problem in Chail Parliamentary Constituency Shri Shallendra Kumar	452
(xiii) Need to open a 'Krishi Vigyan Kendra' at Hamirpur, Uttar Pradesh Shri Rajnarayan Budholia	452-453

SUBJECT	COLUMNS
(xiv) Need to check the erosion caused by river Ganges at Diara in Patna Parliamentary Constituency, Bihar Shri Ram Kripal Yadav	453
(xv) Need for repair and maintenance of National Highway linking Gorakhpur, Basti and Lucknow Shri Lalmani Prasad	453
(xvi) Need to retain earlier policy of Coal India Limited providing for land and employment to the displaced people in Jharkhand Shri Tek Lal Mahato	453-454
(xvii) Need to upgrade LPT into HPT at Basanti in South 24 Parganas district for the benefit of viewers of Sunderbans region Shri Sanat Kumar Mandal	454
(xviii) Need to grant permission by Railway authorities for laying electric cables and pipelines for supplying water under 'Jyoti Gram Yojana' in Junagarh, Amreli and Porbandar districts in Gujarat Shri Jashubhai Dhanabhai Barad	454-455
PUNJAB GENERAL SALES TAX (AS IN FORCE IN THE UNION TERRITORY OF CHANDIGARH) REPEAL BILL, 2005	455-456
Motion to Consider	
Shri S. Regupathy	455-456, 465-466
Shri Avinash Rai Khanna	456-457
Shri Pawan Kumar Bansal	457-462
Shri Lakshman Seth	462-463
Shri Brahmananda Panda	463-464
Shri Bhuvaneshwar Prasad Mehta	464-465
Clauses 2 and 1	
Motion to Pass	
NATIONAL TAX TRIBUNAL BILL, 2004	466-519
Motion to Consider	
Shri H.R. Bhardwaj	466-469, 512-519
Shri Vijayendra Pal Singh	469-470
Shri K.S. Rao	470-478
Shri Varkala Radhakrishnan	478-483

SUBJECT	COLUMNS
Shri Shailendra Kumar	483-485
Shri Ram Kripal Yadav	485
Shri Suresh Prabhakar Prabhu	486-491
Shri B. Mahtab	491-496
Shri C.K. Chandrappan	496-497
Shri Bachi Singh Rawat 'Bachda'	497-503
Shri S.K. Kharventhan	503-505
Prof. M. Ramadass	506-508
Shri P.S. Gadhavi	508-509
Shri Kharabela Swain	509-511
Shri P.C. Thomas	512
Clauses 2 and 1	519
Motion to Pass	519
ANNEXURE-I	
Member-wise Index to Starred Questions	525
Member-wise Index to Unstarred Questions	526-530
ANNEXURE-II	
Ministry-wise Index to Starred Questions	531-532
Ministry-wise Index to Unstarred Questions	531-532

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LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

Tuesday, November 29, 2005/Agrahayana 8, 1927 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock

(MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*)

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

MR. SPEAKER: Shri P. Karunakaran, Question No. 82.

[English]

Bomb Blasts in Delhi

+

*82. SHRI P. KARUNAKARAN:

SHRI CHANDRA MANI TRIPATHI:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there had been a series of bomb blasts in Delhi during October 2005;

(b) if so, the number of persons died/injured, missing in such blasts alongwith the details of the loss of property;

(c) the details of compensation paid to the victims;

(d) whether intelligence agencies had given prior information of such activities to the Delhi Police;

(e) if so, the reasons for the failure of Police in this regard;

(f) whether any investigation of these bomb blasts has been conducted;

(g) if so, the outcome thereof alongwith the number of persons arrested so far; and

(h) the steps taken to check such incidents in future in the country?

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

Statement

(a) and (b) As per the information provided by Delhi Police, 59 persons were killed and 224 persons were injured in the three bomb blasts in the Capital on 29th October,

2005. Seven more persons have died subsequently thus taking the death toll to 66 till date. In addition, 10 persons are reported to be missing and properties worth Rs. 36 lakh approximately are estimated to have been damaged in Paharganj and Sarojini Nagar. There was no loss of property in the bomb blast at Okhla Bus Depot.

(c) The Government of NCT of Delhi has so far disbursed the following amounts:

Sl. No.	Nature of compensation/relief	No of cases	Total amount paid
1.	Death compensation by the	Adults - 24	Rs. 48,00,000/-
	Central Government	Minor - 09	Rs. 9,00,000/-
2.	Death compensation by the	Adults - 24	Rs. 48,00,000/-
	Government of NCT of Delhi	Minor - 09	Rs. 9,00,000/-
	Total		Rs. 1,14,00,000/-
	Major Injuries	92	Rs. 46,50,000/-
	Minor Injuries	58	Rs. 2,90,0001/-
3.	Loss of Commercial Property	11	Rs. 4,67,000/-
	Grand Total		Rs. 1,68,07,000/-

(d) and (e) Delhi Police has intimated that despite the fact that there was no specific alert on bomb explosion, it had taken security precautions in the city on the eve of Diwali. The security arrangements were also reviewed in a meeting of all Districts.

(f) and (g) Delhi Police has so far arrested three persons, namely, Tariq Ahmed Dar, who was arrested on 10.11.2005 and Md. Hussain Fazli, and Md. Rafique Shah who were arrested on 22.11.2005. The interrogation of Tariq Ahmed Dar has revealed he was the main coordinator and facilitator of these blasts. During the investigation of the case, it is revealed that the conspiracy for these bomb explosions was hatched by a foreign based terrorist organisation. Further investigation is in progress.

(h) In order to curb terrorist activities, the Government has taken several measures which include strengthening of border management to check infiltration, galvanizing

the intelligence machinery, ensuring improved technology, weaponry and equipment for security forces both at the Centre and in the States, neutralizing plans of terrorist/anti-national elements by well coordinated intelligence based operations. Besides, the steps have also been taken to achieve bilateral/multi-lateral cooperation to deal with the menace of terrorism, given its global dimensions.

The steps taken by Delhi Police to check such incidents in future include barricading and carrying out special check at the entry points of markets; checking of abandoned vehicles; checking and briefing of the staff of cyber cafe especially in market areas; briefing of managers and staff of hotels/guest houses to keep full details of guests and their luggage and number of vehicles by which they arrive to ensure installation of closed circuit television cameras at the entrance of the hotels; verification of tenants; briefing of auto dealers to keep full details of buyers of second hand vehicles; regular checking of STD/ISD/PCO booth owners/operators; checking of cellular phone and sim card vendors; checking of auto-stands and taxi-stands; meeting with Market Welfare Associations and Resident Welfare Associations; briefing of Metro Rail workers/staff; sensitisation of security personnel of high rise buildings, Government buildings, regular checking of sympathizers who have given shelter to the militants in the past and militants released on bail from jail etc.

SHRI P. KARUNAKARAN: Sir, in the answer given by the hon. Minister it is stated that there was loss of 66 innocent persons' lives and 10 persons were missing and there was a loss of Rs. 36 lakh in addition to the compensation paid to the deceased. It is also stated that the foreign-based terrorist organisations are involved in these blasts. May I know through you, Sir, from the hon. Minister which are the foreign-based organisations behind these blasts and what were their motives behind these blasts? If so, whether the Government has made any contact with them. May I know all these details from the hon. Minister?

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: Sir, as we all know, some countries are interested in creating problems for us in India. We have been very careful in not naming them. But at the Government level, the Government of India has been talking to them and asking them to take care to see that the terrorists do not come from their territories to Indian territory and cause difficulties to us. We have also taken up this matter with them and asked them to see that no free-flow of funds or equipment are allowed into India. We are, at the same time, in the process of developing, understanding and convincing the people that through violent methods nothing will be achieved. If the wars cannot achieve anything, the low-intensity wars are also not going to achieve anything. So, they should be avoid shun, violence.

Sir, we all know from where the encouragement for violence is coming and it is not necessary for me to say it on the floor of the House and name a particular country.

SHRI P. KARUNAKARAN: I do understand the reason given by the hon. Minister. But, at the same time, there are unfortunate instances and also terrorists' attacks in Delhi area. So, considering these vast experiences that we have, especially in Delhi because Delhi is the Capital city of our nation, why and how our security forces and intelligent forces have miserably failed to understand the prior information with regard to these three blasts in October itself? We also have had the experience of Parliament House itself which was attacked earlier.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: I had to admit that what has happened does not bring any glory to us. But, at the same time, we shall have to assess the situation in a correct manner as to what is the number of people living here; what is the number of police personnel available to maintain law and order in the country; how does the situation today compares with the situation prevailing in the past years; and how the situation prevailing in a city like Delhi can be compared with the situation prevailing in other cities in the country and the world. We shall have to understand that many things are happening here. We have celebrations, festivals; we have many installations; and many kinds of activities are going on.

When these activities are going on, Police is keeping a proper vigil and trying to maintain law and order in the country. In view of these facts, we can say that there is no negligence as such, but then we need to be more vigilant, we need to equip the Police with better equipments and we need to give them better intelligence also. That is being done, but at the same time, I would like to say that we cannot rest on the oars. We shall have to do better than what we have been doing and we are in the process of doing it. We are strengthening the Police here by allowing to raise more battalions. We are giving them better equipment. We are also giving them the ideas as to how they will be able to deal with the situations here. Let us hope that these will produce better results.

[Translation]

SHRI CHANDRA MANI TRIPATHI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, however, hon. Minister may not name a particular country, but will our Government stop ongoing bilateral talks with that country and adopt a tough attitude till that country keeps harbouring terrorists? If that country keeps harbouring terrorists and our Government, at the same time, tries to create friendly relationship, it would further give rise to terrorist activities.

Secondly, there is no trace of 10 persons who have been missing for over a month. The compensation paid in this regard, is quite inadequate. Hon'ble Minister has just now told that the properties worth Rs. 36 lakh have been damaged and Rs. 4,67,000/- have been paid as compensation for the loss of commercial property in 11 cases. The Hon'ble Minister in his reply has stated that they did not have any prior information of terrorist activity. However, in view of festivals, the police force was already vigilant. As per the information, that I have gathered that the police was alerted in advance despite it failed to avert it. Therefore, I would like hon. Minister to give a proper reply and do not mislead the House.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: Sir, there is no trace of 10 missing persons. Perhaps, they may have gone to their villages. There is no idea about their permanent residences, so it has become more difficult to trace them. Secondly, next of the kins of deceased have been given compensation. This question also arises as to who is the actual claimant, who should be paid compensation. There is no shortage of funds or the political will. But the required procedure has to be followed so that compensation could be given to actual claimant. There has been a loss of public as well as private property. But, we have to assess it. We are providing financial aid to the people approaching us. So there is no hitch in providing relief to the people. Also, there is no problem in giving compensation to the people affected in Delhi. He wants to know - will the Government stop talks? We are a very large and powerful nation and we are not scared of anyone. The Government have made it clear that no one can dictate terms to us. But, simultaneously, there is a need to create cordial relations between both the countries and the Government of both the countries should make efforts to eliminate the terrorism and then only it would be beneficial. It is immaterial as to who perpetrate terrorism but if we show sympathy to the people and win their hearts it will be beneficial. And the Government is making efforts to solve this problem through this kind of diplomacy.

[English]

SHRI AJAY MAKEN: Delhi is the national Capital. Being the national Capital, Delhi becomes an obvious target. Delhi has a very large concentration of VVIPs and foreign dignitaries who live here in Delhi. Because of such a large concentration of VVIPs and foreign dignitaries who live in Delhi, the police force very often is diverted to looking after the security of these foreign dignitaries and VVIPs. Do we have adequate number of police personnel available in Delhi; and are they technically well equipped to counter such terrorism?

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: We have nearly sixty thousand policemen and officers in Delhi. We have also allowed the

Delhi Police to raise a few more battalions on their own so that they can use those battalions. At the same time we have the Central forces also and those Central forces are made available to them. So, as far as the numbers are concerned there is no difficulty. If more number of officers and men are required, they can be made available to them.

As far as equipment is concerned, we have given them some equipment and we have asked them also to acquire more equipment which can be used. For instance, if the improved varieties of explosives are used, how to detect them? If car bombs are used, how to detect them? Communication facilities we have developed. From the Headquarters it is possible for the police to talk to all the police stations and talk to the people in that area also at one and the same time. More than this can also be done. We are in the process of doing it. We would like to make this police very strong. Moreover, we are looking at the policing in the megacities as a whole. The principles and the equipments that will be used for policing the megacities will certainly be available to Delhi. Over and above what is being done for other cities, some other things can be done for the city of Delhi.

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir whether the police have any pre-information or not, but Delhi, being national capital, is always on the hit list of the terrorists. It is specially on festive occasions. When Red Fort case was at final stage, they struck. We can avert such incidents if we are vigilant enough. I feel that we should not over reach in warning our neighbours, as they are also fighting one or the other kind of terrorism and terrorism is flourishing in those countries without their Governments help, then only we can tackle this problem. Since our borders are open, we have to provide sophisticated weapons and other good facilities to our police force only then we can tackle this menace even with less number of Police Personnel. I would like to ask Hon'ble Minister whether the Government propose to equip Delhi Police with much needed sophisticated weapons so as to modernize it?

Further, I would submit that if there is a need, our police personnel should be sent abroad for training on tackling of terrorism, especially in the cities where such incidents have occurred. In London, they have installed such devices such as cameras and for that only they could arrest the persons involved in Tube-Rail blasts without losing time. Though, such devices are very expensive and too difficult to afford here, if the need arises, whether our Government propose to send our police personnel there for training?

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: He has rendered very good suggestions and I would say that our police are working on the same lines. We are up-sizing our police force and equipping them with new weapons and also latest kind of training. Also, we are sending our police personnel abroad

for training. We have also installed same type of cameras in Delhi which London based sub terranean rail has installed and which helped in immediate identification of culprits and later their arrest. Now, we are installing more cameras. Further, cameras have also been installed at several crossings and main roads.

Their report is received in control room. The Government are making efforts to install more number of CCTVs and cameras.

Rules have also been framed to monitor the entry of outsiders in each of the hotel. We should use them. We should take the help of said cameras and the people around us. We have to keep a watch on movement of vehicles, especially through check-posts, wherein explosives can be brought.

Sir, our greatest problem is that when terrorists are aware of heavy security in a particular city, they do not hatch conspiracy to strike there. Rather, they conspire for such incident out of that city. Conspiracy to blast bombs in Delhi was hatched somewhere else, may be abroad, that is why, we had no information.

RAW, IB, State Intelligence Department or the Police provide us information. So far as IB and RAW is concerned, they provide us national and international level intelligence. And State Police provides us local intelligence. Unfortunately, said conspiracy was hatched elsewhere in other states. It was jointly planned by 2-3 countries, almost 1000 miles away. That is why, we failed to get any information.

Sir, Hon'ble Minister is rightly telling that terrorism can be tackled only through operational intelligence. The Government can adopt it. The Government are making efforts to gather information in this regard.

[English]

SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY: A serious and unfortunate incident has taken place in the Capital city of Delhi. May I know from the hon. Minister this? Is it the negligence and failure on the part of the Intelligence Bureau and the Police Forces to combat and prevent terrorists, and to check the incident? If yes, what action has been taken against those officers of the Intelligence Bureau and Police Forces?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister, you have answered this question.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL : Yes, I have answered that question. But I would like to add that I would not like to apportion the blame. If any mistake has been committed, certainly, we can proceed against that person. But at the same time, we shall have to keep it in mind that there are Police personnel who have lost their lives while protecting our lives. We should not demoralise them.

MR. SPEAKER : Their moral should not be affected.

[Translation]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, this is not the first incident in Delhi, rather several incidents have taken place earlier also. The Minister of Home Affairs did not reply whether he had prior information regarding the incident as in all newspapers it has been published that the police had prior information in this regard. If the government had information then why was not a single police man in such a busy and crowded place? If he was there then why had he only a cane? There was no police arrangement there. So many incidents have taken place in Delhi and large quantity of RDX has been recovered even then why were police arrangement not made?

Sir, few days back police had arrested 200 Pakistani in Delhi hatching conspiracy. However, the hon'ble Minister said that he would not mention the name of any country. I would like to know as to why the hon'ble Minister does not intend to mention the name of the country. In reply to the question he himself has stated that-

[English]

"The interrogation of Tariq Ahmed Dar has revealed that the conspiracy was hatched by a foreign - based terrorist organisation."

[Translation]

The hon'ble Minister knows that this has been done by a Pakistani based terrorist organization. Despite that, he is saying that he will not mention the name. Pakistan is sponsoring terrorist activities allover the world including India. If the hon'ble Minister does not want to mention the name in his own country then how will he raise this issue at the international level. 70 persons have been killed in Delhi then why does he not say that the Pakistani based Laskar - a Taiba has done this? Such incident has reoccurred in Delhi and 70 persons have been killed in that. Does the hon'ble Minister not owe any moral responsibility for this? Was it not his responsibility as the Minister of Home affairs to prevent such incident and take action in this matter as he had the information of this incident.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: Sir, I am not interested in replying such politically motivated questions. If the questions are politically motivated in nature, the politically motivated replies can also be given. ...*(Interruptions)*

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: How is it a politically motivated question? ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI HARIN PATHAK: He cannot say that this is a

political thing and he cannot reply. That is not the way.
...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: We are all politicians.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: You say whatever you can say.

[Translation]

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: If I say that when our Prime Minister had gone on the bus journey to Pakistan, had he not gone with the intention to improve the mutual relationship of both the countries? ...(Interruptions)

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Who is denying this? ...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Let him reply. This is a very sensitive matter. You should hear him.

[Translation]

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: Thereafter, Kargil Conflict taken place. Who is to be held responsible for that? I would also like to ask as to who was responsible for terrorist attack on Parliament while Parliament was in session? ...(Interruptions) Such discussion will lead us to nowhere. ...(Interruptions) We have not come here to merely blame each other. If need arises we will also do this but the question should not be asked to merely blame others. We should ask relevant and proper question that may contribute to the solution of the problem. This should be our intention. The members of the opposition party can give suggestion for solving the problem and if they do so we will welcome it from the bottom of our heart.

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: I had asked whether the government had information in this regard or not.

[English]

do you have any information that they are going to attack Delhi.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: I have already said that as far as this incident is concerned, we had no information. I have also explained while replying to the question that when the conspiracy takes place in other States, in other countries, sometimes it is not possible to get the information. As far as other incidents are concerned in other States, we did have information, we did pass on the information to them. As far as this incident is concerned, we have no information.

MR. SPEAKER: You have already said that.

[Translation]

CHAUDHARY LAL SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to submit to the hon'ble Minister that nobody knows it better than me as to how much miserable the life of the common people have become as my constituency is the den of militancy. Till today I could not visit there. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: This question is concerned with Delhi. You ask about that.

CHAUDHARY LAL SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am saying the same thing that whether it is Delhi or the entire India, if such incidents take place it is dangerous for the country. We are well equipped and have everything from cannon, tank to paramilitary forces etc., and still every time get prior information regarding the expected attack on the occasion of Depawali and Id. ...(Interruptions)

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to know as to why the persons who give us such information are not asked as to how did they get such information and from where can they be arrested. Let us do away with it. When will terrorism be completely eliminated? Whosoever country try to harm our country must be dealt with iron hand. ...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: This is a suggestion for action.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister you please assure that you will consider the suggestion.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I can only agree with him who has told about his difficulties. We are already making efforts that we should do. This tendency is inherent in human mind as long as it is there such thing will happen. We have to make effort to mitigate it.

Naxalite Activities

+

*83. SHRI KRISHNA MURARI MOGHE:

SHRI A. SAI PRATHAP:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been a spurt in the Naxalite activities in various States in the recent past;

(b) if so, the number of incidents occurred during 2005, till date, State-wise;

(c) the number of para-military personnel/civilians killed/injured alongwith the property damaged in various Naxalite activities during the said period;

(d) whether there is any proposal to launch joint operations involving affected States against Naxalites;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the further action taken/proposed to be taken by the Union Government to tackle the problem of Naxalism?

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) to (f) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) to (c) The number of incidents of naxalite violence till the end of October, 2005 remains almost at the same level as in the corresponding period last year. However, resultant casualties have increased during the same period. State-wise details till 31st October, 2005 are as under:

States	Incidents	Policemen killed	Civilians killed	Injured	Property damaged
Andhra Pradesh	448	15	163	97	2,82,79,600
Jharkhand	271	21	82	49	1,10,40,000
Chhattisgarh	317	44	95	80	5,64,000
Bihar	161	19	52	73	44,35,000
Maharashtra	76	22	27	38	8,61,500
Orissa	38	1	13	26	1,00,00,000
Uttar Pradesh	8	-	1	-	-
Madhya Pradesh	16	1	1	-	14,45,000
West Bengal	9	1	4	33	-
Karnataka	7	6	2	8	-
Haryana	2	-	-	-	-
Total	1353	130	440	404	5,66,25,100

(d) and (e) The States are undertaking need based joint operations. However, a Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) has been framed on 29.10.2005 in consultation with the affected States to institutionalize inter-State joint operations. The States have been requested to put in place the necessary arrangements so as to make the SOP functional on the ground.

(f) The Government is alive to the menace of naxalism and will deal firmly with the naxalites indulging in senseless acts of violence. The Government remains committed to combating this problem through a multi-pronged approach on political, security and development fronts. The Government has been providing all possible

assistance to the affected States to enhance their capabilities to deal with this problem from both security and development angles. The Government have asked the States to ensure more focused, sustained and intensified intelligence driven operations against the naxalites and their infrastructure.

[Translation]

SHRI KRISHNA MURARI MOGHE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the problem of naxalism has assumed ominous proportion in the country. I wanted to know whether there has been a decline or increase in these activities during the last one year? In the written reply received by us, hon. Minister has stated that the number of incidents remained

almost at the same level as in the corresponding period last year but even if the number of incidents have remained the same but there is certainly a change in its magnitude and Jehanabad incident can easily be termed as the culminating point of the trend. Perhaps this incident is first of its kind.

Therefore, I would like to know what steps are being taken by the Government to check the menace of naxalism and also whether the Government are satisfied with the progress of the steps taken by it during the last few years?

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: In fact, we are going to have a full-fledged discussion on this issue. However, the question is there, and so you may ask your Supplementary. There will be a full-fledged discussion on this issue, and you can take part in that discussion.

SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU: Is it going to be held tomorrow.

MR. SPEAKER: It is on Thursday.

[Translation]

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: Sir the number of incidents has declined but the resultant casualties owing to the use of explosives in these incidents appear to have increased. It is correct that we have been able to check extremism in Jammu - Kashmir and North-Eastern states although we have not been able to curb naxalite violence to that extent. The question is what steps have been taken in this regard. We have adopted a multi-pronged approach. This task is to be carried out by the State Government so we have given approximately 26 battalions i.e. 26 thousand officers and personnel to the State Government. Besides for the protection of police personnel going for operation, we have also provided them armed vehicles that can not be blown away easily and can be used for the operation. In addition to it, we have also arranged for a reconnaissance plane or a helicopter for raiding the affected area. We have sanctioned thousands of crore rupees to the State Government to beef up security in the state, in addition to providing Rs. Three thousand crore for the modernization of State police. Alongwith this we have set up new training institutions for their training. We are also providing them with the desired information, know how and intelligence and have set up points whereby every police station is connected with a district and every district with the State Government and every state with the Government of India. But would we be able to solve the problem of naxalism with the help of police. We will definitely use the police force, when required, but it is not the only thing we propose to do, rather we would also take steps to address the administrative matters with the help of the State Government like the issue of land,

unemployment and any kind of injustice. Besides, we have asked the State Government to prepare a plan in regard to tackling such naxalite activities in their states. We have asked them to finalize a plan and take joint action against people involved in such activities. Arrangements have been made at 10-15 places for taking joint action. The Secretary (security) of our Ministry convenes a meeting every month and the meeting of the Secretaries is convened every quarter and home Ministers of the States talk with the respective Chief Ministers. We have always been blamed for not formulating any policy. I would like to lay a written copy of it in the House. Thereafter we are open to receive any suggestion from the Members if they feel that the Government should adopt a different policy. We are taking action both at Central and State Level with the help of State Police, paramilitary forces and military at some places in Jammu-Kashmir not only to check the naxalite activities but other disruptive activities as well.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: He has given a very exhaustive answer.

[Translation]

SHRI KRISHNA MURARI MOGHE: Everything has been mentioned here by the Hon'ble Minister, but in certain areas it was noticed that the people came out in strong opposition against them but the Government failed to provide them any protection. Do we propose to formulate any scheme in regard to building up confidence amongst social organizations or people who take up cudgels against such activities. That if they would do such a thing then the Government will provide them protection.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: It is a nice piece of information and we are taking action on it in spite of the fact that danger is looming large over the lives of those who are involved in it, that is why maximum protection should be given to them. We will definitely do that. We have contemplated upon the strategy and if something else is required to be done we will even do that.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I think the Minister has given a very exhaustive answer. We are also going to have a full discussion on this next Thursday.

SHRI A. SAI PRATHAP: I would like to bring it to the kind attention of the hon. Home Minister, through you, that the naxal problem should be considered as a national problem. In our country, almost seven or eight States are severely affected by this. Our present Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh, Dr. Y.S. Rajasekhara Reddy took initiative and has

invited the naxal leaders for discussion to make the path for coming to the mainstream and leading normal and peaceful life. Recently, the Home Minister of Andhra Pradesh Shri Jana Reddy has stated before the surrendered naxalites that there is still a lot of scope for peaceful discussions to arrive at concrete solutions to their problems.

MR. SPEAKER: What is your question?

SHRI A. SAI PRATHAP: I am coming to the question. The Central Committee, with the involvement of all Party Members, should take up rehabilitation programme with larger scope of bringing back normalcy in the lives of depressed and down trodden people of the nation, by sanctioning more financial assistance for rehabilitation programmes to provide larger scope for better and peaceful livelihood.

MR. SPEAKER: The Minister has answered everything.

SHRI A. SAI PRATHAP: My question is mainly in this regard, whether such proposals have been taken up by the Union Government, if so, the details thereof.

MR. SPEAKER: He has answered everything. He has answered very comprehensively. You may repeat whatever you have already said.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: I have explained all these things to the hon. House and the hon. Members also. In fact, one thing which has to be very clearly understood by all of us is that the State Police has a duty to perform. Some State Governments have their own Police Acts and some other States are governed by the Police Act of 1861. Law and order is within the jurisdiction of the State Government yet it will be wrong for the Union Government to say that they do not have any responsibility in this matter. That is why we are cooperating with the State Governments and the State Governments are happy about it. We have given them nearly 26 battalions of forces. In the past we used to charge Rs. 13 crore a year for a battalion. Now, we have said that these battalions will be with the State Governments for three years and they would not be required to give any amount of money. Not only that, we have given them money for modernisation and all such things.

As far as surrenderees are concerned, we have a policy and a plan and the policy and the plan is very well made. It has reference to the policy which is to be used with respect to the surrenderees in Jammu and Kashmir and we are utilising that policy.

MR. SPEAKER: I think very exhaustive answer has been given. I have got only 26 hon. Members' name. Let me go to the next question. I think this will satisfy you.

SHRI HARIN PATHAK: Sir, I have only one question to ask.

MR. SPEAKER: You will take part in the debate. I will allow you to ask the specific question.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: Naxalites have launched an attack in Jehanabad of Bihar. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI HARIN PATHAK: S.O.P. was discussed in the reply. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: This issue is connected with Bihar. ...*(Interruptions)*

PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR: The bordering districts of Maharashtra are also affected. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I will sit idle until you are exhausted.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Would you kindly take your seat. You are a Professor. What would your students learn? I have said that exhaustive and similar questions are being put. There will be a full-fledged discussion on Thursday on this subject. We have already allotted 4-5 hours for this. I am saying that there are other important questions. I cannot satisfy all the 26 hon. Members. Therefore, I am appealing to all the hon. Members to kindly cooperate. I will give you full opportunity.

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Mr. Speaker, there are certain questions which have not been answered. Time should be allotted for those questions. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Time will be given. You will be given chance day after tomorrow that is Thursday.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Bihar is affected by these incidents. ...*(Interruptions)*

PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR: Mr. Speaker, Maharashtra has the highest number of casualty of police personnel. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: Mr. Speaker, we should also be given time. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Very well, I will call only those hon. Members who have not disturbed the House. I will call your Party Members but not you.

SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR: Sir, the hon. Minister has said that this responsibility rests with the State Government also. At many places, this naxalite problem is there. There is unrest and law and order problem, the Central Government formulates the policies which affect the State. The burden of solving the problem with the State. The Central Government formulates policies which affect agriculture, agrarian prices, indebtedness, etc. But when you frame policies like signing FTAs and such matters, you do not consult the States. Unless, there is a coordination and consultation with the States, how can there be multi-pronged way of solving the problems which the States face? This is my question.

MR. SPEAKER: He has mentioned that there should be full consultation with the States.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: I have explained that there are forums where consultation does take place. Two such forums are the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha where Members from all parts of the country participate. Then we have the Inter-State Council in which the Chief Ministers sit and we consult them. Then we have the Regional Council meetings. We have recently created a Committee in which the Home Minister, the Chief Ministers and the Home Ministers of the States sit together and discuss. We have the Secretary and the Special Secretary discussing with the Chief Secretary, Home Secretary and the DIGs of the state. So, there are many forums and these kinds of discussions take place. We are not only discussing the action plan but we are discussing comprehensive plans and the policies also and as to how the cooperation and coordination between the States, between the States and the Union, between the country and other countries can take place. These things are being done. These steps are not brought to the notice of the people. That is why, sometimes you get a feeling that these things are being done unilaterally. It is not so.

MR. SPEAKER: This is very unfortunate. He has exhaustively dealt with it. He is repeating it. Similar questions are being put. I am saying that 26 hon. Members have given notice. Now 40 minutes have gone and not even second question has finished.

Now, Dr. P.P. Koya to ask and he is also your Party Member.

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: This is not correct. We oppose it. It is concerning our State. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: He is also an hon. Member.

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: I have given a slip for time allotment. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: It is not the question of giving a slip in time. It is the question of attracting attention.

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Then do not feel bad. ...*(Interruptions)* I will oppose it. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Your protest is being recorded.

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: All right, I oppose it and boycott the proceedings of the House for the entire day.

11.40 hrs.

(Shri Prabhunath Singh then left the House.)

[English]

DR. P.P. KOYA: Sir, Starred Question No. 82 dealt with terrorist activities originating in foreign countries and being abetted and helped by those countries. Now, Starred Question No. 83 deals with Naxalite movement that started in our very own country. The hon. Home Minister has given a very exhaustive reply and many hon. Members are happy with the answer given, more so, the Chair is also satisfied by the reply given by you. I am happy about that.

MR. SPEAKER: I have not said that I am happy. Please do not put words into my mouth. You are not being too clever.

DR. P.P. KOYA: Sir, I withdraw my statement.

MR. SPEAKER: You should behave properly. I have said that it was a comprehensive answer. I have not said that I am satisfied with the answer. Please do not try to be clever.

DR. P.P. KOYA: Sir, I withdraw my statement.

MR. SPEAKER: Yes, you should.

DR. P.P. KOYA: Though the hon. Members are happy with the reply given by the hon. Home Minister, the incident of Jehanabad has shattered all our plans. My request is that the Government should come a step forward and think of forming another Committee comprising of experts in this field, incorporating people both from the military wing as well as from the social sector and come out with a solution which would be acceptable to both the Central as well as the State Governments.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: Sir, the suggestion given by the hon. Member is acceptable to us. In fact, we have a mechanism for bringing about a co-ordination between the Army, the Para-Military forces and the State police. In the State of Jammu and Kashmir we have adopted a mechanism under which a Unified Command is in operation and the hon. Chief Minister of Jammu and Kashmir presides over the meetings of that Command. In Assam also we have a mechanism of that kind and in Manipur also we have a mechanism of that kind.

But let me bring to the notice of the hon. Members here that experts from the Armed Forces and the experts from outside who are involved in the planning of economic development and social development of the country are also participating in it. We are holding so many meetings and sometimes one gets a feeling that we have so many ideas, but if those numerous ideas are not implemented, then all those ideas become infructuous. So, what the hon. Member has suggested is correct and we also are doing the same thing.

MR. SPEAKER: What is the purpose of this Question Hour? I would like to earnestly appeal to the hon. Members to kindly consider this aspect. It is a valuable time of the House and the hon. Members should utilise this time properly. The Ministers are giving exhaustive replies but similar and identical supplementaries are being put and the Ministers are only repeating the answers.

Now, how can I deal with 26 supplementaries for one question? Whoever sits in the Chair, let him find out time for this. Everybody who is not getting the opportunity is dissatisfied. I am trying to give one opportunity to Members from all Parties.

SHRI LAKSHMAN SETH: I would like to know if the Naxalite organisations have re-grouped themselves as Maoists and have established links with the Maoists in Nepal. It is understood that they have developed linkages with the terrorist groups in Bangladesh as well.

I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether

any such development has taken place and whether these Maoist groups are trying to penetrate into various parts of West Bengal and Bihar.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: Sir, what has been stated has a grain of truth in it. The terrorist organisations in the country are joining hands; terrorist organisations in the neighbouring countries are joining hands and the terrorist organisations the world over are also joining hands.

SHRI ARJUN SETHI: Sir, the hon. Minister has admitted that naxalite activities in different parts of the country have no doubt remained at the same level if not increased. I would specially like to draw the attention of the House to the incidents that have taken place in the State of Orissa. The State Government as well as our hon. Chief Minister have requested the Government of India to provide more companies of paramilitary forces to the State. Similarly, the State Government has also requested the Centre to have good communication system in the National Highways connecting Andhra Pradesh, Orissa and Jharkhand. May I know from the hon. Minister whether they have provided more companies of paramilitary forces in favour of the State of Orissa and also agree to have a communication system in the National Highways?

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: So far as the road is concerned, it is being considered by the Ministry of Planning and the Ministry of Surface Transport and is likely to be taken up.

As far as giving more companies and battalions to the State is concerned, we have been helping them and I am sure that the State Government is happy with whatever has been given to them. If they want anything more, we will consider that also. At the same time, the State Government also has to increase the strength of their own police forces.

SHRI B. VINOD KUMAR: Sir, I have gone through the reply placed before the House. Unfortunately, Andhra Pradesh has stood first in the acts of violence by naxalites. Due to its backwardness, Telengana is mostly affected by their violence. The Minister has already mentioned about the development works. But I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to whether any specific package of development works are envisaged by the Government for the regions affected by naxalite activities.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: It has to be understood that everything possible is being done. But at the same time, it is the State Government which has to look at it. If they have some problem in some areas, they shall have to give more money to that area. From the Union Government, we are giving them nearly Rs. 36 crore for each of the districts for development of infrastructure in the naxal affected areas.

We are also asking them to start Employment Guarantee Scheme in those areas first. We have also said that police officers should be selectively sent over there so that they will be able to manage the situation. The point is, there is the State Government and there is the Central Government. Both have to work in cooperation with each other. But the State Government is primarily responsible and it has to be the first to help the people.

[Translation]

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, earlier only eight districts of South Bihar were affected by Naxalism, but as on date entire North Bihar is affected by Naxalism. Maoist of Nepal and Naxalities of Andhra Pradesh also operate from Bihar. Arrested naxals have revealed all these facts. SSB of the Government of India is deployed along the border of Nepal, but there is not even a single border road on Indo-Nepal border. Owing to an open border with Nepal people, have been crossing over to either side of the border on a large scale during the six months of rainy season. Smuggling of many goods and weapons takes place over there. These freewheeling criminals carry out an untoward incident in India and sneak to Nepal. I would like to know from the hon'ble Minister the steps taken to check the naxalite activities. A similar gory incident took place in Jahanabad jail, which is the most telling incident in India. Does the Government intend to construct a border road by augmenting infrastructure development in that area, so that naxalite activities could be curbed. I would like to know from the hon'ble Member the steps being taken in this regard.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: He has already made a statement on all these matters. We will discuss it fully day after tomorrow. Even then, you are taking this much time of the House.

[Translation]

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have already replied to it when I answered the earlier question. As far as the question of giving financial aid is concerned if Rs. 36 crore given to each district for infrastructure development are utilized properly, it will prove to be very helpful.

PROF. RAM GOPAL YADAV: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the naxalite movement cannot be suppressed by the use of paramilitary forces, police and the army. We shall have to go to the root of the matter in order to know the reason behind it. The people who are deprived and depressed because they have been cultivating their own land as their ancestors did and yet they are deprived of the ownership of that land and in order to retrieve it, they embrace Naxalism and take up the arms. Recently such an incident came to light in Sonebhadra of Uttar Pradesh. If the Union Government

agrees to approve the proposal sent by us granting the ownership of land to the one who tills it, all problems will get resolved, but due to legal hurdles the people get desperate and wield guns. Therefore, through you, I would like to know from the hon'ble Minister whether the Centre would extend all possible help in this regard by approving the proposals submitted by the State Governments for settlement of land related issues in which cooperation of the Union Government is required.

[English]

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: I am very sorry that I have to say this thing. The subject 'tenancy' comes under the jurisdiction of the State Government. The law in this regard has to be made by the State legislature concerned.

[Translation]

PROF. RAM GOPAL YADAV: It is forest land, therefore the State Government can do nothing in this regard. ... (Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: What can we do? The State Government has to pass the tenancy law. It has to declare the surplus land and it has to distribute these surplus land.

MR. SPEAKER: He is talking of forest lands.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: As far as forest lands are concerned, the matter is before the Government and we are going to take it up.

MR. SPEAKER: Let us have only two Questions today for the satisfaction of all the hon. Members! I will allow you today!

SHRI HARIN PATHAK: I am obliged.

MR. SPEAKER: You need not be obliged. You have the right to consume the entire time of the House. Please put your question.

SHRI HARIN PATHAK: If you are annoyed, I won't put the question.

MR. SPEAKER: I am not annoyed with you. I am annoyed with my fate, although I do not believe in fate.

SHRI HARIN PATHAK: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am obliged. Thank you very much.

The question that I am going to put is very important. In his reply to the Question, the hon. Minister mentioned about

a new mechanism, which was framed on 29th October, 2005. It is named as SOP, that is Standard Operating Procedure. As it is a new mechanism, I wish to know what is SOP. How will this deal with the naxalite activities?

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, as you have said, when this matter comes up for discussion, I will explain it as we will have more time. Now, I would like to very briefly say that the State Governments have to cooperate with one another. Their forces have to act jointly. They would decide as to where they will act. They would prepare the plans, exchange the plans and then refine their plans in view of the facts given by one to another. Then, they will act upon that. There is a broad guideline prepared by themselves in order to take joint actions.

SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR: I had some suggestions to make. But I will accept your decision and I will make those suggestions while participating in the discussion day after tomorrow.

MR. SPEAKER: Otherwise you can send it to the hon. Minister. He will be ready with the answers. Thank you very much for your cooperation.

[Translation]

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, statewise details have been furnished in the written reply given by the hon. Minister. The number of police officials killed in naxalite activities in many states, including Maharashtra is almost equal to the number of civilians killed. The killing of the police personnel reflects the mental set up of those states to which the naxalites belong. Through you, I would like to tell the hon'ble Minister that killing of policemen on a large scale demoralizes the Police Force and along with it the people and citizens of that area also lose their confidence in police.

Sir, the policemen are being repeatedly attacked in naxalite affected areas of Maharashtra, Garhchirouli of Vidarbha, Chandrapur and neighbouring areas. Whether the Government are formulating any special scheme to boost the morale of police and to maintain the confidence of people in Police?

[English]

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: I am sorry, I shall have to repeat all that I have said already. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You say that you reiterate.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: Whatever you have suggested, when we discuss this matter I will explain to you again.

Sir, we are giving them the money, equipment, armoured vehicles and helicopters. We are giving them money to develop. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You will see a different Speaker from tomorrow! I would like to see whether the entire naxal problem can be solved.

[Translation]

SHRI SUNIL KUMAR MAHATO: Sir, I have listened to the reply of the hon'ble Minister. This matter is not related to a particular area or state. This is a national issue and is particularly related to Jharkhand. At the time of carving out of the State of Jharkhand, there was no terrorism in the State but after it was declared a new state, due to disproportionate development, terrorism is increasing very fast over there. Till date the military and police have not captured any terrorist over there. The common people of the villages in my parliamentary constituency killed 20-25 terrorist. It is unprecedented in the country. But neither the Union Government, nor the State Government have initiated any effort to boost their morale. I would like to tell the hon'ble Minister not to leave such a big issue entirely to the State Government, but the Union Government should directly intervene in it. The mines and other sources of employment have been closed over there. An effort should be made to improve the situation and to economically link the common people. Therefore, it should not be left entirely to the State Government, but the Union Government should directly intervene in it.

[English]

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: If the permission is given by this House and by the law to do it, I will do it.

MR. SPEAKER: Why not?

PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR: I will ask a specific answer.

[Translation]

Sir, today naxalite activities are particularly taking place in four districts of Maharashtra, they are Bhandara, Chandrapur, Garhchirouli and Gondia and the Policemen killed over there count for second largest casuality. Should we think that the local police is not competent enough and therefore, whether the Union Government will give priority to local people at the time of recruitment in Police Force in these four districts? Whether any such direction, can be likely to be given to the State Government of Maharashtra?

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Those who have put questions will not be allowed to participate in the debate!

[Translation]

PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR: Secondly, whether any special training would be imparted to the police organizations of these four districts so that they do not suffer large scale casualties. Whether the Union Government is going to make any such provision?

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Do not ask about the State Government. How can he answer about the State Government?

[Translation]

PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR: Whether the Union Government is going to make a provision for imparting special training to police officials. I have asked a specific question.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: Sir, it is necessary to note that Maharashtra has its own Police Act and the recruitment and training of Police Force over there is conducted according to that Act. The States which are not having their own Police Act, implement the Police Act of 1861. All these things have to be decided by the State Governments and the local people's representative. We will extend them required help. We will help them in imparting training, giving weapons, formulating new concepts and by giving intelligence inputs. But it is necessary to know for all the Members of both the Houses and for all of us that we can not intervene in this matter without the permission of State Government. It has been asked why we are not interfering, and I have repeatedly replied that we cannot do so. Therefore, I would like to say that primarily it is their responsibility and we are ready to help them but, it would be more appropriate to hold discussions on this subject in the respective States.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I am sorry, 30 hon'ble Members had been fortunate enough to have their questions listed. I could not accommodate them. You know why I could not.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

Powers to Police Forces

*84. SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the police forces in the country have been assured of more powers;
- (b) if so, the action taken in this regard;
- (c) whether there have been a large number of cases/reports of custodial deaths due to misuse of powers by the police force in the country;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to check such cases of misuse of power?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) and (b) "Police" is a subject in the State List of the Constitution. As such the powers of State police forces are derived under the State Police Acts. In most of the States the Police Act 1861 is still operative. However a Committee of experts has been setup on 20/09/05 by the Ministry of Home Affairs to draft a new Police Act with focus on greater accountability and transparency in the functioning of the police and to reflect the democratic aspirations of the people regarding the services to be rendered by the Police.

(c) and (d) During the last three years, i.e. 2002-03 to 2004-05 deaths in police custody reported to the National Human Rights Commission are as under:-

2002-03	2003-04	2004-05
183	162	136

(e) The National Human Rights Commission has recommended disciplinary action, including prosecution against the errant police officers involved in custodial deaths, wherever their guilt has been established after enquiry. The directions of the Supreme Court of India in the case of D.K. Basu Vs State of West Bengal and in Joginder Kumar Vs State of UP concerning guidelines for police personnel arresting and detaining a person in custody have also been conveyed by this Ministry to the State Governments for implementation.

Terrorist Incidents

*85. SHRI B. MAHTAB:

SHRI SWADESH CHAKRABORTTY:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there has been an increase in the terrorist activities in various parts of the country during 2005;
- (b) if so, the details in this regard, State-wise;

(c) the number of civilians, personnel of security forces killed/injured in such incidents, State-wise;

(d) the details of the migration from terrorist affected States to other States;

(e) the details of assistance provided to various States to check terrorist activities and for rehabilitation of such migrants;

(f) the details of the organisations and the number of terrorists involved in such incidents arrested in various States; and

(g) the steps taken by the Government to check the terrorist activities in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) to (c) During the current year till the end of October, there has been a definite decrease in terms of the number of incidents of terrorist violence, civilians and security forces killed in J&K. While there has been a marginal increase in terrorist activities in the North-East, civilians and security forces killed have shown a decline. The level of naxal violence in the naxal affected States has remained almost at the same level though its intensity has increased. This position is borne out by the comparative figures given below in J&K, North-Eastern States and naxal affected States.

Jammu & Kashmir

	2004 (upto 31.10.2004)	2005 (upto 31.10.2005)
No. of incidents	2223	1736
No. of civilians killed	624	490
No. of SFs killed	239	170

North-East

*(2005 as on 31.10.2005 in comparison to the corresponding period of 2004 (31.10.2004))**

State	Incidents	Civilians Killed	SFs. Killed
1	2	3	4
Assam	343 (226)	154 (188)	5 (14)
Meghalaya	31 (42)	17 (12)	- (8)
Tripura	95 (178)	24 (57)	8 (32)
Arunachal Pradesh	29 (36)	3 (4)	1 (-)

	1	2	3	4
Nagaland		164 (160)	24 (38)	1 (-)
Mizoram		4 (2)	2 (-)	-(-)
Manipur		292 (261)	107 (42)	36 (28)
Total		958 (905)	315 (341)	51 (82)

* The figures shown in brackets indicate position as on 31.10.2004

Naxal affected States

*(2005 as on 31.10.2005 in comparison to the corresponding period of 2004 (31.10.2004))**

State	Incidents	Civilians killed	SFs. Killed
Andhra Pradesh	448 (294)	163 (68)	15 (6)
Bihar	161 (282)	52 (135)	19 (5)
Chhattisgarh	317 (305)	95 (57)	44 (8)
Jharkhand	271 (327)	82 (111)	21 (39)
Madhya Pradesh	16 (10)	1 (3)	1 (-)
Maharashtra	76 (74)	27 (7)	22 (6)
Orissa	38 (32)	13 (3)	1 (4)
Uttar Pradesh	8 (8)	1 (5)	- (-)
West Bengal	9 (7)	4 (1)	1 (13)
Karnataka	7 (5)	2 (1)	6 (-)
Kerala	- (5)	- (-)	- (-)
Haryana	2 (-)	- (-)	- (-)
Total	1353 (1349)	440 (391)	130 (81)

* The figures shown in brackets indicate position as on 31.10.2004

Besides, there have been four major incidents of terrorist violence in UP and Delhi. These are:-

- (i) Twin bomb blasts in two separate cinema halls, Delhi on May 22, 2005 within a short spell of time in which 1 person was killed and 72 sustained injuries. 8 terrorists have been arrested.
- (ii) A terrorist attack at Ram Janam Bhoomi Babri Masjid Complex in Ayodhya on 5.7.2005 was foiled by the CRPF/Local Police. In this incident, 1 civilian and 5

terrorists were killed and 5 persons including 4 security personnel and 1 civilian sustained injuries. Later the civilian succumbed to injuries. In this incident, 5 terrorists have been arrested.

(iii) On 28.7.2005, a bomb blast took place in Train No.2391 Up Shramjeevi Express at Hariharpur Railway crossing (in between Jaunpur and Sultanpur) Jaunpur section. In this bomb blast, 14 persons were killed and 62 persons sustained injuries.

(iv) There were three bomb blasts in Delhi on 29.10.2005 at Paharganj, Sarojini Nagar Market and near Okhla bus stop Kalkaji. These blasts resulted in killing of 66 persons and injuring 224 persons. Three terrorists have so far been arrested in connection with these blasts.

(d) and (e) As per available information, no such migration has been reported except from the State of J&K. Out of 55476 Kashmiri migrant families, 19338 families migrated to Delhi and 2050 J&K migrant families shifted to other States/UTs viz, Himachal Pradesh (11), Haryana (924), Chandigarh (114), Punjab (374), Uttar Pradesh (222), Uttaranchal (57), Madhya Pradesh (43), Tamil Nadu (1), Karnataka (38), Maharashtra (208) and Rajasthan (58). The expenditure incurred in this regard is met by the State Governments except in J&K where it is reimbursed by the Central Government.

(f) Main terrorist outfits namely, Lashker-e-Tohiba (LeT), Hizb-ul Mujahideen (HM) and Jaish-e-Muhammed (JeM) in J&K, United Liberation Front of Assam (ULFA), National Liberation Front of Tripura (NLFT), All Tripura Tribal Force (ATTF) and People's Liberation Army (PLA) in North-East and CPI (Maoist)/erstwhile CPML-PW and MCCI in naxal affected States are currently engaged in carrying out acts of terror and violence. During the current year till the end of October, 283 terrorists in J&K, 912 extremists in North-Eastern States and 1711 naxalites in naxal affected States have been arrested.

(g) The strategy of the Government is to deal with the menace of terrorism in a holistic manner on political, development and security fronts. In order to curb terrorist activities, the Government has taken measures which include strengthening of border management to check infiltration, galvanizing the intelligence machinery, ensuring improved technology, weaponry and equipment for security forces both at the Centre and in the States, neutralizing plans of terrorist/anti-national elements by well coordinated intelligence based operations. Besides, the steps have also been taken to achieve bilateral/multi-lateral cooperation to deal with the menace of terrorism, given its global dimensions.

Reservation to Minority Students in Aligarh Muslim University

*86. SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN:

SHRI SURAVARAM SUDHAKAR REDDY:

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

(a) whether the Allahabad High Court has issued any directions regarding the minority status of the Aligarh Muslim University (AMU) and reservation of 50 per cent to minority students;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government proposes to appeal against the judgement of the Allahabad High Court; and

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

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): (a) to (d) The Single Bench of the High Court, Allahabad has in its order dated 4th October, 2005 held, inter-alia, that the Aligarh Muslim University is not a minority institution within the meaning of Article 30 of the Constitution of India and has quashed the decision of the University's authorities to reserve 50% seats in the Postgraduate Medical Courses for the Muslims of India on all-India basis, as also the 'no-objection' thereto conveyed by the Central Government. The Government has filed Special Appeals in the High Court at Allahabad and the matter is before the Division Bench.

Setting up of Textbook Regulatory Council

*87. SHRI SARVEY SATYANARAYANA:

SHRI BADIGA RAMAKRISHNA:

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

(a) whether the Government has decided to set up a Textbook Regulatory Council to review textbooks prescribed by independent educational boards/agencies as reported in The Hindustan Times dated October 20, 2005;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there is any proposal to bring uniformity in the curriculum of schools and colleges across the country;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): (a) and (b) No, Sir. However, recommendation of a Committee of the Central Advisory Board of Education in this behalf is under consideration.

(c) to (e) No, Sir, The National Curriculum Framework (NCF), 2005 has recently been approved by the Central Advisory Board of Education. NCERT has framed syllabi for Classes I - XII in accordance with NCF 2005. States are expected to frame their curricula keeping in view the National Curriculum Framework.

While standards of higher education in colleges and universities are maintained and coordinated by the University Grants Commission (UGC), the curricula, in keeping with standards, is determined by individual universities.

Relief to Earthquake Victims

*88. SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY:

SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has conducted any survey/assessment in regard to the loss of life and property suffered on account of the recent earthquake in the northern part of the country;

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

(c) whether teams of the Union Government and the National Human Rights Commission visited the affected areas;

(d) if so, the details of the reports submitted by them after such visits; and

(e) the details of assistance/relief provided by the Government to the victims so far on the basis of such reports?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) and (b) An earthquake of an intensity of 7.4 on the Richter scale occurred on 8th October, 2005 at 0920 hrs. The epicentre of the Earthquake was in Pakistan, at Latitude 34.6 N and Longitude 73.0 E, 55 KMs, west-north west of Muzaffarabad. Tremors of the earthquake were felt in several States of Northern India which inter alia includes the States of Jammu & Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Delhi, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, Haryana, Punjab and Uttaranchal. The State of Jammu & Kashmir was the worst affected.

As per the provisional information furnished by the Government of Jammu & Kashmir, 1216 persons lost their lives. In addition, 120 Defence and Central Para Military Forces personnel are also reported to have lost their lives. In terms of damage to property, about 39,182 houses are reported to have been fully damaged and about 71,078 houses partially damaged.

The State Government of Punjab has also reported the loss of two lives due to the earthquake. No report of loss of life, due to the earthquake, was received from any other State/UT in Northern India.

(c) to (e) The Inter Ministerial Central Team was deputed to Jammu & Kashmir by the Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India from 11-14th October 2005 to make an on the spot assessment of the situation and requirement of funds for relief operations by the State Government. Upon receipt of the report of the Central Team, the quantum of financial assistance for relief operations is considered in accordance with the laid-down procedure.

A Team of officers of the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) also visited the areas affected by the earthquake in Jammu & Kashmir and took suo-moto cognizance of the calamity arising from the devastating earthquake. The NHRC has made the following recommendations:

- (i) That with a view to ensure equitable distribution of relief in kind it is desirable that the State Government considers having centralized collection and distribution centers at various places in the affected areas where relief material could be received from the NGOs, Civil Society and other private agencies. The material so received could thereafter be distributed equitably to all affected families;
- (ii) Keeping in view that the winter is already setting-in, the Central Government and the State Government should take steps to ensure that building material required for repairing damaged property or restoring destroyed property is available at the affected places before the access to those areas is closed due to winter. This would enable the construction/reconstruction of the property to be undertaken at the earliest.
- (iii) That since the number of tents required is more than what is physically available or immediately procurable despite best efforts of the Central and State Governments, it is desirable that where tents cannot be made available, temporary shelters in those affected areas are provided to the local population so that they may have relief from rain, snow and cold weather. These temporary shelters would be there till the buildings

damaged or destroyed are restored. Essential amenities be provided in these temporary shelters for the local population;

- (iv) The Central and State Government shall consider feasibility of constructing houses in the affected areas with pre-fabricated building material which obviously would expedite the job of providing permanent shelters to the earthquake victims.
- (v) In all such catastrophes, it is experience of the Commission that children and women are the worst affected. It is, therefore, necessary that the State Government prepares a computerized list of children who have been rendered orphan as also widows and young girls, not only with a view to provide rehabilitation to them but also to ensure that their vulnerability is not exploited by anyone. This computerized list can also assist the Government and other agencies, who undertake the task of rehabilitation of the orphans/widows/young girls in their tasks; and
- (vi) Similarly, a computerized list of dead and missing persons be also prepared to enable their next of kin to claim proper relief.

The recommendations of the NHRC have been forwarded to the Government of Jammu & Kashmir for taking appropriate action thereon.

It is the concerned State Government, which is first responder to a disaster situation and is primarily responsible for taking necessary relief measures in the wake of natural disasters and for the distribution of relief on the ground. For this purpose a Calamity Relief Fund (CRF) has been constituted for each State with an allocated amount, based on the recommendations of the 12th Finance Commission.

The Government of India supplements the efforts of the State Governments by providing financial and logistic support; wherever necessary. If the calamity is of a severe nature, additional financial assistance is also considered from the National Calamity Contingency Fund (NCCF) in accordance with the laid down procedure.

The Government of India, the Armed Forces and Central Para Military Forces promptly responded to the situation and provided all necessary logistic support to the State Administration of Jammu & Kashmir in rescue and relief operations. The Ministry of Home Affairs coordinated the logistics for the collection and dispatch of relief material to the State Government. The Central Ministries/Departments, discharging emergency support function viz. the Ministry/ Department of Health and Family Welfare, Food and Public Distribution, Petroleum and Natural Gas, Drinking Water Supply, Telecommunications, Women and Child Develop-

ment, Power, Civil Aviation, Railways etc. also coordinated action with their counterparts in the State and all provided all necessary support and assistance, in their respective sectors, to the State Government of Jammu & Kashmir.

In terms of financial assistance provided by the Government of India, the second instalment of Central share of Calamity Relief Fund (CRF) i.e. Rs. 32.42 crore for the year 2005-2006, was released in advance to the State Government alongwith an adhoc release of Rs 100 crore from the National Calamity Contingency Fund (NCCF) on 10th October 2005. The Hon'ble Prime Minister during his visit to the State on 11th October 2005 announced an additional amount of Rs. 500 crore, of which Rs. 200.28 crore has been released by the Ministry of Finance as advance from Normal Central Assistance/advance payment of State's share of Union Taxes/duties.

In terms of relief material, the Government of India has made available to the State Government of Jammu & Kashmir, various relief items viz. tents, tarpaulin sheets, sleeping bags, mattresses, blankets, woolens, medicines, drinking water, etc.

In order to facilitate the process of providing shelters to the affected persons, prior to the onset of the winter season, in addition to providing tents, the State Government has announced an assistance of rupees 1.00 lakh to each of the affected families, whose houses were fully damaged, to enable them to reconstruct their houses on their own. The distribution of first instalment of 40% of the said amount i.e. Rs.40,000/- to each such beneficiary family had started with effect from 19.10.2005. The State Government has also decided to construct 22,000 temporary shelter units for those families whose houses have been fully damaged. Some of these shelters for the hapless families are to be constructed by the State Government and Government of India's agencies while the others are to be constructed by the affected families. To facilitate this construction, the State Government has provided Rs. 30,000/- per family and has also announced an incentive of Rs. 5,000/- to those families who are able to construct their temporary shelters before 30th November, 2005. The Government of India has procured and made available to the State Government 8,000 MT of CGI sheets for the construction of these temporary shelter units.

The Union Ministry of Urban Development has proposed to construct 130 community halls in 130 locations (i.e. Uri-66, Tangdhar-38 and Poonch-26). The construction of these community halls have already commenced.

Various Agencies of the Government of India have adopted 22 villages for providing relief and for undertaking rehabilitation and reconstruction works which Inter alia

includes construction of shelters and provision of necessary amenities to the affected families to meet their short-term and long-term needs. NGOs such as the Bharatiya Jain Sangathan (BJS), Pune has donated 870 pre-fabricated structures for erection of Uri and Tangdhar while SEEDS, another NGO has offered to construct 400 houses in Poonch for the earthquake affected persons.

Hongkong Ministerial Meet to WTO

*89. SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH:

SHRI P. C. THOMAS:

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

(a) whether India proposes to participate in the forthcoming Ministerial meeting of WTO in December, 2005 at Hongkong;

(b) the details of the agenda to be discussed therein;

(c) whether the Government has consulted various sections of the people for a national consensus on trade related issues;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to safeguard the interest of Indian Agriculture in the meeting?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The agenda for this Ministerial Conference includes negotiations on agriculture, services, non-agricultural (industrial goods) market access, trade-related intellectual property rights, trade & environment, trade facilitation, and other issues covered under the Doha Ministerial Mandate.

(c) and (d) The Government, from time to time, has held wide-ranging consultations with the Governments of States and Union Territories, representatives of political parties, farmers' associations and other non-governmental bodies, industry and trade bodies, eminent economists and research institutions, including experts on agriculture, services, NAMA, environment, trade facilitation etc. Government has also sponsored a series of stakeholders' conferences. India's position in the on-going negotiations has been evolving on the basis of these consultations.

(e) To safeguard the interests of Indian agriculture in the on-going negotiations on agriculture in the World Trade Organization (WTO), the G-20, of which India is a

Member, has sought elimination of all forms of export subsidies by a credible end-date, and substantial reductions in all forms of trade-distorting support provided mainly by the developed countries to their agriculture sector. At the same time, India, through the G-20 and the G-33 alliance on Special Products and the new Special Safeguard Mechanism, has sought exemption from reductions on the de minimis support provided by developing countries including those that allocate almost all such support to subsistence and resource-poor farmers. In respect of market access, the G-20 has proposed that tariff reduction commitments by developing countries should be not be more than two-thirds those of developed countries, and to make integral special and differential treatment for developing countries in all aspects of the negotiation. To safeguard food security, livelihood security and rural development needs, the G-33 has proposed more flexible tariff reduction treatment in respect of products to be designated as Special Products, and recourse to additional duties in the event of either volume-based import surges or declines in prices of agricultural products.

Free Education for Girls

*90. SHRI M. SREENIVASULU REDDY:

SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY:

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

(a) whether directions have been issued by the Government to the schools to waive fees for the single girl child;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith its likely benefits;

(c) the reasons for considering such benefits to a single girl child only;

(d) whether such benefits are proposed to be extended in cases of higher education also; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): (a) to (c) The Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) has, vide its circular dated 18.10.2005, directed schools affiliated to it to provide full waiver of all fees (including tuition fee and all other fees under any head except the meals & transportation) charged by CBSE affiliated school, to each girl student from class VI onwards who is a "Single Child" of her parents either with immediate effect or from the next academic session. Affiliation Bye-laws of the Board have been amended

accordingly. The Scheme is expected to improve the status of the girl child in general, and the single girl child in particular.

(d) and (e) Yes, Sir. The UGC has decided that no tuition fees will be charged from Single girl children who pursue Masters degree in Universities and Colleges covered under Sections 2(f) and 12(B) of the UGC Act.

[Translation]

Release of Funds under CRF

*91. SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT:

SHRI ASHOK ARGAL:

Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the States to which more funds have been released as against their deposits in the Central Road Fund (CRF) during each of the last three years and the current year;

(b) the names of the States to which less CRF was released in the year 2004-05 in comparison to the preceding three years and the reasons therefor;

(c) the details of proposals received from various States under the CRF Scheme during each of the last three years and current year, State-wise;

(d) the details of proposals sanctioned out of them by the Union Government;

(e) the reasons for rejection/pendency of the remaining proposals; and

(f) the time by which the pending proposals are likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T. R. BAALU): (a) The names of the States/Union Territories to which funds in excess of their accruals under Central Road Fund (CRF) had been released during the last three years and the current year are as under:-

Year	Name of the States/Union Territories to which funds were released in excess of their accrual
1	2
2002-03	Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Chhattisgarh, Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Meghalaya, Punjab, Rajasthan, Sikkim, Tripura, Uttaranchal and Chandigarh.

1	2
2003-04	Orissa
2004-05	Nil
2005-06	Nil as on 31-10-2005.

(b) The names of the States/Union Territories to which funds less than their accrual in comparison to any of the preceding three years were released in 2004-05 under the Central Road Fund (CRF) are Andhra Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Orissa, Punjab, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Tripura, Uttaranchal, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, Chandigarh, Dadra & Nagar Haveli, Delhi and Pondicherry.

The main reasons for less release of CRF to the States/Union Territories are as under:

- (i) Slow implementation of the works by the respective States;
- (ii) The total available fund from CRF for the State roads during 2004-05 was less than that of funds available in the preceding three years;
- (iii) General elections in the country and State elections in some States in the year 2004-05, which affected the sanction of new projects;

(c) and (d) Details of State-wise proposals received and approved under CRF during the last three years and current year are given in the enclosed Statement-I and II respectively

(e) The main reasons for pendency/rejection of the balance proposals of some of the States are available bank of sanction, non utilization/ non submission of utilization certificates of the released amount, proposals not meeting the prescribed guidelines and lower priority indicated by the State Government.

(f) Approval of the CRF proposals is a continuous process. The approval depends upon fulfilment of the prescribed guidelines, utilization of fund and submission of the utilization certificates by the State Governments.

Statement-I

State-wise details of proposals received from various States/Union Territories and approved under the Central Road Fund during the year 2002-03 and 2003-04

Sl. No.	States/Union Territories	2002-03				2003-04			
		Details of proposals				Details of proposals			
		Received		Approved		Received		Approved	
		Nos.	Amount (Rs. crore)	Nos.	Amount (Rs. crore)	Nos.	Amount (Rs. crore)	Nos.	Amount (Rs. crore)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1.	Andhra Pradesh	0	0.00	0	0.00	90	211.77	90	211.77
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	11	25.07	11	25.07	4	15.46	4	15.46
3.	Assam	15	33.77	15	33.77	10	14.56	10	14.56
4.	Bihar	49	398.00	14	78.38	34	388.45	3	17.70
5.	Chhattisgarh	14	69.15	1	8.75	5	13.90	5	28.94
6.	Goa	0	0.00	0	0.00	2	7.01	0	0.00
7.	Gujarat	116	82.86	116	82.86	95	96.51	95	96.5
8.	Haryana	6	57.44	6	30.83	7	42.31	7	42.31
9.	Himachal Pradesh	6	9.88	4	8.62	15	29.66	8	14.51
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	3	4.60	0	0.00	16	38.00	12	31.40
11.	Jharkhand	0	0.00	0	0.00	2	22.23	2	22.23
12.	Karnataka	77	52.35	62	39.85	187	143.00	129	94.36
13.	Kerala	2	16.18	2	16.18	8	45.15	8	45.15
14.	Madhya Pradesh	15	45.87	4	11.01	37	180.96	26	138.92
15.	Maharashtra	36	70.52	49	79.12	59	130.17	89	158.20
16.	Manipur	5	10.07	2	4.11	3	12.46	1	3.99
17.	Meghalaya	5	9.32	5	9.32	3	7.87	3	7.87
18.	Mizoram	2	7.66	2	7.66	0	0.00	0	0.00
19.	Nagaland	1	2.44	1	2.44	4	9.65	4	9.65
20.	Orissa	123	140.21	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00
21.	Punjab	19	57.49	1	3.93	35	86.07	0	0.00
22.	Rajasthan	82	110.83	82	110.83	62	96.26	62	96.26

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
23.	Sikkim	1	3.66	1	3.66	1	1.12	1	1.12
24.	Tamil Nadu	77	70.43	77	70.43	113	82.00	113	82.00
25.	Tripura	2	3.56	2	3.56	2	6.12	2	6.12
26.	Uttaranchal	15	79.36	2	6.50	31	95.12	26	47.27
27.	Uttar Pradesh	64	468.74	10	28.98	0	0.00	15	118.41
28.	West Bengal	10	118.56	0	0.00	3	38.69	3	35.81
Sub-Total		756	1948.02	469	665.86	828	1814.50	718	1340.52
29.	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	1	2.43	1	2.43	1	5.15	1	5.15
30.	Chandigarh	2	4.61	2	4.61	2	1.99	2	1.99
31.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	1	0.38	1	0.38	0	0.00	0	0.00
32.	Delhi	3	8.94	3	8.94	37	85.80	33	52.37
33.	Pondicherry	0	0.00	0	0.00	1	1.27	1	1.27
Sub-Total		7	16.36	7	16.36	41	94.21	37	60.78
Total		763	1964.38	476	682.22	869	1908.71	755	1401.30

Statement-II

State-wise details of proposals received from various States/Union Territories and approved under the Central Road Fund during the year 2004-05 and 2005-06

Sl. No.	States/ Union Territories	2004-05				2005-06			
		Details of proposals				Details of proposals			
		Received		Approved		Received		Approved	
	Nos.	Amount (Rs. crore)	Nos.	Amount (Rs. crore)	Nos.	Amount (Rs. crore)	Nos.	Amount (Rs. crore)	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1.	Andhra Pradesh	11	11.22	11	11.22	66	171.37	66	171.37
2	Arunachal Pradesh	4	16.22	4	16.22	12	39.34	0	0.00
3	Assam	12	40.58	12	40.58	9	28.08	1	3.55
4	Bihar	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00
5	Chhattisgarh	2	33.56	2	21.25	6	47.66	0	0.00
6	Goa	0	0.00	1	2.14	1	2.05	0	0.00
7	Gujarat	15	23.26	15	23.26	80	138.31	80	137.99

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
8	Haryana	8	49.40	8	49.40	11	101.05	6	45.75
9	Himachal Pradesh	2	4.80	5	7.77	4	20.77	8	25.71
10	Jammu & Kashmir	29	142.79	2	27.00	11	94.90	8	51.43
11	Jharkhand	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00
12	Karnataka	241	145.98	241	145.98	57	41.40	57	41.40
13	Kerala	3	10.21	3	10.21	14	74.46	11	63.70
14	Madhya Pradesh	29	219.06	4	8.52	29	150.53	15	54.60
15	Maharashtra	47	125.58	39	71.39	106	295.93	44	108.59
16	Manipur	1	3.47	1	3.47	3	9.12	1	2.96
17	Meghalaya	1	4.60	1	4.60	13	50.74	1	3.60
18	Mizoram	1	0.51	1	0.51	0	0.00	0	0.00
19	Nagaland	2	8.14	2	8.14	2	8.06	1	3.60
20	Orissa	34	73.21	10	31.30	35	115.79	11	53.60
21	Punjab	9	31.83	12	34.76	13	65.15	5	11.83
22	Rajasthan	45	64.08	45	64.08	112	143.40	112	143.40
23	Sikkim	3	4.24	3	4.24	0	0.00	0	0.00
24	Tamil Nadu	107	140.62	107	140.62	266	529.64	1	2.22
25	Tripura	0	0.00	0	0.00	1	2.06	0	0.00
26	Uttaranchal	7	23.35	1	6.00	3	23.75	0	0.00
27	Uttar Pradesh	45	440.07	23	234.81	14	153.50	20	202.34
28	West Bengal	3	95.67	3	36.83	9	137.81	9	137.81
Sub-Total		661	1712.45	556	1004.30	877	2444.87	457	1265.45
Union Territories									
29	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00
30	Chandigarh	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00
31	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00
32	Delhi	1	1.60	1	1.60	8	15.87	0	0.00
33	Pondicherry	1	2.57	1	2.57	1	2.88	1	2.88
Sub-Total		2	4.17	2	4.17	9	18.75	1	2.88
Total		663	1716.62	558	1008.47	886	2463.62	458	1268.33

*[English]***Congestion at Docks and Ports**

*92. SHRI JUAL ORAM:

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE:

Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether certain Docks and Ports are facing problems due to massive congestion;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to remove the congestion;
- (d) whether any National Maritime Development Programme has been finalised by the Government;
- (e) if so, the salient features thereof with regard to Docks and Ports;
- (f) the time by which the said development programme is likely to be launched; and
- (g) the total amount envisaged to be invested for implementing National Maritime Development Programme?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) and (b) None of the major ports are facing problems due to massive congestion. However, sometimes delays in berthing of vessels occur due to bunching of vessels or the problems like inclement weather etc. The congestion sometime is also caused due to constraints in cargo evacuation.

(c) Major Ports, on the whole, are well equipped to handle sea-borne traffic. However the augmentation of the capacity is an ongoing process keeping in view the demands of maritime trade and this is achieved by undertaking steps such as deepening of channels to facilitate berthing of large vessels, construction of new berths, upgradation/expansion of existing berths, modernisation of cargo handling equipments, improvement in storage capacity, upgradation of internal circulation system for smooth cargo movement within the port area and improvements in rail and road connectivity to hinterland.

(d) to (g) The Government has taken up preparation of the National Maritime Development Programme which would include specific schemes and projects to be taken up over a period upto the year 2011-12. The total investment in the proposed Programme is estimated to be Rs.1,00,000 crores out of which investment in the Port Sector is expected

to be about Rs.60,000 crores. The Programme is proposed to be implemented through public private partnership. Public investments are planned primarily for creation of common user infrastructure facilities. Private investments are expected in the areas where operations are primarily commercial in nature.

Crime Against Women

*93. SHRI M. SHIVANNA:

SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether various crimes against women have increased in Delhi;
- (b) if so, the total number of cases of crimes against women, particularly rape cases registered in Delhi during the last four months, till date;
- (c) the total number of persons arrested in this regard during the said period; and
- (d) the action taken by the Government against them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) to (d) There has been increase in some heads of crime against women particularly rape cases in Delhi in recent years. The date pertaining to rape cases reveals that in the year 2003, 2004 and 2005, in more than 97% cases neighbours family members, close friends, relatives and other known people were involved in committing rape. Various types of crime against women reported in Delhi during the period from 1st July to 15th November, 2005, the number of persons arrested in these cases and the status of the cases against them are given below:

(i) No. of cases of crime against women reported during the period from 1st July to 15th November, 2005.	2120 (including 234 rape cases)
(ii) No. of persons arrested in the above mentioned cases.	2495
(iii) No. of persons challaned	1307
(iv) No. of persons convicted	358
(v) No. of persons acquitted	4
(vi) No. of persons facing trial	945
(vii) No. of persons against whom investigation is pending	1188

Violence in Assam

*94. SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA:

SHRI MOHAN SINGH:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Union Government has received reports from Assam Government regarding cases of killing of Assam tribals;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the elements found involved in such incidents;
- (d) the number of persons who lost their lives and the details of loss of property suffered in such incidents;
- (e) the details of the assistance provided by the Government to affected persons; and
- (f) the measures adopted by the Union Government to check the recurrence of such incidents?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) and (b) Reports of violence between two different tribes namely Karbis and Dimasas in Karbi Anglong district have been received from Government of Assam.

- (c) The violent activities are suspected to have been abetted by the militant groups of the particular tribes.
- (d) So far, 92 persons have lost their lives and more than 2000 houses have been destroyed.
- (e) The State Government has undertaken rehabilitation measures which include sanction of Rs. 3 lakh as ex-gratia grant to the next of kin of the victim; providing gratuitous relief to the affected families; and rehabilitation assistance for construction of houses. Central Government is committed to reimburse the expenses to State Government at the prescribed scales.
- (f) The situation is being closely monitored by the Government. Additional Central Police Forces and State Police have been deployed in Karbi Anglong District to control the violence. The State Government has been advised to strengthen the police in the area by setting up additional police stations and augment the road network in the district. State Government has also been advised to strictly enforce the cease-fire ground rules signed with the militant outfits in association with the Central Police Forces.

[Translation]

Amendments in Joint Entrance Examination

*95. SHRI ASHOK KUMAR RAWAT:

SHRI PRABODH PANDA:

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

- (a) whether the Government has accorded or contemplating to accord its approval to the changes proposed in Joint Entrance Examination schemes of the I.I.Ts.;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether any alternative scheme is on anvil for the students who will become ineligible under the new rules;
- (d) if not, the reasons therefore; and
- (e) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to protect the interests of such students?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): (a) to (e) Indian Institutes of Technology are autonomous bodies and enjoy autonomy in the academic matters in their pursuit of excellence. IITs had constituted a Special Task Force for reforms in Joint Entrance Examination (JEE). On the recommendations of the Special Task Force, the Standing Committee of the IIT Council, after receiving the approval of the Chairman of the Council, has changed the norms for admission to IITs. As per the revised norms only those students who get 60% or more marks at the class XIIth will be eligible for admission to the IITs. For the students belonging to SC/ST there will be a relaxation of 5% of marks. A student can have only two attempts to appear in JEE with effect from 2006, one in the year in which he or she passes the XIIth standard examination and/or in the following year. Candidates, who have passed their qualifying examination in 2005 or earlier, will be permitted to appear in JEE 2006, as a last chance, irrespective of the marks secured in class XIIth or the number of earlier attempts at JEE subject to their satisfying the age limit. Candidates who join any of the IITs, IIT-BHU, Varanasi and ISM Dhanbad through JEE 2006 will not be permitted to appear in JEE in future.

These reforms simplify the Joint Entrance Exam by doing away with the Screening Test and also give due weightage to the Board results. This is likely to reduce the examination stress on the students and check the proliferation of coaching institutes.

[English]

Trade between India and European Union

*96. SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO:

SHRI SHISHUPAL N. PATLE:

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

(a) the details of trade between India and the 25 member European Union (EU) countries during the first four months of the current fiscal year;

(b) whether there has been a rise in the trade between the EU countries;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether a joint commission meeting was held between India and European Union recently; and

(e) if so, the details with regard to the agenda discussed alongwith the likely improvement in trade expected?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) During the first four months of 2005-06, India's exports to the European Union was US \$ 6.49 billion and India's imports from the European Union was US \$ 6.92 billion.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) During the first four months of 2005-06, trade between India and European Union has registered a growth of about 30%.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) The 15th Session of India-European Union Joint Commission was held in New Delhi during October 24-25, 2005 under the Co-Chairmanship of Commerce Secretary and Deputy Director General, Directorate General of External Relations, European Commission.

The agenda of the meeting included reports of India-European Commission Sub-Commissions on trade, economic cooperation and development cooperation, Joint Working Groups in the sectors of agriculture & marine products, customs cooperation, science & technology, steel and information society, and issues pertaining to the implementation of Joint Action Plan adopted at the 6th India-EU Summit held in New Delhi on 7th September 2005, etc.

It is a constant endeavour to improve trade between

India and its trading partners including EU. During the last three years the average rate of growth in trade between India and European Union has been about 20%.

Infiltration from Bangladesh

*97. SHRI CHENGARA SURENDRAN:

SHRI DALPAT SINGH PARSTE:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of infiltrators/illegal migrants have entered the country;

(b) if so, the places through which they are infiltrating;

(c) the number of infiltrators/illegal migrants arrested during each of the last three years, State-wise;

(d) whether such infiltrators/illegal migrants have the right to vote and obtain ration cards in the country;

(e) if so, whether some State Governments have submitted reports to the Union Government regarding the influx of infiltrators;

(f) if so, the action taken by the Union Government in this regard;

(g) whether High Court of Delhi and a bench of Supreme Court has issued any direction to the Union Government to deport illegal Bangladeshi migrants;

(h) if so, the details thereof; and

(i) the action taken by the Union Government to deal with the issue of illegal migrants/infiltrators in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) to (f) The Government is aware of illegal migrants/ infiltration from Bangladesh into India. However, as this activity takes place clandestinely, no specific details are available about the magnitude of this illegal infiltration to India. The details of Bangladeshi nationals apprehended by BSF along Indo-Bangladesh border from 2002 is given below:

Year	West Bengal	Assam	Meghalaya	Tripura	Mizoram	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
2002	5959	32	145	406	91	6633
2003	7621	18	242	721	33	8635

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
2004	9217	20	538	1160	70	11005
2005 (upto 31st Oct.)	5887	15	566	852	111	7431
Total	28684	85	1491	3139	305	33704

Infiltrators/illegal migrants don't have the right to vote nor they are eligible for ration cards in the country. Whenever State Governments or any other agency inform the Union Government about the infiltration, the Government directs the BSF to step up vigil and patrol extensively especially in vulnerable areas along the border. The State Governments are also empowered to take appropriate measures to check infiltration of illegal immigrants.

(g) and (h) Hon'ble High Court of Delhi in the case M/s Chetan Dutt v/s Union of India & Others directed the Union of India to identify and deport illegal Bangladeshi nationals through BSF.

(i) The following steps have been taken to prevent illegal migrants:

- Round the clock surveillance of the border by carrying out patrolling, laying nakas and by deploying observation posts all along the Indo-Bangladesh border;
- Upgradation of intelligence net-work;
- Conduct of special operations;
- Introduction of modern surveillance equipments including night vision devices;
- Erection of border fence and roads; and Patrolling across the riverine segments by deploying boats and vessels.

Attack on Minorities

*98. SHRIMATI C.S. SUJATHA:

SHRI JOACHIM BAXLA:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware of the incidents where institutions and people belonging to minorities were attacked;

(b) If so, the number of incidents of attacks on minorities in the country during the last three years, particularly in Kerala, State-wise;

(c) the number of persons killed/injured and the extent of damage caused to the property of such communities;

(d) the number of persons arrested in this connection and the action taken against them;

(e) whether any compensation has been paid to them;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) the steps being taken by the Government to check such incidents and to instil a sense of security and safety among the people belonging to minority communities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) to (g) As per available information, the number of such incidents and the number of persons killed and injured therein during the last three years i.e., 2002, 2003 and 2004, state-wise are given in the enclosed Statement.

Under the Seventh Schedule of the Constitution, 'Police' and 'Public Order' are State subjects and registration of cases, investigation and prosecution are the primary concern of the State Governments. Hence, details in respect of property lost/damaged, financial assistance provided to the affected families, number of persons arrested etc. are not Centrally maintained by the Government of India and are not readily available. Different State Governments determine their own criteria for providing financial assistance to the affected victims.

Apart from the various Constitutional and legal provisions as well as various institutional mechanisms established for protection of the rights of the minorities in the country, the Union Government has also taken a variety of administrative measures and promotional efforts in this regard. These include constant review of the communal situation in the country, maintaining a continuous watch over the activities of organizations having a bearing on peace and communal harmony, sending alert messages, sharing of information, sending Central Para-Military Forces to the States on the specific request of the concerned State Government(s), assistance in the modernization of the State Police Forces etc. The Union Government has also issued comprehensive guidelines to promote communal harmony to all the States/Union Territories. These guidelines contain steps to be taken with regard to prevention of communal riots, provision for relief/rehabilitation to the victims; effective utilization of Peace Committee mechanisms in defusing communal tension, restoration of normalcy in the affected areas etc. The promotional efforts include providing grants

for organizations engaged in activities promoting communal harmony, annual National Communal Harmony Awards and Kabir Puraskar and observance of Quami Ekta Week. The

National Common Minimum Programme of the Government envisages enactment of a comprehensive law to deal with communal violence.

Statement

Communal Incidents and Number of Persons Killed/Injured therein during the years 2002, 2003 and 2004

Name of the State	2002			2003			2004		
	No. of			No. of			No. of		
	Incidents	Persons Killed	Persons Injured	Incidents	Persons Killed	Persons Injured	Incidents	Persons Killed	Persons Injured
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
A & N Islands	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Andhra Pradesh	16	3	20	18	8	71	13	1	54
Arunachal Pradesh	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Assam	2	0	0	2	2	0	2	0	1
Bihar	50	22	72	63	32	144	43	24	108
Chandigarh	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Chhattisgarh	0	0	0	4	1	2	1	0	0
Delhi	5	0	23	3	1	11	3	0	9
Dadra and Nagar Haveli	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Daman and Diu	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Goa	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Gujarat	135	977	2378	133	20	392	93	15	218
Haryana	2	0	4	1	0	0	1	0	0
Himachal Pradesh	2	0	0	1	0	7	0	0	0
Jammu and Kashmir	1	0	0	1	0	12	0	0	0
Jharkhand	14	6	69	14	10	41	16	3	52
Karnataka	103	13	331	64	9	260	72	7	274
Kerala	16	6	48	32	11	71	25	2	59
Lakshadweep	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Madhya Pradesh	39	10	59	56	18	142	94	19	322
↳ Maharashtra	95	42	752	125	12	578	109	17	352

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Manipur	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Meghalaya	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Mizoram	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Nagaland	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Orissa	36	3	75	26	4	73	17	1	35
Pondicherry	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Punjab	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	4
Rajasthan	61	11	253	34	9	62	32	4	105
Sikkim	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Tamil Nadu	42	5	54	22	3	30	15	0	31
Tripura	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
Uttaranchal	1	0	5	7	4	4	1	0	0
Uttar Pradesh	85	29	176	91	47	331	127	40	426
West Bengal	14	3	56	12	2	30	11	1	82
Total	722	1130	4375	711	193	2261	677	134	2132

Quality Education in Schools

*99. SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR:

SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH:

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

(a) whether the standard of education in Government and Government aided schools in the country has fallen considerably in the past few years;

(b) if so, whether the exact cause of fall in standard of education in such schools in the country has been assessed;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Union Government has recently approved the implementation of a revised scheme for the improvement of the quality of education in Government and Government aided schools with a plan outlay of Rs. 115 crore;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the time by when such scheme is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): (a) to (c) School education is primarily the concern of the State Governments and quality of School Education varies across States. However, there is no reason to believe that standards of education in Government and Government aided schools have fallen considerably. Schools administered by the Central Government, i.e. the schools of the Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan and the Navodaya Vidyalaya Samiti, have secured a higher pass percentage in both Class X and XII examinations conducted by the Central Board of Secondary Education than schools run by private management, in the years 2004 and 2005.

(d) to (f) A composite scheme titled "Quality Improvement in Schools" which clubs the following existing schemes, has recently been approved:

- (i) Improvement of Science Education in Schools;
- (ii) Environment Orientation to School Education;
- (iii) National Population Education Project;

- iv) Introduction of Yoga in schools; and
- v) International Science Olympiad in Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry, Biology and Informatics.

An outlay of Rs. 115 crore has been approved for the above composite scheme for the X Plan period.

Implementation Status of SARDP

*100. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is satisfied with the progress of the special Accelerated Road Development Programme (SARDP);

(b) if so the details thereof;

(c) whether the proposals received have been accorded sanction for implementing works in various sectors of NH-52;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the details of improvement done on the Stillwell Road (NH-153) beyond NH-38 along with annual allocation, executing agency and target set to complete;

(f) whether the Ministry is associated in the joint survey being conducted by China and India for the reopening of the road upto China through Myanmar; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) and (b) The implementation of Phase 'A' of the Special Accelerated Road Development Programme (SARDP) and the preparation of Detailed Project Reports (DPRs) for Phase 'B' has been approved by the Government on 22.09.2005. Under Phase 'A' of the programme, 1310 km of road at an estimated cost of Rs. 4618 crore has been covered. Under Phase 'B' of the programme, 5122 km length of road at an estimated cost of Rs.5920 crore is to be taken up for improvement. The implementing agencies have been asked to undertake implementation of Phase 'A' and preparation of DPRs for Phase 'B' of the above programme. Phase 'C' of the programme is yet to be approved by the Government.

(c) and (d) Detailed Project Report for improvement of km 345 to 360 and km 365 to 382 of NH-52 have been received recently from the Border Road Organisation which are under examination.

(e) For improvement of National Highway 153

(Stillwell Road), two improvement works amounting to Rs. 7.85 crore covering its entire 24 km length in Assam and four improvement works amounting to Rs.20.63 crore covering its entire 32.5 km length in Arunachal Pradesh have been sanctioned during the last four years. The works in Assam portion have already been completed by Assam PWD and works in Arunachal Pradesh are targeted for completion by December, 2007 by Arunachal Pradesh PWD. Funds are allotted State-wise and not NH wise. Further entire NH-153 in the State of Assam has been included for widening to 2-lane with paved shoulder under Phase 'A' of the SARDP-NE for implementation by the State PWD of Assam. Phase 'A' of the programme is targeted for completion by March, 2009.

(f) No, Sir.

(g) Does not arise.

Development of Infrastructure in Tribal Areas

*101. SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the infrastructure like roads, communications, health, education and drinking water etc. in tribal areas is inadequate and inferior in comparison to the rest of the country;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government has any plan to accelerate the pace of development of infrastructure in the tribal areas;

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

(e) whether the Government intend to bring socio-economic development of tribal areas at an accelerated rate; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION (SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH): (a) to (f) As the tribal areas are generally remote, inaccessible and characterized by hilly and difficult terrain, the infrastructure like roads, communications, health, education and drinking water, etc. in these areas is generally not at par in comparison to the rest of the areas of the country.

To bridge the critical gaps in infrastructure viz. roads, bridges, irrigation, communications, health, education, drinking water, etc. in the tribal areas, Government of India provides grants under the Article 275 (1) of the Constitution to the State Governments. To focus on the infrastructure development, since 2000-01, the grants to the States are

now being released against the specific projects in critical areas identified by the respective State Government. To increase the pace of development, new guidelines have been issued in the year 2002. In addition, Government has launched Bharat Nirman for infrastructure development in rural areas with respect to irrigation, road, rural housing, rural water supply, rural electrification and rural telecommunication connectivity, and tribal areas have also been included in the same.

Government of India provides grants to State Governments under the Special Central Assistance (SCA) to Tribal Sub Plan (TSP) for income/employment generation as well as for infrastructure incidental thereto, and also under the Article 275 (1) of the Constitution for filling the critical gap in the infrastructure in tribal areas for accelerated socio-economic development of Scheduled Tribes and Tribal Areas of the country.

Modernisation of Leather Industry

856. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether various State Government have requested the Central Government to release funds for the modernization of their leather industry;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise; and
- (c) the steps taken by the Union Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN) : (a) The plan scheme "Integrated Development of Leather Sector (IDLS)" to be implemented during this 10th Plan Period (2002-07) has become applicable with effect from November 3, 2005. This is a comprehensive scheme for modernization and technology up-gradation in all the segments of the Leather Industry. Under this scheme financial assistance to the extent of 30% of cost of plant and machinery for Small Scale Industries (SSI) and 20% of cost of plant and machinery for other units (non SSI units) subject to a ceiling of Rs. 50 lakhs is provided to individual units and not to State Governments.

(b) and (c) Not applicable.

Independent Identity to Women

857. SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is aware of the fact

that women in the country are not getting independent identity in the family and society;

- (b) if so, action taken by the Government in this regard;
- (c) whether all the Ministries and Departments have requested to include mother's name in all the certificates and official documents; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the response received by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH): (a) and (b) Government is aware of the need for independent identity for women in the family and society. The Government has taken various steps for the overall development and empowerment of women to raise their status in the society.

(c) and (d) In pursuance of a matter of Urgent Public Importance (Special Mention) raised in Rajya Sabha on 18.8.2005 by Shri K. Rama Mohana Rao, MP, the Department of Women and Child Development (DWCD) has requested all Central Ministries/Departments and State Governments/ Union Territory Administrations to take appropriate affirmative action to include the name of mother in all certificates and other documents which fall under their purview. The responses so far received by DWCD indicate that the matter raised is being widely circulated by them for appropriate action.

Life Imprisonment

858. MS. INGRID MCLEOD: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether in a recent judgment the Supreme Court of India has ruled that punishment for life imprisonment should be treated as a sentence for the whole of the convict's life time and not first 14 or 20 years in jail;
- (b) if so, the details of the Government and reaction thereto; and
- (c) steps proposed to be taken to implement the judgment in order to sensitize the public in the matter?

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

(b) and (c) Article 141 of the Constitution of India provides that law declared by the Supreme Court shall be binding on all authorities within the territory of India.

Tribunals under Foreigners Act

859. SHRI M. K. SUBBA : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Assam has lately submitted any proposal to Union Government for establishment of tribunals under the provisions of the Foreigners Act following the Supreme Court verdict for scrapping the Illegal Migrants (Determination by Tribunals) Act;

(b) if so, the number and the location of the proposed Tribunals; and

(c) the decision so far taken by the Union Government thereon?

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

(b) and (c) The Government of Assam has proposed to set up additional tribunal in addition to existing 11 tribunals under the provisions of Foreigners (Tribunal) Order, 1964. The Government has already initiated the process to constitute these Tribunals.

Competition Commission for Economic Development

860. DR. RAJESH MISHRA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to constitute Competition Commission for Economic Development; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) and (b) The Competition Commission of India (CCI) has been established on 14th October, 2003 to prevent practices having adverse effect on competition, to promote and sustain competition in markets, to protect the interests of consumers, and to ensure freedom of trade carried on by participants in market, in India, and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto. However, the full functioning

of the Commission has not yet commenced due to legal challenge to the Competition Act, 2002. The Supreme Court, in its judgement dated 20.01.2005 on the Writ Petition filed by Shri Brahm Dutt challenging certain provisions of the Competition Act, 2002, while disposing of the Writ Petition, had allowed the Central Government to make amendments in the Competition Act, 2002, to ensure consistency with constitutional provisions. Appropriate amendments to the Competition Act, in light of the Supreme Court Judgement, are under examination to address the legal issues and facilitate full functioning of the Commission.

Security of Senior Citizens

861. SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA:

SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of senior citizens killed in Delhi during the last three years, till date, year-wise;

(b) the number of accused persons apprehended in this regard and details of unsolved cases as on date;

(c) whether complaints of threat to senior citizens have been received by Delhi Police;

(d) if so, the details of security arrangements made by the Delhi Police for their protection;

(e) the total number of senior citizens residing in Delhi, Zone-wise;

(f) whether Police personnel visit senior citizens;

(g) if so, the details of senior citizens who have never been visited by Delhi Police Personnel;

(h) whether the Government has any proposal to set up Senior Citizens Cell; and

(i) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) and (b) The requisite information is given below:

Year	No. of cases reported	No. of elderly persons killed	No. of cases worked out	No. of persons arrested	No. of cases pending investigation
2002	20	21	20	28	-
2003	17	18	17	26	-
2004	17	20	15	29	2
2005 (upto 15th Nov.)	15	16	8	18	7

(c) and (d) During the year 2005 (upto 15th November, 2005), Delhi Police received one complaint from a senior citizen alleging harassment and threatening by his neighbours and sons. An enquiry was conducted by Delhi Police into his allegations and he was provided adequate protection which include regular visit of beat staff to his residence.

(e) District-wise number of senior citizens registered with Delhi Police is given below:

Name of District	Number of senior citizens registered
New Delhi	85
East	491
North East	74
Central	305
North	173
North West	421
South	1662
South West	1000
West	713
Total	4924

(f) and (g) The police personnel of the concerned area pays visit to all the senior citizens registered with Delhi Police and also contacts them over telephone regularly.

(h) and (i) A Senior Citizen Security Cell has already been set up at the Headquarter of Delhi Police w.e.f. 21.6.2004.

Vacant Posts of SC/ST

862. SHRI SUNIL KHAN: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to refer to reply to Unstarred Question No. 3586 dated August 19, 2003 regarding vacant posts of SC/ST and state:

(a) whether the said vacancies has since been fulfilled;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the time by which said vacancies are likely to be fulfilled?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Four Laning of Highways on BOT Basis

863. SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Highways Authority of India has signed agreements for four-laning of highways on Build, Operate and Transfer basis in Maharashtra;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the length of highways constructed under the said agreement;

(d) the details of terms and condition of the said agreement; and

(e) the steps taken to implement the said agreement?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K. H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) has signed agreements for three project on Build Operate Transfer basis in the State of Maharashtra as per the details given below:

Sl. No.	Project	National Highways No.	Km.	Cost (Rs. in crores)
1.	Vadape-Gonde Section	3	100	579.00
2.	Pimpalgaon-Dhule	3	118	556.00
3.	Satara-Kagal	4	133	603.43

(c) Four laning of 132.76 Kms. of National Highway-4 (Satara-Kagal section) in the State of Maharashtra have been completed under B.O.T.

(d) The terms and conditions are given in the enclosed Statement.

(e) As per the agreements the works of Vadape-Gonde and Pimpalgaon-Dhule sections are programmed to start after the Financial Closure is achieved by the concessionaries.

Statement

Details of Stretches where concession agreement has been signed on BOT basis in the State of Maharashtra

A. Satara-Kagal Section of NH-4 (Length 133 Km.)

1. Concession period is 20 years.
2. As concessionaire's agreement 40% of the total construction cost of project which is Rs. 603.43 crore was provided by NHAI as grant to Maharashtra State Road Development Corporation Ltd.
3. Surplus toll revenue after deducting the expenses such as debt servicing, Operation & Maintenance and taxes will be shared equally by NHAI & MSRDC.

B. Pimpalgaon-Dhule Section of NH-3 (Length 118 Km.)

1. The concession period is 20 years including 36 months as period of construction.
2. The estimated cost of the project is Rs. 556 crore. There is a negative grant of Rs. 58.85 crores on Net Present Value basis.

C. Vadape-Gonde Section of NH-3 (Length 100 Km.)

1. The concession period is 20 years including 36 months as period of construction.
2. The estimated cost of the project is Rs. 579 crore. There is a negative grant of Rs. 80.04 crores on Net Present Value basis.

Replacement of Model Concession Agreement

864. SHRI K. C. PALANISAMY: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal from the Planning Commission to replace the existing Model Concession Agreement (MCA); and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K. H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) and (b) The proposal for replacing the existing Model Concession Agreement (MCA) for public private partnership in road project with a new MCA is under consideration of the Government.

[Translation]

Budget Allocation for Tribal Areas

865. SHRI GANESH SINGH: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the State-wise allocation of budget for the tribal welfare and development alongwith the norms for this allocation;

(b) the names of the works for which budget allocation has been made in current financial year for Madhya Pradesh;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether Government feels any need to augment the budget allocation for tribal areas; and

(e) if so, action being taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTER REGION (SHRI P. R. KYNDIAH): (a) to (e) The allocation of funds under the various schemes of this Ministry for the welfare and development of tribal people are made State/Union Territory wise, mainly, on the basis of tribal population in the State/Union Territory concerned, and also keeping in view other parameters in the concerned Scheme/Programme, like, low literacy districts, the geographical area of the States, etc.

A Statement showing the Scheme-wise tentative allocations made to various States/Union Territories, including Madhya Pradesh, during the year 2005-06, is enclosed.

The Plan Budget of the Ministry for the year 2005-06 has increased to Rs. 1,498.82 crore, from Rs. 1,146.00 crore during the year 2004-05, which represents an increase of 30.78 per cent. Allocations are made by the Planning Commission within the overall resource availability keeping in view the competing demands of various sectors.

Statement

The tentative allocations made to various States/UTs under the Scheme of Ministry of Tribal Affairs during 2005-06

S. No.	Name of State/UT	Name of the Scheme														Rs. in (lakhs)
		% of STs	VTC in Tribal Areas	\$Educational complex in low literacy pockets**	GIA to State Tribal Dev. Corps for MFPS (STDCs)#	Dev. of PTGs\$	Scheme of PMS, Book Bank and Upgradation of Merit of ST Students	Res. & Trg.**	SCA to TSP	GIA under Article 275(1)	Total					
		3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	
1	Andhra Pradesh	6.12	131.00	6.00	22.00	14.00	91.00	76.00	293.00	2700.00	5.85	14.00	2459.52	1688.50	7500.87	
2	Arunachal Pradesh	0.80	20.00	1.00	4.00	0.00	11.00	11.00	0.80	300.00	0.90	0.00	0.00	220.00	567.90	
3	Assam	4.19	86.00	4.00	16.00	3.00	0.00	43.00	0.00	1500.00	4.50	9.00	2753.09	1155.00	5573.59	
4	Bihar	0.83	20.00	1.00	4.00	0.00	54.00	10.00	0.00	30.00	0.90	0.00	500.90	229.90	850.70	
5	Chhattisgarh	8.33	172.00	8.00	30.00	10.00	6.00	86.00	230.00	2000.00	7.50	19.00	4163.56	2297.90	9029.96	
6	Delhi	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	15.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	15.00	
7	Goa	0.00	0.00	0.00	3.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.15	0.00	0.00	0.00	3.15	
8	Gujarat	8.98	194.00	9.00	35.00	12.00	11.00	97.00	132.00	2000.00	9.00	21.00	3537.82	2475.00	8532.82	
9	HP	0.32	6.00	1.00	3.00	5.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	15.00	0.30	1.00	578.18	88.00	698.48	
10	J&K	1.28	30.00	1.00	5.00	5.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	200.00	1.50	3.00	874.75	348.70	1468.95	
11	Jharkhand	8.81	185.00	9.00	34.00	14.00	43.00	97.00	380.00	1600.00	7.95	20.00	5283.22	2428.80	10101.97	
12	Karnataka	2.79	91.00	4.00	17.00	6.00	11.00	0.00	47.00	1500.00	4.65	10.00	694.19	770.00	3154.84	
13	Kerala	0.47	9.00	1.00	3.00	0.00	0.00	11.00	19.00	150.00	0.45	1.00	246.33	129.80	570.58	
14	MP	14.11	318.00	15.00	56.00	20.00	153.00	182.00	461.00	1000.00	13.50	35.00	7048.90	3889.60	13173.00	

Assistance Coaching State... \$NGO...
to Vol. & Allied *
Organs.*

PMS..... Upgradation
of merit of
ST students^

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
15 Maharashtra	10.66	224.00	11.00	40.00	14.00	0.00	119.00	359.00	700.00	11.00	24.00	3351.45	2939.20	7792.65		
16 Manipur	0.92	19.00	1.00	4.00	0.00	0.00	11.00	9.00	1500.00	0.90	2.00	685.76	253.00	2485.66		
17 Meghalaya	2.21	52.00	2.00	9.00	3.00	0.00	32.00	0.00	1900.00	3.00	0.00	0.00	610.50	2811.50		
18 Mizoram	0.95	22.00	1.00	4.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	900.00	1.05	0.00	0.00	284.00	1192.05		
19 Nagaland	1.55	48.00	2.00	8.00	3.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2000.00	1.50	0.00	0.00	425.70	2486.20		
20 Orissa	10.25	212.00	10.00	35.00	13.00	54.00	130.00	60.00	85.00	9.00	23.00	5845.77	2827.00	9303.77		
21 Rajasthan	7.98	185.00	9.00	31.00	12.00	112.00	97.00	62.00	2000.00	7.80	20.00	3284.60	2200.00	8020.40		
22 Sikkim	0.13	3.00	0.00	3.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	20.00	0.15	0.00	97.22	36.30	159.67		
23 Tamil Nadu	0.84	17.00	1.00	3.00	0.00	11.00	0.00	200.00	50.00	0.90	2.00	290.99	231.00	806.89		
24 Tripura	1.24	28.00	1.00	4.00	0.00	0.00	22.00	114.00	200.00	1.50	3.00	938.93	344.30	1652.73		
25 UP	0.11	3.00	0.00	3.00	0.00	11.00	0.00	0.00	100.00	0.15	1.00	28.89	29.70	176.74		
26 Uttaranchal	0.31	7.00	1.00	3.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	37.00	150.00	0.30	0.00	83.62	85.80	367.72		
27 West Bengal	5.55	116.00	6.00	21.00	6.00	32.00	76.00	71.00	300.00	5.00	12.00	1982.31	1532.30	4159.61		
28 A & N Islands	0.04	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.15	0.00	0.00	0.00	21.15		
29 Andhra & N H	0.18	4.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	10.00	0.15	0.00	0.00	0.00	14.15		
30 Daman & Diu	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	10.00	0.15	0.00	0.00	0.00	10.15		
31 Lakshadweep	0.07	2.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	10.0	0.15	0.0	0.00	0.00	12.15		
Total	100.00	2200.00	105.00	400.00	140.00	600.00	1080.00	2475.00	22955.00	100.00	220.00	44730.00	27500.00	102515.00		

Total Budget Estimate Rs.1495.82 Crore. Only Rs.1025.15 crore allocated amongst States. The rest is non-divisible.

\$ Allocations are based mainly on population without consideration of the actual requirements for the existing projects under the respective schemes.

* Grants Admissible to States less than Rs.1 lakh have not been Allocated and adjusted against other States. Figures rounded upto lakhs place.

** Allocation made considering the number of low literacy districts in the States. Figures rounded upto lakhs place.

*** Grants Admissible to States less than Rs. 2.40 lakh have not been allocated and adjusted against other States Figures rounded upto lakhs place.

**** The funds are tentatively allocated to States (16) having TRIs in proportion to the ST populations in the

***** The allocations are based on grants released in the previous years over and above their committed liability and

* Allocations have been made on the basis of the awards numbering 1480, allocated to different States/UTs on the basis of their population, restricted to

** Excludes 10% of Rs.497.00 crore, kept aside for release on the basis of weighted criteria for effective

*** Excludes 10% of Rs.330.00 crore earmarked for innovative projects, Rs.22 crore earmarked for ongoing 90

\$ Population and performance based.

*[English]***Export of Spices**

866. SHRI G. M. SIDDESWARA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Southern States of the country are major spices supplying States for exports of spices;

(b) if so, the contribution made by these States in exports of spices during each of the last three years, State-wise, particularly by Karnataka; and

(c) the steps taken by the Spices Board and the Union Government to boost production export of spices in Southern States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) State-wise data for export of spices from India is not maintained.

(c) In order to boost production of spices in India, including in the Southern States, Government is implementing a Centrally Sponsored Scheme on National Horticulture Mission under which promotion of production of spices is undertaken through area expansion, technological dissemination and integrated pest management. National Horticulture Board also provides back ended capital investment subsidy for commercial cultivation of perennial spices. Spices Board has also been implementing a number of plan schemes for promoting cultivation of a number of spices.

Steps taken to boost export of spices from India, including from the Southern States, are: post harvest improvement through training and infrastructure development; trade promotion; extending support for upgradation of technology; introduction of high tech spice processing, setting up/upgradation of laboratories, accreditation of units in Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP)/Hazard Assessment and Critical Control Point (HACCP)/ International Standards Organisation (ISO), packaging development, printing of business brochures, business tours abroad, sending business samples abroad; support for organic farming of spices; award of Spice House Certificate and Indian Spices Logo for popularising good manufacturing practices, good hygienic practices and branded spice products.

Sarkaria Commission Report

867. SHRI ALOK KUMAR MEHTA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government received a number of suggestions from State Governments and various other quarters on the Sarkaria Commission Report of 1984;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government proposes to review the recommendations of the Sarkaria Commission which has become two decade old;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) if not, whether the Government has any proposal to set up a new commission in this regard; and

(f) if so, the time by which it is likely to be set up;

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT): (a) and (b) The Government of India had in June, 1983 constituted a Commission under the chairmanship of Justice R.S. Sarkaria to examine and review the working of the arrangements between the Union and States in regard to powers, functions and responsibilities in all spheres and recommend such changes or other measures as may be appropriate. In its report submitted in 1988, the Commission made 247 recommendations. The Inter-State Council, which includes all the Chief Ministers and Administrators of States and Union Territories respectively, has considered and taken a final view on all the recommendations through consensus.

(c) No, Sir.

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

(e) and (f) The Government has on the 30th September, 2005 notified the setting up of a Commission on Centre-State relations keeping in view the sea-changes that have taken place in the polity and economy of India since the Sarkaria Commission last looked at these issues over two decades ago. The Commission shall consist of a full time Chairperson and four full-time Members, who are yet to be appointed. It is not possible to indicate a time frame in which the Commission will be fully constituted.

Migration on Forged Documents

868. SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of persons are migrating to other countries on forged documents;

(b) if so, the number of cases reported during the each of the last three years till date in various States; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to plug the loopholes in the system to check such illegal migration?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) and (b) As per available information, the number of cases detected in respect of forgery in travel documents and deportees from abroad in respect of Indians in five major international airports for the last three years are as under:

Year	Forgery in Passport/ Visa detected in India	No. of Indian deportees from abroad
2002	1,344	4,808
2003	1,079	5,214
2004	1,072	5,423
2005 (till June)	852	3,148

(c) To plug the loopholes in the system and check illegal migration following steps have been taken:

- (i) issuance of machine readable passports, which is more secure.
- (ii) installation of Passport Reading Machines (PRMs) and Questionable Document Examiner (QDX) machines in major international airports.
- (iii) making available ultra violet lamps and magnifying glasses at Immigration Check Posts (ICPs).
- (iv) special training of Immigration Officers for detecting cases of impersonation.

Mid-day Meal Scheme

869. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to refer to the reply given to USQ No. 2117 dated 14.12.2004 on Mid-day meal scheme and state:

- (a) whether the information has since been collected;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (d) the time by which it is likely to be laid on the Table of the House?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.A.A. FATMI): (a) to (c) Information is still awaited from 4 States & 1 UT (Assam, Nagaland, Orissa, Uttar Pradesh & Lakshadweep). Besides, 6 other States (Bihar, Chhattisgarh, J&K, Maharashtra, Meghalaya & West Bengal) have furnished incomplete information.

(d) The defaulting States/UTs are being pursued to furnish the required information so that the assurance given in reply to Unstarred Question No. 2117 on 14.12.2004 is fulfilled at the earliest.

[Translation]

Development of National Highway No. 76

870. SHRI RAGHUVVEER SINGH KOSHAL:

SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL:

Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the progress report of the development work being done on the National Highway No. 76 under East-West corridor;

(b) the details of the design, construction process, tender estimated cost and the dates of commencement and completion in regard to the bridge to be constructed on River Chambal in Kota (Rajasthan) under this plan;

(c) whether all the issues have been resolved in respect of the construction of the above cited bridge;

(d) if so, the details of the issues resolved; and

(e) the names of the cities where the by-passes are proposed to be constructed on this Highway under the above said project alongwith the details of their length, construction costs and the present position of the work under the above cited plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) The details of development works of National Highway 76 under East-West corridor are given in the enclosed Statement-I.

(b) The bids on turnkey basis (Design) & Construction) are being invited. The completion period is likely to be 40 months from the date of commencement. The estimated cost is about Rs.300 crore.

(c) and (d) All efforts have been made to resolve the issues pertaining to construction of the bridge. A proposal for Forest Clearance was submitted to Ministry of Environment and Forests. In this regard, Members of National Board of Wildlife have visited site on 21.11.2005 for inspection of alignment passing through Chambal Sanctuary. The details are given in the enclosed Statement-II.

*Statement-I**Current Status of Civil Works under East-West Corridor on NH 76*

S. No.	NH. No.	Section	Chainage (from to)	Total Length (Km)	Civil Contract Amount (in Cr.)	Completion Target	Status
State: Madhya Pradesh							
1.	25 & 76	Shivpuri Bypass upto Madhya Pradesh (MP)/ Rajasthan (RJ) border	km 15.00 to 0 (NH 25) & km 609 to 579 (NH-76) (MP-1)	54	294.98	Feb. 2008	Work awarded. The contractor is mobilizing.
State: Rajasthan							
2.	76	(RJ)/(MP) Border to Kota	km 579 to 509 (RJ-11)	70	278.09	March, 2008	
3.	76	RJ/MP Border to Kota	km 509 to 449.15 (RJ-10)	60	347.36	April, 2008	
4.	76	RJ/MP Border to Kota	km 449.15 to 406 (Rj-9)	43	286.65	April, 2008	
5.	76	Kota to Chittorgarh	km 381 to 316 (RJ-8)	65	397.44	April, 2008	
6.	76	Kota to Chittorgarh	km 316 to 253 (RJ-7)	63	375.98	April, 2008	
7.	76	Kota to Chittorgarh & Chittorgarh Bypass	km 253 to 213 (RJ-6)	40	314.4	April, 2008	
8.	76	Kota Bypass	km 381 to 406 (RJ-4)	25	205.51	July, 2008	Letter of Acceptance (LOA) issued contract to be signed.
9.	76	Chambal River Bridge	(RJ-5)		300 Estimated cost	To be awarded Pre Qualification done, Bids on turnkey basis taken up.	
10.	76	Gogunda to Udaipur (RJ-3)	km 73.00 to 104.74	31.74	208.08	April, 2008	Work awarded. The contractor is mobilizing
11.	76	Bekaria to Gogunda (RJ-2)	km 29.00 to 73.00	44	411.6	April, 2008	
12.	76 & 14	Pindwara to Bekaria (RJ-1)	km 0.00 to 29.00 (NH-76) & km 264.00 to 249.70 (NH-14)	43.3	173.35	April, 2008	

Statement-II

S.No.	State	Name of city / Town to be bypassed on NH-76	Length (in Km)	Construction cost	Status
1.	Rajasthan	Pindwara	5.45	These bypasses are part of long construction packages and no separate cost has been worked out.	Work awarded and likely to be completed by April, 2008.
2.	Rajasthan	Jashwantgarh	3.5		
3.	Rajasthan	Udaipur	19.724		
4.	Rajasthan	Chittorgarh	17.3		
5.	Rajasthan	Kota	25	Rs. 205.51 crore	Work awarded and likely to be completed by July, 2008.
6.	Rajasthan	Anta	4.9	These bypasses are part of long construction packages and no separate cost has been worked out.	Work awarded and likely to be completed by April, 2008
7.	Rajasthan	Baran	15.5		
8.	Madhya Pradesh	Shivpuri	23.5		Work awarded and likely to be completed by February, 2008.

Admission in Kendriya Vidyalayas

871. SHRI BHANU PRATAP SINGH VERMA:

SHRI RASHEED MASOOD:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 1395 dated 02.08.2005 and state:

(a) whether the desired information has since been gathered;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons for delay; and

(d) the time by when the said information is likely to be gathered?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.A.A. FATMI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The last date of admission for cases under Special Dispensation was 16th August 2005 which was further extended to 30th September 2005. Details of admissions on the basis of recommendations are given below:-

1. Member of Parliament (Lok Sabha)	:	683
2. Member of Parliament (Rajya Sabha)	:	390
3. Minister of Human Resource Development	:	1814

4. Minister of State (Human Resource Development) : 149

5. Minister of State (Women & Child Development) : 82

6. Chairman of various Vidyalaya Management Committee (VMC) : 1848

7. Secretaries and other officers : Nil

4984

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

[English]

Relief/Rehabilitation of Refugees

872. SHRI NARAYAN CHANDRA BORKATAKY: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the definition of the term "refugee" adopted by the Government to address the issue of Relief to and rehabilitation of refugees from Tibet; and

(b) the number of refugees present in India from different countries, country-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT): (a) Tibetans who entered India upto 1959, in the aftermath of Chinese occupation of Tibet, and children born to them are entitled to rehabilitation benefits as temporary refugees in India.

(b) For the purpose of relief and rehabilitation, the country-wise number of refugees in India as on 31.12.2004 is given in the Table below:

Country	Refugees
Sri Lanka	69,226
Stateless	60,520

Pepper

873. SHRI DHANUSKODI R. ATHITHAN:

SHRI HARISHCHANDRA CHAVAN:

SHRI RAJNARAYAN BUDHOLIA:

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

(a) whether the Government propose to impose restriction on the import of pepper through Cochin Port;

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

(c) the export of pepper during each of the last three years and the current year category-wise and country-wise alongwith foreign exchange earned therefrom?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELAN-GOVAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Value of pepper exports made during the last three years and the current year (Category-wise and Country-wise) is given in the enclosed Statement-I and II respectively.

Statement-I

Export

Commodity: 090411 Pepper Neither Crushed Nor Ground

(Values in Rs. Lacs)

Country	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	Apr 05- June 05
1	2	3	4	5
USA	5,993.73	2,538.31	2,320.57	117.65
Germany	988.32	1,026.56	1,088.72	155.44
U K	492.87	532.53	649.83	34.82
Canada	1,476.62	604.43	620.68	31.40
Italy	1,138.94	698.14	555.29	2290.26

1	2	3	4	5
Japan	370.06	498.04	411.22	340.55
Belgium	305.53	190.84	398.02	88.19
Sweden	395.04	305	273.54	
France	284.06	178.19	229.77	138.48
Netherlands	914.3	307.75	205.56	22.34
Australia	362.34	397.02	200.81	165.49
Denmark	51.2	295.05	179.57	
Russia	292.22	191.05	174.58	386.41
U Arab EMTs	115.57	118.8	139.51	294.83
Spain	258.93	159.69	135.86	247.31
Switzerland	19.71	107.26	96.1	200.92
Malaysia	125.19	107.89	89.97	
Saudi Arab	61.14	88.54	84.32	90.71
Norway	96.04	56.52	84.03	23.20
New Zealand	45.88	35.86	82.8	29.27
Poland	283.26	123.49	82.75	
Nepal	226.79	223.2	59.17	
Others	683.68	713.92	578.81	706.93
Total	14,981.42	9,498.08	8,741.48	5364.20

Statement-II

Export

Commodity: 090412 Crushed or Ground Pepper

(Values in Rs. Lacs)

Country	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	Apr 05- June 05
1	2	3	4	5
USA	1,334.60	2,167.42	1,654.32	
UK	361.86	439.59	504.31	
Australia	103.86	76.4	211.86	
France	2.39	1.28	149.99	
Sweden	14.11	38.57	147.29	
Belgium	8.94	100.03	122.44	195.28
Canada	259.57	73.31	92.51	
Germany	20.8	3.58	74.97	224.77
Italy	74.61	45.04	70.62	31.44

1	2	3	4	5
Japan	16.44	25.5	54.86	82.96
Thailand	28.48	19.57	49.11	
Finland	2.3	8.33	36.44	
New Zealand	34.9	19.23	32.99	
Saudi Arab	48.1	51.13	31.24	5.99
Mexico	7.7	17.82	19.68	
Spain	18.13	21.51	19.11	
Russia	1.8	4.63	17.9	
Norway	17.67	55.17	14.55	8.51
Malaysia	0.7	6.91	13.48	
Philippines	2.8	0.02	13.15	
Others	115.58	93.30	60.74	154.90
Total	2,475.34	3,268.34	3,391.58	703.86

Mid-day Meal Scheme

874. SHRI PARSURAM MAJHI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Mid-day-Meal scheme has not been effectively implemented in the various parts/districts of the country particularly in KBK districts in Orissa;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken to revamp the working of the mid-day meal scheme in those districts particularly in Orissa?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.A.A. FATMI):

(a) to (c) As per available information, Cooked Mid-Day Meal Programme has been universalized by all States & UTs,

including KBK districts of Orissa, except Bihar & West Bengal. As Mid-Day Meal Scheme is being implemented through State Governments, they are being constantly urged to take appropriate action for effective implementation.

Assistance under Industrial Development

875. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the funds allocated by the Government for development of industries during the Tenth Plan, State-wise;

(b) the amount released and utilised by the States, so far State-wise, especially by the State of Maharashtra; and

(c) the target fixed and achievement made, so far, in respect of growth, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) Under the Industrial Infrastructure Upgradation Scheme (IIUS) and Growth Centre Scheme funds are released cluster/growth centre-wise. During the 10th Plan under the IIU Scheme, a provision of Rs. 675 crore has been made and out of this, Rs. 280 crore have been released so far. Under the Growth Centre Scheme, Rs. 151.35 crore have been released. Apart from above, a specific scheme for leather sector, namely Indian Leather Development Programme (ILDLP) with an allocation of Rs. 400 crore is under implementation. Under ILDP, no funds have been allocated to the States so far.

(b) The amount released and utilized is given in the Statement-I and II respectively.

(c) There is no fixed target for the scheme. The physical and financial progress of Growth Centre is given in the enclosed Statement-III.

Statement-I

Central Assistance released in Tenth Plan.

(Rs. in lakh)

Sl. No.	Name of the Growth Centre (Statewise)	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	Total	Status of Utilisation
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
I.	Andhra Pradesh					
1.	Hindupur			50		Utilized
2.	Jedchrela			195		Utilized
3.	Vizianagaram-Bobbilli			50		Utilized

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
4.	Ongole	110	100			Utilized
	Total	110	100	295	505	Utilized
II.	Arunachal Pradesh					
5.	Niklok Ngorlung	320	200			Utilized
	Total	320	200		520	Utilized
III.	Assam					
6.	Chariduar	450	66	200		Utilization awaited for Rs. 200.00 lakhs
7.	Matia	450				Utilized
8.	Chaygaon		500			Utilized
	Total	900	566	200	1666	
IV.	Bihar					
9.	Begusarai	200			200	
10.	Bhagalpur	-	-	-	-	
11.	Chhapra	-	-	-	-	
12.	Darbhanga	-	-	-	-	
13.	Muzaffarpur	-	-	-	-	
	Total	200			200	Utilization awaited for Rs. 200.00 lakhs
V.	Chhattisgarh					
14.	Borai	100	107			
15.	Siltara					
	Total	100	107		207	Utilized
VI.	Goa					
16.	Electronic City		176			
	Total		176		176	Utilization awaited for Rs. 176.00 lakhs
VII.	Gujarat					
17.	Gandhidham	200				
18.	Palanpur	100				
19.	Vagra					
	Total	300			300	Utilization awaited for Rs. 300.00 lakhs

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
VIII.	Haryana					
20.	Bawal					
21.	Saha	450				
	Total	450			450	Utilized
IX.	Himachal Pradesh					
22.	Kangra	153	500			
	Total	153	500		653	Utilized
X.	Jammu and Kashmir					
23.	Lassiproa	175	500			
24.	Samba	100	500			
	Total	275	1000		1275	Utilized
XI.	Jharkhand					
25.	Hazaribagh		200			
	Total		200		200	Utilization awaited for Rs. 200.00 lakhs
XII.	Karnataka					
26.	Dharwad					
27.	Raichur					
28.	Hassan					
	Total					
XIII.	Kerala					
29.	Alappuzha-Malappuram					
30.	Kannur-Kozhikode					
	Total					
XIV.	Madhya Pradesh					
31.	Chhainpura	150		300		
32.	Ghirongi					
33.	Kheda					
34.	Satlapur	100	365			Utilized
	Total	250	365	300	915	Utilization awaited for Rs. 125.00 lakhs

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
XV.	Maharashtra					
35.	Akola					
36.	Chandrapur					
37.	Dhule		200			
38.	Nanded		90			
39.	Ratnagiri					
	Total		290		290	Utilized
XVI.	Manipur					
40.	Lamial-Napet					
	Total					
XVII.	Meghalaya					
41.	Mendipathar		500			
	Total		500		500	Utilization awaited for Rs. 500.00 lakhs
XVIII.	Mizoram					
42.	Lunagmual	180	400			
	Total	180	400		580	Utilized
XIX.	Nagaland					
43.	Ganeshnagar					
	Total	-	-	-	-	Nil
XX.	Orissa					
44.	Chatrapur					
45.	Kalinganagar-Duburi	240	160			Utilized
46.	Jarasuguda		68	100		Utilized
47.	Kesinga			50		
	Total	240	228	150	618	Utilized
XXI.	Pondicherry					
48.	Polagam	250				
	Total	250			250	Utilized

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
XXII.	Punjab					
49.	Bhatinda					
50.	Pathankot					
	Total					
XXIII.	Rajasthan					
51.	Abu Road					
52.	Khara	170		200		
53.	Bhilwara			300		
54.	Dholpur	680				
55.	Jhalawar			300		
	Total	850		800	1650	Utilized
XXIV.	Sikkim					
56.	Samlik Marchak		500			
	Total		500		500	Utilized
XXV.	Tamil Nadu					
57.	Erode					
58.	Tirunelveli					
59.	Oragadam					
	Total					
XXVI.	Tripura					
60.	Bodhjung Nagar	500	430			
	Total	500	430		930	Utilization awaited for Rs. 500.00 lakhs
XXVII.	Uttaranchal					
61.	Siggadi		1000			
	Total		1000		1000	Utilization awaited for Rs. 500.00 lakhs
XXVIII.	Uttar Pradesh					
62.	Bijauli					
63.	Jamaur			100		Utilized

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
64.	Pakbara	50	150			Utilized
65.	Dibiapur			200		Utilized
66.	Jainpur			350		Utilized
67.	Satharia	200				
68.	Sahjanwa					
	Total	250	150	650	1050	Utilization awaited for Rs. 200.00 lakhs
XXIX.	West Bengal					
69.	Bolpur	100		200		
70.	Jaipaiguri	100		200		
71.	Malda	100				
	Total	300		400	700	Utilized
	Grand Total	5628	6712	2795	15135	

Statement-II*List of Cluster Proposals Approved & Sanctioned during 2003-04, 2004-05 & 2005-06*

Sl. No.	Name of Cluster	State	Project Cost	Central Grant	Amount Released
1	2	3	4	5	6
2003-04					
1.	Textile Cluster	Tirupur, Tamil Nadu	143.50	50.00	25.00
2.	Chemical Cluster	Vapi, Gujarat	54.31	40.49	12.50
2004-05					
3.	Auto Cluster	Vijayawada A.P.	31.08	23.50	7.80
4.	Metallurgical Cluster	Jajpur, Orissa	62.50	47.00	15.66
5.	Auto Ancillary Cluster	Chennai, Tamil Nadu	47.20	35.00	11.70
6.	Chemical Cluster	Ankleswar, Gujarat	152.83	50.00	33.40
7.	Auto Components Cluster	Pune, Maharashtra	59.99	44.99	15.00
8.	Cereals, Pulses & Staples Cluster	Madurai, Tamil Nadu	39.96	29.97	10.00
9.	Textile Cluster	Ludhiana, Punjab	17.19	12.69	4.21
10.	Marble Cluster	Kishangarh, Rajasthan	36.80	27.60	9.20

1	2	3 ^e	4	5	6
11.	Auto Cluster	Pitampura, MP	73.29	49.94	16.65
12.	Foundry Cluster	Belguam, Karnataka	24.78	18.54	6.19
13.	Machine Tools Cluster	Bangalore, Karnataka	135.55	49.12	16.37
14.	Coir Cluster	Kerala	56.80	42.60	14.20
15.	Textile Cluster	Panipat, Haryana	54.53	40.90	13.63
16.	Gem & Jewellery Cluster	Surat, Gujarat	85.80	50.00	16.70
17.	Pharma Cluster	Hyderabad	66.16	49.62	0.00
18.	Ispat Bhoomi Cluster	Raipur, Chhattisgarh	54.11	29.87	Nil
19.	Leather Cluster	Kanpur, Uttar Pradesh	27.34	9.747	1.95
20.	Foundry Park	Howrah, West Bengal	119.74	40.40	8.48
21.	Multi Industry Cluster	Howrah, West Bengal	67.25	36.97	7.39
22.	Rubber Cluster	Howrah, West Bengal	29.74	15.72	3.14
23.	Textile Cluster	Ichalkaranji, Maharashtra	65.07	32.70	6.54
24.	Chemical Cluster	Ahmedabad, Gujarat	69.86	41.39	8.30
25.	Leather Cluster	Ambur, Tamil Nadu	67.34	43.49	8.70
26.	Pump, Motor & Foundry Cluster	Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu	66.39	39.22	8.00

Statement-III

Physical Progress of Growth Centres as on 30.09.2004

(Rupees in lakh)

Sl. No.	Name of State, Growth Centre/District	Date of approval	Land acquired	Plots/sheds developed	Plots/sheds allotted	No. of units established	Capital invested by units	Employment generated	Remarks
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Andhra Pradesh (B)									
1.	Hindupur (Anantpur)	30.3.92	712.52 Acres	231/12	130/10	36	1570.08	938	
2.	Jedchrela (Mehboobnagar)	23.7.92	308.46 Acres	-	-	-	-	-	
3.	Bobbili (Vizianagaram)	30.3.92	1239.33 Acres	388/-	18/-	2	333.20	271	
4.	Ongole (Prakasam)	30.3.92	1320.00 Acres	220/-	5/-	1	-	-	

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Arunachal Pradesh (A)									
5.	Niklok-Ngorlung (East Siang)	08.04.97	582.15 Acres	-	-	-	-	-	-
Assam (A)									
6.	Matia (Goalpara)	31.10.97	1672 Bighas	-	-	-	-	-	-
7.	Chariduar (Sonitpur)	08.04.97	1500 Bighas	-	-	-	-	-	-
8.	Chaygaon-Patgaon (Kamrup)	09.12.03	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Bihar (B)									
9.	Begusarai (Begusarai)	03.05.95	392.141 Acres	-	-	-	-	-	-
10.	Bhagalpur (Bhagalpur)	30.9.96	424.25 Acres	-	-	-	-	-	-
11.	Chhapra (Chhapra)	30.9.96	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
12.	Darbhanga (Darbhanga)	13.2.98	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
13.	Muzaffarpur (Muzaffarpur)	30.09.96	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Chhattisgarh (A)									
14.	Borai (Durg)	27.03.91	436.84 Hec.	192.43 Ha	102.709 Ha	37	12937	1399	
15.	Siltara (Raipur)	11.03.92	1259.286 Hec	911.27 Ha	664.627 Ha	21	63766	1779	
Goa (A)									
16.	Electronic-City (Verna-Plateau)	12.02.93	2917182	398/-	319/-	82	31163.67	7723	
Gujarat (A)									
17.	Gandhidham (Kutch)	23.07.92	131 Hec.	387/-	-	-	-	-	-
18.	Palanpur (Banaskantha)	23.07.92	75 Hec.	136/-	-	-	-	-	-
19.	Vagra (Bharauch)	23.07.92	200 Hec.	300/-	-	-	-	-	-
Haryana (A)									
20.	Bawal (Rewari)	31.03.92	1212 Acres	556/-	212/-	23	100000.00	925	
21.	Saha (Ambala)	31.10.97	301 Acres 5 kanal	916/-	114/-	-	-	-	-
Himachal Pradesh (A)									
22.	Kangra (Kangra)	20.02.97	196-69-62 Hec.	320/30	139/29	51	1499.00	574	

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Jammu & Kashmir									
23.	Lassipora (Pulwama)	11.12.97	5167 Kanals 02 marlas	12/-	6/-	--	--	--	
24.	Samba (Jammu)	27.01.92	1742 Kanals	241/-	33/-	--	--	--	
Jharkhand (C)									
25.	Hazaribagh (Hazaribagh)	03.05.95	525.34 Acres	--	--	-	-	-	-
Karnataka (A)									
26.	Dharwad (Dharwad)	27.01.92	2205 Acres	2205 Acres	1333 Acres	88	72400	573	
27.	Raichur (Raichur)	27.01.92	1000 Acres	430 Acres	3	-	-	-	
28.	Hassan (Hassan)	27.01.92	1825 Acres	1825 Acres	514 Acres	75	435300	2023	
Kerala (A)									
29.	Kannur-Kozhikode (Kannur-Kozhikode)	28.02-94	572 Acres	88/-	37/-	3	2057	266	
30.	Alappuzha-Malappuram (Alappuzha-Malappuram)	28.02.94	523 Acres	55 Acres 7 Acres	7 Acres	--	600	100	
Madhya Pradesh (A)									
31.	Chainpura (Guna)	27.03.91	334.81 Hec.	400 Hec.	180 Hec.	-	-	-	
32.	Ghirongi (Bhind)	27.03.91	716 Hec.	441.032 Hec.	143.987 Hec.	42	121778.25	7296	
33.	Kheda (Dhar)	27.03.91	240.770 ec.	98/-	11/-	6	66252.64	1755	
34.	Satlapur (Raisen)	23.3.93	321.190 Hec.	-	-	-	-	-	
Maharashtra (B)									
35.	Akola (Akola)	30.3.92	625.05 Hec.	261+279	216+279 495/-	56	8882	712	
36.	Chandrapur (Chandrapur)	30.3.92	723.49 Hec.	31/-	11/-	-	-	-	
37.	Dhule (Dhule)	30.03.92	707 Hec.	60	3	-	-	-	
38.	Nanded (Nanded)	11.12.97	645.81 Hec.	197/-	26	1	42710	52	

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
39.	Ratnagiri (Ratnagiri) Manipur (C)	30.03.92	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
40.	Lamlai-Napet (Imphal) Meghalaya (C)	02.03.98	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
41.	Mendhipattar (East Garo Hills) Mizoram (C)	24.10.97	36 Ha	-	-	-	-	-	-
42.	Luangmual (Aizwal) Nagaland (C)	24.10.97	311 Acres	30/6	-	-	-	-	-
43.	Ganeshnagar (Kohima) Orissa (C)	12.02.98	1000 Acres	23/-	-	-	-	-	-
44.	Chhattarpur (Ganjam)	12.02.97	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
45.	Kalinganagar-Duburi (Cuttack)	12.02.97	1500 Acres	150 Acres	150 Acres	-	-	-	-
46.	Jharsuguda (Jharsuguda)	12.02.98	122 Acres	71.30 Acres	71.30 Acres	-	-	-	-
47.	Kesinga (Kalahandi) Pondicherry (C)	09.02.99	126.72 Acres	4/-	4/-	1	-	-	-
48.	Polagam-Karaikal (Karaikal) Punjab (A)	31.10.97	592 Acres	74/-	12/-	-	-	-	-
49.	Bathinda (Bathinda)	27.03.91	389.79 Acres	401/17	198/-	17	-	-	-
50.	Pathankot (Gurdaspur) Rajasthan (A)	06.01.92	409.86 Acres	432/205	187/-	0	--	--	-
51.	Abu-Road (Sirohi)	31.03.92	914 Acres	297/-	53/-	27	1000.00	300	-
52.	Bhilwara (Bhilwara)	18.12.97	1159 Bighas	4/-	4/-	-	-	-	-
53.	Khara (Bikaner)	31.03.92	1162 Bighas 21 Biswa	461/-	260/-	75	948	680	-

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
54.	Dholpur (Dholpur)	23.03.93	332.22 Acres	211	104/-	53	1500.00	240	
55.	Jhalawar (Jhalawar)	23.07.92	438 Acres	238	118/-	78	900.00	450	
	Sikkim								
56.	Salghari-Samluk Marchak	7.11.03	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Tamil Nadu (A)								
57.	Erode (Periyar)	23.07.92	2440.19 Acres	72/23	72/-	22	5286.86	1048	
58.	Oragadam (Kancheepuram)	12.05.99	1540.79 Acres	-	-	-	-	-	
59.	Tirunelveli-Gangai Kondan (Tirunelveli-Kattabomman)	30.03.92	2032.00 Acres	2/-	2/-	-	-	-	
	Tripura (A)								
60.	Bodhjannagar (West Tripura)	07.11.92	242 Acres	41/8	8/1	1	-	-	
	Uttaranchal								
61.	Siggadi (Pauri-Garhwal)	16.12.03	-	-	-	-	-	-	
	Uttar Pradesh (A)								
62.	Bijjauli (Jhansi)	23.03.93	385.04 Acres	441/-	357/-	-	-	-	
63.	Jamaur (Shahjahanpur)	17.02.93	302 Acres	47/4	41/-	4	4500.00	560	
64.	Pakbara (Moradabad)	17.02.93	419.34 Acres	158/1	45/-	2	-	-	
65.	Dibiapur (Auraiya)	03.03.98	331.58	-	-	-	-	-	
66.	Jainpur (Kanpur-Dehat)	23.03.93	316.43 Acres	399/-	350/-	-	-	-	
67.	Satharia (Jaunpur)	17.02.93	508.45 Acres	465/-	337/-	86	3954.50	1402	
68.	Sahjanwa (Gorakhpur)	16.02.93	525.27 Acres	1298/30	999/25	89	5065.55	1941	
	West Bengal (B)								
69.	Bolpur (Birbhum)	20.02.97	50 Acres	-	-	-	-	-	

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
70.	Jalpaiguri (Jalpaiguri)	20.02.97	105 Acres	-	-	-	-	-	
71.	Malda (Malda)	20.02.97	164 Acres	140 Acres	125 Acres	4	4116.25	52	
Total						983	988520.00	33059	

(A) Represents category 'A' States where percentage of functioning/total Growth Centre is 66% and above.

(B) Represents category 'B' States where percentage of functioning/total Growth Centre is between 33% to 65%.

(C) Represents category 'C' States where percentage of functioning/total Growth Centre is below 33%.

Source: Quarterly progress reports furnished by the State Government.

[Translation]

Export of Fruits/Vegetables

876. SHRI BIR SINGH MAHATO: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to give duty exemption for export of fruits, vegetables and flowers under Vishesh Krishi Upaj Yojana;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the income generated through export from these products during the last three years, year-wise;

(c) the details of fruits and vegetables exported from West Bengal during the last three years;

(d) whether West Bengal occupies first place among the fruit and vegetable producing States;

(e) whether export percentage is not satisfactory when compared with the estimated production; and

(f) the steps taken by the Government to step up the export by formulating a special scheme therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) and (b) In the Foreign Trade Policy 2004-09 Government has launched Vishesh Krishi Upaj Yojana with an objective to promote, among others, export of fruits, vegetables, flowers and their value added products. Exporters of such products are entitled for duty credit scrip at 5% of FOB value of exports for each licensing year commencing from 1st April 2004. As per Export Import Data Bank maintained by the Department of Commerce, the total value of exports of fresh fruits and vegetables for the period 2002-03, 2003-04 & 2004-05 was to the tune of Rs.1,090/- Crores, Rs.1,737/- Crores and Rs.1,625/- Crores respectively. Similarly, the export of floriculture products for these periods was to the tune of Rs.180 Crores, Rs.250 Crores and Rs.205 Crores respectively.

(c) to (e) State wise figures of exports and production of fruits and vegetables are not maintained by Government of India.

(f) As stated in part (a) above, Vishesh Krishi Upaj Yojana has already been put in place for promotion of exports of these products.

Starvation and Malnutrition in Tribal Areas

877. SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to review the schemes running for tribals welfare in tribal areas keeping in view of increasing case of malnutrition and starvation in those areas; and

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the steps being taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to control the situation of malnutrition and starvation?

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION (SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH): (a) and (b) The Union Government has been implementing schemes to enhance availability of food grains in the targeted areas of the country, including tribal areas. The Department of Food and Public Distribution has been inter-alia implementing the scheme of Antyodaya Anna Yojana under which 2 crores Below Poverty Line (BPL) Families are being covered, which are provided 35 Kg. food grains per family per month at a highly subsidized rates of Rs.2.00 per Kg. for wheat and Rs.3.00 per Kg for rice. To ensure food security and strengthen Targeted Public Distribution System (PTDS), it has been recommended in a conference of State Food Ministers held in 2004, to involve women and ex-servicemen's cooperatives for the management of PDS as well as for micro-level planning. Like-wise, the Deptt. of Women and Child Development has also been implementing Integrated Child Development Services Scheme (ICDS) which aims at holistic development of children below 6 years and pregnant and lactating mothers.

Under the scheme, integrated services, comprising supplementary nutrition, immunization, health check up, referral services, pre-school education and nutrition and health education, are provided to all the beneficiaries including Scheduled Tribes.

[English]

Four-Laning of NH-117

878. SHRI SAMIK LAHIRI: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has decided to take up the project of converting NH-117 to four lanes;
- (b) if so, the time by which the work is likely to be started;
- (c) if not, whether the project is likely to be considered in the coming financial year; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) to (d) About 10 km length of National Highway 117 starting from National Highway No.6, as part of connectivity of Kolkata Port to National Highway Development Project, which is already four lane, is proposed to be improved to National Highway Standards. National Highways Authority of India has been asked to carry out feasibility studies for this work. It is too early to indicate date of start/completion of the work.

Industrial Production

879. SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there has been shortfall in the Industrial production during 2003-2004 and 2004-2005; and
- (b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise, sector-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELAN-GOVAN): (a) Industrial Production in the country is measured in terms of Index of Industrial Production with base 1993-94. There has been no shortfall in Industrial Production

during 2003-04 and 2004-05. The Index of Industrial Production has registered a growth rate of 7.0 per cent in 2003-04 and 8.4 per cent in 2004-05.

- (b) Does not arise.

Pension to Widows of Freedom Fighters

880. SHRI JASHUBHAI DHANABHAI BARAD: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Union Government is aware that the pension is not being given to widows of freedom fighters in the Country;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (c) the number of proposals received from the various State Governments, especially from Gujarat Government, for giving pension to the widows of freedom fighters, State-wise;
- (d) the number of proposals cleared till now;
- (e) the time by which all the requests are likely to be cleared; and
- (f) the total number of widows getting freedom pension in the country presently; State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT): (a) No, Sir.

- (b) Does not arise.
- (c) The procedure for transfer of family pension in the name of eligible dependents (widow/widower, unmarried & unemployed daughters and mother/father) of deceased freedom fighter pensioners has been decentralized with effect from 01.05.1992. The Pension Disbursing Officers (Bank Managers, District Treasury Officers, Pay & Accounts Officers) have been authorized to transfer family pension in their name at their level. Persons who still apply to the Central Government for transfer of family pension are advised to approach the Pension Disbursing Officers.
- (d) Does not arise.
- (e) Does not arise.
- (f) No such statistics are being maintained.

Decline in Female Sex Ratio

881. SHRIMATI JAYABEN B. THAKKAR: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the decline in female sex-ratio brought out by census 2001 in certain parts of the country has been a matter of concern for the Union Government to combat the evil effect of female foeticide;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has launched a nation-wide campaign known as Manvi Sanrakshan Abhiyan through the Central Social Welfare Board and its branches all over the country; and

(d) the result achieved by the Government under this campaign?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Government is implementing Pre-Conception and Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques Act 1994. All clinics having pre-natal diagnostic facilities are registered under the Act and determination and communication of the sex of the foetus is banned under the Act. 27,399 clinics are registered under the Act and 330 court cases have been filed for various violations of the Act.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Efforts are being made to create awareness against female foeticide amongst the masses. Rupees 31.45 lakhs have been sanctioned under this campaign in 2003-04.

[Translation]

Declaration of Highways as National Highways in Orissa

882. SHRIMATI SANGEETA KUMARI SINGH DEO: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Highways in Orissa which have been declared as National Highways under the Ninth and Tenth Five Year Plans and total length of National Highways till date; and

(b) the funds allocated for the upgradation and maintenance of the highways of West Bengal under the Ninth and Tenth Five Year Plans?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) In the State of Orissa, six roads have been declared as National Highways during the Ninth Plan and four roads have been declared as National Highways

during Tenth Plan. The total length of National Highways till date in Orissa is 3603.33 km.

(b) Fund allocated for the upgradation and maintenance of the National Highways in West Bengal during Ninth and Tenth Plan are Rs.697.60 crore and Rs.372.69 crore (till March 2006) respectively.

[English]

Poor Quality of Highways

883. SHRI VIRCHANDRA PASWAN: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether due to inadequate capacity and poor quality of highways the country loses about Rs.10,000 crore a year;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the average mileage of trucks is 250-300 kilometers per day in India whereas it is 600-800 kilometers per day globally;

(d) if so, whether 50% of our national highways are in poor condition and 30% highways are single-lane; and

(e) if so, the steps taken by the Government to construct national highways of international standards?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) and (b) There are economic losses due to inadequate capacity and poor quality of the highways. However, it is difficult to quantify such losses accurately.

(c) Road freight operations are almost entirely in the hands of the private sector and the vehicle fleet in India comprises different categories of vehicles having different mileage levels. Though no authentic details of mileage of trucks in the country are available, it is known that the distance covered by road freight carriers are lower than developed countries due to constraints of capacity and quality of roads.

(d) The National Highways are being kept in traffic worthy condition within the available resources. The total length of National Highways in the country at present is 65,569 km. Out of this, about 18% of the road lengths are of single-lane width.

(e) Several measures/programmes like National Highways Development Project (NHDP), which includes 4/6-laning of existing National Highways have been taken up for improvement/development of the National Highways.

Employment under PMRY

884. SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO: Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Governments have been asked to observe the central guidelines in providing employment under the Prime Minister Rozgar Yojana;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there is a wide gap between the amount of loan sanctioned and actually disbursed; and

(d) if so, the details thereof along with the steps taken by the Government to implement the Pradhan Mantri Rozgar Yojana effectively?

THE MINISTER OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND MINISTER OF AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRI MAHAVIR PRASAD): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) For implementation of the Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana (PMRY), the State Governments have been asked to adhere to the guidelines issued by the Central Government which, inter alia, relate to eligibility criteria of applicants, financial terms and conditions, operational details, etc.

(c) There is some gap between the amount of loan sanctioned and actually disbursed by banks under PMRY.

(d) The number of cases of loans sanctioned and disbursed by the banks during 2002-03, 2003-04 and 2004-05 under PMRY are given in the enclosed Statement. The steps taken to reduce the gap include instructions to the implementing agencies/banks to dispose of applications received within specified time limits, instructions to bank branches to endorse one copy of letter conveying sanction of loan to the applicants also to the District Industries Centre (DIC) concerned for assisting the applicants in completing pre-disbursement formalities, requesting the State Governments to give preference to PMRY beneficiaries in allotment of work place, electricity, water connection, specifying cut-off date for completion of disbursement of loans, periodical review of the progress of sanction and disbursement of loans, etc.

Statement

Details of sanction and disbursement of loan under PMRY

Self-employment units

Year	Target (No.)	Sanctioned loan (No.)	Disbursed loan (No.)
2002-2003	220000	228031	190521
2003-2004	220000	262680	217743
2004-2005*	250000	296606	237046

* Provisional figures communicated by the Reserve Bank of India. Final figures are generally higher.

Increase in Grant

885. MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any difference of opinion between the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways and Ministry of Finance regarding the increase in Government grant from 40 to 60 per cent in order to attract companies to undertake construction of unviable road projects as reported in The Indian Express dated September 05, 2005;

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

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) to (c) The matter is under consideration of the Government and it is too early to give the details.

Drug Education in School Syllabi

886. SHRI K.C. SINGH "BABA": Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to introduce compulsory drug education in the schools syllabi;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which drug education likely to be introduced in schools syllabi?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.A.A. FATMI): (a) to (c) The subject drugs and drug related abuses are

included in the NCERT Science textbooks, wherever relevant, from upper primary to secondary stage.

World Bank Assistance for Development of Highways Projects

887. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the World Bank is funding the development of more Road and Highways projects in Orissa;
- (b) if so, the details of projects identified therefor;
- (c) whether the 142 km. State road from Bhadrak to Jashipur via Anandapur and Karanjia has been included in the World Bank funded road development Project; and
- (d) if so, the amount of World Bank aid is likely to be made available for that project ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) and (b) The Ministry is primarily responsible for development and maintenance of National Highways. There is no ongoing/contemplated National Highways project being/to be funded by World Bank in Orissa. Development and maintenance of State Roads comes under the purview of the State Government.

(c) and (d) This is a State Road and State Government has not approached this Ministry for obtaining any assistance from the World Bank.

Sea Food Industry

888. SHRI SURESH KURUP: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether any committee has been constituted to study the problem of Sea Food Export Industry;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the committee has given its recommendations; and
- (d) if so, the level of implementation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELAN-GOVAN): (a) and (b) A committee has been constituted to deliberate upon the rehabilitation package for the sea food export industry.

- (c) No, sir.
- (d) Does not arise.

Security on Metro Stations

889. SHRI SURESH ANGADI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether security at the metro Stations in New Delhi is inadequate; and
- (b) if so, the security measures taken to strengthen the security at Metro Stations in Delhi in view of the recent bomb blasts in Delhi?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) and (b) Delhi Police has deployed 290 personnel for the security of Delhi Metro Rail. Besides, 3 coys. of CISF has also been deployed. The steps taken by Delhi Police to strengthen security of Metro Rail include checking/frisking; use of metal detectors; use of sniffer dogs; checking of vehicles entering the parking area; deployment of staff inside the trains; educating passengers on left over articles, etc.

National Slum Policy

890. SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Will the MINISTER OF URBAN EMPLOYMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has formulated a National Slum Policy;
- (b) if so, the salient features thereof; and
- (c) the time by which it is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF URBAN EMPLOYMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION (KUMARI SELJA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Housing for Poor People

891. SHRI NARENDRA KUMAR KUSHAWAHA:

PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR:

SHRI SHISHUPAL N. PATLE:

SHRI MUNSHI RAM:

SHRI ASHOK KUMAR RAWAT:

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

(a) whether the Government proposes to provide houses constructed from the cheaper materials to the poor people living below poverty line as reported in the Rashtriya Sahara dated September 23, 2005;

(b) if so, the fact thereof;

(c) whether the Government proposes to introduce a single window system with a view to simplify the procedure for construction of buildings;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the State Governments are also directed to follow the new policy;

(f) if so, the details thereof;

(g) the likely participation of the private sector;

(h) whether the earlier housing policy has been fully implemented;

(i) if not, the percentage of work completed so far and the State-wise percentage of people still living below poverty line;

(j) whether it is proposed to construct houses from the material based on Biomass; and

(k) if so, the time by which this technology is likely to be put into use and benefit the people?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF URBAN EMPLOYMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION (KUMARI SELJA): (a) and (b) The Government has initiated action to revise the Housing and Habitat policy, 1998. A draft of the National Urban Housing & Habitat Policy, 2005 has been prepared. In the draft Policy, it has been suggested to promote building materials and components based on agricultural and industrial wastes and other material so as to ensure affordable shelter to the poor.

(c) and (d) In the draft policy it has also been suggested that procedures for sanctioning building plans should be simplified to eliminate delays. In this context, a single window approach has been suggested in the draft.

(e) and (f) The draft of the proposed Urban Housing & Habitat Policy has been circulated to all the State Governments for their suggestions. Since it is a State subject, the State Governments may take necessary action keeping the local conditions in view.

(g) In the draft policy, role of private sector has also been suggested.

(h) and (i) The Housing & Habitat Policy, 1998 has been discussed in Housing Ministers' Conference and it was suggested to review and revise the same so as to promote sustainable development of habitat in the country and to ensure shelter and services at affordable prices. The State-wise percentage of people living below poverty line is given in the enclosed Statement.

(j) and (k) In the draft of the National Urban Housing & Urban Policy, it has been suggested that bio-mass based housing would be encouraged to increase the life and quality of the shelter.

Statement

State-wise Percentage of People Living Below Poverty Line in Urban Area.

Sl.No.	State/UT	% of persons
1	2	3
1	Andhra Pradesh	26.63
2	Arunachal Pradesh	7.47
3	Assam	7.47
4	Bihar	32.91
5	Goa	7.52
6	Gujarat	15.59
7	Haryana	9.99
8	Himachal Pradesh	4.63
9	Jammu & Kashmir	1.98
10	Karnataka	25.25
11	Kerala	20.27
12	Madhya Pradesh	38.44
13	Maharashtra	26.81
14	Manipur	7.47
15	Meghalaya	7.47
16	Mizoram	7.47
17	Nagaland	7.47
18	Orissa	42.83
19	Punjab	5.75

1	2	3
20	Rajasthan	19.85
21	Sikkim	7.47
22	Tamil Nadu	22.11
23	Tripura	7.47
24	Uttar Pradesh	30.89
25	West Bengal	14.86
26	A & N Islands	22.11
27	Chandigarh	5.75
28	D & N Haveli	13.52
29	Daman & Diu	7.52
30	Delhi	9.42
31	Lakshadweep	20.27
32	Pondicherry	22.11
	All India	23.62

[English]

Revival of Ashok Paper Mills

892. SHRI SARBANANDA SONOWAL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has worked out any plan to revive the Ashok Paper Mills at Assam as per Assam Accord, 1985;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELAN-GOVAN): (a) to (c) A financial Package was announced by the Government of India for rendering assistance to the Government of Assam in their efforts to revive the Ashok Paper Mill (Assam), in pursuance of the Assam Accord signed in the year 1985. The Package envisaged an outright grant of Rs. 67.08 crore for the purpose. The Government of India has so far released Rs.62.08 crore.

The Jogighopa Unit of Ashok Paper Mill (Assam) Limited was handed over to M/s. North East Paper & Industries Limited (NEPIL) on a long term Lease of 25 years w.e.f. 3.8.2000. Subsequently a lease agreement was Registered on 10.01.2001 for its revival, management and operation. As M/s. North East Paper & Industries Limited failed to achieve the targeted revival works for starting the mill, as per lease agreement, the Government of Assam contemplated taking action against the lessee including termination of the Lease Agreement. The matter is presently subjudice. Meanwhile, the State Government of Assam has been advised to prepare a full-scale detailed report for revival of Ashok Paper Mill.

Eradication of Manual Scavenging

893. SHRI GANESH PRASAD SINGH:

SHRI ALOK KUMAR MEHTA:

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

(a) whether the Government has made a policy decision to eradicate the manual scavenging in the country;

(b) if so, the amount earmarked in, the current financial year for this purpose;

(c) whether the Government has taken up with various Ministries/Departments of the Government for implementation of this policy decision; and

(d) if so, the details of such Ministries which have yet to implement the policy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF URBAN EMPLOYMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION (KUMARI SELJA): (a) Yes, Sir. Government has formulated the National Action Plan for Total Eradication of Manual Scavenging by 2007.

(b) In the Budget Estimate (BE) for the financial year 2005-06, an amount of Rs.30 crore has been allocated for the Integrated Low Cost Sanitation Scheme for Liberation of Scavengers, a component of the National Action Plan. The scheme envisages conversion of dry latrine into twin pit water borne flush latrines enabling liberation of manual scavengers.

(c) and (d) A central Monitoring committee under the chairmanship of Secretary, Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment has been constituted to monitor the implementation of the National Action Plan.

*[Translation]***Targets under SJSRY**

894. DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA:

SHRI JOACHIM BAXLA:

SHRI RANEN BARMAN:

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

(a) whether the Government has been able to achieve the envisaged objectives of Swarna Jayanti Shahari Rozgar Yojana (SJSRY);

(b) if so, the details with regard to the persons employed gainfully in the various sectors against target fixed during each of the last three years, State-wise;

(c) whether the Government has fixed any criteria with regard to extending the benefit under SJSRY in proportion to the population of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in the respective areas; and

(d) if so, the details of the total number of beneficiaries under each category alongwith the amount of funds, including bank loans provided?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF

URBAN EMPLOYMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION (KUMARI SELJA): (a) and (b) The Scheme of Swarna Jayanti Shahari Rozgar Yojana (SJSRY), being implemented in the country since 1.12.1997, has been successful in making a dent in the urban poverty scenario in the country. Under SJSRY, in the Tenth Plan period since 2002-03, all India annual targets of assisting 80,000 urban poor for setting up of micro-enterprises for self employment and skill training to 1,00,000 urban poor have been fixed. State/UT Governments were advised to set up their own targets accordingly so that the all India targets are achieved. The State-wise details of the beneficiaries assisted for setting UP of micro-enterprises and the urban poor provided skill training, during the last 3 years i.e. 2002-03, 2003-04 and 2004-05 are given in the enclosed Statement.

(c) and (d) As per the guidelines of SJSRY, under the Urban Self Employment Programme (USEP) component, the Scheduled Castes (SC) and Scheduled Tribes (ST) must be benefited at least to the extent of the proportion of their strength in local population. Since inception of the Scheme, cumulatively, total number of beneficiaries under SC/ST category, the amount of subsidy provided to them as well as loan disbursed by the Banks under USEP (subsidy) component of SJSRY, (as reported up to 30.9.2005 by the State/UTs through Quarterly Progress Reports), are as under:

Category	No. of beneficiaries assisted to set up Micro enterprises	Total amount of Subsidy (Central+State) released to beneficiaries	Total amount of loan disbursed by Banks
		(Rs.in Lakhs)	(Rs. in Lakhs)
Scheduled Caste	115885	4663.62	22567.89
Scheduled Tribes	28576	1374.25	5790.64
Total	144461	6037.87	28358.53

Statement

State-wise details of number of persons assisted to set up micro enterprises and number of persons trained under SJSRY during the last three years (Data as on 30.9.2005)

Sl.No.	States/UTs	2002-03		2003-04		2004-05	
		No. of beneficiaries assisted to set up Micro Enterprises	No. of persons provided skill training	No. of beneficiaries assisted to set up Micro Enterprises	No. of persons provided skill training	No. of beneficiaries assisted to set up Micro Enterprises	No. of persons provided skill training
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Andhra Pradesh	16996	8611	33719	5635	29413	4376
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	374	62	39	149	40	0
3.	Assam	84	633	3067	548	1150	4638

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
4.	Bihar	0	0	0	0	0	0
5.	Chhattisgarh	5515	2634	36	0	3235	4559
6.	Goa	35	0	0	0	189	345
7.	Gujarat	7584	6679	2014	4547	5952	7606
8.	Haryana	1780	1827	2965	3231	2379	4171
9.	Himachal Pradesh	221	168	175	625	382	1201
10.	Jammu & Kashmir	3105	3936	681	838	1265	1748
11.	Jharkhand	0	0	0	0	0	0
12.	Karnataka	5898	2658	8386	19200	4685	2709
13.	Kerala	3784	1789	2198	5112	2968	4736
14.	Madhya Pradesh	17387	6249	4799	8575	6404	7524
15.	Maharashtra	13908	31737	13605	39357	23314	40866
16.	Manipur	0	0	0	0	0	2506
17.	Meghalaya	1297	406	0	939	0	0
18.	Mizoram	0	0	0	0	0	379
19.	Nagaland	1472	510	1132	100	0	0
20.	Orissa	2828	2602	8225	3439	1114	2911
21.	Punjab	970	1605	724	1302	726	2613
22.	Rajasthan	7579	1408	4008	1696	4083	1957
23.	Sikkim	109	210	47	0	90	273
24.	Tamil Nadu	15628	1742	3920	3033	2356	5016
25.	Tripura	549	485	347	765	598	4783
26.	Uttaranchal	829	202	0	0	153	763
27.	Uttar Pradesh	11852	3993	6868	14452	8239	39538
28.	West Bengal	7000	18606	2760	5880	4182	13649
29.	A&N Islands	2	0	1	0	3	0
30.	Chandigarh	53	205	45	242	68	1083
31.	D&N Haveli	20	86	0	0	10	98
32.	Daman & Diu	0	0	0	0	0	0

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
33.	Delhi	324	325	72	155	267	200
34.	Pondicherry	652	43	1070	1774	107	0
Total		127680	99411	100903	121594	103372	160248

Educational Centres in Tribal Areas

895. SHRI MAHAVIR BHAGORA: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to set up educational centres in the tribal areas where the literacy rate is low;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any time period has been fixed for setting up such educational centres; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION (SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH): (a) and (b) The Ministry has a scheme of 'Educational Complex in low literacy pockets for development of women literacy in tribal areas', under which funds are released to Non Governmental Organization (NGO) for establishment and maintenance of educational complexes for improvement of female literacy rate in identified tribal districts having less than 10% female literacy rate among tribal women as per 1991 Census and for the girls belonging to Primitive Tribal Groups.

(c) and (d) The Ministry releases grants-in-aid to NGOs for aforesaid projects, on receipt of the recommendations of the 'State Committee for Supporting Voluntary Efforts' through the State Government on year to year basis.

[English]

Dairy Products

896. SHRI JIVABHAI A. PATEL:

SHRI HARIKEWAL PRASAD:

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

(a) whether export of dairy products has increased during the last three years despite India facing shortage in meeting the indigenous demand of milk/dairy products;

(b) if so, the year-wise export of the dairy products during the said period; and

(c) the steps being taken by the Government to restrict the export of dairy products to meet the indigenous demand?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Export of dairy products has increased during the last three years as per details given below.

Year	Value in Rs. Lakhs
2002-03	17644.76
2003-04	16155.54
2004-05	41354.51

Source: DGC&S

However, no reports of shortage in meeting the indigenous demand of milk/dairy products have come to the knowledge of Government of India. As per extant Exim policy, all dairy products are freely exportable.

Brain-Drain

897. SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the country is losing its talents produced by Government managed IITs and Medical Colleges to the Western countries;

(b) if so, whether the Government has any plan to impose restrictions on the students getting their education from such institutions;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government has assessed the loss suffered by the nation when an Indian talent goes abroad to work; and

(e) if so, the details of action being taken/proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.A.A. FATMI): (a) to (e) It is a fact that students from IITs and Medical

Colleges do go abroad for higher studies/employment. However, record of students leaving the country is not maintained by the Ministry. In the present scenario of globalization and liberalization, the movement of technical personnel across the national boundaries is not only inevitable but in many cases could give positive benefits to the country. It is considered neither feasible nor desirable to put in place a regulatory framework to prevent the movement abroad of qualified engineers and technocrats.

Several measures have been taken from time to time by the Government to minimize the outflow of professionals from various fields and also to attract Scientists and technologists settled abroad to return to India. Some of these measures are:

- (i) Setting up of more centres of excellence/ advanced studies in the universities and academic institutions.
- (ii) Science and Technology based training for entrepreneurial development.
- (iii) Invitation to distinguished men and women of Indian origin settled abroad for short term technical assignments to assist in frontier and emerging areas of Science and Technology.
- (iv) Increasing the number and amount of fellowships for M. Tech programme as a result of which, more students have started joining the M. Tech. programme.
- (v) Early Faculty Induction Programme which aims at attracting bright and young Under-graduate students in Engineering and Technology/Pharmacy/Architecture etc. to take teaching as their career.
- (vi) Appointment of NRIs and persons of Indian Origin in the permanent faculty positions in the IITs.
- (vii) IITs have also established Innovation and Incubation Centres which encourage students to start their own enterprises after graduation.
- (viii) Encouraging graduate students to continue work on sponsored research projects which have been funded by various agencies.
- (ix) Conduct of counseling sessions for career options of students and taking necessary steps for recruitment of students in Indian industries and organizations registered in India.

**Setting up of Institute of Science
Education and Research**

898. DR. M. JAGANNATH;

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN:

PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR:

SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY:

SHRI SHISHUPAL N. PATLE:

SHRI NARENDRA KUMAR KUSHAWAHA:

MOHD. SHAHID:

PROF. M. RAMADASS:

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

- (a) the number of Indian Institute of Science Education and Research in the country;
- (b) the salient features of these institutes;
- (c) whether the Government propose to set up more Indian Institutes of Science Education and Research to boost research in basic sciences;
- (d) the name of the States where these proposed institutes are slated to be set up, location-wise;
- (e) whether the Government has a proposal to utilize the expertise available in the private sector for the setting up of these institutes;
- (f) if so, the details thereof;
- (g) whether the Government has decided to shift the proposed National Science Centre from Bhubaneswar to Kolkata;
- (h) if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (i) if not, the time by which the construction of the Science Centre is likely to start?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.A.A. FATMI):
(a) and (b) At present there is no Indian Institute of Science Education and Research in the country.

(c) and (d) The Government has approved setting up of two Indian Institutes of Science Education and Research in Kolkata, West Bengal and Pune, Maharashtra.

(e) and (f) To utilize the expertise in the private sector is an issue to be decided by the Board of Governors of respective Institutes.

(g) There was no decision by the Government of India regarding setting up of National Science Centre at Bhubaneswar so the question of shifting the Centre does not arise.

(h) and (i) Question does not arise.

Financial Assistance to Rape Victims

899. SHRI KAMLA PRASAD RAWAT:

SHRI TEK LAL MAHTO:

SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA:

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

(a) whether the Government has any proposal to set up a National Rape Victims Assistance fund for payment of compensation and the rehabilitation of rape victims;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether National Commission for women has also formulated any scheme for payment of compensation to rape victims and their rehabilitation;

(d) if so, the details thereof and expenditure incurred therein;

(e) the financial supports proposed to be provided to each rape victim alongwith the criteria prescribed therefor;

-(f) whether the State Government are also authorized to draw fund through this scheme for the financial help in favour of rape victims; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH): (a) to (g) The National Commission for Women (NCW) has forwarded to the Department of Women and Child Development draft of a scheme on Relief and Rehabilitation of Rape Victims. NCW has been requested to revise the scheme to remove certain shortcomings in it whereafter the views of the concerned Ministries/Departments would be called for on the scheme.

Kidney Transplant Cases

900. SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to refer to the answer given to USQ No. 1146 dated 07.12.2004 and state:

(a) whether the Delhi Police has completed its investigation against the hospitals involved in kidney transplant cases;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons and effective steps taken by the Government to expedite the investigation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) to (c) Delhi Police had registered three cases regarding illegal kidney transplant involving Indraprastha Apollo Hospital, New Delhi and Sir Ganga Ram Hospital, New Delhi. Out of these three cases, one case is pending trial in the Court; another case has been sent as untraced as no evidence came on record against anyone; and investigation in the third case has been completed and Delhi Police is in the process of filing charge sheet.

Passenger Ship Services

901. SHRI L. GANESAN: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to introduce the passenger Ship Services with Malaysia and Singapore alongwith Ferri Service to Ports in Sri Lanka from the Indian Ports;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the number of such proposals pending with the Government both from the public and private sector Shipping Companies;

(d) whether the Cargo movers and tourist operators have made any demand in this regard;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the time by which the passenger ship services are likely to be introduced?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No proposal is pending with the Government either from the public or private sector Shipping Companies.

(d) to (f) Hunter Shipping & Trading, Chennai has requested for permission to operate passenger/cruise Liner service between Port Kelang (Malaysia) and Chennai. The proposal is under examination.

[Translation]

Production/Consumption of Paper

902. SHRI TUFANI SAROJ: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the production of paper during 2004-2005 and thereafter;

(b) whether the consumption of paper is continuously growing in the country;

(c) if so, the consumption of paper in the country during the said period;

(d) whether the production of paper is likely to decline due to heavy and continuous rainfall in South-West States during 2005-2006 in comparison to fixed targets;

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

(f) the schemes formulated by the Government to fulfill demand of paper in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) The production of paper and paper board was 58 lakh tonnes in 2004-2005 and 25 lakh tonnes during April to August 2005.

(b) and (c) Consumption of paper and paper board has increased from 52 lakh tonnes in 2002-2003, to 56 lakh tonnes in 2003-2004 and further to 57 lakh tonnes in 2004-2005.

(d) and (e) The production of paper and paper board during April-August this year has been 25 lakh tonnes against 24 lakh tonnes during the corresponding period last year.

(f) Production of paper and paper board is delicensed. In the liberalised economic scenario, investment decisions are taken by the entrepreneur based on their commercial assessment. The Government has been supporting various research & development projects in the field of raw material and process research, quality upgradation, energy and environmental management, chemical recovery, etc. in order to encourage production of good quality paper for meeting the growing demand.

Internal Security Centre

903. SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH "LALAN":

DR. CHINTA MOHAN:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal has been received from I.I.T. Kanpur to establish an Internal Security Centre to eliminate terrorism in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the date of said proposal and the time by which it was received by the Government;

(c) whether the Government has taken any decision to implement this proposal till now;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) and (b) The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has received a proposal on 11.5.2005 from IIT Kanpur for creation of Homeland Security Centre to assist the MHA in addressing important homeland security issues, particularly those requiring scientific, technical and analytical expertise.

(c) to (e) The proposal has been examined in the Ministry in consultation with the concerned agencies. IIT Kanpur has been asked to prepare a revised proposal in the light of the discussions held on their earlier proposal.

Talks with Hurriyat

904. SHRI HARISHCHANDRA CHAVAN:

SHRI SUGRIB SINGH:

SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL:

SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a delegation of Hurriyat met the Government to discuss the peace process in the Jammu and Kashmir during September, 2005;

(b) if so, the details of discussion held;

(c) whether Hurriyat leaders have asked the Government to take some bold steps to boost the peace process;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether Union Government has assured to review cases of detention under POTA and Public Safety Act;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) the strategy chalked out in the meeting to bring peace in the valley?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) to (g) Yes sir. The Prime Minister met a delegation of All Party Hurriyat Conference (APHC) led by Mirwaiz Umar Farooq on September 5, 2005. During the talks, the Prime Minister

reaffirmed his faith in a peaceful resolution of all issues pertaining to Jammu and Kashmir and reiterated the Government's stance that violence has no role in a democracy. The APHC delegation stressed that an honourable and durable solution should be found through dialogue. It was agreed that the only way forward is to ensure that all forms of violence at all levels should come to an end. It was also agreed to carry forward the dialogue process so that all regions and all shades of political opinion in Jammu and Kashmir are involved.

In pursuance of the talks held by the Hon'ble Prime Minister with the APHC, a meeting of the Joint Screening Committee was held in Srinagar on 3-10-2005 and the cases of persons under detention under the Jammu and Kashmir Public Safety Act, 1978 were reviewed. The Committee recommended the release of forty four (44) detainees. The State Government accepted the recommendation and issued orders for the release of the persons recommended by the Committee.

The Government considers this as a good beginning and hopes that the dialogue with all the groups in the State will lead to an honourable solution to all issues relating to Jammu and Kashmir.

[English]

Abolition of Death Penalty

905. SHRI M. RAJA MOHAN REDDY:

SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA:

SHRI BRAJESH PATHAK:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) the total number of persons awarded Capital punishments for the crimes committed by them, during the last 10 years, State-wise, till date;
- (b) the total number of them have since been executed;
- (c) the total number of capital punishment cases converted into life imprisonment during the period;
- (d) whether the Government is considering to lay down a comprehensive policy on death penalty; and
- (e) if so, the progress made in this regard so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) and (b) Statements-I & II containing State/UT wise details of persons sentenced to death and their executions during the last 10 years are enclosed.

(c) A Statement-III containing the total number of capital punishment cases converted into life imprisonment from the year 2001 to 2004 is enclosed.

(d) and (e) No, Sir. A comprehensive policy on death penalty is already available and there is no proposal to amend it.

Statement-I

Number of Persons Sentenced to Death during 1994 to 2004

S.No.	State/UT	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
1.	Andhra Pradesh	0	2	1	4	0	0	0	1	3	1	0
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
3.	Assam	3	0	1	2	1	0	1	3	1	1	2
4.	Bihar	17	6	20	16	12	13	18	13	20	25	16
5.	Chhattisgarh	*	*	*	*	*	*	NA	1	5	2	0
6.	Goa	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
7.	Gujarat	0	0	0	1	0	1	5	3	0	5	19
8.	Haryana	0	0	6	2	0	3	5	8	2	3	NA
9.	Himachal Pradesh	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	NA

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
10.	Jammu & Kashmir	1	0	0	4	0	0	0	4	0	0	0
11.	Jharkhand	*	*	*	*	*	*	NA	0	4	NA	NA
12.	Karnataka	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	NA
13.	Kerala	3	2	6	1	1	0	0	2	0	11	1
14.	Madhya Pradesh	0	13	7	5	2	NA	15	4	4	4	6
15.	Maharashtra	2	5	14	8	8	0	10	7	13	14	4
16.	Manipur	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0
17.	Meghalaya	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
18.	Mizoram	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
19.	Nagaland	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
20.	Orissa	0	0	0	0	0	1	6	5	0	0	5
21.	Punjab	10	6	4	0	8	6	7	11	0	0	NA
22.	Rajasthan	5	3	0	19	6	13	NA	1	0	11	2
23.	Sikkim	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
24.	Tamil Nadu	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	8	15	16	24	22	1
25.	Tripura	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
26.	Uttar Pradesh	14	29	4	38	34	NA	NA	19	34	35	NA
27.	Uttaranchal	*	*	*	*	*	*	NA	0	0	2	NA
28.	West Bengal	3	7	14	1	9	NA	NA	6	3	0	3
29.	A & N Islands	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	NA	0	0	0
30.	Chandigarh	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
31.	D & N Haveli	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
32.	Daman & Diu	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	0	0
33.	Delhi	0	0	0	1	0	1	3	2	8	5	7
34.	Lakshadweep	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	NA
35.	Pondicherry	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total (All India)		60	73	77	103	81	46	87	106	126	142	66

Note: 1. NA stands for DATA NOT AVAILABLE.

2. In the state of Tamil Nadu, a total of 65 persons were sentenced to death during 1989 to 1998.

3. * States created in the year 2000.

4. Figures for the year 2004 are provisional.

Statement-II**Number of Persons Executed during the calendar year 1994 to 2004**

S.No.	State/UT	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
1.	Andhra Pradesh	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
3.	Assam	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
4.	Bihar	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
5.	Chhattisgarh	*	*	*	*	*	*	NA	0	0	0	0
6.	Goa	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
7.	Gujarat	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
8.	Haryana	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	NA
9.	Himachal Pradesh	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	NA
10.	Jammu & Kashmir	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
11.	Jharkhand	*	*	*	*	*	*	NA	0	0	0	NA
12.	Karnataka	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	NA
13.	Kerala	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
14.	Madhya Pradesh	0	0	1	2	0	NA	0	0	0	0	0
15.	Maharashtra	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
16.	Manipur	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
17.	Meghalaya	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
18.	Mizoram	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
19.	Nagaland	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
20.	Orissa	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
21.	Punjab	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	NA
22.	Rajasthan	1	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
23.	Sikkim	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
24.	Tamil Nadu	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	0	0	0	0	0	0
25.	Tripura	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
26.	Uttar Pradesh	0	0	0	0	0	NA	NA	0	0	0	NA

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
27.	Uttaranchal	*	*	*	*	*	*	NA	0	0	0	NA
28.	West Bengal	0	0	0	0	0	NA	NA	0	0	0	1
29.	A & N Islands	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
30.	Chandigarh	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
31.	D & N Haveli	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
32.	Daman & Diu	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
33.	Delhi	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
34.	Lakshadweep	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	NA
35.	Pondicherry	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total (All India)		2	1	2	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	1

Source: Prison Statistics

Note: 1. NA stands for DATA NOT AVAILABLE.

2. In the state of Tamil Nadu, a total of 7 persons were sentenced to death during 1989 to 1998 (year wise data not available).

3. * States created in the year 2000.

4. Figures for the year 2004 are provisional.

Statement-III

Sentence Commuted to Life Imprisonment during 2001, 2002, 2003 & 2004

S.No.	State/UT	2001	2002	2003	2004
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1	1	1	0
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	-	-	-	-
3.	Assam	2	1	3	8
4.	Bihar	50	89	73	6
5.	Chhattisgarh	21	0	2	0
6.	Goa	0	0	0	0
7.	Gujarat	1	0	0	0
8.	Haryana	2	8	0	NA
9.	Himachal Pradesh	0	0	0	NA
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	1	0	5	5
11.	Jharkhand	0	1	NA	NA
12.	Karnataka	0	0	0	NA

1	2	3	4	5	6
13.	Kerala	0	0	1	9
14.	Madhya Pradesh	3	17	1	3
15.	Maharashtra	1	126	12	16
16.	Manipur	0	0	0	0
17.	Meghalaya	1	0	0	0
18.	Mizoram	0	0	0	0
19.	Nagaland	6	4	5	0
20.	Orissa	53	0	0	0
21.	Punjab	24	0	0	NA
22.	Rajasthan	13	0	3	2
23.	Sikkim	0	0	0	0
24.	Tamil Nadu	1	6	6	0
25.	Tripura	0	0	0	0
26.	Uttar Pradesh	120	45	18	NA
27.	Uttaranchal	0	0	9	NA
28.	West Bengal	2	0	0	1
29.	A & N Islands	0	0	0	0
30.	Chandigarh	0	0	0	0
31.	D & N Haveli	0	0	0	0
32.	Daman & Diu	0	0	0	0
33.	Delhi	0	2	3	0
34.	Lakshadweep	0	1	0	NA
35.	Pondicherry	1	0	0	0
Total (All India)		303	301	142	50

Note: 1. NA stands for DATA NOT AVAILABLE.
 2. Figures for the year 2004 are provisional.
 Source: Prison Statistics 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004.

Sethusamudram Ship Channel Project

906. SHRI P. MOHAN:

SHRI PRABODH PANDA:

Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Tamil Nadu has opposed the implementation of Sethusamudram ship channel project;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the reaction of the Union Government in this regard;

(d) whether the Government proposes to involve the local people for employment in this project;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) whether the Depth of the channel has been lowered in comparison to the proposed one;

(g) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(h) the year of completion of the said project?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T. R. BAALU): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) Permanent employees for the operation of the channel will be recruited as per Government rules. Some workers will be employed locally on contract basis as and when required during implementation and operation of the project.

(f) No, Sir.

(g) Does not arise.

(h) Year 2008.

[Translation]

Atrocities on Dalits

907. SHRI MUNSHI RAM:

SHRI NARENDRA KUMAR KUSHAWAHA:

SHRI SHISHUPAL N. PATLE:

PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR:

SHRI ASHOK KUMAR RAWAT:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether incidents of attack/atrocities on Dalits have increased rapidly in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof during each of the last three years, State-wise;

(c) whether the Government has received reports from such States in respect of the said incidents;

(d) if so, the action taken by the Government against the persons found guilty therefor; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government so far to provide safety and security to the Dalits?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT): (a) to (c) On the basis of information provided by State Crime Records Bureaux, the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) compiles on yearly basis, the statistics regarding crimes against Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. As per the statistics compiled for the years 2002, 2003 and 2004, the number of reported cases of crime against Scheduled Castes were 33507, 26252 and 25914 respectively. Likewise, the number of reported cases of crime against Scheduled Tribes during 2002, 2003 and 2004 were 6774, 5889 and 5534 respectively. Statements-I & II indicating crimes committed against Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes during the year 2002 to 2004 and % variation in 2004 over 2003 are enclosed.

(d) and (e) Under the 7th Schedule of the Constitution of India, the 'Police' the 'Police' and 'Public Order' are State subjects and as such, it is the responsibility of the State Governments to effectively implement the SCs & STs (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989 in order to take deterrent action against the persons found guilty, prevent such crimes and provide safety and security to the weaker sections. The Union Government has issued a number of advisories to all the State Governments and UT Administrations to strictly implement the provisions of the said Act.

Statement-I

Incidence of Crime Committed against Scheduled Castes during 2000 to 2004 and % variation in 2004 over 2000 & 2003

Sl. No.	State/UT	Incidence			% variation in 2004 over 2003
		2002	2003	2004	
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andhra Pradesh	3385	3559	3255	-8.5
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	0	0	0	-
3.	Assam	47	67	20	-70.1

1	2	3	4	5	6
4.	Bihar	1579	1747	1667	-4.6
5.	Chhattisgarh	443	709	698	-1.6
6.	Goa	2	2	0	-100.0
7.	Gujarat	1370	1165	1309	12.4
8.	Haryana	243	195	217	11.3
9.	Himachal Pradesh	97	107	89	-16.8
10.	Jammu & Kashmir	13	5	4	-20.0
11.	Jharkhand	125	76	126	65.8
12.	Karnataka	1787	1844	1643	-10.9
13.	Kerala	524	439	438	-0.2
14.	Madhya Pradesh	7217	5507	4699	-14.7
15.	Maharashtra	634	697	715	2.6
16.	Manipur	0	0	0	
17.	Meghalaya	0	0	0	
18.	Mizoram	1	0	0	
19.	Nagaland	17	27	0	-100.0
20.	Orissa	1195	1157	1398	20.8
21.	Punjab	131	127	134	5.5
22.	Rajasthan	4535	4329	4360	0.7
23.	Sikkim	1	7	16	128.6
24.	Tamil Nadu	2097	1495	1156	-22.7
25.	Tripura	0	0	1	-
26.	Uttar Pradesh	7927	2821	3785	34.2
27.	Uttaranchal	99	129	137	6.2
28.	West Bengal	4	5	14	180.0
	Total (States)	33473	26216	25881	-1.3
29.	A & N Islands	0	0	0	-
30.	Chandigarh	0	1	0	-100.0
31.	D&N Haveli	0	0	0	

1	2	3	4	5	6
32.	Daman & Diu	0	0	0	
33.	Delhi	16	13	10	-23.1
34.	Lakshadweep	0	0	0	
35.	Pondicherry	18	22	23	4.5
	Total	34	36	33	-8.3
Total (All India)		33507	26252	25914	-1.3

Note: Figures of Bihar are based on Monthly Crime Statistics due to non-availability of Crime in India-04 data.

NA: Data not available.

Statement-II

*Incidence of Crimes Committed against Scheduled Tribes during 2000 to 2004
and % variation in 2004 over 2000 & 2003*

Si. No.	State/UT	Incidence			% variation in 2004 over 2003
		2002	2003	2004	
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andhra Pradesh	525	571	566	-0.9
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	87	66	75	13.6
3.	Assam	39	20	12	-40.0
4.	Bihar	29	52	43	-17.3
5.	Chhattisgarh	508	774	676	-12.7
6.	Goa	0	0	0	
7.	Gujarat	340	241	241	0.0
8.	Haryana	5	0	0	-
9.	Himachal Pradesh	3	12	11	-8.3
10.	Jammu & Kashmir	6	1	1	0.0
11.	Jharkhand	124	108	123	13.9
12.	Karnataka	240	167	173	3.6
13.	Kerala	102	65	82	26.2
14.	Madhya Pradesh	2504	1779	1667	-6.3
15.	Maharashtra	271	217	231	6.5
16.	Manipur	0	4	0	-100.0
17.	Meghalaya	2	0	0	

1	2	3	4	5	6
18.	Mizoram	40	0	0	-
19.	Nagaland	371	263	0	-100.0
20.	Orissa	480	484	519	7.2
21.	Punjab	0	0	0	-
22.	Rajasthan	930	912	1031	13.0
23.	Sikkim	10	6	32	433.3
24.	Tamil Nadu	77	67	27	-59.7
25.	Tripura	0	0	0	
26.	Uttar Pradesh	61	47	5	-89.4
27.	Uttaranchal	3	5	3	-40.0
28.	West Bengal	12	3	9	200.0
	Total (States)	6769	5864	5527	-5.7
29.	A & N Islands	1	1	1	0.0
30.	Chandigarh	0	0	0	-
31.	D & N Haveli	3	23	4	-82.6
32.	Daman & Diu	0	1	1	0.0
33.	Delhi	0	0	1	-
34.	Lakshadweep	1	0	0	-
35.	Pondicherry	0	0	0	-
	Total	5	25	7	-72.0
	Total (All-India)	6774	5889	5534	-6.0

Note: Figures of Bihar are based on Monthly Crime Statistics due to non-availability of Crime in India-04 data.

[English]

Cases of Kidnapping

908. SHRI J.M. AARON RASHID:

SHRI BRAJESH PATHAK:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Uttar Pradesh has registered the maximum number of kidnapping cases according to the National Crime Record Bureau as reported in Dainik Jagaran dated November 9, 2005;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Union Government has issued any directions to States to check the kidnappings as well other heinous crimes;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT): (a) and (b) The details of Kidnapping and Abduction cases as

mentioned in Dainik Jagran on November 9, 2005 were based on the publication of the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) titled 'Crime in India 2004- (Part-I)' brought out in September, 2005. According to it, the highest number of kidnapping & abduction cases were registered in Uttar Pradesh (3337) followed by Bihar (2922). According to NCRB, for Bihar 12 monthly aggregated figures from Monthly Crime Statistics were used due to non-receipt of annual data. This fact was mentioned as one of the limitations of the report as the data of Bihar was provisional.

NCRB has now intimated that as per annual crime statistics received for Bihar, Bihar has registered the maximum number of Kidnapping & Abduction cases (3413) during 2004.

(c) to (e) 'Police' and 'Public Order' are State subjects as per the Seventh Schedule to the Constitution of India and, as such, registration, investigation, detection and prevention of crime are primarily the responsibility of the State Governments. However, the Government of India has from time to time been issuing advisories to the State Governments to make concerted efforts to improve the administration of Criminal Justice System and to take effective measures to control crimes in the States.

[Translation]

Shiksha Parisar In Chhattisgarh

909. SHRI AJIT JOGI: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the districts of tribal women literacy and where Shiksha Parisar is being run in Chhattisgarh;

(b) the names of the institutions for which grants have not been sanctioned so far inspite of recommendations of collectors and State Government in this regard;

(c) whether the Government provide cent percent grants to the said institutions;

(d) if so, the details thereof alongwith the norms for sanctioning the grants;

(e) whether any time limit is fixed for sanctioning these grants; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION (SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH): (a) The Ministry has been sanctioning grants to Kanya Shiksha Parisar Maa Sharada Vidyamandir, Orchha (Abujhmad) run by Vivekananda Institute of Social

Health Welfare and Service (VISHWAS), for running and maintenance of Educational Complex in Bastar District of Chhattisgarh under the Scheme of 'Educational Complex in low literacy pockets for development of women literacy in tribal areas.

(b) The Ministry releases grants-in-aid to voluntary organizations on recommendation of 'State Committee for Supporting Voluntary Efforts' of the States. The State Committee of Chhattisgarh has recommended only the aforesaid organization under the Scheme for which the Ministry has already sanctioned First Instalment of grant for 2005-06.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The Ministry provides 100% grants to the NGOs for running and maintenance of Educational Complex releasing Rs. 1000/- as Non-recurring grant per student for five years and Rs. 9000/- as recurring grant per student per year.

(e) and (f) The Ministry sanctions grants-in-aid on receipt of recommendation of State Committee through State Government on year to year basis and also subject to availability of the funds under the Scheme.

Widening of National Highway No.11

910. SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Rajasthan has proposed the work pertaining to widening of National Highway No. 11 – Bharatpur-Jaipur- Reengus-Sikar Road, National Highway No.12 – Jaipur-Tonk- Kota-Jhalawar Road upto the border of Madhya Pradesh and National Highway No.14 – Benwar-Pali-Sirohi Road in four lane; and

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith time by which the work pertaining to the widening of said National Highways is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) With regard to National Highway (NH) No.11, the work of 4 laning has been awarded in two packages for the Bharatpur-Jaipur section on Build-Operate-Transfer (BOT) basis under National Highway Development Project (NHDP) Phase IIIA and the likely date of completion for this work is March, 2009.

Further, the Government has approved the preparation of Detailed Project Report (DPR) for the upgradation of the following sections under NHDP Phase IIIB on BOT basis for

which the National Highway Authority of India (NHAI) has been asked to prepare DPR:-

- (i) Jaipur-Reengus section of NH 11
- (ii) Jaipur-Tonk section of NH 12
- (iii) Beawar-Pali-Pindwara section NH 14

Regarding widening of the Reengus-Sikar section of NH 11 and Tonk-Kota-Jhalawar section NH 12, these sections have not been included under NHDP Phase-III.

[English]

Vacant Posts of Teachers

911. SHRI K.S. RAO: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government propose to lift the restrictions applied on filling up posts of teachers;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government propose to consider involvement of private sector in a big way to promote universal education at primary and secondary school levels; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.A.A. FATMI): (a) and (b) Most schools come under the purview of State Governments. As regards these schools, it is for the respective State Governments to take a decision. So far as the schools under the control of Central Government, recruitment of teachers is made as per the laid down rules & procedures.

(c) and (d) According to the Mid-Term Appraisal of the 10th Five Year Plan, the share of private unaided schools has increased from 15.17% in 1993-94 to 23.56% in 2001-02. There is scope for greater private participation in education.

Conversion of Tribal Development Fund

912. SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is aware that the funds sanctioned for the Tribal Development by State Government are being utilized for different purposes;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the steps taken by the Government to prevent conversion of Tribal Development Fund by different State Governments?

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION (SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH): (a) and (b) No instance of funds sanctioned by the State Governments being utilized for purposes other than those sanctioned has been reported to this Ministry.

(c) The State Governments monitor utilization of funds sanctioned by them. However, in order to ensure that the funds released under the tribal welfare schemes by this Ministry are utilised properly, this Ministry has taken several steps, which include:-

- (i) Receipt of Utilization Certificates as a pre requisite for further release of funds;
- (ii) Periodic progress reports regarding the status of implementation of schemes;
- (iii) Central Government Officers undertake on the spot visits to the States/UTs for ascertaining the progress of implementation of schemes;
- (iv) Meetings/Conferences are convened at the Central level with the State Secretaries of Tribal Welfare Departments to ensure timely submission of proposals, speed up implementation schemes, and review physical & financial progress;
- (v) At the State/field level, the agencies like Tribal Advisory Council, Project implementation committees of ITDPS and Panchayat Samities also monitor timely spending of funds and effective implementation of schemes.
- (vi) To avoid delays in disbursements of funds by the State Plan/Finance and Tribal Welfare Departments, to the line departments/implementing agencies, the guidelines for allocation and utilization of SCA to TSP has since been revised with the provision of ITDA/ITDP wise earmarking of SCA funds. It has been provided in the guidelines that all States/UTs should ensure that assessment of actual programmes/Schemes implemented under TSP on the socio economic conditions of the tribals covered under ITDPs, MADAs Clusters, PTGs as the case may be, should specifically be undertaken;
- (vii) In the case of schemes implemented through the Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs), funds are released after an assessment of the standing of the NGO, past performance, etc. Apart from the periodic progress reports, the NGOs are required to furnish

annual accounts and audited reports and utilization certificates on the basis of which further release of funds are made. Inspection of NGOs is also undertaken through State Governments/UT officials and other authorities, and also by the Central Government officers.

NGOs for Development of Tribal Areas

913. SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the names of primary and secondary schools allotted to Non-Government Organizations for development of tribal areas in the country during-2004-05 alongwith the actual provisions and financial allocation made therefor, State-wise;

(b) whether the Government is trying to take immediate action for sanctioning these schools; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION (SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH): (a) The Ministry of Tribal Affairs has been implementing a scheme of Grant-in-aid to Non Governmental Organizations (NGOs) which has, as one of the components, the establishment of Residential/Non-Residential Schools. The State wise financial allocations made under this scheme during the year 2004-05 are given in the enclosed Statement. The names of the NGOs funded during the year 2004-05 for primary and secondary schools, and the funds released to them, are contained in the Annual Report of the Ministry for the year 2004-05 which has already been laid before the Parliament.

(b) and (c) To ensure accountability, from the current financial year, the Ministry has evolved a decentralized procedure for receipt, identification, scrutiny and sanction of all proposals of Non Governmental Organizations, including schools. According to this procedure, State Governments having tribal population are required to constitute a "State Committee for Supporting Voluntary Efforts", to examine priorities and recommend only the most essential projects in service deficient areas, and that too within the allocated amount in favour of the State/UT under the Scheme. The Ministry takes action on receipt of the recommendations of the concerned State Committees from the States/UTs.

Statement

State/UT-wise financial allocation for the year 2004-05 under the Scheme of Grant-in-aid to NGO

(Rs. in lakhs)

S. No.	Name of the State/UTs	Amount Allocation
1	2	3
1	Andhra Pradesh	184.00
2	Arunachal Pradesh	24.00
3	Assam	126.00
4	Bihar	24.00
5	Chhattisgarh	200.00
6	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	5.00
7	Delhi	126.00
8	Gujarat	269.00
9	Himachal Pradesh	10.00
10	Jammu and Kashmir	38.00
11	Jharkhand	240.00
12	Karnataka	84.00
13	Kerala	14.00
14	Madhya Pradesh	400.00
15	Maharashtra	320.00
16	Manipur	28.00
17	Meghalaya	66.00
18	Mizoram	28.00
19	Nagaland	46.00
20	Orissa	289.00
21	Rajasthan	234.00
22	Sikkim	4.00
23	Tamil Nadu	25.00
24	Tripura	36.00
25	Uttar Pradesh	4.00

1	2	3
26	Uttaranchal	9.00
27	West Bengal	167.00
Total		3000.00

WTO Meet at Geneva

914. SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY:

SHRI ARJUN SETHI:

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

(a) whether WTO Ministerial meeting at Geneva has discussed the issue of import duty on Agriculture sector;

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

(c) whether the interest of Indian agriculturist would be protected in international market; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) and (b) Under the on-going negotiations on the Agreement on Agriculture in the World Trade Organisation (WTO), market access commitments, inter alia, through lower bound duties on imports of agricultural products have been under discussion since the negotiations were launched in January 2000, the negotiating mandate in respect of which was elaborated through the Doha Ministerial Declaration of 14 November 2001. Through the General Council Decision of 1 August 2004 (the "Framework Agreement") it has been further agreed that the objective of substantial improvements in market access will be achieved, inter alia through a tiered tariff reduction formula such that products bound at higher levels be subjected to higher cuts. Special and differential treatment for developing countries will be integral to all aspects of the negotiations. The WTO Ministerial meeting scheduled to be held at Hong Kong, China, from 13-18 December 2005, would among other issues, also discuss the issues involved in the agriculture negotiations, including import duty reductions. Ministerial level meetings have been held in various configurations, including the G-33, which last met on 12 October 2005, the G-20 on 12 October and 7 November 2005, and the G-4 on 22 November 2005, in Geneva. However, divergences have remained on various aspects of the market access commitments, including the quantum of reductions in tariffs.

(c) and (d) To safeguard the interests of Indian agriculturists. India, along with other Members of the WTO holding similar interests and concerns, has demanded that all forms of export subsidies must be eliminated by a credible end-date, and all forms of trade-distorting support provided by developed countries to their agriculture sector must be substantially reduced. India has also taken the stand that tariff reductions should be made from the bound rates on the basis of a tiered formula as provided in the Framework Agreement. The G-20, of which India is a Member, favours straight linear cuts within each tier of the tariff reduction formula, with proportionately lower commitments by developing Members as compared with those by developed Members. India has also taken the stand that meaningful and operational special and differential treatment for developing countries must be integral to all aspects of the negotiations, including the instruments of Special Products and new Special Safeguard Mechanism to ensure food security, livelihood security and address the rural development needs of poor farmers in developing countries.

[Translation]

Expansion of Anganwadi Scheme and Number of Anganwadi Centre

915. SHRI RAJNARAYAN BUDHOLIA:

SHRIMATI KIRAN MAHESHWARI:

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

(a) the number of Anganwadi centres functioning in the country at present including Rajasthan, State-wise;

(b) whether the Government is considering to expand Anganwadi Scheme in the country; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH): (a) State-wise number of sanctioned and functional Anganwadi Centres, including Rajasthan, as on 31.7.2005, is given in the enclosed Statement-I.

(b) and (c) The Government has recently expanded the Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) Scheme. State-wise number additional ICDS Projects and Anganwadi Centres is given in the enclosed Statement-II.

Statement-I*Number of Anganwadi Centres as on 31.7.2005*

State/UT	Sanctioned	Functional
1	2	3
Andhra Pradesh	56204	54870
Arunachal Pradesh	2359	2359
Assam#	25416	25302
Bihar	60813	57486
Chhattisgarh	20289	20289
Goa	1012	1012
Gujarat	37961	37400
Haryana	13546	13546
Himachal Pradesh	7354	7354
Jammu & Kashmir##	18772	10398
Jharkhand	24171	22170
Karnataka	40301	40301
Kerala	25393	25361
Madhya Pradesh	49787	49710
Maharashtra	62716	62679
Manipur	4501	4500
Meghalaya	2218	2218
Mizoram	1361	1361
Nagaland	2770	2770
Orissa	34201	34201
Punjab	14730	14730
Rajasthan	35821	35804
Sikkim	500	500
Tamil Nadu	42677	42677
Tripura	3874	3768
Uttar Pradesh	108059	101352

1	2	3
Uttaranchal	6658	6609
West Bengal	57540	54666
A&N Islands	527	527
Chandigarh	300	300
Delhi	3902	3842
Dadra & Nagar Haveli	138	138
Daman & Diu	87	87
Lakshadweep	74	74
Pondicherry	677	677
All India	764709	741038

as on 31.7.2004

19 ICDS Projects and 6817 anganwadi centres were sanctioned in Jammu & Kashmir on 2nd December 2004 as part of expansion of ICDS Scheme.

Statement-II*Number of additional ICDS Projects and Anganwadi Centres sanctioned*

Sl.No.	State	ICDS Projects	AWCs
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	13	9562
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	21	678
3.	Assam	23	6659
4.	Bihar	139	19602
5.	Chhattisgarh	6	9148
6.	Goa	Nil	Nil
7.	Gujarat	33	3523
8.	Haryana	12	2813
9.	Himachal Pradesh	4	10894
10.	Jammu & Kashmir	19	6817
11.	Jharkhand	Nil	6683
12.	Karnataka	Nil	11313

1	2	3	4
13.	Kerala	Nil	3256
14.	Madhya Pradesh	31	9537
15.	Maharashtra	44	12864
16.	Manipur	Nil	Nil
17.	Meghalaya	7	961
18.	Mizoram	2	231
19.	Nagaland	2	265
20.	Orissa	Nil	3279
21.	Punjab	6	2691
22.	Rajasthan	17	11041
23.	Sikkim	6	488
24.	Tamil Nadu	Nil	3049
25.	Tripura	11	2220
26.	Uttar Pradesh	1	31498
27.	Uttaranchal	Nil	1134
28.	West Bengal	58	17100
29.	A & N Islands	Nil	94
30.	Chandigarh	Nil	29
31.	Delhi	Nil	526
32.	D & N Haveli	1	77
33.	Daman & Diu	Nil	10
34.	Lakshadweep	Nil	Nil
35.	Pondicherry	Nil	11
Total		456	188055

GDP on Education

916. DR. CHINTA MOHAN:

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN:

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

(a) whether the Government have set its target to spend 6% of GDP of the country on education;

(b) if so, whether this expenditure at present is between 3-3.5%;

(c) if not, the facts thereof;

(d) whether any time frame has been fixed by the Government to implement the decision of spending 6% of GDP on education; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.A.A. FATMI): (a) to (e) The National Policy on Education, 1986 as revised in 1992 envisaged that the outlay on education would be stepped up during the Eighth Five Year Plan and onward, to exceed 6% of the National Income. However, it could not so far be achieved due to constraints on resources and other competing priorities. The Common Minimum Programme of the Government pledges to increase the public spending in education to at least 6% of GDP in a phased manner with at least half of this amount being spent on primary and secondary sectors. As per provisional estimates, the expenditure incurred on education by Government (Centre and State) in 2004-05 represents 3.49% of the GDP.

Foreign Assistance for Construction of Highways

917. SHRI BRAJESH PATHAK: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any agreement has been signed by the Government for seeking assistance from foreign countries including Road and Highway Construction Authority of Italy for construction of Highways in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the nature of assistance to be sought from foreign agencies under agreement and amount to be spent for construction of highways in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) to (c) The following Memoranda of Understanding/Memoranda of Cooperation/Memoranda of Intent have been signed during last 10 years with the intention to undertake corporation and collaboration on the basis of equality, reciprocity and mutual benefits rather than seeking assistance. Details are as under:

(i) Memorandum of Understanding was signed in 1995 between the Government of Malaysia and the Government of India for cooperation in the development and Implementation of super National Highways.

(ii) A memorandum of understanding (MOU) was signed on 20th June 2000 to remain in force for a period of five years between The Ministry of Public Works, Transport and Housing of the French Republic and the then The Ministry of Surface Transport of The Republic of India in the Road Sector. The objective of the MOU was to allow exchange of information between the Government officials and the specialists of the two countries in the field of road techniques as well as in that of the finalization and management of infrastructure concessions, promote and develop the relations between enterprises (Consultancy and engineering companies in the field of roads, manufacturers of equipment material and consumable products for the sector) with the purpose of arriving at industrial, co-operation agreement and transfer of technology. The MOU has expired on 19th June 2005.

(iii) A Memorandum of cooperation was signed on 14th April, 2005 between The Department of Road Transport and Highways under this Ministry and The Department of Transportation of the United States of America on Cooperation in Transportation Science and Technology to undertake cooperation and collaboration in transportation science and technology on the basis of equality, reciprocity and mutual benefits. The cooperation and collaboration may include the following fields:

- Surface transportation
- Intermodal transportation
- Safety transportation
- Transportation for Mobility Disabled
- Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS)
- Other field of mutual interest

(iv) Memorandum of Intent on program of cooperation was signed on 5th October 2005 between National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) and ANAS S.P.A. of Italy with the primary objective to exchange experience, research results and knowledge as well as undertaking joint development programmes and projects in the following fields of mutual interest:

- Italian and Indian technical rules and legislative instruments concerning toll roads construction and managing;
- Definition of forms of private investments attraction for the field of public/private partnership for the construction and upgrading of roads;
- Highways operation and maintenance.

[English]

G-20 Countries Meet

918. SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether India and Group of 20 developing countries under the WTO held meeting in Bhurban (Pakistan) in September this year;

(b) if so, the agenda discussed in the meeting;

(c) the main trade distorting subsidies practised by developed countries to the detriment of the developing nations; and

(d) the reaction and response of the WTO and the developed nations in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The G-20 Ministers met in Bhurban (Pakistan) on 9-10 September 2005 primarily to take stock, and to discuss the future strategy of the Group, in the negotiations on agriculture in the World Trade Organization (WTO), covering all the three pillars of domestic support, export competition and market access. The G-20 also discussed briefly other areas of negotiation, including market access in non-agricultural products, services, trade facilitation, and rules, under the Doha Work Programme.

(c) Domestic support measures are categorized into the Amber Box, the Blue Box, or the Green Box depending upon their trade-distorting effects or effects on production. Green Box measures have no, or minimal, trade-distorting effects or effects on production and are exempt from curtailment, and typically include a government's general service programmes on research, pest and disease control, training, extension and advisory services, inspection services, marketing and promotion services, and infrastructural services, as well as public stock holding for food security purposes, domestic food aid and direct payments to producers, including for relief from natural disasters. Blue Box measures include direct payments under production-limiting programmes to producers. Amber Box measures, considered the most trade-distorting, include market price support, non-product-specific support provided through government expenditures on fertilizers, electricity, irrigation, etc., and non-exempt direct payments to producers, and are subject to reduction commitments and other disciplines as provided for in the Agreement on Agriculture of the WTO. Apart from such domestic support, export subsidies of all forms are considered trade-distorting.

(d) Under the on-going negotiations in the WTO, all WTO Members have agreed that all forms of export subsidies should be eliminated by a credible end date, and that substantial reductions in trade-distorting domestic support must be secured through a combination of cuts, disciplines and monitoring. It has further been agreed that Members with higher level of domestic support will undertake steeper cuts to achieve harmonization in the domestic support entitlements, and to cap Blue Box payments at 5% of the annual value of agricultural production. The detailed modalities for achieving these objectives are under negotiation based on proposals from both developed and developing Members. Divergences remain among Members on various aspects of these modalities, including on the quantum of reductions as well as the criteria and disciplines for domestic support measures classifiable under the Blue Box or the Green Box. The negotiations are expected to conclude by 2006.

Grouping of S-S Industries with SMEs

919. SHRI RAM SINGH KASWAN: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government intend to group small-scale industries with medium scale industries;
- (b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the Government is providing incentives to small-scale industries to graduate to medium scale; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND MINISTER OF AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRI MAHAVIR PRASAD): (a) to (d) The Government has introduced the Small and Medium Enterprises Development (SMED) Bill, 2005 in the Lok Sabha on 12 May, 2005. In keeping with the global practice and in consonance with the announcements made in this context by the Finance Minister in the Budget speeches in both 2004-05 and 2005-06, this Bill seeks to classify both small and medium enterprises and contains provisions which may encourage small enterprises to grow into medium enterprises.

DG Level Talks with Bangladesh

920. SHRI SUGRIB SINGH:

SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Director General, Border Security Forces level talks between India and Bangladesh were held in September, 2005;

- (b) if so, whether the issue of joint patrolling and confidence building measures was discussed thereat;
- (c) if so, the reaction of Bangladesh thereon;
- (d) whether the Government has hand over a list of Militant Training Camp operating in Bangladesh; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof and the response received from Bangladesh thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) to (c) Yes Sir. Directors General level Border Coordination Conference was held in September, 2005 at New Delhi in which DG, BSF emphasized on promoting confidence building measures to include simultaneous coordinated patrolling, exchanges in the field of sports, culture and training, etc. The Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) agreed for the proposal. However mutually agreed draft modalities on simultaneous coordinated patrolling are yet to be formalized jointly by BSF and BDR.

(d) and (e) A list of 172 camps of various Indian Insurgents Groups (IIGs) which are reported to be existing inside Bangladesh territory was handed over to Bangladesh Rifles by the BSF during the last DG level Border Coordination Conference held in September, 2005. However, Bangladesh Rifles denied existence of any camps of IIGs in Bangladesh territory. Bangladesh Rifles also reiterated that they do not provide any shelter or support to any organization or individual acting against the interest of any other country.

Four Laning of NH-3

921. SHRI DEVIDAS PINGLE: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether a proposal for four laning of NH-3 from Wadape-Gonde to Dhulia has been pending for final approval of the Union Government;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and reasons therefor;
- (c) whether environmental and other related clearance thereto was accorded subject to the certain conditions two years ago has been held up extraneous considerations;
- (d) if so, the details thereof alongwith steps being taken to sort out of the same;
- (e) whether the project is intended to be implemented under the B.O.T. system; and
- (f) if so, the name of the interested parties?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) and (b) Four laning of Vadape-Dhule Section of NH-3 has been approved under National Highway Development Programme (NHDP) Phase-III on Build Operate and Transfer (BOT) basis. Vadape-Gonde & Pimpalgaon-Dhule Section has been approved for four laning under NHDP Phase-IIIA and the work has been awarded for implementation of four laning on B.O.T. basis. Gonde Nashik-Pimpalgaon Section of NH-3 has been approved for four laning under NHDP Phase-IIIB and the preparation of Detailed Project Report (DPR) has been taken up.

(c) and (d) The environmental clearance for Dhule-Pimpalgaon Section has been approved by Ministry of Environment & Forests and that for Vadape-Gonde Section has been taken up. The environmental clearance for Gonde-Nashik-Pimpalgaon Section shall be taken up after the preparation of DPR is completed.

(e) and (f) The projects have been taken up on Build Operate and Transfer (BOT) basis. The Vadape-Gonde section (length 100 Km) has been awarded to M/s Gammon-Sadbhav Billmoria (JV) and Pimpalgaon-Dhule Section (Length 118 Km) is awarded to M/s IRCON SOMA JV.

Trade Impact with South Korea

922. SHRI DUSHYANT SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has a proposal to make trade pact with south Korea; and

(b) if so, the areas in which Indo South Korea trade pacts are proposed to be established?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELAN-GOVAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Alternative Route to Leh in J&K

923. SHRI RUPCHAND MURMU:

SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT "BACHDA":

Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has decided to build an alternative route from Manali to Leh in Jammu & Kashmir;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

- (c) the length of the new route and its likely cost;
- (d) the benefits that would accrue after construction of this alternate route;
- (e) the time by which it is likely to be completed;
- (f) whether the Srinagar-Leh NH-1A route will be closed after the alternative new route; and
- (g) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) Yes Sir, the Government has decided to construct an alternate route viz Manali-Darcha- Shinkunla-Padma-Nimu-Leh, which would pass through the States of Himachal Pradesh and Jammu & Kashmir.

(b) The alternate route would start from Darcha (located at km 144 on Manali-Leh road) and-pass through Shinkunla and Padam to join Nimu (on Srinagar-Leh road) including construction of a tunnel by-passing Rohtang pass.

(c) Total length of the route via Rohtang tunnel and Darcha-Padam-Nimu road would be 427 km-from Manali to Leh and likely cost is Rs. 1355.82 crores.

(d) The route would by-pass three high mountain passes on existing route namely Baralacha, Lachungla & Taglangla. This would provide an all weather access to Leh with minimum snow clearance efforts. The alternate route would reduce the distance about 40-45 kms, which will save travel time and operational cost. The route would be away from line of control and hence this is safer route.

(e) Target completion date of the road is March 2012 except the tunnel, which will be completed in 2014.

(f) and (g) No Sir, Srinagar-Leh route would continue to be used.

Minerals and Mines Trading Corporation

924. SHRI NAVJOT SINGH SIDHU:

SHRI ANANTA NAYAK:

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

(a) whether Minerals and Mines Trading Corporation has entered into coal mining business;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Minerals and Mines Trading Corporation is planning to acquire coal mines abroad; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELAN-GOVAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) M/s MMTC as an international trading company is constantly in the pursuit of new business opportunities.

Himalayan Highway

925. SHRI IQBALAHMED SARADGI: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Himalayan Highway connecting all the tourist destinations in Himachal Pradesh, Uttaranchal and Uttar Pradesh is being considered by the Government;

(b) if so, the details of the Project Report prepared by the Government;

(c) whether the Feasibility Report has already been commissioned; and

(d) if so, the names of the tourist destinations that would be connected by the Himalayan Highway and the time by which the Project is likely to take off?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) to (d) A proposal has been received from Government of Uttaranchal for construction of a Himalayan Highway in Uttaranchal connecting tourist destinations namely Tuni, Chakrata, Mussoorie, Dhanolti, Chamba, New Tehri, Srinagar, Karanprayag, Gairsain, Ranikhet, Almora and Lohaghat. No such proposal has been received from the states of Uttar Pradesh and Himachal Pradesh. Himalayan Highway in Uttaranchal state comprises 409 Km. of State Road and 251 Km. of National Highways. The responsibility of improvement of the state road portion lies with the State Government of Uttaranchal. For the National Highways portion, for which this Ministry is responsible, estimate for feasibility report for the improvement is under examination. Estimate received from the Government of Uttaranchal for preparation of feasibility report for 409 Km. of state road has been approved by the Ministry. The preparation of Detailed Project Report can be prepared after feasibility report is completed and therefore it is too early to indicate any date of commissioning of the project.

Percentage of School going Children

926. SHRI ARJUN SETHI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the twin objectives of the Central Government Scheme to increase the number of school going children and to provide nutrition food in the mid-day meals have not achieved desired results throughout country;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the action taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to achieve the twin objectives?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.A.A. FATMI): (a) to (c) No, Sir. Under the revised Mid-Day Meal Scheme, effected from Sept., 2004, cooked food of minimum 300 calories with 8-12 grams of protein is being provided to children studying at Primary stage. With the launch of the revised scheme, the coverage of children has increased to about 12 Crore in 2005-06 as against 11.20 Crore in 2004-05.

SICA Act, 1985

927. SHRI Y.G. MAHAJAN:

SHRI NARENDRA KUMAR KUSHAWAHA:

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

(a) whether the State Government's and State owned institutions do not make the payment in time to SSIs, which compel the SSIs to default repayments of loans etc.; and

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the steps taken by the Government to alleviate the problem?

THE MINISTER OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND MINISTER OF AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRI MAHAVIR PRASAD): (a) to (b) Associations of small scale industries (SSI) complain from time to time about delayed payments against, among others, State Governments and State-owned Undertakings. With a view to protecting the SSI against delayed payments, the Central Government had enacted the Interest on Delayed Payments to Small Scale & Ancillary Industrial Undertakings Act, 1993 (as amended in 1998). Under the provisions of this Act, Industry Facilitation Councils set up by State Governments/Union Territory Administrations act as arbitrators or conciliators between SSI and buyers, including State Governments and State-owned Undertakings, in matters of delayed payment.

*[Translation]***Construction of Inter-State Bridges and Roads**

928. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has provided financial assistance to Gujarat and other States for the construction of inter-state bridges and roads which are important from economic point of view during the last three years;

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

(c) the names of the States to which financial assistance is proposed to be provided during the current year in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government is providing funds to Gujarat and other states for the state road and bridge projects sanctioned under Inter-State Connectivity (ISC) and Economic Importance (EI) Scheme based on the progress of works and submission of the utilisation certificates. Details of funds provided to the states during last three years are given in the enclosed Statement.

(c) Funds under ISC & EI scheme have been earmarked during the current year for all the states except Goa & Jharkhand.

Statement**Details of Funds Provided to the States under ISC & EI Scheme during last three years**

(Rs. in crores)

Sl. No.	Name of the State	Funds provided during		
		2002-03	2003-04	2004-05
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Arunachal Pradesh	1.16	6.00	2.57
2.	Assam	0.15	0.00	6.50
3.	Chhattisgarh	3.22	4.23	0.00
4.	Goa	0.33	0.00	0.00
5.	Gujarat	0.00	7.82	0.00
6.	Jammu & Kashmir	0.14	0.00	0.00

1	2	3	4	5
7.	Karnataka	0.00	2.00	2.00
8.	Maharashtra	1.06	0.00	0.00
9.	Mizoram	4.81	2.66	2.50
10.	Nagaland	8.45	4.00	1.75
11.	Orissa	0.00	0.49	2.60
12.	Rajasthan	1.90	0.00	0.00
13.	Sikkim	1.79	1.15	0.50
14.	Tamil Nadu	0.00	1.15	1.07
15.	Tripura	0.0	0.00	1.63
16.	Uttaranchal	2.00	23.07	0.00
17.	Uttar Pradesh	0.00	11.95	0.00

*[English]***Repairing of National Highways**

929. SHRI HEMMAL MURMU: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has made a study of the broken and unrepaired National Highways in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the total number K.M. of N.H. Road repaired during the last three years and current year till October 2005 in each State of the country particularly in West Bengal and Jharkhand;

(d) the total funds allocated and released by the Government for repairing of National Highways in each State of the country during the said period;

(e) whether the NH-80 near Farakka, West Bengal is broken for the last many years and huge amount are taking by local authorities and miscreants from vehicle operators;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) the action taken by the National Highways Authority of India in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) to (c) The maintenance and repair

activities of National Highways is a continuous process and every year damages are assessed and different repair activities as per requirement are taken up on the entire network of National Highways according to the condition and availability of fund.

(d) The details of the fund allocated are given in the enclosed Statement.

(e) to (g) About 10 km length of NH-80 is located in West Bengal. The part of this National Highway is located on a canal bank and is in a bad condition. This section of National Highway requires realignment and detailed survey work has started. The Ministry is not aware of any amount being collected by local authorities and miscreants from operators. However, this is a law and order problem and is a State subject. This highway is not entrusted to National Highways Authority of India (NHAI).

Statement

Details of funds Allocated/Released during the last three years and current year for Maintenance & Repair of National Highways

Sl.No.	State	Funds Allocated/Released for repair (Rs. in crore)			
		2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06
1	2	3	4	5	6
1	Andhra Pradesh	35.44	37.42	35.13	45.78
2	Arunachal Pradesh	0.09	0.31	0.41	0.37
3	Assam	26.92	23.27	26.59	28.86
4	Bihar	30.46	29.48	46.28	37.57
5	Delhi	0.12	0.42	0.75	0.42
6	Chandigarh	0.74	0.28	0.93	0.50
6	Chhattisgarh	25.60	15.35	26.99	19.53
7	Goa	4.15	5.03	2.80	3.36
8	Gujarat	10.51	22.47	34.86	30.66
9	Haryana	10.30	11.19	11.80	11.59
10	Himachal Pradesh	12.51	13.45	17.75	18.70
11	Jamru & Kashmir	0.88	0.54	0.44	0.42
12	Jharkhand	16.97	15.46	23.28	18.96

1	2	3	4	5	6
13	Karnataka	45.82	38.73	34.40	36.60
14	Kerala	23.74	20.81	13.20	32.79
15	Madhya Pradesh	48.03	57.50	59.49	55.14
16	Maharashtra	47.39	49.85	48.48	50.50
17	Manipur	6.01	6.96	8.79	10.38
18	Meghalaya	8.70	9.41	14.63	9.68
19	Mizoram	6.20	5.55	4.87	4.58
20	Nagaland	1.86	1.98	3.79	3.64
21	Orissa	42.37	42.51	37.24	37.36
22	Pondicherry	0.76	0.83	0.84	0.80
23	Punjab	17.59	20.09	20.26	19.18
24	Rajasthan	33.86	27.93	53.09	45.54
25	Tamil Nadu	41.62	41.36	37.99	60.92
26	Uttaranchal	5.84	3.66	14.60	12.60
27	Uttar Pradesh	39.85	55.68	53.87	50.04
28	West Bengal	20.69	23.57	24.95	23.17

[Translation]

Blockade at National Highways Linking Sikkim with Darjeeling

930. SHRI RASHEED MASOOD: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the blockade of the National Highway linking Sikkim with Darjeeling is adversely affecting tourism;

(b) if so, the administrative and remedial measures being taken by the Government in this regard;

(c) whether the Government of Sikkim has submitted a proposal to the Union Government regarding construction of an alternative road so as to avoid Darjeeling-Sikkim highway; and

(d) if so, the time by which this proposal is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI

K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) and (b) The National Highway No.31-A, linking Sikkim via Teesta-Sevoke sometimes gets blocked which affects tourism. The proposal for construction of an alternative highway between Melli and Rangpo (on Sikkim side) has been included in the Special Accelerated Road Development Programme in the North-Eastern Region (SARDP-NE).

(c) and (d) As mentioned above, the proposal for construction of an alternative highway from Melli to Rangpo in Sikkim is included in SARDP-NE. The Government has given approval for the preparation of Detailed Project Report (DPR) on 22.9.2005. The Border Roads Organization (BRO) has been asked to undertake preparation of DPR. It is too early to indicate time frame for implementation.

[English]

Promotion of KVIC by self Help Groups

931. SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR: Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has taken steps to assist the women members of the Self Help Group to promote their products;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has proposed to assist in their marketing strategies; and

(d) if so, the details thereof alongwith the steps, being taken by the Government to empower the rural women in the promotion of Khadi Village Industries?

THE MINISTER OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND MINISTER OF AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRI MAHAVIR PRASAD): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Under the Central Government's Rural Employment Generation Programme (REGP), implemented by the Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC), self-help groups (SHGs), including those formed by women entrepreneurs, are assisted, with effect from 01 April 2005, in setting up village industries by providing margin money assistance through the KVIC and loans through public sector commercial banks, etc., 127 projects have been sanctioned to women SHGs under the REGP till 31 March 2005.

(c) and (d) KVIC also provides marketing support to such SHGs by way of assistance to participate in exhibitions and in the sale of their products through outlets of KVIC, State Khadi and Village Industries Boards (KVIBs) and institutions affiliated to KVIC/State KVIBs. In addition, entrepreneurs in rural areas, including women, are also

provided training for skill development and capacity building through training centers of KVIC, State KVIBs, State KVIBs and institutions affiliated to KVIC/State KVIBs.

Activities of Lakshar-e-Tolba

932. SHRI UDAY SINGH: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn towards the news-item captioned "Let turning Delhi into operational base" as reported in the Stateman dated 31.10.05;

(b) if so, whether the Government is aware that capital is fast emerging as the operational base of the LeT outfit;

(c) if so, whether the Delhi Police and various intelligence agencies have failed to check the activities of LeT in the capital;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to check the activities of LeT?

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

(b) to (e) The Delhi Police has taken effective action against terrorists/persons suspected to be involved in terrorist activities. 45 persons have been arrested during this year so far. The steps taken by Delhi Police to check terrorist attacks include barricading and carrying out special check at the entry points of markets; checking of abandoned vehicles; checking and briefing of the staff of cyber cafe especially in market areas; briefing of managers and staff of hotels/guest houses to keep full details of guests and their luggage and number of vehicles by which they arrive to ensure installation of closed circuit television cameras at the entrance of the hotels; verification of tenants; briefing of auto dealers to keep full details of buyers of second hand vehicles; regular checking of STD/ISD/PCO booth owners/operators; checking of cellular phone and sim card vendors; checking of auto-stands and taxi-stands; meeting with Market Welfare Associations and Resident Welfare Associations; briefing of Metro Rail workers/staff; sensitization of security personnel of high rise buildings, Government buildings, regular checking of sympathizers who have given shelter to the militants in the past and militants released on bail from jail, sensitization of DTC Depot managers and private operators to brief their conductors and drivers for checking their vehicles regularly for IEDs, etc.

[Translation]

Production and Export of Tobacco

933. SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the total export of tobacco during each of the three years country-wise;

(b) whether the export of tobacco has increased considerably during the current year;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether India stands third after China and Brazil in production of tobacco; and

(e) if so, the steps taken by Government to increase the production of fine quality tobacco in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF

COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) A country wise Statement of export of unmanufactured tobacco from India during 2003-04, 2004-05 and 2005-06 (till September) is enclosed.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The export of unmanufactured tobacco during 2004-05 increased by 8% in terms of quantity and by 17% in terms of value. The growth has been 13% and 11% respectively during the current year 2005-06 (till September 2005).

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) The Tobacco Board is implementing several extension and developmental programmes such as model project areas, integrated pest management etc. to enhance the quality and production of tobacco to meet the changing international demands. The concerns of international customers are addressed in a focused manner to train and educate growers to meet global standards.

Statement

Export Performance of Unmanufactured Tobacco

(Qty. in tons, Value in Rs. lakhs)

S.No.	Country	April, 2003 - Mar 2004		April 2004 - Mar 2005		April 2005 - Sep. 2006.	
		Qty	Value	Qty.	Value	Qty.	Value
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
L	West Europe						
1	Austria	825	533.08	1688	1019.26	236	102.79
2	Belgium	12843	8543.51	12906	11737.90	10486	9653.77
3	Denmark	327	365.87	416	429.34	238	294.08
4	Finland	-	-	-	-	-	-
5	France	4512	2414.66	4054	2094.35	3056	1302.27
6	Germany	13163	11872.41	5926	5559.26	1816	1645.58
7	Greece	1344	1057.71	-	-	-	-
8	Ireland	40	42.33	385	330.08	-	-
9	Irish Rep.	-	-	-	-	-	-
10	Italy	806	396.85	315	237.04	217	151.32
11	Netherlands	6715	6167.46	4128	3499.25	3003	2766.65

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
12	Norway	1416	859.67	655	380.68	-	-
13	Portugal	139	156.93	-	-	58	73.66
14	Spain	263	200.56	62	36.32	59	59.86
15	Sweden	1092	329.26	2225	609.53	123	30.11
16	Switzerland	38	51.84	225	219.07	79	41.76
17	U.K	5892	5347.86	8149	7913.28	4781	3807.33
	Sub-Total	49415	38340.00	41134	34065.36	24152	19939.18
II.	East Europe						
1	Armenia	220	172.82	40	31.20	-	-
2	Azerbaijan	560	501.78	40	34.35	160	138.12
3	Belarus	909	406.90	554	333.56	220	123.01
4	Bulgaria	1194	1011.82	1431	1273.56	160	126.56
5	Croatia	107	111.89	107	105.85	-	-
6	Czech/Slovakia	883	660.42	174	113.43	1	2.10
7	Estonia	-	-	-	-	-	-
8	Georgia	84	68.43	76	51.65	-	-
9	Hungary	-	-	-	-	-	-
10	Kazakhstan	970	660.51	1372	940.75	302	195.59
11	Latvia	465	332.75	238	166.02	303	224.40
12	Lithuania	137	55.45	20	15.56	-	-
13	Macedonia	278	247.63				
14	Montenegro	-	-	692	380.99	-	-
15	Poland	752	563.1	2652	1982.97	1837	1175.48
16	Romania	-	-	479	307.55	130	92.60
17	Russia	23312	10820.45	27674	16242.49	13904	9090.92
18	Serbia	218	270.28	-	-	198	36.63
19	Slovenia	-	-	-	-	-	-
20	Ukraine	4131	1734.5	6796	3513.27	3171	1864.89
21	Uzbekistan	-	-	-	-	-	-

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
22	Yugoslavia	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Sub-Total	34220	17618.73	42346	25493.50	20386	13090.30
III.	Middle East						
1	Behrin	-	-	-	-	10	8.89
2	Cyprus	-	-	-	-	-	-
3	Iran	-	-	-	-	-	-
4	Iraq	1674	1191.00	-	-	-	-
5	Israel	259	150.19	27	19.40	32	22.5
6	Jordan	1743	1272.54	1721	1260.24	683	657.02
7	Kuwait	-	-	1	1.41	-	-
8	Oman	-	-	-	-	-	-
9	Quatar	-	-	-	-	-	-
10	Saudia Arabia	-	-	33	9.21	-	-
11	Turkey	565	477.25	377	362.09	-	-
12	UAE	573	552.05	560	262.81	27	13.6
13	YEMEN	7281	2362.58	7785	2611.96	3916	1666.73
	Sub-Total	12095	6005.61	10504	4527.12	4888	2388.74
IV.	South & South East Asia						
1	Bangladesh	1420	1224.65	2170	1874.98	1410	1204.81
2	Cambodia	20	21.91	29	29.88	-	-
3	China	-	-	-	-	-	-
4	DPR. Korea	5726	562.29	4473	1341.77	1967	180.30
5	Hong Kong	99	90.29	140	143.59	-	-
6	Indonesia	780	819.89	64	20.91	-	-
7	Japan	196	216.33	114	109.39	-	-
8	Malaysia	554	611.39	353	420.25	320	307.03
9	Maldives	40	11.73	60	17.80	12	3.31
10	Myanmar	-	-	-	-	-	-
11	Nepal	4819	3072.96	5372	3342.38	2723	1601.77

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
12	Phillipines	354	445.5	2040	2480.17	1868	1829.02
13	Singapore	2330	2401.32	3092	3244	2750	2466.21
14	Srilanka	956	240.46	767	201.52	427	163.96
15	Vietnam	78	63.30	3297	2513.83	4913	3473.47
	Sub-Total	17372	9782.02	21971	15720.45	16380	11229.86

V. Africa

1	Algeria	-	-	298	116.45	-	-
2	Angola	20	13.02	-	-	-	-
3	Cameroon	211	249.68	177	203.06	29	33.4
4	Canary Island	-	-	-	-	-	-
5	Cango	-	-	-	-	-	-
6	Djibouti	176	49.31	175	73.11	75	25.98
7	Egypt	2721	1976.49	9107	7407.91	1156	975.85
8	Ethopia	336	268.51	-	-	269	164.15
9	Gambia	-	-	10	2.35	-	-
10	Kenya	-	-	225	247.41	59	73.89
11	Libya	100	114.47	96	104.54	-	-
12	Malawi	-	-	-	-	-	-
13	Mauritania	20	2.28	-	-	-	-
14	Mauritius	44	21.76	29	16.06	-	-
15	Morocco	730	317.35	915	744.02	429	359.29
16	Mozambique	-	-	-	-	-	-
17	Nigeria	668	549.8	811	965.16	294	362.11
18	Rwanda	-	-	-	-	-	-
19	South Africa	3816	3118.13	3497	2416.19	522	294.51
20	Sengal	15	4.6	40	6.75	100	46.82
21	Somaliya	-	-	49	15.52	25	10.19
22	Sudan	-	-	-	-	40	29.06
23	Tanzania	-	-	14	14.22	-	-

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
24	Tunisia	1000	427.78	1150	746.14	150	67.03
25	Zaire	-	-	-	-	-	-
26	Zimbabwe	213	148.07	509	321.13	156	160.13
Sub-Total		10070	7261.25	17102	13400.02	3304	2602.21
VII. North & South Americas							
1	Argentina	-	-	-	-	-	-
2	Brazil	1266	1201.31	613	734.33	-	-
3	Canada	154	91.97	169	119.65	256	169.86
4	Chile	-	-	-	-	-	-
5	Colombia	-	-	20	15.45	-	-
6	Dominican Rep.	18	7.97	-	-	18	9.35
7	Guyana	-	-	-	-	-	-
8	Haiti	-	-	-	-	-	-
9	Jamaika	-	-	-	-	-	-
10	Parguay	492	135.88	277	116.63	389	310.46
11	Peru	-	-	-	-	-	-
12	Surinam	-	-	-	-	-	-
13	Trinidad & Tobacco	-	-	-	-	-	-
14	U.S.A	1863	649.55	2797	1321.70	2094	715.99
15	Uruguay	59	28.00	80	45.80	71	25.13
Sub-Total		3852	2114.68	3956	2353.56	2828	1220.79
VII. Australia							
1	Australia	885	1081.46	788	903.88	526	558.87
2	Newzeland	248	309.25	369	426.67	29	35.92
3	P.N. Guinea	-	-	-	-	-	-
4	Solomon Island	29	35.03	-	-	-	-
Sub-Total		1162	1425.74	1147	1329.55	555	594.79
Grand Total		128186	82548.03	138159	96889.56	72283	51045.89

*[English]***Trade Pact with Mauritius**

934. SHRI BALASHOWRY VALLABHANENI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether India and Mauritius have recently entered into a trade pact;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the time by which it is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELAN-GOVAN): (a) and (b) No, Sir. However, India and Mauritius are negotiating a Comprehensive Economic Cooperation and Partnership Agreement (CECPA) with the Preferential Trade Agreement (PTA) as part of it.

(c) Implementation schedule is being negotiated along with the Agreement and the related time frame will be clear only after it's finalisation.

FDI in Retail Sector

935. SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA:

SHRI PRABODH PANDA:

SHRI BADIGA RAMAKRISHNA:

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

- (a) whether Government has decided to allow foreign direct investment in retail sector;
- (b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the salient features; and
- (c) the benefits likely to be accrued therefrom?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELAN-GOVAN): (a) to (c) The extant policy does not permit Foreign Direct investment (FDI) in retail sector. The FDI policy, including new sectors to be opened for FDI, is reviewed on an ongoing basis. The issue of allowing FDI in the retail trade sector is being discussed among the stakeholders and no decision has been taken in this regard.

*[Translation]***Allocation of Funds for the Development of National Highways**

936. SHRI JASWANT SINGH BISHNOI: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the funds allocated to the State of Rajasthan for the development of National Highways during the last three years, and current year;

(b) whether the proposal of Rajasthan for the Central Road Fund have been sanctioned; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) During the last three years an amount of Rs 2296.09 crore have been spent for the development of National Highways in the State of Rajasthan. For the current financial year 2005-06 an amount of Rs 75.36 crore have been allocated to the State Government of Rajasthan in addition to Rs 40.36 crore spent (up to October 2005) by National Highway Authority of India (NHAI) entrusted to them in the State for the development of National Highways.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) During the current year 112 number of proposals amounting to Rs 143.36 crore have been sanctioned under Central Road Fund.

*[English]***Arrest of Call Girls and Prostitutes**

937. SHRI SUBODH MOHITE: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether some call girls/prostitutes have been arrested by the Delhi Police recently;

(b) if so, whether most of these young girls belong to Mumbai and previously working as bar girls there; and

(c) if so, the effective steps taken by the Government to check this problem?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. Delhi Police has recently arrested two girls who were previously working as bar girls in Mumbai.

(c) The steps taken by Delhi Police to check this problem include briefing of police personnel regularly to keep watch on anti social elements suspected to be indulging in such type of crime; regular checking of hotels/guest houses involved or suspected to be involved in such crime; collection of intelligence at local level and taking preventive action against persons involved or suspected to be involved in sex racket; and soliciting cooperation of public and social organization to get information on these activities.

MSP for Minor Forest Products

938. PROF. M. RAMADASS: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the absence of Minimum Support Price (MSP) for Minor Forest Products is a main hurdle faced by Tribal Co-operative Marketing Development Federation in commercial operation;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith measures taken by the Government to fix the MSP for Minor Forest Products;

(c) whether the Ministry has taken up this matter with the Ministry of Environment and Forests;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government is intending to set up a separate fund to stabilise prices of major/minor forest products and to ensure remunerative prices to the tribal people; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION: (a) to (d) In terms of the Multi-State Cooperative Societies Act, 2002, the Tribal Co-operative Marketing Development Federation (TRIFED) is a multi-State cooperative society.

TRIFED amended its Bye-Laws in April, 2003 to be in tune with the requirement of the said Act. As per the amended Bye-Laws, the main object of TRIFED's role and function is to act as a service provider and facilitator for marketing development of tribal products. Consequently TRIFED is no more involved in direct procurement of agricultural produce or Minor Forest Produce (MFP) from tribals.

The matter of fixing the Minimum Support Price (MSP) was earlier taken up with the Ministry of Environment & Forests. But that Ministry felt that fixation of the support price was the direct concern of State Governments.

The issue of fixing MSP for five major MFPs, namely, Mahua Flower, Honey, Mahua Seed, Tamarind and Sal Seed is now under consideration of the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACPC) in the Department of Agriculture and Cooperation.

(e) and (f) No such proposal is under consideration of the Government at present.

Dowry Death

939. SHRI NAVEEN JINDAL: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of dowry deaths reported in Delhi during the last three years, year-wise till date;

(b) the effective steps taken by the Government against guilty persons;

(c) whether the Government proposes to make the laws more stringent; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) The total number of dowry deaths reported in Delhi during the years 2002, 2003, 2004 and 2005 (upto 15 November) is as under:

Year	Number of dowry deaths
2002	136
2003	132
2004	126
2005 (upto 15th November)	103

(b) Sub-Divisional Magistrate conducts inquest proceeding into every dowry death and a case of dowry death is registered on the basis of his recommendation. All the cases of dowry death and other related crimes against women are investigated either by Women Police Officers or they are associated with investigation process. These cases are closely monitored by DCPs.

(c) and (d) The National Commission for Women is reviewing the existing provisions of the Dowry Prohibition Act, 1961/related laws in order to suggest suitable amendments to make the Act/laws more effective.

Seizure of Arms and Ammunition

940. SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a huge quantity of arms and ammunition was found in a container at kidderpore Dock godown in September, 2005;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether a truck loaded with AK-47 ammunition was also found parked at Calcutta port in September 2003;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the action taken by the Government against the persons involved therein; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) and (b) On 30th August, 2005, a Honduras ship was detained by the Customs authorities at Kolkata Port. As per cargo manifest, the consignment contained fuse for ammunition - 20 MM (200 pieces), fuse for ammunition - 76 MM (200 pieces), fuse for mortar shell (80 pieces), rounds of ammunition - 30 MM (4200 pieces) and ammunition for Bofors 40 MM (6519 pieces). On 31st August, 2005, the cargo was jointly inspected by Navy and Army and the authenticity of the manifested cargo destined for Indonesia was found to be correct. The ship was allowed to sail for Indonesia on 25th September, 2005 escorted by the Ships of Indian Navy after Customs authorities had received a confirmation from the Embassy of India at Jakarta that the consignment was meant for the Indonesian Navy.

(c) and (d) On 3rd September, 2003, Kolkata Police recovered 25,485 rounds of 7.62 calibre ammunition of AK-47 Assault Rifles from a truck from a parking lot in Dhobitalab area, Garden Reach, Kolkata (Port area).

(e) Six persons were arrested and the ammunition seized. They have been charge-sheeted by the Kolkata Police under Section 25/26 of the Arms Act.

(f) Security agencies maintain necessary vigil and take adequate measures to check such incidents.

Grading System to Anganwadi

941. SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL:

SHRI SUGRIB SINGH:

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

(a) whether the Government proposes to start grading system to Anganwadi on the basis of their performance in fighting malnutrition among children, as reported in the Times of India dated October 10, 2005;

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

(c) whether the Government has expanded ICDS to cover all community development blocks in the country;

(d) if so, the additional expenditure increase after such expansion; and

(e) the extent to which quality of scheme will improve by such grading?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH): (a) and (b) The Department of Women & Child Development has advised the State Governments/UT Administrations to evolve a system for evaluation and giving due recognition to the anganwadis based on the performance in respect of various services rendered under ICDS Scheme. Each State Government/UT Administration may devise a system, as per its needs in order to assess outcomes.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The additional expenditure on expansion of the scheme is estimated at Rs.476.00 crore per year.

(e) The grading of anganwadi centres, based on their performance, would help in motivating the functionaries on the one hand and ensure effective delivery of the services on the other.

Construction of Road Over Bridges

942. SHRI SUKHDEV SINGH DHINDSA:

SARDAR SUKHDEV SINGH LIBRA:

SHRIMATI PARAMJIT KAUR GULSHAN:

Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of level crossings on different National Highways in Punjab where Road Over Bridges are required to be constructed urgently;

(b) whether any survey has been conducted to identify the sites;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the approximate cost of construction of these ROB's;

(e) the funds allocated by the Union Government for the improvement of National Highways in Punjab during the current financial year 2005-06;

(f) whether the allocation made is sufficient for the purpose;

(g) if not, whether the Union Government proposes to increase the allocation; and

(h) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF

SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) There are 42 level crossings on different National Highways in Punjab where Road Over Bridges (ROBs) are required to be constructed. Out of these 2 ROBs are under construction; (one on NH-21 at Kurali on Build Operate and Transfer basis and the second on NH-95 at Morinda Bypass) and 12 ROBs are proposed to be constructed by the National Highway Authority of India (NHAI).

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. The locations of ROBs have been identified including the ROBs being executed by the NHAI.

(d) The cost of construction of ROBs can be indicated only after finalisation of Detailed Project Report (DPR).

(e) A sum of Rs. 47.00 crore for National Highways (Original) works, Rs. 13.08 crore for Periodical Renewal and Rs. 5.82 crore for maintenance of National Highways (NHs) have been allocated by the Union Government for the State of Punjab for the NHs entrusted to them. As for NHs entrusted to NHAI, no State-wise allocation is made by the Authority.

(f) to (h) The allocation to various States is done depending upon the availability of funds, inter-se-priority and progress of works. Additional allocation is provided at the time of Revised Estimate depending upon availability of funds.

[Translation]

Construction/Renovation of National Highways in Bihar

943. SHRI VIJOY KRISHNA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of National Highways constructed or renovated in Bihar by National Highways Authority of India during the last three years;

(b) the steps taken by the Government to improve the condition of National Highways and Roads in Bihar; and

(c) the total amount allocated to Bihar for the construction of roads during each of the last three years and current year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) The details of National Highways

constructed by National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) during the last three years in the state of Bihar is as under:

Year	National Highway - number	Length constructed in kms.
2002-03	-	-
2003-04	2	12
2004-05	2	92
Total		104

(b) This Ministry is primarily responsible for the development and maintenance of National Highways. The roads, other than National Highways come under the purview of State Government. Improvement of condition of National Highways is a continuous process, which is carried out in a phased manner depending upon availability of funds and inter-se-priority of works. Out of total length of 3629 kms. of National Highways in Bihar, 799 kms has been entrusted to NHAI and rest of 2830 kms are with National Highway Wing, Road Construction Department (NH wing RCD) Bihar. Since 2002-03, for the National Highways which are with NH wing RCD Bihar, improvement works in aggregate length of 799 kms. have been sanctioned for an amount of Rs. 245.06 crores under different schemes of improvement of road and reconstruction/rehabilitation of bridges. In addition, Rs. 121.63 crores was spent for routine maintenance.

Under National Highway Development Project (NHDP) Phase I & II, a length of 719 kms of National Highways in Bihar has been undertaken by NHAI for up-gradation as part of Golden Quadrilateral on NH-2 and East-West Corridor on NH-28, NH-31 & NH-57. Further, length of 890 kms has been identified for up-gradation under NHDP Phase III, out of which, length of 80 kms of NH-28A and NH-57A has been entrusted to NHAI for up-gradation.

For the improvement of roads other than National Highways, 17 Nos. of improvement works of road and bridges with approaches amounting to Rs.96.08 crores have been sanctioned for the State of Bihar under Central Road Fund since 2002-03. One improvement work for state road under Inter State Connectivity Scheme has been sanctioned for Rs.4.55 crore during the current year.

(c) Amount allocated/spent for improvement of National Highways and other roads under different schemes of this Ministry to the State of Bihar during the last 3 years and current year is as under:

(Rupees in crores)

Allocation	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06 (upto 31.10.05)
For National Highways	281.23	308.81	477.69	361.46
Other Roads (CRF/Inter State Connectivity/Economic Importance)	33.90	24.49	25.91	46.28

[English]

Financial Assistance for Madarasa Education

944. SHRI ASADUDDIN OWASI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Centre's 15 point programme for minority welfare envisages modernization of Madarasa education;

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

(c) whether the Government have issued notices to the concerned State Governments for non payment of salaries to the Madarasa Teachers; and

(d) if so, the response of these Governments and steps taken or proposals taken by Government to ensure that these teachers get their salary well in time?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.A.A. FATMI): (a) to (d) The Prime Minister's 15 Point Programme for welfare of minorities states that "care should be taken to see that minorities secure in a fair and adequate measure the benefits flowing" from various development programmes. This Ministry is implementing the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of 'Area Intensive and Madarsa Modernization Programme'. Education being a great leveller by empowering minorities it facilitates their absorption in the mainstream of national life. The Government has not issued notice to any State Government regarding non-payment of salaries to Madarsa teachers. However, the State Governments, have been requested to intimate their requirement of funds for the purpose and the unutilized balance available with them so that additional funds wherever due can be given. Funds have been released to the State Governments in accordance with the requirements communicated by them.

Repairing of NH No. 53

945. SHRI LALIT MOHAN SUKLABAIDYA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a 4 KM. stretch on NH-53 between Badarpurghat and Dhaleswar is in severely bad and dilapidated condition and no repairing work has been undertaken since long;

(b) if so, whether the Border Roads Organization has fixed up any deadline to complete the repair work expeditiously; and

(c) if so, the timeframe and details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) to (c) The stretch of NH-53 from Badarpurghat (Km 28.46) to Dhaleswar (Km 25.15) has been damaged due to the rain/flood. The intensive immediate repair works has been carried out by the Border Roads Organisation to make road trafficable. The further work of restoration has been sanctioned for an amount of Rs. 2.52 crore. The restoration works are targeted for completion by May 2006.

[Translation]

Marriage of Minor Girls

946. DR. DHIRENDRA AGARWAL:

SHRI BRAJESH PATHAK:

SHRI BIR SINGH MAHATO:

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

(a) whether the Government is aware that the court has justified the marriage of a girl aged below 15 years terming it as a special case;

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government in this regard;

(c) whether the Government is contemplating to amend the Hindu Marriage Act to bring down the marriageable age of minors keeping in view of the Delhi High Court's decision; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The National Commission for Women is in the process of filing Writ Petition in the Hon'ble Supreme Court to appeal this judgement.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Proposal from NGOs

947. SHRI HARISINH CHAVDA:

SHRIMATI SANGEETA KUMARI SINGH DEO:

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

(a) whether any proposal from Non-government Organisations has been approved under the Women and Child Development Scheme;

(b) if so, the total number of proposals from Non-government Organisations received during the last three years, year-wise and State-wise;

(c) the names alongwith the total number of the Non-government Organisations whose proposal have been accepted/rejected and are still lying pending till date; and

(d) the total amount allocated under sanctioned proposals during the said period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The number of proposals received from NGOs and approved during the last three years, year-wise and State-wise is given in the enclosed statement-I.

The details of the NGOs to whom funds were released State-wise and Scheme-wise for the last three years are available in the respective Annual Report of the Department and Department's web site <http://www.wcd.nic.in>

(d) Scheme-wise and year-wise allocation made in Budget Estimates, Revised Estimates and Actual Expenditure, during last three years is given in the enclosed Statement-II.

Statement-I

Support for Training Employment and Programme (STEP)

Project Proposals Received and Approved

S. No.	Name of the State	Proposals received			Proposals approved		
		2002	2003	2004	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Andhra Pradesh	4	10	4	-	-	-
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	4	8	12			
3.	Assam	16	33	6	3	3	1
4.	Bihar	-	-	-	-	-	-
5.	Chhattisgarh	-	-	-	1	-	-
6.	Goa	-	-	-	-	-	-
7.	Gujarat	3	3	34	-	-	-
8.	Haryana	1	2	-	-	-	-
9.	Himachal Pradesh	3	4	15	-	-	-
10.	Jammu & Kashmir	2	1	-	-	-	-
11.	Jharkhand	-	-	1	-	-	-

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
12.	Karnataka	2	5	36	1	2	-
13.	Kerala	4	4	33	1	-	1
14.	Madhya Pradesh	2	2	9	-	-	-
15.	Maharashtra	7	3	4	1	3	1
16.	Manipur	8	25	43	-	1	2
17.	Meghalaya	-	-	1	-	-	-
18.	Mizoram	1	7	1	1	-	-
19.	Nagaland	8	13	78	1	2	-
20.	Orissa	7	3	5	3	-	-
21.	Punjab	3	2	3	2	-	-
22.	Rajasthan	1	10	33	2	1	-
23.	Sikkim	1	1	2	-	-	-
24.	Tamil Nadu	4	1	6	-	-	-
25.	Tripura	7	4	2	-	-	-
26.	Uttaranchal	3	5	5	1	-	-
27.	Uttar Pradesh	10	2	2	3	-	-
28.	West Bengal	-	5	21	1	-	-
Union Territories		-	-	-			
1.	A & Nicobar Islands	-	-	-			
2.	Chandigarh	-	-	-			
3.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	-	-	-			
4.	Daman & Diu	-	-	-			
5.	Delhi	3	-	-			
6.	Lakshadweep	-	-	-			
7.	Pondicherry	-	-	-			
Total		104	153	356	21	12	5

Swawlamban Scheme

Project Proposals received/Approved during the years 2002, 2003 and 2004

Sl. No.	Name of the State	2002		2003		2004	
		Rec.	App.	Rec.	App.	Rec.	App.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Andhra Pradesh	190	190	6	2	141	4
2.	Assam	96	19	102	18	117	5
3.	Manipur	55	31	95	22	327	15
4.	Kerala	15	12	35	14	124	5
5.	Karnataka	6	1	25	10	240	8
6.	Nagaland	5	5	2	1	-	-
7.	West Bengal	88	70	26	13	289	25
8.	Maharashtra	21	9	83	25	147	12
9.	Orissa	17	14	16	9	57	32
10.	Gujarat	-	-	16	3	81	2
11.	J&K	22	1	79	15	-	-
12.	Tamil Nadu	26	14	62	10	57	4
13.	Bihar	-	-	-	-	19	-
14.	Haryana	18	2	28	17	46	12
15.	Himachal Pradesh	-	-	4	-	4	1
16.	Madhya Pradesh	181	37	10	-	89	14
17.	Rajasthan	-	-	46	5	110	-
18.	Punjab	17	-	17	6	52	2
19.	Delhi	-	-	-	-	12	1
20.	Uttar Pradesh	519	137	208	69	5	1
21.	Uttaranchal	17	1	38	17	63	10
22.	Chhattisgarh	-	-	6	2	-	-
23.	Meghalaya	-	-	11	1	-	-
24.	Mizoram	-	-	44	-	-	-
25.	Tripura	-	-	34	-	8	-

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
26.	A.N. Islands	-	-	10	-	6	-
27.	Arunachal Pradesh	-	-	23	-	23	-
28.	Chandigarh	-	-	-	-	4	-
29.	Jharkhand	-	-	-	-	1	1
30.	Goa	-	-	-	-	1	-
31.	Sikkim	-	-	-	-	4	-
Total		1293	543	1026	259	2027	153

Swadhar Scheme*Proposals Received and Sanctioned during 2002-03 to 2004-05*

S.No.	Name of State	2002-03		2003-04		2004-05	
		Prop. Recd.	Sancd.	Prop. Recd.	Sancd.	Prop. Recd.	Sancd.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Andhra Pradesh	3	1	4	-	21	10
2.	Assam	12	-	3	-	13	2
3.	Delhi	1	3	3	1	-	-
4.	Gujarat	6	4	3	1	2	2
5.	Haryana	3	1	6	-	-	-
6.	Himachal Pradesh	-	-	-	-	3	-
7.	Jammu & Kashmir	2	2	1	-	-	-
8.	Karnataka	6	1	16	3	7	12
9.	Kerala	3	-	-	-	1	-
10.	Madhya Pradesh	2	-	1	-	2	-
11.	Maharashtra	13	1	16	-	-	5
12.	Mizoram	2	-	-	1	-	-
13.	Manipur	7	-	18	1	10	9
14.	Meghalaya	-	-	1	-	1	-
15.	Nagaland	-	-	2	-	1	-
16.	Orissa	10	-	10	1	30	20
17.	Rajasthan	2	1	3	1	-	-

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
18.	Tamil Nadu	30	5	2	-	14	11
19.	Tripura	1	-	-	-	1	-
20.	Uttar Pradesh	2	-	-	-	2	1
21.	Uttaranchal	3	1	-	-	-	-
22.	West Bengal	8	1	4	2	1	-
23.	Chandigarh	1	-	-	-	-	-
Total		117	21	93	11	109	72

Scheme of Working Women's Hostel

S. No.	Name of State	Year					
		2002-03		2003-04		2004-05	
		Recd.	Sanc.	Recd.	Sanc.	Recd.	Sanc.
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1	1	1	1	-	-
2.	Assam	-	-	-	-	10	-
3.	Chandigarh	-	-	1	1	-	-
4.	Haryana	-	-	1	1	1	-
5.	Karnataka	2	2	2	2	2	-
6.	Kerala	4	3	3	3	8	-
7.	Madhya Pradesh	1	1	-	-	2	1
8.	Maharashtra	4	4	2	1	1	-
9.	Manipur	-	-	-	-	11	-
10.	Mizoram	-	-	1	1	-	-
11.	Nagaland	-	-	-	-	29	-
12.	Orissa	-	-	-	-	1	-
13.	Punjab	1	1	-	-	-	-
14.	Tamil Nadu	4	3	3	3	1	1
15.	Uttar Pradesh	3	3	-	-	2	1
16.	Uttaranchal	2	1	-	-	-	-
17.	West Bengal	2	2	-	-	-	-
Total		24	21	14	13	68	3

Total Proposals received = 106

Total Proposals sanctioned = 37

Short Stay Homes

S.No.	Name of the State	2002-03		2003-04		2004-05	
		Rec.	App.	Rec.	App.	Rec.	App.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Andhra Pradesh	15	1	24	1	35	6
2.	Assam	14	1	4	1	53	2
3.	Manipur	1	0	3	0	19	2
4.	Kerala	0	0	0	0	0	0
5.	Karnataka	3	0	13	3	25	5
6.	Nagaland	2	1	1	0	8	0
7.	West Bengal	3	0	7	5	10	0
8.	Maharashtra	17	2	26	5	1	1
9.	Orissa	5	1	4	0	10	2
10.	Gujarat	0	0	0	0	5	0
11.	J&K	2	0	2	0	2	0
12.	Tamil Nadu	22	12	27	11	8	2
13.	Bihar	47	9	0	0	0	0
14.	Haryana	0	1	3	0	0	0
15.	Himachal Pradesh	1	1	0	0	1	0
16.	Madhya Pradesh	18	6	15	5	0	0
17.	Rajasthan	4	0	12	0	22	1
18.	Delhi	2	0	0	0	0	0
19.	Uttar Pradesh	62	5	4	0	3	1
20.	Uttaranchal	0	0	0	1	0	0
21.	Mizoram	1	1	2	0	3	0
22.	Tripura	1	0	1	0	0	0
23.	Chandigarh	0	0	1	0	0	0
24.	Pondicherry	0	0	0	0	2	0
Total		220	41	149	32	207	22

Creche Scheme					1	2	3	4	5
S. No.	Name of States	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	18.	Mizoram	-	-	-
1	2	3	4	5	19.	Nagaland	-	-	-
1.	Andhra Pradesh	11	32	27	20.	Orissa	-	2	-
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	-	2	-	21.	Punjab	-	-	-
3.	Assam	16	15	5	22.	Rajasthan	-	-	-
4.	Bihar	-	2	-	23.	Sikkim	-	-	-
5.	Chhattisgarh	-	9	-	24.	Tamil Nadu	4	25	7
6.	Goa	-	-	-	25.	Tripura	-	3	-
7.	Gujarat	1	2	2	26.	Uttar Pradesh	3	12	-
8.	Haryana	4	8	16	27.	Uttaranchal	1	-	2
9.	Himachal Pradesh	-	1	-	28.	West Bengal	8	30	8
10.	Jammu & Kashmir	-	-	-	29.	A & N Islands	-	-	-
11.	Jharkhand	-	-	1	30.	Chandigarh	-	2	5
12.	Karnataka	-	11	4	31.	NCT of Delhi	-	3	-
13.	Kerala	-	-	-	32.	D&N Haveli	-	-	-
14.	Madhya Pradesh	1	4	1	33.	Daman & Diu	-	-	-
15.	Maharashtra	7	9	3	34.	Lakshadweep	-	-	-
16.	Manipur	-	2	15	35.	Pondicherry	-	-	-
17.	Meghalaya	-	-	-	Total		56	174	96

**Grant-in-Aid Scheme
For Combating Trafficking of Women & Children**

Details of proposals received and sanctioned during 2002-03 to 2004-05

(A) Trafficking of women and children for commercial sexual exploitation

Name of the State	No. of proposals 2002-03		No. of proposals 2003-04		No. of proposals 2004-05	
	Rec.	Sanc.	Rec.	Sanc.	Rec.	Sanc.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Andhra Pradesh	3	2	0	1	0	0
Assam	0	0	0	0	6	0
Chhattisgarh	0	0	0	0	2	0
Goa	1	0	0	0	0	0
Haryana	1	1	1	0	0	0
Karnataka	1	1	0	0	0	0

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Maharashtra	11	1	7	0	4	5
Tamil Nadu	1	1	0	0	0	0
Uttar Pradesh	0	0	0	0	2	0
West Bengal	1	1	0	0	1	0
Delhi	1	1	0	0	0	0
Manipur	0	0	1	0	0	0
Pondicherry	1	1	0	0	0	0
Total	21	9	9	1	15	5

(B) Innovative Projects for Child Welfare

States	2002-03		2003-04		2004-05	
	Rec.	App.	Rec.	App.	Rec.	App.
Karnataka	1	1	-	-	-	-
Andhra Pradesh	3	1	-	-	-	-
Maharashtra	1	1	-	-	-	1
Assam	-	-	2	1	1	-
Delhi	-	-	3	2	3	1
West Bengal	-	-	2	-	-	-
Orissa	-	-	1	-	-	-
Manipur	-	-	4	-	6	-
Tamil Nadu	-	-	-	-	-	1
Total	5	3	12	3	10	3

Statement-II**Department of Women and Child Development****Budget Estimates, Revised Estimates and Actual Expenditure for 2002-03, 2003-04 and 2004-05 for different Schemes**

(Rs. in Crores)

S. No.	Scheme	2002-03			2003-04			2004-05		
		BE	RE	Exp.	BE	RE	Exp.	BE	RE	Exp.
1	STEP	25.00	25.00	21.12	25.00	11.50	13.78	25.00	18.09	17.82
2	Swawlamban	25.00	25.00	24.50	25.00	20.00	19.35	25.00	25.00	7.18
3	Swadhar	15.00	10.00	4.04	15.00	1.00	1.12	3.00	3.99	4.21
4	Hostels for Working women	15.00	8.00	6.00	10.00	5.00	5.14	10.00	7.00	4.82
5	(i) Short Stay Home (Plan)	15.00	11.00	10.42	15.00	34.35	13.69	15.00	14.40	13.76
	(ii) Short Stay Home (Non-Plan)	2.84	2.84	2.84	2.50	2.50	2.00	1.50	1.50	1.50
6	(i) Creches (Plan)	12.00	8.00	8.00	20.00	8.00	6.03	30.00	16.92	10.49
	(ii) Creches (Non-Plan)	15.00	15.00	14.67	14.50	14.40	13.19	14.00	13.33	9.81
7	Social Defence									
	(i) Trafficking of Women and Children for Commercial Sexual Exploitation and (ii) Innovative Projects for Child Welfare	1.50	1.10	0.49	1.50	0.55	0.47	4.00	0.80	0.37

*[English]***Statement****Financial Allocation for Maintenance
of National Highways****(Rs. in crore)**

Sl. No.	Name of State/UT	Allocation
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	35.13
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	0.41
3.	Assam	26.59
4.	Bihar	46.28
5.	Chhattisgarh	26.95
6.	Goa	2.80
7.	Gujarat	34.86
8.	Haryana	11.80
9.	Himachal Pradesh	17.75
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	0.44
11.	Jharkhand	23.28
12.	Karnataka	34.40
13.	Kerala	13.20
14.	Madhya Pradesh	59.49
15.	Maharashtra	48.48
16.	Manipur	8.79
17.	Meghalaya	14.63
18.	Mizoram	4.87
19.	Nagaland	3.79
20.	Orissa	37.24
21.	Punjab	20.26
22.	Rajasthan	53.09
23.	Sikkim	0.00
24.	Tamil Nadu	37.99
25.	Tripura	0.00
26.	Uttaranchal	14.60

948. SHRI P.S. GADHAVI: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of financial allocations made for maintenance of National Highways during 2004-2005 alongwith the share of Gujarat State during 2004-2005; and

(b) the manner in which the funds have been utilised by the State Government during the period and the projects undertaken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) The funds amounting to Rs.745.56 crores were allocated for maintenance of National Highways during 2004-05 which includes the funds allocated to National Highways Authority of India (NHA) for National Highways entrusted to them.. Rs.34.86 crores was allocated to Gujarat State during 2004-05 for maintenance of National Highways entrusted to the Government of Gujarat. The amounts allocated to various states for maintenance of National Highways entrusted to them during 2004-05 are given in the enclosed Statement.

(b) Under ordinary repair the State Government of Gujarat has taken up the maintenance works like repair to pot holes, patches, earthen shoulders, minor repairs to culverts & bridges, protection works to high embankments etc. on various National Highways in Gujarat and incurred an expenditure of Rs.8.87 crores during 2004-05.

Under Periodical Renewals 10 projects covering a length of 142.70 km have been taken up and incurred an expenditure of Rs.16.83 crore during 2004-05.

Repair and rehabilitation of old Sardar bridge across river Narmada near Zedeshwar on NH-8 has been taken up under Special Repair and incurred an expenditure of Rs. 0.70 crore during 2004-05. The work is in progress and targeted to be completed by 31.03.2006.

Damages to the stretches of various National Highways due to floods & heavy rains have been taken up under Flood Damage Repair (FDR) and incurred an expenditure of Rs. 6.46 crore during 2004-05.

1	2	3
27.	Uttar Pradesh	53.87
28.	West Bengal	24.95
Sub-Total (States)		655.98

Union Territories

1.	A & N Islands	0.00
2.	Chandigarh	0.93
3.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	0.00
4.	Daman & Diu	0.00
5.	Delhi	0.75
6.	Lakshadweep	0.00
7.	Pondicherry	0.84
Sub-Total (Union Territories)		2.52
Grand total		658.50

Deepening of Boat Routes in Kerala

949. SHRI P. RAJENDRAN: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether most of the boat routes in Kerala are shallow due to non-execution of timely deepening work; and

(b) if so, the plans made to entrust the work of deepening the boat routes in Kerala to Inland Waterways Authority of India?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) and (b) Development of only those inland waterways which are declared as National waterways comes under the purview of the Central Government. There is only one such waterway in Kerala i.e. National Waterway 3 which runs from Kollam to Kottapuram. As regards National Waterway No.3 in Kerala, capital dredging has been completed between Kochi and Thakazhi Jetty (south of Allappuzha) and in Udyogmandal and Champakara canals. Depth of 2 meters is available in these sections. Capital dredging is in progress in Kochi-Kottapuram section through private contractors. In the remaining stretch of waterway i.e. Thakazhi Jetty to Kollam (50 Km.) also, arrangements have been made to complete the dredging. Inland Waterways Authority of India has also deployed one of its dredgers for dredging operations on

Edappallickota-Kollam Stretch. Central Govt./IWAI has no plans to entrust the work of deepening the boat routes in Kerala which do not fall under National Waterway 3.

Export of Foodgrains

950. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL:

SHRI R. DHANUSKODI ATHITHAN:

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

(a) the quantity of wheat and rice exported during the each of the last three years separately, Country-wise;

(b) whether any irregularities on export has been brought to the notice of the Government;

(c) if so, details thereof;

(d) whether the Government has conducted any inquiry into the matter;

(e) if so, the outcome thereof;

(f) whether any assistance is provided by the Government for grain exporters of the country;

(g) if so, the details thereof;

(h) whether these exports are likely to affect the country's food security;

(i) if so, the details thereof; and

(j) if not, the extent to which foodgrain exports would help in economy of the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) The quantity of wheat and rice exported during each of the last three years are as under:

Year	(Quantity in tonnes)		
	Basmati Rice	Non-Basmati Rice	Wheat
2002-03	708793	4259077	3671254
2003-04	771491	2640572	4093084
2004-05	1126125	3645873	1995997

Source: DGCI&S

Country-wise details of exports are available in the Foreign Trade Statistics of India compiled by the Directorate

of General of Commercial Intelligence & Statistics (DGCI&S), Kolkata.

(b) to (e) Yes, Sir, Comptroller & Auditor General of India (C&AG) in its Report No.3 of 2004 had stated that Food Corporation of India had suffered an avoidable loss of Rs. 133.13 crores on account of additional supply of rice as "broken allowance". The matter was examined and it was found that there was no irregularity in exports and the C&AG has been informed accordingly with the request to drop the para.

The scheme for export of foodgrains was initially started with Public Sector Undertakings like State Trading Corporation and Minerals & Metals Trading Corporation and later on opened to private exporters. There were certain cases where exporters were found to have used forged documents for export of wheat and rice. The Government have taken/ initiated corrective action in these cases against the errant exporters.

(f) and (g) Government provides assistance to Indian exporters including exporters of grains for undertaking publicity campaigns, mounting trade delegations abroad, participation in International fairs, buyer-seller meets and financial assistance to exporters for improving quality, packaging, brand promotion of products, conducting market surveys and reimbursement of certain WTO admissible costs on account of marketing and transport.

(h) No, Sir.

(i) Does not arise

(j) Export of agricultural products including foodgrains generates foreign exchange earnings for India and also enables the Indian farmers to obtain remunerative prices for their produce leading to their economic upliftment.

More Power to State

951. SHRI SUNIL KHAN: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to refer to reply to Unstarred Question No. 2079 regarding More Power to State Government and state:

(a) the details of progress made in the implementation of remaining 6 recommendations of Sarkaria Commission report;

(b) whether the Government has taken decision on the demands of Inter-State Council Secretariat (ISCS) in respect of implementation of these recommendations; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT): (a) to (c) Out of the 6 recommendations of Sarkaria Commission, which were pending at the time of replying to the Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No.2079 dated 14.12.2004, final view has since been taken on 3 recommendations and no further action is required. The remaining 3 recommendations are under consideration by the concerned administrative Ministries. The Inter-State Council Secretariat is closely monitoring the implementation of these recommendations.

Development and Promotion of KVIC

952. SHRI G.M. SIDDESWARA: Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is implementing any scheme for the development and promotion of Khadi and Village Industries Sector in Karnataka and other Southern States;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the present status of implementation of the scheme State-wise and the extent to which this package is helpful for this sector?

THE MINISTER OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND MINISTER OF AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRI MAHAVIR PRASAD): (a) to (c) The Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) has been implementing the Rural Employment Generation Programme (REGP), a credit-linked-subsidy programme, to create more employment opportunities by promoting establishment of village industries in rural areas as well as small towns with population upto 20,000, in all the States/Union Territories of the country, including Karnataka and other Southern States. Some of other schemes being implemented through the KVIC for promotion of khadi and village industries (KVI) and increasing employment include Interest Subsidy Eligibility Certificate Scheme (ISEC) for providing bank loans to KVI units at subsidized rates of interest, rebate on sale of khadi products, assistance to KVI units in marketing their products, Rural Industries Service Centres (RISCs) for setting up of common facility centres (CFCs), Product Development, Design Intervention and Packaging (PRODIP) Scheme for improved designs and packaging, etc. The targets for 2005-06 and achievements upto 30 September 2005 under these schemes in Karnataka and other Southern States is given in the enclosed Statement.

Statement**II. Khadi Rebate Scheme**

Scheme-wise Targets for 2005-06 and achievements upto 30 September 2005 in Karnataka and other Southern States

(Rs. crore)

I. Interest Subsidy Eligibility Certificate (ISEC)

(Rs. crore)

State	Target	Bank financed availed of (April 2005 to September 2005)
Andhra Pradesh	5.41	2.30
Karnataka	3.68	2.32
Kerala	21.99	6.37
Tamil Nadu	64.27	45.19

State	Target	Rebate amount released by Central Government through KVIC (April 2005 to September 2005)
Andhra Pradesh	Rebate amount depends on sale of khadi products.	0.79
Karnataka	Hence, no target fixed in advance.	1.75
Kerala		1.87
Tamil Nadu		5.81

III. Rural Employment Generation Programme (REGP)

State	Target		Achievement (April 2005 to September 2005)	
	Number of projects	Amount allocated (Rs. lakh)	Number of projects	Amount released (Rs. lakh)
Andhra Pradesh	3097	46,761	671	17,663
Karnataka	1819	36,383	145	2,386
Kerala	1151	25,119	158	2,870
Tamil Nadu	1096	21,918	54	983

IV. Rural Industries Service Centre (RISC) Scheme

State	Target		Achievement (April 2005 to September 2005)	
	Number of projects	Amount allocated (Rs. lakh)	Number of projects	Amount released (Rs. lakh)
Andhra Pradesh	5	18.75	2	5.07
Karnataka	4	15.00	-	-
Kerala	4	15.00	-	-
Tamil Nadu	5	18.75	-	-

V. Product Development Design Intervention and Packaging (PRODIP) Scheme

State	Target		Achievement (April 2005 to September 2005)	
	Number of projects	Amount allocated (Rs. lakh)	Number of projects	Amount released (Rs. lakh)
Andhra Pradesh	10	15.00	10	7.50
Karnataka	20	27.00	20	13.50
Kerala	14	17.50	14	8.75
Tamil Nadu	24	35.00	24	17.50

*[Translation]***National Highways Development Programme**

953. SHRI RAGHUVeer SINGH KOSHAL: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the State-wise details of the roads under construction, the details of amount spent and the percentage of work completed under National Highways Development Programme Phase-I and Phase-II;

(b) whether the aforesaid work of improving the road infrastructure is being done under Public-Private participation; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) The state-wise details of the National Highways under construction under NHDP Phase I & II are given in the enclosed Statement-I. The expenditure on NHDP Phase I & II as on 31.10.2005 is as under:

NHDP Phase I	-	Rs. 28186.47 crore.
NHDP Phase II	-	Rs. 770.46 crore.

82.90% of NHDP Phase I have been completed. No project has been completed under NHDP Phase II as the contracts have been awarded recently.

(b) and (c) Some projects under Phase I & II have been taken up through Public Private Partnership. Details are given in the enclosed Statement-II.

Statement-I*Status as on October, 31, 2005*

All figures are in km.

S. No.	State	GQ	NS	EW	Port	Others	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Andhra Pradesh	37.28	124.9		12		174.18
2.	Arunachal Pradesh						
3.	Assam			541		10	551
4.	Bihar	45.59		326.08			371.67
5.	Chandigarh						
6.	Chhattisgarh						0
7.	Delhi		21			10	31
8.	Goa						
9.	Gujarat	3		504.3			507.3
10.	Haryana		32			18	50
11.	Himachal Pradesh		11				11
12.	Jammu & Kashmir		133.3				133.3
13.	Jharkhand	43.71					43.71
14.	Karnataka	137.24	15		37		189.24
15.	Kerala		40		10		50

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
16.	Madhya Pradesh		1	118.4			119.4
17.	Maharashtra	15.25	140		14		169.25
18.	Manipur						
19.	Meghalaya						
20.	Mizoram						
21.	Nagaland						
22.	Orissa	187.49			77		264.49
23.	Pondicherry						
24.	Punjab		73				73
25.	Rajasthan	0.52	0	484			484.52
26.	Sikkim						
27.	Tamil Nadu	7.5	630		47.2	161.5	846.2
28.	Tripura						
29.	Uttar Pradesh	303	0	503.3		91	897.3
30.	Uttaranchal						
31.	West Bengal	13		89	53		155
	Total	793.58	1221.2	2566.08	250.2	290.5	5121.56

Statement-II

S. No.	Station from to	Category	NH No	Length	Total Project Cost (Rs. crore)	Present Status	State Name
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Toll Based Projects							
NHDP Phase I							
1	Vivekananda Bridge and Approach	GQ	2	6	641	Under Implementation	West Bengal
2	Mahapura (near Jaipur) - Kishangarh (6 Lane)	GQ	8	90.38	644	4 Laned	Rajasthan
3	ROB at Kishangarh	GQ	8	1	18	4 Laned	Rajasthan
4	Nellore - Tada	GQ	5	110.517	621.35	4 Laned	Andhra Pradesh
5	Satara - Kagal	GQ	4	133	600	Under Implementation	Maharashtra

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
6	Tumkur - Neelmangala	GQ	4	32.5	155	4 laned	Karnataka
7	Durga Bypass	Others	6	18	70	2 Laned	Chhattisgarh
8	Delhi - Gurgaon Section (Access Controlled 8/6 Lane)	Others	8	27.7	555	Under Implementation	Delhi (9.7)/ Haryana (18)
9	Nandigama - Vijayawada	Others	9	35	138.65	4 Laned	Andhra Pradesh
Total				454.10	3443.00		

NHDP Phase II

1	Rajkot Bypass & Gondal Jetpur	EW	8B	36	265	Under Implementation	Gujarat
2	Salem to Kerala Border Section	NS	7 & 4	53.525	469.8	Under Implementation	Tamil Nadu
3	Salem to Kerala Border Section	NS	7	48.51	379.8	Under Implementation	Tamil Nadu
4	Panipat Elevated Highway	NS	1	10	270	Under Implementation	Haryana
5	Farukhanagar to Kottakata	NS	7	46.162	267.2	Under Implementation	Andhra Pradesh
6	Farukhanagar to Kotakatta	NS	7	55.74	313.7	Under Implementation	Andhra Pradesh
7	Krishnagiri to Thopurghat	NS	7	62.5	372.7	Under Implementation	Tamil Nadu
8	Salem to Karur	NS	7	41.55	253.5	Under Implementation	Tamil Nadu
9	Salem to Karur	NS	7	33.48	205.6	Under Implementation	Tamil Nadu
10	Karur to Madurai	NS	7	68.125	327.2	Under Implementation	Tamil Nadu
11	Karur to Madurai	NS	7	53.025	283.5	Under Implementation	Tamil Nadu
12	Trishur to Angamali	NS	47	40	312.5	Under Implementation	Kerala
Total				548.62	3720.50		
Grand Total				2005.43	14327.00		

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Annuity Based Projects							
1.	Panagarh-Palsit	GQ	2	64.457	350	4 Laned	West Bengal
2.	Palsit-Dankuni	GQ	2	65	432.4	4 Laned	West Bengal
3.	Ankapalli-Tuni	GQ	5	58.947	283.2	4 Laned	Andhra Pradesh
4.	Tuni-Dharmavaram (AP-16)	GQ	5	47	231.9	4 Laned	Andhra Pradesh
5.	Dharmavaram-Rajahmundry (AP-15)	GQ	5	53	206	4 Laned	Andhra Pradesh
6.	Nellore Bypass	GQ	5	17.166	143.2	4 Laned	Andhra Pradesh
7.	Maharashtra Border-Belgaum	GQ	4	77	332	4 Laned	Karnataka
8.	Tambaram-Tindivanam	Others	45	93	375	4 Laned	Tamil Nadu

*[English]***Imports from Sri Lanka**

954. SHRI DHANUSKODI R. ATHITHAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indo-Sri Lanka bilateral trade agreement envisages duty free import of specified products;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the quantity of vegetable oils imported from Sri Lanka as per above agreement, variety wise;

(c) whether norms are being strictly followed in imports from Sri Lanka; and

(d) if not, measures taken by the Govt. to curb such imports?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) Statement showing the imports from Sri Lanka during 2003-2004 and 2004-05 is enclosed. During 2004-05, 19906.92 thousand kgs of vegetable fats and their fractions valued at Rs. 7872.17 lakhs have been imported from Sri Lanka.

(c) and (d) As per Rules of Origin (ROO) prescribed in the India-Sri Lanka Free Trade Agreement (ISFTA), imported goods have to meet the twin criteria of change of tariff heading (CTH) at 4 digit level (HS Code) and domestic value addition of 35%. Both these criteria are being met.

Statement

*Department of Commerce
Export Import Data Bank
Import: From Sri Lanka*

Dated: 26/11/2005: Value in Rs. Lacs: Sorted on HS Code

S. No.	HS Code	Commodity	2003-2004	2004-2005	% Growth Country: Sri Lanka DSR
1	2	3	4	5	6
1	0304	Fish Fillets & Other Fish Meat (Whether or Not Minced) Fresh Chilled or Frozen		0.04	
2.	0306	Crytcns W/N in Shl, Live, Frsh, Chld, Frzn, Drdslt/ In Brine; Crstcns, in Shl, Ckd by Stmng or Boiling, W/N Chld, Frzn, Drd, Slt/In Brine	0.06	67.62	108,090.19

1	2	3	4	5	6
3.	0307	Moluscs W/N Shl, Live, Frsh, Chld, Frzn, Dried, Slt'd/ Inbrine; Aquatic Invrtebrts Exclcrstcns & Moluscs Live, Frsh, Chld, Frzn, Etc.	13.86		
4.	0402	Mlk & Crm Cncntd/ Contng Sugr/ Swetng Matr	24.91		
5.	0405	Butter and other Fats & Oils Drvd from Mlk; Dairy Spreads		1.62	
6.	0506	Acided/ Dglitnsd Bones & Hrn/ Cors, NT Shaped Deftd, Unwrdk, Smply Prpd; Pwdr & Wst thereof	14.10	0.04	-99.73
7.	0508	Coral Shels of Moluscs, Crstcns/ Echindrms & Cuttl Bon, Smply Prpd Not Shapd, Pwdr, Wste	339.84	226.93	-33.22
8.	0602	Othr Live Plnts (Incl Roots) Cuttings & Slips; Mushroom Spawn	0.32	0.07	-78.27
9.	0603	Cut Flwrs & Flwr Buds Suitable for Bouqets/ Ornmnts purposes, Fresh, Dried, Dyed, Blechd, Impregnated/ Otherwise Prepared		0.08	
10.	0604	Folage Brunchs & Other Plnt Prts, Grses, Moses & Lichns for Boqets/ Ormnl Purpses, Frsh, Dried, Dyed, Bleched, Imprgntd/ Otherwise Prepared	0.10		
11.	0801	Coconut, Brazil Nuts & Cashew Nuts Fresh or Dried whether or not shelled or peeled	824.74	2,934.23	225.78
12.	0802	Other Nuts fresh or dried W/N Sheld or Peeld	100.26	158.86	58.45
13.	0810	Other Fruits, Fresh	0.35		
14.	0813	Fruit Dried Excl under Heads Nos. 08.01 to 08.06, Mixtures of Nuts or Dried Fruits	5.02	275.92	5,398.91
15.	0902	Tea	316.87	483.63	52.63
16.	0903	Mate	15.95		
17.	0904	Pepper of Genus Piper; Dried/ Crushed/ Ground Fruits of Genus Capsicum/ Genus Pimenta	3,525.73	3,412.56	-3.21
18.	0906	Cinnamon & Cinnamon Tree flowers	179.32	211.16	17.76
19.	0907	Cloves (Whole Fruit, Cloves & Stems)	2,353.52	8,826.37	275.03
20.	0908	Nutmeg, Mace & Cardamoms	1,044.67	1,269.05	21.48
21.	0909	Seeds of Anise, Badian, Fennel, Coriander Cumin, Caraway or Juniper	11.04		
22.	1105	Flour, Meal & Flakes of Potatoes	0.06		
23.	1106	Flour & Meal of Drid Leguminous Vgtbls of Hdng No. 0713 of Sago/ Roots/ Tubrs of Hdng No. 0714; ML & Podr of Prdcts of CH-8	107.58	10.90	-89.87
24.	1203	Copra	37.22	37.81	1.60
25.	1208	Flours & Meals of Oil Seeds or Oleaginous Fruits other than those of Mustard	2.34	1.05	-55.14
26.	1211	Plnts & Prts of Plnts Incid Seeds & Fruits used for Perfumry Pharmacy/Insctcidl or smlr purposes Frsh/Drid W/N cut crshd or powdrd	856.12	91.42	-89.32

1	2	3	4	5	6
27.	1212	Locust Beans Seaweeds Sugr Beet & Sugr Canefresh/Drid W/N Grnd; Fruit Stones & Kernls & Other Veg Products for Human consumption N.E.S.		0.56	
28.	1301	Lac; Natural Gums, Resins, Gum-Resins & Oleoresns	476.93	362.79	-23.93
29.	1302	Veg. Saps & Extracts; Pectc Substncs Pectnatspectts; Agar-Agr & Other Mucilgs & Thckeners W/N Modified Derived from vegltbl products	16.10	36.88	129.09
30.	1404	Veg Products N.E.S. or Included		0.28	
31.	1507	Soya Bean Oil & Its Fractns W/N Refined but not Chemically Modified	5.00		
32.	1511	Palm Oil & Its Fractions W/N Refined but not Chemically Modified	832.26	1,247.04	49.84
33.	1513	Coconut (Copra) Palm Kernel/Babassu Oil & Fractns thereof W/N Refind Not Chemically Modified	102.82	219.30	113.29
34.	1515	Other Fixed Vegetable Fats Oil (Incl. Jojoba Oil) & their fractns W/N Refined but not chemically modified	9.07	17.53	93.17
35.	1516	Anml/ Veg. Fats & Oil, its fractns partly or Wholy Hydrogenated Inter-estrfied Re-estrfdelaidinsd W/N Refnd but Not further prpd		7,872.17	
36.	1517	Margarine Edbl Mxtrs/Prpns of Anml/Veg. Fats/ Oils Fractions of Different Fats/Oils of this Chapter other than that of HED No. 1516	429.79	360.20	-16.19
37.	1518	Anml Veg Fats & Oils & their Fracts Boild Oxydsd Dehydrted Slphrsd Blown Polymrsd Excl of Hdg. 1516; Inedible Mixtures	76.04		
38.	1520	Glycerol, Crude; Glycerol Waters & Lyes	956.30	613.83	-35.81
39.	1521	Vegetable Waxes, Beewax, other insect waxes & Spermaceti W/N Refined or coloured	2.95		
40.	1601	Sauses & Smrl products of meat Meat offal or Blood Food Prpns based on these products	20.50	60.04	192.92
41.	1602	Other Prpd/ Pravd Meat meat Offal/ Blood	5.38		
42.	1604	Prepared/ Preserved Fish Caviar & Caviar Substitutes prpd from fish eggs		0.01	
43.	1702	Other sugar in solid from incl. Chemically Pure Lctse, Mltse, Glcse & Frctse; sugr syrps Wtoutfl Vrng/ Clrng Mtr, Artfcl Honey Caramel	0.01		
44.	1703	Molases Resulted from the extraction/Refng of sugar		42.85	
45.	1704	Sugar Cnfctnry (Incl. White Chclt) without Cocoa	27.56	9.53	-65.43
46.	1801	Cocoa Beans whole/ Broken Raw/ Roasted		11.61	
47.	1803	Cocoa Paste W/N Defatted	8.01		
48.	1805	Cocoa Powder NT Containing Sugar/ Swtng Matr	10.94	5.85	-46.48
49.	1806	Chocolate & Other Food Prpns contng Cocoa	17.47	13.50	-22.73
50.	1901	Malt Extract; Food Prpns of Flour Starch Etc Without Coca Pwdr or Contng Coca Pwdr in < 50% by Wt N.E.S.		0.13	

1	2	3	4	5	6
51.	1902	Pasta W/N Ckd/ Stfd (Wth Meat/ other Sbstncls) or otherwise prpd such as spghti mcrcni Noodlsiasagene Gnocchi etc., Couscous W/N Prpd	2.45		
52.	1905	Bread Pstry & Other Bkrs Wars, W/N With Cocoa; communion Wafers, Empty cachets for Pharmactluse, Sing Wfrs, Rice Papr & Smlr Products	121.73	82.64	-32.11
53.	2007	Jams Fruit Jelly Marmalids Fruit/ Nut Puree & Fruit/ Nut Pasts cooked prpns W/N Containing Sugar	1.97	1.73	-12.08
54.	2008	Fruit Nuts & Other Edible parts of Plants otherwise preprd/prsvcd, W/N Sweetnd N.E.S.	1.79	3.28	82.93
55.	2103	Sauces & Prpns therefor mxd condiments & Mxdseasonnngs, Mustard Flour & Meal, prpd mustard	0.31	0.50	61.05
56.	2106	Other food prepms N.E.S.	9.19		
57.	2202	Waters Incl. Mnrl Waters & Aertd Water Cntng Added Sugar/ Other Swtng Mattr/ Flvr & Other Nomalcohic Bevrs Excl Juices of HD No. 2009	2.17	8.87	309.56
58.	2203	Beer Made from malt	2.11		
59.	2204	Wien of frsh grapes incldg fortified Winesgrape must other than that of Hdng no. 2009		3.82	
60.	2208	Undnatrd Ethyl Alchl with <80% Alchl Strngth: Sprts, Liqrs & other Sptous Bvrgs, Compnd Alchl Prpn for Manufacture of Bvrgs	8.94	17.60	96.89
61.	2209	Vinegar & Substitutes for Vinegar obtained from Acetic Acid	5.11	2.27	-55.69
62.	2302	Bran Sharps & Other Residues W/N in the form of Pellets Drvd from the Sifting Milling/other working of cerals/of Leguminous plants	50.48	253.52	402.25
63.	2306	Oil-cake & Other solid Resdus W/N Grmd in pelets from Extrctn of Vegetable Fats/ Oils other than those of Hdng no. 2304/2305	42.55	653.18	1,435.10
64.	2308	Veg. Material & Veg. Waste/Residues for Animal Feedingnes	2.68	27.96	942.20
65.	2309	Preparations of a kind used in Anml Feding	9.22	23.58	155.82
66.	2402	Cigars Cheroots Cigarillos & Cigrtts of Tobacco or of Tobacco Substuts		1.14	
67.	2504	Natural Graphite	22.72	12.07	-46.89
68.	2515	Marble, Travertine, Ecaussine & Other Monmnt/ Bldg Stone of Spfc Grvty >= 2.5 & Albastr Roghly Trmd/Mrly Cut int Blks/ Sibs	5.66		
69.	2518	Dolomite W/N Calcnd Roughly Trmmd/ Merely Cut in Blcks/Sibs or a rectnglr (Incl. SQ) Agglmtrd Dolomite (Incl. Tarred Dolomite)		0.08	

1	2	3	4	5	6
70.	2520	Gypsum Anhydrite Plasters (with Cal Gypsum or Cal Slpht) W/N Cird With/ Without Small Quantities of Accelerators /Retraders	1.21		
71.	2521	Limestone Flux; Limestone & Other Calcareousstone used for Manufacture of Lime/ Cement	1.33		
72.	2525	Mica including Spillings Mica Waste	7.96	0.94	-88.16
73.	2607	Lead Ores & Concentrates	9.29	9.69	4.33
74.	2614	Titanium Ores & Concentrates	12.43		
75.	2615	Niobium Tantalum Vanadium or Zirconium Ores & Concentrates	43.12	240.35	457.41
76.	2620	Ash & Residues Excl. From Mnfr of iron or steel Contng Arsenic Mtls/Mtlc compounds	407.97	285.66	-29.98
77.	2707	Oils & other prdcts from coal tar Distln smlr prdcts in which the WT of the Armtc Constnts Excds that of the non-armtc	20.39		
78.	2714	Bitumen & Asphalt Natrl Bitmns/ Oil, Shale & Tar sands Asphaltites & Asphaltic Rocks		9.16	
79.	2715	Bitmns Mxtrs basd on Natrl Asphlt on Natrl Bitumen on Petrln Bitmens/mnrltar/on Mnrl Tar Pitch (E.G. Btumenous Mastics Cut-Backs)		14.64	
80.	2801	Fluorine Chlorine Bromine & Iodine		1.19	
81.	2803	Carbon (Carbon Blacks & Other forms NES)	5.44	0.30	-94.40
82.	2807	Sulphuric Acid; Oleum	0.08		
83.	2817	Zinc Oxide; Zinc Peroxide	10.49	128.36	1,123.07
84.	2823	Titanium Oxides	0.45		
85.	2824	Lead Oxides; Red Lead & Orange Lead	1,546.21	1,746.29	12.94
86.	2827	Chlrdes, Chlrde Oxides & Chlrde Hydroxides, Brmdes & Brmde oxds; Iodids & Iodidi Oxides	1.34		
87.	2831	Dithonites and Sulphoxylates	10.79		
88.	2835	Phosphinates (Hypophosphites), Phosphonates (Phosphites), Phosphates & Polyphosphates	3.74		
89.	2840	Borates Peroxoborates (Perborates)	6.31		
90.	2849	Carbides W/N Chemically Defined		0.96	
91.	2851	Other Inorgnc Compounds (Incl. Distlld Wtr, etc.) Lqd Air (W/N Rare gases removed) Compressed Air Amlgms, Besides Amlgms of precious mtl	0.03		

1	2	3	4	5	6
92.	2903	Halogenated Derivatives of Hydrocarbons		4.86	
93.	2905	Acyclic Alcohol & Thr Halgntd, Siphnatd Nitrated or Nitrosated Derivatives	9.09	20.63	126.81
94.	2914	Ktns & Quinones, W/N with other Oxygn Fnctn Thr Halgntd Siphntd Nitrd/ Nitrstd Drvtvs	1.03		
95.	2915	Satrd Acylc Monocarboxylic Acids & Thr Anhydrtds, Halids, Peroxides, & Peroxy Acids, Thr Halgntd Siphntd Nitrd/Nitrstd Drvtvs		2.98	
96.	2916	Unsatrd Acylc Monocarboxylic Acids, Cyclc Monocarboxylic Acids, Thr Anhydrds, Halids etc. Thr Halgntd Siphntd Nitrd/Nitrstd Drvtvs	0.52		
97.	2917	Plycrboxylic Acids, Thr Anhydrds, Halides Peroxides & Peroxy Acids, Other Halgntd Siphntdnitrated or Nitrosated Derivatives	124.23		
98.	2918	Carboxylic Acids with Additional Oxygen Fnctn Anhydrds Halids Peroxides & Peroxy Acids Thrhalgntd Siphntd Nitrd/Nitrstd Drvtvs	44.37		
99.	2921	Amine-Function Compounds	0.38		
100.	2922	Oxygen-Function Amino-Compounds	0.85	25.01	2,842.98
Total			89,484.88	163,725.72	82.96

DOC-NIC

Electronic Speed Governor in Buses

955. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Supreme Court had ordered the installation of electronic speed governor in the buses to check overspeeding;

(b) if so, whether these orders have been implemented; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor and the steps taken/proposed to be taken to enforce the court's directives forthwith and check the zig-zag driving on the road?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) to (c) The Supreme Court of India vide their order dated 20.11.1997 in Civil Writ Petition No. 13029 of 1985 titled M.C. Mehta Vs. Union of India and Others had directed that 'No heavy and medium transport vehicles and light goods vehicles being four wheelers would be permitted to operate on the roads of the National Capital Region and National Capital Territory of Delhi, unless they are fitted with suitable speed control devices to ensure that they do not exceed the speed limit of 40 kilometer per hour. This will not apply to transport vehicles operating on Inter-State Permits and National Goods Permits'.

In pursuance of these directions, it is ensured by the Inspection Unit (Burari) of the Transport Department of the Government of NCT of Delhi at the time of grant and renewal of certificate of fitness to buses that electronic speed control devices conforming to AIS-018 standard have been installed in them. The Enforcement Wing of the Transport Department conducts special drives from time to time against buses plying without electronic speed governors/with tampered speed governors. During the current year, the Transport Department checked 9013 vehicles out of which 115 vehicles were prosecuted including 95 vehicles which were impounded. Delhi Police also issued challans for over speeding in 1856 cases, for plying vehicles without or with defective speed governors in 2117 cases and for dangerous/reckless driving in 12484 cases during the current year (upto 15th November, 2005).

Setting up of Deep Sea Port at Sagar Island

956. SHRI SAMIK LAHIRI: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is considering to set up a deep sea port at the Sagar Island of West Bengal; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) and (b) A proposal has been received from Kolkata Port Trust for undertaking a feasibility study with the technical assistance from Japan International Cooperation Agency for setting up full-fledged cargo handling facilities at Sagar Island. The proposal has been taken up with the Japanese Authorities through Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance.

Review of Dowry Prohibition Act

957. SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has received suggestions from various women organizations for reviewing the Dowry Prohibition Act to make its provisions more stringent and effective;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Union Government to raise the status of women in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH): (a) and (b) The National Commission for Women held a National Convention on 22.11.2005 on the review of Dowry Prohibition Act, which was attended by various women's organizations.

(c) For raising the overall status of women and to mainstream them into the national development process, the Government has taken a number of steps. These include: (i) adoption of the National Policy for the Empowerment of Women, 2001 with the objective to bring about the advancement, development and empowerment of women in all spheres; (ii) implementation of women empowerment and support services schemes like Swayamsidha, Swashakti, Rashtriya Mahila Kosh, Support to Training and Employment Programme (STEP), Swawlamban, Awareness Generation Programme, Condensed Courses of Education for Women, Hostels for Working Women, Swadhar, Short Stay Homes for Women and Girls etc. (iii) institutional support through National Commission for Women and Central Social Welfare Board (iv) legislative measures like enactment of Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005 and amendment in women related laws to make them gender just such as amendment in the Hindu Succession Act, 1959 to provide the right of inheritance to women. National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, 2005 provides that atleast one-

third of the beneficiaries shall be women who have registered and requested for work under this Act.

Maritime Trade Practices Act

958. SHRIMATI JAYABEN B. THAKKAR: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a draft of the Maritime Trade Practices Act of India has been circulated among the shipping companies for comments;

(b) if so, the details of the draft; and

(c) the response from the shipping companies on the draft so far?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) to (c) An initial draft of Shipping Trade Practices Act has been circulated among various stakeholders for their views. The matter is at preliminary stage and details are still evolving.

National Highway Projects Awaiting Clearance

959. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of National Highway Projects of Western Region of the country are awaiting clearance from the Centre as on July 31, 2005;

(b) the reasons for delay in their clearance; and

(c) the time by which the pending Projects are likely to be cleared by the Union Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) As on July 31, 2005, 12 National Highway Projects received from Western Region of the country comprising States of Rajasthan, Gujarat, Maharashtra and Goa were awaiting clearance.

(b) and (c) Out of 12 projects, 3 projects have already been approved. It is premature to indicate any time limit for approval or otherwise of the remaining proposals as these are at different stages of examination.

Talks with ULFA

960. SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Union Government have held any talks recently with the top ULFA leaders;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the steps taken by the Government to restore peace and security in the region?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) and (b) The People's Consultative Group on behalf of United Liberation Front of Assam (ULFA) held talks with the Government on 26.10.2005. A Press release issued on the same day is enclosed as Statement.

- (c) The Government's policy is to hold dialogue, pursue socio-economic development programmes, modernize and strengthen the police/security forces and to tackle the activities of the militants with the help of forces to protect properties, limbs and lives of innocent people.

Statement

Press Release

PM Meets Peoples' Consultative of Assam

October 26, 2005

New Delhi

The Prime Minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh, met a delegation of Peoples' Consultative Group (PCG) from Assam, here today. The Prime Minister commended and thanked Dr. Indira Goswami for the effort to help find a lasting solution. He said, "The time has come to shed violence. Let us work together to begin a glorious chapter for the people of Assam".

Dr. Manmohan Singh stated that he was willing to discuss all issues bothering our people. 'I am willing to listen to whatever concerns that you may raise', the Prime Minister said. "I am a servant of our Constitution. You must recognize the limitations of a complex polity", he added.

The Chief Minister of Assam, Shri Tarun Gogoi also attended the meeting.

Drug Trafficking Racket

961. SHRI K.C. PALANISAMY: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB), Chennai has recently busted Drug-trafficking racket by seizing 11 kg. of heroin in Bangalore; and

- (b) if so, the details thereof including the number of persons arrested by the NCB in this connection?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) and (b) On 29.09.2005, the officers of Narcotics Control Bureau, Chennai Zonal) Unit intercepted one truck at Bangalore - Tumkur National Highway and seized 11.355 Kgs. of heroin. Four persons were arrested in this case.

Setting up of New Regulatory Body

962. MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government plans to set up a new regulatory body to see safety on the National Highways as reported in The Indian Express dated October 10, 2005;

- (b) if so, the facts thereof;

- (c) the broad charter of this regulatory body;

- (d) whether the regulatory body has been formed;

- (e) if so, the details thereof alongwith the names of the personnel in the body;

- (f) whether the safety aspect of monitoring law and order on National Highways is planned to be given to this regulatory body also; and

- (g) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) and (b) A Committee has been appointed to deliberate and recommend on creation of a dedicated body on Road Safety and Traffic Regulations under the Chairmanship of Shri S. Sundar, Sr. Fellow, The Energy Research Institute and former Secretary of the then Ministry of Surface Transport. The Committee has been remitted to submit its recommendations by 31st January, 2006 to enable a final decision by Committee On Infrastructure chaired by the Prime Minister.

- (c) to (g) Do not arise in view of the above.

Look East Policy

963. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Will the Minister of DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION be pleased to state:

(a) the back ground and concept of the "Look-East Policy" of the Government;

(b) whether this policy exceptionally differs from any other initiative taken by the Government earlier;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the thrust area identified and present status of its implementation?

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION (SHRI P. R. KYNDIAH) : (a) to (c) As per the information received from the Ministry of External Affairs, the "Look East Policy" was initiated in the early 90s to strengthen India's overall relations with the countries of Southeast Asia and East Asia. The earlier engagement with the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) was built on an idealistic conception of Asian brotherhood, based on shared experiences of colonialism and of cultural ties. However, the policy of strengthening relations with ASEAN is not a stand-alone initiative. We are actively engaged in the Mekong-Ganga Cooperation (MGC) which brings together India and five ASEAN countries. Another significant pillar of the "Look East" approach is our membership of the Bay of Bengal initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) bringing together some countries of SAARC and ASEAN.

(d) ASEAN's economic, political and strategic importance in the larger Asia Pacific region and its potential to become a major partner of India in trade and investment is a significant factor in our "Look East Policy". India and ASEAN also have convergence in their security perspectives. Since 1996, India has been an active participant in the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF). A Framework agreement on Comprehensive Economic Cooperation between ASEAN and India was signed by the Prime Minister of India and the Heads of Nation/Government of ASEAN members during the Second ASEAN-India Summit on 8th October, 2003 in Bali, Indonesia. This Agreement includes provisions relating to Free Trade Area in Goods, Services, Investments and has identified various areas of economic cooperation. During the 3rd ASEAN India Summit in Vientiane on November 29-30, 2004, PM signed an agreement on "India - ASEAN Partnership for Peace, Progress and Shared Prosperity".

**Financial Assistance
to Tribal Areas**

964. SHRI DALPAT SINGH PARSTE: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether large number of families belonging to the tribal areas of the Madhya Pradesh were given financial assistance by the Central Government during the 9th Plan period;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the amount utilized therefrom;

(c) whether the unspent amount has been passed on for the 10th Plan period; and

(d) if so, the details thereof alongwith the utilised amount with scheme and area covered so far?

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION (SHRI P. R. KYNDIAH) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Ministry of Tribal Affairs provides Special Central Assistance to the State Governments having Tribal Sub Plan Areas for family-oriented income generating schemes in the sectors of agriculture, horticulture, minor irrigation, soil conservation, animal husbandry, forests, education, cooperatives, fisheries, village and small scale industries and minimum needs programme. A Statement showing financial assistance given to the Government of Madhya Pradesh by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs and the funds utilized by the State Government during the IXth Plan period is enclosed.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The cumulative unspent balance of Rs. 1316.11 lakh at the end of IXth Plan has been utilized in the tribal areas of the State during the Xth Plan period.

Statement

Madhya Pradesh

Year-wise Release of SCA to TSP, Expenditure Reported & Unspent Balance During IXth & Xth Plan period

SCA to TSP		(Rs. in Lakh)		
Year	Amount released	Expenditure reported	Unspent balance	Cumulative Unspent
1	2	3	4	5
IXth Plan				
1997-98	9207.83	7139.01	2068.82	4640.08
1998-99	9476.17	9647.23	-171.06	4469.02
1999-2000	9797.15	12026.47	-2229.32	2239.7

1	2	3	4	5
2000-01	6257.12	8789.15	-2532.03	-292.33
2001-02	7833.22	6224.78	1608.44	1316.11
Total	42571.49	43826.64	-1255.15	1316.11
Xth Plan				
2002-03	7833.22	8793.98	-960.76	355.35
2003-04	7458.93	7814.28	-355.35	0.00

Supplementing of Nutrition Cost

965. SHRI JASHUBHAI DHANABHAI BARAD: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has approved the revised norms for grant-in-aid of the Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) by increasing the supplementary nutrition cost per child from 95 paise to Rs.2;

(b) if so, the Centre's share in this scheme;

(c) the total estimated expenditure for the year 2005-06; and

(d) the total estimated requirement for the year 2006-07?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Central Government will share the cost of supplementary nutrition to the extent of 50% of the financial norms or 50% of the actual expenditure incurred by the State, whichever is less.

(c) The Central share for the year 2005-2006 is estimated at Rs.1508.00 crore.

(d) The requirement of Central share for 2006-2007 is estimated at Rs. 1700.00 crore.

[Translation]

Grant to Police Forces

966. SHRI KRISHNA MURARI MOGHE:

SHRI SARBANANDA SONOWAL:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Cabinet Committee on Security has increased the Central grant to all States except J&K and North Eastern States;

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

(c) the total utilization of the grants availed by the States for modernization programme, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI PRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) and (b) The Scheme for Modernization of State Police Forces has been revised in 2005-06. Under the revised scheme the States have been re-categorized into category "A" and category "B" with 100% and 75% Central funding respectively. The consequence of the re-categorization is that the total Central annual allocation has been enhanced to Rs.1645.00 crore.

The States of Assam, Manipur, Tripura, Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya, Nagaland and Mizoram have been categorized as category "A" with 100% Central funding, thus raising the level of Central funds to the North Eastern States. The State of Jammu and Kashmir is already at category "A" State with 100% Central funding.

The remaining States, viz., Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Goa, Gujarat, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Orissa, Punjab, Rajasthan, Sikkim, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh, Uttaranchal and West Bengal are categorized at category "B" States with 75% Central funding.

(c) The following are the details of the Central funds released and the utilization, as reported by the State Governments during the period 2000-01 to 2004-05.

Year	(Rs. in crore)	
	Central funds released	Central funds spent
2000-01	1000.00	913.81
2001-02	1000.00	863.18
2002-03	695.00	628.61
2003-04	705.27	625.97
2004-05	960.00	689.36

A Statement showing the state-wise details of Central funds released and utilization for the period 2000-01 to 2004-05 is enclosed.

Statement
**Scheme for Modernization of State Police Forces - 2000-01 to 2004-05 funds released/
utilization position (Position as on 23.11.2005)**

Name of State	2000-01		2000-01		2001-02		2001-02		2002-03		2002-03		2003-04		2003-04		2004-05		2004-05	
	Central funds rel. spent	unspent bal.	Central funds rel. spent	unspent bal.	Central funds rel. spent	unspent bal.	Central funds rel. spent	unspent bal.	Central funds rel. spent	unspent bal.	Central funds rel. spent	unspent bal.	Central funds rel. spent	unspent bal.	Central funds rel. spent	unspent bal.	Central funds rel. spent	unspent bal.		
Andhra Pradesh	72.02	00.00	77.20	00.00	81.32	80.64	00.68	69.46	65.38	04.08	79.73	34.21	45.52	04.08	79.73	34.21	45.52	04.08	79.73	
Arunachal Pradesh	01.15	00.69	04.45	00.51	5.20	01.40	03.80	7.24	1.72	05.52	9.13	6.15	2.98	05.52	9.13	6.15	2.98	05.52	9.13	
Assam	36.58	18.29	38.59	18.99	16.50	07.57	08.93	36.52	34.21	02.31	41.17	41.17	00.00	02.31	41.17	41.17	00.00	02.31	41.17	
Bihar	57.58	50.40	54.00	20.70	11.50	11.50	00.00	0.43	0.43	00.00	45.00	45.00	00.00	00.00	45.00	45.00	00.00	00.00	45.00	
Chhattisgarh	20.58	20.58	21.97	21.13	16.70	15.77	00.93	17.47	13.58	03.89	32.72	12.75	19.97	03.89	32.72	12.75	19.97	03.89	32.72	
Goa	02.02	1.77	02.00	01.25	2.00	01.10	00.90	1.40	01.25	00.15	0.28	0.28	00.00	01.25	00.15	0.28	0.28	01.25	00.15	
Gujarat	59.76	55.78	50.00	48.15	50.00	49.09	00.91	42.21	42.21	00.00	39.04	23.30	15.74	00.00	39.04	23.30	15.74	00.00	39.04	
Haryana	28.32	28.32	24.46	24.46	22.10	22.10	00.00	20.00	20.00	00.00	22.13	22.13	00.00	00.00	22.13	22.13	00.00	00.00	22.13	
Himachal Pradesh	01.34	01.34	06.38	03.16	6.20	01.01	05.19	0.69	0.69	00.00	2.57	2.57	00.00	00.00	2.57	2.57	00.00	00.00	2.57	
J & K	30.82	30.82	28.50	28.50	28.50	28.50	00.00	25.00	24.00	01.00	110.69	110.67	00.02	01.00	110.69	110.67	00.02	01.00	110.69	
Jharkhand	40.15	33.43	28.93	27.74	12.73	12.42	00.31	8.50	5.72	02.78	22.23	1.63	20.60	02.78	22.23	1.63	20.60	02.78	22.23	
Karnataka	82.85	82.85	76.90	76.89	75.00	69.02	05.98	69.31	67.45	01.86	58.87	53.61	05.26	01.86	58.87	53.61	05.26	01.86	58.87	
Kerala	29.28	28.24	31.16	29.96	25.13	25.13	00.00	22.00	22.00	00.00	26.45	17.74	08.71	00.00	26.45	17.74	08.71	00.00	26.45	
Madhya Pradesh	54.49	54.49	53.00	52.64	51.33	46.79	04.54	48.24	44.73	03.51	42.07	25.78	16.29	03.51	42.07	25.78	16.29	03.51	42.07	
Maharashtra	83.10	73.38	92.10	92.10	67.94	67.41	00.53	62.84	56.13	06.71	71.00	56.90	14.10	06.71	71.00	56.90	14.10	06.71	71.00	
Manipur	04.10	2.05	04.95	02.45	0.73	0.30	00.43	11.50	4.84	06.66	15.24	12.25	02.99	06.66	15.24	12.25	02.99	06.66	15.24	
Meghalaya	01.54	01.09	05.19	03.55	0.55	00.55	00.00	5.29	2.63	02.69	7.58	2.62	04.96	02.69	7.58	2.62	04.96	02.69	7.58	
Mizoram	04.95	4.95	05.50	05.50	5.50	2.75	02.75	8.47	1.76	06.71	7.45	1.49	05.96	06.71	7.45	1.49	05.96	06.71	7.45	
Nagaland	02.84	2.84	13.46	13.46	9.95	9.95	00.00	21.00	19.34	01.66	13.09	9.03	04.06	01.66	13.09	9.03	04.06	01.66	13.09	
Orissa	30.58	29.94	30.50	28.40	16.76	15.37	01.39	21.91	16.03	05.88	27.66	15.43	12.23	05.88	27.66	15.43	12.23	05.88	27.66	
Punjab	35.76	35.31	32.10	15.01	32.10	9.99	22.11	19.34	08.04	11.30	22.89	11.06	11.83	11.30	22.89	11.06	11.83	11.30	22.89	
Rajasthan	45.52	45.52	61.10	57.37	16.17	16.17	00.00	43.10	40.12	02.98	42.42	11.62	30.80	02.98	42.42	11.62	30.80	02.98	42.42	
Sikkim	01.83	00.11	2.87	00.89	0.09*	00.09	00.00	00.94	0.69	00.25	5.90	4.90	01.00	00.25	5.90	4.90	01.00	00.25	5.90	
Tamil Nadu	76.50	76.47	68.10	68.10	68.10	68.10	00.00	54.98	50.50	04.48	56.78	30.88	25.90	04.48	56.78	30.88	25.90	04.48	56.78	
Tripura	06.39	6.39	05.60	5.60	5.60	5.60	00.00	12.83	9.74	3.09	12.44	8.13	04.31	3.09	12.44	8.13	04.31	3.09	12.44	
Uttar Pradesh	123.97	117.49	116.05	105.96	60.39	53.38	07.01	65.02	65.02	00.00	108.33	97.36	10.97	00.00	108.33	97.36	10.97	00.00	108.33	
Uttaranchal	05.50	5.46	08.44	08.44	6.58	6.58	00.00	7.41	5.77	01.64	7.99	3.55	04.44	01.64	7.99	3.55	04.44	01.64	7.99	
West Bengal	60.48	33.79	56.50	21.03	0.33*	00.33	00.00	2.17	1.99	00.18	29.15	27.15	02.00	00.18	29.15	27.15	02.00	00.18	29.15	
Total	1000.00	913.81	1000.00	863.18	695.00	628.61	66.39	705.27	625.97	79.30	960.00	689.36	270.64	79.30	960.00	689.36	270.64	79.30	960.00	

* Amount indicated against Sikkim and West Bengal is only for POLNET Project.

@ includes an amount of Rs.8.78 crore for POLNET Project in all States.

*[English]***Distance Education**

967. SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to introduce distance education in B.Ed/J.B.T. and other vocational courses without conducting entrance test and also without fixing minimum percentage eligibility criteria;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by when it is likely to be introduced?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.A.A. FATMI): (a) to (c) According to the information furnished by the National Council for Teacher Education (NCTE), a statutory body entrusted with the responsibility of maintenance of norms and standards in the teacher education system in the country, while the Council is not in favour of the first Diploma/Degree in teacher education through distance mode, it has laid down norms and standards for B.Ed. (Programme) to be offered by Open Universities and, Directorate of Distance Education Institutes in dual mode Universities to in-service

teachers serving in recognized schools with a Bachelor's degree and having at least two years' experience.

Cargo Handling Capacity at Sea-Ports

968. SHRI B. MAHTAB: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to increase the cargo-handling capacity of the sea-ports of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken in each Port during the Tenth Five Year Plan?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) to (c) Projects for creation of additional capacities in the major ports are taken up keeping in view the demands of maritime trade as part of the on-going process of their development. The aggregate capacity in the 12 major ports has increased from 343.95 million tonnes per annum (MTPA) at the end of the Ninth Plan period on 31.3.2002 to 397.50 MTPA on 31.3.2005. A list of capacity yielding major schemes taken up/planned to be taken up in the 12 major ports during the Tenth Plan period (2002-2007) is enclosed as Statement.

Statement

List of capacity yielding major schemes taken up/planned to be taken up in 12 major ports during the 10th plan period

Sl. No.	Name of the Port/ Project	Capacity Addition (In Million tonnes)	
		Continuing Schemes from 9th Plan	New Schemes
1	2	3	4
I	Kolkata/ Haldia		
1	Construction of multipurpose Berth 4A	1.50	
2	Construction of Berth No.13	0.50	
	Total	2.00	
II	Paradip		
1	Construction of Oil Berth including reception facilities	6.00	
2	Construction of Berth for clean cargo		0.60
3	Construction of Deep Draught Iron Ore Berth on BOT Basis		10.00
	Total	6.00	10.60
III	Visakhapatam		
1	Construction of WQ-6 on captive basis		1.00
2	Construction of four multipurpose Berths in WQ 7 in the extended Northern arm of inner harbour	1.00	

1	2	3	4
3	Construction of EQ 8 and EQ 9 on BOT basis	2.00	
4	Upgradation of ore handling complex		6.00
	Total	3.00	7.00
IV	Chennai		
1	Provision of Additional Container handline Equipments	2.50	
2	Further extension of container terminal by 290 meter - civil works	0.50	
3	Modernisation of West Quay Berths	1.00	
4	Modernisation of SQ III and East Quay Berths	0.70	
	Total	4.70	
V	New Mangalore		
1	Port facilities for refinery expansion (MRPL)	5.20	
2	Construction of multipurpose Berth	3.00	
3	Additional General Cargo Berth	4.00	
4	Container transshipment terminal		5.00
5	Construction of captive coal jetty for NPCL		3.00
	Total	12.20	8.00
VI	Jawaharlal Nehru		
1	Marine Chemical Terminal (2 Berths)		5.00
2	Construction of Shallow Water Berth	1.20	
3	Conversion of Bulk Terminal to Container Terminal		9.00
	Total	1.20	14.00
VII	Cochin		
1	LNG/LPG facilities at Puthuvypeen		2.50
2	Vallarpadam Container Terminal		5.00
3	Crude handling facilities		6.00
4	Bunkering Terminal		1.00
	Total		14.50
VIII	Tuticorin		
1	Additional capacity expected by providing equipment by PSA SICAL Container Terminal at Berth No.7	0.85	
2	Construction of North Cargo Berth		1.00
3	Captive Coal Berth	1.50	
4	Dredging in front of Berth No.8 at Tuticorin Port	1.00	
	Total	3.35	1.00

1	2	3	4
IX	Mormugoa		
1	Construction of Berths No.5A & 6A	5.00	
2	Deepening of Berth at Vasco Bay		2.00
	Total	5.00	2.00
X	Mumbai		
1	Modernisation of jetties 1, 2, 3	4.00	
2	Second liquid chemical berth at Pir Pau	2.00	
3	Construction of coal berth at Pir Pau	1.50	
4	Construction of Container off-shore Berth		4.00
	Total	7.50	4.00
XI	Kandla		
1	General Cargo Berth 9 (renamed as 11th Cargo Berth)	0.80	
2	Container handling facilities	3.40	0.50
3	Setting up of Port related facilities by M/s ESSAR Refinery at Vadinar	15.00	
4	Allotment of Berth No.5 to APEDA on nomination basis	0.35	
	Construction of 10th cargo berth (renamed as 12th cargo berth)		0.80
	Total	19.55	1.30
XII	Ennore Port Limited		
1	Multiuser Coal Terminal		8.00
2	Two berths for chemical & LNG		5.00
3	Construction of alongside Jetty for VLCC		9.50
4	Construction of Iron Ore Berth		12.00
5	LNG jetty		2.50
6	Container Terminal at Ennore Port under BOT basis		12.00
	Total		49.00
	Grand Total	64.50	111.40

Suicide Cases in Educational Institutions

969. SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN:

SHRI HEMMAL MURMU:

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

(a) whether there has been a large number of suicide cases in educational institutions;

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

(c) whether the Government is conducting/proposes to conduct study to identify the root cause of students committing suicides; and

(d) if so, the steps taken/being taken by the Government to ensure that such cases are averted?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.A.A. FATMI): (a) and (b) No, Sir. Only Sporadic incidents of suicide by students in educational institutions, have come to the notice of the Government.

(c) and (d) Apart from an emphasis on creating a tension free academic environment in higher and technical educational institutions, steps taken by the Government to reduce stress among school level students at the secondary and senior secondary levels are as follows:

- (i) Launching of 'helpline' one month before the commencement of examination also before the declaration of results.
- (ii) Publication of sample question papers and marking schemes to familiarize students and teachers about the nature of questions and question papers.
- (iii) Elimination of overall aggregation of marks to reduce unhealthy competition among students.
- (iv) Introduction of comprehensive and continuous school based evaluation.
- (v) Providing facility of compartment examination in two subjects in class X and one subject in class XII.
- (vi) Providing three chances of compartment examination for class X and XII.
- (vii) Simplification of question papers in some of the important subjects to provide more internal choices of questions.

Development of Cottage Industry through NGOs

970. SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY: Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is funding NGOs for the development of cottage industries and for conducting developmental programmes in different States;

(b) if so, the details of such NGOs for the last three years alongwith the fund released/spent, State-wise, organisation-wise, programme-wise; and

(c) the total number of beneficiaries through these projects?

THE MINISTER OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND MINISTER OF AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRI MAHAVIR PRASAD): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Government, through the Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC), implements the (i) Rural Employment Generation Programme (REGP) for generation of employment through setting up of village industries, including cottage industries, (ii) Rural Industries Service Centre (RISC) Scheme for setting up Common Facility Centres (CFCs) to provide infrastructural support and services to the units and (iii) Product Development, Design Intervention and Packaging (PRODIP) Scheme for improved design and packaging of village industry products. While no NGO has been assisted under REGP, the details of NGOs undertaking projects under the RISC and PRODIP schemes during the last three years along with the funds released to them are given in Statement-I and II respectively.

(c) Institutions/organizations assisted under the RISC and PRODIP schemes are the direct beneficiaries, details of which are given in Statement I and II referred to in reply to parts (a) and (b) above. These institutional beneficiaries, in turn, help provide employment opportunities to many more persons in the rural areas, directly and indirectly.

Statement-I

State-wise, Organisation-wise details of CFCs established under the RISC Scheme during 2004-05

(Rs. lakh)

Name of institution	Industry	Activity	Funds released
1	2	3	4
Year 2004-05			
Jharkhand			
Ramakrishna Mission, Ranchi	Bee Keeping	Quality control lab for honey product	1.87
Chhota Nagpur Khadi Gramodyog Sansthan, Ranchi	Bee Keeping	Bottling & Sealing Unit for Honey Processing Plant	1.87

1	2	3	4
West Bengal			
M/s Gour Resham Shilpi Sansthan, Viii. Jote, Po. Arapur, Dist. Maida	Agro based Food Processing Industries	Mango Processing	1.87
Tamil Nadu			
Erode Sarvodaya Sangh, Erode	Polymer and Chemical Based Industries	Leather (Footwear Unit)	1.87
Indira Priyadarshini Society, 177/254, Konapulla, Medu, Pallipalayan Road, Kumarappalayam-638183, Namakkal Dist. T.N.	Biotechnology	Bio-Manure/Vermi Compost	1.87
CARD-Trust, Thappu, Kandu, 2- Theni, Madurai	Biotechnology	Bio-Manure Testing Laboratory	2.625
Kerala			
Brahmagiri Dev. Society, Wayanad	Biotechnology	Setting up Laboratory, Training etc.	1.875
Kerala Gandhi Smarak Nidhi,	Mineral Based Industries	Pottery Cluster	1.875
Andhra Pradesh			
Walvilal Khadi Gramodyog Pratishthan, Walvilal, Karim Nagar Dist.	Khadi	Post Weaving Processing Unit	1.87
The Nilgiri Educational Society, Atmakur, Mangalagiri (M) Guntur Dist.	Biotechnology	Technology upgradation & Quality Control in Vermi Compost Units	1.87
Uttar Pradesh			
Chief Executive Officer, UP Khadi and Village Industries Board, Lucknow (Departmental Center At- Tikar Mati, Sultanpur)	Khadi	Production of woolen Khadi	1.875
Kshetriya Shri Gandhi Ashram, Gorakhpur	Khadi	Production of woolen Khadi	1.875
Karnataka			
Karnataka Khadi Gramodyog Samithi, Bengari, Hubli	Khadi	Khadi Textile Testing Laboratory	1.87
Sri Kshetra Dharma Shala Rural Development Project, Dharma Shala D.K. Dist.	Marketing	Branding & Marketing of Pickles	3.75
Total			28.835

Note: Implementation of Rural Industries Service Centre (RISC) scheme started during 2004-05 only.

Statement-II

*State-wise. Organisation-wise details of projects financed under the
PRODIP Scheme during 2003-04 and 2004-05.*

S. No	State	Project Implementing Agency	Project Type	Funds released (Rs.)
Year 2003-04				
1	Uttar Pradesh	Kshetriya Sri Gandhi Ashram, Moradabad, U.P.	Packaging for shampoo	115000
2	Uttar Pradesh	Raghav Gramodyog Sansthan, 10/12 Rajpura Road, Meerut, U.P.	Product Design in both wooden and steel furniture items	30000
3	Uttar Pradesh	Gandhi Ashram, Bareilly, U.P.	Product Design in furniture items	33300
4	Uttar Pradesh	Tarun Gramiya Vikas Samiti, 86/416 Dev Nagar, Kanpur (UP)	Contemporary Designs in leather	45900
5	Karnataka	Khadi Gramodyog Sahakari Utpadaka Sangh Ltd., Hudli 591 148, Belgaum (Dist.)	Packaging for Agarbathi, soap	34875
6	Karnataka	Khadi Gramodyog Sahakari Utpadaka Sangh Ltd., Hudli - 591 148, Belgaum Dist	Packaging for pickles and mango pulp	34875
7	Tamil Nadu	Smt. R. Ramathilagam M/s. Balaji Instant Sambirani Works, Tirunagar, Madurai	Product development and packaging improvement in Dhoop sticks and Dhoop cones.	76750
8	Tamil Nadu	Ambasamudram Sarvodaya Sangh, Tirunelveli Dist.	Product Development and packaging improvement in Agarbatti	137665
9	Tamil Nadu	Gandhigram KVI PC Trust	Product Development and packaging improvement in toilet soap and herbal shampoo	105000
10	Tamil Nadu	Smt. Krishnaveni, Gandhi Gramodyog, Chennai 44	Design and printing of paper board bags	16785
11	Kerala	C. Podiyam, Saji Agencies	Modernisation in Cane & Bamboo furniture including value addition to existing products	27600
12	West Bengal	Pascim Bonga Rajya Talgur Shilpi Samabaya Mahasangha Ltd., 4, Bepin Pal Road, Kolkata - 700 026	Neera Parash (soft drink)	60000
13	Andhra Pradesh	Shainoju Timbers & Furnitures, Hyderabad	Wooden Furniture	22500
Total				740250
Year: 2004-05				
14	Uttar Pradesh	Ravi Gramodyog Sewa Sansthan, 368/111, Lakar mandi, Saadatganj, Lucknow - 226017	Blister packaging for Pickles	28500
Total				28500

Note: Implementation of Rural Industries Service Centre (RISC) scheme started during 2003-04 only.

Creation of Job Opportunity by KVIC

971. SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI:

SHRI DHANUSKODI R. ATHITHAN:

SHRI JASWANT SINGH BISHNOI:

Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) has been given responsibility to provide incentives to new industrial units for creating new job opportunities in rural areas;

(b) if so, the number of new industrial units provided incentives in the country during 2003-2004, 2004-2005, State-wise;

(c) the estimated number of persons provided with the jobs as a result thereof;

(d) the targeted number of new units to be set up following the incentives given for the purpose during the current financial years; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to achieve the targets within stipulated time?

THE MINISTER OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND MINISTER OF AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRI MAHAVIR PRASAD): (a) To provide incentives to new industrial units for creating job opportunities in rural areas, the Government implements the Rural Employment Generation Programme (REGP) through the Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC). REGP is a credit-linked subsidy programme. Under this programme, an entrepreneur can establish a project with a maximum cost of Rs. 25 lakh, by availing of margin money assistance from the KVIC and loan from public sector scheduled commercial banks, selected regional rural banks, cooperative banks, etc.

(b) to (d) State-wise number of new projects set up and employment generated under REGP during 2003-04 and 2004-05 and targets for 2005-06 are given in enclosed Statements-I and II.

(e) The steps taken by the Government to achieve the targets within the stipulated time include holding/organizing entrepreneurial development programmes (EDPs), exhibitions, workshops, awareness camps, etc., in each State. KVIC has also set up Rural Industries Consultancy Services (RICS) centers to help the potential eligible entrepreneurs file applications under REGP for setting up industries in rural areas.

Statement-I

State-wise number of new projects set up under REGP during 2003-04 and 2004-05 and target for 2005-06.

(Number of projects)

S. No.	State/ Union Territory	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06 (Target)
1	2	3	4	5
I	North Zone			
1	Chandigarh	8	8	4
2	Delhi	7	9	29
3	Haryana	923	1140	1078
4	Himachal Pradesh	141	469	689
5	Jammu & Kashmir	775	922	550
6	Punjab	882	864	1351
7	Rajasthan	2496	1537	2085
II	East Zone			
1	Andaman & Nicobar	58	6	138
2	Bihar	88	254	450
3	Jharkhand	323	240	875
4	Orissa	1031	991	801
5	West Bengal	3348	2584	2052
III	North East Zone			
1	Arunachal Pradesh	32	43	94
2	Assam	1223	1658	1381
3	Manipur	36	102	275
4	Meghalaya	210	146	275
5	Mizoram	33	162	411
6	Nagaland	61	151	157
7	Sikkim	113	233	198
8	Tripura	244	139	98
IV	South Zone			
1	Andhra Pradesh	1097	1988	3097

1	2	3	4	5
2	Karnataka	1422	934	1819
3	Kerala	2046	914	1151
4	Lakshadweep	9	0	01
5	Pondicherry	47	7	56
6	Tamil Nadu	1568	925	1096
V	West Zone			
1	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	2	0	0
2	Daman & Diu	0	0	0
3	Goa	0	138	275
4	Gujarat	290	376	554
5	Maharashtra	857	1773	1726
VI	Central Zone			
1	Chhattisgarh	697	656	826
2	Madhya Pradesh	1041	1361	1167
3	Uttaranchal	1106	513	550
4	Uttar Pradesh	2134	2210	3614
Grand Total		24747	23453	28923

Statement-II

State-wise number of employment generated under REGP during 2003-04 and 2004-05 and target for 2005-06

Employment : Number of persons

S. No.	State/ Union Territory	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06 (Target)
1	2	3	4	5
I	North Zone			
1	Chandigarh	162	188	83
2	Delhi	231	144	275
3	Haryana	33201	35691	21588
4	Himachal Pradesh	13485	12256	13750
5	Jammu & Kashmir	6845	9406	13101

1	2	3	4	5
6	Punjab	13600	30665	25005
7	Rajasthan	51337	38287	50095
II	East Zone			
1	Andaman & Nicobar	504	93	2750
2	Bihar	3818	5049	11537
3	Jharkhand	3968	6855	13468
4	Orissa	13431	15241	16005
5	West Bengal	27350	36581	41030
III	Noth East Zone			
1	Arunachal Pradesh	864	1219	1870
2	Assam	15548	25768	27610
3	Manipur	682	1313	3355
4	Meghalaya	2171	3789	5500
5	Mizoram	1174	5180	8223
6	Nagaland	2332	3851	3135
7	Sikkim	4316	3994	3960
8	Tripura	2140	3227	1953
IV	South Zone			
1	Andhra Pradesh	31996	66463	46761
2	Karnataka	29958	19478	36383
3	Kerala	50291	16434	25119
4	Lakshadweep	127	0	28
5	Pondicherry	219	146	1160
6	Tamil Nadu	24028	19159	21918
V	West Zone			
1	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	61	0	0
2	Goa	1715	1670	3500
3	Gujarat	2236	8581	11083
4	Maharashtra	15498	25040	34513
VI	Central Zone			
1	Chhattisgarh	19815	18347	16528

1	2	3	4	5
2	Madhya Pradesh	23683	40539	23348
3	Uttaranchal	16825	10471	11000
4	Uttar Pradesh	57847	64889	60396
Grand Total		471458	530025	556030

[Translation]

Activities of BDR

972. SHRI CHANDRA MANI TRIPATHI:

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) Jawans sneaked into a village of West Bangal across Indian border and ransacked/looted the village;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) to (c) Yes Sir. On 14th October, 2005, Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) troops in uniform from BDR BOP, Bhaighar, ex-15 R Bn illegally transgressed into Indian territory in Village Dhimpur, District Dakshin Dinajpur, West Bengal and physically assaulted the Indian citizens, by resorting to firing, looting and ransacking the houses. They also took away the articles including Motor Cycle, Mobile Phone, Gold ornaments and Cash. On receipt of information, BSF troops rushed to the spot and recovered some of the articles. BSF held flag meetings and lodged protest note with the BDR. Ministry of External Affairs has also lodged a protest note with the High Commission of People's Republic of Bangladesh on this incident and requested to take necessary action to avoid reoccurrence of such incidents.

[English]

Safety of Outstation Students

973. SHRI M. SREENIVASULU REDDY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details with regard to the system available with the Government to ensure the safety of the students coming to Delhi for education from foreign countries and other States;

(b) whether the Government has any mechanism to periodically review the safety arrangements of such students; and

(c) if so, the details thereof alongwith the outcome of the last review?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.A.A. FATMI): (a) Local administration ensures prevention of crimes and maintenance of law and order affecting all citizens, including students coming from other States and other countries to Delhi.

(b) No such review is maintained at the level of Central Government.

(c) Does not arise.

Colleges under One Set Up

974. SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE:

SHRI KIRTI VARDHAN SINGH:

SHRI EKNATH MAHADEO GAIKWAD:

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

(a) whether the UGC proposes to launch a scheme of bringing a cluster of colleges together having common objectives;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the objectives of the scheme;

(c) whether the economic viability of the proposed scheme has been examined keeping the interest of students alongwith the educational institutions into consideration; and

(d) if so, the steps taken/being taken by the Government for the timely implementation of the scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.A.A. FATMI): (a) According to the information furnished by the University Grants Commission (UGC), the scheme has not been approved by the Commission.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

[Translation]

Industrial Recession

975. SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the country is passing through a phase of industrial recession at present;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the steps taken by the government to do away with this industrial recession; and

(d) the number of industries closed down as a result of industrial recession during the last two years, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELAN-GOVAN): (a) Industrial production, as measured by the General Index of Industrial Production with base 1993-94, does not show that the country is passing through a recession. Production increased by 5.7 per cent in 2002-03, 7.0 per cent in 2003-04 and 8.4 per cent in 2004-05. The industrial growth during April-September, 2005-06 rose to 8.8 per cent compared to 8.3 per cent during the corresponding period of 2004-05.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

[English]

**Recruitment of CRPF in Naxal
Affected Areas**

976. SHRI JUAL ORAM: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether CRPF is recruiting persons from Naxal affected areas particularly from Orissa;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor alongwith the total number of local people recruited, State-wise; and

(c) the details of the posts for which recruitment has taken place during each of the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRI PRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) and (b) With a view to wean away the youth from the path of violence by providing them gainful employment, Government has earmarked certain quota of vacancies in Central Police Forces (CPFs) to be filled from Naxal-affected areas. The number of vacancies of Constable (GD) allotted to Naxal-affected States in the recruitment in the current year (2005-06) in CRPF is given in the enclosed Statement-I.

(c) The category-wise details of posts for which recruitment was made during the last three years by CRPF are given in the enclosed Statement-II.

Statement-I

S. No.	Name of the States	Number of Vacancies
1.	Andhra Pradesh	2,943
2.	Bihar	2,805
3.	Jharkhand	1,780
4.	Madhya Pradesh	1,128
5.	Chhattisgarh	865
6.	Maharashtra	1,956
7.	Orissa	1,282
8.	Uttar Pradesh	3,066
9.	West Bengal	2,416
Total		18,241

Statement-II

Category of posts	Number of persons recruited, Year-wise		
	2002	2003	2004
Group 'A'	88	45	77
Group 'B'	Nil	Nil	Nil
Group 'C'	22,361	1,302	28,233
Group 'D'	36	30	39

Conventional Universities in Karnataka

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

(a) whether the Gulbarga, Mangalore and Kuvempu conventional Universities in the State of Karnataka have been asked not to venture in open and distance education as per the Karnataka State University Rules, 2000; and

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.A.A. FATMI): (a) and (b) According to the Indira Gandhi National Open University, the Chancellor of the Universities in Karnataka has directed on 17th August, 2005 that the conventional universities in the State, including universities of Gulbarga,

Mangalore and Kuvempu, shall not, until further orders, make fresh admission to any of the courses coming under the Open University System. The State Universities function under the State Legislations and the Central Government does not have any say in the matter.

Subways and Underpasses

978. SHRI SWADESH CHAKRABORTTY: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a stretch of fifty five kilometres on NH-2 and NH-6 in Howrah district has no subways and underpasses on the important and busy crossings;

(b) if so, whether any initiative has been taken by the Government to construct subways and underpasses at these crossings; and

(c) if so, the details thereof alongwith the date by which the aforesaid construction work is likely to begin?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) to (c) On 54.4 km stretch of NH-6 in Howrah district i.e. from Dankuni to Kolaghat, one underpass at km 66.573, in front of Anand Niketan High School, Begnan, has been provided. A flyover at Km. 24.6 (Salap More) across NH-6 with a provision of facility of Staircases on both side and footpath for use by pedestrians is in advance stage of completion. On about 3 km stretch of NH-2 in Howrah district i.e. from Dankuni to Bali Bridge, six underpasses at km 666.60, km 667.910, km 668.207, km 668.336, km 668.950 and km 669.170 have been provided. At present there is no proposal to construct any other subway or underpass in these stretches.

Pepper and Cardamom Export

979. SHRI P.C. THOMAS:

SHRI N. N. KRISHNADAS:

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

(a) whether any assistance has recently been sought by the Government of Kerala, Spices Board and other pertinent Organisations to enhance the export of spices especially pepper and cardamom;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) and (b) Proposals were received for providing subsidy for covering the costs towards upgrading, internal transportation and international freight in the export of pepper and cardamom.

(c) Government of India has recently announced a scheme for grant of a WTO-compatible subsidy on export of 20,000 metric tonnes of pepper from India at the rate of Rs. 5.00 per kg (or the actual cost incurred, whichever is less) for international freight and Rs. 2.00 per kg for internal transport, subject to certain conditions. This scheme is implemented as a one time measure and will end on 31 March 2006.

[Translation]

Violence in UP

980. SHRI ASHOK KUMAR RAWAT:

SHRI SURAVARAM SUDHAKAR REDDY:

SHRI BRAJESH PATHAK:

SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPPAN:

SHRI MUNSHI RAM:

SHRI SHISHUPAL N. PATLE:

PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR:

SHRI NARENDRA KUMAR KUSHAWAHA:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has received any report on the violence at Mau in the State of Uttar Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the action taken by the Government in this regard;

(c) whether the Union Government has also sent any Central Team to conduct inquiry into the aforesaid violence;

(d) if so, whether any report has been submitted to the Government by the team; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. As per the report received from the State Government of

Uttar Pradesh, in connection with the proposed Bharat Milap Programme on 14.10.2005 by the Ram Lila Committee, Mau Town, communal tension started over use of loudspeakers on the night of 13th October, 2005 in the town. This was followed by communal incidents on 14th October and subsequent days in which 8 persons were killed, 37 persons sustained injuries, 227 houses/shops, 13 industrial establishments and 12 handlooms/powerlooms were damaged. The estimated loss due to damages to property was reported by State Government at Rs. 8.55 crore. Senior Officers of the State Government camped at the affected areas and the State Government took measures like imposition of curfew, deployment of forces, patrolling of affected areas etc. for restoration of normalcy. A total of 440 persons were arrested and sent to jail and a total of 57 offences have been registered.

Five incumbent officers including the District Magistrate and Superintendent of Police were placed under suspension for their failure to control the situation. An enquiry Committee has also been constituted by the State Govt. to inquire into these incidents. An amount of Rupees Two lakh to the dependents of each of the deceased person and in the case of those injured an amount of Rs. 25,000/- was sanctioned by the State Government.

Under the Seventh Schedule of the Constitution, 'Police' and 'Public Order' are State subjects and registration of cases, investigation and prosecution are the primary concern of the State Governments. The Union Government has also issued advisories to the State Government from time to time and has also taken a variety of administrative measures and promotional efforts for communal harmony. These include constant review of the communal situation in the country, maintaining a continuous watch over the activities of organizations having a bearing on peace and communal harmony, sending alert messages, sharing of information, sending Central Para-Military forces to the States on the specific request of the concerned State Government(s), assistance in the modernization of the State Police Forces etc. The Union Government has also issued to all the States/Union Territories comprehensive guidelines to promote communal harmony. The promotional efforts include providing grants for organizations engaged in activities promoting communal harmony, annual Communal Harmony Awards and Kabir Puraskar and observance of Quami Ekta Week. The National Common Minimum Programme of the Government envisages enactment of a law to deal with communal violence.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e) Do not arise.

[English]

Subsidy on Orthodox Tea

981. SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has announced subsidy on the manufacturing of orthodox teas;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether some Associations of tea growers especially from Nilgiri have represented the Government that this subsidy do not apply on the manufacturers buying green leaves;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether there has been representation from small growers as the prices of raw material has not increased;

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

(g) the steps taken by the Government to extend benefit to the small growers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) The scheme sanctioned by the Government envisages grant of subsidy for production of orthodox tea @ Rs.3 per kg for leaf grades and Rs.2 per kg for dust grades for existing levels of production with additional incentive @ Rs. 2 per kg. for the incremental volume over the previous year from 1st January 2005 to 31st March 2007. The estimated outlay for this scheme is Rs.65 crores and this will be financed from the special fund created with collections of additional duty of excise on tea.

(c) and (d) The Nilgiri Small Tea Growers' Association has pointed out that as none of the Bought Leaf Factories are having orthodox manufacturing facility, the orthodox subsidy is not helping the small tea growers. The benefit of the scheme as sanctioned by the Government is applicable to all the tea producers in the country for producing orthodox teas only.

(e) Yes Sir.

(f) The decline in tea prices could partly be attributed to supply of comparatively poor quality green leaf to the processing factories and poor manufacturing practices

followed by some factories. Good quality leaf continues to get reasonably good prices and better quality made tea also fetches good prices despite the decline in average prices. There has been some improvement in tea prices in South India recently due to various quality control measures taken by the Tea Board.

(g) A number of steps have been taken by the Government and the Tea Board to help the small tea growers. These include implementation of a price sharing formula between the small tea growers and manufacturers of tea with effect from 1st April 2004 in order to ensure that the small tea growers get a reasonable share of the price obtained by the manufacturer for made tea and implementation of a Special Tea Term Loan (STTL) which inter alia provides for sanctioning of working capital up to Rs.2 lakhs at a concessional rate of interest for small tea growers. Government has also set up a Price Stabilization Fund, the benefits of which are available to small tea growers having holding up to 4 hectares. Besides, financial assistance by way of subsidy and grant in aid is extended to small growers for various developmental activities such as new planting, replanting, rejuvenation pruning and infilling the vacancies, creation of irrigation facilities, organizing themselves into self help groups, participation in the study tours etc. Tea Board has also taken steps to create quality awareness among the small growers.

Changes in Training Programme of Police Force

982. SHRI CHENGARA SURENDRAN: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to make changes in the training programmes of the police force in the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) and (b) Evaluation and modification of training programmes of police force in the country is an ongoing process. The contents of programmes are modified as also specific courses are run keeping in view the operational requirements, induction of new technologies, new challenges in the field situations, feed back from the personnel in field, inspection reports and case studies of important incidents.

Reservation of Seats for SCs/STs

983. SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR:

SHRI BADIGA RAMAKRISHNA:

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

(a) whether the private educational institutions in the country are providing reservations to the weaker sections of society;

(b) if not, the role of UGC in getting reservation to the weaker sections of society in such educational institutions;

(c) whether the Government proposes to amend foreign Universities Bill in order to regulate the fee structure of foreign universities having their branches in the country and also to reserve seats for the students of SCs/STs and backward classes; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.A.A. FATMI):

(a) and (b) The Hon'ble Supreme Court vide its recent judgement in P.A. Inamdar Vs State of Maharashtra (2005) has decided that the State does not have any right to implement the policy of reservation in unaided private professional educational institutions.

(c) The Government has not taken, a final view in regard to the entry and operations of foreign educational providers.

(d) Does not arise.

Export of Agricultural Products

984. SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR:

SHRI E.G. SUGAVANAM:

MS. INGRID MCLEOD:

SHRI MITRASEN YADAV:

SHRI RANEN BARMAN:

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

(a) the details with regard to the agricultural products exported/imported by India from different countries;

(b) the names of agricultural products exported from India at present;

(c) whether the Government has abolished cess on agricultural and other products to boost farm export;

(d) if so, the details thereof alongwith the steps taken by the Government to attain self sufficiency in agricultural products;

(e) whether the Government has appointed Agricultural Counsellors abroad to promote agricultural trade with major importing countries of agricultural products; and

(f) if so, the details thereof, country-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) and (b) Main agricultural products being exported from India are rice, wheat, meat, poultry & dairy products, fruits & vegetables, nuts & seeds, tobacco & its products, spices, oil-meals, processed food etc. Some of the major agricultural items being imported into the country are vegetable oils (edible), sugar, nuts & seeds including raw cashew nuts, pulses etc.

Product-wise/country-wise details of exports/imports are available in the "Foreign Trade Statistics of India" compiled by the Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence & Statistics (DGCI&S), Kolkata.

(c) and (d) The Government has already approved a proposal for removal of export cess on agricultural commodities with the policy perspective that taxes and duties ought not to be exported. In this regard, a Bill for amending/repealing certain Acts/Rules, administered by the Department of Commerce, has already been introduced in the Lok Sabha.

Indian agriculture has taken rapid strides since 1951. The food grains production has increased from 50.82 million tones in 1951 to more than 212 million tones in 2003-04. The country has already graduated from food shortages and imports to self-sufficiency in food grains and its exports.

(e) and (f) In order to promote trade and to liaise with the international organizations like Food & Agriculture Organisation, European Commission, WTO etc., Government of India appoints its representatives/ officials abroad designated as Adviser, Minister, Research Officer etc. Also, the Commercial Wings in all Indian Missions/Embassies abroad have been entrusted with the responsibility of promoting exports of Indian products including agricultural products.

[Translation]

Construction of Four Lane Bridge on Chambal River

985. SHRI ASHOK ARGAL: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to construct a four lane bridge on the river Chambal on the National Highway No.3;

(b) if so, whether the survey work of the said bridge has been completed; and

(c) if so, the time by which the construction work of the above bridge is likely to be started?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) Yes, Sir. It is proposed to construct a two lane bridge on the river Chambal in km 59-60 on National Highway-3 on Agra-Gwalior section as part of North South Corridor adjacent to exiting two lane bridge to make it four lane bridge.

(b) Survey and investigation work has been taken up.

(c) The work of construction of above bridge is expected to be started in September 2006.

[English]

Issuance of Notices by NDMC to Shopkeeper

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

(a) whether NDMC has issued notice to the shopkeepers to clear the verandahs in the Market falling under their jurisdiction in the recent past;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action NDMC propose to take to avert any incident of the type that took place on October, 2005 killing large number of people?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) and (b) The New Delhi Municipal Council has reported that It has issued Show Cause Notices under Section 247 of the New Delhi Municipal Council Act, 1994 to the shopkeepers of Sarojini Nagar Market.

(c) New Delhi Municipal Council proposes not to allow any temporary Tehbazari during festivals and also to shift and re-allocate Tehbazari from congested markets.

[Translation]

Repairs and Re-construction of Highways

987. SHRI GANESH SINGH: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the criterion fixed for repairs and reconstruction of Highways within the country;

(b) the amount allocated for repairs and reconstruction of the National Highways to the State of Madhya Pradesh as per criterion fixed by the Government during the current year alongwith the names of the roads;

(c) whether the proposal related to repairs and reconstruction of National Highways No. 7, 75 and 78 in Satna (M.P.) have been received by the Government; and

(d) if so, the details of the action taken in this regard till date?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) The repair and reconstruction (development) on National Highways are taken up on the basis of the traffic, condition of the road/bridges, location and availability of funds.

(b) The allocation of fund for development and maintenance of National Highways are made state wise and not National Highway wise. During the current financial year (2005-06) allocation of Rs.99.03 crore and Rs.55.14 crore have been made to the Government of Madhya Pradesh for the National Highways entrusted to them for development and maintenance respectively.

(c) and (d) Yes Sir. Out of 25 proposals received from State PWD, 19 proposals amounting to Rs.23.24 crore have been sanctioned so far under Plan & Non Plan head.

[English]

Crime Against Children

988. SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL:

SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA:

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

(a) whether the crimes committed against children is on the increase in the country;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the effective steps taken by the Government to keep a check on the trend by putting in place a system for giving adequate care and protection to children?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) There are various reasons for crimes against children such as social, economic and others.

(c) Efforts are being made to check the crimes against children by effective implementation of laws for care and protection of children such as Indian Penal code,

Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act, Pre-natal Diagnostic Technique (Regulation, Prevention and Misuse) Act, Child Marriage (Restraint) Act, Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection) Act, etc.

Payment of Dues to Tobacco Growers

989. SHRI BADIGA RAMAKRISHNA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Tobacco Growers of Andhra Pradesh are yet to receive the final payment for their produce of Virginia Tobacco;

(b) if so, the facts and reasons for delay;

(c) whether the Government has initiated action to find out the reasons due to which Tobacco Board and the Tobacco growers are unable to pay their bank loans and are committing suicide; and

(d) if so, the steps proposed to be taken by the Government for expediting the matter and provide immediate relief to tobacco growers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) and (b) All payments have been made to tobacco growers of Andhra Pradesh for their produce of FCV tobacco, except about 20% of the sale proceeds of the crop holiday violators of 2001 season. The said amount is withheld on the directions of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India pending final judgement in the case.

(c) and (d) No such incident has so far been reported. Government hopes to reach an out-of-court settlement with the crop holiday violators as soon as the SLP is taken up for hearing by the Hon'ble Supreme Court.

Widening of Four Lane Road into Six Lanes

990. SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO:

SHRI MOHAN SINGH:

SHRI JASHUBHAI DHANABHAI BARAD:

SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA:

Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to shortly roll out a mega Rs. 175,000 crore project for six laning of the entire Golden Quadrilateral network for complete execution

on the 'build-operate-transfer' (BOT) basis as reported in The Hindu dated October 22, 2005;

- (b) if so, the facts thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has formulated any scheme in this regard;
- (d) if so, the details thereof alongwith the estimated cost of the project;
- (e) whether the Government has selected road stretches;
- (f) if so, the details thereof, State-wise;
- (g) the time by which the work on the widening of four-lane highways into six lane is likely to be started;
- (h) whether any public private partnership sought for the implementation of the said project; and
- (i) if so, the steps taken by the Union Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) to (i) It is proposed to widen 6500 km of National Highways to six lanes on Build Operate and Transfer Basis under National Highways Development Project (Phase-V) at a cost of Rs. 22750 crores. It will include the entire length of 5846 km. of Golden Quadrilateral and some other selected stretches. It is premature to give the details, as the whole matter is under discussion with the Planning Commission.

[Translation]

Challans of Red Beacon Vehicles

991. SHRI BHANU PRATAP SINGH VERMA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has directed the Delhi Police to take action against people misusing red beacon on vehicles;
- (b) if so, the action taken by the Delhi Police against persons using red beacon unauthorisedly on vehicle;
- (c) whether red beacon on vehicles is being used in Delhi on a large scale; and
- (d) if so, the details and reaction of the Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) Delhi Police is already

empowered under the Central Motor Vehicles Rule, 1989 and Delhi Motor Rules, 1993 to take action against unauthorized use of Roof Top Lights on motor vehicles.

(b) to (d) Delhi Police has issued 44 challans during 2005 (upto 15th November, 2005) for unauthorized use of red beacons on vehicles. Delhi Police is strictly enforcing the provisions of the Central Motor Vehicles Rules, 1989 and Delhi Motor Vehicle Rules, 1993 against the unauthorized use of red beacons and whenever vehicles using red beacons lights in violation of relevant rules are noticed, they are challaned.

Performance of Anganwadi Kendra

992. SHRI MUNSHI RAM:

PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR:

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

- (a) whether the Government has reviewed the performance of 'Anganwadi Kendras' opened in the various States as reported in 'Rashtriya Sahara' dated September 24, 2005;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and total number of bogus Anganwadi Kendra detected so far;
- (c) whether medicine kit is available with all Kendras;
- (d) if not, whether the Government has provided funds to all the States for making the medicine kits available at all the Kendras;
- (e) if so, the details of such States who have not spent such funds;
- (f) the action taken by the Government against such Anganwadi Kendras; and
- (g) the effective steps taken by the Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH): (a) and (b) The implementation of the ICDS Scheme is reviewed with the representatives of the State Government/UT Administration from time to time. One such review was held on 14.9.2005 wherein issues such as operationalisation of sanctioned Projects and Anganwadi Centres, supply of supplementary nutrition procurement of Medicine and Pre-School Education kits etc. were discussed. No instance of bogus Anganwadi Centres was reported during the meeting.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) The Government of India releases grant-in-aid, as per approved pattern, for various components, including medicine kits, under the ICDS Scheme. In case, however, expenditure on a particular component is not incurred, the grant-in-aid is adjusted in release of subsequent instalments.

(e) As per the information available, the States of Goa, Haryana, J&K, Jharkhand, Punjab, Tamil Nadu, Uttaranchal, Delhi, Dadra & Nagar Haveli, Manipur and Sikkim have not incurred expenditure on Medicine kits during 2004-2005.

(f) and (g) The Government of India has been constantly impressing upon the States/UTs to regularly procure and supply Medicine Kits to Anganwadi Centres as per the guidelines of the ICDS Scheme.

Construction of Highways

993. SHRI MOHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government selects new National Highways for upgradation/construction every year;

(b) if so, the details of the National Highways in Kilometers upgraded/constructed in the country particularly in Uttaranchal and Uttar Pradesh during the last three years and the amount allotted therefor, State-wise;

(c) the details of the procedure for selection of National Highways; and

(d) the total percentage of amount being paid by the Union Government to States for construction and maintenance of National Highways?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) Development of National Highways is continuous process and is taken up every year according to the traffic, inter-se priority and availability of funds.

(b) About 20178.17 km length of National Highways was developed during the last three years in the country and out of which 271.86 km length of National Highways developed in the Uttaranchal and 1567.35 km length of National Highways developed in the Uttar Pradesh. State-wise details including the amount allocated and length of National Highways developed are given in the enclosed Statement.

(c) The selection of National Highways (NH) for

development and upgradation is based on the traffic and its growth, condition of the National Highway, inter-se priority and availability of funds.

(d) The Union Government provides the entire funds to the States for development and maintenance of National Highways as per the availability of funds.

Statement

Allocation of Funds for Development of National Highways during the last three years

S. No.	Name of State	Total Length upgraded/ developed during last three years (km)	Total allocation during last three years (Rs. crore)
1	2.	3	4
1	Andhra Pradesh	2063.40	325.71
2	Arunachal Pradesh	401.28	10.55
3	Assam	918.02	252.78
4	Bihar	754.65	239.11
5	Chandigarh	1.00	6.20
6	Chhattisgarh	802.74	158.46
7	Delhi	14.50	22.00
8	Goa	70.80	37.00
9	Gujarat	802.19	246.35
10	Haryana	698.55	164.50
11	Himachal Pradesh	392.03	107.00
12	Jammu and Kashmir	40.52	8.00
13	Jharkhand	491.80	103.70
14	Karnataka	1126.86	320.61
15	Kerala	663.60	251.50
16	Madhya Pradesh	1315.80	269.00
17	Maharashtra	1660.88	375.56

1	2	3	4
18	Manipur	186.00	41.60
19	Meghalaya	279.25	88.13
20	Mizoram	205.74	75.00
21	Nagaland	99.75	37.50
22	Orissa	889.80	205.09
23	Pondicherry	0.00	7.20
24	Punjab	539.16	149.55
25	Rajasthan	1861.26	234.61
26	Tamil Nadu	1299.82	283.07
27	Tripura	127.48	National Highways are entrusted with BRO
28	Uttar Pradesh	1567.35	393.74
29	Uttaranchal	271.86	66.23
30	West Bengal	746.70	314.10
31	NHAI*	The length of National Highways developed by	21601.31
32	BRO*	NHAI & BRO are added to the States concerned	776.60

* For NHAI and BRO, Allocation of funds are not made Statewise.

Protection of Tribal Culture

994. SHRI AJIT JOGI: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the main emphasis of present policy on tribal development is to bring the tribals into the mainstream;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether this will put an end to their centuries old culture; and

(d) if so, the details thereof alongwith the measures taken by the Government to protect tribal culture as well as to bring them in the mainstream?

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION (SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH): (a) to (d) For the development of the Scheduled Tribes, there are five guiding principles which

are popularly known as Nehruvian Panchsheel. These five Principles are :

1. Tribals should be allowed to develop according their own genius.
2. Tribals' rights in land and forest should be respected.
3. Tribals teams should be trained to undertake administration and development without too many outsiders being inducted.
4. Tribal development should be undertaken without disturbing tribal social and cultural institutions.
5. The index of tribal development should be the quality of their life and not the money spent.

The Ministry of Tribal Affairs is further formulating a comprehensive National Tribal Policy, including protection of tribal culture. The policy is still at draft stage and yet to be finalized as per the established procedure.

National Highways

995. SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether some stretches of the National Highways in Rajasthan have been left unconstructed;

(b) if so, the action being taken by the Union Government in this regard;

(c) the time by which approval is likely to be given for the construction of the left over stretches;

(d) whether National Highways in Rajasthan are still of single and intermediate lane;

(e) if so, the action being taken for broadening and converting them into double lane and the time by which it is likely to be done;

(f) whether the present thickness of National Highways in Rajasthan is very less than the IRC norms;

(g) if so, the action being taken to increase the thickness as per IRC norms;

(h) the time by which it is likely to be done;

(i) whether more funds are needed than the fund allocated for the periodical renewal and ordinary repair taken; and

(j) if so, the action being taken to release the balance amount?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) to (e) There are 18 National Highways (NHs) passing through the State of Rajasthan with a total length of 5656 kilometer (km) out of which 1926 km are less than two lane, 2887 km are two lane and 843 km are four lane. During 9th & 10th Plan 2766 km length of State roads were declared as new NHs. During the last three years 2002-03, 2003-04, 2004-05 and current year 2005-06 (up to 10/05) development works in the form of widening, strengthening, improvement of riding quality etc. amounting to Rs. 303.80 crore covering 1188 km length of NHs (with the State PWD) have been sanctioned. Out of it, works in 1054 km length have been completed and in the balance length works are at various stages of progress. Besides the above, periodic renewal works in 992 km length were undertaken, out of it 670 km length have been completed. In addition, 1464 km length of NHs in Rajasthan were selected for 4/6 lane facility under National Highway Development Projects (NHDP). Out of it 744 km length has been developed to 4/6 lane facility, 649 km length is under implementation and in 74 km length the works are to be taken up after the award.

(f) to (h) Most of these new NHs are deficient in many respects such as crust thickness, road geometrics, lane width, weak and narrow bridges etc. as these were originally State roads. Development and maintenance of NHs is a continuous process which includes strengthening of deficient crust, widening, improvement in riding quality, construction of weak and narrow bridges, construction of bypass etc. depending upon traffic volume, condition of roads, inter-se-priority and availability of funds.

(i) and (j) Yes, Sir. The funds are generally allocated on the basis of the available resources. The roads are being maintained in traffic worthy condition.

[English]

Finger Print Criminal Tracing System

996. SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has installed Finger Print Tracing System in various Police Headquarters in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has any plan to expand the system in each of the police station in the country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) and (b) Government have installed an Automated Fingerprint Criminal Tracing System in the Central Finger Print Bureau of the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) in 1992. Apart from this, as many as 19 States have installed Fingerprint Criminal Tracing System in their respective Police Headquarters so far.

(c) and (d) Government are in touch with the State Governments and have been emphasising upon the need for the expansion and extension of the system to each police station in the States.

Working of Hawkers on Roadsides

997. SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Will the Minister of URBAN EMPLOYMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether a recent judgement of Supreme Court has held illegal the working of hawkers on roadsides in cities;

(b) if so, the main grounds given for such order;

(c) the estimated number of poor hawkers likely to be affected by the said judgement;

(d) whether vide earlier judgements of 1989 and 1992, the compulsion of workers to earn their livelihood was declared as a fundamental right and the Court had held that the maximum number of hawkers be given place to work;

(e) if so, whether these judgements were considered in the latest order; and

(f) the action proposed to be taken to ameliorate the lot of poor roadside workers and steps taken to enable them to continue working for their livelihood?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF URBAN EMPLOYMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION (KUMARI SELJA): (a) to (c) Supreme Court in the matter of Mumbai Hawkers Union Vs. UOI & Others dated 9/12/2003 had ordered formulation of a committee to identify hawking & non-hawking zones in the financial hub and also to decide how many hawkers would be accommodated on the road/street if it was to be a hawking zone. The matter is still sub-judice.

(d) and (e) As per the Judgement dated 30/8/1989, in the matter of Sodan Singh etc. etc. Vs. NDMC & Anr. etc., the Supreme Court had held that Street Trading being a

fundamental right has to be made available to the citizens subject to Article 19(6) of the Constitution. It is within the domain of the State to make any law imposing reasonable restrictions in the interest of general public. This can be done by an enactment or by any other law permissible under Article 19(6) of the Constitution. Since a citizen has no right to choose a particular place in any street for trading, it is for the State to designate the streets and earmark the places from where Street trading can be done.

As per the Judgment dated 13/3/1992, in the matter of *Sodan Singh & Ors. etc. Vs. NDMC & Ors. etc.*, Court held the view that having regard to the question of livelihood and survival of a large number of families, it would be justified to adopt a compassionate approach so as to ensure that genuine squatters/hawkers are not denied their daily bread at the alter of technicalities while at the same time ensuring that those who are out to exploit and abuse the process of law do not succeed. As per the judgment dated 9/12/2003, in the matter of *Mumbai Hawkers Union Vs. UOI & Others*, the Supreme Court has ordered for formulation of a committee to identify hawking & non-hawking zones in the financial hub and also to decide how many hawkers would be accommodated on the road/street if it was to be a hawking zone. The matter is still sub-judice.

(f) The National Policy on Street Vendors, 2004 formulated by the Ministry, is to promote a more supportive environment to the street vendors for earning their livelihoods and to provide guidelines for the States/UTs to act in the overall interest of the Street Vendors to continue hawking activity for their livelihood.

A one day National Workshop was organized by the Ministry of Urban Employment & Poverty Alleviation on 19th October, 2005 at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi. A wide range of issues concerning urban street vendors were deliberated upon during the workshop including, inter alia, their legal status, social security cover, self compliances, access to credit from financial institutions, their rehabilitation, need for training and skill development and creation of a data base in the States. There was a consensus in the workshop amongst the stakeholders to provide and promote a more supportive environment to the street vendors for earning their livelihoods. Major decisions taken in the workshop included, inter alia, need to have a monitoring mechanism in place in each State to oversee implementation of the National Policy on Urban Street Vendors; need for training and capacity building of State Nodal Officers; need to document and disseminate best practices in vending/vending policy in various States; need to sensitize the concerned officials of the Municipal Authorities/ local police; need to earmark land space in the Master Plan and Zoning Plans for street vendors by the States/Cities/Urban Local Bodies; need to streamline the registration of street vendors

by the States/Urban Local Bodies; need to provide social security (medical, insurance, etc.) and access to credit to them by the Governments; need to formulate State Vendor Policies in line with the National Urban Street Vendors Policy; and need to have a relook by the State to promulgate/modify/amend their Street Vendor Act, if any, in tune with the National Policy.

[Translation]

Construction of Two Lane Road from Delhi to Uttaranchal

998. DR. RAJESH MISHRA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is contemplating for early construction of two lane roads from Delhi to Uttaranchal via Ghaziabad-Meerut-Muzaffarnagar-Roorkee-Haridwar-Dehradun highway keeping in view of heavy traffic on this route;

(b) if so, the time limit fixed for the purpose; and

(c) the time by which the work is likely to be undertaken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) to (c) Delhi to Uttaranchal via Ghaziabad-Meerut-Muzaffarnagar-Roorkee- Haridwar-Dehradun is already two lane highway. However, Delhi-Dehradun section has been included under National Highways Development Project (NHDP) Phase-III A for four laning. The target date of completion of NHDP Phase-III A is December 2009.

Registration of FIR on Computer

999. SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to launch a multidimensional scheme named 'CIPA' under which F.I.R.s are likely to be registered on computers and Police Stations;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the names of the States where the said scheme is proposed to be launched;

(d) whether the necessary training is proposed to be imparted to the police personnel; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) and (b) A multidimensional scheme named "CIPA" (Common Integrated Police Application) is presently under implementation by the Government for automation of police stations, under which FIRs will be registered and printed on Computers. The said scheme is aimed at computerizing all the important forms, records and crime data maintained by the police stations.

(c) The scheme is being initially launched at 10% police stations in all States in 2005-06 as per selection made by the respective State Governments. Remaining police stations will be covered in the next three years.

(d) and (e) It is proposed to impart the required training to the police personnel. The training will be of three levels, which are detailed as below:

- (i) Firstly, the "Central Development Team" will impart training on CIPA software to the State level "CIPA Development Teams"
- (ii) The Supervisor level persons, placed at District level, will be imparted training by the "State Development Team" on CIPA software, who will then impart training on CIPA software to the handholding persons, placed full-time by the Agency at each police station for a specified period.
- (iii) The handholding persons placed at each police station will then impart necessary on job training both on office automation software and the CIPA software to the identified operational staff and the supervisory officers of the police stations.

[English]

National Workshop on Urban Street Vendors

1000. SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: Will the Minister of URBAN EMPLOYMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there has been a National workshop on Urban Street Vendors;
- (b) if so, the details in this regard; and
- (c) the details of the issues discussed in the said workshop and the decisions taken therein?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN EMPLOYMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION (KUMARI SELJA): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. A one day National Workshop on Urban Street Vendors was organized by the

Ministry of Urban Employment & Poverty Alleviation on 19th October, 2005 at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi. The workshop was attended by the senior officials of the State Governments including Commissioners of some of the selected cities, representatives of NGOs and other stakeholders from various Central Government Departments.

A wide range of issues concerning urban street vendors were deliberated upon during the workshop. Some of the major issues deliberated upon were social security cover for street vendors, access to credit to them from financial institutions, their rehabilitation, need for training and skill development and creation of a data base in the States. There was a consensus in the Workshop amongst the stakeholders to provide and promote a more supportive environment to the street vendors for earning their livelihoods.

Dengue Cases

1001. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether a large number of dengue cases have taken place during each of the last three years till date, in Delhi;
- (b) if so, the total number of persons died due to dengue during the said period in Delhi;
- (c) whether anti-larval measures to check dengue were taken late by the MCD, NDMC and Delhi Cantonment Board during the year;
- (d) if so, the action taken by the Government against the delinquent officers;
- (e) the total amount collected from negligent homeowners for dengue mosquito breeding; and
- (f) the effective measures taken to stop occurring of deaths due to dengue in Delhi?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) and (b) The reported number of dengue cases and deaths in Delhi during the year 2003, 2004 and 2005 (upto 16th November, 2005) are as under:

Year	No. of cases	No. of deaths
2003	2882	35
2004	606	3
2005	850	9

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) Rs. 46,87,050/-.

(f) The concerned authorities have taken steps for door to door checking, intensive anti larval action such as focal spray and fogging operations, intensive health education and community participation to stop incidence of dengue cases. Strategies for prevention and control of epidemics include early diagnosis, prompt treatment, appropriate case management, integrated vector control epidemic preparedness and early response.

Meeting of Naxal Affected States

1002. SHRI SARBANANDA SONOWAL:

SHRI SUGRIB SINGH:

SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL:

SHRI EKNATH MAHADEO GAIKWAD:

SHRI KIRTI VARDHAN SINGH:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Chief Ministers of naxals affected States met in New Delhi recently;

(b) if so, the details of discussions held to curb the menace of naxalism;

(c) whether any joint task force has been formed to combat naxalism;

(d) if so, the details thereof?

(e) whether Union Government has assured the States to provide all financial, weaponry and other held for this purpose;

(f) if so, the details thereof;

(g) whether any specific strategy was chalked out at the meeting; and

(h) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRI PRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) and (b) The first meeting of the Standing Committee of the Chief Ministers of naxal affected States was held on September 19, 2005 in New Delhi. The Standing Committee reviewed the naxalite situation and the steps being taken by the affected States to combat the problem and determine further measures to counter naxalism more defectively.

(c) and (d) It was decided that the Inter-State Joint Task Forces to facilitate coordinated and synergized anti-naxalite operations across the State boundaries would be made functional immediately.

(e) and (f) The Central Government has been providing the States all possible help to bring about better coordination amongst them and also supplement their efforts and resources in meeting the challenge of naxalism on both security and development fronts.

(g) and (h) The States agreed to adopt a collective approach and pursue a coordinated response to effectively combat the problem of naxalism. The Central Government has assured the States all possible assistance on security and development fronts to effectively meet with this challenge.

Trade Barriers

1003. SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has stressed the need for doing away with non-tariff barriers affecting India's trade with EU during recent visit of the British Prime Minister and EU President to New Delhi; and

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the trade barriers sought to be removed by India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELAN-GOVAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) In his address to the India-EU Business Summit held in New Delhi on 7th September 2005, the Prime Minister stressed the need to address EU's non-tariff barriers mainly in the agriculture sector. It was agreed in a Joint Action Plan to set up a Joint Working Group focusing on Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT)/Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) issues.

Grading System

1004. SHRI SUGRIB SINGH:

SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL:

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

(a) whether the Government proposes to start grading system for 10th and 12th standards students in the country;

- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has discussed the issue with all the States;
- (d) if so, the reaction of each State in this regard; and
- (e) the time by which the proposed system is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.A.A. FATMI): (a) and (b) No, Sir. No such decision has been taken by the Central Board of Secondary Education.

- (c) No, Sir.
- (d) and (e) Does not arise.

Shortage of Working Women Hostels

1005. SHRI DEVIDAS PINGLE: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there is a shortage of working women hostels in various parts of the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the total number of working women hostels functioning in the country at present, State-wise;
- (d) the total number of hostels for working women constructed during the last three years, State-wise;
- (e) the details of facilities being provided to women in these hostels; and
- (f) the grant provided for the construction of such hostels during the said period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH): (a) and (b) The proposals being received from various State Governments indicate the requirement of more Working Women's Hostels in different parts of the country.

- (c) A total number of 917 working women's hostels were sanctioned by this Department upto 31.3.2005. State-wise list is enclosed as Statement-I.
- (d) During the last three years 24 hostels buildings have been constructed. State-wise list is enclosed as Statement-II.
- (e) The facilities being provided in these hostels besides accommodation include Kitchen, Dining Hall, Day

Care Centre for Children, Store, Recreation Hall and Library etc.

- (f) The grant provided for the construction of such hostels during the last three years i.e. 2002-03, 2003-04 and 2004-05 is Rs.6.00 crore, Rs.5.16 crore and Rs.4.82 crore respectively.

Statement-I

Distribution of Working Women's Hostels with Day Care Centres (DCC) for Children Sanctioned up to 31.3.2005

S.No.	State/U.T.	No. of Hostels
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	52
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	10
3.	Assam	15
4.	Bihar	8
5.	Goa	2
6.	Gujarat	26
7.	Haryana	19
8.	Himachal Pradesh	14
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	5
10.	Karnataka	83
11.	Kerala	148
12.	Madhya Pradesh	70
13.	Maharashtra	129
14.	Manipur	12
15.	Meghalaya	3
16.	Mizoram	4
17.	Nagaland	15
18.	Orissa	29
19.	Punjab	16
20.	Rajasthan	37
21.	Sikkim	2
22.	Tamil Nadu	98

1	2	3
23.	Tripura	1
24.	Uttar Pradesh	45
25.	Uttaranchal	3
26.	West Bengal	41
27.	Chhattisgarh	1
Total States		885

Union Territories

28.	A & N Islands	1
29.	Chandigarh	7
30.	Delhi	20
31.	Pondicherry	4
Total UTs		32
All India Total		917

Statement-II

List of Working Women's Hostels constructed during the last three years (Completion Reports received)

S. No.	Name of the State	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	Total
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1	1	-	2
2.	Assam	-	1	-	1
3.	Chhattisgarh	-	-	1	1
4.	Karnataka	1	1	-	2
5.	Kerala	-	5	-	5
6.	Maharashtra	2	1	-	3
7.	Manipur	1	-	1	2
8.	Nagaland	-	1	-	1
9.	Rajasthan	1	1	-	2
10.	Tamil Nadu	1	2	-	3
11.	Uttar Pradesh	-	-	1	1
12.	West Bengal	-	-	1	1
Total		7	13	4	24

State Women and Child Development Minister and Secretaries Meet

1006. SHRI IQBALAHMED SARADGI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether a National Consultation on "State Women and Child Development Minister and Secretaries" was held recently;

(b) if so, the details of the matter discussed at the Meeting; and

(c) the extent to which both Centre and States are willing to cooperate in implementing the child development programmes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir. A National Consultation of State Women and Child Development Ministers & Secretaries was held on 6th - 7th July, 2005.

(b) The issues discussed in the Consultation, inter-alia, included, Universalization of Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) Scheme with Quality; Operationalisation of all pending ICDS Projects and Anganwadi Centres; Strengthening supplementary nutritional support; Enhancing Quality - Outreach for children under three years; Child Friendly Anganwadi Centres, Monitoring and evaluation mechanism etc.

(c) Both, the Centre and States, renewed their commitment to vigorously implement the ICDS Programme.

[Translation]

National Highways in Tribal Areas

1007. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the National Highways of the country, specially in the tribal areas as on date;

(b) the total amount allocated by the Union Government to the State Governments for maintenance of National Highways during each of the last three years and current year, State-wise;

(c) whether the Union Government has also received some proposals/requests from various State Governments regarding development and improvement of National Highways during the last three years and current year till date; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by the Government so far in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) The details of State-wise National Highways and their length in the country are given in the enclosed Statement-I. The National Highways are not developed on the basis of demographic pattern of the Country and as such, the detail of the National Highways passing through Tribal Areas is not maintained.

(b) The State-wise total amount allocated by the Union Government to the State Governments for maintenance and repair of National Highways entrusted to them

during the last three years and current year is given in the enclosed Statement-II.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. Only those proposals received from the State Governments for improvement of National Highways, which are included in the Annual Plan of the year, are examined for sanctions or otherwise. The detail of sanctions of the last three years and the current year are given below:

Year	Number of Proposals sanctioned	Total cost (Rs. in Crore)
Last three Years	2213	5293.43
Current year	256	711.56

Statement-I

State-wise National Highways and their Length in the Country

Sl. No.	Name of State	National Highway No.	Total Length (in km)
1	2	3	4
1	Andhra Pradesh	4, 5, 7, 9, 16, 18, 43, 63, 202, 205, 214, 214A, 219, 221 & 222	4472
2	Arunachal Pradesh	52, 52A & 153	
3	Assam	31, 31B, 31C, 36, 37, 37A, 38, 39, 44, 51, 52, 52A, 52B, 53, 54, 61, 62, 151, 152, 153 & 154	2836
4	Bihar	2, 19, 28, 28A, 28B, 30, 30A, 31, 57, 57A, 77, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 98, 99, 101, 102, 103, 104, 105, 106, 107 & 110	3537
5	Chandigarh	21	24
6	Chhattisgarh	6, 12A, 16, 43, 78, 111, 200, 202, 216, 217 & 221	2184
7	Delhi	1, 2, 8, 10 & 24	72
8	Goa	4A, 17, 17A & 17B	269
9	Gujarat	6, 8, 8A, 8B, 8C, 8D, 8E, 14, 15, 59, 113 & NE-1	2871
10	Haryana	1, 2, 8, 10, 21A, 22, 64, 65, 71, 71A, 71B, 72, 73 & 73A	1468
11	Himachal Pradesh	1A, 20, 21, 21A, 22, 70, 72, 73A & 88	1208
12	Jammu & Kashmir	1A, 1B & 1C	823
13	Jharkhand	2, 6, 23, 31, 32, 33, 75, 78, 80, 98, 99 & 100	1805
14	Karnataka	4, 4A, 7, 9, 13, 17, 48, 63, 67, 206, 207, 209, 212 & 218	3843
15	Kerala	17, 47, 47A, 49, 208, 212, 213, & 220	1440
16	Madhya Pradesh	3, 7, 12, 12A, 25, 26, 26A, 27, 59, 59A, 69, 75, 76, 78, 79, 86 & 92	5069
17	Maharashtra	3, 4, 4B, 4C, 6, 7, 8, 9, 13, 16, 17, 50, 69, 204, 211 & 222	4176

1	2	3	4
18	Manipur	39, 53, 150 & 155	959
19	Meghalaya	40, 44, 51 & 62	810
20	Mizoram	44A, 54, 54A, 54B, 150 & 154	927
21	Nagaland	36, 39, 61, 150 & 155	494
22	Orissa	5, 5A, 6, 23, 42, 43, 60, 75, 200, 201, 203, 203A, 215, 217 & 224	3704
23	Pondicherry	45A & 66	53
24	Punjab	1, 1A, 10, 15, 20, 21, 22, 64, 70, 71, 72 & 95	1557
25	Rajasthan	3, 8, 11, 11A, 11B, 12, 14, 15, 65, 71B, 76, 79, 79A, 89, 90, 112, 113, 114 & 116	5585
26	Sikkim	31A	62
27	Tamil Nadu	4, 5, 7, 7A, 45, 45A, 45B, 45C, 46, 47, 47B, 49, 66, 67, 68, 205, 207, 208, 209, 210, 219 & 220	4183
28	Tripura	44 & 44A	400
29	Uttaranchal	58, 72, 72A, 73, 74, 87, 94, 108, 109, 119, 121, 123 & 125	1991
30	Uttar Pradesh	2, 2A, 3, 7, 11, 12A, 19, 24, 24A, 25, 25A, 26, 27, 28, 28B, 28C, 29, 56, 56A, 56B, 58, 72A, 73, 74, 75, 76, 86, 87, 91, 91A, 92, 93, 96, 97 & 119	5599
31	West Bengal	2, 6, 31, 31A, 31C, 32, 34, 35, 41, 55, 60, 60A, 80, 81 & 117	2325
32	Andaman & Nicobar	223	300

Statement-II

State-wise Allocation of fund for maintenance and repairs of National Highways during the years 2002-03, 2003-04, 2004-05 and 2005-06.

(Rs. in Crore)

Name of State/UTs	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06
1	2	3	4	5
Andhra Pradesh	35.44	37.42	35.13	45.78
Arunachal Pradesh	0.09	0.31	0.41	0.37
Assam	26.92	23.27	26.59	28.86
Bihar	30.46	29.48	46.28	37.57
Chandigarh	0.74	0.28	0.93	0.50
Chhattisgarh	25.60	15.35	26.99	19.53
Delhi	0.12	0.42	0.75	0.42

1	2	3	4	5
Goa	4.15	5.03	2.80	3.36
Gujarat	10.51	22.47	34.86	30.66
Haryana	10.30	11.19	11.80	11.59
Himachal Pradesh	12.51	13.45	17.75	18.70
Jammu & Kashmir	0.88	0.54	0.44	0.42
Jharkhand	16.97	15.46	23.28	18.96
Karnataka	45.82	38.73	34.40	36.60
Kerala	23.74	20.81	13.20	32.79
Madhya Pradesh	48.03	57.50	59.49	55.14
Maharashtra	47.39	49.85	48.48	50.50
Manipur	6.01	6.96	8.79	10.38
Meghalaya	8.70	9.41	14.63	9.68
Mizoram	6.20	5.55	4.87	4.58
Nagaland	1.86	1.98	3.79	3.64
Orissa	42.37	42.51	37.24	37.36
Pondicherry	0.76	0.83	0.84	0.80
Punjab	17.59	20.09	20.26	19.18
Rajasthan	33.86	27.93	53.09	45.54
Tamil Nadu	41.62	41.36	37.99	60.92
Uttar Pradesh	39.85	55.68	53.87	50.04
Uttaranchal	5.84	3.66	14.60	12.60
West Bengal	20.69	23.57	24.95	23.17

[English]

**Delhi's Defence Shield
Against Nuclear**

1008. SHRI BALASHOWRY VALLABHANENI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Delhi's defence shield against nuclear, biological and chemical attack is likely to be completed soon by ITBP;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether other cities are likely to be brought under the shield; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) to (d) The Government has constituted National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) consisting of eight battalions of Central Para Military Forces, two battalions each from Central Industrial Security Academy (CISF), Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP), Border Security Force (BSF) and Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) for the purpose of specialist response in all disaster situations

including nuclear, biological and chemical disasters. Four of the eight NDRF battalions are specifically being trained and equipped for responding to nuclear, biological and chemical disasters in the country. The process of training and equipping of battalions is in progress. These four battalions would be positioned near four major cities of Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata and Chennai so as to facilitate expeditious deployment of the battalions in all parts of the country.

Private Sector Participation for Maintenance of Roads

1009. SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government proposes to involve Private Sector for upkeep and construction of new roads in the Andaman & Nicobar Islands;

(b) if so, the details alongwith the roads and areas identified for the purpose; and

(c) the terms and conditions laid down in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) This Ministry is responsible for development and maintenance of National Highways. There is only one National Highway in Andaman & Nicobar Islands, namely NH-223. This National Highway is entrusted to Border Roads Organisation with effect from 25-8-2005. There is no proposal to involve private sector participation for upkeep & construction of this National Highway.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

FDI in Inland and Water Transport Sector

1010. SHRI SUBODH MOHITE: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to allow 100 percent Foreign Direct Investment in Inland Water Transport sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether a scheme for waterway development and maintenance of each national waterway has been prepared;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(f) the initiatives taken for popularise Inland water transport?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) and (b) 100% Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in inland water transport infrastructure is already permitted.

(c) and (d) Various projects for development and maintenance of basic Inland Water Transport infrastructure on three national waterways have been prepared and are being implemented in a phased manner. These include projects for fairway development and maintenance, fortnightly thalweg surveys and issue of river notices, providing pilotage services, day navigational marks for round the year operation, night navigation facility in phased manner, floating or permanent terminal facilities at various locations, facilities for mechanized handling of cargo, acquisition of vessels for demonstration of navigability of waterway and cargo movement etc.

(e) Does not arise.

(f) Interactive seminars/workshops have been organized from time to time at various places namely, New Delhi, Patna, Kolkata, Guwahati and Kochi. These were well attended by various stakeholders of Inland Water Transport (IWT) sector such as, potential cargo owners, IWT operators, ship builders, banks and financial institutions, representatives of State Governments, Chambers of Commerce etc. Voyages of cargo vessels are also made to demonstrate navigability of waterway and cargo transportation viability. On national waterway No.1, fixed schedule services with fortnightly frequencies between Haldia-Patna is on since January 2004. Further, to encourage State Governments to develop inland waterways infrastructure, 100% grant to North-Eastern states and 90% grant to other states is provided under Centrally Sponsored Scheme.

Opening of TRIFED Offices

1011. PROF. M. RAMADASS: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Tribal Co-operative Marketing Development Federation has achieved the objective of getting remunerative price for the agricultural produces to Tribals;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government proposes to shift the Zonal and Regional Offices to places close to tribal inhabited areas or districts;

(d) if so, the details thereof alongwith the progress made in opening up new offices in Siliguri and Itanagar;

(e) whether the Government proposes to open TRIFED offices in the Tribal dominated States of Meghalaya, Manipur, Mizoram, Tripura and Nagaland; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION (SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH): (a) and (b) In terms of the Multi-State Cooperative Societies Act, 2002, the Tribal Co-operative Marketing Development Federation (TRIFED) is a multi-State cooperative society. TRIFED amended its bye-Laws in April, 2003 to be in tune with the requirement of the said Act. As per the amended bye-Laws, the main object of TRIFED's role and function is to act as a service provider and facilitator for marketing development of tribal products. Consequently TRIFED is no more involved in direct procurement of agricultural produce or Minor Forest Produce (MFP) from the tribal people.

(c) to (f) There are no such proposals under consideration at present.

Education Programme in Gyan Darshan

1012. SHRI SURESH KURUP: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the languages in which IGNOU has regular transmission on their education programme on Gyan Darshan;

(b) whether there is any move to start a Malayalam programme on the Channel;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the criteria for the selection of languages for the telecast?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.A.A. FATMI): (a) to (c) While Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU) transmits its educational programmes in Hindi and English, besides imparting Lessons on teaching of Sanskrit and Urdu, there is a plan to include all official languages in the bouquet of Gyan Darshan, gradually.

(d) The process of launching of specific language programmes is a time consuming process and depends on the motivation of local stakeholders.

Compensation to 1984 Riot Victims

1013. SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI:

SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN:

SHRI HEMLAL MURMU:

SHRI RASHEED MASOOD:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has constituted a committee to look the grievances of compensation to be given to the victims of 1984 riots;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the number of cases so far settled by the said committee;

(c) whether the Government propose to refer the cases of Gujarat riots for compensation to the said committee;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the time by which the committee is likely to submit its report to the Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) and (b) The Government had set up two official committees, one headed by Dr. D.K. Sankaran, Secretary (Border Management) in the Ministry of Home Affairs to look into the adequacy of relief/ rehabilitation and other assistance such as employment given to the widows/families of the victims, and the other headed by Shri K.P Singh, the then Special Secretary (Home) in the Ministry of Home Affairs to examine the adequacy and uniformity of compensation given in death and injury cases.

(c) and (d) No, Sir.

(e) Both the Committees have since submitted their reports.

Framing of New Building Bye-Laws

1014. SHRI VIRCHANDRA PASWAN: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) has framed new building bye-laws;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the measures taken by the Government to enforce them strictly?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) to (c) New Building Bye-Laws have not been finalized by the Municipal Corporation of Delhi.

Construction on NH No. 44

1015. SHRI LALIT MOHAN SUKLABAIYA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a diversion of NH-44 outside Karimganj Town of Assam of about 2 KM length has been under construction for a long time to avoid traffic congestion and inconveniences caused;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the constructions work of the over-bridge at diversion point and the bridge over river Longai is likely to be expedited speed up;

(d) if so, whether the Government proposes to prioritize the opening of the bye-pass and completion construction of the above bridges; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the possible time-frames thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) to (e) The 3.84 Km long Karimganj bypass on NH-44 is under construction by the Border Roads Organisation at a project cost of Rs.14.68 crore. The progress

achieved so far is 71 percent and the work is targeted for completion by December, 2007. The construction of one major bridge on Longai River and two Road Over Bridges are part of the bypass work targeted to be completed by year 2007.

Employment Opportunity in the Rural-Non Farm Sector

1016. SHRI P.S. GADHAVI: Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have created additional employment opportunities in the rural non-farm sector under Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana (PMRY); and

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the targets and achievements made during the last two years including Gujarat?

THE MINISTER OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND MINISTER OF AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRI MAHAVIR PRASAD): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) It is estimated that about 34.61 lakh employment opportunities have been created under the Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana (PMRY) since the inception of scheme in 1993-94 upto 2005-06 (up to 30th September, 2005). Of this, about 49.9 per cent, i.e., about 17.27 lakh employment opportunities are estimated to have been created in the rural non-farm sector. Details of the targets and achievements, all-India and for Gujarat, during the last two years, i.e., 2003-04 and 2004-05, under PMRY are given in the enclosed Statement.

Statement

Targets and achievements - All India and Gujarat - under PMRY

Year	All India				
	Self-employment units (Nos.)		Employment generated (Nos.)		
	Target	Achievement (disbursed loan)	Target*	Achievement*	Employment generated in rural non-farm sector**
2003-04	220000	217743	330000	326615	162981
2004-05	250000	237046	375000	355569	177429

Gujarat

Year	Self-employment units (Nos.)		Employment generated (Nos.)		
	Target	Achievement (disbursed loan)	Target*	Achievement*	Employment generated in rural non-farm sector**
2003-04	8650	6743	12975	10115	5047
2004-05 [^]	10000	6450	15000	9675	4828

[^] The final figures for 2004-05 are yet to be received from RBI and are likely to be higher.

* Employment generated is estimated @ 1.5 per unit disbursed loan.

** According to findings of the 2nd round of evaluation study on PMRY, 49.9 per cent of total beneficiaries belong to the rural area. Therefore, employment generated in rural non-farm sector is estimated at 49.9 per cent of total employment opportunities generated.

Subsidised Higher and Technical Education

1017. SHRIMATI JAYABEN B. THAKKAR: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Central Advisory Board on Education has recommended that those who opt for subsidised higher or technical education in Government run institutes may have to take up jobs in rural or tribal areas for minimum period;

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

(c) the stand of the Government on the above recommendation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.A.A. FATMI): (a) to (c) The Central Advisory Board of Education (CABE) Committee on "Financing of Higher and Technical Education" have inter-alia recommended that "A sound method of cost recovery is requiring the graduates, particularly professional and technical education provided by the state, to take up employment in public sector and in rural, tribal and remote areas for a minimum period". However, the Government have no such scheme of compulsory employment at present.

Repairing of Highways

1018. SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the stretches on National Highways passing through Tamil Nadu, particularly the NH-68 and

NH-48 are in a very dilapidated condition causing great threat to the road users;

(b) if so, the action taken by the Government to repair the Highways;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the time by which the above National Highways in the State are likely to be made fully operational?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) to (d) The stretches of National Highways passing through Tamil Nadu are maintained in traffic worthy condition within the available resources. On National Highway No. 68, there could be discomfort to road users on account of the ongoing construction activities. NH-48 does not pass through Tamil Nadu.

Foreign Assistance for Environmental Improvement in Slums

1019. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL: Will the Minister of URBAN EMPLOYMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of projects are being run with the help of foreign assistance in the country for environmental improvement in urban slums;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise and the projects where actual work is yet to start; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government for equal distribution of foreign assistance to all the States of the country, received for the said purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF URBAN EMPLOYMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION (KUMARI SELJA): (a) and (b) Presently following two

environmental improvement projects are being implemented with the foreign assistance in urban slums areas:

- (i) Andhra Pradesh Urban Services for the Poor (APUSP)
- (ii) Kolkata Urban Services for the Poor (KUPS)

There is no such project where actual work is yet to start.

(c) As and when the Government of India receives any proposal from the foreign donor agency offering assistance, it is circulated among the States/UTs seeking project proposals to avail the assistance. This Ministry examines various projects proposals revived from the States/UTs and gives its recommendations to the Department of Economic Affairs for taking up the matter with the concerned donor agency. However, finally it depends upon the concerned donor agency to select/approve the project proposals according to their policies and priorities.

Investment for Development of Paradip Port

1020. SHRI K.C. PALANISAMY: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has recently decided to invest Rs. 2,300/- crore for the development of Paradip Port;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the amount of rupees invested by the Government for the development of various ports in Tamil Nadu during the last three years separately?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) and (b) An investment of about Rs.2400 crores is envisaged under different schemes/projects for inclusion in the National Maritime Development Programme by Paradip Port. Some of the major projects proposed to be included are:

- (i) Deepening of channel to handle 1,25,000 Dead Weight Tonnage (DWT) vessels at an estimated cost of Rs.154.842 crores.

- (ii) Enhancement of Rail Connectivity (Haridaspur-Paradip) at an estimated cost of Rs.350.00 crores
- (iii) Development of Container Terminal at an estimated cost of Rs.150.00 crores.
- (iv) Rail & Road connectivity works (4 laning of Road from Chandikole to Paradip NH-5A) at an estimated cost of Rs.430.00 crores.
- (v) 4 laning of road from Cuttack to Paradip (SH-12) at an estimated cost of Rs 200.00 crores.
- (vi) Construction of deep draught Iron Ore Berth on Build, Operate and Transfer (BOT) basis at an estimated cost of Rs.328.30 crores.
- (vii) Construction of berths for clean cargo on BOT basis at an estimated cost of Rs.138.00 crores.

(c) In so far as the major ports of Chennai, Tuticorin and Ennore in Tamil Nadu are concerned, the expenditure on their development schemes are being met from the internal resources of the respective ports. The Government grants approval of various plan schemes to be taken up during the financial year.

Trade Relation with SAARC Countries

1021. SHRI B. MAHTAB: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether India's trade with SAARC countries has increased during each of the last three years;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, year-wise and country-wise; and
- (c) the steps taken by the Government to further strengthen the trade relation with SAARC Countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) Yes Sir.

- (b) Details are given below:

(Figures in US \$ million)

Country	2002-2003		2003-2004		2004-2005	
	Export	Import	Export & % Growth	Import & % Growth	Export & % Growth	Import & % Growth
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Bangladesh	1176.00	62.05	1740.75 (48.02)	77.63 (25.10)	1586.18 (-8.88)	54.88 (-29.30)

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Sri Lanka	920.98	90.83	1319.20 (43.24)	194.74 (114.41)	1353.75 (2.62)	364.25 (87.05)
Nepal	350.36	281.76	669.36 (91.05)	286.04 (1.52)	728.46 (8.83)	340.02 (18.87)
Pakistan	206.16	44.85	286.94 (39.18)	57.65 (28.54)	505.44 (76.15)	95.33 (65.36)
Bhutan	39.05	32.15	89.49 (129.20)	52.37 (62.88)	84.03 (-6.10)	50.14 (-4.26)
Maldives	31.59	0.33	42.34 (34.03)	0.37 (12.12)	42.51 (0.40)	0.58 (56.25)
Total	2724.14	511.97	4148.08	668.80	4300.37	905.20
Total Trade with SAARC countries		3236.11		4816.88	5205.57	

Data Source: DGCI & S Kolkata (Supplied by NIC, DOC)

India's total trade with SAARC countries increased from US\$ 4816.88 million in 2003-2004 to US\$ 5205.57 million in 2004-2005 registering an increase of 8.07%.

(c) India has bilateral trade agreements with SAARC Member States except Pakistan. India and Pakistan have set up a Joint Study Group (JSG) at the level of Commerce Secretaries as part of strategy for boosting trade between the two countries and its first meeting was held in New Delhi on February 22-23, 2005.

During the Twelfth SAARC Summit held in Islamabad on 4-6 January, 2004 South Asian Free Trade Area (SAFTA) Agreement was signed. The Agreement provides for a phased tariff liberalization programme and is scheduled to come into force from 1 January, 2006.

Implementation of SAFTA is expected to further strengthen our trade relations with SAARC countries.

Terrorist Activities in Earthquake Hit Areas

1022. SHRI AJAY CHAKRABORTY:

SHRI N. JANARDHANA REDDY:

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of persons have been killed as terrorist activities in Jammu and Kashmir have increased after the recent earthquake;

(b) If so, the details thereof;

(c) whether a particular community in this region is living under a constant threat of being killed by the terrorists; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by the Government to protect the lives of this vulnerable section of the people?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRI PRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) and (b) As per the report of the State Government of Jammu and Kashmir, there is no increase in terrorist activities in the State after the recent earthquake.

During the period October 9, 2005 to November 15, 2005 (post earthquake) 167 terrorist related incidents took place in which 62 civilians were killed as compared to 219 incidents in which 70 civilians were killed during the period September 1, 2005 to October 8, 2005 (pre earthquake).

(c) There is no such specific threat to a particular community. However, civilians belonging to both majority and minority communities have been victims of terrorist activities in the State. There have been some incidents where in terrorists have specifically targeted members of a particular community.

(d) Various steps have been taken by the State Government to protect the life and property of minority community members in Jammu and Kashmir which include:

- (i) Pickets of Security Forces (SFs) have been established in the villages/clusters inhabited by minority community in Kashmir valley.
- (ii) Adequate weaponry and communication facilities are provided at these pickets with the nearest SF units entrusted with the task of area sanitization.
- (iii) Village Defence Committees (VDCs) have been established at far-flung areas inhabited by minority community members in Jammu province.
- (iv) The Security Forces conduct frequent patrolling in the hinterland and areas inhabited by minority community members at these locations.
- (v) Construction of clusters of residential houses at Sheikhpora Budgam, Mattan Anantnag and Kheer Bhawani Srinagar in Kashmir valley for secure stay of the members of minority community at these places.

[Translation]

Employment Opportunities under KVIC

1023. SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR: Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

- (a) the adverse affects of non-appointment of the Chairman of Khadi and Village Industries Commission on its smooth functioning;
- (b) the employment opportunities created under the Khadi action plan during the last three years; and
- (c) the difficulties being faced in achieving the targets fixed for employment generation under the KVIC?

THE MINISTER OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND MINISTER OF AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRI MAHAVIR PRASAD): (a) While dissolving the Commission in October 2004, the Government established an authority called the 'Commissioner for Khadi and village Industries' to exercise the powers of the Khadi 'and Village Industries Commission so as to ensure smooth functioning of the Commission.

(b) The details of employment opportunities created in the khadi and village industries sector during the last three years are as under:

Year	Employment (In lakh)		
	Khadi	Village Industries	Total
2002-03	8.58	57.87	66.45
2003-04	8.61	62.58	71.19
2004-05	8.64	67.89	76.53

(c) There was no shortfall in achieving the target of employment generation in the village industries sector. In the khadi sector, there was some short fall in achievement of employment targets, due mainly to the following reasons:

- (i) The charkhas and looms in use by several khadi institutions have become unserviceable and obsolete, leading to lower productivity. Moreover, the production of many institutions has not kept pace with the demands of the market.
- (ii) Several khadi institutions are unable to raise working capital loan under Interest Subsidy Eligibility certificate (ISEC) Scheme to the extent of certificates issued by the KVIC on account of unsaleable inventory.
- (iii) The rebate claims of khadi institutions are not settled promptly by some State Governments.

[English]

Training of Artisans in Gems and Jewellery Design

1024. SHRI M. SREENIVASULU REDDY: Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government proposes to set up the training centers in all the States to train village level artisans in various gems and jewellery design within the fixed time-frame;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has also identified the places where such training centers are likely to come up; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof alongwith the reasons for selecting such places?

THE MINISTER OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND MINISTER OF AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRI MAHAVIR PRASAD): (a) The Government (in the Ministry of Agro & Rural Industries) has no proposal to set up training centers in States to train village level artisans in gems and jewellery design.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Infrastructure Facilities in CRPF

1025. SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE:

SHRI KIRTI VARDHAN SINGH:

SHRI EKNATH MAHADEO GAIKWAD:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of CRPF personnel are not 'fighting fit' due to lack of mandatory rotational training facilities as reported in the Times of India dated September 20, 2005;

(b) if so, the approximate number of such CRPF personnel and the reasons therefore;

(c) the remedial steps proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard;

(d) whether CRPF is sought to be made more infrastructurally sound by permitting them to set up their own intelligence wing; and

(e) if so, the details thereof alongwith the action taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) to (c) CRPF personnel are in fit condition to discharge their duties. Due to demands for deployment of the Force, all the personnel of the CRPF are not able to undergo rotational training at present. The situation will ease in the next two years when the new raisings sanctioned to CRPF have been completed.

(d) and (e) CRPF has been allowed to set up their own intelligence wing and some additional staff has also been sanctioned.

Training Centres for Scheduled Tribes

1026. SHRI JUAL ORAM: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has any proposal to increase the number of training & research centers in the country for Scheduled Tribes; and

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the number of new centres proposed to be set up in 2005-06, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION (SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH): (a) and (b) There are 16 State level Tribal Research Institutes (TRIs) in the country. The Ministry have received proposals from the State Governments of Himachal Pradesh and Uttaranchal for setting up of an Institute of Tribal Research & Studies (ITRS) in Himachal Pradesh and a Tribal Research & Development Institute (TRDI) in Uttaranchal respectively. The Ministry have examined these proposals and have sought further clarifications from the States as these proposals were not complete.

Natural Calamities

1027. SHRI M. SHIVANNA:

SHRI CHENGARA SURENDRAN:

SHRI VIJAY KUMAR KHANDELWAL:

DR. K. DHANARAJU:

SHRI BADIGA RAMAKRISHNA:

SHRI A. SAI PRATHAP:

SHRI C. KUPPUSAMI:

SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPPAN:

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA:

SHRI V.K. THUMMAR:

SHRI KASHIRAM RANA:

SHRI MUNSHI RAM:

SHRIMATI ARCHANA NAYAK:

SHRI J.M. AARON RASHID:

SHRI DHANUSKODI R. ATHITHAN:

SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT:

SHRI BALASHOWRY VALLABHANENI:

SHRI KIRTI VARDHAN SINGH:

SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE:

SHRI EKNATH MAHADEO GAIKWAD:

SHRI SURAVARAM SUDHAKAR REDDY:

SHRI M. RAJA MOHAN REDDY:

SHRI E.G. SUGAVANAM:

SHRI P. MOHAN:

SHRI SHRINIWAS DADASAHEB PATIL:

SHRI HARISINH CHAVDA:

DR. DHIRENDRA AGARWAL:

SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has made any assessment of the loss of life, property and crops suffered due to the recent floods, heavy rains and cyclone in the country;

- (b) if so, the details in this regard, State-wise;
- (c) the amount of assistance sought by various States for relief and rehabilitation;
- (d) whether Central teams have visited the affected States;
- (e) if so, the details of the reports submitted by each such teams; and
- (f) the details of the assistance demanded by the affected States and assistance provided so far by the Union Government on the basis of report of such teams, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) and (b) Twenty five States and One UT have reported damage due to heavy rains, floods and cyclonic depression during the year 2005, in varying degrees. The provisional information received from these States/Union Territory (UT) Governments regarding loss of life, damage due to property and crops are given in the enclosed Statement-I.

(c) to (f) As per the existing Scheme of Financing Relief Expenditure, the State Governments are the first responders to a disaster situation and are primarily responsible for undertaking relief and rehabilitation measures in the areas affected by natural calamities, including floods. The distribution of relief on ground is the responsibility of the concerned State Government. For this purpose, a Calamity Relief Fund has been constituted for each State corpus of which is contributed by the Government of India and the State Governments in the ratio of 3:1. A State-level Committee headed by the Chief Secretary is empowered to operate CRF in accordance with the approved items and norms of assistance from CRF/NCCF.

In case the calamity is of a severe nature additional assistance is also provided to the States out of the National Calamity Contingency Fund (NCCF), after following the laid-down procedure.

The Government of India, during the first spell of heavy rains, floods and cyclonic depression in the year 2005, had received Memoranda from the State Governments of Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Nagaland, Maharashtra and Karnataka seeking financial assistance from NCCF. Inter-Ministerial Central Teams had been constituted immediately and visited all the aforesaid States for an on the spot assessment of damage and requirements of funds. The High Level Committee (HLC), in its meeting held on 5th October, 2005, considered the requests of all the aforesaid State Governments and taking into account the reports of the Central Teams, recommendations of the Inter-Ministerial

Group (IMG) thereon and norm, of assistance, approved the Central assistance, the details of which are given in the enclosed Statement-II.

Subsequently, the Government of India has received Memoranda from the State Governments of Andhra Pradesh, Sikkim, Kerala, Karnataka (September-October), Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh and the UT of Pondicherry seeking financial assistance from NCCF. Inter-Ministerial Central teams have been constituted for all these States/UT. Of these States/UT, the Central Teams have already visited the States of Andhra Pradesh, Sikkim, Kerala, Karnataka (September-October), Tamil Nadu and UT of Pondicherry, for an on the spot assessment of damage and requirements of funds. The reports of the Central Teams are processed in accordance with the laid down procedure and financial assistance is provided to the States from NCCF, if required. In the case of the UT of Pondicherry, the assistance is provided from the Union Territories Budget.

Statement-III showing the allocation and release of funds made from CRF as well as funds released from NCCF during the current financial year 2005-2006 in respect of flood affected States is enclosed.

Statement-I

State wise details of damage due to floods, heavy rains, and cyclonic depression during 2005 in the country

(Provisional, as on 25.11.2005)

Sl. No.	State	Human Lives Lost (No.)	Cropped areas affected (Lakh hect.)	No. of Houses Damaged
1	2	3	4	5
1	Assam	27	0.33	735
2	Andhra Pradesh	83	3.34	9085
3	Arunachal Pradesh	10	0.12	6572
4	Bihar	51	0.56	4266
5	Chhattisgarh	17	1.50	376
6	Goa	16	Neg.	226
7	Gujarat	213	3.66	161628
8	Haryana	11	0.12	3647
9	Himachal Pradesh	15	0.58	2872
10	J&K	3	0.01	357

1	2	3	4	5
11	Karnataka	160	1.96	108665
12	Kerala	131	0.60	20527
13	Madhya Pradesh	86	0.05	223022
14	Maharashtra	1108	5.5	449145
15	Meghalaya	1	NR	67
16	Mizoram	2	0.08	27
17	Nagaland	15	Neg.	214
18	Orissa	12	2.32	5871
19	Punjab	25	1.04	268
20	Rajasthan	79	0.34	12690
21	Sikkim	10	0.26	390
22	Tamil Nadu	73	0.50	374852
23	Uttar Pradesh	203	3.67	72729
24	Uttaranchal	113	Neg.	1712
25	West Bengal	7	Neg.	461
26	Pondicherry	Nil	0.07	4700
Total		2,471	26.61	14,65,104.

Note: NR – Not reported.

Neg. – Negligible.

Statement-II

The State-wise details of the Central assistance approved by the HLC in its meeting held on 5.10.2005 in respect of the floods affected States during 2005

(i) Nagaland (Cloud burst/ flash floods/landslides)

- (a) Rs. 81.14 lakh from National Calamity Contingency Fund (NCCF) subject to the adjustment of the 75% of the balances in the CRF account in the States for the instant calamity.
- (b) 351 MT foodgrains under Special Component of SGRY for relief employment.
- (c) Rs. 6.56 lakh from Special Component of ARWSP for Drinking Water Supply.

(ii) Gujarat (Floods)

- (a) Rs. 413.32 crore from National Calamity Contingency Fund (NCCF) subject to the adjustment of the 75% of the balances in the CRF account of the State for the instant calamity and adhoc releases made from the NCCF.
- (b) 32,300 MT foodgrains for the present under Special Component of SGRY for relief employment.
- (c) The cost of deployment of IAF helicopters for rescue and relief operations on actuals basis, after receipt of bills.

(iii) Maharashtra Floods

- (a) Rs 697.45 crore from National Calamity Contingency Fund (NCCF) subject to the adjustment of the 75% of the balances in the CRF account in the States for the instant calamity and adhoc releases made from the NCCF.
- (b) Rs.8.75 crore from Special Component of ARWSP for Drinking Water Supply.
- (c) The cost of deployment of IAF helicopters for rescue and relief operations on actuals basis after receipt of bills.

(iv) Karnataka Floods

- (a) Rs 252.05 crore from National Calamity Contingency Fund (NCCF) subject to the adjustment of the 75% of the balances in the CRF account in the States for the instant calamity and adhoc releases made from the NCCF.
- (b) 0.72 lakh MT foodgrains for the present under Special Component of SGRY for relief employment.

(vi) Himachal Pradesh (floods/flash floods)

- (a) Rs. 74.86 crore from National Calamity Contingency Fund (NCCF) subject to the adjustment of the 75% of the balances in the CRF account in the States for the instant calamity and ad hoc releases made from the NCCF.
- (b) The cost of deployment of IAF/BSF/State helicopters for rescue and relief operations on actual basis after receipt of bills during flash floods/ floods 2005.

(c) The HLC approved the proposal of the Government of Himachal Pradesh for release of Rs. 38,11,38,250 from NCCF, to enable the State Government to reimburse this amount to Air Headquarter for providing service of helicopters for carrying out floods relief operation during flash flood of 2000.

(vii) Madhya Pradesh Floods

(a) Rs. 70.83 crore from National Calamity Contingency Fund (NCCF) subject to the adjustment of the 75% of the balances in the CRF account in the States for the instant calamity.

Statement-III

Allocation and Release of Funds from CRF/NCCF during 2005-2006

(As on 22.11.2005)

(Rs. in crore)

Sl. No.	Name of the State	Allocation of CRF			Releases from CRF				Releases from NCCF	
		Central Share	State Share	Total	First Instalment		Second Instalment		Amt.	Released on
					Amt.	Released on	Amt.	Released on		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
1.	Andhra Pradesh	258.06	86.02	344.08	129.03	08.06.05	129.03	8.11.05	100.00**	*
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	21.23	7.08	28.30	10.62	08.06.05	21.23	16.09.05	68.44	5.05.05
3.	Assam	144.79	48.26	193.06	@					
4.	Bihar	111.69	37.23	148.93	55.85	7.11.05				
5.	Chhattisgarh	83.81	27.94	111.75	41.91	8.06.05				
6.	Goa	1.58	0.53	2.11	@					
7.	Gujarat	184.50	61.50	246.00	92.25	04.07.05			500*	8.7.05
8.	Haryana	93.28	31.10	124.38	@					
9.	Himachal Pradesh	75.52	25.17	100.69	37.76	08.06.05	37.76	8.7.05	100.00	25.7.05
10.	Jammu & Kashmir	64.84	21.61	86.46	32.42	25.7.05	32.42	10.10.05	9.49 # +	25.7.05
									100.00*	10.10.05
									+ 200.28*	13.10.05
11.	Jharkhand	94.56	31.52	126.07	47.28	3.10.05				
12.	Karnataka	86.00	28.67	114.67	43.00	30.05.05	43.00	11.8.05	57.00*	11.8.05
									+300.0*	24.8.05
13.	Kerala	64.13	21.38	85.50	32.07	08.06.05	32.065	30.8.05	17.935*	30.8.05
14.	Madhya Pradesh	190.67	63.56	254.23	95.34	06.07.05				

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
15.	Maharashtra	167.18	55.73	222.90	83.59	09.05.05	83.59	5.8.05	103.07**	18.7.05
									500*	28.7.05
									416.41*	5.8.05
16.	Manipur	4.17	1.39	5.56	@					
17.	Meghalaya	8.47	2.82	11.29	4.235	28.10.05				
18.	Mizoram	4.94	1.65	6.58	2.47	14.09.05				
19.	Nagaland	2.87	0.96	3.83	1.44	21.06.05				
20.	Orissa	226.16	75.39	301.54	113.08	08.06.05				
21.	Punjab	109.52	36.51	146.03	54.76	27.7.05				
22.	Rajasthan	311.73	103.91	415.64	155.87	09.05.05				
23.	Sikkim	13.15	4.38	17.53	6.58	21.06.05				
24.	Tamil Nadu	156.81	52.27	209.08	78.41	14.11.05				
25.	Tripura	9.64	3.21	12.85	@					
26.	Uttar Pradesh	221.95	73.98	295.94	110.98	5.10.05				
27.	Uttaranchal	71.02	23.67	94.69	35.51	08.07.05				
28.	West Bengal	176.05	58.68	234.73	@					

* Released on ad-hoc basis.

** Released for drought/ hailstorms after approval of high-level committee.

*** On 7.11.2005 recommended to Ministry of Finance for release.

Released for Heavy Snowfall /avalanches.

@ First instalment of central contribution of CRF for 2005-06 could not be released for want of non-receipt of information regarding crediting and utilisation certificate of funds already released.

[Translation]

Expenditure on Education

1028. SHRI ASHOK KUMAR RAWAT: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether any assessment of expenditure on education for the first six months of the year 2005 has been conducted by the Government;

(b) if so, whether expenditure on education has increased in comparison to previous year;

(c) if so, whether there has been also comparative increase in the literacy level;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether all the States have utilised the amount provided to them for education; and

(f) if not, the steps being taken by the Union Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.A.A. FATMI):
(a) to (f) No such assessment in which the expenditure in first half year of 2005 is compared with the expenditure in corresponding half year of the previous year has been made. However, while finalizing the annual plan every aspect including the expenditure in the previous years is kept in mind. The budget for Education (Department of Elementary

Education & Literacy and Department of Secondary & Higher Education) for the current year (2005-06) has been increased to Rs.12571.76 crore as compared to Rs. 8225 crore allocated during the last year (2004-05).

The literacy rates are compiled and released decennially by the Registrar General & Census Commissioner of India and not on year-to-year basis. As per Census 2001, the literacy rate of the country has increased by 12.63% during the last decade i.e. from 52.21% in 1991 to 64.84% in 2001. The male literacy rate has increased by 11.13% (from 64.13% to 75.26%) and female literacy rate by 14.38% (from 39.29% to 53.67%) during the same period.

[English]

Development of National Highways

1029. SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the amount released by the Union Government for upgradation of National Highways and their

maintenance have not been fully utilized by the States during the current fiscal;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the reasons for poor performance, State-wise; and

(c) whether any action has been taken by the Government against the States failing to utilise the amount released for the purpose;

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) and (b) Details of State-wise amount allocated and expenditure upto October, 2005 for upgradation of National Highways and their maintenance are given in the enclosed Statement. The amount utilized by the States are only for the period April-October, 200 which includes rainy season. As the working season starts from November of the year the performance achieved so far is not considered to be poor.

(c) and (d) Does not arise.

Statement

State-wise release and utilisation of funds for upgradation and maintenance of National Highways

(Amount are in Rs, in crores)

Sl.No.	Name of States/UTs	Funds for Development/ Upgradation of National Highways		Funds for Maintenance and repair of National Highways	
		Allocation	Expenditure upto 31/10/2005	Allocation	Expenditure upto 31/10/2005
1	2	3	4	5	6
1	Andhra Pradesh	80.00	39.86	45.78	17.41
2	Arunachal Pradesh	7.00	0.75	0.37	0.08
3	Assam	60.00	22.58	26.48	7.63
4	Bihar	65.00	35.30	36.78	27.54
5	Chhattisgarh	52.00	15.97	19.53	8.40
6	Goa	5.50	0.57	3.35	0.10
7	Gujarat	61.00	46.00	30.00	12.23
8	Haryana	47.00	24.07	11.02	9.50
9	Himachal Pradesh	42.00	18.55	18.70	11.32

1	2	3	4	5	6
10	Jammu & Kashmir	0.00	0.00	0.42	0.00
11	Jharkhand	35.00	17.82	18.96	9.22
12	Karnataka	70.00	32.24	36.60	12.50
13	Kerala	51.00	30.11	32.79	5.85
14	Madhya Pradesh	83.00	28.67	55.14	20.79
15	Maharashtra	93.00	20.94	50.50	14.67
16	Manipur	16.30	6.05	10.38	3.49
17	Meghalaya	26.00	9.29	9.68	3.29
18	Mizoram	21.50	7.96	4.58	1.56
19	Nagaland	11.00	5.45	3.64	1.00
20	Orissa	66.00	20.95	37.36	18.17
21	Punjab	47.00	35.04	19.18	11.88
22	Rajasthan	70.00	44.83	45.54	30.22
23	Tamil Nadu	90.00	51.92	60.92	20.40
24	Tamil Nadu (NHAI)	90.00	90.00	0.00	0.00
25	Uttaranchal	24.00	19.08	12.60	3.31
26	Uttar Pradesh	126.00	114.38	49.32	17.34
27	West Bengal	56.00	21.27	22.90	21.18
28	West Bengal (NHAI)	10.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	U.Ts				
29	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	5.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
30	Chandigarh	2.00	0.20	0.50	0.04
31	Delhi	5.50	0.45	0.42	0.04
32	Pondicherry	5.00	1.48	0.80	0.50
	Total	1422.50	761.78	664.24	289.66

Repeal of Indian Police Act

1030. SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR:

SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH:

SHRI MOHAN SINGH:

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY:

SHRI N.S.V. CHITTHAN:

SHRI K.C. PALANISAMY:

SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased

to state:

(a) whether Government is considering a proposal to set up a high-powered Committee to study the urgent need for reforms in police service including the repeal of the Police Act of 1861;

(b) if so, the details thereof including the composition, terms of reference etc. of the proposed Committee; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) and (b) A Committee has been set up by the Government on 20/09/05 to draft a new Police Act to replace the Police Act of 1861. The Committee comprises of the following:

- (i) Shri Soli Sorabjee, former Attorney General, Government of India.
- (ii) Shri N.C. Saxena, IAS (Retd), former Secretary to the Government of India.
- (iii) Shri N.R. Madhav Menon, Director, National Judicial Academy, Bhopal/ Prof. Ranbir Singh, Director, National Law Institute, Hyderabad.
- (iv) Shri Ajay Raj Sharma, IPS (Retd), former Director General, Border Security Force.
- (v) Director General, Bureau of Police Research & Development, New Delhi.
- (vi) Joint Secretary (Police Modernisation)/ Joint Secretary (Police) Ministry of Home Affairs and Director, SVP NPA, Hyderabad to assist the Committee in preparing the draft. Joint Secretary (Police Modernisation) is the Convener of the Committee
- (vii) Shri UNB Rao, IPS(Retd), has been appointed Secretary to the Committee.
- (viii) The Committee has been authorized to associate any other eminent person/official in drafting the new legislation.

Terms and Reference of the Committee are as under:

- (a) To examine the Model Police Act prepared by National Police Commission and other draft Model Police Acts and suggest modifications as per the changing role/ responsibility of police in view of the new challenges before it, especially growth and spread of insurgency/ militancy/ naxalism, etc.
- (b) To suggest measures for attitudinal changes of police

including working methodology, to elicit cooperation and assistance of the community rather than its distrust.

- (c) The new Police Act should reflect expectation of the people regarding the police in a democratic setup.
- (d) It should emphasise the use of scientific investigation methods to strengthen the criminal justice system. It should enable the police to tackle futuristic trends of organized crime including cyber crimes and technological advantages in the hands of the criminals.
- (e) The concerns for human rights, weaker sections, women and the people belonging to scheduled castes/ scheduled tribes have to be addressed.
- (f) The said Committee of experts has been asked to submit its report in sixth months. It has already held four meetings. After the draft Act is received by the Government and duly considered, further action on it shall take place.

By-Pass at Tinsukia and Dibrugarh

1031. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to refer to the reply to Unstarred Question No. 3992 dated 20.4.2005 and state:

(a) the details of sanction accorded and progress made in respect of by-pass at Tinsukia and Dibrugarh as well as geometric improvement of a stretch on NH-37 which has not been taken care of for the last 15 years; and

(b) the progress of work regarding finalisation of alignment including land acquisition in respect of by-pass at Mongaldoi and North Lakhimpur as well as construction of bridges over Jiabharali and Simen river on NH-52?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) The proposal for land acquisition of Tinsukia by-pass on NH-37 is included in the current Annual Plan 2005-06 and the modified proposal is awaited from the State Government of Assam. The Government has approved four laning of Nagaon-Dibrugarh section of NH-37 on Build Operate Transfer (BOT) basis under Special Accelerated Road Development Programme-North East, which includes Dibrugarh bypass and National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) has awarded the work of preparation of Detailed Project Report (DPR) for entire work. The proposal for geometric improvement of a stretch of NH-37 beyond Km 687.00 is also included in the current Annual Plan 2005-06. The proposal has been received from the State Government and has been taken up for sanction.

(b) The status of two bypasses and two bridges on NH-52 as mentioned in the Question are given below:

- (i) Baihata Charali - Tezpur section of NH-52 including Mongaldoi by-pass has been approved under NHDP Phase IIIB. NHA has already awarded the work of preparation of DPR.
- (ii) The feasibility study for the North Lakhimpur bypass is in progress by the Border Roads Organisation.
- (iii) The Tezpur - Halem section including bridge over Jiabharali has been approved under NHDP Phase IIIB and NHA has already awarded the work of preparation of DPR.
- (iv) The construction of bridge over river Simen on NH-52 is targeted to commence from year 2006-07.

Mid-day-Meal Scheme

1032. SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has taken note of the findings of the Pune University with regard to Mid-Day-Meal Programme in Pune;

(b) if so, the major findings and views of the Government;

(c) whether such surveys have also been conducted in other states;

(d) if so, the details thereof, State-wise along with the major findings;

(e) whether the Government will consider commissioning of such surveys to evaluate the functioning of the Programme and to plug loop-holes;

(f) whether the Government has received complaints/representations about the shortcomings/malfunctioning of Mid- Day-Meal Programme; and

(g) if so, the corrective measures taken by the Government to achieve the desired results?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.A.A. FATMI):

(a) and (b) The Government of Maharashtra has informed that Pune University had conducted a survey on private costs on public education. The survey was conducted in the slum areas of Pune city. The State Government has further stated that the survey did not cover Mid-Day Meal Scheme.

(c) and (d) States have been requested to commission evaluation studies through external agencies to assess the impact of the programme.

(e) Yes, Sir.

(f) and (g) Occasional complaints/representations have come to notice regarding some instances of supply of poor quality of foodgrains by FCI, preparation of food in hygienic conditions, interruption in supply of mid-day meals to children etc. As and when such matters come to the notice of Central Government, States are immediately asked to take remedial action.

Setting up of Workers University

1033. SHRI DALPAT SINGH PARSTE:

SHRI A. SAI PRATRAP:

SHRI KIRTI VARDHAN SINGH:

SHRI EKNATH MAHADEO GAIKWAD:

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

(a) whether the Government has a proposal for setting up of an exclusive workers' university in the country;

(b) if so, whether any Committee has been set up to suggest the form and content of the proposed university;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the manner in which such a university is expected to benefit the working class?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.A.A. FATMI):

(a) Yes Sir.

(b) Yes Sir.

(c) A Committee under the Chairmanship of Dr. G. Sanjeeva Reddy has been constituted to study the prospects of establishing a Workers' Technical University which could help address the gap between demand and supply of technically qualified personnel.

(d) Can not be stated at present.

Missing Sailors of Indian Merchant Navy

1034. SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Merchant Navy sailors have gone missing in the sea;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the number of sailors are still missing;

(c) whether any investigation was carried out to ascertain the reasons of their missing;

(d) if so, the details of the findings thereof; and

(e) the measures taken for the protection of sailors at sea?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. In the recent past a number of Indian merchant navy sailors on board foreign flag ships have gone missing. The details are given in the enclosed Statement-I.

(c) and (d) All the incidents in the recent past have been reported from foreign flag ships in foreign waters. As such, Indian Maritime Administration, as per Indian law and as per Article I of International Convention on the Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS) 1974 of International Maritime Organisation (IMO), has no jurisdiction for investigation in such matters. The IMO contracting countries are obliged to carry out investigations in incidents involving the casualty on their flag vessel. In all the cases mentioned at Annexure-I Indian Maritime Administration has requested for enquiry by the Flag states/consulates concerned. Except for Jupiter-6, response have been received from flag state and various other authorities including Indian Consulates and Coastal States. The details of findings are given in the enclosed Statement-II.

(e) While no ready made measures could be prescribed for the protection of Indian Sailors on foreign flag ships in foreign territorial waters, the Director General of Shipping is consulting the manning agents, shipping lines and other stakeholders for preparing a strategy for ensuring welfare of Indian seafarers on board foreign flag ships.

Statement-I

Details of Casualties on Foreign Flag Ships leading to missing of Indian Merchant Navy Sailors

(i) Jupiter 6, Flag St. Vincent in Grenadines

This vessel was towing m.v. Pointing (unmanned) from West Coast of Africa and bound for Alang, India. There is no contact with the vessel after 5th September 2005. The vessel is missing from position 35.52.06 S 023. 25.9 E along with 10 Indians and 3 Ukrainians. Pelmar Shipping & Engineering Pvt. Ltd., Mumbai is the manning agent of Jupiter 6. The

vessel's owners are Jupiter Ship Management Inc. Majuro, Marshall Islands. The names and rank of Indian citizens are as below:

1. Mr. Raj Kumar
2. Mr. Ibrahim Edurunanuagothi
3. Mr. Hassan Faikage
4. Mr. Subhash Das
5. Mr. Surjit Singh
6. Mr. Sunil Kumar Sharma
7. Mr. Jose Mathew Kattampally
8. Mr. Hussain Houdathagathi
9. Mr. Ali Kolugedru
10. Mr. Pravin Pandey

(ii) Spar Cetus, Flag NIS Norway:

Chief Officer, Gautam Mallick had reportedly fallen over board from vessel's poop while checking after draft on 09-10-2005 when the vessel was along side berth in Port Klaipeda, Lithuania. His body was subsequently found. The Indian manning agent is Ebony Ship Management Pvt. Ltd., Mumbai.

(iii) MSC Carmen, Flag Panama:

Shri Hasan Zaheer, Marine Engineer has reportedly jumped over board when the vessel was enroute to Mombassa on 12 October 2005. Flag State has conducted a fact-finding inquiry. Indian manning agent is MSC Ship Management (India) Pvt. Ltd., Mumbai.

(iv) North Challenge, Flag Panama:

Shri Mitesh Kumar, 3rd Officer was found missing from above vessel when the vessel was enroute from Al Salvador on 14-10-05. Indian manning agent is Executive Ship Management Pvt. Ltd., Mumbai.

Statement-II

The details of the findings are indicated below:

(a) Jupiter 6

We have not received any information on the conduct of investigation by the flag administration even though the Administration has requested the Flag State to forward the report on this incident. In the meantime various enquiries

have been made by us on the actions taken by manning agents, Maritime Rescue Coordination Centre (MRCC), Cape Town. So far no conclusions could be arrived at as to the cause of disappearance of the vessel along with crew-members.

(b) Spar Cetus:

A report of investigation from flag state is awaited. Next of kin, i.e. Mrs. Preeti Sekhri and her husband visited Klaipeda. They along with First Secretary, Consulate Embassy of India, Warsaw met authorities, i.e. (i) Deputy Chief of Vite Cordon, Coast Guard District, State Border Guard Service, Ministry of Internal Affairs (ii) Deputy Harbour Master, Head of Port Control and Rescue Service, Klaipeda, (iii) Chief Prosecutor, Klaipeda & (iv) Seaport Police Department, Klaipeda. A report from First Secretary (Consulate), Embassy of India, Warsaw mentions details on actions taken by these authorities but no foul play has been suspected.

(c) MSC Carmen

At the request of the Maritime Administration Assistant High Commissioner, Indian High Commission at Mombassa, Kenya had visited the office of MSC Ship Management at Mombassa on 14th October 2005 where Captain of Ship, Chief Engineer and other crew-members were summoned. Subsequently he met 8 crew-members individually on 15th November 2005. The fact-finding report could not conclude reasons for jumping over board. Flag state has also carried out inquiry into this incident. Next of kin has been advised to lodge a FIR with police authorities to determine the any foul play.

(d) M. T. North Challenge:

At the request of the Government, Indian Consul visited the vessel on 20th September 2005 and took statements of crew-members. Although in his report he has mentioned that no foul play is immediately suspected, a detailed interrogation of those saw him last on the ship will only help in bringing out the truth. Accordingly the Shipping Master, Mumbai has been instructed to inquire further into this incident. Next of kin have been advised to lodge FIR with Police to determine any foul play.

[Translation]

Changes in NCERT Syllabus

1035. SHRI GANESH SINGH:

SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA:

SHRI HEMMAL MURMU:

SHRI PRABODH PANDA:

SHRI E.G. SUGAVANAM:

SHRI RAVICHANDRAN SIPPAPARAI:

SHRI GANESH PRASAD SINGH:

SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT "BACHDA":

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

(a) whether the Union Government has recently convened any meeting with the State Education Ministers and other educational organisations to discuss the National Curriculum framework;

(b) if so, whether any consensus has been arrived at the meeting on the issues raised;

(c) whether the NCERT/CBSE has submitted a copy of the new syllabus to the Union Government as reported in the Times of India dated 26th October, 2005;

(d) if so, the details of the various recommendations made by the National Curriculum frame work;

(e) the reaction of the various section of the society thereon; and

(f) the time by when new syllabus is likely to be approved?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.A.A. FATMI):

(a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The NCERT has developed syllabi for all stages of school education based on the National Curriculum Framework (NCF) - 2005. The syllabus was approved on 04.10.2005 by the National Monitoring Committee appointed by the Ministry of Human Resource Development.

(d) and (e) The National Curriculum Framework (NCF) 2005 was approved by the Central Advisory Board of Education (CABE) in September 2005. It aims at strengthening a national system of education in a pluralistic society. It emphasizes reduction of curriculum load, systematic changes in tune with curricular reforms and with values enshrined in the Constitution. Special attention is paid in the NCF 2005 to the development of language skills, health and physical education, peace education and environment education.

(f) Syllabi based on NCF 2005 for various subject, have already been released by the NCERT on the 25th October, 2005.

*[English]***National Disaster Response Force**

1036. SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL:

SHRI NAVJOT SINGH SIDHU:

SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to set up a National Disaster Response Force to tackle situations arising from different types of disasters with the state-of-the-art gadgets;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

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

(d) the details of the locations in which such force is likely to be positioned?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) to (d) The Government has already constituted National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) consisting of 8 (eight) battalions of Central Para-Military Forces; two battalions each from Border Security Force (BSF), Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP), Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) and Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) for the purpose of specialist response in all disaster situations. The process of training and equipping of battalions is in progress.

These eight NDRF battalions would be positioned at Arrakonam (Chennai), Mundali (Bhubneshwar), Greater Noida, Chandigarh, Barasat (Kolkata), Guwahati (Assam), Pune (Maharashtra), and Gandhinagar (Gujarat). In addition, 16 Regional Response Centres (RRCs) of NDRF battalions are being set up across the country to enable immediate response to natural calamities.

Dropout Rates

1037. SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO:

SHRI M.K. SUBBA:

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

(a) whether a dropout rate is increasing in rural areas in comparison to urban areas particularly among the SCs/STs/OBCs dominated areas during the last three years, State and Union territory wise;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there is any proposal to conduct nation-wide survey in this regard;

(d) if so, the time by which it is likely to be conducted;

(e) if not, whether the Union Government has any plan to fix any responsibility in each State under the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan to improve efficiency and academic standard in schools;

(f) if so, the details thereof alongwith the special assistance given, if any, to different States to achieve this object, State-wise; and

(g) the steps taken by the Union Government for the effective implementation of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.A.A. FATMI): (a) and (b) State/UT-wise dropout rates in classes I-V, I-VIII and I-X for all students for the last three years (2000-01 to 2002-03) and for SCs and STs for the last two years (2001-02 to 2002-03) are given in the enclosed Statement. Dropout rates for SC/ST for the years 2000-01 are not available.

(c) and (d) Ministry has no proposal to conduct nation-wide survey in this regard.

(e) and (f) The Central Government has requested each State to project reduction in dropout rates, separately for each district so as to become 0% by 2007 for the primary stage. The Central Government has also requested each State to implement regular assessment of student achievement levels and to monitor the performance of students and schools.

(g) The following steps have been taken by the Central Government for effective implementation of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan.

- (i) Timely approval of the Annual Work Plan & Budgets of States/UTs.
- (ii) Timely release of Central funds for SSA to States/UTs.
- (iii) Regular review and monitoring of implementation of SSA in States/UTs through monthly and quarterly Programme Performance Indicators, review meetings and visit to States/UTs, participation in Executive Committee meetings of SSA State Societies and six monthly Joint Review Missions. The National Mission for SSA with a Governing Council and Executive Committee also review SSA implementation.
- (iv) Capacity building workshops training programmes and cross-State experience sharing workshops, on various aspects of SSA

Statement*Dropout Rates in classes I-V, I-VIII and I-X*

2000-2001

Sl.No.	State/UTs	Classes I-V			Classes I-VIII			Classes I-X		
		Boys	Girls	Total	Boys	Girls	Total	Boys	Girls	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
1	Andhra Pradesh	40.81	42.22	41.49	63.58	68.23	65.74	76.51	77.58	76.98
2	Arunachal Pradesh	48.50	50.39	49.34	61.24	58.87	60.20	75.88	78.89	77.17
3	Assam	25.17	41.40	32.95	66.46	71.88	68.95	75.67	75.82	75.74
4	Bihar	57.92	62.21	59.55	71.90	80.31	75.03	78.37	86.69	81.30
5	Goa	3.00	9.94	6.37	5.38	12.99	9.05	44.23	43.46	43.85
6	Gujarat	22.61	24.36	23.38	47.10	58.02	52.08	70.30	74.60	72.22
7	Haryana	23.74	19.68	21.88	13.56	22.48	17.69	31.37	42.65	36.51
8	Himachal Pradesh	30.49	23.99	27.45	13.56	20.50	16.92	34.54	37.97	36.18
9	Jammu and Kashmir	34.35	31.67	33.18	28.85	22.15	25.94	55.21	53.93	54.68
10	Karnataka	24.74	18.45	21.90	49.03	53.55	51.21	61.27	65.34	63.18
11	Kerala	0	0	0	0	0	0	23.82	14.29	19.15
12	Madhya Pradesh	26.45	27.01	26.69	43.37	57.30	49.46	64.76	77.00	69.96
13	Maharashtra	15.90	18.75	17.26	33.72	41.45	37.41	52.47	59.04	55.55
14	Manipur	25.37	22.22	23.90	48.66	47.82	48.26	56.37	54.52	55.49
15	Meghalaya	57.42	56.96	57.19	77.47	77.23	77.35	83.07	85.59	84.33
16	Mizoram	60.46	60.56	60.50	65.16	62.66	63.97	73.42	68.58	71.13
17	Nagaland	56.14	63.07	59.67	44.63	40.75	42.79	65.23	65.36	65.29
18	Orissa	41.48	42.82	42.08	57.30	64.75	60.70	75.35	74.59	75.05
19	Punjab	21.97	18.53	20.36	40.14	37.44	38.89	40.40	38.84	39.67
20	Rajasthan	48.70	65.34	55.31	43.58	60.93	49.94	75.07	81.08	77.07
21	Sikkim	60.44	58.03	59.29	58.11	47.88	53.42	85.75	84.83	85.33
22	Tamil Nadu	53.02	31.72	42.64	16.05	32.41	23.97	57.97	58.89	58.40
23	Tripura	50.53	50.08	50.32	66.77	67.11	66.93	78.07	79.55	78.75
24	Uttar Pradesh	52.93	62.11	56.51	56.26	68.54	61.02	56.22	73.17	62.11

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
25	West Bengal	46.21	56.95	51.46	62.32	70.17	66.01	79.13	86.14	82.58
26	A&N Islands	1.04	3.64	2.27	31.75	30.90	31.35	50.56	48.26	49.44
27	Chandigarh	0	0	0	9.19	2.36	6.03	8.67	2.09	5.59
28	D&N Haveli	22.63	40.51	30.71	53.07	62.59	57.09	74.62	74.17	74.43
29	Daman & Diu	1.47	5.97	3.63	17.50	24.86	20.87	27.97	36.54	32.04
30	Delhi	37.78	37.69	37.74	49.62	52.44	51.00	67.95	70.16	69.06
31	Lakshadweep	1.91	1.23	1.60	10.88	16.36	13.51	58.79	49.51	54.52
32	Pondicherry	0	0	0	1.93	2.01	1.97	34.70	32.66	33.73
	India	39.71	41.90	40.67	50.33	57.95	53.67	66.41	71.51	68.58

*Dropout Rates in classes I-V, I-VIII and I-X**2001-2002*

Sl.No.	State/UTs	Classes I-V			Classes I-VIII			Classes I-X		
		Boys	Girls	Total	Boys	Girls	Total	Boys	Girls	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
1	Andhra Pradesh	42.62	43.46	43.03	61.25	65.16	63.09	68.51	71.98	70.12
2	Arunachal Pradesh	49.46	50.16	49.77	63.00	57.42	60.62	75.13	77.27	76.04
3	Assam	46.66	51.18	48.64	67.54	71.27	69.21	75.54	75.70	75.61
4	Bihar	60.70	63.11	61.64	73.75	76.59	74.79	81.11	85.99	82.87
5	Chhattisgarh*									
6	Goa	3.48	8.12	5.73	-1.30	9.89	4.19	42.92	41.47	42.21
7	Gujarat	27.21	22.13	25.05	50.02	55.92	52.52	68.02	72.94	70.22
8	Haryana	30.49	30.53	30.51	8.21	17.13	12.35	29.86	42.85	35.94
9	Himachal Pradesh	15.22	18.17	16.68	20.50	23.40	21.90	30.76	32.91	31.80
10	Jammu and Kashmir	32.16	25.38	29.27	32.25	27.30	30.14	50.16	47.18	48.94
11	Jharkhand*									
12	Karnataka	23.86	23.87	23.87	50.80	51.20	50.99	60.19	63.24	61.65
13	Kerala	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	20.67	12.47	16.64
14	Madhya Pradesh	29.24	29.96	29.55	46.22	55.32	50.11	64.98	76.34	69.88
15	Maharashtra	6.08	8.77	7.37	35.36	38.90	37.03	48.92	55.98	52.28

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
16	Manipur	27.67	26.37	27.06	38.73	36.61	37.75	54.56	53.1	53.90
17	Meghalaya	57.17	56.75	56.96	77.07	76.90	76.99	82.99	83.88	83.44
18	Mizoram	60.59	57.82	59.31	61.17	58.50	59.89	72.08	67.11	69.73
19	Nagaland	38.63	44.44	41.50	55.66	50.80	53.36	65.02	64.84	64.94
20	Orissa	38.91	40.08	39.38	61.53	59.55	60.74	73.35	72.60	73.05
21	Punjab	21.28	19.29	20.34	35.31	38.83	36.99	38.94	38.25	38.62
22	Rajasthan	55.48	73.50	63.20	46.83	64.62	53.56	72.58	80.44	75.36
23	Sikkim	61.89	61.64	61.76	67.72	58.51	63.41	88.88	87.83	88.39
24	Tamil Nadu	30.16	24.03	27.24	43.95	35.43	40.07	55.64	59.97	57.66
25	Tripura	50.14	50.95	50.53	68.84	69.23	69.02	76.32	77.62	76.92
26	Uttar Pradesh	45.82	54.99	49.40	55.89	66.81	60.11	53.40	69.40	58.98
27	Uttaranchal*									
28	West Bengal	39.40	40.41	39.86	67.65	74.38	70.87	77.04	80.46	78.52
29	A&N Islands	0.00	0.00	0.00	26.97	26.99	26.98	55.92	53.74	54.87
30	Chandigarh	15.48	9.50	12.72	3.37	-6.62	-1.22	11.13	12.93	11.99
31	D&N Haveli	28.04	44.28	35.41	49.39	62.68	55.41	71.64	71.51	71.59
32	Daman & Diu	0.00	0.00	0.00	10.27	23.85	16.68	34.79	38.45	36.55
33	Delhi	26.95	28.40	27.67	9.98	22.87	16.29	38.33	46.48	42.38
34	Lakshadweep	11.42	23.62	17.23	22.11	24.85	23.42	57.01	50.86	54.18
35	Pondicherry	0.00	0.00	0.00	2.60	3.27	2.92	26.31	24.13	25.26
	India	38.36	39.86	39.03	52.91	56.92	54.65	64.16	68.59	66.04

* Dropout rates are shown combined with their respective parent state.

Dropout Rates of SC Students in classes I-V, I-VIII and I-X

2001-2002

Sl.No.	State/UTs	Classes I-V			Classes I-VIII			Classes I-X		
		Boys	Girls	Total	Boys	Girls	Total	Boys	Girls	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
1	Andhra Pradesh	47.28	50.26	48.75	67.48	73.85	70.47	75.37	80.21	77.59
2	Arunachal Pradesh	11.43	41.18	26.09	0.00	0.00	0.00	56.25	54.55	55.56

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
3	Assam	49.15	48.71	48.95	66.52	66.90	66.69	73.09	69.55	71.50
4	Bihar	53.92	57.39	55.16	82.89	83.85	83.21	89.27	91.92	90.11
5	Chhattisgarh*									
6	Goa	45.52	45.48	45.50	33.21	53.69	43.94	83.62	84.35	83.99
7	Gujarat	30.87	35.87	33.21	55.67	71.37	63.29	69.05	80.78	74.72
8	Haryana	32.13	32.83	32.46	34.54	48.66	41.19	58.86	71.84	64.98
9	Himachal Pradesh	24.36	26.67	25.50	35.19	37.61	36.34	46.18	50.22	48.11
10	Jammu and Kashmir	39.19	34.73	37.40	49.94	47.09	48.65	72.20	70.20	71.37
11	Jharkhand*									
12	Karnataka	0.69	11.21	5.89	55.39	59.90	57.54	67.81	70.16	68.91
13	Kerala	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	32.46	21.62	27.20
14	Madhya Pradesh	24.71	23.10	24.02	44.74	56.55	49.68	67.68	79.85	72.76
15	Maharashtra	5.75	11.02	8.30	32.97	44.38	38.45	54.07	62.24	57.98
16	Manipur	48.21	42.04	45.27	58.57	62.53	60.46	58.76	64.77	61.63
17	Megalaya	85.09	87.30	86.16	75.50	74.85	75.19	74.16	82.00	78.05
18	Mizoram	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
19	Nagaland	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
20	Orissa	99.94	99.95	99.94	65.57	74.09	69.37	73.09	79.18	75.80
21	Punjab	31.12	28.39	29.83	52.13	51.56	51.86	61.10	60.69	60.91
22	Rajasthan	63.91	83.53	72.17	49.47	70.78	57.02	78.02	87.57	81.14
23	Sikkim	65.10	54.10	60.20	77.69	68.83	73.73	88.94	88.22	88.60
24	Tamil Nadu	32.56	25.54	29.24	43.16	39.29	41.33	54.69	59.95	57.17
25	Tripura	45.05	46.41	45.72	64.81	68.99	66.78	74.95	77.57	76.19
26	Uttar Pradesh	52.76	63.70	56.88	67.87	79.99	72.41	66.73	73.56	68.96
27	Uttaranchal*									
28	West Bengal	49.32	54.74	51.80	63.34	63.80	63.52	83.47	86.91	84.93
29	A & N Islands	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
30	Chandigarh	26.38	27.22	26.77	55.45	37.19	47.98	79.82	75.17	77.65
31	D & N Haveli	0.00	8.47	4.35	13.73	21.43	17.20	38.89	37.14	38.20

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
32	Daman & Diu	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.85	4.92	3.48
33	Delhi	0.00	0.00	0.00	58.11	57.07	57.62	81.05	75.33	78.66
34	Lakshadweep	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
35	Pondicherry	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	23.56	27.82	25.67
	India	43.73	47.05	45.18	58.61	63.63	60.73	71.14	74.91	72.71

* Dropout rates are shown combined with their respective parent state.

Dropout Rates of ST Students in classes I-V, I-VIII and I-X

2001-2002

1	2	Classes I-V			Classes I-VIII			Classes I-X		
		Boys	Girls	Total	Boys	Girls	Total	Boys	Girls	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
1	Andhra Pradesh	66.02	71.80	68.66	80.82	86.62	83.28	85.78	90.63	87.78
2	Arunachal Pradesh	55.86	56.21	56.02	68.09	65.48	66.92	77.47	80.04	78.58
3	Assam	63.18	57.16	60.65	70.89	75.44	72.84	78.38	76.40	77.53
4	Bihar	65.44	69.70	67.23	81.76	84.79	82.99	89.52	91.28	90.22
5	Chhattisgarh*									
6	Goa	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	85.71	95.00	90.24
7	Gujarat	36.70	36.92	36.80	72.53	77.99	75.03	81.01	83.82	82.29
8	Haryana	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
9	Himachal Pradesh	26.51	29.85	28.17	27.71	37.43	32.38	53.94	55.41	54.64
10	Jammu and Kashmir	34.94	36.91	35.72	78.91	79.23	79.05	N.A	N.A	N.A
11	Jharkhand*									
12	Karnataka	13.74	11.97	12.92	56.87	56.95	56.90	69.98	69.94	69.96
13	Kerala	13.32	12.10	12.74	20.87	26.51	23.57	61.67	52.27	57.20
14	Madhya Pradesh	36.62	41.10	38.59	60.28	66.29	62.73	77.83	84.03	80.25
15	Maharashtra	32.08	37.07	34.43	60.17	67.46	63.63	70.99	77.41	73.93
16	Manipur	40.22	45.50	42.64	72.08	71.38	71.76	74.07	73.26	73.70
17	Meghalaya	64.05	62.10	63.08	81.49	80.45	80.97	84.81	84.82	84.81
18	Mizoram	59.93	57.41	58.76	61.25	58.64	60.01	72.58	67.62	70.23

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
6	Goa	0.08	5.45	2.69	2.28	9.01	5.54	40.18	39.14	39.68
7	Gujarat	26.02	23.14	24.77	43.09	48.76	45.48	59.21	67.13	62.82
8	Haryana	3.45	10.74	6.89	5.70	14.82	9.90	22.31	37.05	29.14
9	Himachal Pradesh	10.82	14.08	12.42	7.90	11.32	9.56	28.75	31.23	29.95
10	Jammu and Kashmir	33.06	11.50	24.82	27.53	25.57	26.71	50.29	52.08	51.07
11	Jharkhand*	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
12	Karnataka	19.77	17.59	18.74	47.46	49.61	48.46	60.67	63.72	62.14
13	Kerala	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	16.78	8.88	12.90
14	Madhya Pradesh	32.66	29.87	31.43	43.29	51.78	46.94	58.36	70.78	63.79
15	Maharashtra	14.40	16.80	15.55	29.51	35.98	32.59	48.98	55.42	52.05
16	Manipur	25.92	25.24	25.60	35.43	30.08	32.93	61.92	59.01	60.54
17	Meghalaya	58.19	54.81	56.51	73.13	70.21	71.67	81.40	80.45	80.93
18	Mizoram	56.25	56.52	56.38	60.05	56.39	58.31	77.11	74.11	75.68
19	Nagaland	49.16	54.49	51.80	53.79	52.93	53.38	77.08	77.90	77.47
20	Orissa	50.40	40.05	46.13	63.97	58.39	61.73	71.04	72.56	71.74
21	Punjab	26.37	24.07	25.29	33.71	31.67	32.75	48.81	47.10	48.01
22	Rajasthan	54.81	59.86	56.93	62.74	72.44	66.60	72.66	81.16	75.77
23	Sikkim	54.74	49.29	52.06	72.68	66.32	69.66	76.85	73.07	75.12
24	Tamil Nadu	14.56	16.22	15.37	46.06	39.00	42.85	47.31	46.26	46.80
25	Tripura	43.28	42.62	42.97	65.17	65.22	65.19	74.24	74.29	74.27
26	Uttar Pradesh	24.19	22.75	23.55	47.53	42.46	45.57	43.05	51.47	46.31
27	Uttaranchal*									
28	West Bengal	37.39	35.32	36.41	67.26	69.30	68.23	77.08	80.61	78.74
29	A&N Islands	0.73	4.00	2.31	17.64	19.26	18.42	51.44	51.24	51.35
30	Chandigarh	32.32	28.05	30.44	0.00	0.00	0.00	23.28	20.29	21.90
31	D & N Haveli	16.99	33.96	24.82	39.87	58.14	48.00	72.69	71.86	72.34
32	Daman & Diu	0.00	0.00	0.00	9.57	20.44	14.83	43.81	46.93	45.24
33	Delhi	6.72	17.64	12.13	19.46	27.75	23.57	44.88	49.59	47.19
34	Lakshadweep	0.00	6.06	3.03	0.00	8.36	4.48	25.51	22.63	24.13
35	Pondicherry	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	22.97	20.32	21.69
	India	35.85	33.72	34.89	52.28	53.45	52.79	60.72	64.97	62.58

* Dropout rates are shown combined with the respective parent state.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
28	West Bengal	50.31	54.74	52.32	63.48	63.65	63.54	83.47	86.91	84.93
29	A & N Islands	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
30	Chandigarh	14.31	14.35	14.33	55.36	37.06	47.88	80.74	75.92	78.52
31	D & N Haveli	33.33	33.90	33.60	42.59	36.17	39.60	27.78	34.09	30.61
32	Daman & Diu	2.99	-3.45	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
33	Delhi	16.33	15.34	15.85	50.76	44.62	47.93	80.23	73.58	77.45
34	Lakshadweep	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
35	Pondicherry	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	25.46	26.25	25.84
	India	41.13	41.91	41.47	58.24	62.19	59.91	69.74	74.93	71.92

* Dropout rates are shown combined with the respective parent state.

Dropout Rates of ST Students in classes I-V, I-VIII and I-X

2002-2003

Sl.No.	State/UTs	Classes I-V			Classes I-VIII			Classes I-X		
		Boys	Girls	Total	Boys	Girls	Total	Boys	Girls	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
1	Andhra Pradesh	63.29	68.71	65.82	78.59	84.34	81.09	84.70	89.32	86.64
2	Arunachal Pradesh	43.92	44.99	44.41	67.12	64.28	65.85	72.47	75.06	73.62
3	Assam	59.49	52.88	56.72	68.49	73.42	70.60	76.52	74.19	75.52
4	Bihar	66.60	65.39	66.13	82.43	85.57	83.73	89.01	91.24	89.89
5	Chhattisgarh*	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
6	Goa	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
7	Gujarat	36.13	43.10	39.32	58.26	67.04	62.30	78.45	82.33	80.22
8	Haryana	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
9	Himachal Pradesh	16.23	21.70	18.95	26.79	37.43	31.90	32.36	50.54	41.10
10	Jammu and Kashmir	43.48	39.16	41.76	73.79	79.29	76.14	79.59	80.62	79.95
11	Jharkhand*	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
12	Karnataka	1.79	10.77	6.13	52.73	56.65	54.53	63.87	64.96	64.36
13	Kerala	2.20	5.96	4.01	33.63	40.03	36.73	58.16	49.71	54.11
14	Madhya Pradesh	51.90	50.51	51.30	65.56	70.16	67.47	78.56	87.42	82.15

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
15	Maharashtra	28.79	40.23	34.21	61.03	66.43	63.54	71.90	82.12	76.66
16	Manipur	37.57	52.74	45.23	62.70	61.56	62.18	78.54	78.54	78.54
17	Meghalaya	61.42	59.29	60.36	81.11	80.30	80.71	87.05	86.74	86.90
18	Mizoram	55.90	54.90	55.43	59.89	56.34	58.20	76.89	73.37	75.23
19	Nagaland	37.38	37.01	37.21	42.81	44.19	43.47	67.72	67.91	67.81
20	Orissa	58.03	53.50	56.28	77.45	79.12	78.12	84.38	85.84	84.97
21	Punjab	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
22	Rajasthan	50.61	59.87	54.31	52.58	73.17	60.27	78.44	87.24	81.17
23	Sikkim	48.52	38.69	43.84	73.20	64.03	68.89	87.21	85.32	86.34
24	Tamil Nadu	27.24	21.01	24.41	56.98	54.36	55.80	74.43	77.48	75.79
25	Tripura	58.08	61.31	59.60	78.45	80.33	79.31	85.31	87.22	86.17
26	Uttar Pradesh	31.19	30.02	30.69	36.97	36.45	36.75	47.38	69.01	56.36
27	Uttaranchal*	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
28	West Bengal	53.70	59.26	55.54	60.73	42.42	55.81	61.76	75.86	67.16
29	A & N Islands	19.34	15.34	17.56	35.55	26.59	31.42	62.92	54.72	59.40
30	Chandigarh	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
31	D & N Haveli	23.21	41.31	31.52	47.96	67.99	56.86	78.55	81.69	79.86
32	Daman & Diu	6.13	1.41	4.01	28.83	48.94	38.94	64.83	71.43	67.57
33	Delhi	68.75	71.43	70.04	72.30	72.55	72.42	76.67	74.51	75.89
34	Lakshadweep	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	29.92	20.34	25.47
35	Pondicherry	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	India	50.82	52.10	51.37	66.86	71.17	68.67	78.35	82.97	80.29

* Dropout rates are shown combined with the respective parent state.

[Translation]

Licence to Government Hostels

1038. SHRI BHANU PRATAP SINGH VERMA:

SHRI RASHEED MASOOD:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Government hostels and private hostels in Delhi registered with the licensing department of the Delhi Police;

(b) the number of hostels operating in Delhi without licence;

(c) whether the registration of hostels is necessary keeping in view of the security of the country;

(d) if so, the action being taken by the Government against the said unregistered hostels;

(e) the action being taken by the Delhi Police against the unregistered hostels located in Delhi particularly in Shakarpur;

(f) whether the said unregistered hostels are being sealed; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) and (b) No Government hostel is registered with Delhi Police. Three private hostels are registered. The number of Government (including college, university, school, institutions etc.) and private hostels operating without license is 74 and 59 respectively.

(c) As per the Regulations framed by Delhi Police vide Notification No. N.4453 Special Cell dated 19th December, 1980 under Section 28 of the Delhi Police Act, 1978, no person shall open or keep place of public entertainment of class 'A' or Class 'B', which includes residential hostels also, without having previously obtained a licence from the Commissioner of Police or any other officer authorized by him in this behalf.

(d) and (e) Delhi Police has taken legal action against 14 unregistered hostels located in Shakarpur area under Section 28/112 of Delhi Police Act, 1978 during the current year so far.

(f) and (g) None of the hostels has been sealed by Delhi Police during the current year.

Formulation of Employment Policy

1039. SHRI AJIT JOGI: Will the Minister of URBAN EMPLOYMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has taken any measures to formulate employment policy in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF URBAN EMPLOYMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION (KUMARI SELJA): (a) to (c) Ministry of Urban Employment & Poverty Alleviation is already implementing since 1.12.1997, an employment oriented urban poverty alleviation programme named Swarna Jayanti Shahari Rozgar Yojana (SJSRY), to cater to the livelihood needs of the urban poor living below the poverty line. The Swarna Jayanti Shahari Rozgar Yojana (SJSRY) scheme strives to provide gainful self-employment to the unemployed or under-employed urban poor through setting up of micro-enterprises and also to provide wage employment to the needy urban poor by utilizing their labour for creation of socially and economically useful public assets. Skill training/upgradation to the urban

poor is also provided under the Scheme in order to make them better employable either in self-employment or in salaried employment.

Release of Funds under Central Road Funds

1040. SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Rajasthan has forwarded a request to release an amount of Rs.5.71 crore from Central Road fund;

(b) if so, the time by which the amount is likely to be released;

(c) whether the Government of Rajasthan has made a request to raise the present one third annual deposit amount under reserve fund to Rs.40.39 crore; and

(d) if so, the time by which the one third annual deposit amount under reserve fund is likely to be raised to Rs.40.39 crore rupees?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Rs. 14.85 crore has been released on 22nd November 2005 which include Rs. 5.71 crore.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The decision regarding increase in the amount of advance to the level of one third of the current accrual has not been taken.

[English]

Licensing of Tenement

1041. SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of persons who were provided tenements under the Licensing of Tenements and Transit Sites in Chandigarh Scheme, 1975 and under the Licensing of Tenements and Sites and Services Scheme, 1979 respectively;

(b) if so, the form of right conferred thereof;

(c) whether such licencees were eligible for grant of these low cost tenements on hire purchase basis;

(d) if so, the number of persons who were allotted the tenements on hire purchase basis;

(e) whether such allottees have since paid the entire amount of premium;

(f) if so, whether the tenements were then transferred to them on lease hold basis for a period of 99 years;

(g) whether the lease hold tenure has been converted into free hold as per the conversion scheme; and

(h) if not, the reasons therefore?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) Under the Licensing of Tenements and Transit Sites (Bare Sites) Scheme, 1975, 2965 persons were provided tenements and 2382 persons were provided transit sites. Similarly, under the Licensing of Tenements and Sites and Services Scheme, 1979, 1499 persons were provided tenements, 2092 persons were provided bare sites and 3000 persons plinth sites. Thus under the two schemes a total number of 11938 persons were allotted sites.

(b) While tenements and transit sites have been allotted on rent basis and bare sites on lease and higher purchase basis, plinth sites have been allotted on license basis.

(c) All the 4464 licencees (2965+1499) were eligible for conversion on higher purchase basis subject to the fulfilment of conditions.

(d) Out of 4464 licencees, allotment of tenements made to 1862 were converted into higher purchase basis.

(e) Yes, Sir. 1862 licencees mentioned above have paid the entire amount of premium.

(f) Yes, Sir.

(g) No, Sir.

(h) They have not completed all the formalities for conversion into free hold basis.

Setting up of Air Wing by ITBP

1042. SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the ITBP proposes to set up a Air wing to deal with the challenges being faced by them;

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

(c) the details of the estimated expenditure likely to be incurred in setting up of said wing;

(d) the action taken by the Government on the said proposal; and

(e) the time by which by the Air wing of ITBP will start operational?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) and (b) ITBP has proposed to procure nine helicopters for providing operational support to their units located on the international borders. The air support includes maintaining border outposts, aerial recce, visit and inspections of supervisory officers, casualty evacuation and operation of regular courier services.

(c) to (e) The Ministry has set up a high level committee to evaluate and assess the requirement to provide dedicated air support to all the Central Para Military Forces (including ITBP) in view of increasing operational commitments projected by them and work out the minimum number of aircrafts needed vis-a-vis the existing fleet and the cost of acquisition.

Unhygienic Food under Mid-Day Meal Scheme

1043. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that unhygienic food is being served to school children under mid-day meal scheme in Delhi and other parts of the country;

(b) if so, the number of complaints received in this connection; and

(c) the corrective measures taken to provide hygienic food under mid-day meal to school children?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.A.A. FATMI): (a) and (b) As per information furnished so far by Governments of NCT of Delhi, Goa, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Manipur, Orissa, Punjab & Tripura, no complaints have been received about serving of unhygienic food to children under Mid-Day Meal Scheme.

(c) Elaborate guidelines have been issued to States on hygiene & safety procedures.

Package of Fiscal Concession to SSIs

1044. SHRI JASHUBHAI DHANABHAI BARAD: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has sanctioned a package of fiscal concessions for the Small Scale Industries (SSIs) to make them price competitive and undertake technological upgradation;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has also cleared a proposal to enhance the technology upgradation subsidy to 15% from the prevailing 12%;

(d) if so, the extent to which this will boost the Small Scale Industries; and

(e) the time by which this package and subsidy will be given?

THE MINISTER OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND MINISTER OF AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRI MAHAVIR PRASAD): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) There are two types of excise duties as we all know. The Central excise exemption limit under the General SSI Excise Exemption Scheme was raised from Rs. 50 lakh to Rs. 1 crore in the 'Comprehensive Policy Package for Small Scale Industries and Tiny Sector' announced by the Government on 30 August 2000. As announced in the Union Budget 2005-06, the eligibility limit for availing of the benefits under General SSI Excise Exemption Scheme has also been raised from a turnover of Rs. 3 crore to Rs. 4 crore.

(c) to (e) The loan limit under the Credit Linked Capital Subsidy Scheme (CLCSS) has been raised from Rs. 40 lakh to Rs. 1 crore and the capital subsidy from 12 per cent to 15 per cent with effect from 29th September, 2005, to further facilitate modernization of SSIs through technology upgradation.

New Scheme for Providing Universal Safety on National Highways

1045. SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has decided to adopt a new scheme for providing universal safety on National Highways, to be funded from tolls and cess on petrol and diesel etc.;

(b) if so, the details of safety measures envisaged under the scheme; and

(c) the steps taken to implement the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K. H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) Yes, Sir. Committee on Infrastructure (COI) has endorsed a proposal for setting up a dedicated Safety Fund into which one percent of the cess revenues allocated for National Highways would be earmarked.

(b) and (c) Details of the proposed Safety Fund are being worked out. It is, therefore, premature to indicate the details of the scheme and the steps taken for its implementation.

Trade Relation with Middle East Countries

1046. SHRI E.G. SUGAVANAM: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether India's trade with Middle East countries have increased during the last three years;

(b) if so, the details of import/export during each of the last three years and the amount of foreign exchange earned therefrom, country-wise; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to further improve the trade relations between India and Middle East countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) Yes, Sir,

(b) India's exports and imports with the countries of the Middle East during the last 3 years were of the value indicated hereunder:

Country	Value (in million US \$)					
	2002-2003		2003-2004		2004-2005	
	Exports	Imports	Exports	Imports	Exports	Imports
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Bahrain	99.54	121.13	111.63	74.52	141.58	112.47
Iraq	214.58	0.03	75.17	0.14	128.49	1.10

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Israel	634.54	602.68	723.98	669.76	989.95	972.52
Jordan	101.81	224.45	150.99	230.27	119.78	330.09
Kuwait	250.56	179.50	319.09	142.48	404.10	293.51
Lebanon	50.89	13.04	59.05	7.68	65.89	20.11
Oman	198.61	13.84	258.99	50.88	256.65	19.94
Qatar	96.10	113.07	128.44	187.05	137.20	638.91
Saudi Arabia	940.74	504.72	1123.31	737.77	1369.76	1260.88
Syria	121.23	8.84	201.46	4.65	247.62	3.64
United Arab Emirates	3327.48	956.99	5125.61	2059.85	7098.14	4581.96
Total	6036.38	2738.29	8277.72	4165.05	10959.16	8235.13

Source: DGC&IS Kolkata

(c) Measures such as exchange of high level visits, Meetings of the Joint Commissions, setting up of Joint Study Group and negotiations aimed at facilitating economic and commercial cooperation have been taken to further improve the trade relations.

Closure of Industrial Units

1047. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether industrial units are getting closed due to increasing sickness in conventional industries in the country;

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

(c) whether the Government propose to announce any incentive scheme for different industries for their development and expansion;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) and (b) Labour Bureau, Shimla under the Ministry of Labour and Employment collects information on closure of industrial units covered by the Industrial Dispute Act, 1947. As per information (provisional) available with the Labour Bureau 194 units were closed during 2004 and 60 units during January-September 2005. The State-wise details are given in the enclosed Statement.

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

Statement

State-wise closure of industrial units

Sl.No.	States/U.T.	2004 (P)	2005 (P)
1	2	3	4
1.	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	-	-
2.	Andhra Pradesh	1	-
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	-	-
4.	Assam	-	-
5.	Bihar	1	-
6.	Chandigarh	-	-

1	2	3	4
7.	Chhattisgarh	-	
8.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	-	-
9.	Daman & Diu	-	-
10.	Delhi	-	-
11.	Goa	1	1
12.	Gujarat	32	4
13.	Haryana	4	2
14.	Himachal Pradesh	1	..
15.	Jammu & Kashmir	1	-
16.	Jharkhand	3	-
17.	Karnataka	9	5
18.	Kerala	8	1
19.	Madhya Pradesh	-	-
20.	Maharashtra	-	..
21.	Manipur	-	..
22.	Meghalaya	-	-
23.	Nagaland	-	..
24.	Orissa	2	
25.	Pondicherry	-	..
26.	Punjab	-	1
27.	Rajasthan	1	..
28.	Tamil Nadu	-	..
29.	Tripura	101	37
30.	Uttar Pradesh	27	9
31.	Uttaranchal	-	-
32.	West Bengal	2	-
Total		194	60

(P) = Provisional

=Nil

.. = Not available

*[Translation]***Jawaharlal Nehru University**

1048. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) total number of teaching and non-teaching staff in Jawahar Lal Nehru University along with the number of SCs and STs employees;

(b) whether appointments on all reserved posts for SCs and STs have been filled up;

(c) if so, the number of SCs and STs candidates appointed there during the last 3 years;

(d) whether there is still backlog of posts reserved for SCs and STs; and

(e) if so, the action being taken by the Government and JNU to fill up the backlog posts?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.A.A. FATMI): (a) Total number of teaching and non-teaching staff in Jawaharlal Nehru University, alongwith the number of SCs and STs employees are given below:

	Total in Position	SC in Position	ST in Position
Teaching			
Professor	182	3	3
Associate Professor	131	2	Nil
Assistant Professor	94	8	2
Non-Teaching	1343	408	35
(b) and (c) While the vacant reserved posts for SCs and STs are being filled up, the number of such candidates appointed during the last three years (2003-05) are as under:			
	SCs	STs	
Teaching	8	2	
Non-Teaching	18	4	

(d) and (e) For filling up of the backlog vacancies of non-teaching positions reserved for SCs, STs and OBCs, the University has launched a special recruitment drive. The University has also advertised various teaching positions.

*[English]***Introduction of New Courses by UGC**

1049. SHRI BALASHOWRY VALLABHANENI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether UGC proposes to introduce new courses;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the courses offered in India are at par with those offered in other countries such as USA and UK; and
- (d) if so, time by which the courses in India are likely to be brought at par with other countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.A.A. FATMI): (a) and (b) According to the information furnished by the University Grants Commission (UGC), the UGC does not introduce courses. The courses are introduced by the universities and colleges which, in turn, are funded by the UGC.

(c) Equivalence of degrees and other awards are determined by individual universities. Qualifications awarded by Indian Universities are recognized by Universities in other countries accordingly.

(d) In view of the reply to part (c), question does not arise.

Modification of Guidelines for Higher Education

1050. SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has decided to modify the guidelines for the students of Andaman & Nicobar Islands to pursue higher education especially Medical and Engineering stream after the Tsunami devastation;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the time by when these guidelines likely to be modified?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.A.A. FATMI): (a) to (c) No, Sir. There is no modification in the existing guidelines for the students of Andaman and Nicobar Islands

both in Medical and Engineering Examinations. However, due to Tsunami Devastation, the condition of taking AIEEE examination was waived for the current academic session i.e. 2005-2006 for admission in Engineering Colleges in the Country. In Medical branch, the Ministry of Health has allocated some MBBS Seats to Tsunami affected families from Central pool quota for the academic year 2005-2006.

Loss Suffered by PME due to Earthquake

1051. SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether para military forces suffered a heavy loss during the recent earthquake in Jammu and Kashmir sector;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the total posts lost on Indian side of LoC due to earthquake;
- (d) whether due to loss of important posts on LoC there has been increase in the infiltration of militants; and
- (e) if so, the remedial steps taken/being taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) to (e) According to the available information, 09 personnel of BSF lost their lives due to the earthquake on 8th October 2005. The details are given below:

Cadre	Number
Head Constable	02
Lance Naik	01
Constable	05
Cook	01
Total	09

There is no report of loss of human life from any other Central Para Military Force (CPMF).

There are reports of damage to some posts of CPMFs on the LoC due to earthquake on 8 October 2005 in Jammu & Kashmir.

Central Para Military Forces have not reported any increase in infiltration of insurgents, after the earthquake of Jammu & Kashmir, in the areas of their deployment.

Innovating Projects

1052. SHRIMATI JAYABEN B. THAKKAR: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether assistance is being given to voluntary organizations working in the field of child and women welfare for Innovative Projects and Activities which are not covered in the existing schemes of the Department of Women and Child Development; and

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith Innovative Projects and Activities being undertaken during 2004-05 State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A State-wise list of projects sanctioned during 2004-05 is enclosed as Statement.

Statement

Sl. No.	Name of the Organisation	Activity
Andhra Pradesh		
1	Prajwala, Hyderabad, AP	Combating trafficking
Delhi		
2	Gandhi Peace Foundation, Delhi	Setting up child care and education centers for children in Kerala, Tamil Nadu and Pondicherry for Tsunami affected children.
3	Core Delhi	Combating trafficking
4	STOP, Delhi	Combating trafficking
Karnataka		
5	Vimochana, Bangalore	For mobilization of neighbourhood groups to fight against women
Tamil Nadu		
6	Integrated Rural Community Development Society, Tiruvallur, T.N.	Rehabilitation of Mathammas
West Bengal		
7	Sanlaap, Kolkata	Combating trafficking
Maharashtra		
8	Prayas, Mumbai	Combating trafficking
9	Rescue Foundation, Mumbai	Combating trafficking
10	Lok Deep Manas Vikas Sanstha, Parbhani	Combating trafficking
11	Sneh Bahudeshiya Sanstha Nagpur	Combating trafficking
12	Khajubai Sankar Devare Sewa Sanstha Nasik	Combating trafficking

National Policy for the Welfare of Tribals

1053. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether National Policy on tribals exist in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the suggestions and views of NGOs

and other working organizations in the field of tribal welfare have been taken into while formulating the policy;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps being taken for the welfare of tribals through the policy?

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION (SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH): (a) and (b) While no formal National Policy for Tribals exists, there are several provisions in the

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
Orissa	00	00	00	00	01	60	02	480	00	00	00	00	00	00
Tripura	01	60				0	0	00	00	00	00	00	00	00
West Bengal	00	00	01	60	03	180	03	325	02	120	00	00	00	00
Northern														
Uttar Pradesh	02	120	00	00	23	1380	14	3160	00	00	00	00	00	00
Uttaranchal	02	120	00	00	01	60	02	480	01	60	00	00	01	40
North-West														
Chandigarh	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00
Delhi	00	00	00	00	01	60	01	240	00	00	00	00	00	00
Himachal Pradesh	01	60	00	00	01	40	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00
Haryana	00	00	00	00	02	120	03	660	00	00	00	00	00	00
Jammu and Kashmir	02	80	01	60	01	30	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00
Punjab	01	60	00	00	04	240	02	480	02	120	00	00	00	00
Rajasthan	02	120	01	60	03	180	04	775	00	00	00	00	00	00
South														
Andhra Pradesh	01	60	00	00	27	1620	22	5230	00	00	00	00	00	00
Tamil Nadu	05	300	03	180	01	60	03	720	01	60	00	00	00	00
Pondicherry	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00
South-West														
Kerala	05	300	00	00	02	120	00	00	00	00	00	00	01	40
Karnataka	05	300	00	00	07	420	03	720	00	00	00	00	00	00
Western														
Maharashtra	05	300	02	120	10	600	05	1140	00	00	01	15	00	00
Goa	Nil													
Total	36	2120	08	480	99	5890	72	16270	08	480	01	15	02	80

1. Total number of institutions added for the year 2005-06 = 224

2. Total number of seats added for the year 2005-06 = 25335

New Policy for Hawkers/Vendors

1055. SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE:

SHRI RAVICHANDRAN SIPPIPARAI:

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

- (a) the number of street vendors in major metropolitan cities;
- (b) whether there has been cases of non-implementation of National Policy on Urban Street Vendors as reported in The Times of India dated October 20, 2005;
- (c) if so, the facts thereof alongwith the action taken by the Government in this regard;
- (d) whether the Government proposes to review this policy to minimise the hardship of street vendors all over the country;
- (e) if so, the details thereof; and
- (f) the time by which the proposed policy is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF URBAN EMPLOYMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION (KUMARI SELJA): (a) Ministry does not have any official data on the number of street vendors in the major metropolitan cities.

(b) and (c) The National Policy on Street Vendors formulated by the Ministry provides guidelines for the States/UTs to act in the overall interest of the Street Vendors. States/UTs were requested to implement the policy guidelines with or without modifications in the way it is best suited to the local conditions and in the interests of the street vendors.

(d) to (f) A national workshop on Urban Street vendors was organised by the Ministry on 19.10.2005 to discuss the various aspects of the implementation of the policy and shortfalls, if any. The workshop was attended by senior officials of the State Governments including Commissioners of some of the selected cities, representatives of NGOs and other stakeholders from various Central Government Departments.

A wide range of issues concerning urban street vendors were deliberated upon during the workshop. Some of the major issues deliberated upon were social security cover for street vendors, access to credit to them from financial institutions, their rehabilitation, need for training and skill development and creation of a data base in the States. There

was a consensus in the Workshop amongst the stakeholders to provide and promote a more supportive environment to the street vendors for earning their livelihoods.

Deepening of main channels of Paradip port

1056. SHRI JUAL ORAM: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government proposes to deepen the main channels of Paradip Port;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the amount earmarked therefor; and
- (d) the progress made so far in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T. R. BAALU): (a) to (d) The Government has recently approved the project for Deepening of Channel at Paradip Port at an estimated cost of Rs.154.842 crores. This deepening will enable handling of vessels of 1,25,000 Dead Weight Tonnage (DWT) as against the existing capacity of 65,000 DWT. The scheduled period for completion of the project is 72 weeks.

Committee on Investment in Infrastructure

1057. SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has constituted a Committee with regard to investment in trade related infrastructure to facilitate imports from neighbour countries;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government propose to promote Private Sectors participation in all the infrastructures related projects; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) and (b) No, Sir. Government of India provides financial assistance to all States and Union Territories for development of export infrastructure based on their export performance under a scheme titled Assistance to States for Development of Export Infrastructure and Allied Activities (ASIDE). This scheme has two components. 80% of the funds (State Component) is earmarked for allocation to the States

based on their export performance and balance 20% (Central Component) and amounts equivalent to unutilised portion of funds allocated to States is retained at the Central level for meeting the requirements of inter State projects, capital outlays of Special Economic Zones (SEZs). There is an Empowered Committee in the Department of Commerce headed by the Commerce Secretary to consider and sanction the proposals received from the various Central Agencies out of the Central component of the ASIDE Scheme. The projects under the State component are approved by the State Level Export Promotion Committee (SLEPC) headed by the Chief Secretary of the concerned State.

(c) and (d) Under the guidelines of the ASIDE Scheme Private Sector Participation in projects has been encouraged to leverage private sector funds. Detailed guidelines for Private Sector Participation in projects to be taken up under the ASIDE Scheme have been issued and have also been posted on the website of the Department of Commerce: www.commerce.nic.in.

Economic Development

1058. SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has emerged as a fourth largest nation in terms of purchasing power parity;

(b) if so, measures taken to further improve its position;

(c) whether Purchasing Power Parity is yet another measure for world economies where in US topped with \$10 trillion, followed by China, Japan and India; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by the Government to maintain Purchasing Power Parity and to achieve in over all economic growth in the world market?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. As per the World Bank's 'World Development Indicators database' of July 2005, Indian economy in 2004 ranks fourth in terms of Purchasing Power Parity (PPP) Gross Domestic Product (GDP) \$ 3362.96 billion.

Purchasing Power Parity (PPP) can be used as another measure of the real value of output produced by an economy compared to other economies. PPP uses conversion factors to take into account the differences in the relative prices of goods and services - particularly non-tradeables. This measure has emerged under the UN's International Comparison Programme. In terms of the

Purchasing Power Parity (PPP) Gross Domestic Product (GDP), the US ranks first with \$ 11628.08 billion, China with \$ 7123.71 billion and Japan with \$ 3774.08 billion for the year 2004.

Achieving high and sustained growth in the economy has been a primary objective of the policies of the Government. The Government has been taking measures to accelerate growth through enhanced investment and infrastructure facilities. Growth of industry and development of human resources, inter alia, are steps aimed at achieving overall economic growth.

NEC as Independent Regional Planning Body

1059. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA Will the Minister of DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION be pleased to state:

(a) whether North Eastern Council (NEC) is an independent Regional Planning body or an executing agency;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the NEC Projects are subjected to clearance from Standing Finance Committee (SFC)/ Expenditure Finance Committee (FEC)/Public Investment Board (PIB);

(d) if so, the reason thereof alongwith the measures taken to get timely clearance from the aforesaid bodies;

(e) whether the projects of Development of North Eastern Region (DoNER) are subjected to SFC/FEC/PIB clearance; and

(f) if not, the reasons for such discrepancy?

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION (SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH): (a) and (b) It has been provided under the North Eastern Council (Amendment) Act 2002, that the North Eastern Council (NEC) shall function as a regional planning body for the north eastern area. While formulating the regional plan for the north eastern area, the Council shall give priority to schemes and projects which will benefit two or more States. However, in case of Sikkim, the Council shall formulate specific projects and schemes for that State including review of implementation of such projects and schemes. The Council also executes projects/schemes through the State Governments and other agencies.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. NEC projects are subjected to clearance from the Standing Finance Committee (SFC)/

Expenditure Finance Committee (EFC)/Public Investment Board (PIB) in terms of procedures prescribed by the Ministry of Finance. Certain additional financial powers have been delegated to the Secretary, North Eastern Council in the past. The procedure prescribed by the Ministry of Finance is aimed at ensuring that the project/scheme proposals are properly appraised by the competent authorities from both the techno-economic and financial angles. To get timely clearance, the NEC Secretariat has been advised to directly circulate their proposals for consultation with the Line Ministries and the Planning Commission. Detailed "Check Lists" have also been provided to NEC Secretariat for ensuring that their project proposals are complete in all respects before circulation as also before consideration by the Standing Finance Committee/Expenditure Finance Committee. Proposals are also closely monitored and followed-up by both the NEC Secretariat and the Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region.

(e) and (f) Projects under Non-lapsable Central Pool of Resources (NLCPR) are not subjected to SFC/EFC/PIB clearance. However, a similar and rigorous procedure for appraisal and consultation with Line Ministries and the Planning Commission is followed. Presently, the NLCPR Committee chaired by the Secretary, Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region includes, among others, representatives from the Planning Commission, the Ministries of Home Affairs and Finance and the concerned Central Ministry/Department. The Committee assesses projects/schemes proposed by the States of the North East and Sikkim under NLCPR in terms of viability and tangible socio-economic impact.

Creation of India Reserve Battalions

1060. SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Central and State Governments have agreed to make inter-State joint task force functional to facilitate coordinated operations as appeared in the 'Hindu' dated September, 23, 2005;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the States have also agreed to take steps to raise India Reserve Battalions and prepare action plan;
- (d) if so, the action plan prepared therefor; and
- (e) the time by which it is likely to be raised?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) and (b) A Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) has been finalized in

consultation with the naxal affected States with an objective to formulate operational plans and undertake intelligence based inter-State joint anti-naxalite operations in the specified inter-State border areas against the naxal leaders and cadres. Each of the inter-State border areas identified will have a separate inter-State task force/mechanism on a bilateral or trilateral basis to facilitate need based intelligence driven joint operations.

(c) to (e) The naxal affected States have been requested to take concrete steps to raise India Reserve (IR) Battalions on priority.

The time frame prescribed for raising the IR Bns is two years and the States are expected to follow the schedule.

[Translation]

Amendment in Recruitment Rules in Official Language Service

1061. SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government have framed new recruitment rules for Central Secretariat official language service;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether it is mandatory for the Government to accept the suggestions of Union Public Service Commission on such matters;
- (d) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (e) whether objection have been raised by the Government from various quarters;
- (f) if so, whether Government proposes to withdraw the new rules; and
- (g) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT): (a) Framing of the new recruitment rules for Central Secretariat Official Language Service is under process.

(b) Consequent to the implementation of recommendations of the Fifth Central Pay Commission for upgradation of post of Director and creation of certain posts of Joint Director, and subsequent upgradation of pay scales of certain remaining grades, new rules for the recruitment of Director, Joint Director, Deputy Director, Assistant Director, Senior Translator and Junior Translator are being framed.

(c) Yes, Sir. Consultation with UPSC for framing of recruitment rules is mandatory.

(d) Consultation with Union Public Service Commission is mandatory under the Constitution of India, and subsequent orders of the Government in pursuance of the constitutional provisions.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) Does not arise.

(g) Does not arise.

[English]

Municipal Corporation of Chandigarh

1062. SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Chandigarh U.T. Administration has directed the Commissioner, Municipal Corporation, Chandigarh to levy a fine of Rs. 500 plus Rs. 300 (carrying charges) on the poor persons who eke out their living by plying handcarts;

(b) if so, whether while fixing this fine, the economic condition of those affected thereby was taken into consideration;

(c) whether the Chandigarh Administration intends to ban peripatetic rehris in the city;

(d) if so, whether there is an alternative plan stipulated for their rehabilitation and to provide them an alternative source of income; and

(e) the number of persons selling vegetables etc., in the city on rehris?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) No specific direction in this regard has been issued by the Union Territory Administration. However, work relating to removal of unlicensed handcarts is undertaken under the provisions of section 44 (n), 323 (c), 324 and 415 of the Punjab Municipal Corporation Law (Extension to Chandigarh) Act, 1994 by the competent quasi-judicial authorities, who impose fines at different scales in such cases depending upon the value of the goods removed.

(b) As explained at (a) above no specific rates of fine have been fixed by the Chandigarh Administration. However, the competent quasi-judicial authorities impose fine within the ceiling of Rs. 500 per offence as prescribed under the Act depending upon the merits of individual cases. In addition to the above, removal charges on the basis of volume and weight of the seized articles are levied.

(c) As per prevailing law, only the licensed rehris carrying valid licences issued under Chandigarh Handcart (Control and Regulations) byelaws, 1989 are authorized to move within the city.

(d) Recently, Municipal Corporation has framed a scheme of 'day market' which would accommodate on an average approx. 250 unauthorized rehris. After the "Municipal Corporation, motorized rehris (Control and Regulation) Byelaws 2005 are formulated, it is expected that about 200 licences for motorized rehris would be granted.

(e) No survey has been conducted as yet by Chandigarh Administration to identify the number of persons selling vegetables in the city on rehris.

Review Progress of Centrally Sponsored Education Schemes

1063. SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to review the progress of centrally sponsored Education Schemes quarterly as reported in 'Dainik Jagaran' dated October 2, 2005;

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

(c) the names of the States lagging behind in achieving the aim and objectives of each of such schemes; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to speed up the progress of each of such schemes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.A.A. FATMI):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) The requisite information relating to the schemes on Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA), Mid-Day Meal (MDM) and Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya (KGBV) is given in the enclosed Statement.

Statement

Information relating to the schemes on Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA), Mid-Day-Meal (MDM) and Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya (KGBV)

Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA)

(b) and (d) The monitoring systems under Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) are:-

- i) A computerized Educational MIS system gives annual school-based data on all significant educational statistics.
 - ii) Quarterly progress reviews of physical & financial parameters.
 - iii) Pupil achievement level studies conducted every three years.
 - iv) A Joint Review Mission led by the Government of India reviews the progress of SSA twice a year.
 - v) Regional and State reviews by Ministry officials.
- (c) States with Unsatisfactory Performance in Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) are:-
- i. Civil Works - West Bengal, Bihar and Orissa.
 - ii. Teacher Recruitment - Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh and West Bengal.
 - iii. Overall expenditure - Bihar, West Bengal and Arunachal Pradesh.

Mid-Day-Meal (MDM)

- (b) The progress of implementation of Mid-Day Meal Scheme is monitored through Quarterly Progress Reports prescribed for the purpose.
- (c) As per available information, Bihar, Punjab & West Bengal are yet to universalize Cooked MDM Programme.
- (d) The matter has been taken up with these States to universalize the programme forthwith at the highest level in the Ministry.

Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya (KGBV)

(b) to (d) KGBV Scheme is reviewed every quarter in the State Gender Coordinators meeting and every six months in a Conference of State Education Secretaries, held by the Government of India. Bihar and West Bengal have unsatisfactory performance in the Scheme.

Protection of Citizens in Bihar

1064. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Bihar Administration and Bihar Police has failed to discharge their constitutional obligations of protecting its citizens;
- (b) if so, the measures taken to maintain law and order in Bihar;

- (c) the number of cases of various crimes reported in Bihar during the last one year till date; and
- (d) the number of cases still remaining unsolved and the reasons for the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT): (a) and (b) Under the Seventh Schedule to the Constitution, "Public Order" and "Police" are state subjects. Therefore, it is the responsibility of State Governments to maintain law & order and protect the citizens. In the event of any incident of breach of law & order in any place, the State Government takes appropriate measures including deployment of additional police forces as may be necessary. Union Government provides central police forces whenever requested by a State Government, subject to availability.

(c) and (d) It is primarily the responsibility of the State Government to detect, register, investigate crimes and follow up prosecution of accused persons in the courts. Such information is, therefore, not maintained by nor readily available with the Union Government. However, as per the statistics compiled annually by the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB), the number of crime cases registered under IPC during 2004 were 108060 and those registered under special and local laws were 9213. The number of cases under IPC pending investigation at the end of 2004 were 79618 and the number of cases under special & local laws pending investigation at the end of 2004 were 7373.

Special Education Programme for Rural Women

1065. SHRI JASHUBHAI DHANABHAI BARAD: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to refer to the reply given to USQ No. 4076 dated August 23, 2005 and state:

- (a) whether the information on special programme for rural women has since been collected;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) if not, the reasons for delay therein; and
- (d) the time by which the requisite information is likely to be laid on the Table of the House?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.A.A. FATMI): (a) to (d) Ministry of Rural Development has informed that they do not implement any special education programme for rural women. However, they are implementing Swarnjayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojna (SGSY) which is a holistic programme covering all aspects of self-employment. Special

safeguards have been provided to vulnerable sections by way of reserving 40% benefits for women. Ministry of Human Resource Development has no specific scheme for special education programme for rural women. However, under the National Literacy Mission, literacy programmes are being implemented to impart functional literacy to adult illiterates in 15-35 age-group. The beneficiaries of this programme also include rural women.

Low Literacy Levels Districts

1066. SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether National Literacy Mission Programme launched by Central Government has been reviewed;

(b) if so, the number of districts covered under this scheme so far;

(c) the names and number of districts found under low literacy level during the last three years, State-wise;

(d) whether programmes under this scheme are being launched by all the States;

(e) if not, the reasons therefor;

(f) whether extent of fall in the number of illiterate persons have been assessed; and

(g) if so, the existing number thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.A.A. FATMI):

(a) Government of India constituted an expert group for Status-cum-Impact of Total Literacy Campaigns launched in different part of the country since 1990-91 under the chairmanship of Shri Arun Ghosh. The expert group submitted its report in September, 1994.

Since then, the progress made under various schemes of the National Literacy Mission (NLM) are monitored and evaluated.

(b) So far, 597 districts in the country have been covered under the schemes of Literacy Campaigns and Continuing Education Programme. The present scheme-wise coverage of districts is as under:

Name of the programme	Districts covered
Total Literacy Campaign	137
Post Literacy Programme	165
Continuing Education Programme	295

(c) to (e) Based on the 2001 Census Report, the National Literacy Mission Authority in its General Council meeting held on 11.4.2005 has decided to focus, in a phased manner, on 150 lowest literacy districts in the country. A Statement showing State-wise names and number of identified low literacy districts is enclosed.

In the first phase, special literacy project proposals for low literacy districts have been approved for the States of Bihar, Jharkhand, Rajasthan and Karnataka.

(f) and (g) The extent of fall in the number of targeted illiterate is assessed after completion of the programme and is based on external evaluation reports.

Statement

S. No.	State/ district	Number of low literacy districts	Names of districts
1	2	3	4
1	Arunachal Pradesh	7	East Kameng, Tirap, Lower Subansiri, Tawang, Upper Siang, Upper Subansiri, Changlang
2	Andhra Pradesh	8	Mahbubnagar, Vizianagaram, Medak, Nizamabad, Adilabad, Kurnool, Karimnagar, Srikakulam
3	Assam	3	Dhubri, Kokrajhar, Darrang
4	Bihar	31	Araria, Katihar, Purnia, Sheohar, Madhepura, Supaul, Purba Champaran, Sitamarhi, Pashchim Champaran, Saharsa, Khagaria, Madhubani, Jamui, Banka, Darbhanga, Samastipur, Nawada, Gopalganj, Muzaffarpur, Lakhisarai, Begusarai, Sheikhpura, Bhagalpur, Gaya, Vaishali, Siwan, Saran, Nalanda, Kaimur (Bhabua), Jehanabad, Kishanganj

1	2	3	4
5	Chhattisgarh	4	Dantewada, Bastar, Surguja, Kawardha
6	Gujarat	2	Dohad, Banas Kantha
7	Jammu & Kashmir	8	Badgam, Kupwara, Baramula, Anantanag, Doda, Pulwama, Punch, Udhampur
8	Jharkhand	13	Pakur, Sahibagni, Garhwa, Godda, Chatra, Giridih, Palamau, Dumka, Deoghar, Pashchimi Singhbhum, Gumla, Koderma, Lohardaga
9	Karnataka	4	Raichur, Gulbarga, Chamarajanagar, Koppal
10	Madhya Pradesh	9	Jhabua, Barwani, Sheopur, Sidhi, Dhar, Chhatarpur, Raigarh, Dindori, Tikamgarh
11	Meghalaya	3	West Garo Hills, Jaintia Hills, South Garo Hills
12	Nagaland	2	MoU, Tuensang
13	Orissa	10	Malkangiri, Nabarangapur, Koraput, Rayagada, Gajapati, Nuapada, Kalahandi, Mayurbhanj, Kandhamal, Balangir
14	Punjab	1	Mansa
15	Rajasthan	11	Banswara, Jalore, Dungarpur, Bhilwara, Jaisalmer, Tonk, Sirohi, Chittorgarh, Pali, Bundi, Rajsamand
16	Uttar Pradesh	30	Shravasti, Balrampur, Bahraich, Budaun, Rampur, Siddharthnagar, Gonda, Moradabad, Maharajganj, Kaushambi, Kushinagar, Barabanki, Bareilly, Sitapur, Kheri, Shahjahanpur, Sonbhadra, Lalitpur, Jyotiba Phule Nagar, Pilibhit, Sant Kabir Nagar, Hardoi, Basti, Mahoba, Rae Bareli, Banda, Etah, Unnao, Mirzapur, Sultanpur
17	West Bengal	4	Uttar Dinajpur, Maldah, Murshidabad, Puruliya
	Total	150	

[Translation]

Export

1067. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been sharp decrease in export trade during the last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof item-wise along with their quantity and value during the same period;

(c) whether the Union Government has received any suggestions from various export promotion councils to increase the exports trade; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by the Union government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) There has been no decrease in exports. In fact there has been a sharp increase in exports during the last three years.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) In a meeting held on 18th October 2005 with the representatives of Export Promotion Bodies, suggestions were called from them for export promotion. This was part of a continuous process to consult stakeholders before framing Government policies. The Government has already taken note of various suggestions and initiated

action to simplify procedures, address the issue of inverted duty structure on certain commodities and evolve a new DEPB successor scheme that will be more WTO compatible and administratively convenient to implement.

[English]

UNDP Report 2005

1068. SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAI SI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether United Nations Development Programme HRD report 2005 has ranked India at 127th position out of 177 countries;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that one in every 11 Indian children dies in the first five years of life; and

(d) the steps taken or being taken by the Government to focus recorded in the UNDP HRD report?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.A.A. FATMI):

(a) and (b) Yes Sir. As per the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Human Development Report 2005, India has been ranked at the 127th position out of 177 countries having Human Development Index 0.602.

(c) As per the National Family Health Survey-II, age-group (0-5) mortality rate is 94.9 per 1000 life birth.

(d) Following steps have been taken by the Government to improve the Human Development Index:

- National Literacy Mission (NLM) was set up to achieve a sustainable threshold level of 75% literacy by 2007. A number of steps have been taken by NLM to enhance adult literacy in the country which include revision of NLM parameters and enhancement of financial norms; integration of phases of Total Literacy and Post Literacy; delegation of powers to State Literacy Mission Authorities; enlarging the scope of Continuing Education; strengthening of Jan Shikshan Sansthan and extending their activities in rural areas; revitalizing State Resource Centres for preparation of better teaching materials and improved quality of training.

In principle, a Scheme of Universal Access and Quality at the Secondary Stage has been approved by the Planning Commission with the objective to make secondary education of good quality available, accessible and affordable to all young persons.

Several steps have been taken by the Government to reduce the infant and under five mortality rate which includes; strict implementation of Child Marriage (Prevention) Act, Pre-Natal Diagnostic Technique (Regulation, Prevention and Misuse) Act; raise awareness on the reduced sex ratio by creating efforts through media campaigns; expansion of Integrated Child Development Scheme (ICDS) to all blocks of the country with increased component of nutrition and immunization and other health programmes by Ministry of Health & Family Welfare.

Financial Assistance to Small Scale Industries

1069. SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the share of small scale industries in the total industrial production of the country;

(b) whether any financial assistance is given by the Government to Small Scale Industries; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND MINISTER OF AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRI MAHAVIR PRASAD): (a) The share of small scale industries in the total industrial production of the country during 2003-04 (latest available) estimated to be 39.42 per cent.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) In addition to the assistance provided by the Central Government to State Governments, Small Scale Industry (SSI) Associations and SSI Clusters for promotion and development of SSI under specific schemes, direct financial assistance is provided to SSI under various schemes which include:

(i) 15 per cent upfront capital subsidy (12 per cent prior to 29.09.2005) on institutional finance upto Rs. 100 lakh for induction of well-established and improved technology in specified sub-sectors/products;

(ii) reimbursement of charges for acquiring ISO 9000/14001 (or its equivalent) certification to the extent of 75 per cent of the cost, subject to a maximum of Rs. 75,000/-;

(iii) funding to individual exporters by way of reimbursement to the extent of 90 per cent of the cost of to-and-fro air fare for participation in international trade fairs/exhibitions;

- (iv) financial assistance of upto 25 per cent of the cost of production of overseas publicity material limited to Rs. 15,000/- in a financial year;
- (v) financial assistance of upto Rs. 2 lakh for commissioning specific market studies and assistance to SSI Associations for initiating/contesting anti-dumping cases, limited to 50 per cent of total cost or Rs. 1 lakh, whichever is less;
- (vi) reimbursement of 75 percent of one-time registration fee paid by SSI units for obtaining bar coding registration;
- (vii) exemption from payment of earnest money, security deposit, etc. to SSI units registered under the single point registration scheme of the National Small Industries Corporation; and
- (viii) subsidization of the fee charged by the rating agencies from the SSIs upto 75 per cent, subject to a maximum of Rs. 40,000, under the Performance & Credit Rating Scheme for SSIs.

**Slow Implementation of ICDS and
Anganwadi Centre**

1070. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that there is a slow progress in the implementation of the Integrated Child Development Scheme for providing nutritional food to poor children and establishing of Anganwadi Centres;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor and the status of implementation of the scheme; and
- (c) the total number of beneficiaries so far, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH): (a) to (c) The Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) Scheme is a Centrally-sponsored Scheme implemented through State Governments/UT Administrations. During the last 1½ years, there has been considerable progress in the implementation of the Scheme. As a result of concerted efforts by the Central and State Governments, the number of operational Anganwadi Centres increased from 649307, as on 31.3.2004, to 706872, as on 31.3.2005, and to 741038, as on 31.7.2005. State-wise status of implementation of the Scheme and number of beneficiaries is given in the enclosed Statement.

Statement

Sl. No.	State/UT	Number of ICDS Projects as on 31.7.2005		Number of Anganwadi Centres as on 31.7.2005		Supplementary Nutrition Beneficiaries as on 31.7.2005			Pre-school Education Beneficiaries (Children 3-6 years) as on 31.7.2005
		Sanctioned	Operational	Sanctioned	Operational	Children below 6 years	Pregnant & Lactating Mothers	Total	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1	Andhra Pradesh	363	360	56204	54870	2331596	587205	2918801	1531515
2	Arunachal Pradesh	58	58	2359	2359	75025	12487	87512	33829
3	Assam*	196	195	25416	25302	1103139	148030	1251169	781953
4	Bihar	394	390	60813	57486	3671818	758719	4430537	2109891
5	Chhattisgarh	152	152	20289	20289	1376594	360579	1737173	586810
6	Goa	11	11	1012	1012	34482	8931	43413	14257
7	Gujarat	227	227	37961	37400	1673900	274786	1948686	1449445
8	Haryana	116	116	13546	13546	942054	232857	1174911	440984
9	Himachal Pradesh	72	72	7354	7354	326127	73506	399633	118730
10	Jammu & Kashmir	140	121	18772	10398	182978	39982	222960	107385

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	Jharkhand	204	204	24171	22170	759975	232345	992320	484874
12	Karnataka	185	185	40301	40301	2236837	539176	2776013	1168352
13	Kerala	163	163	25393	25361	800912	151544	952456	446044
14	Madhya Pradesh	336	336	49787	49710	2690071	642549	3332620	1521302
15	Maharashtra	372	372	62716	62679	4168602	637911	4806513	2448119
16	Manipur	34	34	4501	4500	0	0	0	111851
17	Meghalaya	32	32	2218	2218	183905	33285	217190	87159
18	Mizoram	21	21	1361	1361	116012	27796	143808	50480
19	Nagaland	54	54	2770	2770	371466	40237	411703	103843
20	Orissa	326	326	34201	34201	3661319	659559	4320878	946102
21	Punjab	142	142	14730	14730	435902	151536	587438	421005
22	Rajasthan	257	257	35821	35804	2644439	594960	3239399	1335366
23	Sikkim	5	5	500	500	0	0	0	11076
24	Tamil Nadu	434	434	42677	42677	1717396	501299	2218695	1071735
25	Tripura	40	39	3874	3768	148205	22088	170293	101052
26	Uttar Pradesh	834	827	106059	101352	4820915	1463561	6284476	3878269
27	Uttaranchal	99	99	6658	6609	327585	72902	400487	189121
28	West Bengal	358	355	57540	54666	3428248	397985	3826233	1349342
29	A & N Islands	5	5	527	527	18830	4268	23098	8681
30	Chandigarh	3	3	300	300	31710	7703	39413	13110
31	Delhi	29	28	3902	3842	388108	69913	458021	150710
32	Dadra & N Haveli	1	1	138	138	12520	2184	14704	5019
33	Daman & Diu	2	2	87	87	6977	1898	8875	4213
34	Lakshadweep	1	1	74	74	3877	986	4863	4024
35	Pondicherry	5	5	677	677	27210	8918	36128	3971
All India		5671	5632	764709	741038	40718734	8761685	49480419	23087619

as on 31.7.2004

**Yoga as Compulsory Subject in
School Education**

1071. SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to make

teaching of Yoga as a compulsory subject in all schools in the country;

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

(c) the steps taken by the Government to create awareness among the students about the significance of Yoga?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.A.A. FATMI): (a) to (c) The National Curriculum Framework for School Education-2005 prepared by the National Council of Educational Research and Training provides for Health and Physical Education as a compulsory subject from primary to secondary stage and as an optional subject at higher secondary stage. Yoga is one of the core components of Health and Physical Education.

A Centrally Sponsored Scheme titled 'Introduction of Yoga in Schools' was launched in 1989-90. The scheme provides for central assistance to reputed NGOs for expenditure on yoga training to teachers and upgrading library facilities. More than 3700 teachers have been trained since the inception of the scheme. The scheme is now a component of the recently formulated composite scheme of "Quality Improvement in Schools".

Declining Indian Export

1072. SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE:

SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY:

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

- (a) whether the exports from the country have declined in comparison to the previous year;
- (b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the reasons therefor; and
- (c) the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELAN-GOVAN): (a) No, Sir. In fact, India's exports registered an increase of 22 percent at US\$ 51.5 billion in the current financial year 2005-06 (April-October) compared with US\$ 42.2 billion during the same period of the previous year.

- (b) Does not arise.
- (c) The Government has taken a number of initiatives to promote exports. These, inter-alia, include bringing into force the SEZ Act 2005 to trigger a larger flow of foreign and domestic investment in infrastructure and productive capacity; setting up Free Trade Warehousing Zones (FTWZs) which would get all the benefits available with SEZs; giving a major thrust to procedural simplification to reduce transaction cost of exporters and signing regional trade agreements to leverage exports in line with India's comparative advantage.

Study Group on Export

1073. SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has constituted five working groups and four study groups to formulate strategies for promoting the export of Indian goods and services;
- (b) if so, the details alongwith the objectives thereof;
- (c) whether these Groups would submit their recommendations to the recently reconstituted board of trade; and
- (d) if so, the date by which they have been asked to submit their recommendation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELAN-GOVAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) In the meeting of Board of Trade held on June 17th, 2005, it was decided to set up five working groups and 4 (four) special study groups on specified areas of Indian exports in order to achieve the desired objective of boosting India's exports.

Five Working Groups

Group One - Working Group on 'Evaluation of Different Export Promotion Schemes'. The Working Group was set up for evaluating the performance and effectiveness of different schemes in meeting the objectives and to study the global best practices in export promotion schemes followed by developed and developing countries; to suggest the best possible way to neutralize the levies on exporters.

Group Two - Working Group on 'Trade Facilitation'. This Group was set up to analyze the recommendation of studies already completed and for benchmarking trade facilitation parameters of India with other countries.

Group Three - Working Group on 'Manufacturing Sector'. This Group was set up to benchmark the manufacturing sector in terms of export competitiveness with other LCCs and to study the constraints faced by the manufacturing sector in India and suggest specific measures to alleviate them.

Group Four - Working Group on 'Identifying specific sectors and strategies having comparative advantage'. This Group was set up to define parameters for identifying comparative advantage for specific goods and services sectors.

Group Five - Working Group on 'SEZs and EOUs'. This Group was set up to study the constraints faced by the sectors and for benchmarking with other countries and setting of achievable goals.

Four Study Groups

- Group One - Sectoral study on Textiles
 Group Two - Sectoral study on Pharmaceuticals
 Group Three - Sectoral study on Chemicals and allied sectors
 Group Four - Impact of RTAs/FTAs on Indian industry/exports

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Three working groups and two study groups have already submitted the reports. The others have been asked to submit their reports by 31st December, 2005.

N.C.T.E.

1074. SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Council for Teacher Education (NCTE) has drawn up a draft curriculum framework for quality teacher education to plug loopholes in the existing system as reported in the 'Hindu' dated October 13, 2005;

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

(c) the measures suggested by the NCTE for effective and meaningful integration between foundation and specialized studies; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.A.A. FATMI):
 (a) As per the National Policy on Education (NPE) 1986, which was subsequently modified in 1992, NCTE initiated reform to improve the quality of teacher education. In this direction the Draft Curriculum Framework for Quality Teacher Education is being prepared by the NCTE.

(b) The draft Curriculum Framework deals with background of teacher education in India; context, concern and challenges of teacher education; pre-service / in-service teacher education; education of teacher educators; management of teacher education and research in teacher education.

(c) The National Curriculum Framework has not been finalized as yet and the decision on integration between foundation and specialized studies shall be taken on the basis of the comments being received from the stakeholders and experts in this regard.

(d) Not applicable as the Draft Curriculum Framework is not finalized yet.

Shortage of Houses

1075. SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL:

SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY:

SHRI RANEN BARMAN:

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

(a) whether according to the 2001 census, there was a shortage of more than three crore houses in the country;

(b) if so, the facts thereof:

(c) the number of dwelling units in the country needed to be provided to clear the backlog and provide shelter to every family;

(d) the steps taken to realize this goal;

(e) the number of people provided houses since 2001, year-wise and State-wise;

(f) whether low cost pre-fabricated housing has been taken up; and

(g) if so, the funds required for the purpose per year and the amount every beneficiary would be expected to contribute?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF URBAN EMPLOYMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION (KUMARI SELJA): (a) to (c) As per the 10th Plan document, a total of 22.44 million dwelling units would be required to be constructed/ upgraded during the Tenth Plan Period in Urban areas.

(d) and (e) The Government has launched scheme known as Valmiki Ambedkar Awas Yojana (VAMBAY) for providing housing to the poor since 02.12.2001. The Government also launched Two-Million Housing Programme for supporting construction of additional two million houses every year out of which 7 lakh would be in urban areas and 13 lakhs in rural areas. The details of the houses constructed under VAMBAY State-wise since 2001 are given in the enclosed Statement-I and the number of dwelling units financed under Two-Million Housing Programme is given in the enclosed Statement-II.

(f) No Sir.

(g) Does not arise.

Statement-I**Number of dwelling unit covered under VAMBAY State-wise & Year-wise**

S1.No.	State/UT	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05
1	2	3	4	5	6
1	Andhra Pradesh	4000	20901	27627	16148
2	Arunachal Pradesh	0	0	0	80
3	Assam	0	0	0	0
4	Bihar	0	0	50	0
5	Chhattisgarh	325	2185	1850	0
6	Goa	0	0	0	0
7	Gujarat	1536	18776	0	250
8	Haryana	0	0	3263	0
9	Himachal Pradesh	0	0	0	0
10	Jammu and Kashmir	387	170	442	210
11	Jharkhand	0	0	0	3504
12	Karnataka	3333	6979	14978	0
13	Kerala	910	11948	6926	1000
14	Madhya Pradesh	803	4054	1024	1500
16	Maharashtra	4661	328	22700	40915
16	Manipur	0	35	853	0
17	Meghalaya	0	0	0	0
18	Mizoram	0	0	0	0
19	Nagaland	0	40	766	0
20	Orissa	0	306	232	82
21	Punjab	0	0	0	0
22	Rajasthan	1500	3300	200	2700
23	Sikkim	0	0	0	0
24	Tamil Nadu	2610	27226	14684	34519
25	Tripura	45	644	976	0
26	Uttaranchal	180	701	1098	0

1	2	3	4	5	6
21	Uttar Pradesh	2217	5412	8462	8835
28	West Bengal	2436	2968	697	1782
29	A & N Islands	0	0	0	0
30	Chandigarh	0	0	0	0
31	D & N Haveli	0	0	0	0
32	Daman & Diu	0	0	0	0
33	Delhi	167	0	0	0
34	Pondicherry	170	0	408	618
35	Lakshadweep	0	0	0	0
Total		25280	105973	107236	112143

Statement-II*Cumulative Progress of Two Million Housing Programme (zMHP)*

Year	Annual Target (DUs)	No. of Dwelling Units		Amount Sanctioned (Rs. in Crore)		No. of Dwelling Units		Amount Sanctioned (Rs. in Crore)	
		HUDCO (Urba)	HFIs/Banks	Cooperative Sector	Total				
2001-02	700000	401078	450.48	458615	12870.12	73659	1392.90	933352	14713.50
2002-03	700000	459969	2792.91	637091	19148.71	73481	1287.09	1170521	23228.71
2003-04	700000	427455	685.77	621331	22491.35	89948	1538.93	1138734	24716.05
2004-05	700000	254885	1055.52	434675	21016.98	71280	1782.16	760840	23854.66
Total	2800000	1543387	4984.68	2151712	75527.16	308348	6001.08	4003447	86512.92

Talks with Myanmar

1076. SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY:

SHRI AVINASH RAI KHANNA:

SHRI HARIBHAU RATHOD:

SHRIMATI ARCHANA NAYAK:

SHRI E.G. SUGAVANAM:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Home Secretary level talks with Myanmar were held during October, 2005;

(b) if so, the details of the issues raised by Indian delegation during such talks;

(c) the reaction of Myanmar on each of such issues;

(d) the steps taken by both countries to check transborder crimes/terrorism; and

(e) the details with regard to treaties signed on various issues to check transborder crimes/terrorism with Myanmar?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) to (e) The 11th National Level Meeting, at the Home Secretary Level, between India & Myanmar was held at Yangon, Myanmar from the 14th to

17th Oct' 05. At this meeting, issues relating to security, drug trafficking, border trade, border management, Myanmar fishermen in Indian jails and training of civil servants on Myanmar in India were discussed. The status of various infrastructure projects in Myanmar particularly in road and power sectors over which the two countries have agreed to cooperate, was also reviewed at this meeting. Union Home Secretary raised, inter alia, India's concern on the presence of Indian Insurgent Groups in the Myanmar territory and requested Government of Myanmar to take effective action against them. The Government of Myanmar reiterated that they would not allow the use of their territory by insurgent groups for undertaking activities prejudicial to the interest of India. After detailed discussions, both sides agreed to further strengthen cooperation in checking the activities of insurgents, arms smugglers, drug traffickers and other hostile elements along the India-Myanmar border. After conclusion of the meeting, Agreed Minutes of the meeting was signed on 17th Oct' 05 by the leaders of Indian and Myanmar delegation.

[Translation]

Training to Drivers

1077. SHRI CHANDRA MANI TRIPATHI:

SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK:

Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is contemplating to formulate any scheme to impart training to Drivers in view of the increase in road accidents in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the names of the cities selected for the purpose;

(d) whether the Government is also contemplating to take the assistance of other agencies under the above scheme; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) and (b) Already two schemes "Administering Refresher Training to Heavy Motor Vehicle Drivers in Un-organized Sector" and "Setting up of A Training Institute on Driving & Research" are in operation to impart training to drivers with a view to minimizing road accidents in the country. The main objective of the scheme "Administering Refresher Training to Heavy Motor Vehicle Drivers in

Un-organized Sector" is to impart training to drivers of heavy motor vehicle in unorganized sector. The main aim of the scheme "Setting up of A Training Institute on Driving & Research" is to provide necessary infrastructure, equipments and impart professional skills of driving to all categories of drivers including beginners and drivers already on the job.

(c) to (e) The scheme "Administering Refresher Training to Heavy Motor Vehicle Drivers in Un-organized Sector" is administered through Non Governmental Organizations (NGOs)/ Institutions/organizations. The scheme "Setting up of A Training Institute on Driving & Research" is administered either through State Govt. or through NGOs or through public private partnership between State Government and NGOs/Automobile Manufactures. The list of 29 NGOs/institutions/organizations, who have been sanctioned grants-in-aid under the scheme "Administering Refresher training to drivers of Heavy Motor Vehicles in unorganized sector during the year 2005-06 is enclosed as Statement. So far 8 driver training institutes in Assam (Guwahati), West Bengal (Kolkata), Andhra Pradesh (Vijaywada), Karnataka (Hagaribommanahalli, Bellary), Himachal Pradesh (Jassur, Kangra), Kerala (Edappal, Malappuram), Delhi (Sarai Kale Khan) and Uttaranchal (Dehradun) have been sanctioned, under the scheme of "Setting up of A Training Institute on Driving & Research".

Statement

List of NGOs/Institutes/Organization sanctioned grants-in-aid under the scheme "Refresher Training to HMV Drivers in unorganized Sector" during 2005-06

- 1 M/s SAMUHA, H.No. 8-3-318/11/S/1, 3rd Floor, Jayaprakash Nagar, Yellareddyguda, Hyderabad-50007, Andhra Pradesh
- 2 M/s Road Safety Education & Defensive Driving Institute (REDDI), H. No. 7-59, Madhurapuri Colony, Dilukhnagar, Ranga Reddy Dist., Hyderabad-500060, Andhra Pradesh
- 3 M/s State Motor Transport Operators Association, Rajdhani Theatre Complex, 4-100/1, IInd Floor, Dilukhnagar, Hyderabad-500060, A.P.
- 4 M/s The Rajamundry Mini Goods Van Owners Association, V.L. Puram, Rajamundry, E.G. Dist., Andhra Pradesh-533103.
- 5 M/s The Krishna District Lorry Owners Association, D.No. 40-13/1, Chandramoulipuram, Near Benz Circle, Vijayawada-520010, A.P.

- 6 M/s DHEEKSHA, Path for Development, H.No. 1-49, Vill- Revally (V), Nampally Nalgonda 508257, A.P
- 7 M/s Parvatneni Subhas Chandra Bose Driving School, 4-76/4, Bose Building, Kanuru, Viyayawada-520007, A.P.
- 8 M/s Jorhat Motor Driving Training School, Gandhi Bazar, Naharkatia, Distt. Dibrugarh, Assam
- 9 M/s United Multipurpose Society, Upper Hangrabari, Dispur, Guwahati-36, Assam.
- 10 Institute of Driving Training & Research (IDTR) Transport Department Complex, Loni Road, Delhi-110094
- 11 Institute of Road Traffic Education (IRTE), B-128, DDA Sheds, Okhla Industrial Area, Phase I, New Delhi-110020.
- 12 M/s Council of Occupational Safety, Health & Environment, I-A, Shivkrupa, Don Bosco High School, Panaji, Goa-403001.
- 13 M/s The Western India Automobile Association, Shrama Shakti Bhavan, 6th Floor, Potto Plaza, Panaji, Goa-403001.
- 14 The Western India Automobile Association, The Celler, Kanpur Road, Hotel Le-Meridien Compound, Khanpur, Ahmedabad-380001, Gujarat.
- 15 M/s WIAA-Castrol Institute of Motoring, Opp. DLA Academy, Judge's Bungalow Road, Near Nehru Foundation Cross Roads, Bodkadev, Ahmedabad-380054, Gujarat.
- 16 The Research Institute, Rajagiri College of Social Science, Kalamassery, Kochi-683104, Kerala.
- 17 National Transportation Planning and Research Centre (NATPAC), Sasthra Bhavan, Pottom Palace P.O. Thiruvananthapuram-695004, Kerala.
- 18 Central Institute of Road Transport, (CIRT), P.O. Bhosari, Pune-411026, Maharashtra.
- 19 M/s Western India Automobile Association, 76, Veer Nariman Road, IMC Building, Churchgate, Mumbai, 400020, Maharashtra.
- 20 M/s Ranadive Motor Driving School, Ranadive Nivas, Poona Road, Nasik-422001, Maharashtra.
- 21 M/s Nashik Motor Driving School, 431, Wakliwadi, Near Ashok Stambh, Nasik-422001 Maharashtra.

- 22 M/s TRIDHARA, Budhithakurani, Tulasipur Cuttack, 753008, Orissa.
- 23 M/s SUPRATIVA, At/ PO. Fakirpada via Biribati, Distt Cuttack, Orissa-754100.
- 24 M/s Sikkim Motor Training & Engineering Institute, Sichay, Gangtok, Sikkim-737101.
- 25 M/s Sudha Akhil Bhartiya Viklang Kalyan Sansthan, 1st floor, Windlass Shopping Complex, 11-A-Rajpur Road, Deharadun, Uttaranchal.
- 26 M/s Dehati Gramothan Vikas Saimiti, 437, Paschimi Taraus, Maudaha, Post Ragaul, Distt Hamirpur U.P.-210507.
- 27 M/s Shiva Gramodyog Sewa Sansthan, F-473, Gujaini, Ratan Lal Nagar, Kanpur-208022 (U.P.).
- 28 M/s Ashok Leyland Driver/ Service Training Centre, Vallipuram, Namakkal-637003, Tamil Nadu.

[English]

Setting up of Regional Bodies

1078. SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO:

SHRI K.C. PALANISAMY:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to set up north, south, east, west and northeast regional bodies to tackle law and order problems like naxalism, insurgency, terrorism;

(b) if so, the facts thereof;

(c) whether the Union Government has sought the views of State Governments in this regard;

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

(e) the steps taken by the Union Government to tackle law and order problems having inter-state ramification?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) There is no such proposal under consideration of the Government.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

(e) The states are regularly sensitized about security related issues having inter-State ramifications through the annual Conference of Chief Ministers on Internal Security & Law and Order and two annual Conferences of Chief Secretaries & DGPs/IGPs. Besides, the State are provided by the Central Government financial assistance

and technical support in terms of modern weaponry, mobility, communication, equipment and also intelligence inputs to tackle security related challenges including those affecting more than one State.

Internal Security

1079. SHRI BALASHOWRY VALLABHANENI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to bring the 'internal security' in the concurrent list;

(b) if so, details and the reaction of the State Governments in this regards; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRI PRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) There is no such proposal under consideration of the Government.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Technical Education Quality Improvement Programme

1080. SHRI VIKRAMBHAI ARJANBHAI MADAM: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of proposals/projects received under World Bank aided Technical Education Quality Improvement Programme from various State Governments particularly from Gujarat Government during the last three years, State-wise;

(b) the details and status thereof alongwith the fund sanctioned to each of the State during the last three years;

(c) the action taken by the Government to clear such proposals till date; and

(d) the number of proposals pending for approval and the time by which these are likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.A.A. FATMI): (a) to (d) The Government of India is implementing the World Bank assisted Technical Education Quality Improvement Programme (TEQIP). The cost of the First Phase of the programme is Rs. 1550 crore, out of which Rs. 350 crore is central component and Rs. 1200 crore is state component.

All the proposals received from the 13 States namely Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh,

Jharkhand, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Uttaranchal, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal under First and Second cycle of the programme have been approved by the Government of India and conveyed to the programme States. A total of 132 Institutions including 18 Centrally Funded Institutions and 114 Institutions from the 13 States are participating in the programme. There is no proposal pending.

From the State of Gujarat, 6 Institutions including 2 Polytechnics recommended by the State Government have been selected for participation in the programme. The details of life allocation made to each of the States are given in the enclosed Statement.

Statement

Details of Life Allocation

Sl. No.	States	Life Allocation (Rs. in Crores)
1.	Andhra Pradesh	151.353
2.	Gujarat	85.699
3.	Harayana	32.936
4.	Himachal Pradesh	7.492
5.	Jharkhand	34.370
6.	Karnataka	173.334
7.	Kerala	61.509
8.	Madhya Pradesh	50.446
9.	Maharashtra	168.664
10.	Tamil Nadu	94.663
11.	Uttaranchal	41.484
12.	Uttar Pradesh	112.479
13.	West Bengal	153.297

12.00 hrs.

OBSERVATION BY SPEAKER

Business transacted during the last week

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, for your information, I want to briefly recapitulate the main items of business transacted by the House during the last week.

The House was adjourned on 23rd November, 2005 after paying tributes to the former President, a sitting Member and former Members. Due to interruptions on the issue of Volcker Committee Report on 24th and 25th November, 2005, answers to 61 Starred Questions and 625 Unstarred Questions admitted during the period were laid on the Table.

As regards the Private Members' Business, seven Bills were introduced and one Constitution (Amendment) Bill, 2004 seeking to amend the Constitution with a view to setting up of one primary health centre in every village with all medical facilities in the country, moved by Shri Suravaram Sudhakar Reddy, Member of Parliament, was taken up for consideration and discussed for 2 hours and 18 minutes. The discussion on the Bill remained inconclusive.

During this period, three Reports of the Departmentally Related Standing Committees were also presented.

The House also lost 8 hours and 51 minutes due to forced adjournments and interruptions.

12.02 hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

[English]

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table-

- (1) A copy of the Entry of Vessels into Ports Rules, 2005 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 600 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 20th September, 2005 under sub-section (2B) of section 6 of the Indian Ports Act, 1908.

[Placed in Library, See No. L.T. 2873/05]

- (2) (i) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Visakhapatnam Port Trust, Visakhapatnam, for the year 2004-2005, together with Audit Report thereon, under sub-section (2) of section 103 of the Major Port Trusts Act, 1963.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government on the Audited Accounts of the Visakhapatnam Port Trust, Visakhapatnam, for the year 2004-2005.

[Placed in Library, See No. L.T. 2874/05]

- (3) A copy of the Merchant Shipping (Recruitment and Placement of Seafarers) Amendment Rules, 2005 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 580 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 14th September, 2005 under sub-section (3) of section 458 of the Merchant Shipping Act, 1958.

[Placed in Library, See No. L.T. 2875/05]

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND MINISTER OF AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRI MAHAVIR PRASAD): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table-

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Central Tool Room, Ludhiana, for the year 2004-2005, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Central Tool Room, Ludhiana, for the year 2004-2005.

[Placed in Library, See No. L.T. 2876/05]

- (2) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Indo German Tool Room, Aurangabad, for the year 2004-2005, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Indo German Tool Room, Aurangabad, for the year 2004-2005.

[Placed in Library, See No. L.T. 2877/05]

- (3) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Indo German Tool Room, Indore, for the year 2004-2005, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Indo German Tool Room, Indore, for the year 2004-2005.

[Placed in Library, See No. L.T. 2878/05]

- (4) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Central Institute of Hand Tools, Jalandhar, for the year 2004-2005, alongwith Audited Accounts.

- (ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Central Institute of Hand Tools, Jalandhar, for the year 2004-2005.
- [Placed in Library, See No. L.T. 2879/05]
- (5) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Central Tool Room and Training Centre, Kolkata, for the year 2004-2005, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Central Tool Room and Training Centre, Kolkata, for the year 2004-2005.
- [Placed in Library, See No. L.T. 2880/05]
- (6) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Indo-Danish Tool Room, Jamshedpur, for the year 2004-2005, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Indo-Danish Tool Room, Jamshedpur, for the year 2004-2005.
- [Placed in Library, See No. L.T. 2881/05]
- (7) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Tool Room and Training Centre, Guwahati, for the year 2004-2005, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Tool Room and Training Centre, Guwahati, for the year 2004-2005.
- [Placed in Library, See No. L.T. 2882/05]
- (8) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Central Institute of Tool Design, Hyderabad, for the year 2004-2005, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Central Institute of Tool Design, Hyderabad, for the year 2004-2005.
- [Placed in Library, See No. L.T. 2883/05]
- (9) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Electronics Service and Training Centre, Nainital, for the year 2004-2005, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Electronics Service and Training Centre, Nainital, for the year 2004-2005.
- [Placed in Library, See No. L.T. 2884/05]
- (10) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Process and Product Development Centre, Agra, for the year 2004-2005, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Process and Product Development Centre, Agra, for the year 2004-2005.
- [Placed in Library, See No. L.T. 2885/05]
- (11) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Indo German Tool Room, Ahmedabad, for the year 2004-2005, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Indo German Tool Room, Ahmedabad, for the year 2004-2005.
- [Placed in Library, See No. L.T. 2886/05]
- (12) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Central Tool Room and Training Centre, Bhubaneswar, for the year 2004-2005, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Central Tool Room and Training Centre, Bhubaneswar, for the year 2004-2005.
- [Placed in Library, See No. L.T. 2887/05]
- (13) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Institute for Design of Electrical Measuring Instruments,

Mumbai, for the year 2004-2005, alongwith Audited Accounts.

- (ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Institute for Design of Electrical Measuring Instruments, Mumbai for the year 2004-2005.

[Placed in Library, See No. L.T. 2888/05]

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): I beg to lay on the Table-

- (1) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under section 10 of the National Highways Act, 1956:
- (i) S.O. 547 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 12th April, 2005 regarding collection of Toll from the users of Bridge near Dera Bassi on Ambala-Kalka Road on National Highway No. 22.
- (ii) S.O. 603 (E) and S.O. 604 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 2nd May, 2005 regarding acquisition of land for building (four laning) of different stretches of National Highway No. 46 (Krishnagiri-Ranipet section) in Vellore District in the State of Tamil Nadu.
- (iii) S.O. 605 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 3rd May, 2005 regarding levy of fee to be recovered from the users of four laned stretch of National Highway No.8 (Waghaldhara-Dajali section) in the State of Gujarat.
- (iv) S.O. 606 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 3rd May, 2005 making certain amendments in the Notification No. S.O. 601 (E) dated the 19th May, 2004.
- (v) S.O. 607 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 3rd May, 2005 regarding acquisition of land for the public purpose of building, maintenance, management and operation of different stretches of National Highway Nos. 36 and 54 in the State of Assam.
- (vi) S.O. 608 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 3rd May, 2005 regarding acquisition of land for the public purpose of building (widening) of National Highway No.7 in Medak district in the State of Andhra Pradesh.
- (vii) S.O. 1380 (E) to S.O. 1382 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 22nd September, 2005 regarding acquisition of land for the public purpose of building (four laning) of different stretches of National Highway No.4 (Chennai-Ranipet section) in Kancheepuram District, in the State of Tamil Nadu.
- (viii) S.O. 1403 published in Gazette of India dated the 27th September, 2005 regarding acquisition of land for the public purpose of building (four laning) of National Highway No.4 (Chennai-Ranipet section) in Kancheepuram District, in the State of Tamil Nadu.
- (ix) S.O. 1404 published in Gazette of India dated the 27th September, 2005 regarding acquisition of land for the public purpose of building (four laning) of National Highway No. 46 (Krishnagiri-Ranipet section) in the State of Tamil Nadu.
- (x) S.O. 1424 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 29th September, 2005 regarding acquisition of land for the public purpose of building, maintenance, management and operation of National Highway No. 45 (Tindivanam-Villupuram-Tiruchirappalli section) in the State of Tamil Nadu.
- (xi) S.O. 1455 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 5th October, 2005 regarding acquisition of land for building (four laning) of National Highway No. 46 (Krishnagiri-Ranipet section) in the State of Tamil Nadu.
- (xii) S.O. 1460 (E) to S.O. 1462 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 5th October, 2005 regarding acquisition of land for building (four laning) of different stretches of National Highway No. 46 (Krishnagiri-Ranipet section) in the State of Tamil Nadu.
- (xiii) S.O. 1480 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 10th October, 2005 regarding acquisition of land for building (four laning) of National Highway No. 46 (Krishnagiri-Ranipet section) in the State of Tamil Nadu.

- (2) Two statements (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at item Nos. (i to vi) of (1) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. L.T. 2889/05]

- (3) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) issued under section 11 of the National Highways Authority of India Act, 1988:

(i) S.O. 1372 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 20th September, 2005 entrusting the specified stretch of National Highway No.2 to the National Highways Authority of India.

(ii) S.O. 1398 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 27th September, 2005 making certain amendments in the Notification No. S.O. 1096 (E) dated the 4th August, 2005.

(iii) S.O. 1399 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 27th September, 2005 entrusting the several specified stretches of various National Highways to the National Highways Authority of India.

[Placed in Library, See No. L.T. 2890/05]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Determination of the Price of the Forfeited Property Rules, 2005 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R.638 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 20 October, 2005, under sub-section (3) of section 21 of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967.

[Placed in Library, See No. L.T. 2891/05]

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): On behalf of Shri Mohd. Alashraf Fatmi, I beg to lay on the Table-

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Indian School of Mines, Dhanbad, for the year 2003-2004, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Indian School of Mines, Dhanbad, for the year 2003-2004.
- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. L.T. 2892/05]

- (3) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Indian Council of Historical Research, New Delhi, for the year 2003-2004, alongwith Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Indian Council of Historical Research, New Delhi, for the year 2003-2004.

- (4) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (3) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. L.T. 2893/05]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): I beg to lay on the Table-

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Central Manufacturing Technology Institute, Bangalore, for the year 2004-2005, alongwith Audited Accounts.

(ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Central Manufacturing Technology Institute, Bangalore, for the year 2004-2005.

[Placed in Library, See No. L.T. 2894/05]

- (2) A copy of the Newsprint Control (Amendment) Order, 2005 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. S.O. 1371 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 20th September, 2005 issued under section 18G of the Industries (Development and Regulation) Act, 1951.

[Placed in Library, See No. L.T. 2895/05]

- (3) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Engineering Export Promotion Council, Kolkata, for the year 2004-2005, alongwith Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Engineering Export Promotion Council, Kolkata, for the year 2004-2005.

[Placed in Library, See No. L.T. 2896/05]

12.02½ hrs.

**STANDING COMMITTEE ON PERSONNEL,
PUBLIC GRIEVANCES, LAW AND JUSTICE**

Thirteenth Report

[Translation]

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR (Chail): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Thirteenth Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Committee on Personnel, Public Grievances, Law and Justice on the Prevention of Child Marriage Bill, 2004.

12.03 hrs.

ELECTIONS TO COMMITTEES

(i) Council of Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore

[English]

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): I beg to move:

"That in pursuance of the clause 9 (1) (e) of the Scheme for the Administration and Management of the Properties and Funds of the Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore, read with Regulations 3.1 and 3.11 of the Regulations of the Institute, the members of this House do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Speaker may direct, two members from among themselves to serve as members of the Council of the Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore, subject to the other provisions of the Scheme and the Regulations."

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That in pursuance of the clause 9 (1) (e) of the Scheme for the Administration and Management of the Properties and Funds of the Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore, read with Regulations 3.1 and 3.11 of the Regulations of the Institute, the members of this House do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Speaker may direct, two members from among themselves to serve as members of the Council of the Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore, subject to the other provisions of the Scheme and the Regulations."

The Motion was adopted.

12.03½ hrs.

(ii) National Shipping Board

[English]

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): I beg to move:

"That in pursuance of the Section 4 (2) (a) of the Merchant Shipping Act, 1958 read with rule 3 of the National Shipping Board Rules, 1960 the members of this House do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Speaker may direct, four members from among themselves to serve as members of the National Shipping Board, subject to other provisions of the said Act and the Rules made thereunder."

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That in pursuance of the Section 4 (2) (a) of the Merchant Shipping Act, 1958 read with rule 3 of the National Shipping Board Rules, 1960 the members of this House do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Speaker may direct, four members from among themselves to serve as members of the National Shipping Board, subject to other provisions of the said Act and the Rules made thereunder."

The motion was adopted.

12.04 hrs.

(iii) National Welfare Board for Seafarers

[English]

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): I beg to move:

"That in pursuance of rule 4 (i) of the National Welfare Board for Seafarers Rules, 1963, the members of this House do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Speaker may direct, one member from among themselves to serve as member of the National Welfare Board for Seafarers, subject to the other provisions of the said Rules."

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That in pursuance of rule 4 (i) of the National Welfare Board for Seafarers Rules, 1963, the members of this House do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Speaker may direct, one member from among

themselves to serve as member of the National Welfare Board for Seafarers, subject to the other provisions of the said Rules."

The motion was adopted.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Now we come to matters of Urgent Importance after the Question Hour.

[Translation]

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR (Chail): Mr. Speaker, Sir, as we all know that there is acute shortage of LPG all over the country. In some of the districts in my State, Uttar Pradesh gas cylinders have been sold at Rs. 450 to Rs. 500. The people have sold it in black at Rs. 200 to Rs. 250 more than its actual price. Through you, I demand the hon'ble Minister of Petroleum and the Government of India to check pilferage and hoardings of LPG and to supply LPG as per the requirements of the people so that common people may also use it.

As far the hoarding and black-marketing of the LPG is concerned, it has been reported in the newspapers published from Jaipur that LPG of commercial use is being hoarded in many parts of the country, the Government should conduct raid against such hoarders and the Central Government as well as the Ministry of Petroleum should pay attention in this direction so that LPG gas may be made available to the common people as per their requirement all over the country.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Yogi Aditya Nath, please associate briefly.

[Translation]

YOGI ADITYA NATH (Gorakhpur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would also like to draw your attention towards this issue. In last one and half year, UPA Government have hiked Rs. 50 per cylinder on LPG. However, the discontent of the people has increased on account of shortage of LPG on the occasion of the festivals. There are two types of presumptions in the mind of the people. Firstly, the Government have reduced the LPG quota to half. If the Central Government have done so to encourage black-marketing, then the quota should be restored at the earliest and the earlier quota of LPG should be made available as was determined by the NDA Government. The subsidy which was provided to the oil companies by the Government has been shifted to the oil

companies by the Government. Sir, consequently, companies are not able to supply LPG cylinder. It is because of that there is acute resentment among the people as the Government have formulated policy that one family would manage with one LPG cylinder of 14 kg for forty days but it does not seem possible because one cylinder exhausts within 20-22 days. The Government's decision to reduce LPG quota to half is causing acute resentment among the people and is adversely affecting them. That is why, the said reduction in the previous quota should be withdrawn and the earlier quota should be restored.

[English]

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY (Puri): I also associate.

MR. SPEAKER: This is not right. I will not permit this. One has to give a notice.

12.06 hrs.

RE: NEED FOR PROVIDING RELIEF AND REHABILITATION TO THE PEOPLE AFFECTED BY FLOODS IN TAMIL NADU & PONDICHERRY

[Translation]

*SHRI P. MOHAN (Madurai): In the annals of Tamil Nadu history, people would never have witnessed such a downpour for days and its worst effect in lands and lives of the people.

In Tamil Nadu including the Capital City Chennai 15 districts are worst affected. Cuddalore district is totally submerged. In Madurai district Melur taluk is completely under the sheet of water. Hundreds of villages in low level area have disappeared overnight from the scene. According to an estimate, cultivation well over 2.2 lakh acres in Cuddalore district and more than 10 lakh acres all over Tamil Nadu is totally destroyed.

All the kanmois, lakes, tanks, ponds, ooranis, etc., breached heavily and the water column rushed in the down stream submerged all the cultivation in the adjoining paddy fields.

Had Tamil Nadu Government ordered periodical deepening of all the important feeder canals and eviction of unauthorised encroachment this calamity could have been prevented to certain extent. Further periodical deepening

* Translation of the speech originally delivered in Tamil.

and desilting were not carried out in all the water storing bodies.

Many roads in the affected districts have been washed away by floods. Almost all the rivers are in spate. The gushing water carried away everything under the railroad. As a result many towns became islands without transport facility worth its name. Bodies from watery graves are being dug out. Two passenger buses were washed away by the rivers in two different places. 150 passengers are reported to have lost their lives.

Many lakhs of people belonging to BPL, landless poor, Dalit, Scheduled Tribes, etc., are rendered homeless. Such people are getting a mere Rs. 1000 or Rs. 2000 from the Government of Tamil Nadu which is meagre a relief inadequate and insufficient. Their dwellings constructed with muddy walls collapsed instantly bringing the roof to the ground.

No doubt this is a national calamity. And therefore I request the Central Government to declare this as a national calamity.

Therefore I urge upon the Government that proper medical help to the flood affected area to prevent epidemic, immediate relaying of roads, rail links, desilting of all the water storage bodies including feeder canals are to be undertaken immediately, pucca houses should be constructed and supplied to all those who lost their huts in the floods, Rs 5000 should be given to the every family that lost all their belongings and war footing action for urgent and over all rehabilitation measures are to be initiated. All the loans of the rural folk viz. small and tiny traders, cattle herders, handloom weavers and small artisans should be waived forthwith.

I thank Hon'ble Shivraj V. Patil and P. Chidambaram Central Ministers for their timely visit to flood affected area in Tamil Nadu. At the same time I may add that the Centre's offer of Rs 500 crore as the first instalment is quite inadequate. So this should be increased. In all, Centre may consider a sum of Rs 5000 crore for Tamil Nadu flood relief.

Besides, I request the Central Government to extend all the possible help to Tamil Nadu by declaring the deluge it suffered as national calamity and help for its rehabilitation.
...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down. Allow me to regulate the proceedings of the House.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Member, those hon. Members who have taken the trouble of giving notice are waiting patiently to get their chance, but without giving any notice you are trying to get the benefit of making a special mention now. This is not correct.

*SHRI A.K.S. VIJAYAN (Nagapattinam): As an unprecedented natural disaster unheard of in the history of Tamil Nadu at least in the last 50 years, incessant torrential rains have caused a great devastation in 15 districts including Nagapattinam, Tiruvarur, Cuddalore, Tiruchi, Sivagangai, Ramanathapuram, Thiruvallur, Perambalur and Madurai. In Nagapattinam alone the district that comes under my constituency at least 2.5 lakh acres of land has been inundated with rain floods and people have been rendered jobless and shelterless. In Thiruvallur district standing crops in about 1.50 lakh of acres of land has been damaged. Several tanks and irrigation canals had their bunds breached. Roads have also been damaged in several stretches. Even after all these mishaps, relief measures have not reached the people in an adequate manner. In these two districts about 50,000 houses have collapsed. At least about a lakh families have met with losses due to partial damages in their houses. When our leader Dr. Kalamangal Karunanidhi was the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, in 1971 he had gone in for a novel scheme then for the first time in India to construct dwelling units for Adi Dravidas that Scheduled Caste people. Every unit was raised at a cost of Rs 4500 then. All those houses have been marooned now seeking major relocation now. Hence there is a need to construct houses for Dalits who have been hit hard by this rain floods. In order to repair the dwelling units Rs 15000 grant must be given. People who have total damage to their houses must get new houses and relief must be extended in that fashion. Those who have been affected must get houses under IAY and SGSY schemes. Those who have their cultivable lands flooded and rendered uncultivable must get a minimum of Rs 5000 per acre as compensation. In order to ensure that all these relief measures reach the affected in a proper manner without any discrimination all party monitoring committees must be set up. On 27th of November, our hon. Home Minister surveyed the flood affected areas on a 2-day visit. He stated that Centre would rush all possible relief within 2 days. But the same evening at Nagapattinam the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu had criticised the Centre. Even tsunami affected are yet to get relief in Tamil Nadu. Permanent pucca houses have not been constructed as yet for those who were left homeless then. I have already recorded this in this august House.

* Translation of the speech originally delivered in Tamil.

MR. SPEAKER: You cannot deliver a speech. I cannot allow it like this.

SHRI A.K.S. VIJAYAN: I have stated with solid evidence that tsunami relief measures were not handled properly. But to my dismay hon. Home Minister is yet to react to this. He is still soft pedalling and is still kind to the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu which is beyond my comprehension. ...*(Interruptions)* Our leader Dr. Kalaignar convened an all party meeting immediately when the news reached him that lakhs of people have been put to great hardship. He had pleaded with the Centre to extend all possible assistance sought by the Government of Tamil Nadu. He has also stressed the need to set up all party monitoring committees to oversee relief work. I also urge upon the Government to treat and declare this as a national disaster and Nagapattinam and Thiruvavur districts as the worst affected ones. A Central team and an all party delegation must be sent to assess the damage and to recommend a relief package. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Member, you have finished your statement. Please take your seat now and listen to me. I am prepared to allow a Call Attention on this or even a discussion. You cannot have all the solutions that you want by just mentioning it here because the concerned Minister is not here to reply.

I am prepared to allow a Call Attention. If there is a notice, I will allow it forthwith. How can you get a solution of an important matter like this, by mere mentioning it? I am calling those who have given notices. Shri Kharventhan, please be brief. This is not the way to get relief. If you want a proper discussion, you should ask for the hon. Minister's reply. That can be done on a proper motion.

SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN (Palani): Sir, due to unprecedented rains and floods, Tamil Nadu and Pondicherry are very badly affected. Nearly 15 districts, including my district Dindigul, are very badly affected. In Dindigul District, particularly, Palani, Vedesandur, Ottancha-tiram, Natham and Dindigul Towns are badly affected. Above all Districts, crops worth thousands of crores have been washed away. The agriculturists have lost their crops, like sugarcane and paddy. In Ottanchatiram, recently constructed Nanganjiyar Dam was breached. In Vedesandur, Athumedu areas, particularly Rajagopalapuram, Indira-nagar, Kungumakalliamman Koil Sreet, Annanagar, have been badly affected. All the residential houses and grocery shops have been washed away. Thousands of people in Vedesandur Taluka at Vedesandur, Vadamadurai, Kuzilambari have lost their houses, utensils and all the properties.

Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the House that while allocating the money to be given to the flood affected people, the State Government officials are selecting mainly the non-affected people belonging to the Ruling Party. Only a few affected people have been benefited. The State Government has failed to open flood relief centres. In most of the villages, so many people have been affected as so many diseases are also on the spread there. The State Government is not providing any facility to these people. Hence, I would request the Union Government to allocate sufficient funds, not less than Rs. 5000 crore, for the flood-affected areas and people there. The hon. Home Minister and the hon. Finance Minister have already visited all the areas. They should allocate necessary funds to construct free houses for those who have lost their houses. Medical care should be provided to the affected people. Water bodies should be restored. As far as the farmers are concerned, a sum of Rs.5000 per acre has to be given to those who have lost their crops, like paddy and sugarcane. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Then you do not want a discussion, it seems. I will not allow this. Only as a special case, I am calling Shri Ganesan as he has given a notice and also met me. Nobody should raise his hand please.

SHRI L. GANESAN (Tiruchirappalli): Mr. Speaker Sir, thanks a lot for having given me this opportunity to draw the attention of the Government to the agony and anguish of the Tamils sustained because of the floods.

Sir, with unbearable agony and anguish, I would like to bring to the notice of this Government as well as this House the devastation sustained by Tamil Nadu. The Biblical deluge- the deluge that used to be referred to in epics has now damaged Tamil Nadu. The torrential rains, for five successive days, have caused unimaginable damage and immeasurable devastation in Tamil Nadu. Rivers are in spate flooding several lakh acres of fields with standing crops. Bunds of rivers have been breached at several points and water seeped into and marooned many villages. Roads and rail tracks have been washed away in many places. Bridges and culverts are heavily damaged. So much so, the traffic has been completely affected. Standing crops, this is much more important, in several lakh acres are totally damaged. Above all the flood has taken the toll of more than 150 lives.

Sir, I should have to profusely thank the hon. Prime Minister for having allocated a sum of Rs.500 crore immediately. Earlier, only after assessment and all that, they used to allocate money, but as far as this is concerned, he was so benevolent that a sum of Rs.500 crore has been allocated to the State of Tamil Nadu. He has also arranged and sent a team of Central Ministers immediately to assess the situation.

Yesterday, we, under the leadership of our General Secretary, Shri Vaiko, met the hon. Prime Minister. During that time also he has promised that whatever is possible will be done. As soon as this occurred in Tamil Nadu, Dr. Kalaignar, the Chairman of the Democratic Progressive Alliance convened the meeting of the allied parties.

He appealed to the Government of India to do whatever possible. With all differences of opinions in politics he has been so very benevolent and he has been so very democratic to appeal to the Government of India to give whatever assistance required by the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu. This is what he has asked.

Under the circumstances, - I would like to mention a very important point - huge amounts will be spent, and invariably there will be a lot of scope for misuse. I do not want to allege anybody. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You need not go into those matters now.

SHRI L. GANESAN: Sir, some mechanism should be evolved to avoid the misuse. That mechanism can consist of all the elected Chairmen of local bodies, elected MLAs and MPs of the localities so that the misuse could be avoided. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Ganesan, this is a special mention. You cannot make any long speech.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI L. GANESAN: Sir, due to floods, sands have been deposited in the fields making them unsuitable for cultivation. Therefore, steps should be taken to reclaim the land.

Additional loans should be given. Unless additional loans are given, agriculture cannot be carried on.

Now, I come to my last point. All the areas have been totally marooned. If cultivation is to start once again, fertilisers, pesticides, etc. will have to be given in advance. Therefore, I appeal to the Government of India through the hon. Speaker to kindly see that life is restituted once again.

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members from Tamil Nadu, I fully appreciate the seriousness of the matter.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please allow me to finish. I feel that this matter should be properly discussed in the House as early as possible. I am prepared to allow it under either

Calling Attention or Discussion under Rule 193. If you do not cooperate with the Chair, how can I do it? You are all making long speeches.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please do not stand up when you have not given any notice. Do not force me to make any comments.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura): Sir, you please allow Discussion under Rule 193 on this matter. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You please give a notice for Discussion under rule 193.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: We have already given a notice. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: If there is a notice, I shall see. I have already asked my office to look into it.

We are deeply concerned about this: I am sure, everybody is deeply concerned about this. Now, you have taken 20 minutes. What will be there for the Calling Attention? Nothing more left to be said. You are not cooperating.

12.23 hrs.

SUBMISSIONS BY MEMBERS

- (I) **Re: killing of an official of the Border Roads Organisation in Afghanistan by Taliban extremists**

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Now, Prof. Vijay Kumar Malhotra. Please speak on the matter regarding the Border Roads Organization.

[Translation]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA (South Delhi): Mr. Speaker, Sir, Shri R.K. Maniappan, who was driver in the Border Road Organisation of India has been killed by Taliban in Afghanistan. Yesterday, while referring to the incident, hon'ble Pranab Mukherjee submitted that the Government had done everything that it could do. However, I would like to contradict his statement because the Government did not

[Prof. Vijay Kumar Malhotra]

do what it should have done in this situation. He was kidnapped on 19th of November and after that he was killed on 22 November. Everyone knew that the captor had threatened on 19th November that they would kill him, however, no action was taken by the Government to contact or hold talks with abductors for securing his release. Perhaps, the Government had not taken all their steps because he was a driver. Had he been the relative of an important person or had there been other reasons, all efforts would have been made to release him. But he was merely a driver who was deputed there by the Government of India. He was hacked to death. He was assassinated and was left in the desert. The Government of India merely recovered his dead body and handed it over to his family and shirked from its responsibilities by paying some compensation to his family. The more important thing to be noted in this regard is that the National Security Advisor of the country thrice reiterated that there is Pakistani hand in this incident as Pakistan does not want that there should be friendship between India and Afghanistan. He said that the abductors had threatened Indian Government to withdraw its assistance from Afghanistan otherwise this kind of incidents will keep on occurring. However, yesterday he denied it and explained that his statement has been presented in distorted manner. In fact our friendship with Pakistan does not mean that we should try to veil their misdeeds. After all, why the matter was not raised or is being raised with the government of Pakistan by our Government? Shri M.K. Narayanan delivered his speech at two places and submitted.

[English]

"It is a conspiracy, cheating and ill-motivated act", Narayanan said. He claimed that this tragic incident, however, would not dampen Indo-Afghanistan relations. Pakistan's aim was to create a rift in the cordial relations existing between Indian and Afghanistan."

[Translation]

Pakistan has promised us not to involve in ill motivated act. Despite, they are engineering this kind of activities. The Government should not cover up their misdeeds, rather we should register our protest with Pakistan for not taking any action in this regard. I hold UPA Government responsible for this killing. He could have been saved, but he was not.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: You will agree that the Chair on the first day condemned that.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI BIJOY HANDIQUE): Sir, yesterday the hon. Defence Minister made an elaborate statement on the matter. In yesterday's discussion, this matter was also raised by the hon. Leader of the Opposition, Shri L.K. Advani regarding Mr. M.K. Narayana's statement. If I remember correctly, the hon. Defence Minister also said that Mr. Narayanan had told him that he was misreported in the newspaper. It was wrongly reported.

[Translation]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA : Why is Mr. Narayanan not contradicting himself?

[English]

He should contradict it.

MR. SPEAKER: No, the Minister is more important than anyone.

[Translation]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Hon'ble Minister is doing, why is he not doing it himself?

[English]

He should have said so. He should have contradicted it.

MR. SPEAKER: Well, that is your view. He is making his statement.

SHRI BIJOY HANDIQUE: Since he has made the statement, I will definitely place the matter before the hon. Defence Minister. If he wants to correct it, he will correct it.

MR. SPEAKER: He is not accepting. That is why he has raised it.

SHRI BIJOY HANDIQUE: I would like to say emphatically that all efforts had been made to contact him. Immediately our Indian Embassy in Afghanistan approached the hon. President of Afghanistan, Mr. Karzai and he gave us the assurance that all efforts would be made to contact the group. But it is difficult because there are so many ex-Taliban elements there. But I am very sorry that it was wrongly said by Prof. Vijay Kumar Malhotra that nothing had been done by the Ministry of Defence.

12.31 hrs.

(ii) Re: killing of an official of Indian Oil Corporation in Uttar Pradesh while discharging his duties

[English]

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH (Uluberia): Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the House and the whole nation to the way our brilliant and young officers are being killed in different parts of the country at different times. It is a matter of grave concern. Mr. Manjunath Shanmughan was an IIM, MBA graduate. He was a very brilliant young IOC officer. He was trying to check adulteration in fuel. It is because of that, he was testing the petro-products. Ultimately he identified certain culprits and decided to close down certain petrol pumps because they were selling adulterated petro-products. You know that officer was killed in Lakhimpur Kheri, Uttar Pradesh.

You can remember that earlier one young and bright engineer tried to draw the attention of the Government to the corruption in the National Highways project. He wrote a letter to the Prime Minister with the expectation that the nation would look at it but instead he was killed. That letter was leaked. That happened in the past. Again this has happened. If this is not stopped, then the corrupt people will only survive. This boy got his degree with the educational loan of Rs.3,50,000. He could not pay it completely. He had started repaying. He could have taken bribe from those people and easily paid that loan. Instead of that, in the national interest he took a correct decision to save the nation. He stood against corruption. When he tried to check that, he got the bullet. If the whole nation does not consider these things, why should the young people die for the country? Why will the young people die for the country? They will go for corruption. They will go for loot. That is happening. Top people are looting; many bureaucrats, politicians, officers, etc. There is a nexus between criminals and business people. This nexus is destroying this country. If the conscience of the nation is not aroused, if we do not fight all these things, then honesty will be a matter of history. So, this is a very serious matter. I will request the Central Government, all the States, politicians and political parties to stand against this type of criminalisation and stand by those honest people who are trying to cleanse our administration and system. It is very necessary in the present time.

MR. SPEAKER: I hope the Government take notice of it.

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR: Thank you, Sir. I rise to condemn the brutal murder of Shri S. Manjunath, a brilliant student and a sales officer of IOC who hails from KGF,

Karnataka. The entire thing can be attributed to the adulteration of diesel with kerosene. Actually in 1994, the Tata Economic Consultancy Services study said that around 30 per cent of the PDS kerosene is diverted for black marketing and adulteration. In September 2005 also, there is a NCAER study that 38.6 per cent of the PDS kerosene was being diverted. The economics works like this. If 400 litres of kerosene is mixed with 600 liters of diesel then the dealer will make Rs. 9,468 in transaction. But if he does it honestly without adulteration then he will get a paltry commission of Rs. 509. Out of one lakh outlets across the country, only 0.5 per cent of such outlets were inspected last year.

Therefore, through you, Sir, I demand that the Union Government should take up this matter very seriously. I am amazed that even the Petroleum Ministry has not issued a statement of condolence in this regard. They should take up this matter seriously. Not only that the educational loan that has been taken by Shri S. Manjunath should be waived off, his family should be given compensation and a CBI inquiry should be instituted to unravel this adulteration mafia. I request the Government to reply. My senior colleague Shri Hannan Mollah has also raised this subject. It is a very serious matter. Just now, we were discussing the assassination of one of our compatriots in Border Roads Organization in Afghanistan. It is a similar case which has happened in Uttar Pradesh.

MR. SPEAKER: You have mentioned Bihar in your Notice.

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR: It is Uttar Pradesh, Sir. Therefore, I request the Government to respond to this. ...*(Interruptions)* Because we have raised three demands. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I think, the Chair shares the seriousness of the matter. I am sure the Government will take a note of it.

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR: You have been kind enough to express your seriousness and condolences. Mr. Baalu can. ...*(Interruptions)*

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): It is a matter of serious concern. Definitely, the concerned Minister will be informed accordingly.

MR. SPEAKER: I am glad that you have raised it; both of the hon. Members. I gave you time although you were slightly late.

DR. THOKCHOM MEINYA (Inner Manipur): My question is about the important urgent matter. I have been requesting this since 24th of. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Very good. Now you have got a chance.

DR. THOKCHOM MEINYA: I beg to state that on 17th November, 2005, a very unfortunate and a controversial decision was taken by one referee in the quarter final match between. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Referee's matter.

DR. THOKCHOM MEINYA: Yes.

MR. SPEAKER: You are not supposed to raise a referee's matter. How can we take up referee's matter here?

DR. THOKCHOM MEINYA: It is about the decision. I am coming to that. It is between my State of Manipur and of Goa; a football match in Santosh Trophy.

MR. SPEAKER: I am sorry. Your notice is not on that.

DR. THOKCHOM MEINYA: Please do not make a laughing stock out of me. I have my own argument to put forward. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Do not make such comments. It does not help you. You are a senior Member.

DR. THOKCHOM MEINYA: I understand, Sir.

MR. SPEAKER: Then, why are you making such comments? How can a referee's matter be referred here? You should have seen me in my chamber earlier. Let me see what you have to say. If it is not admissible, I would strike it down. How can the Central Government deal with a referee's decision? Let us hear from you.

DR. THOKCHOM MEINYA: Thank you very much.

MR. SPEAKER: Whether it would remain or whether it would be deleted later on would depend on what you have to say.

DR. THOKCHOM MEINYA: In my State of Manipur, during the football match, the referee had immediately started the game while the Manipur team was still in the Goan half after scoring a goal. This is really a violation. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: It is not a matter to be allowed. I am sorry, it is disallowed.

(Interruptions)...*

MR. SPEAKER: No, I am asking my officers. This should not have been mentioned in the list.

...*(Interruptions)*

DR. THOKCHOM MEINYA: The whole of Manipur is burning. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Is it because of a referee's decision?

...*(Interruptions)*

DR. THOKCHOM MEINYA: Our contribution to games and sports is tremendous. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Everybody in this country is a football lover. Manipur has made a signal contribution towards the development of sports, especially football, in this country. I am sure, it would be shared by everybody. Therefore, you can rest assured that if there is anything wrong, the Ministry of Sports would look into it.

...*(Interruptions)*

DR. THOKCHOM MEINYA: We have got the hon. Minister here, who is also the President of the Indian Football Federation. He has, of course, given us some good advice. I would like some action to be taken into the matter. I have also written a letter to the President of the Federation.

MR. SPEAKER: If you had seen me in my Chamber, it would have been of some help to you.

DR. THOKCHOM MEINYA: Thank you, Sir, for giving me this opportunity.

[Translation]

SHRI KISHAN SINGH SANGWAN (Sonapat): Sir, the paddy crop has come in the market in the country for nearly one month. The minimum support price of paddy that has been fixed by the Government of India is for only ten percent of the total crop of the country. The farmers are not getting even that support price. 90 percent of the paddy crop is Basmati, Sarbati and Puchchhel which have neither government nor private purchasers in the market all over the country. The farmers are being severely exploited. The Government are not paying attention in this regard. In comparison to the previous year, the farmers are getting Rs. 600-700 less per quintal for their paddy and rice. On the one hand while we are holding discussion on the problems

* Not recorded.

of farmers, on the other hand there is no purchaser in the market for their crops.

Through you, I would like to urge upon the Government to fix minimum support price of all varieties of paddy. The prices of the diesel and other inputs of agriculture are rising. But the price of the crops of farmers are not increasing. It is on account of this that farmers are committing suicide. The minimum profit should be taken into consideration while fixing the minimum support price of the crops of farmers. The Government should procure all varieties of crops. The minimum support price has been fixed only for 10 percent of the crop while 90 percent of crop in the country is being neglected. The farmers all over the country are facing lots of difficulties on account of this. No one is coming forward to listen to the farmers. So, through you, I would like to request the Central Government and the Ministry of Agriculture that it should obtain reports of the entire country at the earliest in this regard and remunerative price of the crops should be provided to the farmers, otherwise farmers will get ruined.

[English]

SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO (Kalahandi): Mr. Speaker, Sir, let me associate myself with the submission made by Shri Sangwan.

Mr. SPEAKER: I am sorry; you have not given a notice on this issue.

[Translation]

CHAUDHARY LAL SINGH (Udhampur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you I want to raise a matter regarding my constituency which concerns the entire nation. You must be aware that last year our State was hit by an avalanche and there were heavy rains. It happened at other places of the country as well. The State of Jammu and Kashmir has been given a package of Rs 24,000 crore. It included funds for restoration of electricity too. Due to this national calamity, supply of electricity was disrupted and all the transformers particularly in Udhampur, Kathua and Doda district were damaged. Almost one year has passed but the far-flung areas like Bamag, Lali, Katra and Chehri are still bereft of electricity. Most of the population of that area is still deprived of electricity. They have not been provided electricity even after one year. What is the Government doing in this regard? I request that the Government should give a serious thought to this problem.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH BISHNOI (Jodhpur): Sir, through you, I would like to draw the attention of the Government towards electricity crisis in Rajasthan. Rajasthan is facing severe electricity crisis for quite some time. A serious

crisis emerges before the farmers if any unit fails to perform. It is the responsibility of the Government of India to meet the State Governments demand of electricity and provide more and more electricity to Rajasthan. Particularly during the recent times, the Government of India has repeatedly turned down the demand of electricity made by the Government of Rajasthan and as a result the farmers of Rajasthan are facing severe problems.

There has been scant rain fall in Rajasthan and the people are facing lots of problems due to this and on the other hand people of Tamil Nadu are hassled due to heavy rains. The people of western Rajasthan are facing many difficulties due to scant rains. The farmers can grow their crops to make both the ends meet if sufficient electricity is provided to them. I would request the Government of India to provide more and more electricity to Rajasthan so that farmers of Rajasthan can grow their crops and earn their livelihood.

SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN (Deogarh): Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to draw the attention of the Government towards an important issue. 6th WTO ministerial conference is going to be held in Hongkong from 13-18 December. India led all the developing countries during the last two conferences, once in Cancun and prior to that in Doha and very ably championed its cause and also that of the other developing countries with regard to their concerns about agriculture or service sector. The reply that the hon. Minister has given on behalf of the Government is not very satisfactory. In fact it is surprising. The Government keeps on blowing hot and cold in the same breath. I would like to give a few examples in this regard.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: This is not a debate

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN: Mr. Speaker Sir, I am concluding whether it is the matter of voting on the issue of Iran. ...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I will allow a motion. I will see if there is a notice.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN: This Government goes back on its words. We have developed apprehensions about the intentions of the hon. Minister after the way he handled the Geneva conference in July, 2004.

What is the intention of the Government? There should be a discussion in this regard in the House.

MR. SPEAKER: It can not be done right now. I too want a discussion on this.

SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN: The issue of patent also needs to be discussed. ... (Interruptions) In this regard, it was said that it was our international commitment. There are many labourers organization and farmers organizations. ... (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Dharmendra Pradhan, you have raised a very important subject. I hope that proper occasion will be there to discuss this issue.

... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN: There should be discussion in this regard.

MR. SPEAKER: You would have to take the initiative for a discussion to be held.

SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN: Discussion can be held once you give a direction in this regard.

MR. SPEAKER: I would do so only after receiving the notice.

[English]

SHRI MANI CHARENAMI (Outer Manipur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, as per article published. ... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: You cannot show any book here.

SHRI MANI CHARENAMI: Sir, as per article published in the North East Sun magazine of November, 2005 issue, many innocent people were maimed and some have lost their lives due to explosion of land mine bombs planted by the valley-based undergrounds who forcibly took shelter in the remote tribal villages in Churachandpur district of Manipur. The undergrounds have been planting land mines

in and around the villages they have occupied to prevent anyone from entering the villages or leaving the villages. Land mine bomb victims were reported since 25th November, 2004 and as many as six land mine explosions have occurred, the latest being on 21st November, 2005. All these incidents occurred in the interior areas of Thanlon, Henglep and Tipaimuk sub-divisions of Churachandpur district. Altogether four people have been killed and more than 20 people injured. Terror and fear have gripped the minds of the poor tribal people in the district. The adamant State Government took cognizance of the gravest situation only when the Zomi Students Federation resorted to violent agitation, forcing the State Government to sign an MoU with the student group on 25th August, 2005. One of the agreed points of the MoU was to sanitise the district from underground elements. However, till date no appropriate action has been taken by the State Government and the villagers have been left virtually paralyzed and helpless, gripped with fear and insecurity as the underground elements are still active in the interior areas of the district.

Sir, through you, I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Prime Minister, hon. Minister of Defence and hon. Minister of Home Affairs to the gravest situation prevailing in Churachandpur district to order a detailed enquiry into the matter and to give strict instructions to the State Government to take up immediate necessary action to sanitize the district from the terrorising the underground elements. Thank you, Sir.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you very much. It is important.

SHRIMATI P. SATHEEDEVI (Badagara): Sir, the UPA Government in its Common Minimum Programme has given an assurance that the traditional industries of the country will be protected. The handloom weavers cooperative societies of the country are facing a huge crisis because of the policies adopted by the Central and State Governments. Now the rebate facilities enjoyed by these societies are also stopped and these societies are facing financial crisis. Majority of these societies have even failed to pay the ESI contribution and now they are facing revenue recovery proceedings. Hence, I urge upon the Ministry of Textiles to provide a separate fund for the payment of arrears of the ESI contribution of handloom cooperative societies and these societies may be exempted from the payment of ESI contribution.

12.47 hrs.

(iii) **Re: Implementation of recommendations of Mahajan Report regarding Belgaum being part of Karnataka**

[English]

SHRI D.V. SADANAND GOWDA (Mangalore): Sir, you are fully aware of the situation that has arisen with regard to the border issue between Maharashtra and Karnataka. The controversial resolution passed by the Belgaum City Corporation recently on the merger of Marathi-speaking areas with Maharashtra and the violence that followed due to the assault of the Belgaum Mayor in Bangalore has created a chaos between the two States of Karnataka and Maharashtra. The resolution was seeking the merger of certain parts of Belgaum with Maharashtra even though it had no legal validity. The Belgaum Mayor had unnecessarily provoked the Kannada activists. ...*(Interruptions)* Sir, I may be permitted to submit the point.

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE (Mumbai South-Central) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, every citizen of India has a right to express his choice about the State where he wants to live. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ANANT GUDHE (Amrawati): Mr. Speaker, Sir, two districts of Karnataka fall on the border of Maharashtra, out of which corporation of one district i.e. Belgaum has been dismissed. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR: Sir, the hon. Member may be permitted to speak. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Member, please sit down.

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Government of Karnataka has not acted rightly by dismissing the Corporation of Belgaum. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ANANT GUDHE : Mr. Speaker, Sir, Corporation is an autonomous body and it has a right to pass a proposal regarding which State it wishes to join. The State Government does not have any right to dismiss it. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI D.V. SADANAND GOWDA: Sir, I may be permitted to speak. I am not making any allegation against anybody. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing will be recorded except the point of Shri Sadanand Gowda.

(Interruptions)...*

SHRI D.V. SADANAND GOWDA: Sir, I am not making any allegations. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down.

[Translation]

All of you, please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Very well, I will have to adjourn the House.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE (Aurangabad, Maharashtra): Mr. Speaker, Sir, two Marathi speaking districts on the border of Karnataka have been meted out unfair treatment for the last several years and this trend has continued. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: You are a senior Member.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing is being recorded. Why are you shouting? I am on my legs.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Member is making certain point. I have repeatedly been saying that no one else is bound by it; but his right to speak is there. If you want an opportunity to controvert it, you do it in a proper manner.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE: Sir, please give me an opportunity to speak. ...*(Interruptions)*

* Not recorded.

[English]

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR: Sir, you may allow a separate discussion. The question is the hon. Member may be allowed to speak.

SHRI D. V. SADANAND GOWDA: Sir, let them have the patience to hear me. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: It is very unfortunate.

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, our demand is. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down.

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI D.V. SADANAND GOWDA: Let them patiently hear me first. Sir, I do not agree with what they think has been done at Bangalore. ...*(Interruptions)* Sir, let them hear me first. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: This is very unfair, Shri Khaire.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing will be recorded, not even one word. You go on shouting, nothing will be recorded.

(Interruptions)...*

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, let me speak please. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please give me time to reflect. The House did not meet for two days, we disposed off work on just one day.

[English]

SHRI D.V. SADANAND GOWDA: Sir, let them hear me first. I am not making any allegation against them. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, please give me a chance to speak. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Keep your in-between comments for another office, why are you making remarks here?

[English]

SHRI D.V. SADANAND GOWDA: Sir, I am humbly begging that I am not making any allegation against anybody, but I am seeking the intervention of the Centre to see that there should not be any such sort of activity in future. For that reason, I am doing it. Why are they getting up and doing all these things here? ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: What is this?

[English]

Both of you come to my room. I will sort it out.

SHRI D.V. SADANAND GOWDA: Sir, the Belgaum Mayor had unnecessarily provoked the Kannada activists by ensuring the passage of the resolution. The pro-Kannada organisations allover Karnataka made *satyagraha* and demanded immediate dismissal of Belgaum Mahanagar Palika. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Alright, please be brief.

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: You give notice tomorrow.

Shri Rawale's observations will not be recorded.

(Interruptions)...*

SHRI D.V. SADANAND GOWDA: Sir, please hear me. I am seeking the Centre's intervention. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Please give a notice tomorrow.

[English]

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR: Sir, hon. Member Shri D.V. Sadanand Gowda is speaking. I associate myself with him. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Let a notice be given. I will allow it.

* Not recorded.

* Not recorded.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Already I am finding it equally divided - three Members of Maharashtra and three Members of Karnataka. Therefore, it is going to be a draw. Nobody has won. I am sure that the country will consider. We are all concerned about these matters. We do not want a dispute between one State and another State.

[Translation]

You may conclude now.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: You may go out and put your heads together.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI D.V. SADANAND GOWDA: Sir, the episode fanned emotions with Kannada activists resorting to protests in different parts of the State. ...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE: I have to make only one submission. ...(Interruptions) Please stop the fighting going on there.

[English]

SHRI D.V. SADANAND GOWDA: Certainly, we will not appreciate that action taken.

Sir, the issue led to a little violence when Karnataka Rakshana Vedike activists smeared black paint on the face of the Belgaum Mayor and his deputy. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Let the Chair make an observation.

The Centre should do whatever is within its jurisdiction to see that there is no dispute between one State and another State and no citizen of this country shall suffer because he speaks a particular language or stays somewhere. This is a matter which is the duty of the entire Government and the entire country to consider. Therefore, we should not do or say anything which will disturb the friendship and the accommodation between the people of different States.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI BIJOY HANDIQUE):

Sir, I will bring it to the notice of the hon. Home Minister. ...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Rawale, although he is not listening to me, is my very good friend and I want him to continue to be my friend.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Karnataka is a beautiful State. I am fond of it.

SHRI D.V. SADANAND GOWDA: Certainly, I will not appreciate the action that has been taken against the Mayor of Belgaum in Bangalore.

12.54 hrs.

(iv) **Re: Expeditious completion of four laning of National Highways 41 and 6 besides upgrading it to six lanes**

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Lakshman Seth. Let there be something else now, which is constructive. You have to speak on the construction of road.

SHRI LAKSHMAN SETH (Tamluk): I think, construction off four-laning of national highways is getting much delayed. I am giving some very important examples. Our Minister is also present here. National Highway 41 is part of port connectivity programme. The progress of construction on that road is very slow. More than three years have passed and only 25 per cent construction work has been completed. National Highway 6 is part of the Golden Quadrilateral. The progress of construction on this road is also very poor. So many bridges remain incomplete. I think, the contractors, which had been selected during the NDA regime, are totally bankrupt. I think, their credentials had not been checked. These contractors cannot undertake such type of works.

We want the speedy completion of the four-laning of National Highway 41, which is a part of the port connectivity project. Otherwise, Haldia, which is a leading industrial hub, is suffering a lot because there is traffic jam and congestion everyday.

MR. SPEAKER: You are lucky that the Minister is here.

SHRI LAKSHMAN SETH: The hon. Minister visited Haldia.

MR. SPEAKER: It is for him and I would not force him to respond to you.

SHRI LAKSHMAN SETH: He will certainly accept my proposal and will take appropriate action to speed up the work. I also seek his approval for six-laning of National Highway 6 and National Highway 41.

MR. SPEAKER: Please do not repeat. I want to make the position very clear. Any hon. Member defying the Chair does not get any benefit. I will ask the Minister not to respond to him.

SHRI LAKSHMAN SETH: I will finish in two minutes.

MR. SPEAKER: You cannot take indefinite time.

SHRI LAKSHMAN SETH: I will request the hon. Minister, Shri T.R. Baalu, who is present here, to take steps to complete the construction of the four-laning and give sanction for six-laning of National Highway 6 and National Highway 41.

MR. SPEAKER: It is entirely for him and I am not stopping him because it is first time.

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): Actually, Shri Lakshman Seth may be knowing. ...

MR. SPEAKER: I am sure, he is making life miserable already.

SHRI T.R. BAALU: No, Sir, they are all my good old friends. Actually, I have visited Haldia and taken serious note of the matter. Definitely, National Highways 41 and 6 will be receiving a lot of attention in due course of time. I will see that both the roads are completed as soon as possible.

MR. SPEAKER: Along with mine.

SHRI T.R. BAALU: That is my priority.

[Translation]

SHRI PUNNU LAL MOHALE (Bilaspur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, Arpabhensajhal project in Bilaspur distt. of Chhattisgarh is under consideration of the Central Government. In this regard, it may be mentioned that the project office of Arpabhensajhal project has been opened in Bilaspur where officers and employees are deployed. Buildings for the project and a colony too have come up there. The project

involves a cost of over Rs. 100 crore. The project, on completion, will be able to irrigate almost one lakh hectare land of 2 lakh farmers. The local farmers are in a desperate state as the project is still under consideration.

For over last 50 years, the area has no irrigation facility. The condition of the people of the said area is so pitiable that they migrate to Bhopal, Delhi, Mumbai and Lucknow in search of livelihood. Completion of the said project will bring the land of 2 lakh farmers of tehsil Bilaspur, Bilha, Takhatpur and Kota under irrigation.

Therefore, I urge the Government to grant approval to the said project so that economic condition of the farmers in this area can improve and farmers can lead a better life, bring up their children in a better way and also contribute to the progress of the country and the society.

[English]

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN (Chirayinkil): Sir, I beg to submit that the reported decision of the Central Government in regard to privatising of international airports in Delhi and Mumbai is highly dangerous. I do admit that they should be modernised and sufficient equipment should also be provided to them. That could be done in the public sector itself and not in the private sector. However, the Government is making a shortcut by inviting private capital for modernising these international airports. Now, it involves a dangerous situation because it involves the question of national security. Therefore, national security cannot be given to persons with private interest.

I will request the Central Government not to proceed further with the privatisation of airports in Delhi and Mumbai.

In the meanwhile, I may be permitted to submit that unfortunately no development has taken place in the Trivandrum International Airport, which was sanctioned by our former Prime Minister. The condition of the Trivandrum International Airport is deplorable.

MR. SPEAKER: Get some Indian investors.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: It has to be modernised with sufficient equipment, but nothing has been done by the Ministry of Civil Aviation.

13.00 hrs.

People who are coming to Kerala, especially the international tourists coming to Kovalam find it very difficult to come to Kovalam because of lack of facilities in the international airport at Trivandrum. So, I again earnestly urge

the Government to take immediate steps. There is budget provision and there has been a declaration by the Central Government to open an international terminal. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You have gone beyond your notice.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: I again request the Government to take immediate steps to implement the decision of the Central Government in operating an additional international terminal at Trivandrum.

MR. SPEAKER: You have not suggested how to do it.

[Translation]

SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Ministry of Communications, through an unwise decision has recalled 2200 ITS officers who were on deputation to BSNL and MTNL. It has adversely affected the working of BSNL and MTNL and so far, these two public sector undertakings have suffered losses to the tune of over Rs. 2000 crore. It is very deplorable that though the officers have joined their duties, yet they have no work assigned to them. The Government of India have deputed dedicated officers but at present they have no work to do.

Sir, through you, I would again urge the hon. Minister of Communication to reconsider the said issue and redeploy the ITS officers on deputation to BSNL and MTNL. The disposal of this case should be decided within one or two years. I apprehend the Ministry has connived with certain private operators and, therefore, the services of BSNL and MTNL are getting adversely affected as some of the officers are joining plum private organisation.

I urge the hon. Minister to ponder over it. The Government should not take any hasty and unilateral decision and the future of DOT should be kept in mind.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, it has been decided by all the Leaders earlier, in the last Session itself it has been followed, that five or six most important urgent matters will be taken up at 12 o'clock after the Question Hour and the rest of them will be taken up at 6 o'clock, at the end of the day's proceedings. Because we could not take up these matters on the last three days I have allowed more matters to be raised today. I appreciate the kind gesture of cooperation of the hon. Members. Already 20 matters have been mentioned instead of five. Rest of them will be allowed to be raised today after the House ends its day's schedule. It may be earlier than 6 o'clock.

13.03 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned for Lunch till Fourteen of the Clock.

14.05 hrs.

The Lok Sabha re-assembled after Lunch at five minutes past Fourteen of the Clock.

(SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN in the Chair)

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: The House shall now take up Matters under Rule 377. Shri Lal Singh to speak.

(i) Need to provide immediate relief to the people affected by natural calamities in J & K

CHAUDHARY LAL SINGH (Udhampur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, Jammu and Kashmir is worst affected either from the climatic reasons or from the external power of terrorist attack. Last year, the State had experienced heavy snowfall which had taken so many lives and belongings of the people. Sir, a few months back, there was another massive earthquake which has not only taken the lives of thousands of people but I must say that many of the villages have been completely damaged which is a non-recoverable loss to the State. I have no reason to blame anybody. I can only say that we must meet all the challenges well in time and provide shelter to the homeless people of Jammu and Kashmir particularly the Valley area who have to face cool breeze in the open shelter as winter season is very fast approaching.

Further, to add to the agony of the people, we have regular attacks from the terrorists particularly in the Valley in which hundreds of people were injured and many of them have lost their lives.

I would, therefore, urge the Government of India that as the winter season is approaching very fast, the aggrieved families of the State who have been made homeless by the earthquake should be provided immediate relief, so as to protect them from heavy snowfall besides countering terrorists attack.

(ii) Need to release a commemorative stamp on 14.1.2006 in honour of great farmer 'Kalingara Gounder' of Erode district, Tamil Nadu

SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN (Palani): Sir, in the 13th

century one "Lingaiyan" was born to Nanjaigounder and Pappayee at Kanagapuram in Vellore, Erode District. During AD 1251-1271, the whole of Southern India was ruled by the ruler Sadayavarman Sunderapandiyan. During his regime Kongu region was ruled by Veerapandiyan. The Kongu region was situated on both sides of the River Cauvery. Kalingarayan was appointed as Member, Advisory Committee in Veerapandiyan kingdom.

During that time, the Kongu region was a dry area. There were no irrigation facilities. Kalingarayan explained the necessity of constructing a Dam at the juncture of Bhavani and Cauvery River. The Dam was constructed with 1840 vents for irrigating 3459 acres. Now the Dam is called as "Kalingarayan Dam" and the canal is called as "Kalingarayan Canal." The work was appreciated by national and international technicians and experts.

Before 740 years, Kalingarayan was able to construct the dam and convert the dry lands into wet lands. 740th year of the Dam falls on 14.1.2006. While appreciating the great achievement of Kalingarayan, he was honoured as "Kalingaraya Gounder" by the public.

To appreciate his venture for developing the agriculture in this country, I request the hon. Minister of Communications and Information Technology to release a commemorative stamp and First Day Cover on 14.1.2006 and honour the great farmer "Kalingara Gounder."

- (iii) Need to release paymer.. of pending insurance claims under Crop Insurance Scheme to the farmers of Amrell Parliamentary Constituency, Gujarat for the year 2004-2005.**

[Translation]

SHRI V.K. THUMMAR (Amreli): The farmers are not able to derive the desired benefits under Crop Insurance Scheme. The farmers in my Parliamentary constituency, Amreli have not been paid insurance claims for the year 2004 putting them in dire economic strain. The farmers have visited the concerned office many a times. A number of formalities are required to be completed for getting insurance claims which the poor and uneducated farmers find very difficult to do. And corrupt Insurance officers take undue advantage of it.

I urge the Government to release payment of pending insurance claims under the said scheme to the farmers without any delay. Further, the said scheme should be simplified and a time limit should be set for clearing the claims on the lines of prescribed schedule for payment of premiums.

- (iv) Need to extend train No. 4041-4042 Dehradun-Delhi Express upto Jaipur with stoppage at important stations of Alwar, Khairtal and Rajgarh in Rajasthan.**

DR. KARAN SINGH YADAV (Alwar): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the number of passenger trains running between Delhi and Jaipur during day time is very less.

Therefore, in view of the difficulties being faced by the passengers 4041/4042 Dehradun-Delhi Express may please be extended upto Jaipur. 4041-4042 Dehradun-Jaipur reaches Delhi at 7.00 in the morning and Dehradun at 10.15 in the night. If the said train is extended upto Jaipur it would benefit the devotees visiting Haridwar. Therefore, it may please to extended upto Jaipur and stoppages may be provided at important stations of Alwar, Distt, such as Alwar, Khairthal and Rajgarh.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Iqbal Ahmed Saradgi – Not present.

- (v) Need to declare the birthday of Sant Baba Guru Ghasidasji on December as a public holiday in the country**

[Translation]

SHRI PUNNU LAL MOHALE (Bilaspur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, the birthday of Sant Baba Guru Ghasidasji, born in Chhattisgarh State on 18 December should be declared as a public holiday. The said Saint was born on 18 December, 1756 in Gram Girodpuri, District Raipur, Chhattisgarh. He abolished untouchability and tried to bring lower and upper cast people on the same platform so as to establish an egalitarian society. He established a cult named, Satnam cult in order to improve the economic condition of the poor and to free the society from various evils. He meditated in the forest of Girodpuri for six months and attained enlightenment. After attaining enlightenment, he proceeded towards the village chanting Satnam mantra and excavated the dead body of his wife Safura Mata who had died six months ago, from the grave, brought that body to life again by sprinkling holy water and chanting Satnam Mantra, and he also installed life in a dead calf. He treated leprosy, blindness and many other critical diseases by chanting Satnam mantra due to which the Saint is not only known in Chhattisgarh State, but in the entire country. 18th December has been declared as a public holiday in Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh. There are approximately one crore 30

lakh followers of him in the entire country who are known as 'Satnami Samaj'. Guru Ghasidas University in Bilaspur district was set up 21 years ago in the memory of the Sant Guru Baba Ghasidas.

Therefore, the Union Government is requested to declare public holiday in the country on 18th December, the Birth Anniversary of Sant Baba Guru Ghasiram ji, so that the followers of Sant Baba Guru Ghasiramji may offer their tribute to him.

(vi) Need to start work of gauge conversion on Rewari-Sadulpur and Sadulpur-Hissar routes

SHRI RAM SINGH KASWAN (Churu): Mr. Chairman, Sir, Bikaner-Delhi is an important rail route of North-Western Railway. Many trains run on this route. From 1 December, 2005 all the trains on the Bikaner-Delhi rail route will run upto Rewari only as Delhi-Rewari rail line is being doubled. The rail connectivity between Bikaner, Churu, Bhiwani, Mahendergarh, Jhunjhunu, and Sikar parliamentary constituencies and Delhi will come to a halt. This will result in a lot of inconvenience for the passengers. The people of this area have been demanding gauge conversion of the Delhi-Bikaner meter gauge rail line for many years. Till today the gauge conversion of Sadulpur-Rewari and Sadulpur-Hissar portion of the said line has not been started, though sanction for this has been accorded long ago. There is a resentment among the people. The people of this area are facing a lot of inconvenience due to withdrawing of trains. Hon'ble High Court of Jodhpur has also issued directions in regard to gauge conversion of the said rail line.

Through you, I would like to request the hon'ble Minister of Railways that if withdrawing the said trains is at all necessary then orders should be issued to maintain the status quo of Delhi-Bikaner Mail 4791-4792 Delhi-Bikaner Express (4789-4790) Delhi Link Express, Delhi-Jaipur Shekhawati Express (9733-9734) and to provide connectivity for trains running on Delhi-Rewari and Rewari-Delhi routes. Gauge conversion work of Rewari-Sadulpur and Sadulpur-Hissar rail line should be started at the earliest. Sanction should also be given in respect of the gauge conversion of the remaining stretch on the Sadulpur-Bikaner and Ratangarh-Degana rail line at the earliest.

(vii) Need to withdraw the move providing for reservation based on religion/ community in educational institutions and jobs.

YOGI ADITYA NATH (Gorakhpur): Sir, it is against the spirit of the constitution to provide reservation in admissions to educational institutions and jobs to certain classes and

communities on the basis of religion/community. Any such kind of provision will encourage discrimination and promote sectarianism. Unfortunately, the Union Government and Andhra Pradesh Government have tried to implement reservation policy in admission to Aligarh Muslim University and State Government's jobs respectively, which have been declared unconstitutional by the hon'ble High Courts of the said State, but despite all this the Ministry of Human Resource Development of the Union Government and Andhra Pradesh Government have decided to challenge this ruling.

Therefore, in the interest of national unity and integrity, I request the hon'ble House to pay serious thought in this direction and not to provide reservation based on religion/community in educational institutions and jobs.

(viii) Need to direct Food Corporation of India to procure paddy from the farmers in KBK districts of Orissa.

[English]

SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN (Deogarh): Farmers in Orissa are struggling with unsold stock of paddy. The Orissa High Court had ordered Food Corporation of India (FCI) and the State Government to procure paddy at the Minimum Support Price (MSP) directly from the farmers. The State Government Corporation has procured rice directly from the farmers according to the High Court order. FCI on the other hand has not procured the 'desired quantity' stipulated by the High Court from farmers in Orissa. Farmers in the State continue to indulge in distress sale. The condition of farmers in the backward districts of Kalahandi, Bolangir and Koraput (KBK) is particularly serious. Unless intervened immediately their situation will surely worsen further.

The Central Government needs to instruct the FCI authorities to take remedial measures at the earliest.

I earnestly request the hon. Prime Minister to intervene in the matter and instruct the FCI authorities to take remedial measures at the earliest so as to bring justice to the aggrieved farmers in the State.

SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO (Kalahandi): Sir, May I associate myself with Shri Pradhan? He has mentioned my district.

(ix) Need to Include Pithoragarh, Almora, Bageshwar and Champawat districts in Uttaranchal under 'Sam Vikas Yojana'

[Translation]

SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT 'BACHDA' (Almora): Sir,

four districts Almora, Pithoragarh, Bageshwar and Champawat come under my parliamentary constituency. Before 1960, this area was included under one district, Almora. In 1960, another district Pithoragarh was set up after the division of Almora district and in 1977 Bageshwar and Champawat districts were carved out of Almora and Pithoragarh districts respectively. The said four districts are located in far-flung hilly areas.

The Government have selected the Champawat district and made available 45 crore rupees for development work over there under 'Rashtriya Sam Vikas Yojna,' though adjoining districts Pithoragarh, Almora and Bageshwar are also the most backward and under developed districts and no development work has yet began over there. I have been continuously demanding that all the four hilly districts of my parliamentary constituency should be brought under 'Rashtriya Sam Vikas Yojna'.

Therefore, I request that the Rashtriya Sam Vikas Yojana, Food for Work Scheme and Employment Guarantee Scheme should also be implemented in the remaining three districts from the current financial years.

- (x) **Need for six laning of Madurai-Kodaikanal road for the convenience of the tourists**

[English]

SHRI P. MOHAN (Madurai): Sir, Kodaikanal is one of the popular hill resorts in India. It is charming and stands amidst sylvan beauty on the southern crest of upper hill near Madurai. With its rocks, woods, lovely lake and bracing air, Kodaikanal is ideal hill resort for tourists both domestic and international.

Kodaikanal is situated at an altitude of 2133 metre and covers an area of 21.45 sq. kilometre. The hill station is renowned for its educational institution of international repute. The hill-plantain fruits and plums are known for their freshness and taste. Berijam lake is one among the beautiful lakes in South India. The hill is full of herbs and is renowned for its medicinal value.

Madurai is the second largest city in Tamil Nadu which is known as Athens of South India. This is a fast developing city with international reputed hospitals like Arvind Eye Hospital, Apollo Meenakshi Mission which has an MoU with foreign countries for medical tourism. Meenakshi Temple and other important temples in and around Madurai attract most international tourists from allover the world who are eager to visit Kodaikanal. But the road connecting Madurai and Kodaikanal is a narrow one and often accidents take place and it leads to blockage of road also.

Hence, I urge upon the Government that the road should be converted into six-lane road.

- (xi) **Need to take suitable measures to ensure that the employers and Sponsors do not retain the passports of candidates while recruiting to jobs in foreign countries**

SHRIMATI P. SATHEEDEVI (Badagara): Sir, a large number of Indian citizens working abroad are aggrieved as their employers and sponsors keep their passports in their custody while recruiting them to any job in the foreign countries especially in Gulf countries.

I urge upon the Government to take clear and stringent measures against such recruiting agencies and give directions to all Embassies to provide the employees the right to keep their own passports with them after recruitment to any job in the foreign countries.

- (xii) **Need to provide financial assistance to the Government of Uttar Pradesh for solving acute drinking and irrigation water problem in Chail Parliamentary Constituency**

[Translation]

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR (Chail): There is serious problem of drinking water and water for irrigation in Chail Parliamentary Constituency of Uttar Pradesh. The Government should send a Central Team there to assess the condition and make proper arrangements. It is poor and backward area. The Central Government should provide an economic package to overcome said problem.

- (xiii) **Need to open a 'Krishi Vigyan Kendra' at Hamirpur, Uttar Pradesh**

SHRI RAJNARAYAN BUDHOLIA (Hamirpur, U.P.): Agriculturally, my parliamentary constituency, Hamirpur, Mahoba in Uttar Pradesh is quite backward. In absence of latest scientific know-how for better crop yield, the farmers of the said area are not in a position to cultivate right crop at right time. Consequently, their economic condition is worsening day by day. The farmers of said area have been demanding for setting up of a Krishi Anusandhan Vigyan Kendra for long. Therefore, there is an urgent need of opening said Kendra in Hamirpur-Mahoba. The State Government of Uttar Pradesh is eager to render necessary help for setting up said centre here.

Therefore, in view of poor economic condition of farmers in the said area, I request hon. Minister of Agriculture to issue orders for setting up said centre in Hamirpur, Mahoba so that the farmers can have access to agricultural know-

how and select right crop for cultivation for getting good yield so that their economic condition can improve.

(xiv) Need to check the erosion caused by river Ganges at Diara in Patna Parliamentary Constituency, Bihar.

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV (Patna): Land erosion caused by Ganges is adversely affecting lakhs of people in Diara under Constituency Patna. Fertile land is being washed away by erosion. The people of the said area are living under constant fear of losing their life and property due to land erosion. A few months back a Central Team had visited the affected area but so far no preventive steps has been taken in this regard.

Finally, I would like to draw the attention of hon. Minister of Water Resources to it and request the Central Government to take necessary steps to prevent land erosion being caused by river Ganges. Further, proper arrangements may also be made for rehabilitation of thousands of displaced families. They should also be given financial assistance.

(xv) Need for repair and maintenance of National Highway linking Gorakhpur, Basti and Lucknow.

SHRI LALMANI PRASAD (Basti): Gorakhpur-Basti-Lucknow National Highway is in dilapidated condition at many a places. There are pot-holes at several places resulting in frequent accidents and traffic jam. It puts the people in great difficulty.

Therefore, I urge the Central Government to undertake repair/maintenance of said highway immediately.

(xvi) Need to retain earlier policy of Coal India Ltd. providing for land and employment to the displaced people in Jharkhand.

SHRI TEK LAL MAHTO (Giridih): Perhaps, all of us are aware that setting up and modernization of steel projects and urban development projects have accounted for the displacement of maximum number of persons, i.e. 58 lakh, in Jharkhand. Out of these people, 70 percent people are such whose whereabouts are neither known to the State Government nor the Central Government. I have learnt that Coal India Limited has evolved a new policy for employment and rehabilitation of displaced persons. As per said policy, each displaced family shall be allotted 2 acres irrigated land or three acres un-irrigated land plus employment to one person per family also each displaced family shall be allotted 5 decimal lands or Rs. 50 thousand in cash. So far, one person in each displaced family, whose land was acquired, was given employment plus full compensation for rehabili-

tation. The new policy has caused great resentment in people displaced because of acquisition of land by CCL and BCCL, subsidiaries of Coal India Ltd.

I urge the Government to provide employment to each person in all displaced families in Jharkhand, replacement dwelling unit for housing, land in lieu of land acquired, appropriate compensation and other basic amenities. In absence of the above, law and order situation has worsened which needs to be removed.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri K. Yerrannaidu - Not present.

(xvii) Need to upgrade LPT into HPT at Basanti in South 24 Parganas district for the benefit of viewers of Sunderbans region

SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL (Joynagar): Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the Government towards the difficulties being faced by the people of Sunderbans (West Bengal) in receiving the programmes being aired by the Kolkata and Delhi Doordarshan.

An LPT has been installed and is functioning at Basanti, South 24 Parganas District to cater to the needs of the people of Sunderbans. However, it could relay Metro Programmes only and hence Doordarshan Programmes are not available to people of Sunderbans. As Sunderbans borders the Bangladesh and as their transmission is better than the local transmission, the people are forced to watch Bangladeshi programmes. In the long run, it may cause unawareness amongst the local people about the happenings in our own country.

I would, therefore, urge upon the Government to take suitable steps to upgrade the LPT into HPT and make it fully functional and enable it to transmit the Kolkata and Delhi Doordarshan programmes in Sunderbans also.

(xviii) Need to grant permission by Railway Authorities for laying electric cables and pipelines for supplying water under 'Jyoti Gram Yojna' in Junagarh, Amreli and Porbandar districts in Gujarat.

[Translation]

SHRI JASHUBHAI DHANABHAI BARAD (Junagarh): The Gujarat Electricity Board has been providing round the clock power supply to every village of Gujarat under 'Jyoti Gram Yojana' and similarly a scheme to supply potable water is also being run by Narmada river water department, but residents of three districts, namely Junagarh, Amreli and

Porbandar of Gujarat are not getting facilities under the Jyoti Gram Yojna.

All works under this scheme have come to a halt as the Railway Authorities are not giving permission for laying electric cables and pipelines for supplying water.

Situation has come to such a passe that a farmer does not get permission to lay pipeline for supplying water from his one farm to another farm. In case a railway line passes through fields of a farmers.

Gujarat Electricity Board and Narmada Water Distribution Department have been trying to seek the permission of Railway Authorities for all these works since very long but so far appropriate action has been taken. I would like to request the Government to grant permission at the earliest keeping in view the time schedule fixed for completion of these works.

14.32 hrs.

PUNJAB GENERAL SALES TAX (AS IN FORCE IN THE UNION TERRITORY OF CHANDIGARH) REPEAL BILL, 2005

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: The House will now take up item No. 13, namely, Punjab General Sales Tax Repeal Bill, 2005.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): On behalf of Shri Shivraj V. Patil, I beg to move:

"That the Bill to repeal the Punjab General Sales Tax Act, 1948, as in force in the Union Territory of Chandigarh, be taken into consideration."

Sir, in order to fall in line with the Government policy on introduction of value-added tax regime on an all-India basis, it is proposed to extend the Punjab Value-Added Tax Act, 2005 to the Union Territory of Chandigarh. The Punjab Value-Added Tax Act, 2005 came into force in the State of Punjab on 1st April, 2005. Before the provisions of Punjab Value-Added Act, 2005 are extended to the Union Territory of Chandigarh under Section 87 of the Punjab Reorganisation Act, 1966, it is necessary to repeal the Punjab General Sales Tax Act, 1948 as in force in Chandigarh through a Parliamentary Act.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Motion moved:

"That the Bill to repeal the Punjab General Sales Tax Act, 1948, as in force in the Union Territory of Chandigarh, be taken into consideration."

Now, Shri Avinash Rai Khanna may initiate the discussion.

[Translation]

SHRI AVINASH RAI KHANNA (Hoshiarpur): Sir, the hon'ble Minister has brought this bill to implement VAT in Chandigarh. Vat is a broad tax policy. It is necessary to keep in view two-three points.

First of all, there should be a uniform tax policy in all the states, and local taxes should be gradually reduced. The taxes levied in Punjab has to be extended to Chandigarh. But whether the Government have paid any attention towards difficulties being faced by people in Punjab, after the enforcement of VAT. Before the enforcement of VAT, there were three slabs - e.g. 4 percent, 8 percent and 12.5 percent. After implementation of VAT, the Government have only enforced two slabs e.g. 4 percent and 12.5 percent against the promise of implementing three slabs. As a result of it majority of the terms have been kept under 12.5 percent slab. The people of Punjab are burdened by tax and they are opposing the VAT. The tax rate in the neighbouring states of Punjab who have enforced VAT is less, therefore the business of Punjab has start drifting to other states. Before enforcing VAT in Chaidigarh, whether the Government have made an assessment of the difficulties being faced by the people where it has already been implemented. The traders, industrialist people of Punjab are facing difficulties after enforcement of VAT in Punjab, whether a Committee has been set up to conduct study in this regard! Whether a study has been conducted in regard to difficulties being faced by the people and tax collection made after its implementation.

I would like to cite an example, In Delhi, wooden items have been put into the category of construction material and 4 percent tax has been levied on it, whereas in Punjab, 12.5 percent tax is levied on it. If one were to compare the tax collection on this material in Punjab, and in Delhi is the collection of Punjab is negligible as compared to Delhi. This example is suffice to show the flaw in the structure of Punjab. The difficulties being faced by people should be readdressed. Not only that the people get proforma on time, neither they nor the official hierarchy involved in the tax collection machinery are aware about the modus operandi to be followed for the deposition and calculation of tax respectively. The people of Punjab are facing such kind of difficulties. Many meetings in regard to refund of VAT are being postponed, because tax-administration is not aware about

the exact formula for calculating the tax to be levied and refund to be made? Keeping in view all these problems, VAT should be enforced in Chandigarh only after conducting study and finding solution to all these problems.

[English]

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL (Chandigarh): Mr. Chairman, Sir, as you know there is always a resistance to a new move even if it is for the good of the people. Similarly, in this case, in the absence of dissemination of proper knowledge about the benefits that would ultimately accrue from having a uniform Value Added Tax regime in the country, there was resistance to it in Punjab and there was resistance to it even in Chandigarh. People, particularly the traders, had even agitated against it. But during the last one year, what we have seen is that people have slowly and slowly accepted this provision of law.

People now see the benefits of having a tax regime like the Value Added Tax. When I stand here to speak on this, I have before me a letter written by one of the Associations of Chandigarh, called Chandigarh Chemists Association, which urges me to urge the Government to ensure that there is no further delay in doing what we are doing today. They begin their letter by saying: "Chandigarh has lost its date with VAT" So, they are eager to have VAT there. That is the position now. Therefore, whatever be the reason for not bringing this Repeal Bill earlier which could have paved the way for implementing the VAT in Chandigarh, I would at this stage welcome this measure.

I would also like to take this opportunity to urge the Government to not just extend the Punjab Act to Chandigarh. The difficulty with these Union Territories without legislatures is a peculiar one which a very few people try to understand. These Union Territories are without legislatures and they are without any popularly elected Government, in whatever form. Even the Municipal Corporation that we have there does not have any power worth the name. There is no veritable power with the Municipal Corporation. There is no way, no mechanism to feel the pulse of the people, excepting having one representative in the Parliament. There is no mechanism for redressing the grievances of the people.

We get opportunity only once in a while to raise matters regarding these Union Territories. When any piece of legislation concerning these Union Territories comes to the Parliament, I would certainly like to take this opportunity to make one or two points.

Firstly, I would like to speak regarding the VAT itself and then I would speak in general. As far as VAT is concerned,

after the Parliament gives its approval to the Punjab General Sales Tax (As in Force in the Union Territory of Chandigarh) Repeal Bill, 2005, the Government would extend the Punjab Value Added Tax, as it is said, to Chandigarh. But that Act is the Act of State of Punjab. In the case of Punjab Municipal Corporation, we have seen that that law was extended as such and we now find many difficulties in our way. We would have wanted a much better provision, which would reflect the spirit and mandate of the 73rd and 74th Amendments of the Constitution. Learning from that experience, I would like to urge the Government that before extending the Punjab Value Added Tax Act to the Union Territory of Chandigarh, the Government of India should thoroughly study it.

I am happy that now, for the first time in 20 years, the Home Minister's Advisory Committee on Chandigarh has met. It is this UPA Government which has convened that meeting after that long period and many worthwhile decisions were taken there after a very elaborate discussion. So, maybe, that forum is used or, maybe, some other forum as the Government wishes, but there should be a detailed discussion on the pros and cons of that Bill. I would say rather the difficulty in implementing the modalities of the Punjab Act should be discussed before extending it to Chandigarh. But, I think, now because that power would rest with the Government again to fix the slabs of rates - the rates of tax - there should be no difficulty in doing that. I would like to assure my friend who initiated the discussion on this. It was a move by that Government but nothing much was done at that time. But it is not a question of apportioning blame here. We have to see that congenial conditions are created in the country to have a good Value Added Tax regime which should be ultimately for the benefit of the people. There should be no ambiguity about it; there should be no doubt about it and no unscrupulous element should be able to take any advantage of that. People are willing to pay tax but they do not want harassment. What has happened all these years, ever since Independence, is that the traders, and the people in general also, have faced harassment at the hands of the Inspectors. That care has to be taken. I am happy that this Government is taking certain determined steps in that direction. Once we are charting the path of reforms - economic reforms - the Government is conscious of its duties and the difficulties faced by the people. Therefore, in every step that this Government is taking, there is a clear reflection of its determination to do away with the 'Inspector Raj', as it is called, so that we have a hassle-free regime of tax laws for the people. Having said that, I would only like to, as I said, seize this opportunity. ... (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: The repeal is applicable only to the Union Territory.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: It is extended to Chandigarh Union Territory. But the repeal would be only in case of Union Territory so that a new law could be extended to the Union Territory. That is the way. As I said. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: In other part, the Act will be in force till such Act.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Acts framed by different State Governments will be in force in their respective States. In case of the Union Territory of Chandigarh, under the relevant law, that is, the Punjab Reorganization Act, any Act applicable in any other part of the country can be extended to the Union Territory. Extension can be done by a notification but the repeal cannot be done by a notification. For repeal, you have to come to the Parliament. That is how we are here in this matter. Normally, it is the Punjab laws. When Chandigarh was carved out as a Union Territory, all the laws, which were in force in Punjab then, were extended to the Union Territory. That is how this Punjab General Sales Tax Act is applicable to the Union Territory. Punjab has now enacted its law, its own VAT after repealing the General Sales Tax Act. But that is not automatic for Chandigarh. For Chandigarh, we have to repeal it here, and thereafter, the new law can be extended. That is the provision. That is how this matter is here.

So, having said this, I would only like to seize this opportunity to mention one or two more points. The hon. Minister of State for Home was present at the meeting of the Home Minister's Advisory Committee for Chandigarh which was held only a month back. As I said, it was a very valuable meeting. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY (Dhenkanal): Could you just tell us what the people of Chandigarh want because you represent them?

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: I read out. I am sorry, I do not know whether you were present or not. I read out a letter which I received as an SOS from one of the organizations of the traders from Chandigarh in which they rather expressed their concern that we had got late. They said that they missed their date with VAT. They have said that. Earlier, I had said, I should not have to repeat, there was some resistance but slowly and slowly the people are seeing the benefits of this.

I would like to take this opportunity to mention one or two more points in the presence of the hon. Minister of State for Home Affairs who deals with the Union Territories. The Union Territories, without Legislatures, as I said, face a

peculiar problem. There is no elected body there of people. The Union Territories represent a good bit of population, not a negligible portion, but given the things as they stand, the laws have to be made by the Parliament. Obviously, we all sitting here in the Parliament would not have much time to discuss any matter relating to these Union Territories.

Therefore, very briefly, I would like to make one or two points. I have already mentioned one point. There is no adequate system of redressal of people's grievances. The Municipal Corporation Act also needs elaborate changes now. I would request you to repeal that Act also. You should bring a law like this here. After that, frame a piece of legislation for the Municipal Corporation entirely in conformity with the provisions of the 74th Amendment of the Constitution. That was a major thing that was done by the Congress Government then. Somehow, till this date, even in the Union Territories, in the laws relating to the Union Territories, the provisions, the spirit and mandate of the Constitutional amendment do not find manifestation. Therefore, I would only like to suggest one thing here. I beg to differ with my friends when somebody talks about the need of an Assembly for a Union Territory. I do not say that. What is needed is that there should be a proper forum for airing their grievances. What is needed for Chandigarh is to have a system of Mayor-in-Council for the Union Territory of Chandigarh. The Municipal Corporation Act needs to be amended to provide for a system of Mayor-in-Council. There should be executive functions assigned to some of the executive Municipal Councillors and only after routing through them should the files go to the Administrator — except, of course, in certain cases where the matters go straight to the Administrator. It is no reflection on anyone. But it is our experience that any non-elected Government cannot be sensitised to the needs, aspirations and the yearnings of the people. Therefore, there is need of establishing democracy at the grass-root level. This is what Shri Rajiv Gandhi had said then that if you want to strengthen democracy at higher levels, you must experience democracy at work at the grass-root level. We have to move with the times. That provision might have been all right at that time. But today, that provision needs necessary changes to involve the people in governance. What we need is a participatory democracy which Chandigarh does not have so far. There is only one voice in the form of a Member of Parliament who speaks here.

In a non-elected Government, there is always a risk of the authorities believing that what they feel, what they think, what they decide, what they do is right for the people. I do not attribute malafide intentions on anyone's part but that is a fallacious presumption. Unless you involve people in the

decision-making process, no purpose can be served. Therefore, there is a necessity of somehow ensuring participatory democracy. What we have, to some extent, is the guided or decided democracy in the Union Territory. From that, we have to move to a veritable, participatory democracy.

There are matters relating to certain things. A decision is taken. For example, we talk of urban renewal here. Therefore, somebody sitting there would feel that urban renewal must mean that anyone, who is sitting on a piece of land, must vacate it. The authority in power would demolish the building under people's occupation. No relocation is done. Today, the land acquisition price for a hundred square yard in Chandigarh would be Rs. 5000. But the value of that plot would be Rs.10 lakh. Would a person, who is removed from there after demolition, be in a position to buy land there? Therefore, what must be decided is that without relocation, they should not demolish any structure.

In this context, I am grateful that this matter came up even before the Chairperson of the UPA. People in difficulty rushed to her. They met the hon. Home Minister as also the hon. Prime Minister when he was in Chandigarh. Instructions to that effect have been passed. But it has to be institutionalised. We must not always depend upon the Land Acquisition Act. We have to see that in a city like this, where the prices have skyrocketed because of the policies of the Government, we must do something. They want hi-tech activities there. In that process, they cannot shunt out the people. The *aam admi* cannot really be thrown out of the place. For them, you have to do something.

Then, there are problems for employees. There are problems even relating to the amendments to the building by-laws. Delhi has an elected Government. Delhi Government is sensitised to the needs of the people. In a city like this, in a metropolis like this, people's desire is reflected in the decision of the Government. In a small place like Chandigarh, it is not. Therefore, there is a need to involve the people in some form or the other.

Sir, I will not take much of your time. I have many more things to say. But I am grateful to you for giving me this much time. While supporting the Bill, I would only again urge that we do need to devote some time on governance - I would even urge Parliament to devote some time on the governance of Union Territories. We have a few Union Territories without Legislatures. There is an absolute necessity - my friends from the other Union Territories have already talked about it - there is absolutely an urgent necessity of discussing the governance of the Union Territories so that their people also feel that glow of independence, the democracy which

we boast of, that is the biggest democracy in the world. Union Territories must not be deprived of that.

SHRI LAKSHMAN SETH (Tamluk): Sir, I support the Punjab General Sales Tax Repeal Bill. This Bill will help the Union Government to introduce VAT in Chandigarh. Sir, one thing I would like to impress upon is that today the Government of India has not reviewed the result of the VAT. It is because due to introduction of VAT, the sales tax regime has been abandoned. Therefore, we need to review whether VAT has benefited our country. It is because almost all the States are under a debt trap. It is a matter of great regret. The relationship between the Centre and the States is just like the relationship between a creditor and a borrower. Even in the small savings, the rate of interest is so high. That is why, all the States are suffering from the financial crunch. So, VAT was introduced to mobilise more and more resources. But I do not know whether this VAT has benefited the States. This should be reviewed. In the light of that, I would like to request the Government, through you, to place on the Table of the House the outcome of VAT. This repealing Bill, particularly the Punjab General Sales Tax Act, will help the Government of India to introduce VAT in Chandigarh. But how much Punjab has been benefited with the introduction of VAT? This should be studied; this should be reviewed. It is our impression that due to introduction of VAT, some harassment has taken place, some traders are being harassed because they have to maintain so many papers and documents. I have been told - I do not know whether it is correct or not - that unless the whole thing is reviewed, it is difficult to say much more. However, we are receiving some complaints from small traders because of the introduction of VAT. They have been victims of harassment. I think the main regime for introduction of VAT to make the society a hassle-free society. It is for consideration whether this introduction of VAT has benefited the States and traders. Suddenly, the State Government should have an opportunity to mobilise the resources. Otherwise, they will not be free from the debt. That is why, I think, this aspect should be taken into consideration. So, I do not prolong much.

I think one important issue has been raised by our hon. colleague Mr. Bansal that 'yes', Chandigarh should have a glow of democratic form of governance, and it should be introduced in a manner that the contribution of the people in the form of governance is ensured. Otherwise, the dream of the Constitution-makers - architects of the Constitution - will not be translated into practice. So, while discussing the repealing of Punjab General Sales Tax Act and introduction of VAT in the Union Territory of Chandigarh, we must also take into consideration how much we can give democracy to the people of Chandigarh. This process should be started

[Shri Lakshman Seth]

and discussed in a proper form on the floor of the House. However, at the same time, I think this is not the proper forum to discuss all the issues because we are discussing only repealing of the Punjab General Sales Tax Act.

However, when the tax issue has come to the floor of the House, we have also to discuss how all the States can be freed from the debt burden and how the Government of India can give relief to the States. This aspect should be looked into. Then, even on small savings the rate of interest is higher than other loans and each and every State is having a serious burden of loan to the Government of India. This also should be taken into consideration.

Then, devolution of tax revenue to the States is not at all satisfactory. We are demanding since long that 50 per cent of the total tax collected by the Union Government should be devolved to the States to strengthen their economy because if the States do not become economically strong and powerful, the Centre cannot become stronger. So, proper devolution of the resources should be made to the States. This is a long pending issue. This should also be discussed at an appropriate time on the floor of the House so that we can help all the States to get rid of their debt burden. If this is done, the economy of the States will get strengthened. If the economy of the States gets strengthened, the whole country will get strengthened.

Then, I think, we have to discuss allocation of resources to the States. This is also an important aspect. In the light of this, the whole tax policy should be reviewed. However, I do support this Bill, but at the same time, the issues which I have mentioned here should also be taken into consideration by the Government.

SHRI BRAHMANANDA PANDA (Jagatsinghpur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I thank you for giving me this opportunity to participate in the discussion on the Punjab General Sales Tax (As in Force in the Union Territory of Chandigarh) Repeal Bill, 2005. My party has no objection to this Bill.

Sir, as you know, Chandigarh has a unique history and culture. It is neither in Punjab nor in Haryana. It is the only city in the country which houses two Capitals of two influential States and it is really shocking that even after 58 years of Independence, the democratic set up has not yet been ensured in Chandigarh, which is the usual grievance of the people of that area.

Sir, my late lamented leader Shri Biju Patnaik always worked for the betterment of the common people of this country during his lifetime. His dream was to build a prosperous India and his emphasis was for all round

development of backward areas. That is why, I would like to say that a free, democratic society should always be a tax-free society and imposition of more and more taxes creates an impediment in achieving economic and social goals. In such a scenario, my humble appeal is that a proper study should be made before imposing any new tax and no tax should be imposed at the cost of the common people when the people of that locality are deprived of getting the sweetness of democracy. So, there should be a Political Advisory Committee to hear the grievances of the general public. My humble submission in this regard is that the Municipal Corporation should be vested with more power and the rural areas left out should be included in the municipal corporation.

Sir, on behalf of my party, I would like to urge upon the Home Ministry that special attention should be given to Chandigarh.

15.00 hrs.

By imposing tax, the real dreams and sweetness of the people of that area cannot be materialised. In such circumstances, it is to be judged by the Ministry that the imposition of any tax should in a way help the common people of that area.

Ultimately, I would like to appeal to the hon. Home Minister that democratic system should be ensured at Chandigarh and the sweetness of prosperous India should be provided to them.

With these words, I extend my heartiest thanks to the hon. Chair.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The name of Shri Bhubaneshwar Prasad Mehta is not there in the list, but as a special case I am allowing him to speak on this subject for only two minutes.

15.01 hrs.

(MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the Chair*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI BHUBANESHWAR PRASAD MEHTA (Hazari-bagh): Sir, it appears that enforcement of tax in Punjab and Chandigarh will add to the burden of tax on middle class, the poor and farmers. The VAT will not much affect the rich people and corporate Houses. It is the stand of my party that the tax should not burden the poor, the farmers, and middle class only. Burden of this tax should also be shared by such people and corporate Houses. Many big industrialists, owner of big factories reside in Chandigarh. The tax should be

levied on them, so that the true objective of levying the tax could be achieved. Till now, it has been observed that generally tax is levied on the poor, middle class and farmers and it does not much affect the big people and corporate Houses. Therefore, my party is of the opinion that the poor, middle class and farmers should not be burdened with tax in any circumstances.

With these words, I conclude my speech.

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, the Punjab Value Added Tax 2005 came into force on the first day of April 2005. In the case of Union Territory of Chandigarh, generally laws enacted by the State of Punjab are extended under Section 87 of the Punjab Reorganisation Act 1966.

Section 87 clearly says: "The Central Government may by notification in the Official Gazette extend with such restrictions or modifications as it thinks fit to the Union Territory of Chandigarh any enactment, which is in force in a State at the time of notification." But in the present case, in the instant case, however, the opinion of the Ministry of Law is that it is not possible to repeal the Sales Tax Law through a notification, hence it can be done only through an Act of Parliament. So, it is necessary to repeal the Punjab General Sales Tax Act 1948 with restrictions to Union Territory of Chandigarh.

We will have to be in a position to repeal it. Hence, this Bill is introduced. My learned friends have asked whether there is any benefit for Punjab. I want to mention that before the introduction of VAT system, the tax collected in the first six months during 2004-05 was Rs.1,447.26 lakh.

After the introduction of VAT, it is Rs. 2,008.74 lakh, that is, 38.8 per cent has been increased. So, this is one of the most beneficiary States in India after the introduction of VAT system. But the present enactment is related to the Union Territory of Chandigarh alone to introduce the Punjab Value Added Tax in the Union Territory of Chandigarh.

I thank the hon. Members who have supported this Bill. As all of us know that the introduction of VAT has proved to be useful in collection of better revenue. As suggested by the hon. Members, it will be ensured that the difficulties faced by the Punjab people will be looked into as there will be a better VAT system in Chandigarh.

Regarding the redressal of grievances, I have to inform the House that the Home Ministry's Advisory Council exists and it will look into the problems of the people of Chandigarh.

With these words, I request the House to pass this Bill.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

"That the Bill to repeal the Punjab General Sales Tax Act, 1948, as in force in the Union Territory of Chandigarh, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now, the House will take 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.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now, I request the hon. Minister to move that the Bill be passed.

SHRI S. REGUPATHY: I beg to move:

"That the Bill be passed."

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

"That the Bill be passed."

The motion was adopted.

15.03 hrs.

NATIONAL TAX TRIBUNAL BILL, 2004

[English]

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I beg to move:

"That the Bill to provide for the adjudication by the National Tax Tribunal of disputes with respect to levy, assessment, collection and enforcement of direct taxes and also to provide for the adjudication by that Tribunal of disputes with respect to the determination of the rates of duties of customs and central excise on goods and the valuation of goods for the purposes of assessment of such duties as well as in matters relating to levy of tax on service, in pursuance of article 323B

[Shri H. R. Bhardwaj]

of the Constitution and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto, be taken into consideration."

The National Tax Tribunal Bill, 2004 aims at establishing the National Tax Tribunal which will have jurisdiction to deal with disputes concerning both direct and indirect tax laws as is indicated in the long title of the Bill.

Sir, the main objective behind the setting up of this Tribunal is to speed up disposal of cases relating to direct and indirect tax matters. Apart from achieving the purpose of speedy disposal of tax matters, the setting up of the National Tax Tribunal will introduce an all India perspective in the matter of interpretation of tax laws since it will have a nation-wide jurisdiction. It may be noted that there are at present 21 High Courts. Many a times, decisions of the High Courts vary from each other which create uncertainty, delays and problems in the administration of tax matters. Conflicts of decisions amongst various High Courts on the same point of law have the effect of distorting uniformity and give rise to unnecessary appeals to the Supreme Court. A special body dealing with tax litigation round the year will acquire both speed and consistency in their views.

The National Tax Tribunal will hear appeals from orders passed by Income Tax Appellate Tribunal and Customs, Excise and Service Tax Appellate Tribunal on a substantial question of law.

Presently, an appeal lies to the High Court on a substantial question of law from the decision of the Income Tax Appellate Tribunal or Customs, Excise and Service Tax Appellate Tribunal, as the case may be. After enactment of National Tax Tribunal Act, all cases pertaining to direct and indirect tax pending before the High Courts shall stand transferred to the National Tax Tribunal from such date as may be notified by the Central Government.

Sir, the Tribunal shall consist of a Chairperson and such number of Members as the Central Government may deem fit. As mentioned in the Financial Memorandum, to begin with, it is considered necessary to have at least 15 benches for direct tax matters and 10 benches for indirect tax matters so that cases, which shall stand transferred from the High Courts, may be disposed of quickly. The jurisdiction of the Tribunal will be exercised by the benches and each bench shall have two Members.

The Chairperson of the Tribunal shall be a person who has been a judge of the Supreme Court or the Chief Justice of a High Court. A person to be appointed as Member should be one who is or has been eligible to be a judge of a High Court or a person who is or has been a Member of the

Income Tax Appellate Tribunal or of the Central Excise, Customs and Service Tax Appellate Tribunal for at least seven years. Thus, the Tribunal will have Chairperson and Members having judicial and quasi-judicial experience and as such it will be a specialist body exclusively devoted to the tax matters unlike the High Courts where due to frequent changes in benches, non-availability of benches round the year to deal with revenue matters, etc., the disposal of tax matters becomes very slow.

The Chairperson and Members shall be appointed by the Central Government on the recommendations of a Selection Committee consisting of Chief Justice of India or a judge of the Supreme Court nominated by him, Secretary in the Ministry of Law and Justice (Department of Legal Affairs) and Secretary in the Ministry of Finance (Department of Revenue).

The Chairperson shall hold office for a term of five years or till the age of 68 years, whichever is earlier. The Members shall hold office for a term of five years or till the age of 65 years, whichever is earlier.

The litigation arising under the tax laws needs a special skill to deal with the same. Keeping that necessity in view, the present Bill has been introduced. However, it is not to suggest that the judges of the High Courts would not be able to deal with the same but, as already stated, frequent changes in benches, non-availability of benches in the High Courts round the year to deal with revenue matters do cause frequent delays. The proposed Tribunal will be a special forum fully dedicated to the cause and as such disposal of taxation matters is bound to get greater speed, which would ultimately be in the interest of the national economy.

I hope the Bill will receive the wholehearted support of this august House.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Motion moved:

"That the Bill to provide for the adjudication by the National Tax Tribunal of disputes with respect to levy, assessment, collection and enforcement of direct taxes and also to provide for the adjudication by that Tribunal of disputes with respect to the determination of the rates of duties of customs and central excise on goods and the valuation of goods for the purposes of assessment of such duties as well as in matters relating to levy of tax on service, in pursuance of article 323B of the Constitution and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto, be taken into consideration."

The time allotted for this Bill is two hours. I have a very

long list with me. Therefore, I request the hon. Members to be very brief in their speeches.

Now, Shri Vijayendra Pal Singh to speak.

SHRI VIJAYENDRA PAL SINGH (Bhilwara): Sir, I stand to support this Bill. I think it was necessary that we realised the importance of having a National Tax Tribunal. I congratulate the Minister for having put this on the floor.

As the Minister was saying—and very rightly—that basically this important piece of legislation has come about because of the pendency. I am told that a couple of years ago, in the High Courts there was a pendency of about Rs.70 crore to Rs.80 crore. I do not know what it is now. But if that is a fact, then the Government is losing out that money.

It is not just the Government but also the persons, the individuals who are accompanying, who feel that they should not have a liability. They should not have arrears and they want a clean slate. That is what is the thinking today. I feel that that way that it is very practical that you have put this Bill on the floor of the House. Let me also point out that the business today has become very complex and specialized. Now, when it is very complex and specialized, people should know how to react. You have a case, it is represented and there are issues which you do not agree to the Income Tax Department. The Department in their own wisdom or the individual goes to the Tribunal. It used to go from the Department to the Tribunal and from the Tribunal to the High Court. There was this many years of wait before it could be really decided. That way, I feel that you have a National Tribunal now with many Benches wherever it is required.

There are a few things that I would like to put to the hon. Minister. I am told that most of the judges on this National Tribunal will be from the High Court and the Supreme Court. It is a general practice. Everybody knows that when it is a business interest and when these cases used to go to the High Court, the High Court judges had to be told about the best practices of business. What is the concept today? They took too long time to understand this. So, why is it that only the judiciary is going to be sitting on this Tribunal? Why do the experts, the people who understand the tax laws, the complex tax laws of today not sit in the benches? Then you have the multinationals cropping up in India. You have to go into the WTO which is coming and all that. The people have to really know about what is happening in the world. I feel that good IRS officers should also be taken. They should also be sitting on this Tribunal and not just the judiciary, namely, the High Court judges and the Supreme Court judges; like you have the CAT. In the CAT also, there are

judges. Then from the administrative department, they are also sitting on the CAT and they understand the problems of the administrative department. They gave a better verdict. They can make their colleagues understand better. So, I feel that somewhere you had missed out. I have not put an amendment or anything like that. But I feel that in this House we want to plead that the Minister must take into consideration that we have not just the judiciary on this Tribunal but special and good officers, senior officers of the Indian Revenue Service. May I also say that it is not just 70 or 80 crores of rupees? But everybody wants quick disposal. This wait has been harassing to the companies, the individuals. That is also a good consideration to have this National Tax Tribunal Bill, 2004.

It is not just about pendency but also about how much money the Government would gain. It is also a fact that individuals are very happy to have this National Tax Tribunal.

There is one last point that I want to put forth. It was very rightly pointed out by the hon. Minister that a lot of times there are differences in the view taken by Judges. We know how the Judges and we know about the wisdom that they have. For instance, in the Bombay High Court, taking a view of a business interest, the Judge would give a judgement; and in a similar sort of a case, when it comes to Delhi or Kolkata, they take a different view. So, if there is going to be a National Tribunal, one view would spread; all the Benches would know what view has been taken and would go by that same view. This way, I feel, the National Tax Tribunal would go a long way in sorting out problems.

I feel that this Bill is in the national interest. So, we, from the Opposition side also, support you.

SHRI K.S. RAO (Eluru): Sir, I welcome this Bill. I support it wholeheartedly. I am happy that unlike the normal practice, where all hon. Members sitting in the Opposition criticise and oppose all the Bills, here is our friend Mr. Badnore, who, in spite of belonging to the BJP, has supported this Bill.

SHRI B. MAHTAB (Cuttack): You are just repeating the original Bill of 2003. That is why we are supporting it.

SHRI K.S. RAO: In spite of that, there have been occasions where you have opposed and criticised us.

I wish today that a large number of Members, more particularly their senior leaders, were available. If they were to be here, I would have been happier to see the thinking of those other Members.

[Shri K.S. Rao]

It is not merely a question of finding fault with the party in government on some count or the other, creating sensation and finding a place in newspapers and media. Primarily, it must be the interests of the people and the nation that must be in the minds of every Member of Parliament. I do not find any reason in raising issues like the ones which they raised yesterday. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Do not go into yesterday's events.

SHRI K.S. RAO: I am not finding fault. The function of the Opposition is to find fault with the Ruling Party wherever it goes wrong. I do not find fault in it. My only point is that primarily we must see what is required for the people and the nation and what is to be done to improve their standards of living and to meet their requirements.

After looking into the needs of the people, we must find time to discredit the Ruling Party if it had done something wrong. But without caring for the basic needs of the people and the basic responsibilities of this House and its Members, they suddenly jump at matters which could, in their opinion, discredit the Government.

Anyway, I am happy that our hon. friend has straight-way supported this Bill. He has not merely supported it but also made some observations about the eligibility of the Members and Chairman. The Bill states that only sitting and retired Judges are eligible. At a time when there was total honesty in the Judiciary, no selfishness, total integrity, devotion to job, and non-exposure to various ills of the society, one could have thought of having only sitting and retired Judges, as if they were far different from all of us.

You say: 'we are not fair, they are fair. They are honest, they are men with integrity and we are not'. That is all right. But the situation is different today. As my colleague has said, it is not necessary that for everything we need to consider only the judiciary. There are eminent people who are very knowledgeable, more than so-called judges in various subjects. Today we require more persons who are knowledgeable in a particular subject, not merely in law. As my colleague told that even eminent people in this profession, in the taxation, could be preferred to be on the Board. But while doing so, we can certainly see their performance, their integrity, their results which they have achieved earlier, and their decision-making capacity also. So, all these factors can be taken into account.

I wish to add something more to what my friend has said. They say that he must be a person, a retired Chief Justice of High Court or Supreme Court, by which time he

must have crossed 65 years. That means that at the fag end, we are taking a 65 years' old person to do justice to this issue, to recover the money at the earliest so that it can be put to use for the nation's development and growth. It is a common knowledge that a person at the age of 65 years will not have as much ambition as a youngster who wants to build up his career by working hard and by showing results. Yes, for certain works experienced people can be selected but for certain works it is not necessary. Today the age is not merely the guide for experience. Experience need not necessarily brings awareness and knowledge. There are certain people who attain the age of 60 but remain with zero knowledge. There are certain other people who may be having everything but they will not have any motivation to work. They will not have any commitment to nation or the people. So, every time speaking about experience or age will not do the work. I think, there must be a change in our thinking, looking into the aspects that are going on in the entire world.

Sir, upto 1990 we never opened our economy to the world. We have ourselves restricted everything to the nation's boundaries but later on we have seen how other nations are growing. Then only we felt that we must globalise. We have also seen the results. If that was to be the case and if there were to be a change in our thinking and adopted globalisation, can we not change our ideas even in these domestic matters?

So, I fully support my colleague who said that the Government must consider in terms of thinking of competent youngsters also. It is not necessary that one must reach the age of 65 years. We can see his past record, whether he has established integrity, ability and knowledge; and whether he is capable of delivering of goods or not.

Similarly, the statistics reveal it, though I am not very confident that the statistics given by various newspapers is correct or not. On many occasions the Government has also expressed it. When we went as Members of various Committees of Parliament and when we have put so many questions to them, they expressed their inability to give immediate answers because they were not ready with the answers in spite of computerisation coming in a big way. A number of departments were not equipped with knowledge and good statistics; only the statistics are given or preferred and no decision can be taken correctly. Today, if the Planning Commission were to take a decision and prioritise the needs of the nation, as to which area they must allocate the money, in large quantity or not, they cannot take a decision unless the statistics are available. However, from the records or from the information that is available, it says 34,030 cases

are pending somewhere and somewhere else it is said that 52,877 cases are pending in High Courts alone. Today's statistics reveal that they could dispose of only 6,000 cases per year. Obviously, to dispose of 52,000 cases today pending in the High Court, it takes nine more years.

What about the amount of loss to the nation? The amount involved is said to be Rs. 1,03,000 crore. That means, even if an amount of Rs. 1,03,000 crore were not to be collected in spite of the best efforts and the best legislation that we enact here, even if it were to be Rs. 20,000 crore, if it were to be an amount of Rs. 20,000 crore, you see the situation. If an amount of Rs. 20,000 crore were to be available today and we start linking of rivers, we can bring 30 lakh acres of land into cultivation. By bringing 30 lakh acres of land into cultivation, we can increase the production of the various crops by a value of at least Rs. 15,000 crore. What is required? It is money. Money is only a catalyst to motivate a person to work, add his sweat and then create an asset. If we were to say America is rich or some other country is rich, it is only because of the assets that they have. How did the assets come? The assets have not come merely by printing pound or sterling or dollar. Instead of bartering commodities earlier, now the dollar or the currency is only a commodity for transaction. But this motivates the people to work and create asset. Unless the people work, unless the people acquire knowledge, unless people acquire skills, nothing comes out.

If this amount of Rs. 20,000 crore were to be collected in this year, that could have irrigated 30 lakh acres of land and created a production of Rs. 15,000 crore. What would be the advantage of this? That could have given, even by the present statistics, 10.5 per cent as revenue collected by the Government on the GDP. That means we could have got Rs. 1,500 crore as extra tax revenue only on the basic produce. If value addition were to be added it would have been double or triple. It could have produced 30 lakh jobs.

Today we break our heads here and we all claim from this side that we have brought a revolutionary Bill on Employment Guarantee Scheme. It is good. We have brought in a revolutionary Bill. It is for providing employment to those unfortunate and poor people living in villages who did not have work, to sweat. They want work. They are not beggars. They are not asking anything from us. They want us to show them the work. That is why the Government has enacted the Employment Guarantee legislation. In its place, suppose we were to collect money immediately by this legislation and send it for cultivation of land, that could have created employment. Then, there is no need for us to provide employment. There is no need to allocate Rs. 40,000 crore

or Rs. 20,000 crore in the Budget only for providing employment, that too for one member in a family and for 100 days only.

My point here is that if things were to happen quickly without any delay, without any red tapism, we can take the nation to greater heights and our country will excel most developed nations in the world in no time. Are we lacking intelligence? Are we lacking motivation? Are we lacking capacity? Are we lacking knowledge? We have everything. But there must be an act to motivate, to make me work which is lacking.

The Law Commission, in 1986 itself, suggested that this kind of a Bill has to be brought in. It took long years. Anyway, the NDA Government has brought an ordinance but which could not take the shape of an Act. Now, immediately, the UPA Government has taken up this Bill. The Opposition is also supporting. Every Member is supporting this. I am very happy. The Bill will do very good help to the nation instead of causing delay for years and years to settle these matters.

In this aspect, I want to say a few words. There are apprehensions. Some people have said on it. Even as Members of Parliament when we called some people as witness, they said— Sir, please ensure, please see and take care that this will not be an extra cause for delay.

Already we have the Assessment Officer. The Assessment Officer makes the assessment that one has to pay so much of tax. Then, there is question of natural justice. When the tax-payer feels that the tax is unjustifiably more, then he must have the opportunity to go in for an appeal. So, we had created the post of Commissioner of Income Tax for appeals. In spite of giving powers to Commissioner of Income Tax for appeals for deciding the matters in judicious manner, we were not satisfied and still found delays. Then, we brought ITAT, Income Tax Appellate Tribunal. We have seen that even after having ITAT, there are lot of delays. Now, we are going to the High Courts. The statistics reveal that High Courts are also taking at least three years' time and sometimes more. So, we want to bring it and save money and time. That is why, we are bringing this Bill.

I want to say to the hon. Minister that there is no clause mentioning the minimum period by which a case must be settled. We are setting National Tax Tribunal because the Commissioner of Income Tax takes three years and High Court takes another three years. Tomorrow if the National Tax Tribunal is also to take more time, then the purpose of setting it up would be lost. It is not that I want to stop this Bill today, but he may please see that if necessary, amendment

[Shri K.S. Rao]

should be brought. No Bill can be made foolproof in the first instance itself, but after seeing the performance and results, he should not hesitate to bring amendments to it at the earliest, without waiting for years and decades, as we did earlier. So, he may please ensure that there is no delay at least now in collecting the tax, giving justice to the tax-payers and creating confidence in it. I think, it is justified to set up this special body which is said to be dedicated to tax - direct and indirect - matters and to settle the litigation early, but this time aspect must be taken care of.

In this body, technical members must also gain prominence. We bring the retired judge who will not have any knowledge of taxation. It is said by the Minister himself. Also, we are aware that in the High Courts and Supreme Court, there are not many judges who are thorough in tax matters.

SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY (Dhenkanal): So, do you oppose putting retired judges in these situations?

SHRI K.S. RAO: I am not opposed. I am asking that technical members must also be given enough importance.

SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY: Do you want to bring retired ones back after they have spent their whole useful life?

SHRI K.S. RAO: I am not against the aged people. I am not against the youngsters. There should be a blend of people with competence, knowledge and experience.

SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY: Once they have used up their existing life span, you want to bring them back again.

SHRI K.S. RAO: It is for you to say. So, I only say that technical members must be given enough importance and mere age should not be the criteria of this aspect.

I appreciate that the hon. Minister has brought this Bill with a view to reduce the time. I also wanted to bring to the knowledge of the Law Minister that this must be applied to general courts also. Justice must be available at a speedy level. Today we find several cases lying in the courts, with adjournment over adjournment for decades. That means people are losing faith in the Judiciary. ...*(Interruptions)* So, the judgement should come early.

By virtue of our commitment and love for democracy, definitely Judiciary is an integral part of our system. We admire and respect it, but we want some changes. We want speedy justice. So, I want the Law Minister to take that aspect into other matters also, not only tax matters. He should also look at the amount of energy and manpower that is lost on

account of these delays. Eminent people have to go and wait for getting justice from them, wasting their time and knowledge which they could have utilised for other purposes, creative purposes.

That time limit must be there in this matter and the hierarchy for delivering justice must be like a pyramid. All the cases that were referred to the Commissioner of Income Tax or the Income Tax Appellate Tribunal should not be allowed to go to the National Tribunal. That means as many cases as possible must be reduced and whenever the cases are referred, they must follow the pyramid way.

When the hon. Minister brings the amendments next time, I want him to think as to whether there must be a limit on the magnitude or the size of the case that is to be referred to the National Tribunal. If that is mentioned, instead of referring every case to the National Tribunal, then justice can be done much earlier.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Your Party was allotted 30 minutes and you have already taken 18 minutes. Please conclude now.

SHRI K.S. RAO: Then, Sir, it is common experience that we make the Acts and the judiciary has to take decisions based on these Acts. On the same issue and in a similar situation, different High Courts have given different judgments. That means, interpretation is varying from Judge to Judge, from person to person. Here, this Bill is expected to bring uniformity in the judgment because there is only one Tribunal. Once they give a judgment on a particular matter, there cannot be variation in any judgment given by any other Bench on the same matter. There is such a provision for settling the matter. That is another advantage in this Bill and I am very happy about it.

I am not a lawyer, so I cannot find fault with the provision.

SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY: But you are a tax-payer.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Do not give running commentary please.

SHRI K.S. RAO: The Writ jurisdiction of the High Court has not been taken out. It may not be taken out because of various provisions and various Acts. Once again, some conditions must be laid down under which cases can be referred to any High Court, and they must be minimal.

While specifying the qualifications of the people, the clause should have also mentioned about the integrity,

honesty and past performance of the person concerned. By merely passing a Bill, our responsibility is not over. We are making excellent Acts after careful consideration by all sections of the society and thinking it over from different angles. But then how is it being implemented is also to be monitored. The problem is coming only in the implementation of the Act that is being made here. If that is taken care of properly, the purpose for which we are making these Acts will be served. I want the hon. Minister to think of some mechanism to monitor the implementation regularly and not look at it after ten years or fifteen years.

There is another point mentioned here. The moment this Act comes into force, all the cases that are now lying in the High Court will be transferred to this Tribunal. There may be some cases where the hearing is almost in the final stages and the judgment is awaited very soon. If those cases were to be transferred to this Tribunal, then, once again, they will have to start from the beginning and it will take a long time. I just wish for some way to be found out to see that those cases which are in the final stages of hearing and where judgment is awaited can be dealt with by them without delaying them once again.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please conclude your speech.

SHRI K.S. RAO: I am just concluding, Sir. We are dealing with cases which were dealt with by the Commissioners of Income Tax and by Assessing Officers. But there are some erratic assessments which were made by some officers. While taking evidence of the Departments concerned, we used to get shocks. In one of the cases, which I wish to bring to the knowledge of my colleagues here, one Customs Commissioner in Kolkata, after due assessment of tax and penalty put together, asked the company concerned to pay Rs. 1,952 crore.

Duty and penalty on what? On a demurrage charge levied by the port of Rs.170 crore on imported crude oil? Who imported it? The Indian Oil Corporation imported it. See the eccentricity of the officer! The delay was caused because of congestion in the port. It is not IOC's mistake. Because of the delay in clearing, not for his fault, demurrage was levied as per the rules and conditions of Rs.170 crore. Now, this man adds duty and penalty and makes it Rs.1950 crore.

We read in newspapers and statistics given to us that the tax arrears in this country are to the tune of Rs.1,03,000 crore. Maybe such items are there in a large number in that figure, we do not know. So, there must be a provision for taking action on such officers also who make erratic

assessments, either motivated or non-motivated. Maybe the person here wanted to get his name published in the newspapers saying that this is the officer who levied a tax like this. I, therefore, request the hon. Minister to see that erratic decisions are not taken by officers in various Departments.

This case was subsequently referred by the Government to the High Court and the High Court dismissed it. They appealed to the Supreme Court and the Supreme Court also dismissed it. That explains what kind of an assessment was made by that officer. Has he been punished? Was he taken to task so that such things are not repeated? Those things also must be taken care of.

Similarly, if we are to provide incentives to the honest officers who are doing their duty exceedingly well with commitment and devotion, and disincentives to those officers who lack integrity and who are incapable of delivering the goods in away, there will be motivation for people to work. That motivation is lacking now. We only consider the age of the officer and a man is given benefit if he is a senior. This must also be taken into account.

We must take care that the provisions of this Act would not be misused by the officers concerned. That also has to be monitored regularly. With these words expressing my happiness, I wholeheartedly support this Bill. I wish the Finance Ministry will make use of the provisions of this Bill and collect revenues in a big way and utilise them for developmental activities so that the poor people can also get work and the GDP can increase substantially.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN (Chirayinkil): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the National Tax Tribunal Bill was introduced in the Thirteenth Lok Sabha to replace an Ordinance. That Bill was referred to the Standing Committee on Law and Justice. Before the Committee submitted its report to the House, the Thirteenth Lok Sabha was dissolved. Subsequently the Bill was again introduced in this House and it is referred to the Standing Committee on Law and Justice, and Personal Grievances. It is a Rajya Sabha Committee.

I am one of the members of the Committee. I would now like to give you some details with regard to the Bill. I cannot support this Bill. But I will not oppose it. I will tell you the reasons. We examined the Bill in detail. We have come to a definite conclusion which I will read.

A unanimous decision has been taken by the Standing Committee. The purpose of the Bill is to provide some assignment to top bureaucrats who are on the verge of

[Shri Varkala Radhakrishnan]

retirement. That is the main reason, and not for tax collection at all.

Now, I would take the House into confidence and state as to what was the purpose of the Bill. The Bill aims to establish a national level Tribunal known as the National Tax Tribunal, which will have an all-India jurisdiction to decide disputes with respect to both the direct and indirect taxes so that the Government's revenue is checked. Revenue of Government is ceadlocked at present. Cases are pending before the High Court for long. The purpose of the Bill is to take all the cases which are now pending before the High Court to the National Law Tribunal. This is the gist of the Bill. We examined the Bill and we came to the conclusion. I shall read the conclusion. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI VISHVENDRA SINGH (Bharatpur): What has happened In the Standing Committee is never discussed in the House. This is being discussed. What transpired in the Standing Committee never comes up in the House. Only its recommendations can be discussed but not what transpired there.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: Sir, I am only referring to it. I am not reading the Report. I submit that the Standing Committee has recommended not to proceed with the Bill. Now, it has been specifically stated. The Committee feels that establishing a National Law Tribunal will entail huge expenditure in terms of salary, infrastructure, etc. The jurisdiction of the High Court will not be taken away in this respect. The party which is aggrieved by the wrath of the Tribunal can invoke this jurisdiction. This would result in delay in the final disposal of cases which would defeat the very purpose of the Bill. This is what they have to say. This jurisdiction is there.

There are 21 High Courts in the country. In all the High Courts, cases are pending. I do agree with this. But they are going to establish only one Tribunal throughout India. Will not the cases accumulate there? All these cases will have to be filed before one centre. Now, it is dealt by 21 centres. Twenty-one High Courts are dealing with the cases. Now, cases are judged by the Judges in 21 High Courts. The pending cases in 21 High Courts will be taken to one Tribunal. It is humanly impossible to conclude that appeals will not accumulate. It will accumulate. Not only that, there is no provision to the effect that against the decision of the National Law Tribunal, appeal will lie to the Supreme Court. That provision is there. But earlier, decision can be taken to the High Court in the form of writ application. What is the difference? I do not understand. Anybody can take the decision to the High Court in the form of jurisdiction. Only thing is that the question of law will have to be alleged.

Then, what is the remedy? All these cases will go to the High court. Now, all the cases which have been returned from the High Court to the National Law Tribunal will again go to the High Court in the form of writ applications. Who can prevent this? It is a constitutional provision. We cannot take away the jurisdiction of the High Court. So, all the cases which are now pending before the 21 High Courts will be taken to a National Law Tribunal. It is quite natural that an aggrieved party can appeal to the Supreme Court, not to the High Court. But in the meanwhile, any decision taken by the National Law Tribunal can be preferred before the High Court in the form of jurisdiction.

That is why, the Standing Committee has unanimously recommended that there is no need for the continuance of this Bill. The Committee has given in clear terms its recommendations opposing it. For what purpose, is the Government proceeding further? The Benches will be constituted throughout India. It will entail a huge expenditure by way of travelling allowances and so many other things. Two Judges or members will be enough for constituting a Bench. There can be Benches anywhere in India. What is the purpose of this? We can do this in the same way by giving additional Benches in every High Court only for dealing with tax cases. Is it not a good thing? That is the recommendation of the Committee. The Committee specifically recommended that there must be additional Benches in every High Court specially meant for tax cases only. This way, no additional expenditure is required.

The Committee also recommended that all pending vacancies in the High Court must be filled. The reason for the delay is non-filling of vacancies in the High Court as also in the Supreme Court. They should first fill the vacancies and then constitute a new Bench for dealing with the tax cases only. Some Judges can be trained in tax matters to hear the cases. Why is this tribunal? I have no doubt that the person heading the tribunal will be a judicial man. But the other members will be bureaucrats, not just bureaucrats but those bureaucrats who are on the verge of retirement. They are making the age limit as 65 years. I do not understand why in the 21st century, this Government is bringing such a vexatious Bill. I challenge the hon. Law Minister that no purpose will be served by this. Can he give an assurance in the House that the expenditure will be reduced? No. Not only that.

There will be separate Benches - one for the East, one for the South, one for the North and one for the West. When such a thing is done, that will also entail a huge expenditure. What is the purpose? This could be done in a simple way. They can consult the Supreme Court and make provision for the appointment of Special Benches to deal with the tax

cases. Why do you accommodate these top bureaucrats who are on the verge of retirement? What is the purpose that will be served by this? We have so many recommendations saying that the Government should not proceed with this Bill. That is why, we have taken a decision in the Committee not to oppose it. If the Government is eager enough to proceed with this, if the Government is very particular in going ahead with this, we will not oppose it. That is why, I said at the outset that though I strongly oppose it yet I will not oppose it. Since it is the decision taken by the Committee, I will abide by the decision of the Committee. If the Government is eager enough to proceed with the Bill, we will have no objection.

We made certain suggestions also to the various clauses of the Bill. There are other things to be done. When the execution of the orders of the High Court or the appellate tribunal comes, that would not be done.

16.00 hrs.

So, infrastructure development is the need of the hour. Now, all efforts will be made to make ultramodern infrastructure development so that the records can be maintained up to date and the pendency can be reduced. That is what the Committee had recommended. But they are not prepared to hear that; they are not prepared to fill up the vacancies pending in the High Court; they are not prepared to assign the tax assessment to a separate bench. They are very much interested to support the bureaucrats who are on the verge of retirement. ...*(Interruptions)* They are not looking after the national interest. This way, the national interest will not be served.

Therefore, we are definitely of the opinion that there is no need for this Bill. If the Finance Minister is very particular of giving appointments to some bureaucrats, let him find some other way.

SHRI K.S. RAO: Finance Minister or the Law Minister!

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: The Law Minister is only making the laws. He is not directly responsible for this. ...*(Interruptions)* If the Finance Ministry coupled with the Law Ministry is very particular of accommodating some people who are on the verge of retirement, let them find some other way, not at the expense of the exchequer. Otherwise, we would be losing lakhs and crores of rupees. Moreover, if the Government is very particular about the pendency work related with tax laws, we have recommended that there must be a condition that 25 per cent of the amount that is assessed will have to be deposited before filing the appeal. That is the Committee's recommendation.

But with all humility and respect to my Law Minister, I would again request him not to proceed with the Bill. Why to incur so much money unnecessarily? Money is very dear to us. The country is facing natural calamities, tsunami, earthquake, drought and floods in different parts. And, we need so much of money to meet all these requirements. So, why should they go and accommodate these bureaucrats in a different way? Everybody knows, Tamil Nadu is facing one of its worst floods these days, and they need thousands and thousands of crores of rupees for their rehabilitation and settlement. Their Chief Minister has already demanded money; the whole Tamil Nadu needs money. So, I would request the hon. Minister to allot the money to those people and not for the bureaucrats. By accommodating bureaucrats no purpose would be served.

Sir, it is very unfortunate that the Government has decided to proceed with the Bill to safeguard the interest of the top bureaucrats, who are in the hierarchy. I am not opposing. ...*(Interruptions)* The Committee had taken a view that if the Government is eager to proceed with the Bill, we would definitely go on with it. We have no objection. ...*(Interruptions)* But by this Bill, no purpose would be served. The pendency would not be reduced and the revenue would not be increased. So long as the writ jurisdiction is there, no remedy is possible by this Bill.

With these few words, I conclude and I expect the Hon. Law Minister, who is a very efficient and learned man, will rise to the occasion and see that the public money is not wasted. So, I would request him, as recommended by the Standing Committee, to please do not proceed with the Bill. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN (Balasore): You oppose the Bill but do not oppose its passage. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Kindly listen to me. The hon. Law Minister has to go to the Rajya Sabha also. That is why I would request all the hon. Members who want to speak on this very Bill that they should restrict themselves only for four or five minutes. We want this Bill to be passed before 5 o' clock.

SHRI B. MAHTAB: Sir, this is a very important Bill. If the Minister is preoccupied in Rajya Sabha, let it be deferred till tomorrow.

Why should we curtail our speeches to five minutes? This is not fair. You cannot restrict a Party to five minutes.

SHRI PRAKASH PARANJPE (Thane): We will not do like the earlier speaker; oppose in the House but otherwise support. This is nothing but adjustment for the retired bureaucrats. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record.

(Interruptions)...*

SHRI PRAKASH PARANJPE: We will oppose it. The previous speaker is opposing orally. For popularity alone do not make speeches in the august House. You may tell your stand in the House. If the Bill is wrong, oppose it totally. Do not say that you oppose it in your speech but at the time of voting you will support it. We want sufficient time to give justice to our tax-payers whose money will be looted by this tribunal. This tribunal will be looting the money of the tax-payers.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record.

(Interruptions)...*

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ): Sir, could you not restraint him? ...*(Interruptions)* May I make a brief submission? I do not think there is a need for this kind of acrimony. We all remember, this was an Ordinance brought by the earlier NDA Government, and it lapsed. We have again brought it to this House. On this matter, all Members are free to express their opinions. On such a matter I am for full debate because I am carrying forward a Bill which was approved by the Cabinet earlier in Shri Vajpayee Government. This is regarding the tax matters and Members are entitled to express themselves as much in detail as they like. Therefore, free and frank discussion should be there. I am not in a hurry. What I am saying is, this is not a controversial matter. Tax reform is a very serious matter. You can have a debate as much as you like. It is for the Chair to decide. If I go for voting, I will come back within five minutes.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: BAC has allotted two hours' time for its discussion.

[Translation]

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR (Chail): Hon. Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I express my gratitude to you for providing me an opportunity to speak on the National Tax Tribunal Bill, 2004. I rise to support this Bill. Being a Member of the Standing Committee on Personnel, Public Grievances, Law and Justice, it becomes imperative for me to make an

observation. We have always been concerned about these kinds of issues which are raised in the Standing Committee. This bill aims to establish a National Tax Tribunal. I would also like to make a submission in this regard.

16.09 hrs.

(SHRI GIRIDHAR GAMANG in the Chair)

Under the provisions of direct and indirect tax we move the high court to make an appeal. While all such cases all still pending in the high court. These cases have not been decided, it takes years to decide them. It is known to all that be it lower courts, high courts or even the Supreme Court, all the cases relating to revenue, criminal or tax issues are pending. That is why the National Tax Tribunal Bill is the need of the hour and it has been brought for this purpose. I have also seen it that large number of revenue cases are pending for the last 10-15-20 years in the lower courts, high courts or the Supreme Court. The burden is increasing in all the courts owing to the non disposal of cases on time. Today, the need of the hour is to establish National Tax Tribunal so as to ensure timely disposal of income tax, custom and service tax cases. I would like to quote the figures of cases pending in the Supreme Court and High court which are 2051 and 8564 involving a sum of Rs. 3221.98 crore and 3561.10 crore, respectively. Although Fast Track Courts have been set up from time to time for immediate disposal of cases but today its need was felt. Hon. Member Shri Radhakrishnan also expressed the concern that cases will continue to be filed and courts shall be set up but in how much time these cases will be disposed of.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I have been elected from Allahabad where I have seen in the high Court that there are 20 vacancies of Judges which have not been filled. I regret to say that these vacancies are not being filled as a result of which the cases are not being disposed. Similarly, there are several vacancies of judges in the High Courts of all the states. It is my humble submission that the vacancies of these judges should be filled so as to dispose of all the cases immediately. Pending cases have a direct impact on the nation's economy, it wastes time and increases all kinds of expenditure. Hon. Minister has brought this Bill, with a good intention that all the pending cases relating to money are immediately disposed of. This tribunal is proposed to be set up under Article 323 B of the Constitution. Several hon. Members have given suggestions in this regard. It is my humble suggestion that if a retired judge of Supreme Court or Chief Justice of High Court is appointed the head of this tribunal, it would be better. We have seen that when a new commission is set up retired judge is appointed as its Chairman. It is my suggestion that the services of Indian

* Not recorded.

Revenue officers can be utilized for this purpose. If they are included in this tribunal then it would be possible to dispose of those cases immediately. Judges retire at the age of 60-62-65 years and we can make use of their experience. In my opinion the concept of Fast Track Courts does not meet the purpose. It will fulfil the purpose, only when the services of sharp minded revenue officers, be they of sales tax, income tax, central excise or custom are utilised.

I have already quoted the number of these cases. It is true that we often receive complaints of excessive taxation, whether it is custom, income tax, sales tax, excise or service tax. It is my humble submission to the hon. Minister that the National Tax Tribunal being set up should be provided full autonomy so that it is able to function in a fair manner. There should be no scope for dishonesty, so that when an appellant makes an appeal, he should receive justice on time. This should be the intention behind the setting up of this tribunal.

With these words, supporting the National Tax Tribunal Bill 2005 brought by the hon. Minister, I conclude.

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV (Patna): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I express my gratitude to the hon. Minister, who has taken a very positive measure by bringing the National Tax Tribunal Bill, 2005. This is a welcome step taken by the U.P.A Government. I fall short of words to praise the U.P.A. Government and the hon. Minister. As we all know that there are thousands of such cases pending in various courts of the country which have not been disposed of. The Government Exchequer has incurred loss to the tune of thousands of crore rupees, owing to the non disposal of these cases. It stalls the growth of a nation. If this money will come in the Government coffers it will be utilised for the development of the country thereby benefiting the people of the country and would enhance the pace of the country's development.

Sir, ours is a poor country. There are still such villages and towns in the country which are lacking in basic infrastructure and amenities like water, electricity, road, bridge, culverts etc. owing to paucity of funds. The country is passing through a phase of financial crisis. The government is taking an appropriate measure by way of introducing this Bill. On the one hand the Government would provide relief to the business community and the common people of the country by quick disposal of cases through this National Tax Tribunal and on the other hand it would extend positive cooperation in strengthening the economy. That is why I support this Bill and anticipate that the pending cases of custom, excise tax, service tax etc. will be immediately disposed with the help of this Act and the Government will definitely provide big relief to the people. But I have an

apprehension which I hope would be allayed by the Hon. Minister during his reply. Bills are introduced in the country, tribunals and commissions are set up and are also empowered adequately. But there is definitely a need to pay particular attention to the fact that the task assigned to them is disposed of immediately. If bodies will not function smoothly then how will the intention of the Government of expediting the disposal of the cases and clearing the pending cases be fulfilled? I am not raising any doubt but would request the hon. Minister that the tax tribunal proposed to be set up through this Act should quickly dispose of the work. There is a need to take concrete measures for this purpose and to stipulate time limit. The intention of the Government will not be fulfilled if these to not remain alert to the work assigned to them. So concrete steps must be taken to fulfil the objectives of the Bill and a time limit should be fixed so as to remove the hurdle coming in the way of speedy disposal of cases. There are several courts in our country. Several hon'ble Members have submitted in course of discussion that thousands of cases relating to taxes and other matters are lying pending in lower as well as the High courts and the many accused persons are languishing in jails. The cases are being delayed and it is on account of this that they do not get justice. So the Government should take concrete steps for this.

I would like to give one more suggestion to the Government. This Bill has a provision to appoint judges of 65 years of age in the tax tribunal. The Government prescribe the age limit for any post keeping in view the capacity of person for discharging the duty. However, there is also need to ponder whether a person can work efficiently after 65 years of age when he or she is certainly exhausted physically as well as mentally. The hon'ble Minister should ponder over it and consider giving opportunity to the youths for this. This step will enhance their work efficiency and they will be able to dispose more and more work and objectives of the Government would be fulfilled through the tribunal.

At the end, while supporting the Bill I would once again like to extend my thanks to the hon'ble Minister with the hope that he will certainly be successful in fulfilling the objectives of the Bill for which the said Bill has been moved and the persons assigned with the duty by the Government will discharge their duty as per their work efficiency. This step will lead to the disposal of several cases involving thousands of crores of rupees and the amount recovered after the disposal of the cases will be added to the Government's coffer that will ultimately strengthen our economy. It will contribute to the development of villages and poor people. Thus, I conclude and welcome the positive objectives of the Bill and extend my thanks to the Minister for moving the Bill.

[English]

SHRI SURESH PRABHAKAR PRABHU (Rajapur): Sir, we have a serious problem in hand to handle in India wherein on the one hand, our GDP is rising rapidly and the economy is growing at almost 8 per cent a year and on the other hand, taxes to the GDP ratio are not rising. Rather they are to a great extent declining. And that is why, it is a matter of serious concern as to how we should be able to raise the required resources to finance our infrastructure and make sure that our social sectors are developed adequately. At the same time, it is important to know how the Government is going to collect various taxes from the tax payers who are paying now and how to bring those who are not in the tax net into the tax net.

We need to work on it in a very comprehensive manner. We need to take various steps to do that. One of the first steps that is required is to make sure that the internal accounting system of the country is brought to such a level where any person who is earning any income is not made to escape the tax net. That is a pre-requisite of that and that needs to be done. We also need to ensure that tax laws are simplified to a great deal. If you make more complicated laws, Shri Bharadwaj's fraternity and my own colleagues in the profession will be very happy because they will get adequate work. But it should not be to the despair of the tax payers. We will have to make sure that the tax system, the tax administration and tax laws are made in such a manner that they are totally simple and very easy to implement. We have a problem here. Any law which is made is a challenge because it is not simple. If you make simple laws, then probably the need for a tribunal will not be felt. Any law is bound to be interpreted in two different ways by two different stakeholders — one by the Government and the other by the tax payer. Therefore, there is a need for a reconciliation of such conflicting views. So, we have a system wherein the appeals go up to the Income Tax Appellate Tribunal and in case of excise, customs and service tax to their Tribunals. Thereafter, it goes to High Courts and it can also go to the Supreme Court. This Bill envisages that those matters which are heard by the Income Tax Appellate Tribunal or other Tribunals, rather than the High Courts, will be heard now by this new Tax Tribunal that is created. Therefore, this will obviously obviate, to a great deal, the adversities that are being faced by the tax payers. It is because High Courts hear all types of matters. They are hearing matters pertaining to criminal law, civil law, and commercial law. Therefore, an exclusive Tribunal dealing with only tax laws will definitely go a big way in helping the tax payers. Therefore, it is a welcome measure. While it is true, there are several areas in which, I think, we need to apply our mind a little more.

I would like to make a small suggestion. I would request the Minister to agree to that. Normally we call income tax as 'tax' whereas we call customs and excise as 'duties'. We are calling this Tribunal as 'National Tax Tribunal'. Probably, it could have been more appropriate to call it the 'National Tax and Duties Tribunal' because that would have appropriately covered more area.

In any case, if you are planning to amend the Income Tax Act, Wealth Tax Act, Excise Act, Customs Act, Service Tax Act, probably you can bring in an amendment to call them customs tax instead of customs duty. Then, it could not have been felt. But calling this Tax Tribunal as just "Tax Tribunal" would probably confuse the issue.

My second point is related to location. You have said that this Tribunal will be located in New Delhi. I still do not understand why everything has to be located in New Delhi. Of course, New Delhi is the political Capital of India. But that does not mean that every entity that is created in India has to be, by law, located in New Delhi. In fact, more than 26 per cent of the tax revenue of the country are collected from Mumbai city. If at all the location has to be selected on the basis wherein it will obviate the difficulties of various types of tax payers, then it will be more appropriate to locate it in Mumbai than in New Delhi. In any case, locating it in New Delhi does not really make any sense. Probably the draftsman always insists that everything should be located in New Delhi. I do not know for what reason. Then, we always tell the Ministry of Urban Development to tell the Ministries which are going to locate their offices that there is no place available in New Delhi and so you probably please go out. Why are you, by law, asking a Tribunal to be located in New Delhi? I would really request that it should be located ideally in a place like Mumbai.

There are issues regarding administration. One issue is about the appointment of members and Chairman of this Tribunal. In fact, we are replacing the system. Those appeals which were heard by the High Courts will now be heard by this Tax Tribunal. So, the same system which is applicable to the appointment of High Court Judges should be applicable here also. We should appoint them in the same manner to ensure their independence and to inspire confidence in the system. Therefore, I would strongly urge the Minister that he should insist on the same manner of appointment as is applicable to the appointment of High Court Judges.

Therefore, it should not be done in a manner that is

stipulated, that the Central Government will appoint a Committee and they will make the appointment. That would only mean that the bureaucracy will actually make the appointment. This will really vitiate the desired purpose. ...*(Interruptions)* Sir, please give me time. I know, he is telling you to stop me because I will stop here only. All the time, I speak for only two minutes. This is not fair. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: They have distributed time according to the Party.

SHRI SURESH PRABHAKAR PRABHU: There is a regional party debate as the Minister said. It is not a party debate. It is a national debate on which we all should participate. The issue of appointment is very important. Therefore, I feel it should be done in this manner.

The other issue is related to the Administration, that is, the transfer of members. It is also mentioned that the transfers should be effected in such a way as will be decided. Transfers of High Court Judges are also governed by a system which is prevalent in the country. The same system should be applicable because now, we are actually creating a system parallel to the High Courts and, therefore, I would urge the Minister to make sure that this is done in a proper manner.

In case of selection, it is not just the appointment but even the selection procedures itself, as prescribed in clause 12(4) should be in conformity with, as I just mentioned.

Clause 8 deals with the tenure of the members. It is already stipulated at what age they will superannuate. Having decided that, to again mention that a member will have only 5 years' tenure, this is, in fact, going against the spirit of the Bill. Like the High Court Judge when he is appointed, he continues to hold an office till he retires or attains the age of superannuation or alternatively, there are provisions made in this law wherein how he will have to vacate his office in a situation which is prevalent like mentioned in this particular Act. Therefore, I suggest that there should not be this 5 years' tenure system as mentioned. It should be totally excluded from this.

About the matters which will be heard as per clause 15, I think, the Minister is aware that in this case they are only replacing that those matters which are decided by the Appellate Tribunal either of Income-tax, Service Tax, Excise or Customs would come before this National Tax Tribunal. But there are several issues pertaining to all these four laws which are coming to the High Courts even when the matters are not decided by the Tribunal. For example, there could be a matter of law where article 226 of the Constitution can

be directly invoked and the matter can directly come before the High Court. In such cases, even if it is possible, that is, the National Tax Tribunal should not be hearing only the matters which have been disposed of by the Appellate Tribunal but should also be hearing the matters to this original jurisdiction, as has happened in case of High Court. Probably, the Minister must apply the mind. Otherwise, it will again defeat the purpose because some tax matters still will be heard by the High Courts whereas some other tax matters as are already disposed of by the Tribunal will come to this new Tax Tribunal. Therefore, this is important. You may have to change the jurisdiction of this. Otherwise, this will really defeat the purpose for which it is meant.

You have mentioned that 25 per cent of the disputed amount will have to be deposited before the Tribunal before the appeal is filed. What would happen with the 75 per cent amount? Does it mean that the balance 75 per cent amount is stayed by virtue of this provision? As you know, the present provision of the Income-tax Act says that there are amounts of money once it is paid, when this is demanded. There is a procedure for collection of that amount of money. Therefore, that procedure of collection goes on parallelly. Here, you are saying that 25 per cent of the amount is deposited and the appeal is entertained. But if an appeal is entertained, they are paying 25 per cent amount. What happens with the 75 per cent amount? I would like to know whether a similar system is applicable for recovery of money. It is not mentioned whether it will get stayed automatically or not. This will again create confusion. Probably, many appeals would be filed to only dispose of this particular thing. Probably, this needs to be clarified in a proper manner.

It is stated that the Civil Procedure Code will not be applicable. This new Tax Tribunal will be able to work in a manner on the basis of natural justice. Is there any particular reason as to why the Government is thinking like this? I would like to know. Normally, any court or quasi-judicial authority like the Tribunal is functioning on the basis of what is stipulated in the Civil Procedure Code. Is there any particular reason why the Government is thinking of exempting this and saying that this new Tax Tribunal will be operating on the basis of natural justice? I would really be willing to know.

Sir, any appeal which is filed before them should be disposed of in a specific timeframe. Otherwise, you will not get any benefit out of this. You can say one year, nine months, six months or ninety days, etc. But there has to be a specific time limit prescribed. Then only, it will really happen. There is no time limit that has been prescribed in it.

[Shri Suresh Prabhakar Prabhu]

Therefore, I also strongly feel that this should be done in this manner.

The second point is, probably, I am thinking that we have missed out something. There are some minimum numbers that are prescribed for the Bench. Whereas, in this particular law, it has been mentioned that in the case of any matter which is related to legal matter, probably they will be able to form a Special Bench like a Constitution Bench; that Bench will have minimum five members. But you are not mentioning how many minimum numbers of members will be there on the Bench. So, I think, probably, we will have to mention that there would be at least five or more than five members. If you do not mention that, then, how can the minimum five members be there on this Constitution Bench? Without mentioning that, how many minimum members will form the Bench? Therefore, again I think that is the point which the Minister must really take into consideration.

I am just trying to quickly conclude. There are two more matters. One is relating to transfer of cases. Once the Tribunal is notified, all the cases which are now before the High Courts will automatically get transferred to the new Tribunal. That is what the procedure is. I think this is what you have mentioned. Probably, what needs to be done is that the partly-heard matters need not be transferred at all. Otherwise, an assessee will be put to a severe injustice because, probably, some matters would have been partly-heard. They will be heard again here. So, the partly-heard matters should be heard in the High Court itself. Then, the remaining matters in which hearing has not started, should be transferred.

The last matter is this. If you are going to make appointments only on the basis of Government's consideration, then, probably, you are missing out on a point. The point is that an assessee's interest also has to be taken into consideration. The revenue interest will be represented by the Government. But there is a country interest, the interest of an assessee which will not get reflected at all. So, if the appointment is made only from the panel which is only sponsored by the Government, then it will not be really representing the interests of the tax-payers. Therefore, it really needs to be done in that particular manner.

With these words, I conclude.

SHRI B. MAHTAB (Cuttack): Sir, I thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak on this Bill. I stand here to discuss the National Tax Tribunal Bill proposed by the Government.

The Government says that it is a very positive step. Under the Direct and Indirect Tax enactments, an appeal lies in the domain of the High Court on a substantial question

of law. We cannot avoid it. Due to pendency of a large number of cases in the High Courts, the litigants suffer. Say, for example, by 3rd September, 2004, around 28,000 cases were pending in various High Courts in this country with an average annual disposal of 6000 cases.

16.38 hrs.

(SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV *in the Chair*)

The point which the Government has been making, which the previous NDA Government also made, is that a huge revenue is being blocked in such litigations. Tax arrears, as on 1st of April, 2004, were estimated to be around Rs.103,000 crore. It must have increased by now. As has been stated, the Direct Tax arrears amounted to Rs.87,800 crore and the Indirect Tax arrears amounted to Rs.15,200 crore. The Finance Ministry must be targeting the recovery of tax arrears every year. But the information goes that each year, the arrears held up in courts mount up in comparison to the recovery of tax arrears.

As has been suggested, by creating the National Tax Tribunal, the Government is going to expedite the cases. For speedy trial – please mark the words "speedy trial" – around 25 Benches are to be set up though it is not mentioned in the Bill. In some quarters, they say – as Shri Radhakrishnan has said just a little while ago – that there will be four Tribunals in four parts of this country. I will come to that aspect a little later.

As per the proposal, each Bench of the Tribunal will have a Chairman and two Judicial Members. The Judge will hold office for five years, as has been stated, and will continue till the age of 68, and the Members will retire at the age of 65. As I have stated earlier, Sir, that there are 182,000 tax appeals pending. This was the situation by the end of last year, by September, 2004 when the Bill was placed in the House. On an average, it takes two years to dispose of an appeal. One appeal takes at least two years. A person who has delved into the rigmarole of the tax law will find that the situation is so complicated that there are several cases in different High Courts which have ruled in a different way on essentially similar cases. There is a need to design the tax system in such a way that it is less onerous for the honest taxpayers and to be hassle-free. I come to the crux of the problem. Right now, as has been stated by my predecessor speaker, that India's tax to GDP ratio is under 10 per cent whereas in Brazil, it is around 25 per cent and in Argentina, it is 25 per cent.

Coming to the tax arrears, Sir, one is aware that quantum of tax arrears is growing year after year. As I have

just stated, indirect tax arrears are estimated to be Rs. 15,000 crore. But with this Rs. 15,000 crore, undisputed arrears, as has been stated by the Finance Ministry, are Rs. 3,000 crore. That was the position in September, 2004. I do not have the figures of this year. In direct taxes, around Rs. 87,000 crore are pending. It stands a little over Rs. 87,000 crore, including undisputed arrears, which are around Rs. 17,000 crore. This was the position in September, 2004.

I would like to pose a question to the Government. What is the problem of collecting the undisputed amount which goes up to more than Rs. 5,000 crore taking together the direct and indirect taxes? What is the problem of collecting that amount? Why is this amount pending? Has the Settlement Commission helped in any manner to recover the arrears? I do not deny, Sir, that the new Dispute Resolution Procedures would provide prompt and efficient resolution of disputes and help avoid expensive litigation. This is my hope that through this mechanism which is going to be in place after this Bill is passed. As regards clarity in tax law, the onus is with the Ministry of Law and Justice. The design of withholding systems that would limit the potential for non-compliance can alone (i) introduce transparency (ii) reduce litigation (iii) usher in speedy justice and (iv) prevent a build up of arrears. These are the four guidelines for which law has to be changed. There is a need to build up a proper database. Here, I would like to refer to the Kelkar Committee Report – the Task Force was formed. It had suggested that you build up a proper database. He had named it 'Risk Intelligence Network'. This was proposed there so that you can track the non-compliance. Other than accelerating the settlement of justice on complicated tax matters, the other significant aspect which the National Tax Tribunal is going to look after is the much-needed reform in the adjudication system. Under the current scheme of Dispute Settlement, the taxpayers have the option to either seek administrative redressal or a judicial remedy. These are the two options which a citizen or a taxpayer of this country has. The Income Tax Act specifies the categories of orders in respect of which a judicial remedy can be availed.

There are several orders for which there is no judicial remedy today and the administrative redressal mechanism is ineffective. As a result, we have considerable dissatisfaction among the tax payers. The present dispute settlement mechanism has eroded the confidence of the tax payers. The tax payers do not have much confidence in the neutrality of the adjudicating officer and this is the reason why there are so many litigations. I hope the National Tax Tribunal will help to reform the existing system of quasi-judicial adjudication and will minimise the incidence of litigation. But the problem before us is how to shorten the judicial

process. In the case of an indirect tax dispute the National Tax Tribunal will actually add another layer of judicial intervention and this is one of the major fault with the National Tax Tribunal. I think the Government should look into that.

Sir, under the current law, indirect tax disputes are heard by the Customs, Excise and Service Tax Appellate Tribunal (CESTAT) and then by the Supreme Court, in the case of an appeal. What will happen once the National Tax Tribunal comes into force? So, what is the job of the National Tax Tribunal in the case of an indirect tax dispute? Even if the National Tax Tribunal has ruled in a case that has been dealt by CESTAT, a citizen can still appeal to the Supreme Court. In the case of direct tax, since the first appeal is at the level of High Court, the National Tax Tribunal can theoretically change things since the appeal will be heard by it in a different court across the country. But, since the right of writ cannot be taken away, as has been mentioned in a specific article of the Constitution, there is no reason why aggrieved parties will not go to various High Courts first and then to the Supreme Court.

Now I come to the other aspect about the CESTAT. My basic question to the Government is this. Is it not a fact that majority of the cases in the CESTAT are decided against the Government? The hon. Member from the Ruling Party had mentioned an incident about the Kolkata case. I need not go into that. But it is an accepted fact that the Government is the greatest litigator in this country relating to tax law.

Sir, the major objective which the Minister has stated here and also in his statements outside is that he wants to achieve three things through this Bill. First of all, he wants to speed up the disposal of cases relating to direct and indirect taxes. Secondly, the National Tax Tribunal will introduce an All India perspective in the matter of interpretation of tax law. Thirdly, this special body will acquire both speed and consistency in the views. These are the three things which this Bill is going to achieve, he said.

Now, I will deal with these three things within a very short time. I have my doubts. First of all, in many High Courts there are a number of posts of judges that are lying vacant. In Orissa, in the Cuttack High Court more than 10 posts of judges are lying vacant. As a result; an agitation is going on there for the last two weeks and the courts are not functioning. Similarly, in the Allahabad High Court also there are a number of vacancies. Recently, the Minister of Law and Justice has also mentioned, in a meeting and also in different statements made to the Press, about the problem as to why these posts of judges are not being filled up, but the cases are mounting. Here, the Government is going to appoint retired judges and some members from other

[Shri B. Mahtab]

services like the Indian Revenue Service or from the bureaucracy in the National Tax Tribunal.

Money will be spent, about which Shri Varkala Radhakrishnan, the hon. Member from Kerala, has also mentioned. I need not go into all that. But the Standing Committee, in detail, has dealt about that. We would rather like to understand the Government's point of view. Once the Standing Committee has given the suggestion that you increase the number of judges in different High Courts, you specify a specific Bench for tax determination. Why are you going in for creating a separate tribunal?

We have seen how the tribunals relating to administrative matters have functioned. When that Bill came in the House, similar assurance were given. But records have shown that those administrative tribunals have not given us the desired results, rather more cases have gone into the Administrative Tribunal in different States and also in the Central Administrative Tribunal. It has not lessened the cases in the High Courts.

Similarly, once you just try to shift all the tax cases to another tribunal, how can you say that you will speedily determine these cases? You will lessen the burden of cases. There will be more delay. This is my anxiety which I just want to mention. The Standing Committee has given a suggestion that you try to create specific Benches for tax to determine these tax cases.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude now.

SHRI B. MAHTAB: These are all relevant points. The manner in which the Bill is drafted, it has given ample scope to say that the High Courts have given different views, different judgements on similar cases. This is what the Bill says.

In the statement of the hon. Minister, I think, he can clarify that. If this is the reason, if he wants to have a tribunal then how does he expect that these tribunals will also bring in consistency in views? If the High Courts have failed, how can you say that these tribunals will bring in consistency in view and uniformity? This is my anxiety. Can you convince us?

Thirdly, I have my reservations regarding the speed, as has been said. We have seen how the NTT had functioned during the Ordinance regime. I think, Mr. Chairman, you were also there. We all have been witness to it and we know what was the result. The Minister has not clarified how that tribunal had functioned in 2003-04, before the Bill came into the Parliament and after that it was again withdrawn and again

it has been introduced under this regime of UPA Government's time. What happened during the NDA period? How has that NTT determined certain cases? I need not go into the details. You are much aware about it.

But I would only say that Special Tribunals have not helped in speedy adjudication of cases. Yes, as I have said, in case of direct tax, this may help to a certain extent. I am of the opinion that the Government has to be better geared up in modern techniques and infrastructure to speed up the execution proceedings. The Government has to set up Risk Intelligence Network as suggested by the Kelkar Task Force.

I conclude by saying that the problem today is in the administration of law rather than uniformity or certainty in these matters. The major Parties, sitting in the Opposition and in the Ruling side, have agreed. It is only the middle, that is, the Left Front and we also in this side, do not agree to this proposal. They both have agreed. Of course, Mr. Chairman, the RJD, has also agreed, but I only hope that NTT will be able to do what is desired.

SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPPAN (Trichur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, the new legislation has a good intent. That legislative intention has to be supported but then the fears expressed during the course of the discussion have to be clarified by the Government.

If the Standing Committee has recommended that there are other ways by which the Government could administer the tax regime much better, then why has the Government not accepted it? The Government did not also say as to why it was rejected.

Now, one of the suggestions that they have made was that there could be special benches to deal only with taxes. It would mean that the existing judges could do that. It does not incur any more expenditure. The Minister was telling that there are vacancies. If these vacancies could be filled up and more benches could be constituted exclusively to deal with the problems of taxes, then probably without much additional expenditure we could have achieved the same ends for which this Bill has been brought. That was the recommendation of the Standing Committee but the Government turned it down.

So many facts regarding the tax arrears have been marshalled here. It varies from Rs. 1,30,000 crore to Rs. 1,80,000 crore. These are the tax arrears. These tax arrears are accumulating on the one side. It is agreed by everyone that India is a country where the tax ratio in relation to GDP is much less than most of the countries in the world. So, if we have to have more tax revenue, we have to tax properly.

There should be a tax regime by which all the incomes are taxed and then there should also be methods of administration by which you could see that the tax arrears are not accumulated. Here it seems that the taxation itself is a low level of taxation and then the tax arrears accumulation is much bigger. Now to collect this, one of the fears again expressed by the Standing Committee was that by constituting this new tribunal, more retired judges and more bureaucrats who are at the fag end of their service would be provided with *kursi* and comfortable jobs at the end of their days. I would like to know why such a measure should be taken when other methods are there.

While the legislative intention is laudable, I would like to know whether this legislation is the only way by which that intention could be achieved. Why did the Government not agree with the recommendations of the Standing Committee? I think, the Government owes an explanation to this House.

Now, you are saying that to achieve a certain very laudable end you are constituting such a machinery, which will be a den of all the retired bureaucrats, and their number will not be small. The Bill says that there will be tribunals and then there will be a number of benches. The number has not been stipulated. If all these are coming, then it will be another white elephant. That would be very expensive for this country to shoulder.

17.00 hrs.

So, I would like to know what explanation the Government will give on this matter. Otherwise, we support the legislative intention. But is the new system of Tribunal necessary? Is it not more proper to accept the recommendation of the Standing Committee? I hope the Minister will explain this.

[Translation]

SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT 'BACHDA' (Almora): Mr. Chairman, Sir, the hon'ble Members who have spoken so far, have expressed their concern. They have expressed their concern regarding the framework of the Bill. It is a matter of great surprise that the Bill was referred to the Standing Committee in 2003. The Bill got lapsed on account of dissolution of Parliament (Lok Sabha) on 6 February, 2004 and the Report of the Standing Committee has also not been received. The Bill was introduced again in November, 2004 and it was once again referred to the Standing Committee. The Bill was discussed in five sittings of the Committee and all the recommendations in this regard have been submitted. In the light of the recommendations we thought that the

amendment was necessary. The Committee had given very important suggestions and recommendations, however, only two amendments i.e. 2005 in place of 2004 and 56 in place of 55 have been circulated. No other amendment has come from the Government. Now they say that there is no need of recommendations of the Committee that puts question mark on the relevance of the Standing Committee. The other method is this that the Government should hold discussion on it in the Parliament and the Bill should be moved by the Government consonance with the view expressed by the Members.

The system that is going to be put in place codifies its functions, rights, terms and the qualifications. The hon'ble Members have also questioned its utility. However, the Standing Committee was of the view that the reasons for pendency in the High courts are due to the shortage of judges and if the shortfall is overcome, it will help in speedy disposal of cases.

The second matter is related to it that its appeal can be done in the High Court. Thereafter, one can approach the Supreme Court through writ petition for appeal and the justice has also been done there. We have example before us in this regard. An ordinance was brought in the Parliament.

[English]

Indian Tobacco Company limited VS. commissioner of Central Excise, New Delhi and others.

[Translation]

The judgement was given on 10 December, 2004 and Excise Duty amounting to Rs. 803 crore which was to be recovered got released after an appeal was made in the Supreme Court and now since the order is going to be finalized, Tribunal's order would be final, there will be some scope for jurisdiction of writ. So, there is need to ponder seriously over it. Our hon'ble Minister of Law is a learned and experienced person and I would like to request him that he should seriously ponder over the suggestions that have come before him and if he incorporates those suggestions after proper deliberations then it will appear that the Members are doing their duty in the Parliament. So, they should also give some suggestions. I am going to give some suggestions. Now I do not understand the situation. It has been mentioned in sub-clause 2 of clause 5:

[English]

"The Benches of the National Tax Tribunal shall ordinarily sit at any place in the National Capital Territory of Delhi or such other places as the Central Government may, in consultation with the Chairperson, notify."

[Shri Bachi Singh Rawat]

and further provision is given. With consultation, "The Chairperson may for adequate reasons permit a Bench to hold its temporary sitting for a period not exceeding fifteen days at a place other than its ordinary place of seat.

[Translation]

That means if it is out of Delhi then it will be for fifteen days, however, it has been given in sub-clause 5 of the same clause:

[English]

"The Central Government may in consultation with the Chairperson transfer a Member from headquarters of one Bench in one State to the headquarters of another Bench in another State or to the headquarters of any other Bench within a State."

[Translation]

That means from its framework it appears the Government are setting up National Tax Tribunal. Its ordinary place of sitting is in the national capital of Delhi and if the sitting is to be held out of Delhi, then the sitting will be held for fifteen days and we can also find out anomaly in the same sub clause 5.

SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ: The hon'ble Member is submitting about those places where there is no regular bench and temporary sitting would be held there. Where there is regular bench, there will be full bench sitting. If tribunal is to visit some place to conduct its proceedings then it would be temporary sitting. It is the power of the court that if it intends to conduct its sittings in the circuit other than its original seat, it may do so. There is provision of 25 benches in financial memorandum. Besides, there is also provision to constitute five person bench in place of special bench and two person division bench, but the hon'ble Member is calling it an anomaly however, the fact is otherwise. The temporary sitting of the bench can be held at any place besides its original site. Suppose if the bench is located in Indore, its temporary sittings can also be held in Ratlam.

SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT 'BACHDA': What I would understand out of it that in clause 2 it is mentioned

[English]

"Benches of the National Tax Tribunal will sit in Delhi."

[Translation]

There is no mention of States in it. Since we are codifying the act so it is my humble request that the

Government should ponder as to how much improvement can be made in the act. We are in support of it. At the on set it is essential to submit that we are not in opposition to it. However if it is referred to the standing committee, its screening is done, the debate is held on it and some good suggestions are given by the hon'ble Members in course of discussion then we can bring some improvement in the bill in the light of the suggestions. Thus we complement our duty as the Member of Parliament.

Besides this there is reference about two member benches. It is mentioned in it.

[English]

"The Central government shall determine the number of Benches and each bench shall consist of two members"

[Translation]

However if there are two members in any bench, normally it has been observed that the problem arises in case of difference of opinion. So there is provision in clause 18 that in the case of difference of opinion the matter will be referred to the chairperson who will set up a higher bench and then the entire matter will be brought before him. So it will be better if the said anomaly is addressed in the beginning by increasing the number of members to three or five then clause 18 will not be necessary and this can be unproved quite easily.

It is mentioned in clause 6 that the retired judge of the Supreme Court or the Chief Justice of the high courts will be chairman and about his or her age it has been mentioned that he or she shall not be more than 68 years of age. However in Article 124 of the Constitution of India it has been mentioned that the Judge of the Supreme Court will serve upto 65 years of age. Now only three years are left. Since as per the provision the tenure of the members of the tribunal is five years as till he/she attains the age of 68 years. So in such a situation the tenure of five years will not be completed at any cost. So it is not necessary to mention that their tenure will be for five years or upto 68 years of age.

Along with this the committee had also submitted and I am also submitting that suppose if the judges are not available or if they decline to become the members of the tribunal or if there is shortage of judges due to setting up of so many Commission of Inquiry then we should make some provision to tackle such situation and there should be some safeguard. In that situation those person who are equivalent to judge and have expertise in taxation law, should also be appointed in the tribunal in the event of non-availability of judges. I am submitting this because as per the provision of

the Bill it is mandatory that the chairman of the tribunal must be one who had been either the Chief Justice of the high court or the judge of the Supreme Court. The suggestion of the standing committee in this matter was that the Chief Commissioner of the Income Tax should also be appointed as the chairman of the tribunal in view of their experience in the Indian revenue service as they dispose such cases for years. So the members of the Income Tax Appellate Tribunal or Service Tax Appellate Tribunal who have completed at least seven years of services should also be appointed the Chairman of the Tribunal. If we do so then there will be no shortage of judges.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude.

SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT 'BACHDA': Sir, these are legal points. If I do not say about it then what will I say? I hope that hon'ble Minister will pay attention on it and possibility in that. Some amendment may be incorporated.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Three forth hon'ble Members of your party are yet to speak.

SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT 'BACHDA': Sir, I will take only two minutes. A lot more time of my party is left. Till now only two members of my party have spoken. In clause 10 (1) one thing has been given that the judges will appointed as the chairman and they will be entitled to everything however they will not be entitled to get vacation. I would like to submit that they should be entitled to vacation since there is a provision of salaries in their case. It has been provided that the Senior Member of tribunal will function as the acting chairpcrson. It has been mentioned in clause 10. Its last line is.

[English]

Clause 10 (1) states:

"same applicable to the sitting judge of the Supreme Court, but no vacation shall be allowed."

[Translation]

That means that they will have to only work and will not get vacation. So, if he is ill or there are some other reasons he should be entitled to vacation. Further the provision has been made that it will remain. It will be better if the hon'ble Minister looks into it and can omit it. The substitution of Article 612 15 (1) is as follows.

[English]

Clause 15 (1) says:

"An appeal shall lie to the National Tax tribunal. If the National Tax Tribunal is satisfied that the case involves a substantial question of law."

[Translation]

Now as far the cases of taxation, raid, assessment and the survey are concerned, besides the abuse of process with the substantial question of law should also be brought under its jurisdiction. Where the right to revision other writ is being given it should also taken care of that besides the legal aspect, factual position should also be taken as a ground of making an appeal. They be in cases where involving abuse of process or and also the failure of justice. One thing has been mentioned in clause 16,

[English]

Clause 16 says:

"The National Tax Tribunal shall not be bound by the procedure laid down by the code of civil procedure, 1908 but shall be guided by the principles of natural justice."

[Translation]

That means one act is going to be formulated and all the provisions are included in the Bill. Further it has been said that it will get the same power as enjoyed by the Supreme Court i.e. the power to summons. However it is not bound by the procedure established by law. The procedure of national justice will be adopted that means the similar procedure will be followed for hearing and fixing the changes. Thereafter arguments will be held and affidavit will be submitted. However, I am of the opinion that instead of leaving it to such vague criteria, there is a need to bring it under the ambit of the written laws and express provisions.

I would like to draw the attention of the Government to one arise provision. Whenever we mention about the President of India or the Member of Parliament it is mentioned that they should not be bankrupt.

[English]

conviction, moral turpitude, etc... has become physically or mentally handicapped... 'shall be citizen of India'

[Translation]

etc. etc. has been given. There is set line that he or she should be a citizen of India. It is essential qualification for all the constitutional posts that he or she should be a citizen of India whose citizenship of India has not been terminated.

[Shri Bachi Singh Rawat]

The present bill is silent regarding the qualification whether he or she is qualified for this or not. It will be better if the hon'ble Minister pay attention in this direction.

Regarding the L. Chandra Kumar Vs. the Union of India it has been mentioned that it will not affect the jurisdiction of the High Courts or the Supreme Court. However it has been directly mentioned in the Bill that as far the order given in this regard is concerned.

[English]

"That shall be final and that can not be challenged in any civil court"

[Translation]

It will be better if the clarification regarding the Supreme Courts Submission that its power should not be curtailed by way of setting up of Tribunal is given in the bill itself.

Standing Committee also recommended this. Standing Committees opinion should also be given due weightage. Otherwise there is no point in having them. Some of the recommendations of the Standing Committee should be accepted.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I support the spirit and intention of the bill because we had brought this bill. That is why I am talking about improvement in the bill and if possible the recommendation of the Standing Committee should be accepted.

With this, I support the intention and spirit of the bill presented by the hon. Minister.

[English]

SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN (Palani): Sir, I thank you very much for the opportunity.

First of all, I would like to thank and congratulate our hon. Minister of Law and Justice to bring forward this Bill to constitute the National Tax Tribunal, to pave way to dispose of cases speedily. There is a long list of pending cases in 21 High Courts throughout the country. It is not helping the departments and it is also not helping the taxpayers also. In these 21 High Courts, a lot of vacancies are pending. The civil appeals are pending, criminal appeals are also pending and original jurisdiction cases are pending. In the same way, the tax cases are also pending. So, to avoid this problem, our Government has come forward to bring this Bill to constitute the National Tax Tribunal. It is not a new proposal.

Here I would like to mention before this august House that when our hon. Prime Minister was the hon. Minister of Finance during 1992-93, he mentioned in his Budget Speech and I quote:

"The Government was planning to set up the National Court of Direct Taxes in order to ensure that litigation in direct tax matters is settled expeditiously."

Also, the Law Commission of India in its 115th Report also favoured to form this kind of a National level Appeal Tribunal.

In this present Bill I want to mention only certain provisions. First of all, Clause 5 (1) deals with the constitution and jurisdiction of the Benches. Wherever these Benches of the National Tax Tribunal are going to attend any of the State, the time is given only 15 days, sitting for a period not exceeding 15 days. This restriction has to be removed and the time has to be given according to the convenience of the Chairperson. A lot of cases are pending in 21 High Courts. When the Bill is passed and the National Tax Tribunal is constituted, all the cases will be transferred to it. But instead of constituting one Tribunal at Delhi, I request the hon. Minister of Law to consider at least four Benches, that is, Chennai, Mumbai, Kolkata and Delhi, instead of taking the Benches there. ...*(Interruptions)* This is my humble suggestion. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI K.S. RAO: In Hyderabad also.

SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN: Yes, in Hyderabad also.

Sir, with respect to Sections 6 and 7, they deal with the appointment of Chairperson and other Members. Section 8 deals with the terms of office of Chairperson and Members. In the case of Chairperson, the age of 68 years is mentioned for service. They have also given importance to the advocates, legal practitioners and accountants in Clause 13. On behalf of the lawyers of this country, I am thanking the hon. Minister of Law to include this provision.

Here I would like to quote from 13 sub-clause (i):

"... any person duly authorised by him"

It must be removed and only the legal practitioners and Chartered Accountants may be permitted to appear. I am also welcoming the Clause 13(ii). I quote:

"The Government may authorise one or more legal practitioners."

So, this opportunity is given for the lawyers. I am welcoming this provision also.

I would like to quote Section 15 sub-clause ii:

"Provided further that the National Tax Tribunal may entertain the appeal within sixty days after the expiry of the said period of one hundred and twenty days. "

So, this condonation of delay has to be removed and modified.

I am also having a reservation with respect to Section 15 sub-clause (iv). Those who lost the case want to file an appeal before the National Tax Tribunal. The assessee or the aggrieved person, as the case may be, shall not be allowed to prefer appeal unless he deposits at least 25 per cent of such tax or duty payable on the basis of the order appealed against.

Most of the departmental cases are filed by the department people. They are also deciding in favour of the department. So, to pay 25 per cent is not proper on the part of the affected party. Even in this proposed Bill, disputes with respect to the determination of the rates of duties of Customs and Central Excise are also to be decided.

I want to mention about one case. For example, in Chennai, for a person bringing a watch from abroad, the customs officials fix it at Rs. 30; for the same the DRI fixes it at Rs. 140. For the goods, the customs people fix it at Rs. 3.5 lakh and the DRI people fix it at Rs. 7.5 lakh. For this, the person is arrested and he is put behind the bar and the Government is spending Rs. 150 per day on him. Recently, seven poor, innocent people lost their goods. They were arrested, they were remanded to custody. This is the mindset of the officials. If the officials are filing false cases against the persons and are asking to deposit 25 per cent of the tax or duty before filing appeal is improper, that has to be removed. That provision has to be cancelled. That is my suggestion.

With respect to the constitution of the National Tax Tribunal, I wholeheartedly welcome it. I request the hon. Minister that the Benches may be constituted in four parts of the country and not in 15 High Courts. The Benches are to be constituted in the four regions of the country. The poor people of Kanyakumari or Kashmir cannot reach Delhi and approach the Tribunal. To avoid the expenses and to help the poor litigants and the taxpayers also, this is to be considered. The Government has to seriously think over the erratic valuation by the departmental people of the property and on filing of the cases. So many innocent people are affected. In these circumstances, a way has to be found out. Some modification has to be made to the Bill.

I welcome this Bill.

PROF. M. RAMADASS (Pondicherry): Sir, I wholeheartedly welcome this National Tax Tribunal Bill and convey the appreciation of our Party to the hon. Minister for Law and Justice for bringing this long overdue Bill for this country. We welcome this Bill because its objectives are laudable, its relevance to the present day tax reforms is very high and it serves the purpose of resource mobilisation for the country. As you know, the country today requires vast resources to take up the developmental expenditure of the Government. These resources will have to come through the prompt payment and the prompt collection of tax and non-tax revenue to the Government. This Bill will address this issue.

You know that the fiscal situation in the country warrants that we tap more resources from the hidden and non-hidden sources. One of the reasons why, in spite of all our efforts at tax reforms, the tax revenue is not zooming up is because there are large number of cases pending before the courts and these cases have to be expeditiously dealt with. One way of doing it is to appoint a National Tribunal like this. This has been already recommended by the learned Law Commission in its 115th Report. It has also been recommended by Chowksy Committee report. I think that they are all well-versed in the settlement mechanisms and, therefore, there are no two opinions that the country today, in the present circumstances, requires this National Tax Tribunal Bill. It will have, in my view, at least five important, distinct advantages. Firstly, it will reduce the time involved in litigation. Secondly, it will expedite adjudication of tax cases. Thirdly, it will bring about uniformity in the decision-making process. Fourthly, this mechanism will give scope for judicial scrutiny.

The present settlement mechanism is giving lot of powers to the Tax Tribunal authorities which are headed by the Tax Commissioners. They have their own whimsical fancies of fixing the rates, fixing the levies, assessments etc. There are large number of open complaints against the method of valuation, the method of assessment made by these non-judicial officers heading the Tax Tribunal.

Therefore, by establishing this National Tax Tribunal we are combining both the judicial and non-judicial processes and that is one great advantage of this Bill.

Finally, it will also reduce the work load of High courts because all the cases pending there will now be transferred to the Tribunal. That will expedite the cases pending in the High Courts. Therefore, I agree that this Bill contains lot of merit.

At the same time, I would like to counter one or two points raised by our CPI(M) colleagues. They said that this

[Prof. M. Ramadass]

will be a white elephant and this is providing a place for the retired bureaucrats to seek asylum in these tribunals etc. I would feel that going by the estimates given by various committees on the constitution of National Tax Tribunal Bill, even if you assume that you are going to have 28 benches throughout the country, the total expenditure would amount to only eight crores of rupees whereas if these tax arrears are properly cleared, the Government is expected to get the revenue of more than rupees one lakh crore. How is this going to be a white elephant? After all, the bureaucrats have accumulated knowledge. They have their own wisdom and experience of judicial scrutiny. So, there is nothing wrong in utilising their services even after their retirement. After all, we need persons with wisdom, persons with knowledge and persons with experience. If it can come from retired bureaucrats, there is nothing wrong in appointing them. That is one point I wanted to tell you.

There was a question on the naming of the Bill. One of the learned Members said that this tribunal would deal with both taxes and duties. Therefore, he suggested that this Bill should be called as the National Tax and Duties Tribunal Bill. I would feel that it can be called as the National Revenue Tribunal Bill because out of the total revenue - tax revenue and non-tax revenue - that the Government gets, the non-tax revenue constitutes only five to six per cent of the total revenue and remaining revenue comes from taxes only. Therefore, instead of calling it only National Tax Tribunal Bill, you may call it National Revenue Tribunal Bill.

The second suggestion that I would like to give is about section 15. Section 15 may go contrary to our WTO regime. I am mentioning only those points which have not been touched by others. The WTO regime says that all kinds of disputes with regard to valuation of sales tax, customs duties and other things must be done only by a prompt single mechanism. If this provision is taken, it provides that whatever appeal that can be made, it can be made to the National Tax Tribunal. That means you are bringing in a two-tier mechanism which is not warranted.

Another thing is with regard to appointment of members to the Committee. This Bill says that either he should be a judge or he should be a member of Income Tax Appellate Tribunal for at least seven years. The implicit assumption of this provision is that the members as well as the chairman should have either judicial or non-judicial knowledge, but what about the technical persons? Why are the technical persons not included in this provision to be there in the Commission? After all, tax is a technical matter. There is the concept of tax rate, concept of tax incidence, concept of tax impact and concept of equity in taxation. Therefore, somebody who levies it may not know the

principles of taxation. Tax being a technical subject, some technical experts must also be included in this. I would feel that the persons retired from Indian Economic Service may also be considered along with judicial officers and persons from Income Tax Appellate Tribunal etc.

The Bill does not mention anything about the number of benches. It should be specifically mentioned. Also, the number of members is not properly quoted here. That should also be done. With regard to section 13, I would say that it should include 'a party to an appeal other than Government may either appear in person or authorise one or more company secretaries, cost and works accountants, chartered accountants or advocates.' Only that will give a wider coverage to the Bill.

With these modifications, I support the Bill. This Bill should be passed unanimously by this House.

SHRI P.S. GADHAVI (Kutch): Sir, thank you very much for giving me the opportunity to participate in the debate on this Bill. First of all, I rise to support this Bill.

I would like to invite the attention of the hon. Minister to clause 8 dealing with the Terms of office of Chairperson and Members. The term of office of Chairperson and Members is for five years. Normally, what happens is that retired persons are appointed as Chairperson and Members and this is the tendency everywhere. They should not appoint retired persons. If retired persons are appointed – in case of High Courts, the Judges retire at the age of 62 years – they can serve only for a period of three years. When they are appointed at the age of 66 years or 67 years, then they will be serving for a period of only one year. Therefore, a retired person will not be able to do justice to his service as he should. If they are appointed, they may have the qualifications, they will serve only for a few months. It is also seen in places like Delhi that retired persons would like to be appointed in such Tribunals for the sake of retention of their official accommodation or on the grounds of their children studying in such places. In that case, precaution is required to be taken to see that this type of persons are not accommodated.

Clause 13 deals with 'Appearance before National Tax Tribunal'. According to this clause:

"A party to an appeal other than Government may either appear in person or authorise one or more chartered accountants or legal practitioners or any person duly authorised by him or it to present his or its case before the National Tax Tribunal."

Anybody can be appointed and we do not know whether

he is having the legal knowledge or not. Here, you have to put a restriction that persons who have got the knowledge of law alone will be appointed.

Substantial appeals come before the National Tax Tribunal involving substantial questions of law. As per the present clause, anybody authorised by a party can appear before the Tribunal. There is also an apprehension of people engaging an intermediary in these cases. Therefore, there should be a restriction that persons who have got some legal knowledge only will be appointed.

Clause 15 deals with 'Appeal to National Tax Tribunal'. Clause 15 (1) says:

"An appeal shall lie to the National Tax Tribunal from every order passed in appeal by the Income-tax Appellate Tribunal and the Customs, Excise and Service Tax Appellate Tribunal, if the National Tax Tribunal is satisfied that the case involves a substantial question of law."

Many times, there are other questions which may also require to be appealed: for example, there may be gross irregularities or a question of fact which require to be agitated. As per clause 15 (1), an appeal shall lie to the National Tax Tribunal from every order passed in appeal by the Income-tax Appellate Tribunal and the Customs, Excise and Service Tax Appellate Tribunal, if the National Tax Tribunal is satisfied that the case involves a substantial question of law. In that case, clause 15 goes beyond the Preamble of the Bill and makes the orders passed by the Customs, Excise and Service Tax Appellate Tribunal appealable to the National Tax Tribunal, including orders on anti-dumping matters, subsidy, counter-vailing measures, etc. Moreover, the World Trade Organisation Agreement on Customs, Anti-Dumping, etc., to which we are signatories, requires only one level of prompt judicial review of administrative action. Anti-dumping measures which are required to protect the domestic industries must be decided quickly. If we provide for such matters to be decided by the National Tax Tribunal, it will be a one more tier of appeal which will delay the prompt review required under the clause.

The Committee agrees with the view and suggests that this aspect should be taken care of. My only request to the hon. Minister is that he should take into consideration all the suggestions made by the Committee.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN (Balasore): Thank you, Sir, for giving me this opportunity. As per your instruction, I shall be very brief.

I support this Bill because this is actually our baby. It was introduced during the time of the NDA Government. I will only seek some clarifications from the hon. Minister.

Will the hon. Minister be able to say what is the number of this type of cases pending in all the High Courts in India put together? I think it would have been better if he had mentioned this number in his introductory speech. I would like to know if the Government had made any study with regard to this.

What is the experience of the Government with regard to other such tribunals that have been set up in the past? The Government has many other specialised tribunals set up on the same lines. Has the Government succeeded in achieving the purpose for which each of those tribunals was set up? Have cases been disposed of in a quicker way in the case of those tribunals?

My third point relates to eligibility. Clause 6 lays out the qualification for appointment of Chairperson and other members of the Tribunal. It says, 'A person shall not be qualified for appointment as a member unless he is eligible to be a judge of a High Court'. So, not only a retired judge, but a person who is eligible to become a judge of the High Court also can be made a member of this Tribunal. I would just like to know what the eligibility criterion for becoming a High Court judge is. Also, does the Minister not think that a situation may emerge in which all the members of this tribunal will be only people from the judiciary in India without holding any specialisation in taxation law? Is it not going to create a situation like this?

My next point relates to Clause 8, which lays down the criteria for appointment and retirement. It has been mentioned in Clause 8 that the Chairperson or any other member shall hold office for a term of five years. Here it says that in the case of the Chairperson, he can continue up to the age of 68 years. A High Court judge retires at the age of 65 years. If you are going to appoint a retired High Court judge to the post of Chairperson, are you not going to restrict his term as the Chairperson to a three-year term?

Clause 11 talks of removal of the Chairperson and other members. In (1) (d) it is mentioned that one could be removed who has acquired such financial or other interest as is likely to affect prejudicially his functions as Chairperson or a member of the National Tribunal. The clarification I would like to seek from the hon. Minister is, what could be that financial or other interest which is likely to prejudice his function as the Chairperson.

Clause 4 provides for composition of the National Tax

[Shri Kharabela Swain]

Tribunal. This Tribunal consists of the Chairperson and such number of Members as the Central Government deem fit. Why did you not fix the number in the Bill itself? Why have you left it to the Government? I want to seek the clarification from the Minister on this point.

Clause 7(3) provides that no appointment of the Chairperson or any other Member shall be invalidated merely by reason of any vacancy or any defect in the constitution of the Selection Committee. Why should there be any defect in the Selection Committee? You have clearly mentioned in the Bill that we are going to form this Selection Committee with the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court or another Judge nominated by him, Secretary in the Ministry of Law and Justice, and Secretary in the Ministry of Finance. You have very categorically mentioned as to who would be the Members of the Selection Committee but still you have made a provision that there could be any defect. I do not understand as to how could there be any defect. Hon. Minister may kindly answer this question.

Lastly, I would like to make an appeal to the hon. Minister. As a Member of the Standing Committee on Finance, I have just found that it is not in the High Court, it is actually in the other Tribunals of Customs and Income-tax where there are a very large number of cases which are pending. What are you going to do about that? I would also like to make an appeal to the hon. Minister. When you constitute the National Tax Tribunal, would you kindly make a suggestion to the Tribunal that all the high value cases should be tried on priority basis? We really would save a lot of money, as a lot of money has been blocked. Not all the cases involve a lot of money. There are a few cases which involve a lot of money and the same should be tried on priority basis. What is being done on a regular basis is that such cases are tried by the courts periodically and that is why not many cases have not been resolved.

I do not agree with what Shri Varkala Radhakrishna said that there could be additional Benches in every High Court, which could try everything. I do not agree with that because most of the High Court Judges lack specialisation in such topics involving income-tax law or customs law. Rather, I would say that constitution of the Debt Recovery Tribunal had in a great way been instrumental in reducing the NPA. I am again making an appeal to the Minister that he should make a suggestion to the effect that while constituting the new Tribunal, high value cases should be tried first.

With these words, I support this Bill and request the Minister to give clarifications to the question raised by me.

SHRI P.C. THOMAS (Muvattupuzha): I have been allotted one minute. But I would end my speech within that time limit because hon. Minister is ready to start his reply.

MR. CHAIRMAN: There is a time constraint.

SHRI P.C. THOMAS: This Bill has been good and it has been brought with very good perspectives and objectives. I support the Bill. I would urge upon the Minister to take into consideration the recommendations and suggestions which have been forwarded by the Standing Committee.

The other aspect of the Bill is that normally in all these cases, the delay is occurred with respect to the constitution of the Tribunals and implementation thereof. I would like to say that the implementation should not be delayed in this regard. I would also like to appeal to the Minister in regard to the family courts. There is a provision for family courts and the Government of India has also taken steps to set up family courts in various parts of the country. But the allocation of funds for setting up of the same is not made in accordance with the objectives with which we really want the family courts to be set up. I would like to say that the implementation aspect must be looked into with urgency. I was commenting about the family courts. I urge upon the hon. Minister that in my parliamentary constituency Muvattupuzha, a family court may be set up immediately in the town of Muvattupuzha and the amount may be given urgently.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: What is the necessity of transferring the Chairman or any Member? Kindly reply to this question.

SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ: Sir, I am very grateful to all the hon. Members – Shri K.S. Rao, Shri Singh, Shri Radhakrishnan, Shri Shailendra Kumar, Shri Ram Kripal Yadav, Shri Mandal, Shri Chandrappan, Prof. Ramadass, Shri Swain, Shri Bachi Singh Rawat, Shri Thomas and a few other friends – who have contributed very important points. I appreciate their points. I would like to point out that they have missed some provisions of the Bill.

Let me clarify that this National Tax Tribunal which is likely to be set up is primarily to deal with the appeals that arise out of the two Tribunals already set up - one under the jurisdiction of the Finance Ministry, that is, on the Customs and Excise and Service Tax and the other is under the jurisdiction of my Ministry, the Income-Tax Appellate Tribunal. Hon. Members will appreciate that both the Tribunals are doing very well at their levels. But the matters go to the High Court.

A very senior Member of this House – I have tremendous respect for him - raised a very valid point. He said that the Standing Committee wanted that instead of having this Bill, we should straightaway constitute Special Benches in High Court to hear tax matters. I know, there was a time when the High Courts could provide two Judges as tax specialists to sit together in the Division Bench to decide exclusively on tax matters. Having worked as the Law Minister for three times in this country, I know that there is dearth of tax specialists. The qualifications for the appointment of High Court judges do not make any mention of specialization as criminal, civil or revenue. My experience is that mostly the lawyers practising on civil side come to the Bench and they lack that expert knowledge on tax matters. If there are tax lawyers, tax judges available, I could agree with the recommendations and the suggestions. But the House will appreciate that except in one or two cases, I have written letters after letters to High Courts asking them to constitute Special Benches for tax matters. But they have said that they do not have expert judges and they can provide judges out of the judges available with them.

The NDA Government went into this issue and they wisely brought this Bill by providing that in the matter of tax, they would like to have expert people to deal with appeals also. Now, under article 323B of the Constitution, these matters are now being transferred to the Special Benches of tax in appeal. Appeals of both the Tribunals will go to this National Tax Tribunal. We have carried forward this Bill. We are applying our mind fully as this provision is necessary in the interest of the revenue.

Most of the hon. Members have expressed that a weak treasury means a weak Government. So, the treasury has to be strengthened. Therefore, money has to be paid to the treasury otherwise, a welfare State like India will suffer. This has been shared by all the Members.

Now, let me be very clear about the peripheral issues. In the Financial Memorandum, there is a provision for 15 Benches for Direct Taxes and 10 Benches for Indirect Taxes.

In the Financial Memorandum and in the Financial Expenditure also, it is mentioned there. It is also mentioned in clauses of the Act, particularly about the Division Bench that 'a Bench shall be a Division Bench ordinarily of two people.' Let me again remind you, because I am working also on the Income Tax Appellate Tribunal, that in the Income Tax Appellate Tribunal also the Benches is of two – one Technical Member; and one Judicial Member.

Similarly, clause 5(4) provides that a Bench will consist of two Members. Here also, it will be the same way with two

Members who have been selected out of the two sources of recruitment. That shows what is the source of recruitment. Not many retired people have any scope to come into. Those who are serving in the Income Tax Appellate Tribunal or CEGAT will be appointed to the National Tax Tribunal. Therefore, there is no scope except the Chairman. The Chairman may be a person who has retired from the High Court as a Chief Justice or a Judge of the Supreme Court because the retirement age to the Supreme Court is 65 years, and so, you have, at least, to give him three years. Otherwise, nobody would come. For High Court, the retirement age is 62 years, and so we are giving him, to be a Member or a Chairman, five years. And, he will retire at 68 years. This is one position where the High Court Judge will come. Otherwise, direct recruit people will be derived from two sources of recruitment. One is, these two Tribunals. They are the Members, who are technical as well as judicial, and who go to the Income Tax Appellate Tribunal. All the Chartered Accountants are the Technical Members. The Chartered Accountants are fully aware of the tax provisions. Similarly, Judicial Members are Judges. So, both will be recruited to the National Tax Tribunal, and the direct recruitment means, a few advocates. I cannot annoy my legal community. Otherwise, they will say, "You have barred us from being appointed." Advocates of 10 years standing under the Constitution can be appointed as Judge of the High Court, and similarly, of 10 years or 15 years standing to the Supreme Court.

So, I am leaving room for their selection. The selection will be made by a foolproof system, which exists even today for all the Tribunals, and which is very well accepted. You know, the Government cannot straightaway appoint. For High Court Judges, we consult the Chief Justice of India, and here also, we consult the Chief Justice of India or his nominees. So, it will constitute a Committee of three people in which the Law Secretary and an independent person will be there.

Let me tell you that we are giving more autonomy and independence in this Tribunal because we are not associating the Government, that is, the Finance Ministry. The Finance Ministry is interested in revenue. Their view is not independent and they are an interested party. So, this Tribunal will be exclusively under the domain of an independent Ministry, namely, the Law Ministry, and that inspires more confidence of the litigants. There is always a pressure from the Finance Ministry to recover more and more, but here, we do not have any interest. We are fair; we are fair for both. The Government revenues must come and the clients must get independent justice. The quality of justice cannot be diluted whatever considerations may be. So, this

[Shri H.R. Bhardwaj]

will be a most independent Tribunal and a Division Bench is provided here.

There is a further provision that in matters where there is a difference of opinion like it happens in the court, the third Judge or the Chairman will decide. This happens in the High Courts also. If two Judges sit in the Division Bench and there is a difference of opinion, it is referred to the third Judge, or the Chief Justice himself decides. So, the same provision has been bodily lifted and put into the Bill.

Similarly, there are special Benches. Suppose, there is a big case and very intricate questions are raised before the Bench. There, instead of a Bench of two, there will be a Bench of five, as we do in the Constitutional Benches in the High Courts. Therefore, all eventualities, which happen in the courts, have been taken care of and they have been provided in this Bench also.

Now, about the selection, let me say that our selection process is foolproof. All Tribunals' selection is now being done, whether it is a Company Law Tribunal or a Competition Law Tribunal. The Supreme Court and the Chief Justice are invariably in the picture. Even the last Government tried to have that Company Law and the Competition Law, but the Supreme Court stayed them.

We do not want that situation to take place so that the selection is quick and good people are selected. We have kept the component of judicial consultation at a very high level. So, there should be no apprehension in anybody's mind about the quality, Division Bench and Special Bench.

I now come to the qualification. There was an argument. I am surprised how could it be said that retired persons are being brought into it. Sitting members who are in the Income Tax Tribunal and CEGAT will be promoted if they are found suitable by the Committee. They will invite applications. Let me tell you frankly, there was a recommendation. The Standing Committee did recommend, why do you not consider Chief Commissioners. There is a consensus opinion that they are almost executive members of the Finance Ministry. They do not consider them. They are considered as Income Tax Commissioners. In the first instance they are inducted in the Income Tax Appellate Tribunal. If they are selected there, then we will elevate them in the highest tribunal which is equivalent to almost the High Court. Therefore, if we have differed with the Standing Committee's recommendation, we have done so in the interest of the institution. This is the recommendation we have not agreed to.

The third point was about age. I have submitted that

we cannot really keep the age less than 68 because Supreme Court judges would not come. We cannot keep less than 65 because High Court judges will not come. Even the Chief Justice of the High Court retires at the age of 65. You have to give him three years. He can be re-appointed until the age of 68. These are wholesome provisions. With full respect I may say that for all the tribunals the scheme of retirement and appointment is the same. So, there is nothing new in this.

A question was asked about the total pendency in the High Courts. I am informed that as on the 1st of April, there are about 41471 cases which are pending in different High Courts. They will be transferred to these tribunals. I may also allay the apprehensions of the hon. Members that when these 25 Benches will be constituted, it has to be provided that the Principal Bench will sit in Delhi and then they will spread out according to the location of work. Out of 41,000 cases, we will find how many are in Chennai. So, we will have to make a provision for Chennai, Mumbai and Kolkata separately. Principally the money comes from Mumbai and Chennai. We will have to provide one or two benches there. It is the prerogative of the Chairman. After studying the workload it will be distributed.

The temporary arrangement of a Circuit Bench before 15 days is also provided. Suppose there is a special case which is to be held in a place not in Chennai, not in Andhra Pradesh but somewhere in Madurai, they can be sent there like a circuit court to decide the case. These are all enabling provisions. As the experience will be gained, things can be modified. This is the inception of the tribunal. We can increase Permanent Benches if the workload is such but our desire is, let the tax experts deal with the tax matters. Those who rise from the income tax go to the Income Tax Appellate. Seven years is the qualification. A big safeguard is there. Only those members who have seven years experience in the Tax Tribunal will be appointed in the National Tax Court.

High Courts are over-occupied. You may see every day now, there are vacancies in the High Court. When I took over as Minister in 2005, in the initial years, there were vacancies to the tune of more than 300 in the High Court, which is the half of its strength. I am grappling with those vacancies. I have not been able to fill these vacancies more than half.

18.00 hrs.

It is because as you fill the vacancies, more vacancies occur on the retirement of judges. So, we will not take chance in distributing the workload between the Tribunal as well as

the High Court. It is a very valid concept according to the Constitution. Therefore, I seek your support. You allow me to do this and as it progresses if there are shortcomings, we will come back to you. I have noted all the points.

I once again request you to support. You are a senior Member and you please be kind to me. I am very grateful to you. I assure you that I have a very high regard for your views. There should always be an exception to the general rule. You may be an exception to the intellectual standards of this House and I accept it. So, please agree on this and support it so that it is passed.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That the Bill to provide for the adjudication by the National Tax Tribunal of disputes with respect to levy, assessment, collection and enforcement of direct taxes and also to provide for the adjudication by that Tribunal of disputes with respect to the determination of the rates of duties of customs and central excise on goods and the valuation of goods for the purposes of assessment of such duties as well as in matters relating to levy of tax on service, in pursuance of article 323B of the Constitution and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The House will now take up clause-by-clause consideration of the Bill.

The question is:

"That clauses 2 to 30 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clauses 2 to 30 were added to the Bill.

The Schedule

Amendments made:

Page 10, line 9,-

for "2004"

substitute "2005" (3)

Page 10, line 13,-

for "2004"

substitute "2005" (4)

Page 10, line 26,-

for "2004"

substitute "2005" (5)

Page 10, line 46,-

for "2004"

substitute "2005" (6)

Page 11, line 15,-

for "2004"

substitute "2005" (7)

Page 11, line 44,-

for "2004"

substitute "2005" (8)

Page 12, line 14,-

for "2004"

substitute "2005" (9)

Page 12, line 21,-

for "2004"

substitute "2005" (10)

Page 12, line 30,-

for "2004"

substitute "2005" (11)

Page 12, line 41,-

for "2004"

substitute "2005" (12)

(Shri H.R. Bhardwaj)

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That the Schedule, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

The Schedule, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Clause 1 Short title, extent
and commencement

Amendment made:

Page 1, line 5,-

for "2004"

substitute "2005" (2)

(Shri H.R. Bhardwaj)

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.

Enacting Formula

Amendment made:

Page 1, line 1, -

for "Fifty-fifth"

substitute "Fifty-sixth" (1)

(Shri H.R. Bhardwaj)

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That the Enacting Formula, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

*The Enacting Formula, as amended,
was added to the Bill.*

The long Title was added to the Bill.

SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ: 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.

[English]

SHRI P. KARUNAKARAN (Kasargod): Sir, during the last Session, this House, in the course of a discussion, urged

upon the Government to bring a comprehensive legislation with regard to higher education in our country. It was in the context of a Supreme Court judgement. The House was unanimous about the need for such a legislation.

It is true that the fee structure and the admission policies in regard to higher education differs not only from State to State, but also differs from institution to institution within a State. There was a series of legal battle in the lower courts, in the High Court and even in the Supreme Court. There were also a series of protest by students, parents and teachers demanding for a legislation in this regard.

Sir, education should be a property of the society and it should not be a product for buying and selling. Unfortunately, this has become the order of the day in our country. So, the Government should take immediate steps to bring about a comprehensive legislation within the framework of our federal framework. I would like to request the Government to bring in a legislation in this regard in this Session only.

[Translation]

SHRI SURESH CHANDEL (Hamirpur, Uttar Pradesh): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to draw your attention towards Post graduation Medical Education and Research Institute, Chandigarh. This institute has been playing a prominent role in catering to the health care needs of the entire north India but there has been a substantial rise in the fees charged from the patients due to which the number of patients getting admitted in the institute has come down.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister towards the fact that the governing body decided on 29th September, 2002 that fees should not be increased. Despite this, it was done without raising the issue before the governing body. Such is the situation there that the poor people who visit OPD and are admitted in general ward of that institute are being charged more fees than those in AIIMS of Delhi. As I said earlier, it has resulted in decline in the number of patients coming to the institute and the patients are facing lots inconvenience due to hiked fees.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, on one had the Government of India is spending Rs. 200 crores annually on this institute while on the other, such steps are being taken which would render the institute inaccessible to the poor persons who are being taken for a ride. ... (Interruptions)

Mr. Chairman, Sir, the Government said that it would have a human approach, I believe that it amounts to the ridicule of whole system that a certain decision has been

implemented in an institute without seeking due approval from the governing body. Through you, I request the hon. Minister of Health to intervene and take steps to provide justice and put an end to the injustice being meted out to the poor. The fee hike should be rolled back.

[Translation]

*SHRI M. SHIVANNA (Chamarjanagar): Mr. Chairman Sir, Kannada language along with Kannada culture has a history of over 2000 years. As you are well aware Sir, Kannada language has bagged 7 Jnanapeeth awards, the highest in the country. Revolutionary religious leaders and great writers like Mahaveerjain, Bahubali, Basaveshwara, Akkamahadevi, Sarwajna and others have contributed their might to the development of Kannada language. Similarly popular rulers like Immadipulikeshi, Krishnadevaraya of Vijayanagar, Gangas, Kadambas, Akka Bukka and others have also done their best for the glory of Kannada language. Despite all these factors, the pride place has not been given to Kannada language. If the situation continues like this Kannada language may find a place in the list of endangered languages. Like Sanskrit language Kannada language will also be ignored by the people.

Now, agitations and demonstrations are taking place throughout the State of Karnataka, protesting against the negligence of Kannada language both by the State and the Centre. Six and a half crore Kannadigas are demanding the status of a "classical language" for Kannada. Former Vice Chancellor, writer and social worker Shri D. Javare Gowda, an 86 years old veteran, will be on hunger strike from January 2006. He has cautioned the Centre that he is going to return the Padma Bhooshan award to the Centre if Kannada language is not accorded the status of classical language by 15.12.2005. This popular personality of Karnataka has alleged that we the members here have not raised this issue in this House. The people of Karnataka are eagerly waiting to hear good news from the Government of India. In fact, the Hon. Home Minister Shri Shivraj Patil has given a positive assurance to the people of Karnataka in this regard during his recent visit to the State.

I therefore urge upon the Government of India to seriously consider the cultural heritage of Kannada language and its service to the mankind and to accord the status of classical language to Kannada without any further delay.

*SHRI S. MALLIKARJUNAIAH (Tumkur): Mr. Chairman Sir, just now my friend and colleague Mr. Shivanna has raised a very vital issue in this august House. Mr. D. Javare Gowda,

* Translation of the speech originally delivered in Kannada.

the former Vice Chancellor is very old and he is on fast until death. The people of Karnataka have high respects for him. If some thing happens to him we all will get a bad name. Hence I would like to associate myself with Mr. Shivanna and to request the Centre to look into this matter with all seriousness. Kannada language, which has a long history and heritage, deserves the status of classical language and in fact this is the dream of the people of Karnataka. Government of India took a wise decision to accord the status of classical language to Tamil last year. Once again I urge upon the Government of India to demonstrate their statesmanship in according the status of classical language to Kannada language immediately.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Mallikarjunaih, you may associate with Shri Shivanna.

PROF. K.M. KADER MOHIDEEN (Vellore): Sir, I rise to raise an important issue with regard to my constituency, Vellore.

Vellore Fort is famous for its construction. It is more than 500 years old. It is the only fort that is built of stone in this country. This Fort is known for its beauty and grandeur. It is not only that, but in this the First War of Independence took place on the 10th July, 1806. Tipu Sultan's heirs and his family members were jailed in this Fort. They raised the flag of freedom against the Britishers. More than 500 people were killed. They sacrificed their lives for the sake of our country. Though we say that the First War of Independence took place in 1857, actually the First War of Independence took place at Vellore in 1806. Therefore, in the coming year, that is, on the 10th July of 2006, the second centenary of that great historic event is to come. I urge upon the Government to celebrate that day as the second centenary of the First War of Independence.

In that connection, Sir, the Vellore Fort should be beautified. It has a very beautiful moat also. It is full of water. The waterway to that moat should be desilted and rubbish and other things should be removed. Around the fort there is a park. That park is in a dilapidated condition. That park should be beautified. The Ministry of Tourism and the Ministry of Culture and the Archaeological Survey of India should take all sorts of efforts to beautify that park. This Fort, where the First War of Independence took place in 1806, is described as one of the best secular forts in this country. It is because in that Fort, there is a temple, Jalagandeshwarar Temple, a church and a mosque. Nowhere in this country, from Kanyakumari to Kashmir, will you find such a fort. Therefore, that secular Fort should be beautified and the park should also be beautified. The second century of the First War of Independence should be celebrated in a befitting manner. That is my request to the Government of India.

DR. K.S. MANOJ (Alleppey): Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the Government to the missing of a salvage ship, Jupiter 6, leased by a Mumbai based shipping company, M/s. Pelican Marines Bombay Limited. The ship is missing since 5th September, on its voyage from Namibia to Mauritius. Its crew consists of ten Indian citizens. The information about the whereabouts of the ship is yet to be known. Therefore, I request the Government that arrangements may please be made to direct the authorities concerned for a detailed inquiry in this regard and find out the vessel and the crew immediately.

[Translation]

DR. KARAN SINGH YADAV (Alwar): Mr. Chairman, Sir, certain hospitals have been identified under Ambedkar Medical Assistance Scheme for providing treatment of life threatening diseases of kidney, heart, liver, cancer and brain to the scheduled caste community. Ten big hospitals of the country for this purpose include, the All India Institute of Medical Sciences and PGI, Chandigarh etc. Under the said scheme, the institutes would bear 50 percent of the expenses for the treatment of patients belonging to scheduled castes.

Sir, through you, I would like to draw the attention of the Government towards Sawai Man Singh Hospital in Jaipur, the capital of Rajasthan which has been functional since the last 50 years. It is a super speciality hospital of Rajasthan with 200 beds in which treatment of various critical ailments involving neurosurgery, cardiac surgery and kidney transplant and cancer is provided. For some reason this hospital has not been included among the hospitals identified under the Ambedkar Scheme. Earlier Rajasthan had 16 percent population of scheduled castes which has now risen to almost 25 percent. The scheduled castes people of Rajasthan are very poor and backward in comparison to other states.

Therefore, it is my request to include Sawai Mansingh Hospital of Jaipur among the hospitals identified under Ambedkar Medical Assistance Scheme. Thank you.

DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA (Rajkot): Mr. Chairman, Sir, IOC, Bharat Petroleum and Hindustan Petroleum which fall under the purview of Petroleum Ministry have issued a notification recently that gas connection being provided to several NGO's educational institutions, dharmshalas and charitable institutions being used for cooking purpose by the said bodies, would henceforward be deemed to be covered under the category of commercial gas connection now instead of domestic connection. The said institutions/organizations are social organizations and the said decision of the Ministry has resulted in economic burden on the above said organisations. The LPG connection is being used by such organisations/institutions as cooking gas in hostels, orphanages, girls hostel etc. Earlier they used to get supply of LPG under domestic gas connection while now they are getting LPG gas cylinder under the category of commercial institutions. This move is facing intense countrywide opposition. A circular to this effect was issued 2-3 years ago also but at that time the NDA Government had withdrawn the same much to the relief of the said social organisations. Now that circular has been issued again.

Sir, through you, I request the Government, the hon. Minister of Petroleum that this move amount to adding burden on the institutions which receive donations from the public and carry out works of social welfare. This notification should be withdrawn so that such social organizations may get the cooking gas at normal rates and hence could be exempted from facing the added financial burden.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: The House now stands adjourned till 11 a.m. tomorrow.

18.21 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven
of the Clock on Wednesday, November, 30, 2005/
Agrahayana 9, 1927 (Saka)*

ANNEXURE-I

Member-wise Index to Starred Questions

Sl. No.	Member's Name	Question Number
1	Shri Argal, Ashok	91,
2	Shri Baxla, Joachim	98,
3	Shri Chakraborty, Swadesh	85,
4	Shri Chakraborty, Ajoy	88,
5	Shri Chowdhary, Pankaj	90,
6	Shri Dasgupta, Gurudas	94,
7	Shri Gangwar, Santosh	93,
8	Shri Gehlot, Thawarchand	91,
9	Shri Gohain, Rajen	86,
10	Shri Karunakaran, P.	82,
11	Shri Kumar, Nikhil	99,
12	Shri Mahtab, Bhartruhari	85,
13	Smt. Mane, Nivedita	88,
14	Shri Moghe, Krishna Murari	83,
15	Shri Mollah, Hannan	89,
16	Shri Oram, Jual	92,
17	Shri Panda, Prabodh	95,
18	Shri Parste, Dalpat Singh	97,
19	Shri Paul, Balasaheb Vikhe	84,
20	Shri Patle, Shishupal	96,
21	Shri Ramakrishna, Badiga	87,
22	Shri Rao, Rayapati Sambasiva	96,
23	Shri Rawale, Mohan	92,
24	Shri Rawat, Ashok Kumar	95,
25	Shri Reddy, Magunta Sreenivasulu	90,
26	Shri Reddy, Suravaram Sudhakar	86,
27	Shri Sai Prathap, A.	83,
28	Dr. Sarma, Arun Kumar	100,
29	Shri Sathyanarayana, Sarvey	87,
30	Shri Shivanna, M.	93,
31	Shri Singh, Chandra Bhushan	99,
32	Shri Singh, Mohan	94,
33	Smt. Sujatha, C.S.	98,
34	Shri Surendran, Chengara	97,
35	Shri Thomas, P.C.	89,
36	Shri Tripathi, Chandra Mani	82,
37	Shri Veerendrakumar, M.P.	101,

Member-wise Index to Unstarred Questions

Sl. No.	Member's Name	Question Number
1	2	3
1	Shri Athithan, Dhanuskodi R.	873, 950, 954, 971, 1027
2	Shri "Baba", K.C. Singh	886,
3	Shri "Bachda", Bachi Singh Rawat	923, 1035
4	Shri Aaron Rashid, J.M.	908, 1027,
5	Shri Acharia, Basudeb	1027,
6	Shri Adsul, Anandrao V.	863, 988, 1036, 1060, 1074,
7	Dr. Agarwal, Dharendra	946, 1027,
8	Shri Ahir, Hansraj G.	877, 1023,
9	Shri Angadi, Suresh	889,
10	Shri Argal, Ashok	985,
11	Shri Athawale, Ramdas	928, 1007, 1048, 1067,
12	Shri Bansal, Pawan Kumar	890, 997, 1041, 1062, 1075,
13	Shri Barad, Jashubhai Dhanabhai	880, 965, 990, 1044, 1065,
14	Shri Barman, Ranen	894, 984, 1075,
15	Shri Baxla, Joachim	894,
16	Shri Bhagora, Mahavir	895,
17	Shri Bhakta, Manoranjan	935, 1009, 1050, 1057,
18	Shri Bhargava, Girdhari Lal	910, 995, 1040, 1061,
19	Shri Bishnoi, Jaswant Singh	936, 971,
20	Shri Borkataky, Narayan Chandra	872,
21	Shri Budholiya, Rajnarayan	873, 915,
22	Shri Chakraborty, Swadesh	978,
23	Shri Chakraborty, Ajoy	970, 1022,
24	Shri Chandrappan, C.K.	980, 1027,
25	Shri Chavan, Harishchandra	873, 904,
26	Shri Chavda, Harisinh	947, 1027,
27	Dr. Chinta Mohan	903, 916,
28	Shri Chitthan, N.S.V.	1030,
29	Shri Chowdhary, Pankaj	999,
30	Shri Chowdhury, Adhir	868, 996, 1030,
31	Smt. Deo, Sangeeta Kumari Singh	882, 947,
32	Dr. Dhanaraju, K.	1027,
33	Shri Dhinda, Sukhdev Singh	942,
34	Shri Gadhavi, P.S.	948, 1016,

1	2	3
35	Shri Gaikwad, Eknath M.	974, 1002, 1025, 1027, 1033,
36	Smt. Gandhi, Maneka	913, 971,
37	Shri Ganesan, L.	901,
38	Shri Gehlot, Thawarchand	975, 1027,
39	Shri Gohain, Rajen	969, 1013,
40	Smt. Gulshan, Paramjit Kaur	942,
41	Dr. Jagannath, M.	898,
42	Dr. Jatiya, Satyanarayan	894,
43	Smt. Jayaprada	905, 940,
44	Shri Jha, Raghunath	861, 900, 986, 1034,
45	Shri Jindal, Naveen	939,
46	Shri Jogi, Ajit	909, 994, 1039,
47	Shri Kaswan, Ram Singh	919,
48	Shri Khaire, Chandrakant	875, 955, 1027, 1047,
49	Shri Khan, Sunil	862, 951,
50	Shri Khandelwal, Vijay Kumar	1027,
51	Shri Khanduri, Avsm, Maj. Gen. (Retd.)	885, 962,
52	Shri Khanna, Avinash Rai	1076,
53	Shri Kharventhan, S.K.	857, 960, 1018, 1054, 1071,
54	Shri Koshal, Raghuveer Singh	870, 953,
55	Shri Krishna, Vijoy	943,
56	Shri Krishnadas, N.N.	912, 979,
57	Shri Kumar, Nikhil	983, 1030,
58	Shri Kumar, Virendra	931,
59	Shri Kuppusami, C.	1027,
60	Shri Kurup, Suresh	888, 1012,
61	Shri Kushawaha, Narendra Kumar	891, 898, 907, 927, 980,
62	Shri Lahiri, Samik	878, 956,
63	Sr. Libra, Sukhdev Singh	942,
64	Shri Madam, Vikrambhai Arjanbhai	1080,
65	Shri Mahajan, Y.G.	927,
66	Shri Mahato, Bir Singh	876, 946,
67	Smt. Maheshwari, Kiran	915,
68	Shri Mahtab, Bhartruhari	968, 1021,
69	Shri Mahto, Tek Lal	899,

1	2	3
70	Shri Majhi, Parsuram	874,
71	Prof. Malhotra, Vijay Kumar	972,
72	Shri Mandal, Sanat Kumar	856, 950, 1019, 1053, 1070,
73	Smt. Mane, Nivedita	974, 1025, 1055, 1072,
74	Shri Masood, Rasheed	871, 930, 1013, 1038,
75	Ms. Mcleod, Ingrid	858, 984,
76	Shri Meghwal, Kailash	870, 933,
77	Shri Mehta, Alok Kumar	867, 893,
78	Dr. Mishra, Rajesh	860, 998,
79	Shri Moghe, Krishna Murari	966,
80	Shri Mohan, P.	906, 1027
81	Shri Mohite, Subodh	937, 1010,
82	Shri Munshi Ram	891, 907, 980, 992, 1027,
83	Shri Murmu, Hemial	929, 969, 1013, 1035,
84	Shri Murmu, Rupchand	923,
85	Shri Naik, Shripad Yesso	1077,
86	Shri Nayak, Ananta	887, 924,
87	Smt. Nayak, Archana	1027, 1076,
88	Shri Oram, Jual	976, 1026, 1056,
89	Shri Owaisi, Asaduddin	904, 944, 1013, 1051, 1068,
90	Shri Palanisamy, K.C.	864, 961, 1020, 1030, 1078,
91	Shri Panda, Prabodh	906, 935, 1035,
92	Shri Parste, Dalpat Singh	964, 1033,
93	Shri Paswan, Virchandra	883, 1014,
94	Shri Patel, Jivabhai Ambalal	896,
95	Shri Patel, Kishanbhai V.	904, 920, 941, 1002, 1004,
96	Shri Pathak, Brajesh	905, 908, 917, 946, 980,
97	Shri Patil, Balasaheb Vikhe	967,
98	Shri Patil, Shrinivas Dadasaheb	1027,
99	Shri Patle, Shishupal	891, 898, 907, 980,
100	Shri Pingle, Devidas	921, 1005,
101	Shri Prasad, Harikewal	896,
102	Smt. Purandeswari, D.	1030,

1	2	3
103	Shri Rajendran, P.	949,
104	Prof. Ramadass, M.	898, 938, 1011,
105	Shri Ramakrishna, Badiga	935, 983, 989, 1027,
106	Shri Rana, Kashiram	1027,
107	Shri Rao, K.S.	911,
108	Shri Rao, Rayapati Sambasiva	981, 1029, 1058, 1073,
109	Shri Rathod, Haribhau	1076,
110	Shri Ravichandran, Sippiparai	1035, 1055,
111	Shri Rawale, Mohan	959,
112	Shri Rawat, Ashok Kumar	891, 907, 980, 1028,
113	Shri Rawat, Kamla Prasad	899,
114	Shri Reddy, G. Karunakara	879, 957, 1072, 1075,
115	Shri Reddy, M. Raja Mohan	905, 1027,
116	Shri Reddy, Magunta Sreenivasulu	973, 1024,
117	Shri Reddy, N. Janardhana	1022,
118	Shri Reddy, Suravaram Sudhakar	980, 1027,
119	Shri Sai Prathap, A.	1027, 1033,
120	Shri Saradgi, Iqbal Ahmed	925, 1006,
121	Dr. Sarma, Arun Kumar	963, 1031, 1059,
122	Shri Saroj, Tufani	902,
123	Shri Satpathy, Tathagata	898,
124	Shri Scindia, Jyotiraditya M.	918, 1003, 1045, 1066,
125	Shri Sethi, Arjun	914, 926,
126	Mohd. Shahid	898,
127	Shri Shivajirao, Adhalrao Patil	884, 990, 1037, 1069, 1078,
128	Shri Shivanna, M.	977, 1027,
129	Prof. Shiwankar, Mahadeorao	891, 898, 907, 980, 992,
130	Shri Siddeswara, G.M.	866, 952,
131	Shri Sidhu, Navjot Singh	924, 1036,
132	Shri Singh, Chandra Bhushan	1030,
133	Shri Singh, Dushyant	922,

1	2	3
134	Shri Singh, Ganesh	865, 987, 1035,
135	Shri Singh, Ganesh Prasad	893, 1035,
136	Shri Singh, Kirti Vardhan	974, 1022, 1025, 1027, 1033
137	Shri Singh, Mohan	990, 993, 1030,
138	Shri Singh, Prabhunath	869, 1001, 1043, 1064,
139	Shri Singh, Sugrib	904, 920, 941, 1002, 1004,
140	Shri Singh, Uday	932,
141	Shri Singh, Rajiv Ranjan "Lalan"	903,
142	Shri Sonowal, Sarbananda	892, 966, 1002,
143	Shri Subba, M.K.	859, 1037,
144	Shri Sugavanam, E.G.	984, 1027, 1035, 1046, 1076,
145	Shri Suklabaidya, Lalit Mohan	945, 1015,
146	Shri Suman, Ramji Lal	916,
147	Shri Surendran, Chengara	982, 1027,
148	Shri Swain, Kharabela	898, 1022,
149	Smt. Thakkar, Jayaben B.	881, 958, 1017, 1052,
150	Shri Thomas, P.C.	979,
151	Shri Thummar, V.K.	1027,
152	Shri Tripathi, Chandra Mani	972, 1077,
153	Shri Tripathy, Braja Kishore	914, 1000, 1042, 1063, 1076,
154	Shri Vallabhaneni, Balashowry	934, 1008, 1027, 1049, 1079,
155	Shri Veerendrakumar, M.P.	984, 1032,
156	Shri Verma, Bhanu Pratap Singh	871, 991, 1038,
157	Shri Verma, Ravi Prakash	899, 988, 990, 1035, 1036,
158	Shri Yadav, Mitrasen	984,
159	Shri Yadav, Ram Kripal	897,
160	Shri Yerrannaidu, Kinjarapu	861, 1027,

ANNEXURE-II*Ministry-wise Index to Starred Questions***Agro and Rural Industries****Commerce and Industry**

89, 96

Development of North Eastern Region**Home Affairs**

82, 83, 84, 85, 88, 93, 94, 97, 98

Human Resource Development

86, 87, 90, 95, 99

Shipping, Road Transport and Highways

:

91, 92, 100

Small Scale Industries

:

Tribal Affairs

101

Urban Employment and Poverty Alleviation*Ministry-wise Index to Unstarred Questions***Agro and Rural Industries**

884, 931, 952, 970, 971, 975, 1016, 1023, 1024

Commerce And Industry856, 880, 866, 873, 875, 876, 879, 888, 892, 896,
902, 914, 918, 922, 924, 933, 934, 935, 950, 954,
979, 981, 984, 989, 1003, 1021, 1046, 1047, 1057,
1058, 1067, 1072, 1073**Development of North Eastern Region**

363, 1059

Home Affairs858, 859, 861, 862, 867, 868, 872, 880, 889, 900,
903, 904, 905, 907, 908, 920, 932, 937, 939, 940,
951, 955, 960, 961, 966, 972, 976, 980, 982, 986,
991, 996, 999, 1001, 1002, 1008, 1013, 1014, 1022,
1025, 1027, 1030, 1036, 1038, 1041, 1042, 1051,
1060, 1061, 1062, 1064, 1076, 1078, 1079**Human Resource Development**

:

857, 869, 871, 874, 881, 886, 897, 898, 899, 911,
915, 916, 926, 941, 944, 946, 947, 957, 965, 967,
969, 973, 974, 977, 983, 988, 992, 1004, 1005, 1006,
1012, 1017, 1028, 1032, 1033, 1035, 1037, 1043,
1048, 1049, 1050, 1052, 1054, 1063, 1065, 1066,
1068, 1070, 1071, 1074, 1080**Shipping, Road Transport and Highways**863, 864, 870, 878, 882, 883, 885, 887, 901, 906,
910, 917, 921, 923, 925, 928, 929, 930, 936, 942,
943, 945, 948, 949, 953, 956, 958, 959, 962, 968,
978, 985, 987, 990, 993, 995, 998, 1007, 1009, 1010,
1015, 1018, 1020, 1029, 1031, 1034, 1040, 1045,
1056, 1077**Small Scale Industries**

:

919, 927, 1044, 1069

Tribal Affairs865, 877, 895, 909, 912, 913, 938, 964, 994, 1011,
1026, 1053**Urban Employment and Poverty Alleviation**890, 891, 893, 894, 997, 1000, 1019, 1039, 1055,
1075.

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