

# LOK SABHA DEBATES

## (English Version)

**Eighth Session**  
**(Fourteenth Lok Sabha)**



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LOK SABHA

[English]

Thursday, August 10, 2006/Sravana 19, 1928 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock

[MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

REFERENCE BY THE SPEAKER

**Re: Homage to martyrs of Freedom Movement and victims of Atom Bombs dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki**

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Hon. Members, may please recall that 64 years ago, on 9th August, 1942 the 'Quit India' movement was launched by the Father of the Nation. The clarion call of 'do or die' given by Mahatma Gandhi inspired the country to renew its struggle for freedom from colonial subjugation.

The 'Quit India' movement galvanized the masses to defy the colonial power and made it realise the futility of its continued occupation of the country. On this occasion, we pay our respectful homage to the Father of the Nation. Mahatma Gandhi and to all those who laid down their lives for the cause of freedom of our country.

Hon. Members, as you are aware, atom bombs were dropped on the Japanese cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki on 6th and 9th August, 1945 respectively. On the 61st anniversary of this horrific event, we recall the loss of thousands of lives and millions who were injured and crippled for life. Hiroshima and Nagasaki should remind us about the need for the world to bring about total nuclear disarmament.

The House may now stand in silence in the memory of the freedom fighters and the victims of the atomic holocaust.

11.01 hrs.

*The Members then stood in silence for a short while.*

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Please take your seats.

(Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura) : I have given notice to suspend the Question Hour. . . .(Interruptions) A letter of senior Member of this House to the hon. Prime Minister. . . .(Interruptions).

[Translation]

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV (Jhanjharpur) : It is an open insult of the Speaker. . . .(Interruptions).

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Please sit down. I am on my legs.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA (Rajkot) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, relief package is not being given despite flood in Gujarat while the same is being given to Andhra Pradesh. . . .(Interruptions).

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : It is a serious matter of great public concern in this country. Lakhs and lakhs of our citizens are suffering. I will allow at the first opportunity after the Question Hour. I promised you that. Please allow me to conduct the Business of the House. I am not minimising its importance. Why do you think that I am not concerned? I, myself, have suggested that this is such an important matter. I will allow you.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : No. 241.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I implore you that Please take your seats.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing will be recorded.

(Interruptions)\*

\*Not recorded.

MR. SPEAKER : Let there be order in the House. There are important matters and questions.

*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Do not record anything.

*(Interruptions)\**

MR. SPEAKER : I am again earnestly appealing to all sections of the House to be patient.

*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : The House stands adjourned till 11.30 a.m.

11.06 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned till thirty minutes past Eleven of the Clock.*

11.30 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha re-assembled at thirty minutes past Eleven of the Clock.*

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Q. 241.

*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Please sit down. How can I carry on with the Question Hour?

*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura) : Sir, I have given a notice. . . .*(Interruptions)*.

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing will go on record.

*(Interruptions)\**

MR. SPEAKER : I have not allowed anybody to speak. Let us go on to the important Question.

*(Interruptions)*

\*Not recorded.

## WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

### Hike in Prices of Petroleum Products

\*241. SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO :  
SHRI BALASHOWRY VALLABHANENI :

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

(a) whether the Government has evolved any policy to ensure that there is no corresponding steep hike in prices of petroleum products in the country when there is any hike in the international market;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the concrete measures proposed to be taken to protect the interest of the common man?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MURLI DEORA) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Government has evolved a policy of equitable burden sharing amongst the three stakeholders, namely, the consumers, the PSU oil companies and the Government, to ensure that there is no corresponding steep hike in prices of petroleum products in the country, whenever there is any hike in the international market. This policy has been evolved in the context of unprecedented increase in international oil prices, with a view to moderate its impact on the common man. Though the Indian basket of crude price has almost doubled since end 2004, Government took a decision not to increase the prices of PDS kerosene and domestic LPG to protect the interests of the weaker sections of society and the common man.

We import 76% of our crude oil requirements. The total under recovery on account of escalated international prices of crude oil is estimated at Rs. 73,500 crores for the current year. Government along with oil companies have decided to absorb 87.5% of this burden. Only the balance 12.5% is to be borne by the consumers by way of a modest increase in petrol and diesel prices.

Besides the above, Government has taken the following measures to protect the interest of the common man :

- Central taxes, namely, excise duty and customs duty on kerosene and LPG have been completely removed.

- Customs duty on petrol and diesel has been reduced to 7.5% as against 20% in May 2004.
- LPG has been placed under declared goods category reducing the sales tax to a maximum of 4%.
- Based on the request made to the State Governments to moderate the impact of price rise on the common man, ten State Governments, namely, Andhra Pradesh, Delhi, Goa, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu (diesel only), Uttaranchal, Manipur and Assam, have reduced the sales tax on Petrol and Diesel to reduce the burden of the recent price hike.

#### **Rail Freight Corridor**

\*242. SHRI HARIN PATHAK :  
SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

- (a) whether any feasibility study report from RITES for the proposed rail freight corridors on Delhi-Mumbai and Delhi-Howrah routes have been received by the Government;
- (b) if so, the details and the findings thereof;
- (c) whether the Union Government has received any proposals from various State Governments, particularly from Gujarat, for providing connectivity in the proposed freight corridors;
- (d) if so, the details thereof, State-wise; and
- (e) the action taken/proposed to be taken by the Railways in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI LALU PRASAD) :

(a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Feasibility Study for development of Dedicated Multimodal High Axle Load Freight Corridors with Computerized Train Control System on Western and Eastern Routes was completed by RITES in January 2006. The cost of the project is estimated as Rs. 22,000 crores approximately. The Feasibility Study has concluded that the projects are financially viable.

(c) to (e) In May 2005, Government of Gujarat had proposed to route Western Corridor from Mumbai to Delhi via Vadodara, Ahmedabad and Palanpur so as to provide rail connectivity Ports located in Gujarat. The proposed route of Western Corridor is in accordance with the suggestion of Government of Gujarat. In September 2005, Government of Punjab had represented for extension of Dedicated Freight Corridor from Delhi to Amritsar. It has been decided that the Dedicated Freight Corridor on Eastern route will originate from Ludhiana in Punjab on the basis of Feasibility Study done by RITES.

[Translation]

#### **Development of Tourist Circuits**

\*243. SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA :  
SHRI JASUBHAI DHANABHAI BARAD :

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Government has formulated any scheme for integrated development of tourist circuits;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the details of the development works sanctioned under the said scheme alongwith the financial assistance provided during 2004-05 and 2005-06, State/Union Territory-wise;
- (d) whether the Union Government has received any proposals/requests from the State Governments/Union Territories Administration for financial assistance for the development of tourist circuits in their States/U.Ts during the current year; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof and the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Ministry of Tourism has formulated a scheme of 'Product/Infrastructure Development for Destinations and Circuits' which includes integrated development of tourist circuits. The Ministry of Tourism extends central financial assistance to State/UT Governments for integrated development of tourist circuits, which are prioritized in consultation with

them. The central financial assistance is subject to a ceiling of Rs. 8.00 crore for development of each tourist circuit. The State/UT Governments concerned are responsible for making the land available including providing external infrastructure and subsequent management and maintenance of assets created with central assistance.

(c) The details of the projects sanctioned for development of tourist circuits and the financial assistance provided by the Ministry of Tourism to various States/UTs

during the years 2004-05, and 2005-06 are given in the enclosed Statement-I and II respectively.

(d) and (e) The projects relating to development of tourist circuits prioritized in consultation with the State/UT Governments for financial assistance during the current year is given in the enclosed Statement-III. So far the Ministry of Tourism has sanctioned Rs. 1730.14 lakh and released Rs. 1406.80 lakh for development of the four tourist circuits as given in the enclosed Statement-IV.

#### Statement-I

*Statement showing Projects Sanctioned for Development of Tourist Circuits and Financial Assistance Provided by the Ministry of Tourism to the State Governments/Union Territories during the year 2004-05*

(Rs. in lakhs)

Sr. No.	Project	Amount Sanctioned	Amount Released
1	2	3	4
<b>ANDHRA PRADESH</b>			
1.	Integrated Development of Kurnool Tourism circuit consisting of Alampur, Orvakallu, Belum Caves, Erragudi, Gandikota, Tadipatri, Srisailam, Mahanandi, Mantralayam, Ahobilam, Allagadda, Jaganathgutta	800.00	640.00
2.	Integrated Development of Tourism Circuit Hyderabad-Nalgonda-Khammam	797.47	637.98
Total		1597.47	1277.98
<b>ASSAM</b>			
1.	Development of Tourism circuit of Pobitora-Kola-Bhomara-Golaghal-Amoni	437.75	350.00
Total		437.75	350.00
<b>CHATTISGARH</b>			
1.	Integrated Development of Eco-Tourism circuit of Amarkantak, Ratangarh, Ramgarh	648.35	518.68
Total		648.35	518.68
<b>HIMACHAL PRADESH</b>			
1.	Integrated Development of Shimla Tourist circuit of Shimla-Kufri-Naldhera	800.00	640.00
2.	Integrated Development of Kangra Tourist circuit of Mcleodganj-Bhagsu Nath-Dal Lake-Triund area-Nagal area in Palampur-Andretta	800.00	640.00
Total		1600.00	1280.00

1	2	3	4
<b>JAMMU AND KASHMIR</b>			
1. Tourist circuit at Lavdora Qazigund-Assari-I-Sharief Hazratbal-Hassan villa		800.00	640.00
<b>Total</b>		<b>800.00</b>	<b>640.00</b>
<b>JHARKHAND</b>			
1. Development of Tirthankar-Bodhisatwa circuit		494.57	393.33
<b>Total</b>		<b>494.57</b>	<b>393.33</b>
<b>KARNATAKA</b>			
1. Integrated Development of Badami-Aihole-Pattadkal-Mahakoota circuit in North Karnataka		800.00	640.00
2. Integrated Development of Melkote-Belur-Halebid-Sravan Belgola circuit in South Karnataka		798.50	638.80
<b>Total</b>		<b>1598.50</b>	<b>1278.80</b>
<b>KERALA</b>			
1. Development of Northern Regional Circuit comprising of Kappad beach, Thirunelly, Pythamal, Nilambur, Athirappalli waterfalls, Parambikulan		795.56	636.48
2. Integrated Development of High Range Tourism circuit comprising Pythanmala, Parassinikadavu, Muthanaga, Nilambur, Nedumkandam, Vagamon		783.07	626.45
<b>Total</b>		<b>1578.63</b>	<b>1262.93</b>
<b>MADHYA PRADESH</b>			
1. Sound and Light show at Orcha in the Gwalior-Orcha-Khajuraho circuit		149.07	99.00
<b>Total</b>		<b>149.07</b>	<b>99.00</b>
<b>MAHARASHTRA</b>			
1. Integrated Development of Konkan Riviera circuit Part-II Erangal, Dhamapur, Amboli, Ubhadanda and Akhshi Nagaon		685.87	548.70
<b>Total</b>		<b>685.87</b>	<b>548.70</b>
<b>MEGHALAYA</b>			
1. Development of Tourism circuit of Shillong-Mawjrong-Cherrapunji-Bymihat		674.15	576.59
<b>Total</b>		<b>674.15</b>	<b>576.59</b>

1	2	3	4
<b>MIZORAM</b>			
1.	Development of Tourist circuit in Aizwal Chhiahtlang-Serchhip-Hnabthial-Lungiei	634.00	20.00
Total		634.00	20.00
<b>NAGALAND</b>			
1.	Development of Tourist circuit consisting of Chumdim, Piphema, Kohima, Wokha, Dyong and Mokochung	766.50	613.20
Total		766.50	613.20
<b>ORISSA</b>			
1.	Integrated Development of Buddhist Circuit at Lalitgiri, Ratnagiri, Udaigiri and Langudi	740.67	592.52
Total		740.67	592.52
<b>RAJASTHAN</b>			
1.	Development of Tourist Circuit for NCR (National Capital Region) consisting of Alwar-Bharatpur-Shergarh etc.	738.00	590.40
2.	Integrated Development of tourist circuit in Hadoti region of Jhalawar-Kota-Baran-Jalera-Bundi	725.10	580.00
Total		1463.10	1170.40
<b>SIKKIM</b>			
1.	Development of Buddhist circuit at Tashingding, W-Sikkim	181.00	144.80
2.	Development of circuit in West Sikkim (Yaksan-Dantam)	396.00	316.00
Total		577.00	460.80
<b>TAMIL NADU</b>			
1.	Integrated Development of Eco tourism circuit at point calimere wild life sanctuary, Muthupet	368.00	294.40
Total		368.00	294.40
<b>UTTRANCHAL</b>			
1.	Integrated Development of Badrinath Dham Tourist circuit consisting of Raval Niwas, Sankirtan Bhawan, Tapatakund, ISBT etc.	702.09	561.67
2.	Development of Barsu-Dayara-Raithal circuit	536.36	429.08
Total		1238.45	990.75



**Statement-II**

*Statement showing Projects Sanctioned for Development of Tourist Circuits and Financial Assistance released by the Ministry of Tourism to the State Governments/Union Territories during the year 2005-06*

(Rs. in lakhs)

Sr. No.	Project Name	Amount sanctioned	Amount released
1	2	3	4
<b>ANDHRA PRADESH</b>			
1.	Intergrated Development of lower Krishna Valley Buddhist Circuit in the sectors of Chandawaram-Unadvalli-Nagarjunkonda	800.00	240.00
2.	Intergrated Development of Araku-Vizag Tourism circuit	771.86	617.50
<b>Total</b>		<b>1571.86</b>	<b>857.50</b>
<b>ARUNACHAL PRADESH</b>			
1.	Development of Dibrugarh-Passighat-Daying Ering Wildlife Sanctuary circuit	299.00	239.20
2.	Development of Siang Circuit consisting of Likabali-Basar-Along-Yumburg	778.94	623.00
<b>Total</b>		<b>1077.94</b>	<b>862.20</b>
<b>ASSAM</b>			
1.	Development of Manas-Guwahati-Kaziranga circuit	781.00	624.80
2.	Development of NE circuit. (Kaziranga-Guwahati-Brahmaputra river side)	280.00	224.00
3.	Integrated Development of Dhubri-Goalpara-Guwahati-Silchar-Karimganj circuit	432.28	345.82
<b>Total</b>		<b>1493.28</b>	<b>1194.62</b>
<b>BIHAR</b>			
1.	Development of Bodhgaya-Rajgir-Nalanda circuit	768.12	614.50
2.	Integrated Development of Kanwaria circuit from Sultanganj to Deoghar	443.12	354.49
<b>Total</b>		<b>1211.24</b>	<b>968.99</b>
<b>CHATTISGARH</b>			
1.	Integrated Development of Raipur-Arang-Sirpur-Narayanpur-Girodpuri-Sheorin Arayan-Kharod-Mathar-Ratanpur-Tata sector circuit	714.46	571.56
<b>Total</b>		<b>714.46</b>	<b>571.56</b>
<b>HIMACHAL PRADESH</b>			
1.	Intergrated Development of Chamba Circuit consisting of Dalhousie-Khajjiar-Chamba-Bharmour-Manimahesh-Kihar-Bhaudali etc.	790.00	632.00

1	2	3	4
2.	Integrated Development of Mandi-Bilaspur Circuit consisting of Surendranagar-Barot-Jogindernagar-Janheti-Karasol	800.00	240.00
Total		1590.00	872.00
<b>JAMMU AND KASHMIR</b>			
1.	Integrated Development of Lakhanpur-Basholi-Bani-Sarthal circuit	799.69	639.00
2.	Establishment of Temporary camps/other facilities at Shri Amarnath ji	700.00	560.00
3.	Integrated Development of Tourist Circuit of Jammu-Rajouri-Poonch	688.00	550.00
4.	Integrated Development of Tourist Circuit of Bhaderwah-Kishtwar-Sinthan-Srinagar	691.13	552.90
Total		2878.82	2301.90
<b>JHARKHAND</b>			
1.	Integrated Development of Tourist circuit at Ranchi-Netarhat-Betta-Ranchi	798.00	638.40
Total		798.00	638.40
<b>KARNATAKA</b>			
1.	Integrated Development of Tourist Circuit comprising of Mangalore-Ullal-Udupi-Kollur-Hoonavar-Murdeshwara-Kundapur-Gokarna	698.00	209.40
Total		698.00	209.40
<b>KERALA</b>			
1.	Beach Tourism Circuit in Kerala consisting of Shankumugham beach-Cherai beach-Nattika beac-Uzhuppilangadu beach-payyambalam beach-Meenkunnu beach	798.00	638.40
2.	Integrated Development of Pilgrim Tourism circuit consisting of Verkala-Kovalam-Ernakulam comprising Temples, Church and Mosque	704.45	563.56
3.	Integrated Development of Alappuzha-Punnamadu circuit	800.00	640.00
Total		2302.45	1841.96
<b>MADHYA PRADESH</b>			
1.	Integrated Development of Gwalior-Orcha-Khajuraho circuit	461.09	368.87
2.	Integrated Development of Gwalior-Shivpuri-Chanderi circuit	800.00	640.00
3.	Integrated Development of Sanchi-Bhopal-Bhojpur-Bhimbetka-Panchmarhi circuit	715.45	572.00
Total		1976.54	1580.87

1	2	3	4
<b>MAHARASHTRA</b>			
1.	Konkan Riviera Part-III Circuit consisting of Ganaptipule-Valneswar-Sindhudurg-Tarkari	594.17	475.33
<b>Total</b>		<b>594.17</b>	<b>475.33</b>
<b>MIZORAM</b>			
1.	Development of Mizoram-Lengpui-changsil, Kolasib, Vairengte circuit	634.00	487.20
2.	Integrated Development of Tourist circuit in Northern part of Mizoram	783.92	627.00
<b>Total</b>		<b>1417.92</b>	<b>1114.20</b>
<b>NAGALAND</b>			
1.	Development of Mt. Pauna range Circuit (Cailihei, Tangeuhebung, Hezwaki)	250.00	125.00
2.	Integrated Development of Tourist circuit of Mokokchung Longleng and Mon	747.95	598.36
<b>Total</b>		<b>997.95</b>	<b>723.36</b>
<b>ORISSA</b>			
1.	Integrated Development of Bhubaneswar-Dhaulti-Puri-Konark circuit	720.09	576.07
<b>Total</b>		<b>720.09</b>	<b>576.07</b>
<b>RAJASTHAN</b>			
1.	Integrated Development of Mewar-Vagad circuit comprising of Udaipur-Rajsamand-Chittoregarh-Banswara-Doongarpur Districts	580.00	464.00
2.	Development of Brijbhumi religious tourism circuit comprising of Barsana, Jheel, Kalia Devi, Poonchari, Neelkanth, Bharthrihari	477.07	381.65
<b>Total</b>		<b>1057.07</b>	<b>845.65</b>
<b>SIKKIM</b>			
1.	Development of Tourist circuit in East Sikkim consisting of Tangu, Gnathan, Yakla, Aritar-East Sikkim	355.00	284.00
2.	Tourist Trekking trails and other tourism infrastructure at Dara, Sang-Martam, Tunjurey in East Sikkim	418.42	334.73
3.	Tourist spots Development schemes for Rakdong Tintek Belt in East Sikkim	678.30	542.64
4.	Development of Tourist circuit of Rangpo-Singtam-Lamatar-Samddruptse-Rumtek	800.00	640.00
<b>Total</b>		<b>2251.72</b>	<b>1801.37</b>

1	2	3	4
<b>TAMIL NADU</b>			
1.	Development of Adi Sankara Tourist circuit comprising of Mangadu-Thiruvotriyur-Chidambaram-Mayladuthurai-Kumbakonam-Tiruchirappali-Tirchendur	443.00	354.00
2.	Integrated Development of tourist circuit comprising of Palani-Madurai-Trichendur-Swamimalai-Tiruttani	798.97	639.17
3.	Development of Tourist circuit comprising of Chozhanattu Thirupathigal etc.	500.00	400.00
4.	Development of Jain Theertha Kshetras circuit comprising of Tirumalai, Muttupatti, Mettupatti, Sittannavasal Melchittamur, Tirunathar kunru etc.	192.00	48.00
<b>Total</b>		<b>1933.97</b>	<b>1441.57</b>
<b>TRIPURA</b>			
1.	Integrated Development of West North Tripura Circuit consisting of Kamalapur-Manu-Dharamnagar-Bagpassa	252.33	202.00
<b>Total</b>		<b>252.33</b>	<b>202.00</b>
<b>UTTAR PRADESH</b>			
1.	Development of Mirzapur-Chunnar-Robertsganj under Vindhya Tourist circuit	800.00	640.00
2.	Infrastructure and Destination Development of Dudhwa National Park in Distirct Kheri and Katerniaghat Wildlife Sanctuary under Dudhwa Katerniaghat tourist circuit	417.60	334.08
<b>Total</b>		<b>1217.60</b>	<b>974.08</b>
<b>UTTARANCHAL</b>			
1.	Development of Nainital-Almora-Ranikhet-Tourist Circuit	697.51	558.00
2.	Integrated Development of Hemkund Sahib-Ghangharia Valley of Flowers circuit in Chamoli	653.54	522.83
<b>Total</b>		<b>1351.05</b>	<b>1080.83</b>

**Statement-III**

*Statement showing the Projects Prioritised in Consultation with State Governments/UTs. during the year 2006-07 for Development of Tourist Circuits*

1	2	3
		2. Buddhist circuit
		3. Kalahasti-Kanipakam-Talakona Circuit
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	1. Tinsukia (Assam)-Namsai-Tezu-Walong-Dongi
3.	Assam	1. Orang-Tespur-Nameri-Bhalukpong-Tawang Tourist Circuit.

Sr. No.	State	Circuit
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1. Beach circuit Vizag

1	2	3
4.	Bihar	1. Bhalukpong-Tawang Tourist Circuit.
5.	Chhattisgarh	1. Jagdalpur circuit
6.	Goa	1. North Goa Circuit 2. South Goa Circuit
7.	Gujarat	1. Junagarh-Veraval Porbandar
8.	Haryana	1. Kurukshetra
9.	Himachal Pradesh	1. Eco tourism in Tribal Areas 2. Pilgrim Circuit
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	1. Development of Tourist Circuit at Kargil
11.	Jharkhand	1. Ranchi-Ramgarh-Rajarappa-Tenughat-Hazaribagh-Padma Itkhori
12.	Karnataka	1. Bijapur-Biddar-Gulbarga 2. Southern Wilderness Circuit
13.	Kerala	1. Southern Eco-Tourism
14.	Madhya Pradesh	1. Amarkantak-Mandla-Dindoi 2. Hasangabad-Maheswar-Onkareshwar-Barwani
15.	Maharashtra	1. Buddhist Circuit including Elephanta 2. Fort Circuit
16.	Manipur	1. Imphal-Bishnupur-Sendra-Churachandpur
17.	Meghalaya	1. Williamnagar-Jakrem-jowai 2. Shillong-Cherrapunji-Jowai Mawplong
18.	Mizoram	1. Southern-Hrangchalkawn, Tawipui'S', Lawngtlai, Saiha, Vawmbuk, sangau, S. Vanlaiphai

1	2	3
		2. Eastern-Keitum, N. Vanlaiphai, East Lungdar, Khawbung, Farkawn, Zokhawthar, Hnahlan.
19.	Nagaland	1. Zunheboto-Tuensang-Kiphiri 2. Governor's camp (Wokha)-Nui Land Area (Dimapur)-Jalukie (Peren).
20.	Orissa	1. Bhubaneswar-Puri-Konark 2. Simplipal-Chandipur-Talsari-Panchlingameshwar 3. Araku valley-Sonebeda-Koreput-Malkagri
21.	Punjab	1. Freedom Struggle Circuit (Delhi-Amristar) 2. Pilgrim Circuit
22.	Rajasthan	1. Eco-Tourism circuit 2. Floodlighting of monuments
23.	Sikkim	1. Development of Tourist Centers at Phodang and Mangan in North Sikkim 2. Development of Assam Lingzey and Khedi Trek Route in East Sikkim
24.	Tripura	1. Development of North West Tripura Circuit
25.	Uttar Pradesh	1. Agra-Fatehpur Sikri-Mathura 2. Varanasi-Sarnath 3. Brajbhoomi-Vrindavan
26.	Uttaranchal	1. Rishikesh-Haridwar (Mega Project) 2. Bindsar-Bajjnath-Manesar
27.	West Bengal	1. Freedom Circuit 2. Tea Tourism 3. Beach circuit

**Statement-IV**

*Statement showing the projects sanctioned by the Ministry of Tourism to State Governments for  
Development of Tourist Circuit during the year 2006-07*

(Rs. in Lakhs)

Sr. No.	State	Project	Amount Sanctioned	Amount Released
1.	Gujarat	Integrated Development of Tourist Circuit on Junagarh-Veraval- Porbandar-Dwarka	329.83	263.86
2.	Karnataka	Integrated Development of Wilderness Tourism Circuit	226.88	204.20
3.	Punjab	Integrated Development of freedom circuit	784.45	627.56
4.	West Bengal	Integrated Development of "Tea Tourism Circuit" in North Bengal	388.98	311.18
<b>Total</b>			<b>1730.14</b>	<b>1406.80</b>

[English]

**Construction of Malls and Marketing Complexes**

\*244. SHRI M. RAJA MOHAN REDDY :  
SHRI HARIKEWAL PRASAD :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether sizeable land belonging to the Railways in lying vacant in the country;

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

(c) whether the Railways propose to construct malls and marketing complexes on it;

(d) if so, the details of the sites identified for the purpose;

(e) the time schedule for construction of malls/marketing complexes; and

(f) the revenue expected to fetch from the development of these sites?

Railway	Vacant Land (in ha.)
Central	2479
East Central	4454
East Coast	188
Eastern	1518
Northern	2899
North Central	713
North Eastern	5875
Northeast Frontier	3466
North Western	375
Southern	2287
South Central	3902
South Eastern	85
South East Central	3260
South Western	2854
Western	7460
West Central	1031
<b>Total</b>	<b>42846</b>

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI LALU PRASAD) :

(a) and (b) Railway have 42,846 hectares of vacant land located mostly in longitudinal strips along the track. This will largely be required by Railways for its own operational requirements in future. Zone-wise details of vacant Railway land are as under :-

(c) No, Sir. Railways have however been using its vacant land for various uses till such time such land is required for Railways' operational works. Some vacant land parcels where potential exists are also taken up for

property development through transparent bidding process. Shopping center/marketing complex may also come up as a part of such property development depending upon the commercial potential of the space.

(d) to (f) Do not arise.

[Translation]

#### Modernisation of Signalling Systems

\*245. SHRI JASWANT SINGH BISHNOI :  
SHRI M. SREENIVASULU REDDY :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Railways have chalked out any plan for modernisation of signalling systems for safer, efficient and faster train operation;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the funds allocated and spent thereon during each of the last three years;

(c) the progress made so far with regard to installation of various modern signalling systems;

(d) whether the Railways have also taken any steps to improve safety at the level crossing gates; and

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

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI LALU PRASAD) :

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Following works have been planned for modernisation of signalling systems for safer efficient and faster train operation :

S. No.	Item	Progress made as on 30th June, 2006
1.	Replacement of overaged Signalling Assets by Relay or Electronic Interlocking Systems	3460 Stations
2.	Complete Track Circuiting at all Block Stations on A, B, C, D, D spl. and E spl. routes	3254 Stations
3.	Train Protection and Warning System (TPWS)	In progress over 250 Route Kms.
4.	Provision of Block Proving by Axle Counter (BPAC)	746 Block Sections
5.	Anti-Collision Device (ACD)	In progress on North east Frontier Railways
6.	Automatic Signalling with continuous Track Circuiting	1497 Route Kms (3217 Track Kms.)
7.	Computer based Centralised Traffic Control	Works awarded in Kanpur-Ghaziabad section
8.	Train Management and Information System	1 Location

The details of fund allocated and utilized for last three years is given as under :

Year	Funds allocated under Signaling and Telecom Plan-Head (In crores of Rs.)	Funds utilized (In crores of Rs.)
2003-2004	710.98	691.65
2004-2005	963.45	819.16
2005-2006	1172.28	1047.57

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) Railways have completed Interlocking of 7779 level crossing gates as on 30.06.2006.

#### Import of Tanks by ONGC

\*246. SHRI BHUVANESHWAR PRASAD MEHTA : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether embezzlement of crores of rupees in the name of import of tanks for carrying liquid nitrogen in ONGC has come to the notice of the Government;

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

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

(d) if so, the outcome thereof; and

(e) the follow-up action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MURLI DEORA) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (e) Do not arise.

#### **Cultural Institutions for Research Work**

\*247. SHRI SRICHAND KRIPLANI :

SHRIMATI KALPANA RAMESH NARHIRE :

Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the details of institutions which are facilitating research work under various fields of culture in the country, State-wise;

(b) whether the Government proposes to set up more such institutions in the country;

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

(d) the time by which these are likely to be set up;

(e) whether any assessment has been made about the contribution of such institutions in propagation and development of culture; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER FOR TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI) : (a) A list of institutions under the Ministry of Culture which are engaged in research work is given in the enclosed Statement along with their location and the area of research.

(b) There is no decision at present to set up more such institutions.

(c) and (d) Does not arise.

(e) and (f) The working of various institutions under the Ministry of Culture is assessed through following mechanism :-

(i) Annual reports reflecting the activities and achievements of the institute;

(ii) Performance budget reflecting physical and financial achievements in respect of each institute;

(iii) Outcome budget introduced from the year 2006-07;

(iv) Continuous discussion and monitoring during meetings of the Governing Bodies, General Bodies, Finance Committees, etc.

#### **Statement**

S. No.	Name of the Organization	State/UT	Main Area of Research
1	2	3	4
1.	Nava Nalanda Mahavihara, Nalanda	Bihar	Higher studies in Pali and Buddhism
2.	Nehru Memorial Museum and Library	Delhi	Modern Indian History
3.	National Museum Institute of History of Art, Conservation and Museology	Delhi	Art, conservation and museology
4.	Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts	Delhi	Arts in all its forms and culture
5.	Central Institute of Buddhist Studies, Leh	Jammu and Kashmir	Buddhist Studies



1	2	3	4
6.	Maulana Abul Kalam Azad Institute of Asian Studies, Kolkata	West Bengal	Central Asian Studies and on life and works of Maulana Azad
7.	Anthropological Survey of India, Kolkata	West Bengal	Anthropology
8.	Asiatic Society, Kolkata	West Bengal	Cultivation and dissemination of knowledge
9.	Central Institute of Higher Tibetan Studies, Sarnath	Uttar Pradesh	Tibetan Culture and Buddhist Studies
10.	National Research Laboratory for Conservation of Cultural Property, Lucknow	Uttar Pradesh	Method of conservation

### Centres for Disabled Persons

\*248. SHRI BRAJESH PATHAK :

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY :

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

(a) the number of centres functioning for the upliftment of disabled persons in the country, State/UT-wise and location-wise;

(b) the financial assistance allocated and released by the Government to these centres during each of the last three years and the current year, centre-wise;

(c) the utilization of financial assistance released to these centre and the number of persons benefited during the said period, centre-wise;

(d) whether the Government has received any complaints regarding misutilisation of funds by such centres during the said period;

(e) if so, the details thereof and the action taken against such centres; and

(f) the measures taken by the Government for proper utilization of funds by these centres?

THE MINISTER OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MEIRA KUMAR) : (a) The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment is managing and funding 5 Composite Regional Centres (CRCs), 4 Regional Rehabilitation Centres for Persons with Spinal Injuries (RRCs), 126 District Disability Rehabilitation Centres (DDRCs) and 11 District Rehabilitation Centres (DRCs).

However, 2 DRCs have been taken over by the State Governments and 61 DDRCs have been transferred to NGOs. These Centres not only provide comprehensive rehabilitation services to the Persons with Disabilities at the grass-root level but also render technical assistance and guidance to State Government institutions/agencies besides conducting camps for distribution of aids and appliances and corrective surgeries.

(b) to (e) Information is being collected.

(f) The Ministry has established norms for utilization of funds, maintenance of accounts and disbursement of grants. In addition, the accounts are annually audited by the Chartered Accountants and physical and financial progress of the centres is inspected by the State and the Central Government officials from time to time.

### Pricing of Natural Gas

\*249. SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN :

SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH "LALAN" :

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

(a) whether the prices of natural gas are being determined under the Administered Pricing Mechanism;

(b) if so, the facts thereof;

(c) whether the prices of natural gas has been increased under the said system during the last three years;

(d) if so, the details of such increase in terms of percentage;

(e) whether while determining the prices under the said system, the production cost is taken into account; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MURLI DEORA) : (a) and (b) The price of the gas produced by ONGC and OIL from the fields given to them by the Government on nomination basis is being fixed by the Government under the Administered Pricing Mechanism (APM).

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The APM gas price was increased with effect from 1.7.2005 by 12.28%. The price was further increased by 20% for APM gas consumers other than power and fertilizer sector consumers with effect from 6.6.2006. The details are as follows :

(i) **Increase w.e.f. 1.7.2005**

(Rs./MSCM\*)

Region	Price before 1.7.05	Price w.e.f. 1.7.05
North Eastern Region	1710	1920
Rest of the country	2850	3200

(ii) **Increase w.e.f. 6.6.06 for APM gas consumers other than power and fertilizer sector consumers**

(Rs./MSCM\*)

Region	Price before 6.6.06	Price w.e.f. 6.6.06
North Eastern Region	1920	2304
Rest of the country	3200	3840

\*thousand standard cubic metre

(e) and (f) No, Sir. In terms of the Gas Pricing Order of 1997, the APM gas price was linked to the price of a basket of fuel oils with a view to achieving 100% fuel oil parity price by 2000 - 01. However, the gas prices could not be revised in line with this mechanism. Government decided in May 2005 to increase the APM gas price from Rs. 2850/MSCM to Rs. 3200/MSCM (from Rs. 1710/MSCM to Rs. 1920/MSCM for North Eastern Region) on ad-hoc basis subject to the determination of producer price of

ONGC and OIL by the Tariff Commission. It was also decided that for the APM gas consumers other than power and fertilizer sector consumers, the gas price will be progressively increased over the next three to five years of reflect the market price.

[English]

**Finalisation of Eleventh Defence Plan**

\*250. SHRI EKNATH MAHADEO GAIKWAD :  
SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE :

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government failed to finalise the Tenth Defence Plan (2002-2007) in time as reported in *The Times of India* dated July 6, 2006;

(b) if so, the reasons for the delay;

(c) whether the Government has now taken any steps to finalise the Eleventh Defence Plan (2007-2012) which is scheduled to begin from 2007 in time; and

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

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) and (b) The Tenth Defence Plan projections were formulated by the Ministry of Defence and an overall Plan size was accepted by the Ministry of Finance in December 2004 subject to the actual allocation for Defence being dependent largely on resources available with the Government at the relevant point of time, capacity to utilize funds, pace of expenditure, contractual agreements and other committed liabilities.

(c) and (d) After detailed discussions with the Services and HQ IDS, the Ministry of Defence has formulated the 11th Defence Plan which is currently under consideration of the Ministry of Finance.

[Translation]

**Capacity Utilisation of Ordnance Factories**

\*251. SHRI RAKESH SINGH : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has set up a Selection Committee for selection/identification of companies in the private sector for conferring the status of Raksha Udyog

Ratnas (RURs) as per the recommendations of Kelkar Committee;

(b) if so, the details alongwith the guidelines prescribed for the purpose;

(c) the details of the companies selected/identified for conferring the status of RURs;

(d) whether the capacity utilisation of the Ordnance Factories will be affected in case the defence production business is shifted to the private sector; and

(e) if so, the steps taken by the Government to ensure full utilisation of the capacities available to the Ordnance Factories?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Selection Committee has been set up with Shri Prabir Sengupta, Director, Indian Institute of Foreign Trade as Chairperson. Other Members of the Committee include three independent Technical, Financial and Management experts, representatives of Defence Services, Defence (Finance) and Defence Research and Development Organisation. The guidelines prescribed for the purpose are given in the enclosed Statement.

(c) No "RUR" has been selected as on date.

(d) and (e) There is no proposal to shift Defence production business from the Ordnance Factories to the Private Sector. In order to ensure optimum utilization of available capacities in the Ordnance Factories, Government has taken various steps which include modernization, increased investment in 'in-house' Research and Development and encouraging co-development and co-production for new products required by the Armed Forces.

#### Statement

The salient features of the prescribed guidelines for selection of "RUR" are as follows :-

(a) Company registered under the Companies Act, which is a manufacturing concern can apply in the prescribed form for being selected as an Industry "RUR" for defence production. The

application shall be submitted to the Department of Defence Production.

(b) All such applications shall be examined and scrutinized by a Committee constituted by the Department of Defence Production.

(c) The Committee shall be provided with technical support, scrutiny and examination of the application by an organization like Engineers India Ltd. (EIL), which will be selected by the Department of Defence Production.

(d) Secretarial support to the Committee shall be provided by the Supply Wing under Department of Defence Production.

(e) The Members of the Committee, barring the Member Convener, shall have a tenure of two years. the tenure can be extended with the approval of Raksha Mantri.

(f) The applications received by 30th September 2006 of the calendar year shall be examined and the Committee shall give its recommendations latest by 31st March next year.

(g) The Committee shall make recommendation in respect of each application indicating clearly whether the applicant should be recognized as "RUR" or not based on the criteria set forth for the purpose.

(h) The recommendations of the Selection Committee shall be placed before the Defence Acquisition Council (DAC) for acceptance. Once the DAC accepts the recommendations, the Company shall be recognized as "RUR" for purposes of defence production.

(i) A manufacturing company once approved by DAC as "RUR" shall enjoy the status of "RUR" for a period of five years. The status can be renewed for a period of three years subject to the condition that the Selection Committee recommends the same.

(j) After selection as "RUR", the Company shall sign an agreement with the Ministry of Defence on the Code of Best Practices to be followed by them.

**Criteria for Selection :**

- (i) Public Limited Indian Company registered for minimum ten years with foreign holding not exceeding 26% excluding FII.
- (ii) Companies with Capital assets in India not less than Rs. 100 crores and turnover not less than Rs. 1000 crores for each of the past three years. (For this purpose, the group of companies engaged in manufacture will be treated as one company).
- (iii) A minimum credit rating equivalent to CRISIL/ICRA – "A".
- (iv) Company with consistent profitable financial record showing profits in at least three years of the last five years and with no accumulated losses.
- (v) Companies with established track record in engineering (including software) and manufacturing for real value addition – Not a trading company/agency.
- (vi) Companies with established R and D Base or willing to invest in R and D as decided by the Regulatory Authority.
- (vii) Companies with units/divisions with established Quality Control System meeting various quality certifications and standards as laid down from time to time. Current standards should include ISO 9001 and ISO 14001 and preferably ISO 18001 also. The system should enable self-certification by select Industry "Champions".
- (viii) Companies with security infrastructure meeting relevant requirements authorized by Government agencies.
- (ix) The company shall either possess a licence/LOI for production of Defence items in accordance under the Industries (Development and Regulation) Act, 1951 or obtain the same within six months of application for seeking "RUR" status, wherever required.

*[English]***Security and Relief Measures in Railways**

\*252. SHRI B. VINOD KUMAR :

SHRI SHRINIWAS DADASAHEB PATIL :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Railways have received any complaints regarding disbursement of compensation to the victims and their families of the recent bomb blasts in Mumbai;

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

(c) whether the disaster management system within Railways was subjected to a review in the light of the Mumbai blasts;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Railways are contemplating any fresh measures to strengthen the security at railway stations and in trains in view of the recent bomb blasts in Mumbai;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) the details of stations and trains selected for provision of such security measures initially alongwith the funds earmarked for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI LALU PRASAD) :

(a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) to (f) Existing Disaster Management Plan in the Railways are adequate enough to deal with such disasters. However, following preventive measures are taken :

All the important stations over Zonal Railways are to be covered under Bomb Detection Plan. Instructions have been issued recently to All Railways to procure such equipment such as Bomb detection equipment and Close Circuit Television (CCTVs) Cameraas for installation on important stations. Many of the Railways already have Hand-held metal detectors, Door-Frame Metal Detectors and Dog Squads.

Two additional Companies of Railway Protection Special Force have been deployed in Mumbai (Central and Western Railway) after the above blasts. Besides additional force has been mobilized to Mumbai from adjoining divisions in Western and Central Railway. Close Circuit Television Cameras (CCTVs) at 14 Railway stations in Mumbai have been installed to keep surveillance in Railway premises. In addition, 17 Sniffer dogs are at present deployed to conduct anti-sabotage checking in Mumbai. Intensive publicity and public awareness campaign alerting and educating all passengers to remain vigilant against any unidentified/unclaimed suspicious objects lying inside coaches and platforms and to report to Government Railway Police (GRP)/Railway Protection Force (RPF)/Railway officials immediately in case of detection by them is being undertaken. RPF staff have also been provided with Hand Held Metal Detectors to conduct checking at Railway stations. Close liaison with GRP and State Police is being maintained to provide effective security to passengers and passenger area.

Steps are also being taken to upgrade RPF Training centres with a view to improve quality of training. A comprehensive intelligence-orientation programme for the RPF is already under-way.

(g) Railway Protection Force is providing as on date escort parties in 1390 selected trains, in co-ordination with the State Governments, for which an average of 4,268 staff are deployed. 480 stations are also given additional security of Railway Protection Force with deployment of 2,705 personnel daily. These deployments are in addition to the Government Railway Police (GRP) personnel deployed on trains and the railway premises, in order to further strengthen the security. The offenders apprehended by Railway Protection Force (RPF) staff are forwarded to the concerned Government Railway Police (GRP) with detailed report regarding the offence for registration of cases and further legal action. The entire railway system is thus covered by the Railway Protection Force (RPF) and the State Police.

A proposal for providing modern equipment like Bomb Disposal Kits, Deep Search Metal Detectors, Hand Held Metal Detectors and X-ray Scanner Machines for checking luggage of passengers, is under active consideration of

the Ministry of Railways and the cost thereof will be worked out in consultation with various agencies.

*[Translation]*

#### **Fund for Defence Production**

\*253. SHRI SAJJAN KUMAR :  
DR. RAJESH MISHRA :

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has taken any decision regarding creation of a Fund to be used by Small and Medium Enterprises to carry out design and development work in the production of defence equipment as recommended by Kelkar Committee;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the time by which it is likely to be created; and

(d) if not, the reasons for the delay?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANABD MUKHERJEE) : (a) and (b) The Government has accepted the recommendation of the Kelkar Committee for providing assistance to Small and Medium Enterprises to carry out design and development work for defence production by evolving a scheme for the purpose and making adequate provision in the Budget.

(c) The scheme is expected to be operational shortly.

(d) Does not arise.

*[English]*

#### **Supply of Piped Natural Gas**

\*254. SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA :  
SHRI RAGHUVVEER SINGH KOSHAL :

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

(a) the progress made in the formulation of natural gas pipe-line policy so far;

(b) whether the Government has any plan to extend natural gas supplies through pipe-line networks in the country;

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

(d) if not, the steps taken or being taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MURLI DEORA) : (a) The policy for development of natural gas pipelines is under finalisation in consultation with various stakeholders. In this regard two meetings have been held in the Ministry in the recent past with the industry on 2nd June and 4th July 2006.

(b) to (d) Gas pipelines in the country have been laid and are being laid by the companies on commercial considerations. The objective of the proposed policy is to promote investment from public as well as private sector in natural gas pipelines to facilitate open access for all

players to the pipelines network on a nondiscriminatory basis, promote competition among entities and secure the consumer interest in terms of gas availability and reasonable tariff for natural gas pipelines. The development of network would, inter alia, depend upon the availability of gas and necessary tie-ups for gas sourcing and marketing. At present, part from Gail (India) Limited (GAIL), other entities like Gujraat State Petronet Limited (GSPL) and Assam Gas Company Limited (AGCL) are engaged in transmission of natural gas. The details of the existing natural gas transmission pipeline network and proposed gas pipelines of GAIL are given in the enclosed Statement. GSPL and AGCL have their pipeline networks in Gujarat and Assam respectively. Besides these companies which are engaged in gas transmission pipelines, a number of entities are engaged in the business of local or city gas distribution.

#### Statement

##### *GAIL's major existing natural gas pipelines*

Sl.No.	Name of Pipeline	States through which the pipeline passes
1.	Hazira-Vijaipur-Jagdishpur Pipeline	Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh
2.	Gas Rehabilitation Expansion Project (GREP)	Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Haryana and Uttar Pradesh
3.	Dahej-Vijaypur Pipeline (DVPL)	Gujarat and Madhya Pradesh
4.	Thulendi-Phulpur Pipeline	Uttar Pradesh

##### *Gail's proposed natural gas pipelines*

Sl. No.	Name of Pipeline	States through which the pipeline is proposed to pass
1.	Dahej-Uran Pipeline	Gujarat and Maharashtra
2.	Dabhol-Parvel Pipeline	Maharashtra
3.	Vijaipur-Kota-Mathania	Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan

#### Central/State Air Universities

\*255. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal to set up Central and State Air Universities as recommended by an Expert Committee;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the decision is likely to be taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL) : (a) to (c) There is no proposal with the Ministry of Civil Aviation to set up a Central Aviation University. State Governments of Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh have shown interest in setting up Aviation Universities. The proposals are at preliminary stage at present.

[Translation]

**Diversification of Business by ONGC**

\*256. DR. CHINTA MOHAN :  
SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL :

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

(a) whether the Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Ltd. (ONGC) was established to find oil and natural gas reserves in the country;

(b) if so, whether after entering into the retail business, the main objectives of the ONGC have been hampered;

(c) if so, whether the Government has asked ONGC to stop its retailing business and focus on exploration of oil and gas reserves;

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

(e) whether by this move of the Government, the role of ONGC as the integrated player in the oil market is likely to be shelved; and

(f) if so, the future strategy adopted/being adopted by ONGC in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MURLI DEORA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) to (e) In addition to concentrating on its areas of core competence in exploration and production of oil and gas, Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC) has been exploring various options for diversification of its activities by forward and backward integration, and in this context has signed the Memoranda of Understanding (MOU)/Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with various agencies. Various projects relating to power generation, oil refinery, petrochemicals, LNG transportation, etc., envisaged in these MOUs are at a conceptual stage. However, ONGC has been advised to keep its focus on its core competence which is in the business of exploration and production.

ONGC had been granted authorization for marketing of Motor Spirit (MS) and High Speed Diesel (HSD) in

accordance with the guidelines issued by the Government in the Resolution of 8.3.2002. ONGC envisaged setting up a total of 1100 Retail Outlets (ROs) in the country to take benefit of complete value chain integration in line with such models followed by global oil majors.

(f) ONGC is repositioning itself to foster the principle of relational enterprise through partnerships/strategic alliances/joint ventures with preferred partners and adopt a business strategy which relies on leveraging company skills and assets with focus on core business areas and opportunity – specific diversification.

ONGC has also forayed into overseas acreages for securing equity oil through its wholly owned subsidiary, ONGC Videsh Limited. In addition, a subsidiary of ONGC, Mangalore Refinery and Petrochemicals Limited (MRPL) is carrying out downstream functions on behalf of ONGC. At the same time, for risk mitigation and adding to its hydrocarbon value chain, ONGC has ventured into integration activities.

[English]

**Cultural Agreement with Foreign Countries**

\*257. SHRI P.C. THOMAS : Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of foreign countries with which the Government has signed Cultural Agreements;

(b) the number out of them with which the Government has developed Cultural Exchange Programmes;

(c) the amount of grant-in-aid sanctioned to the friendship cultural societies for organizing Cultural Exchange Programmes during each of the last three years;

(d) whether the Government has received any proposals for organizing Cultural Exchange Programmes during the current year; and

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

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI) : (a) and (b) Government of the Republic of India has entered into Cultural Agreements

with 118 countries. Cultural Exchange Programmes have been developed with 86 of them.

(c) No Grant-in-aid is sanctioned to the friendship cultural societies for organizing Cultural Exchange Programmes. However, these societies are given Grant-in-Aid for their cultural activities with the object of fostering closer friendship and cultural contacts between India and the foreign country concerned. During the last three years, following amounts of Grant-in-Aid had been sanctioned to the friendship cultural societies:

2003-04	Rs. 44.26 lakhs
2004-05	Rs. 24.14 lakhs
2005-06	Rs. 42.79 lakhs

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) Details are given in the Statement enclosed.

#### **Statement**

1. Glimpses of India Week to be held in Seoul, Korea in October – November 2006. A Food Festival, Manipur dances, Seminar on Buddhism and Photographic Exhibition, Indian Puppet Exhibition, Handicraft and Handloom Exhibition and Film Festival have been planned for the India Week.
2. It is proposed to hold the 'Days of Polish Culture in India' in the 1st half of 2007. Sangeet Natak Academy has been appointed as the nodal agency for organizing the events.
3. The Days of Ukrainian Culture in India to be organized during 2006-2007. Details are being worked out in consultation with ICCR.

*[Translation]*

#### **Appointment of Chief of Defence Staff**

\*258. SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY :  
SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU :

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Government has taken any decision regarding appointment of Chief of Defence Staff;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if no, the time by which a final decision is likely to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) No, Sir. The matter is under consideration.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) As the issues involved in the appointment of Chief of Defence Staff are complex and sensitive in nature, a process of consultation with various political parties has been initiated with a view of having wider consultation. In view of the above, no time limit for taking a decision in the matter can be specified at this stage.

*[English]*

#### **Merger of Air India and Indian Airlines**

\*259. SHRI SWADESH CHAKRABORTTY : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Government proposes to merge Air India and Indian Airlines into a single entity;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the Government has appointed financial advisors to look into the merger issue of these airlines;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) the time by which these airlines are expected to be merged; and
- (f) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to safeguard/protect the interests of the staff of these airlines?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL) : (a) to (e) The proposal for merger of the two airlines is under active consideration of the Government. Further, the Committee on merger of Air India and Indian Airlines constituted by Air India Board has appointed M/s. Accenture India Private Limited as Consultants. The consultants have indicated that they would be able to complete the initial work related to pre-merger activities in 10 weeks time from the date of award of their mandate, which would enable companies to prepare a detailed note to the Government for its approval. After receipt of Government approval, the



necessary merger process will be taken up. The exact timeframe for completion of the merger would be determined after obtaining the required approvals.

(f) The Consultant has been asked by Air India as part of its terms of reference to look into issues involved in integration of manpower resources and recommend suitable methodology for this purpose.

*[Translation]*

#### **Exodus of Scientists**

\*260. PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA :  
SHRI CHANDRA MANI TRIPATHI :

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

- (a) whether exodus of defence scientists from the country is increasing;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether a number of defence projects have been delayed due to the high attrition rate in the sector; and
- (d) if so, the steps being taken by the Government to check exodus of defence scientists?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) and (b) Due to increased opportunities available in private sector and abroad, some scientists in Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) leave the job. However, the numbers of such scientists is not significantly high.

(c) There has been no substantial impact of such attrition on completion of DRDO project. The deficiencies are made up by normal recruitments.

(d) After the Fifth Pay Commission, some incentives were given to the scientists which include two additional increments and Professional Update Allowance. The matters of Pay Scales and other allowances/incentives will be considered by the Sixth Pay Commission.

#### **Installation of Surveillance System**

1829. SHRI CHANDRABHAN SINGH : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Government is considering to install surveillance system in Jaguar fighter aircraft;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the funds earmarked for this purpose;
- (d) whether tenders have been invited for installation of surveillance system in aircraft;
- (e) if so, the details thereof; and
- (f) the time by which it is likely to be installed?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) and (b) Government have approved in principle procurement of Medium Altitude Dual Spectrum Recce pods with ground stations.

(c) Necessary fund for the procurement is available in the budget.

(d) and (e) The Request for Proposal (RFP) was issued to various vendors in February, 2006. Four vendors have responded to the RFP.

(f) the procurement is made in accordance with the established Defence Procurement Procedure which envisages a time frame of 2-3 years for conclusion of contract.

*[English]*

#### **Marketing of Products by HPF**

1830. SHRI RANEN BARMAN : Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Hindustan Photo Films Manufacturing Company Limited (HPF) has been engaging outside agencies for marketing of its products in the private consumer segments, keeping its own marketing infrastructure idle;
- (b) whether instead of importing and marketing Byrata paper, allegedly enjoying favourable business potential in the country, HPF has entrusted outside agencies with exclusive rights for its import and marketing in the country;
- (c) if so, the details and the reasons therefor; and

(d) the details of outside agencies engaged by HPF for marketing products under 'INDU' brand name?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF HEAVY INDUSTRY, MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH) :  
(a) to (d) The Hindustan Photo Films Manufacturing Company Limited (HPF) had engaged outside agencies to market their Black and White paper products due to scarcity of resources for marketing coupled with drastic decline of sale of these products owing to change in technology. HPF's own marketing network was used to market the core products like medical and industrial X-ray films.

HPF has engaged M/s. Shanky Films, Kanpur to organize the raw materials including imported items like Byrata and Resin coated paper for manufacture. The Company used to manufacture and supply the finished goods under the name INDU to the outside agency for marketing on job order basis. By this arrangement, the Company secured considerable job order without any investment. The arrangement ended in July, 2004 and was not renewed thereafter.

[Translation]

#### Enlisting of Religious Groups as Minority Community

1831. SHRI JAI PRAKASH (MOHANLAL GANJ) : Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has taken any measures to discourage the practice of enlisting the religious groups as minority community; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI A.R. ANTULAY) : (a) and (b) The following religious communities were notified as minority communities under Section 2(c) of the National Commission for Minorities Act, 1992 :-

1. Muslims
2. Christians
3. Sikhs
4. Buddhists

#### 5. Zoroastrians (Parsis)

There is, at present, no proposal to enlist other religious groups as minority community immediately. It must, however, be added that the National Commission for Minorities, in its Annual Report for the year 1994-95, has recommended "Jains" to be notified as religious minority community.

[English]

#### Production and Sale of Small Cars

1832. SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN : Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the production and sale of small cars in the country has increased;

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

(c) whether the Government has any proposal to make India as a hub for small cars;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken to further promote the production and sale of small cars in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF HEAVY INDUSTRY, MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The details of production and sale of small cars (as defined in Auto Policy, 2002) in the country during the last three years is as given below :-

Year	Production	Domestic sale
2003-04	622832	537054
2004-05	741278	612532
2005-06	812852	662095

(c) to (e) The Auto Policy, 2002 envisages India to become an Asian hub for export of small cars and focuses on growth of this segment. In the Finance Bill 2006, excise duty on specified small cars has been reduced from 24% to 16% to promote production and sale of vehicles in this segment.

**Appointment of Directors**

1833. SHRI V.K. THUMMAR : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether according to guidelines stipulated by the Director General of Civil Aviation (DGCA), airlines can appoint Directors only with the prior approval of the Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Jet Airways while appointing new Directors on the Board of Directors of the airline has taken approval from the Government;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor and the action taken by the Government in the matter;

(e) whether post-facto clearance was provided to these Directors as a special case; and

(f) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL) : (a) and (b) The Scheduled Operator Permit to any airline is issued on meeting the minimum requirements as contained in Civil Aviation Requirements Section 3 Series C Part II. At the time of grant of initial 'No Objection Certificate', the applicant has to submit to the Ministry of Civil Aviation; the particulars of the Directors and Chairman/CEO of the firm, seeking NOC, for security clearance as per the prescribed format. Furthermore, any change in the board of Director or Chairman/CEO at any time shall be intimated to the Ministry of Civil Aviation and DGCA along with the details of new Chairman or Director in the prescribed format. New Chairman and Directors shall be appointed only after their security clearance.

(c) to (f) The Jet Airways has been taking prior permission of Ministry of Civil Aviation before appointing new Directors. Few instances have come to the notice of Government when airlines including Jet Airways have appointed Directors without waiting for security clearance. These airlines have been strictly advised by DGCA to be more careful and strictly adhere to the guidelines for appointment of Directors. At present all Directors on the Board of Jet Airways are security cleared.

**Fire in Electrical Engine Service Centre, Bhusawal**

1834. SHRI SUBODH MOHITE : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Diesel and Electrical Engine Service Centre (POH) at Bhusawal has been destroyed in fire on June 9, 2006;

(b) if so, the details alongwith the loss of lives and properties as a result thereof;

(c) whether any enquiry has been ordered in this regard;

(d) if so, the outcome thereof; and

(e) the steps taken to check recurrence of such incidents in future?

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

(b) There was a small incident of fire. However there was no loss of life, wooden scrap worth Rs. 2300/- got destroyed.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) No staff has been found responsible for this accidental fire.

(e) Central Railway has proposed to redesign and re-establish fire extinguishing System and provision of a new hydrant system, sufficient water Storage system, centrifugal pumps, provision of fire officers and arrangements to extinguish 'A' 'B' and 'C' class of fires.

**Misuse of ECHS by Private Hospitals**

1835. SHRI KULDEEP BISHNOI : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government is aware of blatant misuse of Ex-Servicemen Contributory Health Scheme (ECHS) by private hospitals, which are furnishing highly inflated bills;

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

(c) the details of private hospitals dis-empanelled for malpractice during the last three years; and

(d) the fresh steps taken by the Government to curtail unwarranted expenditure of ECHS and also to ensure that ex-servicemen are not inconvenienced?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) and (b) On treatment of ECHS patients in empanelled civil facilities, bills are submitted to the concerned ECHS polyclinic. These are then checked at various levels before the final approval by the competent financial authority. Any excess charges are reduced. Thus, there is a well established system of checks to prevent any blatant misuse of this scheme by private hospitals.

(c) No private hospitals have been disempanelled for malpractice. However, one Dental Clinic in Delhi has been disempanelled for not agreeing to ECHS's terms and conditions.

(d) Since most of the polyclinics are now functional, more and more patients are treated at the polyclinic level itself. Patients requiring further treatment are referred to service hospitals available locally and full facilities are utilised. If facilities are not available in service hospitals, only then the patients are referred to empanelled hospitals on the basis of specialist medical opinion. Strict norms are laid down to regulate expenditure and any procedure/treatment not listed in the rate list or prima facie high cost require prior approval of the competent authority. Bills submitted on the termination of treatment are processed through multi-level checks. Unauthorised charges are deducted to ensure strict control over expenditure.

#### **Airports in Maharashtra**

1836.SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether some of the airports in Maharashtra are not in operation at present;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken to make them operational?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL) : (a) and (b) Akola and Sholapur airports belonging to Airports Authority of India (AAI) are not in operation due to lack of traffic potential.

(c) Akola airport is being developed for AIR type of aircraft operations. Sholapur airport has been transferred on lease basis to the State Government of Maharashtra for a period of 15 years with effect from 01.02.1997 for development and promotion of aviation activities.

#### **Upgradation of Air Force Station**

1837.SHRI K.C. PALLANI SHAMY : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government proposes to upgrade the Air Force station at Thanjavur and other places in Tamil Nadu;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the amount allocated for the purpose; and

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

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) to (c) Upgradation of Air Force Stations in the country is done based on operational necessity at each location. This is an on-going process.

*[Translation]*

#### **Discontinuation of Parcel booking for Small Railway Stations**

1838.SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Railways have discontinued the parcel bookings for small railway stations;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Railways have received any representations from various quarters for restoration of parcel booking services for small stations; and

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

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

(b) In order to improve quality of service and reduce expenditure, stations having meagre earnings from parcel traffic have been closed.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Representations have been received from time-to-time. However, in most cases, it has not been found fit to reopen stations whose earnings from parcel traffic is not remunerative to the railways.

[English]

#### **Exploration of Oil and Gas Blocks**

1839. SHRI M.K. SUBBA : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Myanmar has offered some of its oil and gas blocks to India for exploration;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any agreement has been signed between the two countries in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL) : (a) and (b) ONGC Videsh Ltd. (OVL), a wholly owned subsidiary of Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Ltd. (ONGC) and Gail (India) Ltd. Hold participating Interest (PI) in two offshore Blocks A-1 and A-3 in Myanmar.

The pattern of Participating Interest (PI) held by the members of the consortium in each block is as follows :-

OVL	-	20%
GAIL	-	10%
Daewoo International Corporation	-	60%
Korea Gas Corporation	-	10%

(c) and (d) Agreements for acquisition of PI in Blocks A-1 and A-3 were signed between OVL/GAIL and Daewoo International Corporation on 28.1.2002 and 3.10.2005 respectively. The Myanmar Oil and Gas Enterprise (MOGE), a Government of Myanmar Company, approved these Agreements on 8.4.2002 and 24.3.2006, respectively.

#### **Procurement of Wagons**

1840. SHRI JOACHIM BAXLA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the total number of wagons procured through Wagon India Ltd. under rolling stock programme during each of the last three years; and

(b) the actual date of delivery vis-a-vis the scheduled date of delivery by the constituents of Wagon India Ltd.?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU) : (a) The system of wagon procurement through Wagon India Ltd. was dispensed with 10 years back.

(b) Does not arise.

#### **Separate Agency for Handling Soft**

1841. SHRI L. RAJAGOPAL : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Railways are considering to create a separate agency for handling the Scheme of Frequent Travellers (SOFT);

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the manner in which the SOFT helps in competing with the air journey which is becoming cheaper-and-cheaper?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU) : (a) and (b) The scheme of Frequent Travellers (SOFT) was launched in February 2006 and is being handled by Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC).

(c) The scheme has been launched to improve the patronisation of upper classes viz. 1st AC, 2nd AC and AC Chair Car where the occupancy level is relatively low as compared to rest of the classes.

#### **Budget Airlines**

1842. SHRI RAVICHANDRAN SIPPIPARAI : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the existing budget airlines in operation, airport-wise;

(b) whether the Government has any proposal to introduce more budget airlines from all metro cities to all foreign countries; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL) : (a) At present, Air Deccan, Spicejet, Go Air and IndiGo are the private scheduled airlines, which have dynamic air fare system and basic in-flight facilities, can be called as budget airlines.

(b) and (c) Government approves airlines as either scheduled or non-scheduled airlines operator. The fare structure and facilities offered are decided by the operator according to their commercial judgement. Government decided on 29.12.2004 to allow the private scheduled carriers with continuous experience of 5 years operations in domestic sector and having a fleet size of 20 aircraft to operate on international routes except to Gulf countries of UAE, Oman, Qatar, Bahrain, Kuwait and Saudi Arabia. Only two private domestic scheduled operators who fulfilled the criteria have so far been permitted to operate on international routes.

#### **Charging of fee for using Wheel Chairs**

1843.SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether it has come to the notice of the Government that some airlines are charging fee for the use of wheel chairs;

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

(c) the steps taken by the Government to check such practices?

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

(b) and (c) A meeting was held by the DGCA wherein it was suggested that such charges should be minimised. Subsequent to the meeting, all the operators have made this facility free of charge except Air Deccan who have reduced the charges from Rs. 500/- to Rs. 200/-.

#### **Collection of Demurrage on Goods**

1844.SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the details of revenues earned by South Western Railways (SWR) on collection of demurrage on various goods and commodities during the last one year;

(b) whether the Railway Authorities are empowered to waive off certain amount of demurrage so charge on the requests of the parties concerned;

(c) if so, the number of cases in which demurrage charged have been waived off by the concerned SWR authorities during the last one year and the amount involved in it;

(d) whether the Railways have received any complaints against illegal waive off demurrage by some officials in SWR; and

(e) if so, the details thereof alongwith the action taken or proposed to be taken by the Railways in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU) : (a) SWR had collected Rs. 17,56,20,354/- as demurrage charges during 2005-06.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Demurrage charge have been waived of in 2542 cases by competent authority of South Western Railway during 2005-06 and the amount waived is Rs. 8,86,27,770/-.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

*[Translation]*

#### **Air Service for Sholapur**

1845.SHRI SUBHASH SURESHCHANDRA DESHMUKH : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government proposes to introduce any air services to Sholapur in Maharashtra;

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

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL) : (a) to (c) Indian Airlines currently does not have any plans to introduce air services to Sholapur due to low traffic potential and non-availability of aircraft capacity. The existing fleet of Indian Airlines/Alliance Air is fully committed in the operation of services in the existing schedule and no spare capacity is available.

However, with a view to achieve better regulation of air transport services taking into account the need for air transport services of different regions of the country, Government has laid down route dispersal guidelines. Airlines are now free to operate anywhere in the country depending upon the traffic demand and commercial viability and subject to compliance of route dispersal guidelines.

[English]

#### Revival of HPF

1846. SHRI E.G. SUGAVANAM : Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Hindustan Photo Films Manufacturing Company Limited is incurring huge losses for the past few years;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the details of losses incurred during each of the last three years alongwith accumulated losses;

(c) whether the Government has any proposal to revive the company;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF HEAVY INDUSTRY, MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH) : (a) and (b) HPF has been incurring losses since 1992-93. The major reasons for the huge losses are high cost of raw material, overheads and manpower costs, technology shift to coloured films and a highly competitive market.

The details of losses incurred in the last 3 years are as follows :

(Rupees in crores)

Year	Net loss (including accrued interest and depreciation)	Accumulated loss
2003-04	443.02	2657.04
2004-05	496.41	3153.46
2005-06 (Prov)	569.15	3722.61

(c) to (e) The department has engaged a consultant. M/s. Ernst and Young on the basis of the recommendations of the Department Related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Industry to examine the viability of HPF in the current scenario.

[Translation]

#### Investigation on Helicopter Crashes

1847. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Directorate of Civil Aviation has ordered for investigation into the helicopter crashes that took place during the last three years and the current year;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether investigations in the Helicopter crashes have been completed;

(d) if so, the findings thereof; and

(e) the remedial measures taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in the light of findings?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has ordered investigation into the 7,4,3 and 1 crashes involving Indian Civil Registered Helicopters that took place in the years 2003, 2004, 2005 and 2006 respectively.

(c) and (d) Investigations into crashes occurred upto 2005 have been completed and the findings revealed that most of these crashes were due to pilot error, poor crew co-ordination, mechanical/technical problems, poor maintenance, lack of experience and weather disturbances.

(e) DGCA issues specific Air Safety Circulars addressing the cause of crash and implements the recommendations made in the investigation reports to prevent recurrence of such accident/incident. DGCA also ensure strict compliance of safety norms by all air operators, including private operators by way of safety audits. Besides, spot checks on maintenance activities are also carried out by the DGCA. DGCA also keeps updating the Civil Aviation Requirements/Circulars to strengthen aviation safety aspects. To provide better airworthiness schedule for enhancement of air safety aspect, Government is running international training programmes for the officials of DGCA and operators.

**Allotment of Petrol Pumps to SCs in  
Madhya Pradesh**

1848.SHRI GIRIDHARI YADAV : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether despite issuance of Letter of Intent for retail petrol outlets to Scheduled Caste candidates in Madhya Pradesh during State Retail Marketing Plan 2004-05, retail petrol outlets have not been allotted to them;

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

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

(d) if so, the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL) : (a) and (b) There are some cases, out of the respective State Retail Marketing Plans of Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) for 2004-05 for the State of Madhya Pradesh, where despite issuance of "Letter of Intent" for retail outlet (RO) dealerships (petrol pumps) to candidates under Scheduled Castes (SC) category, the ROs could not be commissioned. Details of such cases are available with the Directors (Marketing) of the OMCs.

Non-commissioning of the cases are mainly attributable to non-availability of suitable land, and time-consuming process involved for acquisition of identified land.

(c) No, Sir.

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

[English]

**Renaming of Indian Airlines**

1849.SHRIMATI JAYABEN B. THAKKAR : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Indian Airlines has been renamed; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL) : (a) No, Sir. The name of the company remains Indian Airlines Limited. The brand name used for publicity/advertising has been changed to INDIAN.

(b) The branding was done keeping in mind induction of a newer/more modern fleet of aircraft and the competition in the market.

[Translation]

**Construction of Hazipur Sagauli Railway Line**

1850.SHRI KAILASH BAITHA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the progress made so far on the construction of Hazipur-Vaishali-Sugauli railway line;

(b) the expenditure incurred on the project, till date;

(c) the number of stations to be constructed on this route alongwith the locations thereof; and

(d) the time schedule for completion of the said project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU) : (a) and (b) Hajipur-Vaishali-Sugauli new BG rail line (148.3 km.) has been taken up. Land applications have been filed for the entire length with the State Government. An outlay of Rs. 4.00 crore has been provided for the work in Budget 2006-07 and expenditure incurred on the project upto 31st March, 2006 is Rs. 7.54 crore.

(c) There are a total of 15 stations comprising of 11 crossing stations and 4 halt stations proposed to be constructed on this route namely, (i) Harauli-Phatepur (ii)



Ghataro, (iii) Lalganj, (iv) Vaishali, (v) Saraiya, (vi) Paru Khas (vii) Deoria (viii) Sahibganj (ix) Kesariya (x) Siswa-Patna (xi) Bishanpur (xii) Madhubani (xiii) Areraj (xiv) Harshidi and (xv) Rampur.

(d) The target date for completion of the work has not been fixed.

#### **Computer Reservation Centre in Jharkhand**

1851. SHRI TEK LAL MAHTO : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether a building has been constructed to set up computer reservation centre at Gornio railway station under Bokaro district of Jharkhand but it has not been made functional;

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

(c) the reasons for delay in this regard;

(d) the expenditure incurred thereon; and

(e) the action being taken by the Railways to make it functional early?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU) : (a) There is no proposal to set up a Computerised Passenger Reservation Centre at Gornia.

(b) to (e) Do not arise.

#### **Stoppage of trains at Morena Railway Station**

1852. SHRI ASHOK ARGAL : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the proposal of providing a stoppage of Andhra Pradesh Express and Karnataka Express at Morena Station in Madhya Pradesh is under consideration of the Railways;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Stoppage of 2723/2724 New Delhi-Hyderabad Andhra Pradesh Express and 2627/2628 New Delhi-Bangalore Karnataka Express at Morena has been found neither commercially justified nor operationally feasible.

[English]

#### **Hardships faced by Physically Challenged Youth**

1853. SHRI M. APPADURAI : Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government is aware of the hardships faced by a number of physically challenged youth attending Civil Services Examination by inadequate speed due to impairment; and

(b) if so, the measures taken by the Government to help the physically challenged youth aspiring for Civil Services?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN) : (a) and (b) Information is being collected.

#### **Gas Supply to Ratnagiri Power Plant**

1854. SHRI MILIND DEORA : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the natural gas supply to Ratnagiri Gas and Power Limited would be delayed as Qatar's Ras Laffan Gas Co. is willing to provide LNG either at Dahej or Hazira;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the likely impact on the projects; and

(c) the additional expenditure likely to be increased due to said developments?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL) : (a) to (c) The commissioning of the LNG receiving terminal at Ratnagiri has been delayed and the long term LNG supplies for this terminal, are in the process being tied up by GAIL. Gail (India) Limited, (GAIL), is laying Dahej-Uran pipeline (DUPL), and Dabhol-Panvel pipeline (DPPL), with a view to supplying natural gas to the

Ratnagiri power project from Dahej LNG terminal. DUPL and DPPL projects are expected to be commissioned by 31st March 2007 at estimated cost of Rs. 1830 crore and Rs. 1326 crore respectively. Petronet LNG Limited (PLL), who owns the Dahej LNG terminal, is in the process of tying-up short-term LNG supplies for the project from Qatar. It is envisaged that once Ratnagiri LNG terminal is commissioned with all associated facilities and the supplies for this terminal are tied-up, the gas supplies to the Ratnagiri power project could be received directly through Dahej terminal. DUPL would be used for supplying gas from Dahej terminal to Uran area and DPPL for supplying merchant sales gas quantities from Dabhol terminal to Panvel area. Linkages of LNG terminals provide a lot of flexibility in terms of gas supply management.

#### **Air Services between Guwahati and Lilabari**

1855.DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the flight between Guwahati and Lilabari of the Alliance Air has been continuously irregular since November, 2005;

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

(c) whether the Government proposes to entrust this sector to private airlines to operate their services;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the steps taken by the Government to ensure regular and timely air services on this sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL) : (a) and (b) During the period from November, 2005 to July, 2006, against scheduled 78 flights, Alliance Air operated only 27 flights between Guwahati and Lilabari due to severe crew constraints.

(c) and (d) Government has laid down route dispersal guidelines with a view to achieve better regulation of air transport services taking into account the need for air transport services of different regions of the country including North-East region. As such, airlines are free to operate anywhere in the country depending upon the traffic demand and commercial viability and further subject to compliance of route dispersal guidelines.

(e) Alliance Air has drawn up a revised schedule effective 10th July, 2006 which has led to an improvement in regularity and reliability of ATR services. With the introduction of the revised schedule, a same day connection via Guwahati is available for Delhi-Lilabari passengers on two days of the weeks and the passengers from Lilabari-Delhi via Guwahati and Kolkata also on two days of the week. Alliance Air has also taken steps to induct expatriate pilots for the ATR fleet in order to supplement its existing crew strength and increase operations.

[Translation]

#### **Construction of Commercial Complex at Madhupur Railway Station**

1856.SHRI FURKAN ANSARI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Railways propose to construct some commercial complexes on the unutilised land at the Madhupur Railway Station under the Asansol Division of the Eastern Railway;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which its construction is likely to be started?

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

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[English]

#### **Enhancement of Production Capacity of Railways Manufacturing Units**

1857.SHRI JUAL ORAM : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the present capacity of each manufacturing unit of Railways;

(b) whether the Railways have any proposal to enhance the production capacity of each manufacturing unit;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the additional cost involved therein; and

(e) the time by which the production capacity of these Units is likely to be enhanced?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU) : (a) There are six production

units under the Ministry of Railways. Their installed Capacities per annum are as under :

Name	Item	Installed Capacity Per Annum
Chittaranjan Locomotive Works, (CLW) Chittaranjan	Electric Locomotives	150
Diesel Locomotive Works, (DLW) Varanasi	Diesel Locomotives	150
Integral Coach Factory, (ICF) Chinnai	Coaches	1000
Rail Coach Factory, (RCF) Kapurthala	Coaches	1000
Rail Wheel Factory, (RWF) Bangalore	Wheels	1,15,000
	Axles	48,000
Diesel Modernisation Loco Works, (DMW) Patiala	Diesel-Electric Loco Rebuilding	72

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. Works have been sanctioned to increase the production capacities to manufacture of 1500 coaches per year at Integral coach factory (ICF), Chennai, and to 1400 coaches per year at Rail Coach Factory (RCF), Kapurthala from present installed capacities of 1000 coaches per year. The issue of increase of production capacity of DLW and CLW is presently under examination.

(d) The present anticipated cost of enhancement of coach production capacity at RCF is Rs. 55.42 crores and at ICF is Rs. 55.31 crores.

(e) The production capacity of these units is expected to be enhanced by 2009-10.

#### Late Arrival of Agra Bound Trains

1858. SHRI NIHAL CHAND : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Railways are aware that the Agra bound trains are unnecessarily detained at the outer signal of Agra Cantt. railway station on regular basis leading to late arrival of trains at the station as well as avoidable harassment to passengers including foreign tourists;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the remedial action to be taken by the Railways to sort out and resolve the problem?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU) : (a) and (b) Agra consists of two major Junction stations. Agra Cantt. has trains coming

from Mumbai and Jhansi direction on one side and from Palwal-New Delhi on the other side, both of which are trunk routes. Agra Fort has trains coming from Bayana Bandikui as well as Tundla-Kanpur side. Thus a heavy congestion occurs.

Agra Cantt. the major station of Agra handles nearly 82 Mail/Express and passenger trains and nearly 70 goods trains daily. Due to this heavy traffic flow, some times trains are detained outside the station for want of platform due to line capacity and other infrastructure constraints. Generally, Up Mail/Express trains are received on Platform No. 1 only, at time resulting in detention at home signal, if bunching of trains occurs.

(c) A new signalling yard work (route relay interlocking-FRI) is already sanctioned and after remodeling of yard, line capacity constraints are expected to be largely overcome.

#### Profit/Loss Position of AI and IA

1859. SHRI BANSAGOPAL CHOUDHURY : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) the profit/loss position of Air India (AI) and Indian Airlines (IA) during each of the last three years; and

(b) the comparative figures of manpower engaged per aircraft by the public sector airlines and private sector airlines in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL) : (a) The details

of profit of Air India (including Air India Express) and Indian Airlines are as under :

Year	(Rs. In Crores)	
	Air India	Indian Airlines
2003-04	92.33	44.17
2004-05	96.36	65.61
2005-06 (R.E.)	9.68	68.50

(b) The details of manpower per aircraft directly engaged by public sector airlines and private scheduled airlines are as under :

Airline	Manpower per Aircraft
Jet Airways	160
Sahara Airlines	154
Air Deccan	70
Kingfisher Airlines	125
Spicejet	215
Go Air	268
Paramount Airways	186
IndiGo	450
Air India	429
Indian Airlines	259

[Translation]

#### **Powers to General Managers in Railways**

1860.SHRI CHHATAR SINGH DARBAR : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Railway Board has enhanced the powers of General Managers over the last few years in making appointments; and

(b) if so, the details thereof;

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

(b) Does not arise.

[English]

#### **Passenger Train from Pipavav Port to Ahmedabad**

1861.SHRI VIKRAMBHAI ARJANBHAI MADAM : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Railways are planning to introduce any super fast passenger train from Pipavav Port to Ahmedabad;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken in this regard so far?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Introduction of a train between Pipavav Port-Ahmedabad has been examined but not found operationally feasible at present.

#### **Railway Line from Ambadola Railway Station to Lanjigarh Vedant Factory**

1862.SHRI GIRIDHAR GAMANG : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Vedant Aluminium Refinery of Orissa had approached Railways regarding construction of railway line from Ambadola railway station to Lanjigarh Vedant Factory;

(b) if so, whether any MoU has been signed in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the progress made so far in executing the railway line?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU) : (a) Yes, Sir. The Company had approached in regard to developing the siding.

(b) to (d) No Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) has been signed. Necessary approval has been given to the company for construction of one 16 Kms long lead line and development of yard facilities. The company has started construction of the lines at their cost.

[Translation]

**Purchase of Cars through CSD**

1863.MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the ex-army officers have been allowed to purchase cars through CSD;

(b) if so, whether the same facility is also being extended to the JCOs/NCOs as well;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the Government is contemplating to extend the said facility to all the ex-servicemen/officers also; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) Yes, Sir. All retired officers of the Armed Forces are allowed to purchase cars from the Canteen Stores Department (CSD).

(b) The facility is also available to serving Junior Commissioned Officers (JCOs). Serving Non-Commissioned Officers (NCOs) and retired JCOs are not entitled to this facility.

(c) The facility has been extended to the serving/retired officers and serving JCOs on the basis of their purchasing power which is directly related to their pay structure and pension scales.

(d) and (e) At present there is no proposal to extend the said facility to retired JCOs, serving/retired NCOs and equivalents in other Armed Forces.

**Jet Airways**

1864.SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT :  
SHRI GANESH PRASAD SINGH :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Jet Airways started its operation without proper security clearance;

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

(c) whether the Government has any information that Jet Airways is financed by the underworld;

(d) if so, whether any inquiry has been conducted into the matter; and

(e) if so, the outcome thereof and the follow-up action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL) : (a) and (b) Jet Airways was issued Scheduled Operators Permit (Passenger) to operate Scheduled Air Transport Services in the country on 13.2.1995 upon meeting the minimum requirements for issuance of Schedule Operators Permit (Passenger) as laid down by DGCA.

(c) to (e) As of now the security clearance of MHA does not indicate any such linkage.

[English]

**Taking over Air Sahara by Jet Airways**

1865.SHRI SUGRIB SINGH :  
SHRI P.S. GADHAVI :  
SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether Jet Airways has blamed the Union Government for failure of its Sahara acquisition plan;

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

(c) whether the Aircraft Acquisition Committee has examined the acquisition plan; and

(d) if so, the details of the recommendations made by the said Committee?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL) : (a) and (b) No Communication blaming the Union Government for failure of Jet Airways' plan to acquire Sahara Airlines has been received in the Ministry of Civil Aviation.

(c) and (d) The Aircraft Acquisition Committee (AAC) in its meeting held on 24.2.2006 had considered the share

purchase agreement of M/s. Jet Airways and M/s. Sahara Airlines Ltd. and took note of the status report filed by M/s. Jet Airways. It had observed that the issue raised in the report of M/s Jet Airways does not concern the Committee. The AAC however considered the limited question of usage of airport infrastructure in the event of merger/take over of airlines and sale/transfer of aircraft. The Government after considering the recommendations of the Committee formulated and published the Policy to be followed regarding use of airport infrastructure in case of merger/take over of airlines and sale/transfer of aircraft.

#### **Merger of RBD with GRSE**

1866.SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Rajabagan Dockyard (RBD) at Kolkata has been merged with Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers Limited (GRSE) and staff of RBD have also been amalgamated with GRSE;

(b) if so, whether employees of Head Office of Rajabagan Dockyard have not been taken over by GRSE;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the Government has received representations to merge Head Office of RBD with GRSE; and

(e) if so, the details and the action taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (RAO INDERJIT SINGH) : (a) to (e) In pursuance of the decision of the Government, the Assets and Liabilities of the Rajabagan Dockyard (RBD) Unit of the Central Inland Water Transport Corporation Limited (CIWTC) have been bought over by Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers Limited (GRSE) on 1st July, 2006. Along with this 314 employees, borne on the strength of RBD unit have been absorbed into GRSE. There is no separate Head office of Rajabagan Dockyard.

The Government has received representations from the staff of Head office of CIWTC for absorption in GRSE. There is no proposal to absorb any employee of the Corporate office of CIWTC into GRSE.

#### **Representation of Armed Forces in Sixth Pay Commission**

1867.SHRI G.V. HARSHA KUMAR :  
SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH :

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has received any proposals from the Service Headquarters for the representation of the Armed Forces in the Sixth Pay Commission;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The Government has received a proposal from the Chairman, Chiefs of Staff Committee for appointment of a Service officer as a constituted member of the Sixth Central Pay Commission. The matter has been referred to the Ministry of Finance.

#### **Loss Due to Defective Provision**

1868.SHRI SUNIL KHAN : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Comptroller and Auditor General in its Report No. 6 of 2005 has pointed out that non-inclusion of a clause regarding payment of foreign exchange as per actuals in the supply order led to loss of Rs. 84.11 lakh to the exchequer;

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

(c) the corrective measures taken a check recurrence of such cases in future?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) and (b) As per the Foreign Exchange Variation Clause contained in the Supply Order of August, 2002, placed on Bharat Electronics Ltd. (BEL), a Defence PSU, for procurement of quantity 1022 Hand Held Thermal Imagers, the total foreign exchange content was at an exchange rate of 1 US\$=Rs. 48.92. It also provided that any upward revision of the foreign exchange rate shall be compensated by the Ministry of Defence against BEL's invoices. In para 2.5 of the Report No. 6 of 2005 (Defence Services) of C and AG, it has been brought out, inter alia,

that there was no provision in the Supply Order for downward revision in case of reduction in exchange rate and acceptance of this one-sided provision in the contract resulted in a loss of Rs. 84.11 lakhs to the Government on excess payment of FE content to BEL. The Action Taken Note has since been finalized and sent to Director General of Audit Defence Services.

(c) The Defence Procurement Procedure, 2005 contains guidelines for Foreign Exchange Variation in case of Defence PSUs, which will avoid recurrence of such cases.

#### **Navratna Status to PSUs**

1869. SHRI RUPCHAND MURMU :  
SHRI K.J.S.P. REDDY :

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

(a) whether the Government has received any proposals for granting Navratna status to some Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs);

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF HEAVY INDUSTRY, MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH) :  
(a) to (c) The proposals for grant of Navratna Status to Power Finance Corporation Limited, Rural Electrification Corporation Limited, Power Grid Corporation of India Limited, National Hydroelectric Power Corporation Limited, Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited, Shipping Corporation of India Limited, National Aluminum Company Limited and Hindustan Aeronautics Limited have been received. These proposals are under consideration.

*[Translation]*

#### **Repairing of Old Buildings in Mhow Cantonment Area**

1870. SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether repairing of old buildings in Mhow Cantonment area is not permitted;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the corrective measures taken/being taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) to (c) There is no general restriction on repair of old buildings in MHOW Cantonment area. The repairing of old buildings in Cantonment areas is permitted in terms of laid down Government Policy on the subject.

*[English]*

#### **Construction of Railway Bridges on National Highways in Punjab**

1871. SHRI SUKHDEV SINGH DHINDSA :  
SARDAR SUKHDEV SINGH LIBRA :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the present status of construction of railway under/over bridges on the National Highways in Punjab;

(b) the total expenditure incurred thereon so far; and

(c) the time schedules for construction of these bridges?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU) : (a) There are only two works of Road over bridges (ROBs) under construction in Punjab falling on National Highways, one is at Kurali sanctioned on Build, Operate and Transfer (BOT) concept and second at Morinda on Sirhind-Nangaldam section on Bye-Pass Road on deposit terms.

(b) Being on BOT and Deposit terms respectively, Railways are not incurring direct expenditure on these works.

(c) At Kurali, sub-structure of Railway portion, and span of non railway portion inclusive of super structure have been completed. Railway portion is likely to be completed by Dec. 2006. At Morinda, the work of Road over bridge has been completed and commissioned.

*[Translation]*

#### **Theft of Computers in DRDO**

1872. SHRIMATI SANGEETA KUMARI SINGH DEO : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of theft of computer cases in Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) came to the notice of the Government during each of the last three years;

(b) whether any inquiry has been conducted into the matter;

(c) if so, the outcome thereof;

(d) whether any officials of DRDO have been found involved in these cases; and

(e) if so, the action taken against those officials?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) to (c) In the last three years, two cases of thefts of computers have been reported in DRDO. Inquiries into both the cases have been conducted. The first theft case occurred in Metcalfe House, Delhi and the second in ADRDE, Agra. Outcome of the enquiries revealed that the lost information pertained to generic data on Human Resources Development, library, internet downloads, personal files, standard commercial software packages and some studies on dummy test data. No information or material of strategic importance or of security concern has been lost in the theft.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Officials found negligent in performance of their duties have been dealt with as per rules.

[English]

#### **Introduction of Trains**

1873. SHRI D.V. SADANANDA GOWDA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Railways also introduce, extend and increase the frequency of more trains other than those announced in the budget and during festival occasions to meet the demands/requests received from various quarters;

(b) if so, the details and clear cut policy in this regard;

(c) the details of representations/requests received from various quarters in this regard during the current year; and

(d) the present status of each representation/request alongwith procedure/criteria followed for their fulfilment?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Introduction of new passenger services depends upon many factors like demand, quantum of traffic, commercial justification, availability of coaches and locomotives, operational feasibility, line capacity and terminal constraints, repercussions on essential freight traffic, development of infrastructure and availability of resources etc. During the current year the following services other than those announced in Budget 2006-07 have been provided till date :-

(Trains in single)

Introduction	Extension	Increase in Frequency
14	16	2

However, Railways also make adequate arrangements to clear the extra rush of traffic during peak seasons like summers, winters, festivals, holidays, melas, vacations etc. which include running of special trains, augmentation of existing services and also increase in frequency which depends upon pattern of traffic, commercial justification, availability of resources etc. Being a continuous process as well as due to the factors stated above, the number of special trains run various from year to year.

(c) and (d) Requests for introduction of new train services are received at various levels viz. division level, headquarter level and Railway Board level. These requests are received continuously throughout the year and action as feasible is taken. However, this voluminous data is not compiled.

#### **Railway Line Projects in North East Region**

1874. SHRI HITEN BARMAN :

SHRI SARBANANDA SONOWAL :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the railway line projects in North East Region which are under construction alongwith the progress made so far thereon;

(b) whether the Railways have conducted any survey for laying new railway lines in the North East region;



- (c) if so, the details thereof; and  
 (d) the time by which survey work is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU) : (a) The details of ongoing Railway Projects in the North East Region are as under :

S. No.	Project	KMS	Cost	Expenditure upto March, 2006	Outlay 06-07	Physical progress (%)	Remarks/Status
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Dudhnoi-Depa New Line	15.5	22.33	0.5	0.01	Nil	Government of Meghalaya has proposed alternative route from Depa to Mendhipathar. Final Location Survey has been taken up for this changed alignment.
2.	Kumarghat-Agartala New Line	109	879.99	476.53	100	57	Manu-Agartala is targeted for completion during 2006-07. Being a 'National Project', an amount of Rs. 76 crores is expected as an additionality.
3.	Bogibeel bridge with linking lines between Dibrugarh and North Bank line New Line	46	1767.4	456.45	230	22	Work is progressig as per availability of resources.
4.	New Maynaguri-Jogighopa New Line	257	894.38	100.73	35	12	Work is progressing as per availability of resources.
5.	Harmuti (Bedati)-Itanagar New Line	33	156	0.01	4	Nil	Survey for alternative alignment from Bedeti to Itanagar completed.
6.	Jiribam-Imphal Road (Tupul) New Line	97.9	727.56	2.57	15	0.41	Final location survey for 26 Kms completed. Being a 'National Project', an amount of Rs. 70 crores is expected as an additionality.
7.	GC of Lumding-Dibrugarh including linked fingers Haibargaon-Mairabari and Senchoa Jn.-Silghat Town	12	100.41	1.45	1	87	Lumding-Dibrugarh completed and commissioned. Ministry of Defence will provide Rs. 30 crores during the year and Senchoa-Silghat town is targeted for completion during the year.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
8.	Lumding-Silchar-Jiribam and Badarpur-Baraigram GC	292	1496.4	512.96	125	37	Being a 'National Project', an amount of Rs. 246 crores is expected as an additionality.
9.	Katakhal-Bairabhi Gauge Conversion	84	88.7	1.01	0.01	Nil	The work will be taken up once Lumding-Silchar is in advance stage of completion.
10.	Rangia-Murkongselek Gauge Conversion	510.3	915.7	0.01	10	Nil	Final location survey for Rangia-Rangpara North has been completed. Estimated is under process.
11.	New Jalpaiguri-Siliguri-New Bongaigaon GC	419.5	890.83	770.56	12	81	New Jalpaiguri-New Bongaigaon (280 Kms) completed and commissioned.

(b) to (d) The details of ongoing surveys for the new line in North Eastern Region are as under :-

S. No.	Name of the Survey	Kilometers
1.	Naginimora-Anguri new line	35
2.	Jogighopa-Silchar via Panchratna	500
3.	Kokrajar-Gelephu (Bhutan)	70
4.	Pathsala-Nanglam (Bhutan)	40
5.	Rangia-Samdrupjongkh (Bhutan)	60
6.	Murkongselek-Pasighat	30
7.	Sivok-Rangpo	30

The above surveys are likely to be completed in 2007-08.

Apart from ongoing surveys, following surveys for new line have been completed :

1. Dimapur-Kohima (Zubza) (88 Kms)
2. Azra-Byrnihat (30 Kms)
3. Bhairabi-Sairang (Aizwal) (54 Kms)
4. Agartala-Sabroom (110 Kms)

#### Construction of International Terminal Complex at Ahmedabad Airport

1875. SHRI BHUPENDRA SINH SOLANKI :  
SHRIMATI JAYABEN B. THAKKAR :  
SHRI MAHESH KANODIA :  
SHRI P.S. GADHAVI :  
SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY :  
SHRI HARISINH CHAVDA :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal for construction of a new international terminal building complex at Ahmedabad Airport; and

(b) if so, the progress made so far in this regard?

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

(b) Airports Authority of India (AAI) has finalized the architectural concept/plan of the building through an International Consultant of repute. Necessary Environmental Clearance has been obtained. Further progress of the project is subject to the clearance of Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA).

*[Translation]***Outstanding Dues against Airlines**

1876.DR. DHIRENDRA AGARWAL :  
SHRI HARISINH CHAVDA :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

- (a) whether dues of Airports Authority of India (AAI) are outstanding against several private airlines;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, airline-wise;
- (c) the steps taken by the AAI to recover the outstanding dues from them; and
- (d) the provisions laid down in case these airlines fail to clear the outstanding dues?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Details of outstanding dues from various private airlines as on 31.3.2006 are as follows (in lakhs of Rupees) :-

Air Deccan-2609.21, Air Sahara-1013.97, Blue Dart Aviation-64.96, Continental Aviation Pvt. Ltd-146.83, Cosmic Air Pvt. Ltd-26.35, East West Airlines-1183.46, East West Travels and Trade Links Pvt. Ltd-310.85, Elbee Airlines Ltd-83.88, Go Air-119.20, Jet Airways-2363.24 Kingfisher Airlines-1328.90, Mesco Airlines-46.30, NEPC Airlines-308.25, Paramount-18.46, Skyline NEPC Airlines-150.49, Span Air-37.46, Spice Jet-234.43, U.P. Airways-33.38, VIF Airways-17.98, Others-438.24, Total-10535.84.

(c) and (d) Dues are monitored regularly by Airports Authority of India (AAI) and action through legal/arbitration/Public Premises Eviction (PPE) Act is taken wherever necessary. Besides, interest is levied for overdue period on defaulting airlines. The security deposit is suitably increased based on the operations.

*[English]***Cess on Air Travel**

1877.SHRI K.S. RAO : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Government proposes to levy a cess on the air travel to develop smaller airports across the country;

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

- (c) the time by which the decision is likely to be taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL) : (a) to (c) No, Sir. There is no proposal to levy cess on the air travel to develop smaller airports across the country at present.

**Joint Fighter Exercises**

1878.SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO :  
SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL :  
SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA :

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Government has asked the Indian Air Force to reduce the number of joint fighter exercises with foreign countries;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (c) the estimated expenditure incurred on each exercise; and
- (d) the number of joint exercises proposed to be restricted in a particular year?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) No, Sir.

- (b) Does not arise.
- (c) The expenditure incurred on each joint fighter exercise is dependent on factors like category of aircraft deployed, duration of the exercise, and number of Air Force personnel participating in the exercise.
- (d) There are no restrictions imposed on bilateral exercises in a year.

**Construction of Fly-Over Bridge at Railway Crossing**

1879.SHRI MANJUNATH KUNNUR : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

- (a) whether there is any proposal to construct a fly-over bridge at Railway crossing near Nelagal-Hanumanamatti on Harihar-Hubli section;

(b) if so, the stage at which the matter stands; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU) : (a) Yes, Sir. Two works, one a Road Over Bridge (ROB) in lieu of Level Crossing (LC) No. 234 near Nelogal village and another at LC No. 222 near Hanumanmatti village are sanctioned on cost sharing basis. No other proposal is there.

(b) Work on both the ROB's is being executed by National Highway Authority of India (NHAI). Work is in progress. 50% work has been completed at both the sites.

(c) Both the ROB's are targeted for commissioning by 31.12.2006.

#### Loss Making PSUS

1880.SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY : Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state :

(a) the number of Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) in operation under the administrative control of his Ministry;

(b) the number of those undertakings which are running into losses during the last three years;

(c) whether the cumulative losses of these undertakings have surpassed the capital invested therein;

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

(e) the details of such undertakings and the Government's policy for their future operations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF HEAVY INDUSTRY, MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH) : (a) There are 34 operating Public Sector Enterprises (PSEs) under control of this Ministry.

(b) As per financial results for the year 2005-06 (Prov.), there are eighteen PSEs which have incurred loss in last three consecutive years, i.e. 2003-04, 2004-05 and 2005-06 (Prov.)

(c) As per the latest audited financial results for the year 2004-05, the accumulated losses of all of these undertakings have surpassed the investments in terms of equity capital.

(d) and (e) The details are given in the enclosed Statement. The main reasons for losses are paucity of orders, shortage of working capital, excess manpower, increase in the cost inputs, obsolete plant and machinery etc. As per the policy laid down in the National Common Minimum Programme, while every effort will be made to modernize and restructure the sick PSEs, the chronically sick companies will be either sold off or closed after giving all worker their due and compensation. A Board for Reconstruction of Public Sector Enterprises (BRPSE) has been constituted to give recommendations o revival and future of the PSEs.

#### Statement

(Rupees in crores)

Sl. No.	Name of the Public Sector Enterprises	Investment in terms of equity as on 31.3.2005	Accumulated loss as on 31.3.2005
1	2	3	4
1.	Andrew Yule and Company Ltd.	158.84	-268.27
2.	Burn Standard Company Ltd.	128.82	-723.89
3.	Bharat Wagon and Engineering Co. Ltd.	10.10	-103.9
4.	Tungabhadra Steel Products Ltd.	8.44	-161.12
5.	Bharat Heavy Plates and Vessels Limited	33.80	-422.79
6.	Richardson and Cruddas (1972) Ltd.	54.84	-178.31
7.	Triveni Structurals Ltd.	21.02	-331.35
8.	Hindustan Cables Ltd.	419.36	-1702.28
9.	Heavy Engg. Corporation Ltd.	432.15	-2106.98
10.	HMT Bearings Ltd.	9.49	-27.3
11.	HMT Machine Tools Ltd.	10.70	-461.75

1	2	3	4
12. HMT Watches Ltd.		5.49	-547.72
13. HMT Chinar Watches Ltd.		1.41	-104.1
14. Praga Tools Ltd.		36.34	-310.39
15. Cement Corporation of India Ltd.		429.28	-2152.86
16. Hindustan Photo Films Mfg. Co. Ltd.		199.87	-3153.46
17. Nepa Ltd.		105.39	-292.77
18. Instrumentation Ltd.		83.77	-241.48

[Translation]

#### Special Package by ONGC

1881. SHRI JIVABHAI A. PATEL : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Ltd. proposes to provide special packages to some areas particularly in Gujarat for the inconvenience being caused to the inhabitants due to exploration work;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the areas selected by the ONGC therefore?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL) : (a) No, Sir. ONGC does not propose to provide special packages to some areas, particularly in Gujarat, since it does not cause inconvenience to the inhabitants there due to exploration work. ONGC has a well defined Corporate HSE policy which clearly states that they are committed to maintaining highest standards of occupational Health, Safety and Environment protection.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

[English]

#### Installation of Wild System at Railway Stations

1882. SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Wild system has been installed at the Ajgain Railway Station near Lucknow;

(b) if so, whether the Railways are considering to install this system on other railway stations in the near future; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) A Global Tender for procurement of 9 such equipments is scheduled to be opened on 18th September, 2006.

#### Amount Spent on Social Responsibilities

1883. SHRI SARBANANDA SONOWAL : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) the percentage of profits spent by each public sector oil company to carry out their social responsibilities during each year of the last three years, company-wise;

(b) whether the Government proposes to increase the amount to meet the social responsibilities;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL) : (a) The details are given in the enclosed Statement.

(b) to (d) Government has not fixed any amount for Corporate Social Responsibilities. The Department of Public Enterprises has opined that Public Sector Enterprises have flexibility in identification and implementation of social responsibilities keeping in view their financial ability to sustain such activities, the operating environment and provisions in the relevant Memorandum of Association/ Statute.

Name of company	Profit in percentage		
	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06
IOCL	0.43	0.56	0.41
BPCL	0.09	1.12	2.21
		(Provisional.)	
OIL	0.48	0.82	1.25
ONGC	0.24	0.33	0.22
HPCL	0.36	1.18	1.85
GAIL	0.25	0.66	0.62
MRPL	0.0362	0.0049	0.0782
NRL	0.57	0.26	0.27
EIL	0.0072	1.140	0.034
BRPL	0.34	0.28	0.75
KRL	0.53	0.34	1.93
CPCL	0.36	0.84	0.80
IBP	0.16	0.42	2.01

[Translation]

**Recruitment in Railways Under Sports Quota**

1884. SHRI RAGHURAJ SINGH SHAKYA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Railways recruit some of its employees under sports quota;

(b) if so, the criteria fixed for the same; and

(c) the number of candidates selected under sports quota during the last three years, sports-wise?

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

(b) The criteria for recruitment of sportspersons are governed by detailed policy letter on the subject. The minimum criteria for recruitment are :

(a) Age: 18 to 25 years.

(b) Educational Qualification: Minimum 8th pass for Group "D" and for Group "C" as per the requirement of the post.

(c) Sports Achievements: The candidate should have been medal winner/participated at approved National/International championship in last two years as per approved norms.

(c) A Statement is attached.

**Statement**

*Sportspersons selected on Indian Railways against sports quota during last three years*

Athletics	202
Aquatics	49
Archery	3
Badminton	50
Ball Badminton	19
Billiards and Snooker	5
Body Building	32
Boxing	51
Bridge	2
Basketball	90
Chess	14
Cycling	10
Cricket	315
Cross Country	3
Football	144
Gymnastics	20
Golf	2
Handball	7
Hockey	172
Kabaddi	86
Kho-Kho	9
Powerlifting	20

Rifle Shooting	12
Table Tennis	53
Tennis	13
Volleyball	96
Weightlifting	45
Wrestling	44
<b>Total</b>	<b>1568</b>

[English]

#### Package of Airline Operators

1885. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government is planning to give five year incentive package to airline operators that link metros with regional centres; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL) : (a) and (b) The issue of giving incentives to the airlines for enhancing regional connectivity is under consideration of the Government as part of the proposed Civil Aviation Policy.

[Translation]

#### Incredible India Campaign

1886. SHRI RASHEED MASOOD :  
SHRI HITEN BARMAN :

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has launched 'Incredible India Campaign' to promote tourism abroad; and

(b) if so, the achievements made there from during each of the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI) : (a) Yes, Sir. Incredible India Campaigns have been running in the global market in the last three years;

(b) The achievement in terms of increase in foreign tourist arrivals and foreign exchange earnings is as under :

Year	Foreign Tourist Arrivals	Foreign Exchange Earning
2003	2726214	Rs. 16429 Cr.
2004	3457477	Rs. 21603 Cr.
2005	3915324	Rs. 25172.28 Cr.

[English]

#### Private Participation in Promotion of Tourism

1887. SHRI KIRTI VARDHAN SINGH :

SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE :

SHRI EKNATH MAHADEO GAIKWAD :

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has allowed private sector in promoting tourism sector;

(b) if so, the terms and conditions stipulated therein;

(c) the areas in which private participation would be involved;

(d) whether the Government has received any proposals from private participants in this regard; and

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

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI) : (a) to (c) Ministry of Tourism has allowed private sector participation for development of tourism infrastructure, augmentation of accommodation facilities and for promotion and marketing of tourism products as per the existing scheme/guidelines. Ministry of Tourism assists private sector projects under its Large Revenue Generating Scheme.

(d) and (e) There is an active response from the private sector in the overall development and promotion of tourism sector. The following expenditures have been incurred during the financial year 2006-07 upto 31.7.06 through involvement of private sector participation in development and promotion of tourism.

1. Rs. 13.94 crore for overseas campaign.

2. Rs. 2.34 crore for incentives to accommodation infrastructure subsidies.

**Extension of Indo-Iran Gas Pipeline to China**

1888. SHRI SURESH KALMADI : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

- (a) whether Pakistan has offered to extend the proposed Iran-Pakistan-India gas pipeline to China;
- (b) if so, whether India's consent has also been obtained; and
- (c) if not, the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL) : (a) to (c) There has been no formal proposal to extend the Iran-Pakistan-India (IPI) gas pipeline, which itself is at the proposal stage, to China. The matter has not been discussed with Pakistan in any of the meetings relating to the Project though in the 2nd tripartite secretary level Joint Working Group meeting on the Project in Islamabad on 22-23 May, 2006, the Secretary, Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Resources, Government of Pakistan, in his opening remarks had, inter alia, stated that IPI Gas Pipeline Project was important for all three Countries, as it would open a huge market for Iranian gas (towards the east including China) and it would play very important role in the economic development of Pakistan and India in addition to fulfilling their energy requirement.

**Revamping of DGQA**

1889. SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the officers of Directorate General of Quality Assurance do not carry out the inspection of stores cautiously and vigilantly and calls for a thorough renew and revamping of DGQA in order to guarantee that the quality assurance parameters are not compromised and the services are supplied with defect free quality stores/equipments;
- (b) if so, the measures taken to revamp DGQA; and
- (c) the number of vigilance cases pending against DGQA officials and the number of DGQA officials proceeded against?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (RAO INJDERJIT SINGH) : (a) and (b) DGQA

Organisation carries out Quality Assurance of stores with utmost caution and vigil as per governing specifications and terms and conditions of the contract. The technique of Quality Assurance, in order to maximize its effectiveness, undergoes continuous change. DGQA organization is adopting contemporary practices, to keep abreast with technology. As per contemporary quality Management practices, input inspection hitherto carried out by DGQA has been transferred to manufacturer, namely, Ordnance Factories and Defence Public Sector Units. DGQA is now concentrating on activities of Quality Audit and surveillance in manufacture of defence items in Ordnance Factories and Defence Public Sector Unit.

- (c) Thirty Sixty (36) DGQA officials in four cases have been proceeded against. The cases against two officials have since been concluded and proceedings against thirty-four officials are pending.

**Expansion of Hotel Industry**

1890. DR. M. JAGANNATH : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Union Government has received proposals from the State Governments for expansion of hotel industry in their States;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the action taken by the Government thereto?

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

- (b) Does not arise.
- (c) Does not arise.

*[Translation]*

**Computer and Vocational Training to Muslim Community**

1891. SHRI HARISHCHANDRA CHAVAN : Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Government is contemplating any plan to impart computer and vocational training to the persons belonging to Muslim community;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;



(c) the number of computer and vocational training centres being run in Maharashtra for Muslim community alongwith the organizations which are running such centres; and

(d) the performance of such training centres so far?

THE MINISTER OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI A.R. ANTULAY) : (a) to (d) Maulana Azad Education Foundation (MAEF) is running a Vocational Training Centre for Women in the old campus of Dr. Zakir Hussain College, Ajmeri Gate, Delhi. At this Centre, free training is provided to girl students from walled city for Cutting and Tailoring, Textile Designing, Beauty Culture and Computer Training. MAEF also provides financial assistance to NGOs for purchase of equipment, construction of training centre etc. in various States. They have assisted 7 projects in Maharashtra with a sanctioned amount of Rs. 49.13 lakhs covering 918 beneficiaries. Vocational training courses for minority communities are also run by National Minorities Development and Finance Corporation (NMDFC), through State Channelising agencies, where 85% of the expenditure is met by NMDFC by way of grant. During 2005-06, 60 women candidates have been trained in Fashion Technology through NIFT, Mumbai in which NMDFC incurred an expenditure of Rs. 1.78 lakhs.

[English]

#### Investigation into Defence Deals

1892. SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has completed its investigation into 38 defence deals that were signed under Operation Vijay;

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

(c) the measures taken to ensure transparency in defence deals; and

(d) if not, the steps taken to expedite the investigation?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) and (b) Twenty five (25) Defence deals relating to 'Operation Vijay' were referred to Central Bureau

of Investigation. Out of these, 13 cases were referred back to Ministry of Defence by CBI as no criminality was detected in these cases. Of the remaining 12 cases, 7 cases are still under scrutiny. Preliminary Enquiry has been registered in 5 cases, of which 1 case has been converted into a Regular Case

(c) Defence procurement is undertaken as per Defence Procurement Procedure (DPP) 2005 for capital acquisition and Defence Procurement Manual (DPM) 2005 for revenue stores, both these documents are available on the website of Ministry of Defence. Some of the provisions in DPP 2005 include :-

- (i) Making Qualitative Requirements more broad based so as to avoid single vendor situations
- (ii) Signing of Integrity Pact for purchases over Rs. 300 crore.
- (iii) The Standard contract terms are included in the RFP. This includes provision regarding penalty for use of undue influence by the seller and prohibit engagement of any agent or payment of agency commission by the seller.
- (iv) Broad timeframe for completion of different procurement activities.

Some of the provisions in DPM 2005 include :

- (i) Request for Proposals, both for indigenous and foreign procurement enumerating short-listing and award criteria;
- (ii) Uniformity in interpretation of various contracting clauses and issues;
- (iii) Clear time frame for each stage and process of procurement so as to cut down the delays and bring in accountability;
- (iv) General guidelines for assessing reasonability of prices;
- (v) Summary of CVC guidelines and Banking instruments.

(d) No time frame can be indicated for investigation of the cases as the same depends on time required for collection of evidences by CBI.

**Railway Line between Qadian and Beas**

1893. SHRI NAVJOT SINGH SIDHU : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Railways have received any representations regarding early construction of railway line between Qadian and Beas;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the action taken by the Railways thereon; and
- (d) the time by which the work on said railway line is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU) : (a) and (b) Representations have been received for construction of rail line between Qadian and Beas.

(c) and (d) A survey for construction of new rail line between Qadian and Beas (39.6 kms.) was completed in March '2006. As per survey report, the cost of construction of 39.6 kms. long line has been assessed at Rs. 141.53 crore with a rate of return of (-) 8.27%. Due to constraint of resources and unremunerative nature of the project, it has not been considered feasible to take up this work.

**Scholarships for Minorities**

1894. SHRI FRANCIS FANTHOME : Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Government has any scheme to provide scholarships for minorities in Central and State Institutes of Professional Education;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to increase scholarships for minorities in professional institutions; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI A.R. ANTULAY) : (a) to (d) In pursuance of the announcement made by the Finance Minister in his Budget Speech 2006-07, the Ministry of Minority Affairs has formulated a of Merit-cum-Means based scholarship scheme for 20000 students belonging to minority communities.

**Completion of Projects**

1895. SHRIMATI MANORAMA MADHAVARAJ : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

- (a) whether there has been considerable delay in completion of the projects undertaken by Border Roads Organisation;
- (b) if so, the number of projects which have not been completed within the time schedules;
- (c) whether the Government would set a definite time-frame for BRO to complete the projects; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) to (d) Border Roads Organisation (BRO) takes up execution of projects departmentally unlike other Organisations who get the work executed through contract. All efforts are made to complete the projects as per schedule. However, some times projects are not completed as planned due to various constraints e.g. law and order problem, natural calamities, delay in availability of some resources especially in far flung areas, shortage of manpower etc. Amongst the ongoing projects, fourteen major projects could not be completed within the time schedule. To enable BRO to complete the work within definite time frame, Government have taken up action to augment the capability of BRO in terms of manpower and equipment etc.

*[Translation]*

**Outstanding Amount against Public Sector Oil and Coal Companies**

1896. SHRI SITARAM SINGH : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

- (a) the amount outstanding against the public sector oil and coal companies and private companies at present; and
- (b) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Railways to recover the outstanding amount from these companies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU) : (a) Amount outstanding

against the public sector oil, coal companies and private companies to end of June 2006 is Rs. 69 crore, Rs. 79 crore and Rs. 173 crore respectively.

(b) Accretion and clearance of dues is an on going process. However, the matter of recovery of dues is pursued vigorously and co-ordination meetings are conducted with the public sector oil and coal companies and private companies at the Divisional and Headquarter level. The outstanding amounts are adjusted, wherever, possible, from the claims preferred by them. Extension of facilities of Electronic Payment is under process, which would facilitate speedy crediting of railway dues. Staff as well as officers at senior level periodically contract major defaulting parties in this regard.

[English]

#### **Outsource Agency in IRCTC**

1897. SHRI HEMMAL MURMU : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation Ltd. (IRCTC) and other departments of the Railways have engaged in outsourced agency for the supply of manpower;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of staff/manpowers of each category have been engaged by the IRCTC and other departments in the Railways during the last three years and the current year;

(d) the total expenditure incurred by the Railways for payment of manpower of outsourced agencies during the said period;

(e) whether any complaints has been received for outsource scandal in the IRCTC; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU) : (a) to (d) Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation Limited (IRCTC) has outsourced the provision of manpower. However, most of the departments of Indian Railways do not engage any outside agency for supply of manpower. Only execution

of works is entrusted to outside agencies through works contracts or annual maintenance contracts by some departments of Indian Railways.

The details of man power engaged by IRCTC and total expenditure incurred thereto during the last three years and the current year (up to June 2006) is given as under :-

Year	Skilled	Unskilled	Expenditure
2003-04	5	3	Rs. 31,43,787/-
2004-05	49	2	Rs. 97,88,946/-
2005-06	126	5	Rs. 1,08,15,980/-
2006-07	155	6	Rs. 41,90,286/-

(e) and (f) Yes, Sir. A complaint is under investigation by vigilance department of IRCTC.

#### **Wine Processing**

1898. SHRI LAKSHMAN SINGH : Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the wine industry in the country provides considerable opportunities for value addition and employment generation in the wine processing sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the steps being taken to promote and encourage wine processing in the country; and

(d) the details of States which have shown interest in wine processing alongwith financial assistance provided for the purpose during each of the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY) : (a) to (d) Wine is primarily produced from grapes. The value addition to grape improves significantly when used for processing into wine. Wine market in the country is growing at over 25% per annum. Presently, less than one percent of grapes produced in the country is used for processing into wine. There is a great opportunity for growth of wine processing sector, which has tremendous potential to generate large employment both at the farm as well as at industry level.

Maharashtra, Karnataka and Himachal Pradesh have shown interest in developing their wine industry. To promote and encourage wine processing industry in the country, the Ministry of Food Processing Industries offers financial assistance to wine units under its Plan Schemes for setting up/upgradation/modernization. However, financial assistance has not yet been availed by wine industries.

#### **Institute for Heritage age Art Forms**

1899.SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS : Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there are any schemes to preserve and promote the heritage art forms in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government is considering to set up any Institute/Academy to preserve and promote the heritage art forms in the country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI) : (a) and (b) The mandate of the Ministry of Culture is to preserve and promote all forms of arts and culture. The activities are carried out through the attached, subordinate and autonomous institutions and also through various schemes of the Ministry. The following schemes operated by the Ministry have a direct bearing on the preservation of heritage art forms :

1. Preservation and Development of the Cultural Heritage of the Himalayas.
2. Promotio and Dissemination of Tribal/Folk Art and Culture.
3. Preservation and Development of Buddhist/ Tibetan Culture and Art.
4. Scheme for Building Grant to Cultural Organisations.
5. Financial Assistance to Professional Groups and Individuals for Specified Performing Art Project.
6. Scholarships to Young Artists in different Cultural Fields.

7. Award of Senior/Junior Fellowships to outstanding Artists in the field of Performing, Literary and Plastic Arts.

8. Award of Senior/Junior Fellowships to outstanding Artists in New Areas related to Culture.

9. Financial Assistance to Persons distinguished in letters, arts and such other walks of life who may be in indigent circumstances and their dependents.

10. Research Support to Voluntary Organisations engaged in Culture Activities.

(c) and (d) No such proposal is presently under the consideration of Ministry of Culture.

#### **Electrification of Rail Routes**

1900.SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL :  
SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Railways have decided to electrify all rail routes keeping in view of hike in diesel price;

(b) if so, whether the Railways have prepared any scheme in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the time schedule fixed for electrification of all rail routes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MNISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELLU) : (a) No, Sir. Electrification of railway tracks is a need based exercise which is reviewed on a continuous basis. Investment on Railway electrification is primarily based on the traffic requirements of the system and those sections which are considered necessary are taken up for electrification.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

#### **Self Employment of Physically Handicapped Persons**

1901.SHRI AJAYA KUMAR : Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has formulated any special schemes for providing financial assistance for self-employment of physically handicapped persons;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of funds allocated and released under the scheme during each of the last three years and the current year alongwith the number of beneficiaries thereunder, State/UT-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN) : (a) and (b) The National Handicapped Finance and Development Corporation

(NHFDC) has been set up to provide financial assistance in terms of loan to persons with disabilities for undertaking self-employment activities, e.g., setting up small business in service/trading sector or small industrial unit, purchase of commercial vehicles, agricultural activities, pursuing technical and professional education, etc.

(c) NHFDC does not make allocation of funds to State Channelising Agencies; instead, loan is sanctioned/ released depending on the proposals received from State Channelising Agencies.

The State/UT-wise details of funds released and number of beneficiaries assisted during last three years and the current year is given in the enclosed Statement.

#### Statement

(Amt. Rs. in lakh)

Name of the State	Years							
	2003-04		2004-05		2005-06		2006-07	
	Amt.	Benf.	Amt.	Benf.	Amt.	Benf.	Amt.	Benf.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Andhra Pradesh	126	531	17	152	1	12	0	0
Assam	2	10	0	0	0	0	0	0
Bihar	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Chandigarh	3	15	6	30	3	28	0	0
Chattisgarh	52	102	4	1	65	92	0	0
Delhi	43	118	64	301	5	1	0	0
Goa	9	4	1	1	1	1	0	0
Gujarat	7	37	1	1	2	10	0	0
Haryana	185	367	207	386	242	475	15	27
Himachal Pradesh	74	87	49	49	131	109	6	7
Jammu and Kashmir	0	0	3	4	2	4	0	0
Karnataka	123	536	50	237	148	723	0	0
Kerala	126	216	82	147	72	103	30	49
Lakshadweep	1	2	1	1	11	12	0	0
Madhya Pradesh	237	410	63	111	127	235	0	0
Manipur	0	0	4	31	0	0	0	0

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Maharashtra	845	1283	676	734	1117	1727	5	1
Nagaland	0	0	122	244	1	2	0	0
Orissa	184	461	2	15	0	0	0	0
Pondicherry	208	389	0	0	35	96	0	0
Punjab	2	4	2	8	0	0	4	16
Rajasthan	339	633	298	494	228	488	0	0
Tamil Nadu	26	102	50	217	66	500	1	10
Tripura	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Uttar Pradesh	1	8	0	0	12	17	8	18
Uttaranchal	4	4	59	112	17	23	5	6
West Bengal	85	246	7	6	58	107	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>2682</b>	<b>5565</b>	<b>1769</b>	<b>3282</b>	<b>2344</b>	<b>4765</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>134</b>

**Conservation and Maintenance of  
Historical Places**

1902. SHRI G.M. SIDDESWARA : Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has received proposals from the foreign countries for conservation and maintenance of historical places;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of the countries with whom talks have been held in this regard?

THE MINISTER FOR TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. As per information available the details are as follows :-

**Pakistan :-** In response to a request from Pakistan for technical assistance for restoration of Katasraj temples complex, the Government sent an official of the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) to visit Katasraj from August, 29 to September 02, 2005. The detailed report prepared by ASI has been sent to the Government of Pakistan through diplomatic channels. A response is awaited.

**Sri Lanka :-** Government of Sri Lanka has sought the assistance of the Government of India for restoration and conservation of Thirukuteeshwaram Temple (Hindu Temple) and Mulikirigala Rajya Vihara (Buddhist Temple) in Sri Lanka.

ASI officials have visited the site and a detailed report is submitted to the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA).

**Lao PDR :-** Government of India received a request from the Government of Lao PDR for restoration of the World Heritage Site of Wat Phou temples. ASI team visited the site and a report on their visit was submitted to the MEA.

**Cambodia :-** ASI has completed the conservation works of Angkor Wat temple between 1986 to 1993.

ASI has taken up another project of Conservation and Restoration of Ta Prohm Temple Complex under ITEC programme of MEA with an estimated cost of Rs. 19.57 crore. Implementation of the project is in progress.

**Afghanistan :-**

(i) A request from Afghan Government was received for India's assistance for restoration of the

historic 'Stoor Palace' in Kabul. The palace building was reportedly constructed about 100 years ago for the then King Amanula Khan. CPWD was asked to undertake a pre-feasibility study for the restoration. The project is under consideration.

- (ii) Afghan Government has requested for India's cooperation in the field of Archaeology, Archives, Monuments and Museum. A team of officials from Archaeological Survey of India visited Afghanistan and has submitted their report. Four projects are being considered for implementation. They are (a) Conservation, preservation and restoration of Museum Objects at National Museum (b) Conservation, preservation and restoration of Manuscripts at National Archives (c). Setting up of Field Conservation Laboratory at Institute of Archaeology and (d). Setting up of Photo Laboratory at Institute of Archaeology. These projects are still in the initial processing stage.

**Indonesia** :- India has offered assistance to Indonesia with the repair/reconstruction of the temples at Prambanan, which were damaged in the earthquake that struck southern coast of central Java Island, Indonesia of May 27, 2006.

#### **Re-Employment of VRS Optees**

1903. SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR DUBEY : Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 2403 dated March 13, 2006 regarding 'Re-employment of VRS Optees' and state :

- (a) whether the information has been collected;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) if not, the reasons for the delay?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF HEAVY INDUSTRY, MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH) : (a) to (c) As per available information, five executives from disinvested Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs) were called for selection interview by Public Enterprises

Selection Board (PESB) for Board level posts in CPSEs and in two cases they were recommended for appointment as Chairman and Managing Director, Mineral Exploration Corporation Ltd. (MECL) and Director (Finance) Bharat earth Movers Ltd. (BEML). In one case of the post of Director (Finance), Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Ltd. (MTNL), the application of a candidate was forwarded by Videsh Sanchar Nigam Ltd. (VSNL) on 30.8.2001 when the incumbent was holding the post of Director (Finance), VSNL which was then a CPSE. The recommendation of PESB was sent to the Department of Telecommunications on 7.12.2001 and the incumbent was appointed to the post on 3.4.2002. VSNL was disinvested in February, 2002.

*[Translation]*

#### **Abolition of Pantry Car System**

1904. SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Railways propose to abolish the existing pantry carry system and to start a new catering arrangement in view of the rise in number of complaints regarding the poor quality of food served in trains; and
- (b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU) : (a) and (b) At present there is no proposal to abolish the existing pantry car system.

*[English]*

#### **Stealing of Aviation Fuel**

1905. SHRI UDAY SINGH : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the officials of the airlines have been found stealing aviation fuel from the airport fuel storage rooms at Delhi airport;
- (b) if so, the facts and details thereof;
- (c) the action taken against the erring agencies;
- (d) whether the Government is also aware that aviation fuel is stolen by unscrupulous persons at various airports in the country; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. An incident has been reported that on 27.6.2006 a Jet Airways employee was apprehended by Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) personnel while trying to smuggle out 5 bottles of ATF (Air Turbine Fuel) from the IGI airport. He was handed over to the local police.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

[Translation]

**Construction of third Railway line on Fatehpur Railway Station**

1906. SHRI KAMLA PRASAD RAWAT : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Railways have approved the construction of third railway line on Fatehpur railway station of Sitapur-Budhwal B.G. Station;

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

(c) if so, since when; and

(d) if not, the reasons for the delay?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU) : (a) Yes, Sir. Work of 3rd running line at Tehsil Fatehpur has been included in Budget 2006-07.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) This is a new work included in Budget 2006-07 and preliminary activities like finalization of yard plan, detailed estimate and tender take time which are under process.

[English]

**Strengthening of NMDFC**

1907. SHRI BADIGA RAMAKRISHNA : Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the objectives of the National Minorities Development and Finance Corporation (NMDFC);

(b) whether the Government is taking measures to strengthen and professionalise it;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the NMDFC is plagued by a slew of problems like dismal recovery of loans in many States; severe staff shortage, apart from other administrative and operations problems; and

(e) if so, the remedial measures taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI A.R. ANTULAY) : (a) The aims and objectives of National Minorities Development and Finance Corporation (NMDFC) are given in the enclosed Statement.

(b) and (c) An Expert Committee has been constituted to review the functioning of NMDFC and to suggest an action plan for improving its strategy and operational performance.

(d) and (e) NMDFC does face problems of poor recovery of loans, staff shortage, inadequate equity contributions by the State Governments, reluctance of State Governments to extend adequate guarantees etc.

**Statement**

1. To promote economic and developmental activities for the benefit of "Backward Sections" amongst the minorities, preference being given to the occupational groups and women.
2. To assist, subject to such income and/or economic criteria as may be prescribed by the Government from time to time, individuals or groups of individuals belonging to the minorities by way of loans and advances for economically and financially viable schemes and projects.
3. To promote self-employment and other ventures for the benefits of minorities.
4. To grant loans and advances at such rates of interest as may be determined from time to time in accordance with the guidelines or schemes prescribed by the



- Central Government or by the Reserve Bank of India.
5. To extend loans and advances to the eligible members belonging to the minorities for pursuing general/professional/technical education for training at graduate and higher levies.
  6. To assist in the upgradation of technical and entrepreneurial skills of minorities for proper and efficient management of production units.
  7. To assist the State level organizations dealing with the development of the minorities by way of providing financial assistance or equity contribution and in obtaining commercial funding or by way of refinancing.
  8. To work as an apex institution for coordinating and monitoring the work of all corporations/boards/other bodies set up by the State Government/Union Territory Administrations or given the responsibility of assisting the minorities for their economic development; and
  9. To help in furthering the Government policies and programmes for the development of minorities.

#### **Air Services for Leh**

1908. SHRI CHHEWANG THUPSTAN : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) the number of flights being operated by the Indian Airlines and the Private Airlines on Delhi-Leh, Jammu-Leh and Srinagar-Leh sectors everyday;

(b) whether there is any demand for operation of more flights on these sectors;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL) : (a) to (d) At present, the details of air services on Delhi-Leh, Jammu-Leh and Srinagar-Leh are as follows :

#### **Indian Airlines**

Delhi-Leh-Srinagar-Delhi	1 flight/week
Delhi-Srinagar-Leh-Delhi	1 flight/week

Delhi-Leh-Delhi (army charter)	3 flights/week
Delhi-Leh-Jammu-Delhi	2 flights/week
Delhi-Jammu-Leh-Delhi	2 flights/week

#### **Jet Airways**

Delhi-Leh-Delhi	6 flights/week
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In addition, Indian Airlines and Jet Airways has been operating additional flights to/from Leh depending upon the traffic demand, like Sindhu Darshan, etc.

Government has laid down route dispersal guidelines with a view to achieve better regulation of air transport services taking into account the need for air transport services of different regions of the country including North-East region. It is, however, up to the airlines to provide air services to specific places depending upon the traffic demand and commercial viability. As such, the airlines are free to operate anywhere in the country subject to compliance of route dispersal guidelines issued by Government.

[Translation]

#### **Advertisements by OMCS**

1909. SHRI MITRASEN YADAV : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the public sector oil companies have created an advertisement fund for publicity of their products;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether these oil companies have telecast their advertisements on National/Private T.V. channels during the last year and current year; and

(d) if so, the amount spent by these companies for telecasting their advertisements on National and Private television channels separately during the said period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL) : (a) and (b) The marketing plan and sales promotion activities of oil marketing companies are complemented by Brand building efforts. Accordingly, Budget is earmarked every year for branding through advertisements/publicity.

(c) IOCL, BPCL and HPCL have telecasted their advertisements on National/Private T.V. channels.

(d) The amount spent by the oil companies who have telecasted their advertisements on National and Private television channels during the last year and current year are as follows :

(Rs./Lakhs)

Name of the Company	National Channels		Private Channels	
	2005-06	2006-07	2005-06	2006-07
IOCL	1542	434	1450	702
BPCL	20	1.75	2114	430
HPCL	34	23	1074	368

[English]

#### Allotment of LPG Agencies to SCs/STs

1910.SHRIMATI SUSHEELA BANGARU LAXMAN : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether a large number of applicants belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes categories were allotted Liquefied Petroleum Gas retail outlets/dealerships long back but their implementation has been held up for want to required infrastructure;

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

(c) the present status of implementation of the sanctioned outlets?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL) : (a) to (c) As on 1.7.2006, 170 Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) distributorships allotted by Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) under Scheduled Caste (SC) and Scheduled Tribe (ST) categories are pending for commissioning. The State-wise details are given in the enclosed Statement.

These locations are pending for commissioning due to various reasons such as non-availability of land, construction of godown, court cases/complaints, statutory clearances from various authorities, etc.

#### Statement

States/UTs	Number of LPG distributorships
Andhra Pradesh	20
Assam	2
Bihar	11
Chhattisgarh	5
Delhi	4
Goa	4
Gujarat	14
Haryana	5
Jammu and Kashmir	2
Jharkhand	6
Karnataka	5
Kerala	4
Madhya Pradesh	9
Maharashtra	20
Orissa	7
Punjab	2
Rajasthan	1
Tamil Nadu	13
Tripura	2
Uttar Pradesh	16
Uttaranchal	5
West Bengal	12
Andaman and Nicobar	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>170</b>

#### Survey on Disabled Persons

1911.SHRIMATI P. SATHEEDEVI : Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the National Sample Survey Organisation has conducted any survey on the disabled persons in the country;

- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the mentally challenged children in the country are increasing;
- (d) if so, whether there is any scheme to assist the mentally retarded children; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The National Sample Survey Organisation had conducted survey on disabled persons during July to December 2002. Results of Survey have been released through Report No. 485 (58/26/1) which is in public domain.

(c) No comparative figures of mentally challenged children over years is available. Therefore, it is not possible to conclude that the number of mentally challenged children is increasing.

(d) and (e) National Trust for the Persons with Autism, Mental Retardation, Cerebral Palsy and Multiple Disabilities extends support to registered organisations to provide need based services during periods of crisis in the family of the persons with disability and also promotes measures for care and protection of these persons in the event of death of their parents or guardians.

#### **Direct Air Service between Trivandrum and Delhi**

1912. SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPPAN : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Indian Airlines has discontinued the direct air service between Trivandrum and Delhi for last two months;
- (b) if so, the details and the reasons therefor; and
- (c) the steps proposed to be taken to restore the said direct air service?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL) : (a) and (b) Due to operational constraints, Indian Airlines' flight IC 167 operating on Delhi-Mumbai-Trivandrum sector was re-scheduled effective 6th April, 2006 to operate on Mumbai-

Trivandrum sector. However, the return flight, IC 168 operating on Trivandrum-Mumbai-Delhi sector remained unchanged.

(c) The Delhi-Mumbai-Trivandrum flight has since been restored effective 1st August, 2006.

[Translation]

#### **Scheme for Safety of Railway Tracks**

1913. SHRI SHISHUPAL N. PATLE :  
SHRI ASHOK KUMAR RAWAT :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the scheme for safety of railway tracks is being formulated by the Railways;
- (b) if so, whether the Railways propose to hold deliberation with State Governments regarding the formulation of the plan for the safety of railway tracks;
- (c) if so, whether Railways have adequate strength of Security Forces for the safety of the tracks and trains passing through the various areas; and
- (d) if so, the funds out of the allocations made for Railways spent on the safety of tracks during the current year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU) : (a) No, Sir. The responsibility for security of Railway tracks lies with the State Government.

(b) Deliberations with the State Government on security matters are held periodically.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

#### **Scholarships to OBCs Girl students**

1914. PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR : Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Government provides scholarship to the girl students belonging to backward classes to study abroad;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and since when the said scheme has been in force;

(c) the expenditure incurred on the said scheme during each of the last three years and the current year;

(d) whether only very few girl students have been benefited under the said scheme; and

(e) if so, the reasons therefor alongwith the number of girls student of OBC, category provided scholarship during the said period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN) : (a) to (e) The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment does not provide any scholarships to the OBC students for studying abroad.

[English]

#### **Airlines Facillitation Committee**

1915. SHRI P. RAJENDRAN : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has recently constituted any Airlines Facilitation Committee;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of the powers vested with this Committee and the areas come under its purview?

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

(b) With the establishment and growth of several scheduled domestic airlines, a requirement was felt to have an institutionalized arrangement to provide a platform for exchange of views between all Government agencies and the airlines on a regular basis. The Government has therefore decided on a regular basis. The Government has therefore decided to constitute an "Airlines Facilitation Committee" comprising officials of Ministry of Civil Aviation, AAI, DGCA, BCAS, CISF, Indian Meteorological Department and representatives of the Domestic Scheduled Airlines.

(c) The Committee shall deliberate and suggest measures to be taken by the Government on—

(i) Issues pertaining to pilots, engineers, technicians etc. including the issues of engaging

foreign pilots, (ii) Airworthiness examination of aircraft, (iii) Airport issues including security issues, (iv) Preparation of airlines for landing during fog period, (v) North East Operations and issues pertaining to Route Dispersal Guidelines, (vi) Rationalization of schedules, (vii) International Conventions and, Protocol, (viii) Redressal of passenger complaints, (ix) Any other relevant issue.

#### **Development of Tourism in Lakshadweep**

1916. DR P.P. KOYA : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) the Indian and Foreign Tourists visited Lakshadweep during the last three years;

(b) the revenue earned in terms of foreign exchange during 2004-05 and 2005-06;

(c) the employment opportunity generated for local inhabitants from tourism during the said period; and

(d) the details of schemes/projects contemplated by the Government for development of tourism in Lakshadweep Island?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI) : (a) The number of domestic and foreign tourist visits to Lakshadweep during the years 2003, 2004 and 2005 are as follows :—

Year	2003	2004	2005
Domestic	4604	3889	6908
Foreign	682	1285	941

(b) Data on State/UT-wise foreign exchange earnings is not maintained.

(c) As per the information received from the Union Territory of Lakshadweep, 142 jobs have been created from tourism during the years 2004-05 and 2005-06.

(d) Development of places of tourist interest in the States/UTs is the responsibility of the State Governments/ UT Administrations. The Union Territory of Lakshadweep is implementing schemes relating to infrastructure and human resources development, tourism marketing, open-

ing of more islands for international tourists, and equity participation with Lakshadweep Development Corporation Ltd. (LDCL) for promotion of tourism in the Union Territory. The Central Government also assists State Governments/UT Administrations in development of tourism infrastructure at selected destinations/circuits identified in consultation with them under its Scheme of Product/infrastructure Development for Destination and Circuits. During the 8th and 9th Five Year Plans, 9 projects were approved for the UT and an amount of Rs. 194.86 lakh was sanctioned. During the 10th Plan, no project proposals have been received from the Union Territory of Lakshadweep.

**Railway Reservation counters at Vanasthali Puram in Hyderabad**

1917. SHRI R. NIZAMUDDIN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal to open a Railway Reservation Counter in the Vanasthali Puram areas of Hyderabad city;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

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

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

**Subha Yatra Scheme**

1918. SHRI TUKARAM GANGADHAR GADAKH : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Railways have introduced Subha Yatra Scheme;

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

(c) whether the Railways are considering to extend the scheme for all classes in which it is presently not applicable;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU) : (a) and (b) With a view to

improve the patronisation of higher classes, where occupancy level is relatively low as compared to that in Sleeper class and 3-AC classes, a Scheme of Frequent Travellers (SOFT), which is also known as Shubh Yatra has been launched in the month of February, 2006, which is applicable to 1st AC, 2AC and AC Chair Car Classes. A Frequent Traveller will get a complimentary train trip after certain numbers of reward points are accumulated.

(c) to (e) Since there is already relatively higher demand in other classes, at present, there is no such proposal under consideration to extend this Scheme to other classes.

[Translation]

**Catering and Sanitation in Railways**

1919. SHRI VIJOY KRISHNA :

SHRI KAILASH NATH SINGH YADAV :

SHRI MOHD. TAHIR :

PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR :

SHRI ASHOK KUMAR RAWAT :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Minister of Railways conducted surprise checks in trains and at New Delhi/Delhi Railway Stations with regard to catering and sanitation as reported in the Dainik Jagran dated June 4, 2006;

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

(c) whether the Railways propose to fix responsibility of officers to ensure that proper sanitation is maintained and the passengers get good quality food in sufficient quantity at the stations and in trains; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) Some deficiencies were noticed in regard to quality and quantity of food items and cleanliness of bed rolls.

(c) Suitable action has been initiated against the officers responsible.

(d) Assistant Manager, Delhi region has been shifted, Catering Supervisor, Delhi has been suspended and

charge sheeted for Major penalty under Discipline and Appeals Rules. Chief Inspector Catering, Base Kitchen and Chief Inspector Catering, Delhi have also been taken up.

[English]

### Construction of Railway Line

1920. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal to construct a new railway line between Sheikhpura-Bihar Sharif-Daniawan Railway Station in ECR Zone;

(b) if so, the details alongwith the present status thereof; and

(c) the time by which the construction work of the railway line is likely to be completed?

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

(b) Fatuha-Islampur and Neora-Daniawan-Sheikhpura (171.5 km.) is an ongoing project at an anticipated cost of Rs. 406.92 crore.

On Daniawan-Biharsharif section, earthwork and bridge works have been taken up. Land acquisition taken up in balance portion.

(c) Fatuha-Islampur portion has been completed. No target has been fixed for completion of the project.

### Revival of BWEL

1921. DR. K. DHANARAJU : Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Bharat Wagon and Engineering Company Ltd. (BWEL) was set up with an aim to manufacture railway wagons;

(b) if so, whether the company has not been able to achieve its targets;

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

(d) the losses suffered by the company during each of the last three years; and

(e) the steps the Government proposes to make it viable and profit making company?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF HEAVY INDUSTRY, MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH) : (a) to (c) Bharat Wagon and Engineering Company Limited (BWEL) was incorporated on 04.11.1978 as a Government Company vested with the assets acquired by the Government of India from the two closed companies, namely The Britannia Engineering Company (Mokameh unit) and The Arthur Butler and Company (Muzaffarpure) Limited to manufacture Railway wagons. The main reasons for the Company not being able to achieve its target for last few years are as under :-

(i) Delayed and inadequate receipt of matching free supply items like Bogies, Couplers, Wheel Sets, Steel and Bearings;

(ii) Shortage of working capital for purchase of bogies and couplers from outside vendors;

(iii) Sudden fall in wagon prices due to adoption of open tender policy by the Railways making the PSEs incompetent due to high overheads coupled with increase in input price; and

(iv) Lack of consistent supply order by major consumers; etc.

(d) The losses suffered by the Company during each of the last three years are as under :-

(Rs. in crore)

Year	Net Loss
2003-04	24.04
2004-05	28.10
2005-06 (Prov.)	24.39

(e) The Government of India, through Bharti Bhari Udyog Nigam Limited (BBUNL), the holding Company of BWEL is making all efforts to improve its performance by setting outstanding salaries and statutory dues, making available working capital, free supply items and orders from the Railways. A revival package of BWEL was placed before the Board the Reconstruction of Public sector Enterprises which has given its recommendations.

**Direct Flights to Kerala**

1922. SHRI ABDULLAKUTTY : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has any plan to increase the air seat capacity in the existing route to Kerala;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has received any proposal from M/s. Lufthansa for starting direct flights to Kerala;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the action taken thereon by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL) : (a) and (b) Designated airlines of 23 foreign countries have been granted access to operate to different airports in Kerala. Among them, 9 foreign airlines are presently operating 117 services/week to/from Kerala apart from Indian scheduled carriers. However actual operation by any airline to any particular point is always guided by its commercial judgement.

(c) to (e) Though Cochin is available as a point of call for the designated airlines of Germany, M/s. Lufthansa have not filed any request to mount services to/from Cochin.

**Railway Hospitals**

1923. SHRI B. MAHTAB : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the details of Railway hospitals functioning in the country, Zone-wise;

(b) whether the Railways have taken any decision to set up new Railway hospitals;

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

(d) the time by which these are likely to be set-up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU) : (a) There are 121 Railway

Hospitals all over the Indian Railways with details as under :

Central Railway	-	11
East Central Railway	-	08
Northern Railway	-	12
North Eastern Railway	-	07
North Western Railway	-	08
South Central Railway	-	05
South East Central Railway	-	04
Western Railway	-	10
Eastern Railway	-	09
East Coast Railway	-	04
North Central Railway	-	04
North East Frontier Railway	-	11
Southern Railway	-	11
South Eastern Railway	-	06
South Western Railway	-	04
West Central Railway	-	07

(b) Yes Sir. Four New Hospitals have been proposed to be set-up in the following four zones :-

1. East Central Railway.
2. North Central Railway.
3. South Central Railway.
4. South-East Central Railway.

(c) One 50 bedded Railway Hospital in each of the following Divisions viz. in Agra Division on North Central Railway; in Raipur Division on South East Central Railway and one in Nanded Division on South Central Railway have been proposed to be set up. One 150 bedded Super-Specialty Central Hospital on East Central Railway is being set up at Patna.

(d) 18-24 months.

**Charter of Demands of IA/AI Pilots**

1924. SHRI DUSHYANT SINGH : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the pilots of Indian Airlines (IA) and Air India (AI) has submitted a charter of demands to the Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL) : (a) to (c) The erstwhile Indian Pilots' Guild, now a de-recognised Union, has submitted a Charter of Demands for the period 01.01.1997 to 31.12.2006 to the Management of Air India. Since there is no recognized Union for Pilots, the Management is discussing the matter with the negotiating Team of Pilots.

As regards Indian Airlines, the Management had received a representation from Indian Commercial Pilots' Association requesting for revision of payment of various allowances which was considered and settled amicably by the Management.

#### **Inclusion of Buddhist in SCs List**

1925.SHRI HARIBHAU RATHOD : Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether any discussion has been held recently on the issue of non-inclusion of Buddhist population in Scheduled Castes list in the country;

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

(c) whether any survey to find out from the cross classification the number of persons who are Buddhist by religion but have not written as Scheduled Castes has been started; and

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

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) The tabulation plan of 2001 Census provides for tabulating the data on Scheduled Caste by their religion.

#### **Running Allowances Committee**

1926.SHRI M.P. VEERENDRAKUMAR : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Running Allowances Committee constituted in July, 2002 has submitted its report to the Railways;

(b) if so, whether the Committee has recommended reduction in the allowances and perks of the running staff;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Railways have accepted the said recommendation of the Committee; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) and (c) A Statement is enclosed.

(d) and (e) The recommendations of the Committee are under examination in consultation with the recognised Federations and the Zonal Railways.

#### **Statement**

*The items in which the Committee on Running Allowances-2002 has recommended reduction, alongwith details, are as under*

S. No.	Item	Existing	Recommendation of the Committee on Running Allowances-2002
1	2	3	4
1	Pay element for computation of the specified in-service benefits.	30% of basic pay	10% of basic pay



1	2	3	4
2.	Pay element for computation of retirement benefits.	55% of basic pay	20% of basic pay
3.	Computation of kilometreage for the purpose of payment of running allowance to the running staff working trains on a Ghat Section.	(i) In the case of running staff working trains on all Ghat sections where the banker is actually employed in assisting the train, the computation of kilometreage is five times the actual distance travelled.  (ii) In all other cases (including those where the banking engine or assistance is not required), the computation is five times the actual distance travelled in the case of Class I Ghat section and three times the actual distance travelled in Class II Ghat section.  (iii) Two times the actual distance travelled in Sections classified as Special Ghat Sections.	(i) In the case of running staff working trains Class I and II Ghat sections where the banker is actually employed in assisting the train, four times the actual distance travelled.  (ii) In all other cases (including those where the banking engine or assistance is not required), four times the actual distance travelled in the case of Class I Ghat section and two and a half times the actual distance travelled in the case of Class II Ghat section.  (iii) One and a half times the actual distance travelled in Sections classified as Special Ghat sections.
4.	Trip Allowance	Rates range from Rs. 6/- to Rs. 12/- per trip depending upon the category of staff.	Abolished.

#### Expansion of Railway Network In Orissa

1927. SHRI PARSURAM MAJHI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Railways have a proposal for expansion of Railway network in the KBK districts, Orissa during the Eleventh Five Year Plan; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU) : (a) and (b) Eleventh Five Year Plan is not yet finalized. Further, railway projects are taken up on a broader perspective and district-wise data is not maintained. However, some of the project taken up in this region are as under :-

(Rs. in Crore)

S. No.	Name of the work	Cost	Expenditure upto March, 2006	Budget allocation for 2006-07
1	2	3	4	5
1.	New Line between Lanjigarh Road-Junagarh (54 km)	119.29	27.19	19.00

1	2	3	4	5
2.	New Line Between Khurda Road-Bolangir (289 km)	700.00	45.22	23.00
3.	Doubling between Lanjigarh Road-Titlagarh (47 km)	134.73	122.56	15.00
4.	Doubling between Sambalpur-Titlagarh (182 km)	474.25	—	5.00

**Funds under Centrally Sponsored Schemes**

1928. SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA :  
SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO :

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

(a) whether the Union Government is not in a position to fix any physical targets for many of the schemes like Post Matric Scholarships, Hostels for Boys and Girls, Special Central Assistance and Special Component Plan;

(b) if so, the reasons for not fixing any physical targets;

(c) whether the Union Government has not allocated funds to some State Governments under Centrally sponsored scheme resulting non-reaching of benefits to the beneficiaries;

(d) if so, the names of those States and the reasons therefor; and

(e) the action taken by the Union Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN) .: (a) and (b) The quantifiable deliverable/physical output for these Schemes have been given in the Outcome Budget of Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, for 2006-2007.

(c) to (e) The release of central assistance under these Centrally Sponsored Schemes, is based on specific proposals received from the concerned State Governments and Union Territory Administrations for a financial year. Nevertheless, in case of Special Central Assistance to Scheduled Castes Sub Plan, central assistance is released on the basis of the size of Scheduled Caste population, relative backwardness and other effort-based criteria.

**New Tourism Policy**

1929. SHRI RANEN BARMAN : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government proposes to formulate any new tourism policy;

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

(c) the steps being taken by the Government to encourage domestic as well as international tourism?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) A number of steps have been taken by the Government to encourage domestic and foreign tourists. These include :-

- Development of tourist spots under its schemes of infrastructure development for tourist circuits/destinations;
- Focusing on growth of hotel infrastructure particularly budget hotels;
- Enhancing connectivity through augmentation of air capacity and improving road infrastructure to major tourist attractions;
- Direct approach to the consumers through Electronic and Print media through the "Incredible India" Campaign;
- Creation of World Class Collaterals;
- Centralized Electronic Media Campaign;
- Greater focus in the emerging markets particularly in the region of China, North East Asia and South East Asia;

- Participation in Trade Fairs and Exhibitions;
- Use of Internet and web marketing; and
- Generating Tourist Publications.

[Translation]

**Survey for Railway Line between  
Jetalsar and Dhasa**

1930. SHRI V.K. THUMMAR : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Railways have conducted any survey for laying a new railway line between Jetalsar and Dhasa in Western Railways;

(b) if so, the details alongwith the findings of the survey; and

(c) the follow-up action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU) : (a) to (c) A survey for gauge conversion between Jetalsar and Dhasa has been taken up. Further decision would be taken based on results of the survey.

[English]

**Operation of Small Aircraft on  
Regional Routes**

1931. SHRI SUBODH MOHITE : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has formulated any plan to encourage small airlines which are operating only small aircraft that too on regional routes;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of the airlines operating at present on regional routes with small aircraft;

(d) the norms apoplicable at present on these airlines;

(e) whether the Government proposes to change the existing norms;

(f) if so, whether the changed norms will be applicable on helicopter services too; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL) : (a), (b), (d) and (e) At present there are no separate norms for airlines operating only small aircraft that too on regional routes. However, proposal to incentivise operations on regional routes/by regional airlines with small aircraft is under consideration of the Government.

(c) At present, Air Deccan is providing scheduled air services on regional routes with ATR type of aircraft connecting small towns/cities, in addition to operating on trunk routes. Paramount Airways is also operating on regional routes in Southern India. Alliance Air has taken on lease foru ATR42 aircrafts and commenced scheduled operations in the North-East region w.e.f. 2.1.2003. These aircraft were deployed exclusively in North-East region under the terms of an MOU with the North-East Council.

(f) and (g) At present Helicopters are not used for scheduled services. Hence, does not arise.

**Assam Renewal Project by ONGC**

1932. SHRI M.K. SUBBA : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Oil and Natural Gas Corporation has drawn out a mega-plan, named "Assam Renewal Project";

(b) if so, the details and cost of the projects; and

(c) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to implement the project?

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

(b) ONGC has informed that it will revamp all the existing surface facilities of Assam Asset including revamping of the entire pipeline network and creation of new surface facilities at Changmaigaon and Laiplinggaon fields. Estimated cost of the project is Rs. 2500 Crores.

(c) ONGC has invited tenders on 23.06.06 with completion schedule of three years from notice of award.

**Tourism and Travel Management Institutes**

1933. SHRI JOACHIM BAXLA : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government proposes to set up some new Tourism and Travel Management Institutes in the country; and

(b) if so, the details alongwith the location thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI) : (a) and (b) The Ministry has acquired a piece of land in Sector 62 at NOIDA, UP, proposing to set up an 'Education Grid' comprising inter-alia another centre of the Indian Institute of Tourism and Travel Management (IITTM).

**Monuments Protected by CISF**

1934. SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN : Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of monuments which are protected under CISF security in the country; State-wise;

(b) the amount spent on security of those monuments during each of the last three years; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to provide security to all the monuments in the country?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI) : (a) and (b) The security personnel of Central Industrial Security Force have been deployed at Taj Mahal, Agra (Uttar Pradesh) and Red Fort, Delhi (NCT of Delhi), for which following expenditure has been incurred during the last three years.

2003-04	Rs. 02.42 crores
2004-05	Rs. 13.14 crores
2005-06	Rs. 07.09 crores

(c) The Archaeological Survey of India has provided regular watch and ward staff for the protected monuments. In addition to this, private security guards and State Police personnel are also deployed in selected monuments to provide security. The Archaeological Survey of India has also taken up a planned programme for providing fencing to the protected monuments.

[Translation]

**Private Sector in Cleanliness and Public Convenience on Railway Station**

1935. SHRI CHANDRABHAN SINGH : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state the details of stations on which the cleanliness or public convenience and other work etc. is being offered to the private companies so far by the Ministry of Railways?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU) : 'Pay and Use' toilets have been provided at around 550 stations on Indian Railways. Besides, mechanised cleaning through private agencies having expertise in this field has also been adopted at some stations.

[English]

**Rail Link with Bhutan**

1936. SHRI E.G. SUGAVANAM : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether any feasibility studies have been conducted for extension of Indian Railway Network from the States of West Bengal and Assam to the nearest border towns in Bhutan;

(b) if so, the outcome thereof alongwith the routes identified in this regard; and

(c) the time by which rail links will be established between the two countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU) : (a) to (c) Feasibility Studies for the extension of Indian Railway network from the States of West Bengal and Assam to the nearest border towns in Bhutan have been taken up covering the following links :-

- (i) Hasimara (West Bengal)-Phuentsholing (18 Kms) and bifurcation to Pasakha;
- (ii) Kokrajhar (Assam)-Gelephu (70 Kms);
- (iii) Pathsala (Assam)-Nanglam (40 Kms);
- (iv) Rangia (Assam)-Samdrupjongkhar via Darranga (60 Kms); and

(v) **Banarhat (West Bengal)-Samtse (16 Kms)**

The decision regarding establishment of rail connectivity between the two countries will be taken up depending upon the results of the feasibility studies.

**Recommendations of Tariff Commission**

1937. SHRIMATI JAYABEN B. THAKKAR : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Tariff Commission on Pipeline transportation tariff and marketing margin sale of regassified Liquefied Natural Gas has submitted its report;

(b) if so, the details of the recommendations made by the Tariff commission;

(c) whether the Government has accepted all the recommendations made by the Tariff commission; and

(d) if not, the details of the recommendations which have not been accepted alongwith the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL) : (a) to (d) The Tariff Commission submitted its final report to the Inter Ministerial Group (IMG) constituted to examine issues relating to supply of natural gas and LNG to fertilizer industry. IMG considered and accepted all the recommendations of the Tariff Commission in the 2nd Meeting held on 18.5.2006. The main recommendations of the Tariff Commission are given in the enclosed Statement. The offtakers of the Regasified Liquefied Natural Gas (RLNG) have expressed their reservations on the recommendation to reduce marketing margins and have requested re-examination of this issue.

**Statement**

*The main recommendations of Tariff Commission are summarised below :*

1. Shipping Rate to be US \$ 0.2483/MMBTU as against US \$ 0.2597/MMBTU.
2. Regasification charges of Rs. 23.85/MMBTU with price variation formula as against Rs. 23.70/MMBTU with 5% escalation.

3. Transportation tariff charged by GAIL to be at a levelized uniform rate of Rs. 831/MSCM for both HBJ and DVPL with price variation formula instead of Rs. 1150/MSCM with 1% increase for every 10% increase in WPI for HBJ pipeline and DVPL tariff of Rs. 500/MSCM within Gujarat, Rs. 632/MSCM upto Vijaipur and Rs. 652/MSCM beyond Vijaipur with 5% escalation.

4. Marketing Margin to be Rs. 1.97/MMBTU instead of Rs. 5.04MMBTU.

5. Heating values (both gross and Net) in MMBTU terms may be indicated for both NG/RLNG consumers; and

6. Recommended broad parameters for working of tariff of spur/feeder line.

**Fractures in Rail Tracks**

1938. SHRI NIHAL CHAND : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether after increasing the speed of Bhopal bound Shatabdi Express between New Delhi and Agra Cantt. the incidents of fracture in the rail-tracks have increased;

(b) if so, the reasons for taking the decision for increasing the speed of the train without assessing the condition of the rail-tracks between New Delhi and Agra Cantt.; and

(c) the remedial steps taken/proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU) : (a) No, Sir. Variation in rail/weld fractures is marginal.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

*[Translation]*

**Exploration of Oil and Gas**

1939. SHRI CHHATAR SINGH DARBAR : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the sites at which the work of oil and gas drilling has been started during the last two years;

(b) the increase in production of crude oil and natural gas as a result thereof; and

(c) the details of the companies commissioned for this job?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL) : (a) Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC), Oil India Limited (OIL) and Private/Joint Venture (JV) companies are carrying out drilling activities in the State of Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Tripura and offshore areas of the country.

(b) As a result of drilling in last 2 years, ONGC, OIL and Private/JV companies have accreted 768.75 Million Metric Tonnes (MMT) of inplace oil and gas reserves.

(c) Apart from inshore drilling efforts, ONGC, OIL and Private/JV companies have hired the drilling services of the following companies :-

- The Great Eastern Shipping Company Limited, Mumbai
- M/s Deep Water Services (India) Pvt. Limited, Mumbai
- Aban Loyd Chiles Offshore Limited, Chennai
- Jindal Drilling and Industries Limited, New Delhi
- M/s Discovery Hydrocarbon (P) Limited, New Delhi
- Jagson International Limited, New Delhi
- Transocean Offshore International Ventures Limited, Mumbai
- Triton Holding Limited, Mumbai
- Sedco Forex International Drilling Inc., Mumbai
- R and B Falcon (A) Pty. Limited, Australia
- Pride Foramer S.A.S., Dubai, U.A.E.
- Transocean Offshore Deep Water Drilling Inc. (TODDI), USA
- Dolphin Drilling Limited, U.K.
- M/s Shiv-Vani Universal Limited.

- M/s Newsco Directional and Horizontal Drilling Services Inc., Canada

- M/s Jay Bee Energy Pte. Limited

- M/s Flotech Consultant and Services Pte. Limited

*[English]*

#### **Air Service from Jamnagar to Karachi**

1940.SHRI VIKRAMBHAI ARJANBHAI MADAM : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government has received any proposal from public/private airlines to operate their services from Jamnagar to Karachi; and

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

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

(b) Does not arise.

#### **Railway Volunteers Scheme**

1941.SHRI MILIND DEORA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Western Railway is considering to revive its Rail Volunteers Scheme in wake of the recent serial bomb blasts in Mumbai; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) Does not arise.

*[Translation]*

#### **Reservation for SCs/STs**

1942.SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the provision of reservation for Scheduled Castes (SCs)/Scheduled Tribes (STs) in the Constitution of India has made only for ten years;

(b) if so, the number of times the provision of reservation has been extended by making amendments in the Constitution so far;

(c) whether the benefits of reservation have been availed by one caste in particular and it has achieved parity with the forward castes;

(d) if so, whether the Government proposes to make provision to ensure that the benefits of reservation are actually availed by other backward castes; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN) : (a) to (e) Initially, the Constitution provided reservation of seats for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in the House of People (Lok Sabha) and State Legislative Assemblies for a period of ten years. This period has been extended upto 2010 by making amendments five times to Article 334 of the Constitution. No specific data is available to show that the benefits of reservation have been availed by any one particular caste.

#### **Zonal Railway Consultative Committee**

1943. SHRI M. ANJAN KUMAR YADAV :  
SHRI V.K. THUMMAR :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether no meeting of various Zonal Railway Consultative Committees have been held so far;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the rules prescribed for holding meetings in this regard; and

(d) the steps being taken by the Railways for holding the meetings of these Committees?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU) : (a) Two to four meetings of Zonal Railway Users' Consultative Committees (ZRUCCs) have been held during its tenure from 01/08/2004 to 31/07/2006.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) As per provision of Constitution of Users' Consultative Committee, the meetings of ZRUCC should be held thrice a year.

(d) Instructions were reiterated to hold the meetings of these committees as per schedule.

#### **Village Tourism**

1944. SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK :  
SHRIMATI RUPATAI D. PATIL :

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government has formulated any scheme for promoting village tourism in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of the States where this scheme has been implemented; and

(d) the steps taken/being taken to implement the said scheme in the remaining States?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The creation of infrastructure in Rural areas having potential for tourism is being supported under the existing scheme of Product/Infrastructure Development for Destination and Circuit of Ministry of Tourism, while community participation and the capacity building including skill up gradation in such rural areas are being supported through GOI-UNDP Endogenous Tourism Project. The objective is to showcase rural life, art, culture and heritage at rural locations and in villages, which have core-competency in terms of culture/craft/handlooms/textile etc.

(c) Under the scheme funds are sanctioned and released to the State/UT Governments for infrastructure development at Rural sites. Based on proposals received from State Government during 10th Five Year Plan the details of Central Financial Assistance extended for development of each such village is enclosed in the given Statement-I and central assistance extended for capacity building etc. under UNDP project is enclosed in the given Statement-II.

(d) The Ministry of Tourism has identified 25 villages in consultation and interaction with the State/UT Governments for development as Rural Tourism sites during the year 2006-07.

**Statement-I**

*Statement Showing Central Financial Assistance for Development of each such Village during 10th Five Year Plan*

(Rs. in lakh)

State	Sl. No.	Name of the Project	Year of Sanction	Amount Sanctioned	Amount Released
1	2	3	4	5	6
1. Andhra Pradesh	1	Development of Rural Tourism at Pochampalli, Nalgonda Distt.	2003-04	50.00	40.00
	2	Rural Tourism at Konaseema Village, East Godavari Distt.	2003-04	50.00	50.00
	3	Development of Rural Tourism at Puttaparthi, Ananthpur Distt.	2004-05	49.50	49.50
	4	Development of Rural Tourism at Chinchinada, East Godavari Distt.	2004-05	50.00	40.00
	5	Development of Rural Tourism at Srikalahasti, Chittoor Distt.	2004-05	50.00	40.00
2. Arunachal Pradesh	6	Development of Rural Tourism at Village Rengo, Distt. East Siang.	2005-06	49.62	39.69
3. Assam	7	Development of Rural Tourism at Durgapur, Distt. Golaghat	2002-03	46.83	14.04
	8	Rural Tourism Dehing-Patakai Kshetra, Distt. Tinsukia	2004-05	44.33	35.46
	9	Rural Tourism at Sualkuchi in Kamrup Distt.	2004-05	50.00	40.00
	10	Rural Tourism Project at village Asharikandi, Distt. Dhubri	2005-06	48.97	39.17
4. Bihar	11	Rural Tourism Project at Nepura Village, Distt. Nalanda	2003-04	50.00	40.00
5. Chhattisgarh	12	Development of Rural Tourism at Village Chitrakote, Distt. Bastar	2003-04	50.00	40.00
	13	Development of Rural Tourism at Chitrokote, Distt. Bastar	2003-04	50.00	40.00
	14	Development of Rural Tourism at Champaran, Distt. Raipur	2003-04	50.00	15.00
	15	Rural Tourism at Nagarnar, Distt. Bastar	2003-04	48.00	38.40
	16	Rural Tourism at Village Kondagaon, Distt. Bastar	2005-06	50.00	40.00
6. Delhi	17	Rural Tourism at Kotla Mubarakpur	2003-04	09.78	09.78



1	2	3	4	5	6
	18	Rural Tourism at Nangli, Razapur, Delhi	2003-04	36.30	36.30
7. Gujarat	19	Development of heritage village at Tera, Distt. Kachchh	2003-04	50.00	40.00
	20	Rural Tourism at Hodka, Distt. Kachchh	2003-04	50.00	40.00
	21	Development of Navagaon and Malegaon rural Tourism, Distt. Dang	2003-04	92.70	27.81
8. Haryana	22	Rural Tourism at Jyotisar, Distt. Kurukshetra	2003-04	50.00	40.00
9. Himachal Pradesh	23	Rural Tourism at Nagar, Distt. Kullu	2003-04	50.00	40.00
	24	Rural Tourism Paragpur, Distt. Kangra Valley	2003-04	50.00	40.00
10. Jammu and Kashmir	25	Development of Rural Tourism at Village Drung, Distt. Baramula	2005-06	50.00	40.00
	26	Development of Rural Tourism at Village Surinsar, Distt. Jammu	2005-06	50.00	40.00
	27	Development of Rural Tourism at Village Gagangir, Distt. Srinagar	2005-06	50.00	40.00
	28.	Development of Rural Tourism at Village Pahalgam, Distt. Anantnag	2005-06	50.00	40.00
	29.	Development of Rural Tourism at village Jheri, Distt. Jammu	2005-06	50.00	40.00
11. Karnataka	30	Rural Tourism Project at Kokkare Bellur, Distt. Bellur	2002-03	50.00	15.00
	31	Development of Attiveri Bird Sanctuary as a Rural Tourism Project, Distt. Uttar Kannada	2003-04	60.00	18.00
	32	Rural Tourism at Banavasi Distt., Uttar Kannada	2003-04	50.00	40.00
	33	Rural Tourism Project in Anegundi, Distt. Koppal	2003-04	50.00	40.00
	34	Rural Tourism Project in Coorg, Distt. Kodagu	2003-04	50.00	40.00
12. Kerala	35	Development of Kumbalangi as Rural Tourism Destination, Distt. Ernakulam	2003-04	50.00	50.00
	36	Development of Rural Tourism at Arnamura, Distt. Pathanamthitta	2003-04	20.00	16.00
	37.	Development of village Balrampur in Thiruvananthapuram Distt.	2004-05	50.00	40.00
	38.	Development of Rural Tourism at Village Kalady, Distt. Ernakulam for Spice Circuit	2006-07	47.20	37.76

1	2	3	4	5	6
	39.	Development of Rural Tourism at Village Anakkara, Distt. Idukki for Spice Circuit	2006-07	50.00	40.00
13. Madhya Pradesh	40	Rural Tourism in Hatwa village, Distt. Siddhi	2002-03	44.00	13.20
	41	Rural Tourism at Chaugan, Distt. Mandla	2003-04	50.00	40.00
	42	Rural Tourism Project at Pranpur, Distt. Ashoknagar	2003-04	48.00	38.00
	43	Rural Tourism Project at Orchha, Distt. Tikamgarh	2005-06	50.00	40.00
14. Maharashtra	44	Rural Tourism at Sulibhanjan-Khultabad Distt. Aurangabad	2003-04	50.00	40.00
15. Nagaland	45	Rural Tourism at Mopunchupket, Distt. Mokokchung	2002-03	50.00	40.00
16. Orissa	46	Rural Tourism project at Raghurajpur, Distt. Puri	2002-03	50.00	40.00
	47	Development of village Pipli in Puri Distt.	2004-05	50.00	40.00
	48	Development of Rural Tourism at Village Khiching, Distt. Mayurbhanj	2005-06	50.00	40.00
	49	Development of Rural at Village Barpali, Distt. Bargarh	2006-07	50.00	40.00
	50	Development of Rural Tourism at Village Hirapur, Distt. Khurda	2006-07	50.00	40.00
	51	Development of Rural Tourism at Village Padmanavpur, Distt. Ganjam	2006-07	50.00	40.00
17. Rajasthan	52	Rural Tourism at Neemrana, Distt. Alwar	2003-04	50.00	50.00
	53	Rural Tourism Project Samode Village, Distt. Jaipur	2003-04	50.00	40.00
18. Sikkim	54	Development of village Lachen in North Distt.	2004-05	50.00	40.00
19. Tamil Nadu	55	Development of Kazhugumalai Under Rural Tourism, Distt. Thoothukudi	2003-04	48.66	38.94
	56	Development of Theerthamalai, Distt. Dharmapuri	2003-04	50.00	40.00
	57	Rural Tourism at Karaikudi, Chettinadu, Distt. Sivaganga	2003-04	50.00	40.00
	58	Development of Devipattinam Navbhashnam in Ramnathpuram Distt.	2005-06	50.00	40.00
	59.	Thirukurungudi, Distt. Tirunelveli	2005-06	50.00	40.00

1	2	3	4	5	6
	60	Thiruppudaimaurthur, Distt. Tirunelveli, Tamil Nadu	2005-06	49.55	39.64
	61	Development of Rural Tourism at Village Kombai, Distt. Theni, for Spice Circuit.	2006-07	50.00	40.00
	62	Development of Rural Tourism at Village Thadiyankudissai, Distt. Dindigul, for Spice Circuit	2006-07	50.00	40.00
20. Tripura	63	Rural Tourism at Kamlasagar, Distt. West Tripura	2002-03	42.92	13.48
	64	Rural Tourism at Jampui Hills, Distt. North Tripura	2003-04	50.00	15.00
	65	Development of Rural Tourism at Village Joychandrapur, Distt. South Tripura	2005-06	50.00	40.00
21. Uttaranchal	66	Rural Tourism Project at Jageshwar, Distt. Almora	2002-03	50.00	50.00
	67	Rural Tourism Project in Agora Village (Dodital) Uttar Kashi Distt.	2005-06	48.50	38.80
	68	Development of Hub Village at Mottad and its satellite station	2005-06	48.05	38.44
	69	Development of Rural Tourism at Village Chekhoni Bora, Distt. Champawat.	2005-06	44.20	35.28
	70	Development of Rural Tourism at village Koti, Indroli	2005-06	47.10	37.68
	71	Development of Rural Tourism at Village Mana, Distt. Chamoli	2005-06	50.00	40.00
	72	Development of Rural Tourism (Eco-Tourism) in Devriyatal at Village Sari, Distt. Rudraprayag	2005-06	45.14	36.00
22. Uttar Pradesh	73	Development of Rural Tourism at Bhitara Gram, Distt. Rae Bareilly.	2005-06	49.52	39.62
	74	Development of Rural Tourism at Village Mukhrai, Distt. Mathura	2005-06	45.89	36.00
23. West Bengal	75	Development of Rural Tourism Centre at Ballabhpur Danga, Distt. Birbhum	2003-04	50.00	15.00
	76	Development of village Sonada, Distt. Darjeeling	2004-05	50.00	40.00
	77	Development of Rural Tourism at Village Mukutmonipur, Distt. Bankura	2006-07	50.00	40.00
<b>Total</b>				<b>3764.76</b>	<b>2826.99</b>

**Statement-II***Statement Showing Central Financial Assistance for Capacity Building Etc. under UNDP Project*

(Rs. in lakh)

State	Name of the Project	Name of Distt.	Year of Sanction	Amount Sanctioned	Amount Released
1	2	3	4	5	6
1. Andhra Pradesh	1. Pochampalli	Nalgonda	2004-05	20.00	16.00
	2. Srikalahasti	Chittoor	2004-05	20.00	16.00
2. Assam	3. Durgapur	Golaghat	2004-05	20.00	16.00
	4. Sualkuchi	Kamrup	2004-05	19.95	15.96
3. Bihar	5. Nepura	Nalanda	2004-05	20.00	16.00
4. Chhattisgarh	6. Chitrakote	Bastar	2004-05	20.00	16.00
	7. Nagamar	Bastar	2004-05	20.00	16.00
5. Gujarat	8. Hodka	Kachchh	2004-05	20.00	16.00
6. Haryana	9. Jyotisar	Kurukshetra	2004-05	20.00	16.00
7. Himachal Pradesh	10. Naggar	Kullu	2004-05	20.00	16.00
8. Karnataka	11. Banavasi	Uttara Kannada	2004-05	20.00	16.00
	12. Anegundi	Koppal	2005-06	20.00	16.00
9. Kerala	13. Kumbalangi	Ernakulam	2004-05	20.00	16.00
	14. Arnamura	Pathanamthitta	2004-05	20.00	16.00
	15. Kalady (Spice Circuit)	Ernakulam	2005-06	10.00	08.00
	16. Anakkara (Spice Circuit)	Idukki	2005-06	10.00	08.00
10. Madhya Pradesh	17. Pranpur	Ashok Nagar	2004-05	20.00	16.00
	18. Chaugan	Mandla	2004-05	20.00	16.00
11. Maharashtra	19. Sulibhanjan-Khultabad	Aurangabad	2004-05	20.00	16.00
12. Orissa	20. Raghurajpur	Puri	2004-05	20.00	17.60
	21. Pipli	Puri	2004-05	20.00	16.00
13. Punjab	22. Rajasansi	Amritsar	2004-05	20.00	16.00
14. Rajasthan	23. Neemrana	Alwar	2004-05	20.00	16.00
	24. Samode	Jaipur	2004-05	20.00	16.00
	25. Haldighati	Rajsamand	2004-05	19.32	15.45

1	2	3	4	5	6
15. Sikkim	26. Lachen	North Distt.	2004-05	20.00	16.00
16. Tamil Nadu	27. Kazhugumalai	Thoothukudi	2004-05	20.00	16.00
	28. Karaikudi	Sivaganga	2004-05	20.00	16.00
	29. Kombai (Spice Circuit)	Theni	2005-06	10.00	08.00
	30. Thadiyankudisai (Spice Circuit)	Dindigul	2005-06	10.00	08.00
17. Tripura	31. Kamlasagar	West Tripura	2004-05	20.00	16.00
18. Uttaranchal	32. Jageshwar	Almora	2005-06	20.00	16.00
	33. Mana	Chamoli	2004-05	20.00	16.00
19. Uttar Pradesh	34. Bhaguwala	Saharanpur	2004-05	19.75	15.50
20. West Bengal	35. Ballabhpur Danga	Birbhum	2004-05	20.00	16.00
	36. Mukutmonipur	Bankura	2004-05	20.00	16.00
Total				679.02	544.51

#### **Petrol Retail Outlets on National Highways**

1945. SHRI JASWANT SINGH BISHNOI : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) the norms prescribed for opening of petrol retail outlets on the National Highways;

(b) the number of petrol retail outlets opened by the public sector oil companies on the National Highways during the last three years;

(c) whether some retail outlets have been closed down on National Highways during the said period; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL) : (a) The grant of permission for access for fuel stations, service stations and rest areas along the National Highways is governed by the guidelines laid down by the Ministry of Shipping, Road Transport and Highways. These guidelines inter alia specify the general conditions of siting, plot sizes for fuel stations, access layouts, drainage requirements, enforcement of Right of Way and Building

Line, System for signs and markings, implementation procedure, etc.

(b) to (d) During the last three years, i.e., 2003-04, 2004-05 and 2005-06, the public sector oil marketing companies (OMCs), viz. Indian Oil Corporation Limited, Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited, Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited and IBP Co. Limited, opened 2655 retail outlet dealerships (RO) along the National Highways. During the said period, some ROs along the National Highways have also been closed down due to various reasons, like, resitement of ROs due to expansion/widening of National Highways, non-receipt of approval from National Highways Authority of India, termination of ROs due to irregularities/malpractices indulged in by dealers, dispute between the partners, poor sales performance, etc.

#### **Investigation against Senior PSUs Officials**

1946. SHRI BHUVANESHWAR PRASAD MEHTA : Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Central Vigilance Commission has completed the investigation against the senior PSUs officials;

(b) if so, the outcome thereof and the follow-up action taken or being taken by the Government thereon; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF HEAVY INDUSTRY, MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH) :

(a) to (c) As per the information furnished by the Central Vigilance Commission, during the recent past, vigilance clearance was not given or withheld in the cases of three candidates included in the panels recommended by the Public Enterprises Selection Board for selection of the following posts :-

1. Chairman-cum-Managing Director – National Mineral Development Corporation Ltd.
2. Chairman-cum-Managing Director – National Hydroelectric Power Corporation Ltd.
3. Chairman-cum-Managing Director – Hooghly Dock and Port Engineers Ltd.

None of the candidates not having vigilance clearance was appointed to the respective posts in these Central Public Sector Enterprises.

[English]

#### Toilet Facilities in Trains

1947. SHRI SUKHDEV SINGH DHINDSA :  
SARDAR SUKHDEV SINGH LIBRA :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Ambala-Amritsar and Ambala-Nangal trains have no toilet facilities putting the travelling passengers in great inconvenience;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Railways propose to provide toilet facilities in these trains; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU) : (a) to (d) As a matter of policy, commuter type trains running over relatively short

distances of upto 160 Kms. or a journey time of upto 4 hrs are permitted without toilet. In the event of journey time being longer, adequate halt is provided at an intermediate and convenient station for the benefit of passengers.

In the present case, the toiletless DMU services between Ambala-Amritsar cover a distance of 249 kms. For DMU Train No. 333 between Ambala Cantt – Amritsar, a stoppage of 40 minutes has been provided at Ludhiana Jn. Stoppage at Ludhiana Jn. for DMU Train No. 334 between Amritsar and Ambala Cantt is being increased to 30 minutes to enable passengers use the toilet facility at station.

MEMU/DMU trains between Ambala – Nangaldam cover a distance of 157 Kms only and are therefore toilet less as per policy.

#### LPG Agencies/Petrol Pumps to Ex-Servicemen

1948. SHRI BRAJESH PATHAK :  
SHRI JAI PRAKASH (MOHANLAL GANJ) :

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

(a) the number of gas agencies and petrol pumps allotted to ex-servicemen and their dependents during each of the last three years;

(b) the number of LPG Agencies/Petrol Pumps proposed to be allotted during the current year;

(c) whether some disputes relating to allotment of petrol pumps and gas agencies to ex-servicemen have been reported to the Government during the said period;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL) : (a) to (e) During the last three years, i.e., 2003-04, 2004-05 and 2005-06, the public sector oil marketing companies (OMCs), viz. Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOC), Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPC), Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPC) and IBP Co.

Limited (IBP) have allotted 205 retail outlet dealerships (RO) and 51 LPG distributorships (LPG) to ex-servicemen and their dependents. The year-wise break-up is as under :

Year	RO	LPG	Total
2003-04	44	16	60
2004-05	96	31	127
2005-06	65	4	69
Grand Total	205	51	256

During the year 2006-07, the OMCs plan to allot 168 ROs and 265 LPG agencies to ex-servicemen and their dependents.

The guidelines of OMCs for selection of dealers/distributors provide for grievance redressal mechanism, as per which any complaint/dispute regarding selection/appointment of dealers/distributors is dealt with by the OMCs concerned. The complaints received by the Government are also forwarded to OMCs to take necessary action. The details of such cases as also action taken are available with Director (Marketing) of the OMCs concerned.

#### **Gauge Conversion of Bhildi-Samdari**

1949. SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

- the progress made so far on gauge conversion of Bhildi-Samdari railway line project;
- the total expenditure incurred on the project, till date; and
- the time schedule for completion of the said project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU) : (a) Earthwork, bridgeworks have been taken up. Earthwork to the tune of 1.05 lakh cubic metre (cum) and substructure work of 13 bridges have been completed.

(b) Expenditure on the project upto 30.06.2006 is about Rs. 8.13 crore.

(c) March, 2008.

#### **Petrol Chemicals Projects**

1950. SHRI EKNATH MAHADEO GAIKWAD :  
SHRI KIRTI VARDHAN SINGH :  
SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE :

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

(a) whether the Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) proposes to give a stake to Kuwait Petroleum Corporation in its proposed Petrol Chemicals Complex in Panipat and Paradip;

(b) if so, the details of the proposal with relative advantages;

(c) whether the IOC has signed any MoU with Kuwait Petroleum Corporation for setting up oil exploration and refining ventures in India;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the State where such ventures will be set up ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL) : (a) and (b) Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) have indicated its willingness for participation of Kuwait Petroleum Corporation Limited (KPC) in its grass root integrated refinery cum petrochemical complex at Paradip as well as in naphtha cracker and downstream polymer complex at Panipat. However, no formal proposal has been provided by IOC to KPC in this regard.

In the event of participation of KPC in the above projects, the likely relative advantages to IOC will be as under :-

- KPC's equity participation would minimize IOC's risks involved in the project, in proportion to the respective participation interest of the two companies.
- KPC's international experience in pursuing such mega projects could be beneficial to IOC.
- Participation of KPC in IOC's projects in India could facilitate IOC's participation in KPC's overseas projects.

(c) to (e) IOC have executed a Memorandum of Understanding with KPC in March, 2006 for cooperation in trade of hydrocarbons, upstream oil and gas projects, downstream oil projects, Research and Development and training, in India, Kuwait and in any other third country.

#### **Integrated Railways Modernisation Plan**

1951. SHRI B. VINOD KUMAR :  
SHRI SUBRATA BOSE :  
SHRI JASUBHAI DHANABHAI BARAD :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether an Integrated Railway Modernisation Plan has been formulated by the Railways;

(b) if so, the details of the areas to be covered under the said Plan;

(c) the total funds earmarked for implementing the said Plan and the expenditure incurred so far; and

(d) the major items of works to be executed during the current financial year under the said Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Integrated Railways Modernisation Plan (IRMP) has been formulated for 2005-2010 identifying activities with definite time frame for implementation. It has got 3 segments, the details of which are as under :

**Passenger Business Segment** includes increased induction of modern coaches in all Rajdhani/Shatabdi trains, expansion of Passenger Reservation System (PRS) and Unreserved Ticketing System (UTS) across the country, Environment Friendly toilets in coaches, Improved Safety features in coaches in terms of its crashworthiness and fire retarding features.

**Freight Business Segment** includes Introduction of Higher Axle Load, Double Stack Containers and Roll-on-Roll-Off wagons on the identified routes, Introduction of light weight and corrosion resistant steel and aluminum wagons, Extension of Freight Operations Management System to cover Terminal, Rake and Crew Management System, Completion of works ...ified under National Rail Vikas Yojana (NRVY)

along with some other Throughput Enhancement works, etc.

**Other Modernisation Initiatives** includes Track Modernisation and its maintenance practices, Modernisation of Bridge Management System, Signaling and Telecommunication System, Mechanical and Electrical System and the Disaster Management System.

(c) Total Expenditure envisaged for execution of the identified items in the IRMP is about Rs. 24,000 Crores and the expenditure so far incurred is approximately Rs. 2617 Crore.

(d) The major items of works to be executed in the current financial year are as under :

1. Completion of Throughput Enhancement works
2. Development of modern freight terminals
3. Introduction of Double Stack Containers
4. Ware-housing facilities near rail terminals
5. Expansion of Passenger Reservation System (PRS) and Unreserved Ticketing System (UTS)
6. Track, Bridge and Signal modernisation.

*[Translation]*

#### **Petro-Chemical Project at Mangalore**

1952. DR. CHINTA MOHAN :  
SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH "LALAN"  
SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR :

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

(a) whether the Government has decided to set up a Petro-chemical project Mangalore under the Special Economic Zone Scheme;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the cost of the project;

(c) the benefits likely to be accrued from the said project; and

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



THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL) : (a) and (b) Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Ltd. (ONGC) has obtained approval of its Board of Directors for formation of a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV), namely, Mangalore Petrochemicals Ltd. (MPL) for implementation of an Aromatics complex in Mangalore SEZ at an estimated cost of Rs. 4852 crore. ONGC has also proposed an Olefins Project in Mangalore SEZ. The feedstock would be the aromatic rich naphtha stream from the existing Mangalore Refinery and Petrochemicals Ltd. (MRPL), a subsidiary of ONGC, and its proposed expansion unit.

(c) Following important benefits are envisaged from the proposed petrochemical project :-

- Value chain addition to heavy naphtha stream of MRPL product slate.
- Possibility of utilizing heavy and high aromatic content crude in upgraded refinery, which will yield higher refinery margin.
- Reduction in capital cost of the project by virtue of locating it in the SEZ.
- Ready feedstock for downstream petrochemical projects in the southern peninsula.

Sl. No.	Name of the State	2003		2004		2005	
		Domestic	Foreign	Domestic	Foreign	Domestic	Foreign
1.	Goa	1725140	314357	2085729	363230	1829019	327455
2.	Kerala	5871228	294621	5972182	345546	5946423	346499
3.	Jammu and Kashmir	5748846	24330	6881473	40242	7239481	44345

(b) and (c) Development and promotion of tourism in the country is a continuous process. Ministry of Tourism has been identifying and developing places of tourist interest in consultation with the State Governments/Union Territories. From the 10th Five Year Plan, Ministry of Tourism has been providing funds for the following schemes :

- (i) Tourist Circuits
- (ii) Product Infrastructure and Destination Development

(d) The project is expected to go on stream by the end of 2010.

[English]

#### Tourism Projects in Kerala

1953. SHRI P.C. THOMAS :

SHRI P. KARUNAKARAN :

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) the number of domestic and foreign tourists visited Kerala, Goa and Jammu and Kashmir during each of the last three years;

(b) whether the Union Government has received any proposal of tourism projects for central assistance from the Government of Kerala during the current year;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the action taken by the Union Government thereon; and

(e) the further steps taken by the Union Government for the development/promotion of tourism in Kerala?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI) : (a) The number of domestic and foreign tourists who visited Kerala, Goa and Jammu and Kashmir during the last three years is as under :

(iii) Fairs and Festivals including Events

(iv) Large Revenue Generating scheme

The following projects have been prioritized for grant of Central financial assistance to Kerala during 2006-07 :

Destination :

(1) Vagamon

(2) Kumarkom

(3) Padnabhapuram

**Circuit :**

(i) Southern Eco-Tourism

**Fairs and Festivals :**

1. Malabar Mahotsav

2. International Boat show

3. Elephant festival

4. Nishagandhi festival

**Rural tourism :**

(i) Kathakali Costume Village

(ii) Coir Village

(iii) Spice Village

The following projects have been received from the State Government of Kerala :

(a) Southern Eco-Tourism circuit

(b) Padnabhapuram Destination

(c) Malabar Mahotsav

(d) International Boat show

(e) Elephant festival

(f) Nishagandhi festival

(d) The project proposals which are received, complete in all respect, are appraised on the basis of inter-se-priority and funds released, subject to availability under the respective head. During the 10th Five Year Plan (till 2005-06), the Ministry of Tourism has sanctioned projects worth Rs. 9278.92 lakh for the State of Kerala.

(e) Promotion of tourism in the domestic and overseas markets is a continuous process. Ministry of Tourism promotes the places of tourist interests/spots in the country including the State of Kerala through its 20 India tourism offices located in India and 13 overseas, as also in the electronic, print and online media through the "Incredible India" campaign.

*[Translation]*

**Combat Role of Women Officers in Army**

1954. SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY :

MS. INGRID MCLEOD :

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether a comprehensive report by Director General of Armed Forces Medical Services (DGAFMS) has found the female officers fit for combat role in the Indian Army;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the Government's reaction thereto; and

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

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) No, Sir. No such report has been submitted by DGAFMS to the Government.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

*[English]*

**Railway Safety Policy**

1955. SHRI HITEN BARMAN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Railways have formulated any railway safety policy, enunciating work priorities to phase out the over-aged assets like tracks, coaches, wagons, signals and repair of old bridges etc. within a time bound programme; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU) : (a) and (b) A non-lapsable 'Special Railway Safety Fund' (SRSF) of Rs. 17000 crores has been set up w.e.f. 01.10.2001 to wipe out the arrears in renewal/replacement of over-aged assets like track, bridges, coaches, wagons, signals etc. within a time frame of 6 years. Details of major items funded through SRSF is as under :-

Details of works	Targets	Progress upto March 2006
1	2	3
Track Renewals	16538 km. : Complete Track Renewals (12376 km. on BG, 4162 km. on MG)	13358 km. : Complete Track Renewals
Bridge works	2370 Bridges	1920 Bridges
Signalling and Telecommunication	1448 Stations. : Complete Renewal 911 Stations. : Casual Renewals	866 Stns. : Complete Renewal 608 Stns. : Casual Renewal
Rolling Stock	Diesel loco + BG-93 Diesel loco* NG-6 Coach BG-186 Overhead Inspection. Car-52 Diesel Multiple Unit-12, Electric Multiple Unit-599' Coach% MG-520 Coach NG-157 Self propelled. Accident Train RT-60 Wagons-7698 (Vus)	90 Nil  409  74 48 Nil 5443
<b>Safety Enhancement</b>		
Twin Beam longer visibility head-lights Diesel and electric locos and EMU	9800 nos. (4900 Diesel) (4900 Electric)	2779 nos. (Diesel) 4900 nos. (Electric)
Automatic flasher lights on locos Diesel and Electric loco and EMU	2400 nos. (1200-Diesel) (1200-Electric)	1200 nos. (Diesel) 1200 nos. (Electric)
SPURT Cars for rail testing	3	2
Air-dryers for compressed Air system-Diesel locos	2000 nos.	495 nos.
Air-dryers for compressed Air system-Electric locos	3800 nos.	2700 nos.
Speed Recorders Micro Processor for Electric and Diesel Locomotives Loco speed recorders	1300 nos. (Diesel - 650) (Electric - 650)	692 nos. (Diesel) 652 nos. (Electric)
Track circuiting	5307 locations	3349 locations
Simulators for Dsl. and Elec. Loco Drivers	16 nos.	11 nos.

1	2	3
Hydraulic Re-Rerolling eqpt	39 nos	39 nos.
Technology to improve Thermit welds to improve rail life	1 work	2 firms indented for trial)
Optice Fibre Cable and Cable works	8147 Route km.	7847 Route km.

+BG - Broad Gauge  
 %MG - Metre Gauge  
 \*NG - Narrow Gauge

#### **Inclusion of Tourism in concurrent List**

1956.SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal to include 'Tourism' in the Concurrent List;

(b) if so, whether the Government has taken the views/opinion on it from the State Governments/Union Territories Administration;

(c) if so, the responses of the State Governments/ Union Territories Administration thereto; and

(d) the time by which the decision is likely to be taken in the matter?

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

(b) to (d) Does not arise.

#### **Training Programme for Unemployed Educated Youths**

1957.SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU : Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether any comprehensive training programme has been drawn up by the National Backward Classes Finance and Development Corporation (NBCFDC) in order to upgrade their existing skills and to create new skills among unemployed educated youths belonging to backward classes;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there is any proposal to set up Vocational Training Schools in various parts of the country particularly in backward class concentrated districts; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN) : (a) The NBCFDC has a Scheme to provide financial assistance for upgradation of skills of the Artisans of Backward Classes and to provide project-linked training. The scheme is implemented through State Channelising Agencies (SCAs) for which financial assistance is provided by NBCFDC.

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

(c) and (d) At present, there is no such proposal to set up Vocational Training Institute.

#### **Statement**

#### *National Backward Classes Finance and Development Corporation*

#### **TRAINING SCHEME AND UPGRADATION OF SKILL**

The objective of this scheme is to provide training to the target group to make them capable and self-dependant through appropriate technical training in the field of traditional and technical occupations and entrepreneurship. Financial assistance is provided in the form of grant through SCA/Institution. The trainee can obtain loan under NBCFDC general loan schemes to start his/her business after the successful completion of the training.

The Corporation provides financial assistance for project linked training for upgradation of technical and Entrepreneurial Skill of Members of Backward Classes through SCAs/training institutes as under :-

**Pattern of Finance**

NBCFDC 90% of the training cost.

SCA 10% of the training cost.

**Eligibility :** The applicant should belong to the Backward Classes as notified by Central Government/ State Government from time to time. The annual family income of the applicant in rural and urban areas should be below Rs. 40,000/- and Rs. 55,000/- respectively.

**DURATION OF TRAINING :** From 36 days to 3 months.

[Translation]

**Mixing of Water in LPG Cylinders**

1958. SHRI HARIKEWAL PRASAD :

SHRI TUKARAM GANPATRAO RENGE PATIL :

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

(a) whether the Government has received complaints regarding mixing of water in domestic Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) cylinders;

(b) if so, the details thereof during the last six months, State-wise; and

(c) the action taken by the Government against the LPG Distributors who were involved in such illegal activities?

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

(b) and (c) Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) have reported 5 cases of water filled cylinders to consumers by the LPG distributors of Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOC) during the last six months in Delhi. The names of the LPG distributors are as under :-

(i) M/s. Sona Enterprises.

(ii) M/s. Sindhu Enterprises.

(iii) M/s. Jayant Gas.

(iv) M/s. Karol Bag Gas.

(v) M/s. Sai Sewa Enterprises.

IOC have reported that in 4 cases out of these 5 cases, the cylinders were found partially containing water and were replaced free of cost by the respective distributors and in 1 case, the customer did not offer the cylinder for investigation. Further, IOC have reported that a committee has been constituted for detailed investigation in the matter.

[English]

**Coaching Facilities for SCs, OBCs, and Minorities**

1959. SHRI L. RAJAGOPAL : Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Central assistance given to the students of Scheduled Castes, Other Backward Classes and Minorities in the State of Andhra Pradesh for coaching and allied assistance is coming down from 2002-03;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the details of central assistance released to the State of Andhra Pradesh under the Scheme Upgradation of Merit of SCs students during each of the last three years; and

(d) the efforts made by the Government to provide quality coaching to SCs, OBCs, and Minorities in the State of Andhra Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN) : (a) and (b) The Central Assistance released to Andhra Pradesh under the Coaching and Allied Assistance from 2002-03 onwards is as under :

(Rs. in lakhs)

2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06
142.31	77.62	76.39	66.49

The level of Central Assistance in any year depends on the number of proposals received of eligible Field Implementing Agencies (FIAs) i.e. State Government, Universities and NGOs from Government of Andhra Pradesh.

(c) The central assistance released to the Government of Andhra Pradesh under the Scheme of Upgradation of Merit of SC students during each of the last three years is as under :—

(Rs. in lakhs)		
2003-04	2004-05	2005-06
42.00	44.40	44.40

(d) The Ministry impresses upon the State Governments to inspect the coaching institutes during the currency of the programme in order to assess and improve the quality of the coaching. The educational qualifications and experience of the faculty members are also called alongwith the proposals to ensure that coaching is given by good and experienced faculty.

#### **Expansion of Retail Outlets**

1960.SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO :  
SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA :

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

(a) whether the Government has directed the public sector oil marketing companies to suspend the expansion of retail outlets;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government has asked the public sector oil marketing companies to undertake the scientific and rational survey and identify the retail outlets selling less than 200 KL per month; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the response of the oil companies thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL) : (a) to (d) In a meeting in the Ministry in April, 2006 to review the performance of the oil marketing companies (OMCs), it was observed that while OMCs had

expanded their retail outlet (RO) network in a big way after the dismantling of the Administered Pricing Mechanism (APM) in the petroleum sector effective 1.4.2002, adequate attention had not been paid by them to improving the institutional and technological mechanisms, resulting in not only reduction in their average throughput per RO but also increase in complaints of malpractices. It was felt that there was a serious need for introspection by the OMCs on this issue and after deliberations, it was decided that pending a review of the whole situation OMCs should not set up any new retail outlets. A communication in this regard was sent to the OMCs on 20th April, 2006. In the aforesaid meeting, the OMCs were also advised to undertake survey by an independent agency to identify ROs selling less than 200 KL per month along with the reasons for decline in throughput and deterioration of services. Thereafter, following the representations from the OMCs and upon review of the whole issue, it was decided to lift the freeze on setting up of new ROs and a communication sent to the OMCs on 4th May, 2006. However, OMCs had been asked to get the aforesaid survey conducted in a time bound manner.

Subsequently, the Standing Committee on Petroleum and Natural Gas (2005-06) (Fourteenth Lok Sabha), in their Ninth Report presented/laid in the Parliament on 15.5.2006, expressed serious concern over the indiscriminate setting up of ROs by the OMCs and consequent reduction in the throughput per RO, coupled with a general deterioration in the performance of the ROs. The Committee, therefore, recommended constitution of an independent expert team to look into the issues and suggest corrective measures to improve the situation. Accepting this recommendation of the said Committee, the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas (MOP and NG) asked Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOC) to engage an independent agency for conducting a study of the ROs of the public sector OMCs. It has been decided that the study may be completed within a period of two months from the date of commissioning. In accordance with this decision of the Government, IOC, on behalf of all the OMCs, has since entrusted the job of study of the ROs to the Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad. In view of this development, MOP and NG has since advised the OMCs not to proceed with the survey as advised to them earlier on 4.5.2006.

**Stoppage of Trains at Byadagi Railway Station**

1961. SHRI MANJUNATH KUNNUR : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Railways have received any representations/requests from various quarters for stoppage of Inter-City Express and Mysore-Dharwad Express at Byadagi Railway Station, Karnataka; and

(b) if so, the action taken so far by the Railways thereon?

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

(b) The matter has been examined. Stoppage of 2725/2726 Bangalore-Hubli Intercity Express and 6201/6202 Mysore-Dharwad Express at Byadagi station has not been found operationally feasible at present.

**Education to Handicapped Persons**

1962. SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY :  
SHRI SUNIL KHAN :

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

(a) whether the Government is aware of the hardship faced by handicapped children in getting education even under the Universal Education Scheme 'Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan' due to their special requirements;

(b) if so, the steps the Government proposes to take for giving proper education to the handicapped children;

(c) whether the Government proposes to set up at least one school in every district to take special care of the needs of such children for pursuing their education without any hurdle; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the steps being taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN) : (a) No such report has been received.

(b) to (d) The following schemes are under implementation for providing education to the children with disabilities :-

(i) Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) has a goal of eight years of elementary schooling to all children including children with disabilities in the age-group of 6-14 years by 2010. The thrust in the programme is on providing integrated and inclusive education to the children with special needs in general schools. The programme supports wide range of approaches, options and strategies. This interalia includes open learning system and open schools, alternative schooling, distance education and learning, special schools wherever necessary, home based education, itinerant teacher model, remedial teaching, part time classes, community based rehabilitation (CBR) and vocational education.

(ii) The integrated Education of Disabled children (IEDC) Scheme promotes integrated education in schools by providing 100% financial assistance for creation of appropriate infrastructure, educational material and training to general school teachers to meet the requirement of children with special needs.

(iii) Under the Deendayal Disabled Rehabilitation Scheme (DDRS), financial assistance is provided to non-Governmental Organizations for imparting education and life skills to children with disabilities in special schools.

**Committee on Catering Services**

1963. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI :  
SHRI N. JANARDHANA REDDY :  
SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the kitchen at New Delhi, the refreshment canteen at Hazrat Nizamuddin and self service restaurant at Old Delhi are found unhygienic as reported in the Times of India dated July 20, 2006;

(b) if so, whether a committee appointed by the Delhi High Court has inspected the catering services of the Railways;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the action taken against the persons/officials found responsible for such lapses; and

(e) the steps taken to improve the catering service of the Railways?

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

(c) The committee appointed by the Hon'ble High Court of Delhi has inspected the base kitchen at New Delhi, Refreshment Room at Hazrat Nizamuddin and the Self-service restaurant at Old Delhi Railway station. The committee has reported non-functioning of various equipments, shortage of staff, lack of ventilation in the kitchen, lack of cleanliness in the kitchen, non-maintenance of personal hygiene by the staff etc.

(d) Assistant Manager, Delhi region has been shifted and Catering Supervisor, Delhi has been suspended and charge sheeted for Major penalty under Discipline and Appeals Rules. Chief Inspector Catering, Base Kitchen and Chief Inspector Catering, Delhi have also been taken up.

(e) In order to ensure that standardized hygienic food and beverage are supplied to rail users, prescribed hygienic norms are followed by the base kitchens and other cooking units. Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) have already undertaken renovation of base kitchens/cooking units. Replacement of old/defective furniture, food service equipments and other gadgets, gas pipelines etc. are undertaken on need basis. In addition to above, massive training programs are being conducted for catering staff to upgrade the quality of services. Good quality raw materials are procured from reputed cooperative societies approved by Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) and Agmark standards as applicable. To ensure the quality of food "Services Monitoring Cells" (SMC) have been created at Zonal level by IRCTC to take immediate remedial action. Officials of Indian Railways and IRCTC also carry out routine inspections/

surprise checks/special drives to ensure quality and hygienic condition of catering services.

[Translation]

#### Operation of Goods Trains

1964.SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Railways have issued no objection certificate to private companies to operate goods trains;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the total revenue likely to be earned by the Railways from it;

(d) whether there is any proposals to hand over the operations of good trains to private sector completely in future; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) to (e) Do not arise.

#### Coal Gasification Projects by ONGC

1965.SHRI RASHEED MASOOD : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Ltd. proposes to set up coal gasification projects;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the location identified by the ONGC for setting up these projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. ONGC has signed Agreement of Collaboration with Skochinsky Institute of Mining (SIM), for implementation of Underground Coal Gasification (UCG) in coal/lignite seams in India and also signed MOUs with coal/lignite companies of India, viz., Gujarat Mineral Development Corporation Ltd. (GMDC), Neyveli Lignite Corporation Ltd. (NLC), Gujarat Industries Power Company Ltd. (GIPCL), Coal India Ltd. (CIL) and Singareni Collieries



Company Ltd. (SCCL) for cooperation in the area of UCG. ONGC has also signed an MOU with M/s Shell India Ltd. for jointly developing Surface Coal Gasification project in the Southern part of India.

(c) One site namely, Vastan Mine block in Surat district, Gujarat has been found suitable for UCG.

[English]

**Budget Allocation under Programmes  
for Minorities**

1966.SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI :  
SHRI BALESHWAR YADAV :

Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Ministry of Minority Affairs has asked all the Ministries/Departments to set 15 percent of their budget for programmes related to minorities; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI A.R. ANTULAY) : (a) and (b) Government has recently announced the Prime Minister's New 15 Point Programme for the Welfare of Minorities which provides that, wherever possible, 15% of targets and outlays under various schemes shall be earmarked for minorities. Various Ministries/Departments implementing such schemes under this programme have been asked to earmark targets and outlays.

[Translation]

**Railway Line between Manmad-Nargana**

1967.SHRI HARISHCHANDRA CHAVAN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Railways propose to lay a railway line between Manmad-Malegaon-Nargana;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Railways also propose to lay a railway line between Surat and Nasik keeping in view of the convenience of passengers from Gujarat going to Shirdi; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU) : (a) and (b) A survey for construction of new broad gauge line from Manmad to Indore via Dhule-Nardana-Shirpur (350 kms) has been completed during 2004-05. As per the survey report, the cost of construction of this line has been assessed as Rs. 1001.16 crore with a negative rate of return. State Government has been requested to examine sharing the cost of the project to the extent to minimum 50%.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

[English]

**Financial Assistance to Artists/Musicians**

1968.SHRI FRANCIS FANTHOM : Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any scheme to provide financial assistance to the indigent artists/musicians;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the number of artists/musicians provided financial assistance under the said scheme during each of the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI) : (a) and (b) Ministry of Culture is operating the Scheme of Financial Assistance to Persons Distinguished in Letters, Arts and such other walks of life who are in indigent circumstances. The benefit of the Scheme is available to the dependents also. Financial assistance of Rs. 2,000/- per month is released by Ministry of Culture directly to the artistes. The Ministry also extends assistance in collaboration with State/UT Governments. Under this, the Ministry provides Rs. 1500/- to the artistes directly, while the balance Rs. 500/- is paid to the artistes by the State/UT Governments.

(c) The total number of the artistes assisted as under :

2003-2004	843
2004-2005	904
2005-2006	1470

### **Migration of Qualified Technical Staff**

1969. SHRIMATI MANORAMA MADHAVARAJ : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the national carriers are now faced with the problem of migration of its aircraft maintenance personnel and other qualified technical staff to the private airlines; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL) : (a) and (b) While Indian Airlines has not faced any problem of poaching of its aircraft maintenance and other qualified technical staff by the private airlines, a few aircraft maintenance personnel and other qualified technical staff have left Air India, Air India Express and Alliance Air (a subsidiary of Indian Airlines).

To stem the exodus of aircraft maintenance personnel and other qualified technical staff, the emoluments/promotional avenues/other service conditions of engineers and technicians have been revised/are under revision by these airlines so as to match with market conditions.

### **Increase in Strategic Oil Reserve**

1970. SHRI RAVICHANDRAN SIPPIPARAI : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has any proposal to increase strategic oil reserve and to strengthen oil diplomacy to meet the oil requirements; and

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the action taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. In order to enhance the energy security of the country and to safeguard against short term supply disruptions, Government have approved setting up of 5 Million Metric Tonnes (MMT) strategic storage at three locations, viz. Vizag (1.0 MMT), Mangalore (1.5 MMT), Mangalore or nearby location (2.5 MMT). The release of crude oil will be in the event of any natural calamity or

disruption in supplies or any unforeseen global event leading to scarcity of supplies/abnormal increase in prices. The proposal involves a capital cost of approximately Rs. 2,400 crore and crude oil cost of Rs. 8,870 crore (at an average crude oil cost of \$55/bbl) besides operation and maintenance cost of Rs. 90 crore per annum.

### **Public Private Participation in Railway Projects**

1971. SHRI MAGUNTA SREENIVASULU REDDY : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there are nearly 240 projects lined up for Public Private Participation (PPP) in Railways;

(b) if so, the total cost involved therein; and

(c) the number of projects to be taken up under Public Private Partnership?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Public Private Partnership is encouraged for infrastructure projects, rail side warehousing, private freight terminals, Wagon Investment Scheme, running of container trains and luxury tourist trains etc. The number of projects would depend on the level of participation by the private sector.

### **Employment in FPI**

1972. SHRI SUGRIB SINGH :  
SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL :

Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the food processing industries have the potential for increasing the avenues of employment;

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

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to explore such avenues of employment?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SUBODH KANT

SAHAY) : (a) to (d) There is a substantial scope for growth of food processing industries in the country. As per the evaluation report of IIM, Kolkata, National Productivity Council (NPC) and M/s SCOPE, Chennai in respect of food processing units assisted in the 9th Plan by the Ministry, assistance of Rs. 1.00 lakh extended by the Ministry is estimated to have attracted an investment of Rs. 6.23 lakh from private sector/financial institutions and generated 0.98 direct employment and 1.29 indirect employment. The outcomes about investment and employment are also subject to general market conditions, viability of projects, performance of the management etc. The Ministry is implementing various plan schemes for encouraging the Food Processing Sector.

[Translation]

#### Shooting of Film

1973.MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item appearing in the Hindustan Times dated June 12, 2006 according to which wives of senior army officers shot a film in Indian Military Academy, Dehradun;

(b) if so, whether prior permission was obtained from the Government for the said shooting;

(c) if so, the purpose for which the film is being produced;

(d) whether permission for such purposes are usually given; and

(e) if so, the public money spent by Indian Military Academy, Dehradun and Army Headquarters on shooting of this film?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) to (d) A proposal was received from M/s India Connect, Pune seeking Army assistance for its proposed film titled "Shaurya". Army assistance for shooting of films/TV Serials is provided as per Army Order 12/88 to such of the films/TV Serials as have the potential to enhance the image of the Armed Forces subject to payment of charges as per laid down rates and completion of other formalities. However, in case of film "Shaurya", the

proposal has not been agreed to by the Ministry of Defence.

(e) No public money has been spent for the purpose.

[English]

#### Licenses to Private Companies

1974.SHRI S. AJAYA KUMAR : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has issued licenses to private companies for exploration, setting up refineries in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of the private companies to whom licenses have been issued for retail distributor-ship of petroleum products, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL) : (a) and (b) Consequent on de-licensing of refinery sector since June, 1998 a refinery is to be set up anywhere in India by a Private or Public Sector Enterprise depending on the promoter's assessment of its viability.

Government has issued 50 Petroleum Exploration Licenses (PELs) to the following Private Companies and their consortium for exploration of oil and gas.

Name of the private companies to whom these licenses are issued are given as under :

1. RIL
2. Cairn Energy
3. HOEC
4. Focus Energy (Phoenix Overseas Ltd.)
5. OAO Gazprom
6. Canoro Resources Ltd.
7. Jubilant Enpro Pvt. Ltd.
8. Hardy Exploration and Production India Ltd.
9. Geo Global Resources
10. Niko Resources Ltd.

11. ENI
12. Birkbeck Investment Ltd.
13. Prize Petroleum
14. Geo Petrol International

(c) Government have granted authorization to market transportation fuels to three private companies namely, M/s. Reliance Industries Limited (RIL), M/s. Essar Oil Limited (EOL) and M/s. Shell India Marketing Pvt. Limited (SIMPL).

#### **CNG Filling Stations**

1975. SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY :  
SHRI VIKRAMBHAI ARJANBHAI MADAM :

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

(a) whether the Supreme court has in the recent past directed the State Governments coming under National Capital Region to make provisions for sufficient CNG filling stations in their States;

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

(c) whether the Union Government has taken steps to make available CNG in NCR;

(d) if so, the names of NCR towns in which such provisions has been completed so far;

(e) the extent to which the demand of CNG has been increased after the installation of such CNG filling stations in NCR towns; and

(f) the steps taken by the Government to meet such demand of CNG in the near future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Supreme Court has directed that the States of Haryana and Uttar Pradesh shall grant requisite permission and facilities to different agencies, provided they satisfy the condition of eligibility and other requirements, for commencing the process for setting up of outlets in different cities of NCR.

(c) to (f) In addition to natural gas allocation for city gas network in Delhi, the Government have allocated

natural gas to Indraprastha Gas Limited (IGL) for Noida, Greater Noida, Faridabad and Gurgaon. At present, CNG is being supplied in Delhi and Noida through 146 CNG stations.

As per the estimates provided by GAIL, the number of CNG vehicles in the NCR region have increased from about 5200 in the year 2000 to over 1.6 Lakh in 2006. Consequently the sales volume of CNG has increased from 0.08 Lakh Kg/day in 2000 to 8.73 Lakh Kg/day in 2006.

*[Translation]*

#### **New Patrol Vessels for Coast Guard**

1976. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has taken any steps for providing new patrol vessels to Indian Coast Guard for continuous vigilance of Indian Maritime Economic Zone;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of the progress made so far in providing new patrolling vessels?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) Vessels of various categories are approved for induction in the Coast Guard as replacement for decommissioned platforms and for augmenting the strength of the Force. This is a continuous process and is undertaken according to the identified roles that Coast Guard are required to perform.

(b) and (c) Presently the Coast Guard has 69 patrol vessels for undertaking patrolling over the seas and coastal areas. During the last two years, 12 new vessels were inducted. In addition, construction of 22 vessels is progressing at various shipyards.

*[English]*

#### **Cost of Production**

1977. SHRI BADIGA RAMAKRISHNA : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the private oil companies are selling petroleum products at lower cost than the public sector oil companies;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reasons for higher cost of production incurred by the public sector oil companies when private companies are incurring lesser cost of production and selling petroleum products at a much cheaper price than the public sector companies; and

(d) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to bring down the cost of production in public sector oil companies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. As per available information, the private oil companies are presently selling petrol, diesel and domestic LPG at prices higher than the public sector oil marketing companies. As regards other petroleum products, these are free trade products and market specific prices are arrived at by private and public sector oil marketing companies based on the market conditions/strategies being adopted according to their business plans.

(c) and (d) The refining cost of crude oil depends upon configuration, technology, capacity, age, location, logistic etc. The steps taken by PSU refineries to reduce refining cost are given below :

- (i) Yield maximization of value added products (LPG, MS, ATF etc.)
- (ii) Thrust on energy conservation and reduction in hydrocarbon losses.
- (iii) Minimising the manpower cost through downsizing.
- (iv) Adherence to preventive maintenance schedule to achieve the optimum maintenance cost.
- (v) Control on overheads.
- (vi) Expansion of capacity to achieve economies of scale.

#### **Purchase of Warships**

1978. SHRI K.C. PALLANI SHAMY : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government proposes to purchase warships;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the amount allocated for the purpose; and

(c) the time by which these would be inducted?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) to (c) Warships are inducted in the Navy as replacement for decommissioned platforms and for augmenting the strength of the Force. This is a continuous process based on the threat perception and international security environment.

It will not be in the interest of National Security to divulge the details in this regard.

#### **Changes in Freight Rate**

1979. SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether railway changes its freight rate outside Budget through administrative order;

(b) if so, whether in the Railway Budget 2005-06 and 2006-07, Railway has changed freight rate through classification changes, dynamic pricing, modification of tapers of base class etc;

(c) if so, the details of impact of changes in freight rate in respect of different freight items in two years;

(d) whether attention of the Railways have been drawn to sudden hike in freight due to interim changes in freight rate outside budget and its impact on companies business;

(e) if so, the facts thereof; and

(f) the action taken/proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Details of changes made in the freight rates of certain major commodities in 2005-06 and 2006-07 are given in the enclosed Statement.

(d) to (f) Yes, Sir. Representations have been received from some of the railway customers in this regard. Each representation is considered on its merits and after examination of all aspects, a suitable decision is taken.

**Statement**

*Statement referred to in reply to Parts (a) to (c) Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 1979 by Shri Basudeb Acharia to be answered on 10.08.2006 regarding changes in Freight Rate*

**Statement showing revision of trainload classification of commodities**

S. No.	Name of commodity	2005-06						2006-07			
		As on	Classi-	With	With	With	With	With	With	With	
		31.03.2005	fication as on	effect from	effect from	effect from	effect from	effect from	effect from	effect from	
	1.4.2005	15.5.2005	17.06.2005	20.7.2005	1.12.2005	15.1.2006	1.4.2006	1.6.2006	1.7.2006*		
1.	Bamboo	145	90	-	90W1	-	-	-	LR4	-	-
2.	Slag	140	160	-	140	-	-	-	140	-	-
3.	Steel pipes	180	180	-	130	-	-	-	130	-	-
4.	Wire Road Coil	180	180	-	130	-	-	-	130	-	-
5.	Coconut Husk	130	90W1	-	90W2	-	-	-	LR5	-	-
6.	Iron Ore	140	140	160	-	-	-	-	160	-	170
7.	Iron Ore booked to Ports	140	140	160	-	-	180	-	180	-	-
8.	Limestone and Dolomite	140	140	-	-	-	160	-	160	-	170
9.	Bauxite	140	140	-	-	-	-	-	160	-	-
10.	Manganese Ore	140	140	-	-	-	-	-	160	-	-
11.	Pyroxinite	140	140	-	-	-	-	-	160	-	-
12.	Food grains	90	100	-	-	-	110	-	110	120	-
13.	Fly Ash	125	120	-	140	-	-	-	140	-	-
14.	Chemical Manures	95-115	100	-	-	-	110	-	110	120	-
15.	Kerosene Oil	135	130	-	-	-	-	150	150	180	-
16.	Salt (for human consumption)	90	90	-	-	-	-	100	100	110	-
17.	Edible Oil (when booked in Tank wagons)	90	90W2	-	-	90	-	-	LR1	100	-
18.	Wheat Flour	90	90	-	-	-	110	-	110	120	-
19.	De-Oiled Cakes	120	110	-	100	-	-	-	110	-	-
20.	Boiler components	240	100	-	90W1	-	-	-	100	-	-

\*Taper of Base Class-100 has been modified with effect from 1.7.2006

*[Translation]***Transportation of Mail**

1980. SHRI TEK LAL MAHTO : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Rail Mail Service (R.M.S.) was arranged in S.L.R. bogies earlier;

(b) if so, whether the transportation of mail has become insecure due to conversion of half of the R.M.S. into general bogies for the last few months;

(c) if so, whether the Railways propose to reverse its decision in view of the security of R.M.S. bogies; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU) : (a) Rail Mail services are run on the passenger trains over Indian railways in various forms like full postal vans (PPS), II-Class coach with half postal vans (SPPH), 40 seater in SLR etc. depending upon the occupancy of train, quantum of postal traffic, operational feasibility, demands for augmentation of popular trains etc.

(b) No, Sir. No such complaint regarding loss of mail during transportation has come to Railway Board's notice.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

*[English]***Manufacturing of Coaches**

1981. SHRI K.C. PALLANI SHAMY : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of coaches manufactured by Integral Coach Factory (ICF), Chennai and Rail Coach Factory (RCF), Kapurthala during each of the last three years, Category-wise;

(b) whether there is any proposal to increase the production capacity of those factories; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU) : (a) The production of Integral

Coach Factory (ICF), Chennai and Rail Coach Factory (RCF), Kapurthala during last three years is as Under :-

Type	Year	ICF	RCF
Electrical Multiple Unit (EMU)	2003-04	113	
	2004-05	112	
	2005-06	155	
Mainline Electrical Multiple Unit (MEMU)	2003-04		72
	2004-05		88
	2005-06		88
Diesel Multiple Unit (DMU)	2003-04	37	12
	2004-05	36	-
	2005-06	27	
Broad Gauge Conventional	2003-04	920	1023
	2004-05	971	1057
	2005-06	993	1155
Metre Gauge Conventional	2003-04		94
	2004-05		56
	2005-06		20
Total	2003-04	1070	1201
	2004-05	1119	1201
	2005-06	1175	1263

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) A work has been sanctioned to increase the production capacity to manufacture of 1500 coaches per year at Integral coach factory (ICF), Chennai and to 1400 coaches per year at Rail Coach Factory (RCF), Kapurthala from present installed capacities of 1000 coaches per year

**Hike in Air Fares**

1982. SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether different Airlines including the Public air-carriers have raised the air-fares and freight-rates, following the hike in cost of aviation fuel; and

(b) if so, to what extent and how far it is justified to meet the hike in fuel cost?

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

airlines have levied/hiked fuel surcharge in view of recent hike in prices of Aviation Turbine Fuel (ATF).

(b) Public sector airlines have indicated that hike in fuel surcharge is able to only partially offset the increase in ATF prices.

*[Translation]*

**Grant of District Railway Station Status to Sirathu Railway Station**

1983.SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Railways have received any representations for grant of district railway station status to Sirathu railway station in Uttar Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Railways thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU) : (a) and (b) A representation dated 24.2.2006 was received from the Rashtriya Yuva Sewa Sansthan, Nagar Panchayat at Sirathu, District Kausambi regarding declaration of Sirathu Railway Station as District Railway Station.

(c) Stations over Indian Railways are classified on the basis of the annual passenger earnings. Sirathu Railway Station has accordingly been put under 'E' category.

*[English]*

**Air Services to Gulf**

1984.SHRI P. RAJENDRAN : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government is contemplating to introduce special flights from Gulf of Kerala during the months of August and September, 2006 keeping in view of the festival season;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has received any complaints regarding hiking the airfare by national carriers during peak season to gulf sectors; and

(d) if so, the remedial steps taken/proposed to be taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL) : (a) and (b) Air India, Air India Express and Indian Airlines operate special extra-section flights from Kerala to Gulf depending upon the commercial viability.

(c) and (d) Representations are received from time to time from various sources against revision of fares to/from Gulf sectors during the high season. Both Air India and Indian Airlines are commercial organizations and have to act on business principles. Market forces like demand/supply, seasonality and product features like frequency, timing, direct operations etc determine the prices. There are upward and downward movement of fares in response to market needs.

Air India has also launched a Low Cost Carrier i.e. Air India Express in April, 2005 with a view to provide more economic and safe travel to people on India – Gulf route.

**Introduction of Inter-Island Helicopter Services**

1985.DR. P.P. KOYA : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has received any proposal from the Lakshadweep Administration for introduction of inter-island helicopter service;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL) : (a) to (c) Pawan Hans Helicopter Ltd. (PHHL) has leased one Dauphin helicopter since February, 1988 to Lakshadweep Administration for utilizing the helicopter as per their requirement. A proposal has also been received from Lakshadweep Administration for deployment of a second Dauphin helicopter on long term lease basis for emergency purposes including maintenance of law and order. PHHL has in-principle agreed to provide the same at the earliest possible.



**Poverty Alleviation Programme for Minorities**

1986. SHRI G. NIZAMUDDIN : Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government is implementing any schemes to alleviate poverty among the minorities particularly the Muslims in the State of Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the measures taken/being taken by the Government to alleviate poverty among the minorities?

THE MINISTER FOR MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI A.R. ANTULAY) : (a) to (c) Government has recently announced the Prime Minister's New 15-Point Programme for the Welfare of Minorities. An important objective of the new programme is to ensure that the benefits of various governmental schemes for the underprivileged reach the disadvantaged sections of the minority community. It also provides, wherever possible, 15% of targets and outlays under various schemes should be earmarked for minorities. All the notified minority communities including Muslims, are covered by this programme and it will be implemented in all States and Union Territories including Andhra Pradesh.

**Grievances of Disabled Ex-servicemen**

1987. SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL :  
SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA :

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the disabled ex-servicemen have been seeking parity between Regular (PRC) and Emergency Commissioned Officers (ECO) in pension and other benefits;

(b) if so, whether the Government has received any representations regarding redressal of the grievances of disabled ex-servicemen;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the action taken by the Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Emergency Commissioned Officers (ECOs)/ Short Service Commissioned Officers (SSCOs) have been demanding benefit of full length of service rendered in computing service element of disability pension as is admissible to the Regular Commissioned Officers.

(d) The Government has decided to grant service element of disability pension to ECO/SSCO, in case the disability is attributable to or aggravated by military service, as is admissible to the Regular Commissioned Officers. The benefit will be applicable to all past retirees also from prospective effect.

**Zonal Culture Centres**

1988. SHRI VIJOY KRISHNA : Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the details of Zonal Cultural Centres functioning in the country at present;

(b) the amount spent on the activities of these Centres during 2004-05, 2005-06 and 2006-07, Centre-wise;

(c) whether these Zonal Cultural Centres have failed to achieve their targets during the last three years;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the corrective measures taken/being taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI) : (a) The Government of India has set up seven Zonal Cultural Centres to extend support to folk and traditional artistes and artisans of the country. Each Centre is provided with a corpus fund. The participating States also contribute a proportionate amount to the corpus fund. Each centre works as an autonomous body with Governor of the State, where it is located, as the Chairman. Seven Zonal Cultural Centres are located at Patiala, Nagpur, Allahabad, Thanjavur, Kolkata, Udaipur and Dimapur.

(b) A statement is enclosed.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e) Does not arise.

**Statement**

Name of the Zonal Cultural Centre	Financial Year 2004-05 (Rs. in lakhs)	Financial Year 2005-06 (Rs. in lakhs)	Financial Year 2006-07 (up to 31.07.06) (Rs. in lakhs)
South Zone Cultural Centre	105.56	131.76	14.72
South Central Zone Cultural Centre	66.15	108.13	14.63
North Zone Cultural Centre	80.57	73.27	24.00
North Central Zone Cultural Centre	104.78	150.44	20.44
West Zone Cultural Centre	124.20	134.64	11.55
North East Zone Cultural Centre	153.62	282.80	491.00
Easter Zonal Cultural Centre	619.75	576.66	93.38

**Running of Bhubaneswar Bound  
Trains VIA Cuttack**

1989. SHRI B. MAHTAB : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal to run all Bhubaneswar-Sambalpur, Bhubaneswar-Nizamuddin bound express trains via Cuttack and to provide stoppage of such trains at Cuttack; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU) : (a) No, Sir. At present, there is no proposal to run all Bhubaneswar-Sambalpur, Bhubaneswar-Nizamuddin bound Express trains via Cuttack.

(b) Does not arise.

**Food Fortification**

1990. SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA : Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state :

(a) whether any scheme was launched for food fortification in order to control malnutrition and to enrich common man's food;

(b) if so, the details alongwith the present status thereof and achievements made therein;

(c) whether there is any proposal to make stringent penal provisions for food fortification on the lines of the provision made for compulsory manufacture of iodized salt; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY) : (a) and (b) An Inter-Ministerial Co-ordination Committee on Micronutrient Malnutrition Control headed by Secretary, Ministry of Women and Child Development reviews and identifies strategies required for addressing the problem of micronutrient malnutrition.

Ministry of Food Processing has a scheme on 'Food Fortification' to fortify wheat flour with an objective to enrich wheat flour with iron, which would prevent and control iron deficiency.

The pattern of assistance for fortification of wheat flour is 50% of the cost of capital equipment (dosing machines etc.) and its installation charges upto Rs. 3 lakhs in all areas to be provided as grant in aid to all existing industries/mills engaged in production of cereal/cereal based products.

(c) and (d) The use of vitamin 'A' has been made mandatory in Hydrogenated Vegetable Oil (vanaspati) by Directorate General of Health Services, Ministry of Health. No proposal is under consideration. on laws/penal provisions in this Ministry for fortification of food.

**Manufacturing of Cars with LPG Kit**

1991. SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN : Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state :

(a) whether some of the car manufacturers in the country set to market an alternative fuel technology vehicle using Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) which is claimed to be both cost effective and environmental friendly;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has issued any directions to the vehicle manufacturers in the country to produce pollution free and environmental friendly vehicles in the country;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF HEAVY INDUSTRY, MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH) : (a) and (b) M/s. Hindustan Motors (Ambassador) and Maruti Udyog Limited (Wagon R) have launched vehicles using Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) in the Indian Market.

(c) to (e) The Ministry of Shipping, Road Transport and Highways lays down from time to time the emission norms and type approval procedures in respect of all vehicles including LPG kit/CNG kit fitted motor vehicles. All auto manufacturers are required to mandatorily comply with the prevailing emission norms in different parts of the country which is at present Bharat stage III norms in 11 metropolitan cities and Bharat stage II norms in rest of the country. The Ministry of Environment and Forest currently provides custom duty exemption certificates on import of parts of CNG/LPG kits.

*[Translation]*

**Establishment of Air Force Station**

1992. SHRI JASWANT SINGH BISHNOI : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government proposes to establish a new Air Force Station near Falodi town in Jodhpur district, Rajasthan;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the progress made so far; and

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

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) to (c) Setting up Air Force Stations is based on operational necessity of each location. This evaluation is an on-going process.

**Financial Assistance for Tourism Projects**

1993. SHRI BRAJESH PATHAK : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government has received requests for financial assistance from various State Governments for development, promotion and marketing of tribal areas and cultural tourism projects during the current year;

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

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

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI) : (a) Development of tourism is primarily the responsibility of the State/UT Governments. The Ministry of Tourism extends central financial assistance to States/UTs for development of tourism infrastructure, including tribal areas and cultural tourism projects. The tourism projects for central financial assistance are identified and prioritized in consultation with the State/UT Governments. The promotion and marketing of India's tourism products including tribal areas and cultural tourism projects are done through a worldwide central campaign in electronic and print media and also through the various promotional activities of the India Tourism offices abroad.

(b) and (c) The tourism projects prioritized in consultation with the State/UT Governments for implementation during the current financial year is at enclosed Statement-I. During the current financial year, Ministry of Tourism has sanctioned Rs. 6142.29 lakh and released Rs. 4903.84 lakh in favour of State/UT Governments for various tourism projects as given in the enclosed Statement-II.

**Statement-I***Statement of Prioritised Projects to be Implemented during the Year 2006-07*

S. State No.	Destination	Circuit	Event/Fairs/Festival	Rural Tourism
1	2	3	4	5
1. Andhra Pradesh	1. Hyderabad including Charminar and Golconda 2. Warangal 3. Nellore (Pulicat Lake)	1. Beach circuit Vizag 2. Buddhist circuit 3. Kalahasti-Kanipakam-Talakona Circuit	1. Kakatia Event 2. Golkonda Event 3. Vijaynagar Festival 4. Kalinga	1. Kuchipudi (near Vijaywada) 2. Dharmakaram (near Puttuparthi) 3. Surabhi (near Pochampalli)
2. Arunachal Pradesh	1. Amenities at Parsuramkund - Lohit District. 2. Restoration and Preservation of Heritage Site (Stone Rampart) at Dambuk.	1. Tinsukia (Assam)-Namsai-Tezu-Walong-Dongi	1. Arunachal Festival 2. Siang River Festival 3. Nyokum/Mopin Festival 4. Buddha Mohatsava	Ligu Village, Upper Subansiri District
3. Assam	1. Kamakhya and Satellite Pilgrimage Township of Hazo. 2. Sivasagar Convention Centre and 3. Wellness Centre at Hotel Brahmaputra Ashoka, Guwahati.	1. Orang-Tespur-Nameri-Bhalukpong-Tawang Tourist Circuit	1. Rangoli Utsav 2. Dehing-Patkai 3. Tea Tourism 4. Kaziranga Elephant Festival	1. Charideo Sukafa Nagar in Sivasagar District
4. Bihar	1. Mandeshwari Temple	1. Bodhgaya-Nalanda-Rajgir	1. Buddha Mahotsav 2. Rajgir Mahotav 3. Sonpur Mela 4. Chhath Mahotsav	1. Pattharkathi (near Gaya)
5. Chhattisgarh	1. Chitrakote fall 2. Rajim	1. Jagdalpur circuit	1. Bastar Event 2. Maihar Event 3. Sirpur Festival 4. Rajim Festival	1. Chilpi (Near Kanha National Park) 2. Churi (Near Hasdeo Bango Dam)
6. Delhi	1. Development of Infrastructure as per Master Plan for Commonwealth Games	-	-	To be communicated

1	2	3	4	5	6
7. Goa		—	1. North Goa Circuit 2. South Goa Circuit	1. Shigmo Festival 2. Goa Carnival	—
8. Gujarat	1. Champaner Pavagadh 2. Gir 3. Dwarka		1. Junagarh-Veraval Porbandar	1. Navratri 2. Tarnetar 3. International Kite Festival 4. Sharad Utsav	Dandi Vadnagar Nageshwar
9. Haryana	1. Surajkund 2. Sonapat-Ethnic India 3. Badhkal		1. Kurukshetra	1. Kurukshetra-Sufi Fest. 2. Heritage festival Pinjore 3. Art and Craft Festival Karnal 4. One more fair to be communicated	To be Communicated.
10. Himachal Pradesh	Dharamshala		1. Eco tourism in Tribal Areas 2. Pilgrim Circuit	1. Great Himalayan Run 2. Pre-World Paragliding 3. Kullu Dussehra 4. Simla Summer Festival	1. Mashobra village in Simla 2. Baroh Village Near Dharmashala 3. Gurukul Oriented Village
11. Jammu and Kashmir	a) Specific tourism in- frastructure projects for Tourism Devel- opment Authorities of Bhaderwah, Kishtwar, Poonch, Rajouri 'Lakahnpur- Sarthal, Kokemag, Leh and Kargil b) Specific tourism in- frastructure projects for Tourism Devel- opment Authorities of Pahalgam, Gulmarg, Sonamarg and Patnitop	Development of Tour- ist Circuit at Karil		1. Mega Event in Ladakh 2. Jashn-e-Kashmir 3. Jammu Festival 4. Navratra Festival, Vaishno Devi 5. Gulmarg Festival	a) (Software Work Plan) support for 5 villages viz., Drung, Pahalgam, Jheri, Surinsar and Gagangir b) support for 10 new villages to be iden- tified by the State Government

1	2	3	4	5	6
		c) Restoration of Heritage building at Mubarak Mandi, Phase-I d) Golf Course at Jammu – e) Reconstruction of gutted TRC at Srinagar			
12. Jharkhand	1. Rajmahal 2. Parasnath	1. Ranchi-Ramgarh-Rajarappa-Tenughat-Hazaribagh-Padma Itkhor	1. Hajaribagh Festival 2. Air Show Ranchi 3. Hijla 4. Jagannath Rath Yatra	1. Amadubi, Distt. Singhbhum 2. Kharsavan, Distt. Saraikela-Kharsavan	
13. Karnataka	1. Hampi 2. Lingamakki	1. Bijapur-Biddar-Gulbarga 2. Southern Wilderness Circuit	1. Bangalore Habba 2. To be communi-cated 3. Hampi 4. Karavali	1. Chenputna village-Bangalore 2. Alkan village Bagalcote	
14. Kerala	1. Vagamon 2. Kumarkom 3. Padnabhapurm Palace 4. Thrippunithura	1. Southerm Eco-Tourism	1. Malabar Mahotsav 2. Boat Show 3. Elephant Festival 4. Nishagandhi Festival	1. Kathakali Costume Village 2. Coir Village 3. Spice Village	
15. Madhya Pradesh	1. Panna 2. Mandu	1. Amarkantak-Mandla-Dindoi 2. Hasangabad-Maheswar-Onkareshwar-Barwani	1. Khajuraho Festival 2. Travel Mart 3. Pachmarhi	1. Sivra in Datia 2. Ram Nagar in Mandla 3. Any Village in Maheswar	
16. Maharashtra	Kunkeeshwar	1. Buddhist Circuit including Elephanta 2. Fort Circuit	1. Elephanta 2. Ellora 3. Kalidas 4. Chikaldhare	1. Village near Kolhapur 2. Village near Pune for Gurukul	
17. Manipur	1. Nongmaiching (Eco-Park with Golf course) 2. Impal	1. Imphal-Bishnupur-Sendra-Churachandpur	1. Manipur Tourism Festival 2. Manipur Tourism Meet 3. LUI-NGAI-NI Festival 4. KUT Festival	Andro, Khongiom and None	

1	2	3	4	5	6
18. Meghalaya	1. Protection and development of caves around jowai 2. Tura	1. Williamnagar-Jakrem-jowai 2. Shillong-Cherrapunji Jowai Mawplong	1. Williamnagar-Jakrem-jowai 2. Shillong-Cherrapunji Jowai Mawplong	1. Winter Tourism Festival 2. Shillong Autumn Festival 3. Nongkrum Festival 4. Wangla Festival	To be decided
19. Mizoram	1. Chaltlang 2. Chalfihl	1. Southern-Hrangchalkawn, Tawipui 'S', Lawngtlai, Saiha, Vawmbuk, sangau, S. Vanlaiphai. 2. Eastern-Keitum, N. Vanlaiphai, East Lungdar, Khawbung, Farkawn, Zokhawthar, Hnahlan.	1. Southern-Hrangchalkawn, Tawipui 'S', Lawngtlai, Saiha, Vawmbuk, sangau, S. Vanlaiphai. 2. Eastern-Keitum, N. Vanlaiphai, East Lungdar, Khawbung, Farkawn, Zokhawthar, Hnahlan.	1. Chapchar Kut 2. Thalfavang Kut 3. Anthurium Festival 4. To be decided later.	-
20. Nagaland	1. Tourist Travel Destination Touphema, Kohima district, 2. Aizuto, Zunheboto District	1. Zunheboto-Tuensang-Kiphiri 2. Governor's camp (Wokha)-Nui Land Area (Dimapur)-Jalukie (Peren).	1. Zunheboto-Tuensang-Kiphiri 2. Governor's camp (Wokha)-Nui Land Area (Dimapur)-Jalukie (Peren).	1. Tokhu Emong 2. Metumniu 3. Hornbill Event 4. Event-Cultural night Variety show	To be identified
21. Orissa	1. Chitka	1. Bhubaneswar-Puri-Konark 2. Simlipal-Chandipur-Talsari-Panchlingameshwar 3. Araleu valley-Sonebeda-Koreput-Malkagiri	1. Bhubaneswar-Puri-Konark 2. Simlipal-Chandipur-Talsari-Panchlingameshwar 3. Araleu valley-Sonebeda-Koreput-Malkagiri	1. Sreeksheeta vassal Utsa 2. Ekamra 3. Puri Beach Fest. 4. Konark Fest.	1. Dayening Badi Village Dhoofbari Distt. 2. Khaliyajali village
22. Punjab	1. Ropar 2. Fatehgarh Sahib (Including Aam Khas Bagh with SEL show) 3. Kapurthala	1. Freedom Struggle Circuit Delhi-Amritsar 2. Pilgrim Circuit	1. Freedom Struggle Circuit Delhi-Amritsar 2. Pilgrim Circuit	1. -Rural Olympics (Rural Sports, Village Olla Raipur Distt. Raipur 2. -Kinnow Festival at Ashor Distt. Ferozpur	1. Village Paldi (Distt. Hoshiarpur) 2. Village Kalanbur Distt. Gurdaspur) 3. Village Malar Khana (Distt. Bhatinda)

1	2	3	4	5	6
				3. Punjab Fest. (Mela) 4. Craft Mela at Kapurthala	
23. Rajasthan	1. Ajmer Sharif 2. Jaisalmer	1. Eco-Tourism circuit 2. Floodlighting of monuments	1. Heritage Festival 2. Rajasthan Day Celebration- 3. Pushkar Fair 4. Desert Festival	To be identified.	
24. Sikkim	1. Development of Amusement Park at Sarmisa. 2. Pilgrim centre at Sorang	1. Development of Tourist Centres at Phodang and Mangan in North Sikkim 2. Development of Assam Lingzey and Khedi Trek Route in East Sikkim	1. Nanchi Festival 2. Gangtok Winter Festival 3. Ravangla Festival 4. Meghey Mela 5. Mangan Festival 6. Gyalshing (Pelling)	1. Rong Village in South Sikkim 2. Tharpu village in West Sikkim	
25. Tamil Nadu	1. Madurai 2. Thanjavur 3. Kanyakumari	-	Mahabalipuram mega festival	To be communicated	
26. Tripura	1. Chaturdashi Devta Bari	1. Development of North West Tripura Circuit	To be communicated	Joychandrapur	
27. Uttar Pradesh	1. Aligarh	1. Agra-Fatehpur Sikri-Mathura 2. Varanasi-Sarnath 3. Brajbhoomi-Vrindavan	1. Buddha Mahotsav at Sarnath 2. Lathmar Holi 3. Dev Deepawali	To be communicated	
28. Uttaranchal	1. Yamnotri 2. Tehri	1. Rishikesh-Haridwar (Mega Project) 2. Bindsar-Baljnath-Manesar	1. Dehradun Virasat Festival 2. Garhwal Festival 3. Kumaon Festival 4. Poornagiri Festival	1. Village Trijugi Narayan, Distt. Rudraprayag.	
29. West Bengal	1. Goke 2. Kalimpong 3. Plassey	1. Freedom Circuit 2. Tea Tourism 3. Beach circuit	To be communicated	To be communicated	



**Statement-II**

*Statement showing State-wise Projects sanctioned by the Ministry of Tourism so far during the year 2006-07 to different States/UTs*

(Rs. in lakhs)

Sr. No.	Project	Amount Sanctioned	Amount Released
1	2	3	4
1.	ANDHRA PRADESH Destination Development of Laknavaram lake as Eco-Tourism Destination in Warangal District	468.63	337.90
2.	ARUNACHAL PRADESH Amenities at Parsuramkund Lohit	462.68	370.15
3.	CHHATTISGARH Infrastructure and Destination Development of Rajmengarh	275.73	220.58
4.	DELHI Celebration of garden festival, 2006	5.00	5.00
5.	GUJARAT Integrated Development of tourist circuit on Junagarh/Veraval/Porbandar-Dwarka	329.83	263.86
6.	KARNATAKA Integrated Development of wilderness Tourism Circuit	226.88	204.20
7.	KERALA Development of Rural Tourism at Village Anakara, District Idukki for spice circuit Development of Rural Tourism at Village Kalady spice circuit	46.00 47.20	36.80 37.76
8.	MAHARASHTRA Infrastructure and Destination Development of Mahabaleshwar (Phase-II), Distt. Satara CFA for Development of IT Projects in Maharashtra	480.57 54.81	384.45 49.33
9.	MANIPUR Destinations Development of Imphal Manipur Tourism Festival	418.00 10.00	334.00 8.00
10.	ORISSA Development of Rural Tourism at Village Barpali, Distt. Bargarh Development of Rural Tourism at Village Hirapur, Distt. Khurda Development of Rural Tourism at Village Padmanvapur, Distt. Ganjam Development of Simlipal in Distt. Mayurbhanj	50.00 50.00 50.00 297.12	40.00 40.00 40.00 237.70
11.	PUNJAB Integrated Development of freedom trail Punjab	784.45	627.56

1	2	3	4
<b>12. RAJASTHAN</b>			
	Conservation, restoration and preservation of Gagron fort, Jhalawar Distt.	281.71	225.36
	Integrated Development of Udaipur	276.68	221.34
<b>13. TAMIL NADU</b>			
	Development of Rural Tourism Village Kombai, Distt., Theni	50.00	40.00
	Development of Rural Tourism at Village Thadiyankudisai	50.00	40.00
	CFA for Development of IT project in Tamil Nadu	27.60	24.84
<b>14. UTTAR PRADESH</b>			
	Development of various places in Aligarh Distt.	497.04	397.63
<b>15. WEST BENGAL</b>			
	Integrated Development of Tea Tourism Circuit in North Bengal	388.98	311.18
	Setting up of a night safari park at Jorepokhari in Darjeeng	15.00	7.50
	Development of Kalimpong	498.38	398.70
<b>Total</b>		<b>6142.29</b>	<b>4903.84</b>

[English]

**Railway Projects**

1994. SHRI BHUPENDRASINH SOLANKI :  
SHRI P.S. GADHAVI :  
SHRI MAHESH KANODIA :  
SHRI HARISINH CHAVDA :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether any request has been received from the Government of Gujarat for making adequate budgetary provision for conversion/construction of railways lines;

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

(c) the present status of Surendranagar-Dharangadhra, Mahesana-Patan, Ahmedabad-Botad railway lines projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU) : (a) and (b) As per available records, requests have been received from Government of Gujarat for allotment of adequate funds for completion of following ongoing projects :-

Project	Outlay provided during 2006-07
(i) Connecting Gandhinagar with Ahmedabad-Delhi Broad Gauge line (Gandhinagar-Kalol new line project)	Rs. 8 crore
(ii) Surendranagar-Dhrangadhara section of Surendranagar-Bhavnagar, Dhola-Dhasa-Mahuva with extension to Pipavav gauge conversion project	Rs. 5 crore
(iii) Viramgam-Mahesana-Patan-Bhildi gauge conversion	Rs. 5 crore
(iv) Bharuch-Dahej gauge conversion*	Rs. 10 crore

\*This project has been included in the budget 2006-07.

The amount provided for above projects is considered sufficient to execute the works planned during the year.

(c) On Mahesana-Patan section, 4 out of 9 nos. major bridges and 3 out of 37 nos. minor bridges have already been rebuilt. Tenders for ballast supply and earthwork have been processed.

On Surendranagar-Dhrangadhra section, 1.2 out of 4.19 lakh cum earthwork, 2 out of 7 nos. major bridges,

3 out of 26 nos. minor bridges and 10323 out of 85000 cum ballast supply have been completed.

Survey for gauge conversion Ahmedabad-Botad section is in advance stage of completion.

[Translation]

#### Export of Petroleum Products

1995.DR. CHINTA MOHAN :

SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH "LALAN" :

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

(a) whether the export of petroleum products has been increasing over the last few years;

(b) if so, the rate of annual increase in the said export during 2003-04, 2004-05 and 2005-06;

(c) whether the profit of oil companies has also been increasing with the said export; and

(d) if so, the details of the public sector oil companies whose profit has increased during the said period as a result thereof alongwith the extent to which the profit of each company has increased?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The details of exports of petroleum product during the last three year is as under :

Year	Qty. in TMT	Growth (%)
2003-04	14,620	42.1
2004-05	18,211	24.6
2005-06	21,507	18.1

(c) and (d) The profit after tax of PSU oil marketing companies for the last three financial year is given below :

Company	(Rs/crores)		
	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06
IOC	7005	4891	4915
BPC	1694	966	130*
HPC	1904	1277	406

\*Unaudited

[English]

#### Scholarship for Girl Students from Minority Communities

1996.SHRI P.C. THOMAS : Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any scheme for granting scholarship for girl students from minority communities;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the number of girls students benefited therefrom during each of the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI A.R. ANTULAY) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Maulana Azad Education Foundation launched the Maulana Azad National Scholarship Scheme for meritorious Girl Students belonging to minorities during the year 2003-04. Under the Scheme, girl students belonging to minorities, who have passed the 10th standard with more than 55% marks and have taken admission in class 11th or equivalent and the annual income of parents is less than Rs. 1,00,000/ per annum are eligible under the scheme. An amount of Rs. 10,000/ - is sanctioned as one time grant.

(c) 634, 2781 and 3571 scholarships were sanctioned to meritorious girl students by Maulana Azad Education Foundation during the year 2003-04, 2004-05 and 2005-06 respectively.

[Translation]

#### Issue of Reserved and Unreserved Tickets from same Counter/Window

1997.SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY :

SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal for providing reserved and unreserved tickets from the same counter/window;

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

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

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

(b) and (c) 98 locations on Indian Railways have been identified for setting up Unreserved Ticketing System-cum-Passenger Reservation System terminals. The railway-wise break up is as under :-

Central Railway (5), East Central Railway (28), Eastern Railway (2), North Central Railway (4), North Eastern Railway (9), Northeast Frontier Railway (2), Northern Railway (5), North Western Railway (3), South Central Railway (23), South East Central Railway (2), Southern Railway (3), South Western Railway (2), West Central Railway (4) and Western Railway (6).

These will be established as soon as necessary communication links are available and other infrastructure are available.

[English]

**Participation of Private Agencies on Security Measures**

1998.SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL :  
SHRI MILIND DEORA :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Railways are planning to approach private agencies to advise on security measures on the sub-urban train network in the Western Railway and with the collaboration of Electronics Corporation of India Ltd. (ECIL) to procure security systems;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the estimated expenditure to be incurred thereon;

(c) whether the Railways are also planning to expand such programme in the entire Railways; and

(d) if so, the time by which the said plan is likely to be implemented for the safety of passengers in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU) : (a) Yes Sir, Western Railway has asked Electronics Corporation of India Ltd. (ECIL) and a few other agencies to study and submit suggestions for

improving security measures to some important Railway Stations. Their expert opinion and suggestions are awaited.

(b) The estimated expenses can be assessed and furnished only after the receipt of the reports of concerned agencies.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

[Translation]

**Cancellation of Railway Examinations**

1999.SHRI HARIKEWAL PRASAD :  
SHRI TUKARAM GANPATRAO RENGE PATIL :  
SHRI CHANDRABHAN SINGH :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether several railway examinations have been cancelled due to leakage of question papers;

(b) if so, the details in this regard during each of the last three years;

(c) whether any inquiries have been conducted in these cases;

(d) if so, the outcome thereof;

(e) the action taken against the officials/persons found involved in these cases; and

(f) the concrete steps taken to check recurrence of such cases?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU) : (a) Yes, Sir. Only two examinations have been cancelled due to leakage of question papers.

(b) A statement is enclosed.

(c) \*Varanasi Police of Uttar Pradesh has been conducting the inquiry.

\*\*As regards Group 'D' examination, investigation is being conducted by Lucknow Police on an FIR lodged by Special Task Force, Lucknow.

(d) and (e) No inquiry reports or findings in these cases have been furnished by the Uttar Pradesh Police so far.

(f) Instructions regarding maintainability and confidentiality of the question papers already exist and are reiterated from time to time for strict compliance.

#### Statement

Year	Post	Conducted by
2004*	Junior Engineer/Section Engineer	Railway Recruitment Board/Mumbai
2006**	Group 'D'	Northern Railway

\*Written examination for the posts of Junior Engineer/Section Engineer scheduled to be held on 5.12.2004 at Solapur and Pune was cancelled due to the leakage of question paper which was found in possession of certain persons by Uttar Pradesh Police on the outskirts of Varanasi on 3.12.2004.

\*\*Group 'D' examination was to be held in three phases on 12.2.2006, 26.2.2006 and 5.3.2006. Examination scheduled to be held on 26.2.2006 was cancelled due to reported leakage of question paper.

[English]

#### Anti Hijacking Policy

2000.SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO :  
SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR :  
SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has decided to tough its anti hijacking policy to enable the National Security Guards (NSG) to commander any available aircraft for launching hot pursuit of hijackers;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. An Order has been issued and notified in the Gazette of India under Section 6 of the Aircraft Act, 1934. As per this notification, any aircraft of a scheduled or non -

scheduled operator for the operation of which a permit is granted by DGCA, shall be delivered forthwith on a requisition made in this behalf, to the National Security Guard (NSG) for the purpose of dealing with any incident of aircraft hijacking.

#### Facilities at Haveri Railway Station

2001.SHRI MANJUNATH KUNNUR : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Railways are aware that adequate facilities for the passengers are not available at Haveri Railway Station in Karnataka;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps being taken by the Railways to provide adequate passengers' facilities at the said station?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU) : (a) to (c) Passenger facilities are available at Haveri Railway Station as per norms for "Minimum Essential Amenities". However, for further perceptible improvements following works have been planned at Haveri Station :-

1. Extension and Raising of platforms to accommodate 24 coach trains
2. Provision of Indian Railway Standard (IRS) type platform shelter with lighting on platform No. 2
3. Construction of Pay and Use toilet
4. Provision of Passenger Operated Enquiry Terminal
5. Provision of Electronic Digital Train arrival/ departure display system.
6. Provision of Foot Over Bridge
7. Face lifting of station building and circulating area.
8. Provision of Platform shelter 80 metre long IRS Type on Road No. 1 and 2.

#### Removal of First Class Seats in Air India

2002.SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether Air India has decided to remove First Class seats in their flights; and

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

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

(b) Does not arise.

[Translation]

#### **Tax Rebate on Bio-Diesel**

2003.SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has received any demands for concession/exemption in the taxes on bio-diesel; and

(b) if so, the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL) : (a) and (b) The Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

#### **Setting up Hub in Malegaon**

2004.SHRI HARISHCHANDRA CHAVAN : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has received any proposal to set up a hub near to Malegaon in northern Maharashtra;

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

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

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

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[English]

#### **Air Service Agreement with Kuwait**

2005.SHRI RAVICHANDRAN SIPPIPARAI : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has recently held meeting with Kuwait delegation for promotion of bilateral relations in the field of Civil Aviation between the two countries;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has agreed to increase the weekly capacity of seats in airlines operating from Kuwait; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Bilateral air services consultations between India and Kuwait were held on 18-19 July, 2006 in New Delhi.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) As per the MOU signed during the said talks, the capacity entitlement for the designated airlines of both sides has been increased from 5200 seats per week to 8000 seats per week. Also, Ahmedabad has been granted as an additional point of call for the designated airlines of Kuwait apart from the existing points of Mumbai, Delhi, Trivandrum, Chennai and Cochin.

#### **Export of Arms and Ammunitions**

2006.SHRI SUGRIB SINGH :

SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL :

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) the total value of exports of arms and ammunitions made by various Ordnance Factories during 2005-2006;

(b) whether any complaints have been received about the quality of arms and ammunitions so exported;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (RAO INDERJIT SINGH) : (a) The total value of exports made by Ordnance Factories, during 2005-2006, has been Rs. 13.44 Crores.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Does not arise.

#### Revised Scheme for Tourism Development

2007. SHRI SUBODH MOHITE : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government is formulating a revised scheme for large revenue generating projects to meet infrastructural developments of tourism sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the projects identified under the said scheme;

(c) whether the private sector participation is allowed in these projects; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Ministry of Tourism has formulated a scheme of Assistance to Large Revenue Generating Projects for tourism infrastructure development. Large revenue generating projects having tourist attraction and used by tourists, which generates revenue through a levy of fee or user charges on the visitors can be assisted under the scheme.

(c) and (d) The priority is given to projects promoted by private sector and the projects with public private partnership involving least subsidy outgo while considering projects for grant-in-aid under this scheme. A Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) has to be set up by implementing partner, in case of private sector participation, prior to the consideration of their project under this scheme. All project proposals under this scheme must be accompanied by project appraisal carried out by public financial institution.

[Translation]

#### Agreement with Oman for Oil Exploration

2008. SHRI CHANDRABHAN SINGH : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the GAIL (India) Ltd. has signed any agreement with Oman recently for oil exploration and production; and

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the other partners involved in the said agreement?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL) : (a) Yes, Sir. Gail (India) Limited (GAIL) along with its Consortium partners had bid in the Oman bidding round for 2 exploration blocks. The consortium was awarded one block, i.e. Block No. 56. The Production sharing Contract (PSC) was signed with Ministry of Oil and Gas, Government of Sultanate of Oman.

(b) The PSC was signed on 28th June 2006. The consortium partners of GAIL in Block No. 56, of Oman are

Partner	Participating interest
Oilex NL, Australia (Operator)	25%
Videocon	25%
GAIL	25%
HPCL	12.5%
BPCL	12.5%

[English]

#### Violation of Security Norms by Officials of AI

2009. SHRI S. AJAYA KUMAR : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether Air India (AI) officials have violated the security norms during Prime Minister's foreign tours in the month of April;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

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

(d) if so, the outcome thereof; and

(e) the action taken against the officials found guilty ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. However, when the VVIP flight carrying Hon'ble Prime Minister was about to take-off from Hanover for Berlin on the 24th of April, the Air India Flight Purser in charge of a bar cart on the upper deck of the plane, noticed that

a plastic bar seal had been broken off and 6 bottles of liquor were missing.

(c) to (e) On preliminary investigation, it has been found that the matter is not in the nature of a security lapse. However, individual responsibility is being fixed and concerned staff and crew have been taken off from VVIP flight duties till further orders. Further, the process of selection of staff and crew for VVIP flights has been made more stringent.

#### Recovery of Balance Payment from UNO

2010.SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether India has sent several teams of assist UN Peacekeeping Missions to various countries;

(b) if so, the details of such teams sent during 2004-2005 and 2005-2006 to various countries.

(c) whether UNO make payments of such assistance;

(d) if so, whether any amount is outstanding against UNO for participation of Indian soldiers in peace missions;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the steps taken by the Government to expedite the recovery of balance payment from UNO?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) to (f) India has been an active participant in the peacekeeping operations conducted by the United Nations (UN) since 1950. The country-wise details of Armed Forces personnel sent in various UN Peacekeeping Missions during 2004-2005 and 2005-2006, is as follows :

Sl. No.	Period of deployment	Name of country	Number of personnel deployed
1.	2004-2005	Democratic Republic of Congo	4056
2.	2005-2006	Sudan	2630
3.	2005-2006	Golan Heights	189

In addition, 2291 personnel also remained deployed

in UN peacekeeping missions which are continuing, namely, UN Mission in Lebanon (UNIFIL) and UN Mission in Ethiopia-Eritrea (UNMEE). For the services rendered in UN Peacekeeping Missions, reimbursement is made by UN Headquarters towards troops cost, contingent owned equipment (CoE), and for self sustaining items like office and catering equipment, furniture etc.

As on July, 2006, a sum of USD 180.55 millions (approx) is due from the UN for ongoing Missions. The issue relating to payment of dues is constantly pursued with the UN through the Permanent Mission of India, New York.

[Translation]

#### Elections to Cantonment Boards

2011.SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether most of the Cantonment Boards are being run by the un-elected public representatives;

(b) if so, whether the Government proposes to conduct elections for Cantonment Boards;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) The administration of the Cantonment Boards is being run through constitution of varied Cantonment Boards under Section 14 of the Cantonments Act, 1924 consisting of the Officer Commanding the Station, a military officer nominated by name by the Officer Commanding the Station and one member, not being a person in service of the Government nominated by the Central Government in consultation with the Officer Commanding-in-Chief of the Command.

(b) and (c) A new Cantonments Bill has been introduced in the Parliament. The Bill is under consideration in the Lok Sabha after being passed by the Rajya Sabha. Elections will be held after enactment of the Act.

(d) Does not arise.



*[English]***Promotion of FPI**

2012.SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA : Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state :

(a) whether India despite being the second best producer of fruits and vegetables, processes less than 5 per cent of its produce;

(b) if so, whether any study has been made about the areas holding promise and potential for promotion of food-processing industry in the country;

(c) if so, the areas so identified; and

(d) the plans, if any, worked out for adequately tapping such potential?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY) : (a) to (d) In India level of processing of fruits and vegetables is about 2% Government has formulated and implemented several Plan Schemes to provide financial assistance for establishment and modernization of food processing units, creation of infrastructure, etc. Food processing is declared as a priority sector. Under the scheme for technology upgradation/establishment/expansion of food processing industries assistance in the form of grant-in-aid is provided for establishment/modernization of food processing units @ 25% of the project cost of plant and machinery and technical civil works subject to a maximum of Rs. 50 lakh in general areas and 33.33% of the project cost subject to a maximum of Rs. 75 lakh in difficult areas.

This Ministry has requested the State Nodal Agencies to carry out studies to ascertain the potential in various States for which assistance shall be provided by the Ministry. Uttar Pradesh has carried out such a study. In the States of West Bengal and Gujarat, studies have been commissioned with assistance from this Ministry.

**Kochi-Agatti Air Service**

2013.DR. P.P. KOYA : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has acquired small capacity ATR aircraft on lease basis for providing air services in various sectors;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there is any proposal to introduce ATR aircraft between Kochi and Agatti;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government is considering concessional rate for native scheduled tribe passengers as offered in the North Eastern sector;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) the steps being taken by the Government to improve the air connectivity between mainland and Lakshadweep and between the various islands?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL) : (a) and (b) Alliance Air has acquired 4 ATR 42-320 aircraft on dry lease basis for providing air services to/from and within North Eastern region.

(c) No, Sir. The existing airport at Agatti cannot support ATR operations. Besides, Indian Airlines/Alliance Air do not have the ATR aircraft as well as the crew to consider operation of service between Kochi and Agatti.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) and (f) There is no concessional rate for native scheduled tribe passengers in the North-East and no such proposal is under consideration for Lakshadweep. However, Indian Airlines has introduced special promotional fare on the sector Agatti-Cochin under the 'Unchecked Fares Offer'.

(g) Indian Airlines is already connecting Lakshadweep with the mainland through 6 days a week Dornier services between Kochi and Agatti. Non-availability of suitable smaller capacity aircraft does not permit operation of inter-island services by Indian Airlines/Alliance Air in the Lakshadweep group of Islands. Government has included Cochin-Agatti route under Category II of the Route Dispersal Guidelines to facilitate augmentation of air services on this route.

**Road Connectivity to World Heritage Sites**

2014.SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Ministry of Tourism has requested the Ministry of Shipping, Road Transport and Highways and State Governments to provide road connectivity to world heritage sites and other places of tourist importance;

(b) if so, the details of these sites identified by the Ministry of Tourism;

(c) the response of the Ministry of Shipping and State Governments thereto;

(d) whether the Ministry of Tourism has provided any financial assistance to States for the development of road connectivity to world heritage sites and other places of tourist importance; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Ministry of Tourism has requested the Ministry of Shipping, Road Transport and Highways and also the State Governments for improvement of road connectivity to world heritage sites and other places of tourist importance. A list of roads identified by Ministry of Tourism is placed at Statement-I enclosed.

(c) The Ministry of Shipping, Road Transport and Highways and State Governments have decided to give priority to improvement of road connectivity to world heritage sites and other places of tourist importance under their respective jurisdiction.

(d) and (e) The Ministry of tourism provides financial assistance for development of roads as a part of integrated development of tourist infrastructure at identified destinations and circuits. The list of such projects sanctioned since 2004-05, State wise, is placed at Statement-II enclosed.

**Statement-I***List of Roads Proposed to be Improved*

S. No.	Road From – To	Distance in Kms.	Type of Road	Connecting Destination	State
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Jhasi – Khajuraho	175	SH	Khajuraho	Uttar Pradesh/ Madhya Pradesh
2.	Thekkady – Munnar	110	State PWD	Thekkady/Munnar	Kerala
3.	Mysore – Bandipur – Ooty	160	SH	Mysore/Bandipur/Ooty	Karnataka/Tamil Nadu
4.	Kohima – Kuki – Dulong	150	SH	Poilwa Eco Tourism Area	Nagaland
5.	Jabalpur – Kanha	160	SH	Kanha National Park	Madhya Pradesh
6.	Srivilliputhur – Madurai	63	SH	Madurai	Tamil Nadu
7.	Hubli – Goa	185	NH/SH	Goa	Karnataka/Goa
8.	Satna – Khajuraho	120	SH	Khajuraho	Madhya Pradesh
9.	Jhalesar – Agra	13	Distt. Road	Agra	Uttar Pradesh
10.	Siliguri – Darjeeling	90	NH	Darjeeling	West Bengal
11.	Bhubaneshwar – Konark	65	NH/SH	Konark	Orissa
12.	Chamata – Mayong Tinali	18	Distt. Road	Pobitora Wild Life Sanctuary	Assam

1	2	3	4	5	6
13.	Barpeta Road –Basbari	26	Distt. Road	Manas National Park	Assam
14.	Kurseong – Ghoom	30	Distt. Road	Ghoom (Darjeeling)	West Bengal
15.	Bishramganj – Melaghar	20	SH	Neermahal	Tripura
16.	Sharavanbelgola – Mandageri	25	SH	Sharavanbelgola	Karnataka
17.	Belur – Sakaleshpur	37	SH	Belur	Karnataka
18.	Katni – Bandhavgarh	102	SH	Bandhavgarh	Madhya Pradesh
19.	Jagdarpur – Chitrakote	39	SH	Chitrakote	Chattisgarh
20.	Mohan Sarai-Mughal Sarai	30	NH	Varanasi	Uttar Pradesh

**Statement-II**

*Statement showing Tourism Infrastructure Projects sanctioned by Ministry of Tourism since 2004-05 for the States/UTs, containing development of Roads as an integral part*

S. No.	State	Name of the tourism infrastructure project
1	2	3
1.	Bihar	Development of Bodhgaya-Rajgir-Nalanda Tourist Circuits.
2.	Chhattisgarh	(i) Integrated Development of Sirpur. (ii) Integrated development of Tourism Circuit on Raipur-Arang-Sirpur-Narayanpur-Girodpuri-Sheori Narayan-Kharod-Mathar-Ratanpur-TATA sector (iii) Tourism Circuit on Raipur-Nagpura-Bhoramdeo
3.	Haryana	Development of Kerala Lake at Uchana (District Karnal)
4.	Jharkhand	Integrated Development of Deoghar in Jharkhand
5.	Karnataka	(i) Development of Bandipur Tiger Reserve (ii) Integrated Development of Badami-Aihole-Pattadakal-Mahakoota circuit

1	2	3
6.	Kerala	(i) Destination development of Elephant Park at Punnathur Kotta, Guruvayur Distt. Thrissur (ii) Destination Development of Ponmudi (iii) Central Financial Assistance for the revitalization of Munnar destination development.
7.	Madhya Pradesh	Destination development of Barhanpur
8.	Maharashtra	Development of Foothills at Ajanta Caves
9.	Punjab	Integrated development of Freedom Trail, Punjab Tourism Circuit.
10.	Uttar Pradesh	(i) Development of Rae Bareli and surrounding area (ii) Development of Surhatal Shahid Smarak, Ballia as a tourist destination (iii) Development and beautification of Nana Roa Smarak at Bithor in Distt. Kanpur Nagar (iv) Integrated development of Agra Revitalization and Visitor Management for Taj Mahal (v) Development of Garhmukteshwar-Brijghat Circuit

1	2	3
11.	West Bengal	Development of Kalimpong in the State of West Bengal

[Translation]

**Implementation of Programmes for Minorities**

2015. SHRI CHHATAR SINGH DARBAR : Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether some States are lagging behind in implementation of welfare programmes meant for minorities in the country;

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

(c) the measures taken by the Union Government for effective implementation of those programmes in all States?

THE MINISTER OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI A.R. ANTULAY) : (a) to (c) It is true that National Minority Development and Finance Corporation (NMDFC) which finances developmental activities for minorities faces problems of poor recovery of loans, staff shortage, inadequate equity contributions by State Governments, reluctance of the State Government to extend adequate guarantees etc. These problems are taken up with the State Governments. The Government has recently announced Prime Minister's New 15 Point Programme for the Welfare of Minorities in order to ensure that the benefits of the programme reach the minorities. Wherever possible, 15% of targets and outlays have been earmarked for the notified minorities under various schemes of the programme. Arrangements have also been made for closer monitoring of the programme.

[English]

**Doubling of Railway Lines**

2016. SHRI B. MAHTAB : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the estimated cost of the doubling of railway lines between Cuttack to Paradip and Cuttack to Barang;

(b) the amount allocated for these two doubling projects so far;

(c) the reasons for the slow progress of these projects; and

(d) the steps taken to allocate additional funds so that these projects are completed as per schedule?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU) : (a), (b) and (d) Doubling of the entire Talcher–Nergundi–Cuttack–Paradeep line (except the 2nd bridge over River Mahanadi) has been completed and commissioned. The estimated cost of the work of the 2nd bridge over River Mahanadi is Rs. 122 crore and the estimated cost of doubling of Cuttack–Barang (12 Kms) section is Rs. 178.98 crore. These two works are being executed by Rail Vikas Nigam Limited (RVNL) for their early completion. Expenditure incurred on these works till 31.03.2006 are Rs. 48.94 crore and Rs. 24.74 crore respectively. Budget outlays provided for these projects in 2006-07 are Rs. 39.90 crore and Rs. 40.15 crore respectively. The funds are already available with RVNL for progressing the works as per schedule.

(c) Cuttack–Barang doubling is partly being funded through the Asian Development Bank (ADB) funds. The finalization of tender as per ADB procedure took time. The work of the 2nd Mahanadi Bridge is as per schedule.

**Financial Assistance to FPIS**

2017. SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA : Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state :

(a) whether a large number of Food Processing Units have been given financial assistance/grant during the last three years;

(b) if so, the details of the financial assistance provided to them during the said period;

(c) whether utilization certificates have been obtained from them;

(d) if so, whether second instalment of financial assistance have been released to such units which have not submitted utilization certificates;

(e) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(f) the measures taken to ensure that the financial assistance is not misutilised/misused by food processing units?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY) : (a) During the last three years, a total number of 550 units have been provided financial assistance by the Ministry under the scheme for technological upgradation/establishment/modernization of the food processing industries.

(b) The details of financial assistance provided during the said period is given in the Statement enclosed.

(c) to (f) Assistance is provided to the food processing units in two (2) installments. The second installment of the grant is released only after obtaining the utilization certificates from the respective units who have been provided with the first installment of the grant. The time frame for submission of such utilization certificate is eighteen (18) months from the date of issue of sanction. While releasing the second installment of grant, it is ensured that 100% of the promoter's contribution, 100% of the terms loan and a certificate from State Nodal Agency that the project has physically come up and is ready for commencement of production/has actually commenced commercial production is obtained.

**Statement**

(Rs. in Lakh)

State/UT	2003-2004	2004-2005	2005-2006
1	2	3	4
Andhra Pradesh	465.57	797.67	689.80
Assam	257.79	245.76	67.18
Bihar	—	25.32	64.22
Chhattisgarh	—	32.61	98.25
Delhi	—	2.50	36.77
Goa	17.00	25.00	47.58
Gujarat	165.85	262.15	370.05
Haryana	185.94	183.34	167.04
Himachal Pradesh	99.18	75.51	154.48

	1	2	3	4
Jammu and Kashmir	108.78	74.78	63.67	
Jharkhand	—	—	48.28	
Karnataka	151.49	425.32	419.73	
Kerala	192.53	152.86	436.39	
Madhya Pradesh	88.93	45.62	239.95	
Maharashtra	529.03	778.67	1,251.94	
Manipur	108.41	—	11.77	
Meghalaya	—	12.14	13.26	
Mizoram	110.50	12.30	—	
Nagaland	40.75	—	—	
Orissa	—	63.31	22.23	
Pondicherry	—	24.54	14.67	
Punjab	163.00	538.23	497.67	
Rajasthan	86.00	35.83	117.39	
Tamil Nadu	274.03	310.60	699.68	
Tripura	33.07	—	—	
Uttar Pradesh	263.19	591.76	845.14	
Uttanchal	5.37	87.88	162.71	
West Bengal	132.96	325.74	400.14	

**Supply of LPG through Pipeline**

2018.SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) the areas which are covered in Delhi and other parts of the country for supply of Liquefied Petroleum Gas through pipeline;

(b) whether the Government proposes to extend this facility to other areas;

(c) if so, the present status of the same and the time by which the LPG will be supplied through pipeline; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL) : (a) to (d) Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) are not supplying LPG through pipelines in Delhi. However, OMCs have introduced LPG reticulated systems to distribute piped LPG to domestic customers in individual housing complexes in various cities, including Delhi. The system consists of a centralized LPG storage in cylinder banks and is proposed to be extended in other areas depending upon the customers' willingness to adopt the system and commercial consideration of OMCs.

[Translation]

#### **Air Service from Jodhpur Airport**

2019.SHRI JASWANT SINGH BISHNOI : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the flights of CD7471 and 7472 operating to and from Jodhpur have been reduced;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the said flights are proposed to be regularised; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Due to shortage of aircraft and crew, Alliance Air had to reduce its operations to/from Jodhpur from daily service to six/weeks. On Thursdays, the flight CD-7471 does not go via Jodhpur but operates Delhi to Mumbai via Udaipur.

(c) and (d) Restoration of daily services by Indian Airlines is contingent upon the adequate availability of aircraft capacity and operating crew.

[English]

#### **Retiring Rooms for VIPs**

2020.SHRI P.C. THOMAS : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

- (a) whether retiring rooms for VIPs and others have been constructed in some of the major airports in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it has come to the notice of the Government that these rooms at Mumbai airport have been converted into the officers' rooms by the Joint Venture Company;

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

(e) the alternatives arrangements proposed to be provided for the VIPs and others who have to transit via Mumbai?

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

(b) Retiring rooms are provided at – Chennai, Kolkata, Trivandrum, Calicut, Guwahati, Hyderabad, Jaipur, Nagpur, Coimbatore, Patna, Bhopal, Indore, Vadodara, Bhubneshwar, Chandigarh, Vishakhapatnam, Ranchi, Agartala, Bagdogra and Agra airports.

(c) to (e) There were 14 rooms at Mumbai airport. This facility has been withdrawn on a temporary basis as a part of modernization.

#### **Art Museums**

2021.SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY : Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state :

- (a) the details of the art museums in the country, State-wise;
- (b) whether the conditions of some of the art museums are not good;
- (c) if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (d) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to improve the conditions of these museums?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI) : (a) to (d) The National Gallery of Modern Art, New Delhi with its functional branch at Mumbai is the major Art Gallery and Museum under the Ministry of Culture. In addition there are other Museums i.e. National Museum, New Delhi, Salar Jung Museum, Hyderabad; Indian Museum, Kolkata; Allahabad Museum, Allahabad; Victoria Memorial Hall, Kolkata under the

Ministry of Culture, which also have Art collections. These Museums are maintained through regular budgetary support from the Government of India. The Ministry also provides financial assistance to Museums under the State Governments and those maintained by NGOs, Trusts etc. under the scheme of "Promotion and Strengthening of Regional and Local Museums".

[Translation]

#### Rehabilitation of Beggars

2022.SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR : Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has formulated any scheme to effectively check begging;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith funds allocation under the scheme;

(c) the number of beggars homes constructed/to be constructed by the Government for their rehabilitation;

(d) whether the Government has provided any grant to State Governments for construction of beggars Homes; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADESAN) : (a) No Sir, at present, there is no scheme for prevention of beggary in the Central Sector.

(b) to (e) Do not arise.

[English]

#### Improvement in Heavy Industries

2023.SHRI SUGRIB SINGH : Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government prooses to bring improvement in heavy industries;

(b) if so, the details of revival plans sanctioned by Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction alongwith cash infusion and financial restructuring for these industries during 2005-06, industry-wise;

(c) whether the Government has any proposal to reduce its equity in the heavy industries sector;

(d) if so, the details thereof, industry-wise; and

(e) the target fixed by the Government in this regard for the current financial year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF HEAVY INDUSTRY, MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH) :

(a) and (b) There is no formal classification of industry as 'heavy'. However, as far as the Public Sector Enterprises (PSEs) under the Department of Heavy Industry are concerned, as per the policy laid down in the National Common Minimum Programme, every effort will be made to modernize and restructure the sick PSEs. During the last two years, revival/restructuring of 10 PSEs has been approved by the Government involving fresh cash infusion of about Rs. 365 crores and waivers/concessions of Rs. 2849 crores, as per the details given below :

Sl. No.	PSE	Fresh infusion of funds by Government	Waivers/conversions	Total
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Hindustan Salts Ltd.	4.28	66.32	70.60
2.	Bridge and Roof Co. Ltd.	60.00	42.92	102.92
3.	BBJ Constn. Co. Ltd.	Nil	54.61	54.61
4.	Praga Tools Ltd.	5.00	177.12	182.12
5.	Heavy Engg. Corp.	100.00	1116.30	1216.30

1	2	3	4	5
6.	HMT (B) Ltd.	7.40	26.57	33.97
7.	Braithwaite and Co. Ltd.	4.00	112.91	116.91
8.	Cement Corporation of India Ltd.	184.29	1252.25	1436.54
9.	Richardson and Cruddas Ltd.	Nil	-	-
10.	Tungabhadra Steel Products Ltd.	Nil	Nil	Nil
<b>Total</b>		<b>364.97</b>	<b>2849.00</b>	<b>3213.97</b>

(c) No, such decision has been taken by the Government.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) No targets have been fixed.

#### Quality of Food served in Indian Airlines

2024. SHRI S. AJAYA KUMAR : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the quality of food served during in-flight services of Indian Airlines is very poor;

(b) if so, the number of such complaints received during the current years; and

(c) the action taken/being taken to improve the quality of food?

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

(b) Customer Services Unit at Headquarter and all four regions have received a total of seven complaints pertaining to quality of food served on board Indian Airlines flights for the period January, 2006 to June, 2006. In addition to it, out of 2440 Feedback forms received in Customer Services Headquarter during this period, 266 have reported adversely about the quality of food served on Indian Airlines flights.

(c) Indian Airlines the systems in place for checking the quality and quantity of the meals at regular as well as on random basis on departing and arriving flights. In addition, complaints/feedback, which specify the area of

drawback are dealt with immediate effect and corrective action is taken at the caterer/staff level.

[Translation]

#### Special Cell for Infrastructural Development Programme of Tourism

2025. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government has issued any directions to the State Governments to set up special cell for giving momentum to infrastructural development programme for tourism and to provide facilities for entertainment and services at such places and to expedite the completion of the pending tourism project;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of the State Governments which have set up special cells, till date?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI) : (a) to (c) The monitoring of implementation of tourism projects sanctioned through central financial assistance is a continuous joint effort involving the Ministry of Tourism, its domestic field offices and the respective State/UT Governments. At the instance of Ministry of Tourism, the State/UT Governments, monitor the progress of implementation of tourism projects at the level of Secretary (Tourism) of the concerned State/UT Government. As regards the facilities for entertainment and services at tourist places, it is primarily the responsibility of the concerned State/UT Governments. Ministry of Tourism provides assistance also to set up tourist amenities centres and interpretation centres.



*[English]*

**Enhancement of Air Connectivity  
with Singapore**

2026. SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO :  
SHRIMATI ARCHANA NAYAK :  
SHRI DUSHYANT SINGH :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether India and Singapore have signed a new Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to enhance air connectivity;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether both countries are unable to resolve the "fifth freedom" issues;

(d) if so, the steps taken by the Government to resolve this issue with Singapore;

(e) the benefits likely to be accrued to India by this agreement; and

(f) the names of the countries with whom India is having "fifth freedom" agreement?

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

(b) As per the MoU signed between India and Singapore during the last round of bilateral air services consultations held on 10-11 July, 2006, two sides confirmed about the coming into force of our ASEAN offer which inter-alia provide unlimited access of 18 tourist destinations in India. Both sides also agreed for an open sky arrangement with no limitation on frequency, routing and capacity for all cargo services.

(c) and (d) Both sides agreed during the talks that the issue of the enhancement of "fifth freedom" rights will be discussed during the next round of talks between the two countries.

(e) The tourism sector will be benefited with the opening up of 18 tourist gateways in India with unlimited access to the designated airlines of both sides. Apart from it, the freighter services will get a boost as the open sky has been agreed for all cargo services.

(f) At present, India is having "fifth freedom" agreement on reciprocal basis with USA, Canada, Brazil, UK, Belgium, Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Spain, Switzerland, Russia, Tajikistan, Ukraine, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Lesotho, Mauritius, Nigeria, South Africa, Tanzania, Yemen, Dubai, Egypt, Bahrain, Oman, Iran, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Syria, Turkey, Australia, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Brunei, China, Fiji, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, Maldives, Myanmar, Nepal, New Zealand, Philippines, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Taiwan, Thailand. In the case of Denmark, Norway, Sweden, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan, Indian carriers have unilateral 5th freedom rights.

**Construction of Hubli-Ankola Railway Line**

2027. SHRI MANJUNATH KUNNUR : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Railways have taken up the construction work of Hubli-Ankola new railway line project;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time schedule for completion of the said project?

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

(b) Earthwork and bridge works have been taken up on Hubli-Kirvatti section wherever land has been handed over. Land acquisition in balance portion has also been taken up.

(c) No target date has been fixed.

**Absorption of Staff Deployed at IGI Airport**

2028. SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Indira Gandhi International (IGI) Airport, Delhi has been handed over to the Joint Venture Company-GMR Consortium;

(b) if so, the percentage of the staff deployed at IGI Airport is to be absorbed in JVC as per the agreement;

(c) whether the Airports Authority of India has chalked out any Action Plan for absorption of the remaining staff;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether there is any proposal to absorb some of the employees at the Headquarters office; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) to (f) The transaction process of Delhi airport provides for extension of operational support by Airports Authority of India (AAI) during the first 3 years of the Concession period, wherein the employees at these airports would continue to be the employees of AAI and enjoy the same terms and conditions of services as other AAI employees. On the expiry of the 3 year period, GMR Consortia for Delhi airport shall be required to absorb 60% of the employees working at these airports as on the Effective Date of the transaction. Those employees, who in spite of the offer for absorption in the JVCs, do not opt for the employment with the JVCs, will continue to remain as employees of AAI till their superannuation or otherwise and will be posted wherever there are vacancies.

#### Hi-tech Security Equipment at Airports

2029.SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) the airports in the country where CISF has been deployed for security purpose;

(b) whether the Government proposes to install hi-tech security equipments at the airports;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the expenditure likely to be incurred thereon; and

(e) the time by which these are likely to be installed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL) : (a) CISF has been deployed at 54 airports till date.

(b) to (d) Yes, Sir. It has been decided to install security equipments like Bio-metric access control system, Explosive detection equipment, CCTV, Perimeter intrusion

detection system etc. at all the major airports in the country. The security equipments being installed at departure area and their cost are as under :-

In line X-Ray Baggage Inspection System	– Rs. 58.30 crores
Explosive Trace Detectors	– Rs. 62.27 crores
Metal Detectors	– Rs. 5.77 crores
X-Ray Baggage Inspection System	– Rs. 34.00 crores

(e) These equipments will be installed in a phased manner.

[Translation]

#### Allotment of Petrol Retail Outlets

2030.SHRI JASWANT SINGH BISHNOI : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) the existing procedure for allotment of petrol retail outlets;

(b) whether the public sector oil companies have formulated any marketing plan for allotment of petrol retail outlets during the Tenth Five Year Plan;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the number of petrol retail outlets allotted by each public sector oil company during the said Plan so far, State-wise; and

(e) the steps taken to meet the targets fixed for the said Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL) : (a) The public sector oil marketing companies (OMCs), viz., Indian Oil Corporation Limited, Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited, Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited and IBP Co. Limited, have framed guidelines for selection/appointment of retail outlet (RO) dealerships (petrol pumps), LPG distributorships and SKO-LDO dealerships, and have been marking selections in terms of these guidelines. These guidelines provide for a detailed procedure to be followed by the OMCs in making selection of dealers/distributors. The procedure includes selection of

dealers/distributors by the selection committee of the OMC concerned on the basis of evaluation of the suitability of the candidates vis-à-vis certain laid down parameters.

(b) and (c) After the announcement of the dismantling of the Administered Pricing Mechanism in the petroleum sector w.e.f. 1.4.2002, the OMCs make their own marketing plans for setting up of new ROs on yearly/bi-yearly basis. There is no target for the Tenth Plan Period for setting up of new ROs. Details of the State-wise marketing plans for setting up of new ROs, formulated by OMCs, are available with Director (Marketing) of the OMCs concerned.

(d) During the period of the Tenth Five Year Plan, i.e., 2002-2007, the public sector OMCs have so far allotted 14,493 ROs in the country.

(e) The OMCs have not fixed any Tenth Plan target for allotment of ROs.

*[English]*

#### **White Paper on Minorities**

2031. SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL : Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government proposes to bring a White Paper on the status of minority communities in the country;

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

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

THE MINISTER OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI A.R. ANTULAY) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. No time frame has been decided.

*[Translation]*

#### **Issue of Blank Paper Tickets**

2032. SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Railways have discontinued to issue of Blank Paper tickets for long distance railway journey;

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

(c) whether the discontinuation of the said facility has affected earnings of the Railways;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Railways propose to restore the said facility; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU) : (a) to (f) The facility of Blank Paper Ticket and telescopic fare, as available prior to 1.4.2006, has already been restored from 15.6.2006.

*[English]*

#### **Draft making charges for Retail Outlet Dealers**

2033. SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the scheduled banks including private banks are charging Re. 1 per thousand from the retail outlet dealers for depositing cash for demand draft (DD) making;

(b) if so, whether these banks are also charging Rs. 2 to Rs. 3 per thousand for draft making;

(c) if so, whether these banks are also charging service tax on such DD;

(d) if so, whether the oil companies have conducted survey regarding this cost per kilolitre on MS/HSD;

(e) if so, whether the oil companies in principal are bound to reimburse this cost;

(f) if not, whether the retail outlet dealers are authorised to add this cost in deciding the retail selling price of MS/HSD; and

(g) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL) : (a) and (b) Public sector oil marketing companies (OMCs) have reported that the demand draft making charges by banks varies from nil to Rs. 3.50 per thousand depending on the business relationship with the customer.

(c) Service tax is applicable as per existing tax laws.

(d) OMCs have not conducted any specific survey on the subject.

(e) The demand draft making charges incurred by the dealers are being reimbursed by OMCs subject to a ceiling of Rs. 58/- per Kilo Litre (KL) for MS and Rs. 34/- per KL for HSD.

(f) and (g) The Retail Selling Price is fixed on uniform basis, which includes the demand draft making charges. Since the retail outlets dealers are being reimbursed the demand draft making charges, they are not authorized to add the cost in the Retail Selling Price.

#### **Electricity Duty on Electricity Consumed for Non-Domestic Purpose**

2034. SHRIMATI SUSMITA BAURI : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether a Garrison Engineer (East) Ferozpur paid Electricity Duty of Rs. 75.34 lakh irregularly on electricity consumed for non-domestic purpose by Defence Establishments from August, 2002 to January, 2004 as pointed out in C and AG Report No. 6 of 2005;

(b) if so, the facts thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) to (c) Garrison Engineer (East), Ferozpur paid Electricity Duty of Rs. 72.67 lakh (and not Rs. 75.34 lakh as mentioned in the Comptroller and Auditor General Report No. 6 of 2005) in excess for the period from August 2002 to January 2004 to the Punjab State Electricity Board for non domestic purpose. The entire amount of Rs. 72.67 lakh paid in excess has been refunded by the State Electricity Board. The Audit has since vetted the Action Taken Report prepared in this case.

#### **Encroachment on Historical Monuments**

2035. SHRI GANESH PRASAD SINGH : Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Sarai Shahji, Shivalik Malviya Nagar, New Delhi a Mugal period monuments declared as National heritage has been occupied unauthorisedly;

(b) if so, whether the Government has received any representations in this regard; and

(c) if so, the action taken by the Government for removal of un-authorized occupation from these historic monuments and to develop the same like all other such monuments in Delhi?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI) : (a) Yes, Sir. The protected area of the monument is partly encroached upon prior to declaration of the monument as of national importance in May 1988.

(b) and (c) The Archaeological Survey of India has initiated action for removal of the encroachment in accordance with the provisions of the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act, 1958 and the Rules constituted thereunder. The site has been surveyed jointly by the district authorities, police and the Archaeological Survey of India. The matter of eviction of the encroachers has been taken up with the District Task Force which is constituted under the orders of the Hon'ble High Court of Delhi for removal of encroachers from protected monuments.

#### **Allotment of Retail Outlets**

2036. SHRI UDAY SINGH :

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY :

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

(a) whether the Government has issued the directions to the public sector oil companies to allot the running coco pumps of a particular city to Letter of Intent (LOI) holders belonging to Kargil martyrs of SC/ST category;

(b) if so, whether the public sector oil companies particularly Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL) are violating the directions and not installing and commissioning the retail outlets of the LOI holders of those categories in Haryana despite respective oil companies have the pending allotment of land on that location from the Government agencies or are running several petrol pumps on coco basic;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether, the Government has conducted any inquiry in the matter;

(e) if so, the outcome thereof; and

(f) the action taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to allot the outlets to those LOI holders expeditiously?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL) : (a) The public sector oil marketing companies (OMCs) have been generally advised to offer some of their temporary company-owned-company-operated (COCO) retail outlets, subject to suitability, to the pending Letter of Intent (LOI) holders under the special scheme for allotment of dealerships/distributorships to the dependants of Kargil martyrs, the discretionary quota scheme, the corpus fund scheme (SC/ST category of dealerships, widows and women of 40 years and above without earning parents) and other categories, in that order.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) to (f) Does not arise.

[Translation]

#### **Theft of NSCs and Kisan Vikas Patras in Railways**

2037. SHRI RAGHUVVEER SINGH KOSHAL : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Railways are aware of the scam of mortgaging 'Kisan Vikas Patras' and National Saving Certificates printed at National Press Nasik that lost en route while being transported by railway and thus they are being misused to get the contract and laws;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Railways are also aware of the article published in the weekly magazine 'Outlook', New Delhi dated July 24, 2006 under the caption 'Chori Aur Seena Jori';

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

(e) the names of the departments of Union Government responsible for the above incident and the action taken against them; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU) : (a) Yes, Sir. A case of theft of National Savings Certificates (NSC), Kisan Vikas Patra (KVP) and Postal Orders etc. was reported at Patna Jn. Railway Yard in the year 1998 from wagon No. CR 64037 booked from National Press, Nasik Road to Howrah.

(b) On 20.02.1998 on receipt of information about victimization of wagon on. CR 64037 booked from National Press, Nasik Road to Howrah at Patna Jn. Yard, the wagon was checked at Patna Parcel Office and shortage of 04 packages containing National Savings Certificates (NSC), Kisan Vikas Patra (KVP) and Postal Orders was found. In this connection Government Railway Police/Patna registered a case vide crime No. 29/98 dated 24.02.1998 under sections 468/409/120-B Indian Penal Code (IPC) and took up investigation.

On 01.04.1998, after getting information from some passengers, the Railway Protection Force staff of Mughalsarai recovered 4000 sheets of 5 ½ yearly Kisan Vikas Patra valued at Rs. 4 crores from a compartment of Train No. 3073 Himgiri Express at Mughalsarai Railway station. The recovered sheets of Kisan Vikas Patra were handed over to GRP/Patna.

(c) to (f) Yes, Sir. The Post Master General/Bihar, Chief Commissioner Income Tax, Bihar, State Railway Police/Patna were informed to take necessary steps to prevent misuse of the stolen National Savings Certificates (NSC), Kisan Vikas Patra (KVP) and Postal Orders. Government Railway Police/Patna has recently registered a case vide no. 225/2006 in connection with the use of stolen valuable security for getting contracts and took up investigation. 12 RPF officers and staff of Danapur Division, who were held responsible for the theft were charge-sheeted and departmentally punished.

#### **Terrorist Activities**

2038. PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Army has apprised the Government of the rising terrorist activities in some of the States of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of times the plans of the ULFA terrorists have been foiled by the Army during 2005 and 2006 so far;

(d) whether the Union Government has provided assistance to the State Governments for security arrangements; and

(e) if so, the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) to (c) The Army authorities regularly apprise the Government about the security situation in the country, especially the areas where army is deployed for anti militancy operations. In the North Eastern Region, relentless operations are being carried out by the Security Forces against various militant groups including ULFA. As a result of operations by the Security Forces, ULFA strongholds in major parts of Assam have been cleared and their capability to carry out militant operations reduced considerably.

(d) and (e) Apart from providing Army assistance free of charge for anti militancy operations, the Union Government also reimburses some part of Security Related Expenditure under a Scheme implemented by the Ministry of Home Affairs. The objective of providing such assistance is to supplement resource of State Government for maintaining peace, integrity and sovereignty of the country.

[English]

#### **Allocation of Airport Slots to Airlines**

2039. SHRIMATI SANGEETA KUMARI SINGH DEO :

SHRI M. ANJAN KUMAR YADAV :

SHRI KIRTI VARDHAN SINGH :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government is aware that airlines are finding difficulties to obtain parking bays, landing slots and hangers at major airports in the country;

(b) if so, whether the Government proposes to evolve a transparent mechanism for allocation of airport slots to airline companies;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL) : (a) Yes, Sir. Due to non-availability of hangar space at some of major airports especially at Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai and Kolkata, airlines are finding some difficulties.

(b) and (c) the mechanism followed by Airports Authority of India (AAI) for allocation of slots of airlines is broadly based on guidelines of International Air Transport Association (IATA).

(d) Does not arise.

[Translation]

#### **Construction of New Airports**

2040. SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK :

SHRI M. ANJAN KUMAR YADAV :

SHRI SURESH KALMADI :

SHRI BALASHOWRY VALLABHANENI :

SHRI J.M. AARON RASHID :

SHRIMATI KARUNA SHUKLA :

SHRI BRAJESH PATHAK :

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR :

SHRI G. NIZAMUDDIN :

SHRI SREENIVASULU REDDY :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government is contemplating to construct some new airports in the country;

(b) if so, whether the Government has received Techno-physical report from the International Civil Aviation Organisation in this regard;

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

(d) the funds actually required for construction of these airports and how these are to be mobilised; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL) : (a) At present,

proposals relating to construction of new airports at Gangtok in Sikkim, Kohima in Nagaland, Chakan, Pune and Navi Mumbai in Maharashtra, Ajmer in Rajasthan, Kannur in Kerala, Itanagar in Arunachal Pradesh, Raiganj in West Bengal, Bharuch in Gujarat and Civil Enclave at Halwara in Punjab are being examined by the Government. There are well laid down procedures for development of greenfield airports and the above proposals have to conform to the prescribed conditions before being considered for approval.

(b) The Techno-Economic Feasibility Report has been received from International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) in respect of Mopa in Goa only through the State Government of Goa.

(c) and (d) The above proposals are at preliminary stages. Therefore, no financial allocation has so far been finalised.

(e) Does not arise.

[English]

#### Merger of RPF and GRP

2041. SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR :  
SHRI ASADUDDIN OWASI :  
SHRIMATI P. SATHEEDEVI :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether in order to tackle rising incidents of terrorist attacks, robberies and other crimes, there is any proposal for merger of the Railway Protection Force (RPF) and Government Railway Police (GRP) into a single unified Special Central Force;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any meeting has been held in this regard;

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

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

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

(b) to (e) Do not arise.

#### Development of Food Products by DRDO

2042. SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has made their research in production of protein food for the jawans posted at remote and isolated parts of the country;

(b) if so, the names of the various food products developed by the DRDO during each of the last three years;

(c) the names of the other food products likely to be developed by DRDO for Defence Personnel; and

(d) the funds allocated for such research work in DRDO during 2005-2006?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir; the following food products have been developed :-

Year	Products Developed
2003-2004	Nutri Bar, Protein rich biscuits fortified with egg.
2004-2005	Protein rich compressed bar (Nutri-bar)
2005-2006	Soya fortified instant Pulav, Kichidi, Upma, Halwa, Potato, Parothas.

Other food products likely to be developed are :-

(i) Mutton and Chicken solid fortified biscuits.

(ii) Protein rich bars based on cereals, pulses/legumes, dry fruits with Nutraceuticals.

(d) Funds allotted for such research work in DRDO during 2005-2006 were Rs. 5.00 lakhs.

#### Extortion Notice to ONGC

2043. SHRI UDAY SINGH : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Ltd. (ONGC) has received an extortion demand from outlawed separatist guerrillas National Socialist Council of Nagaland;

- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the extortion demand of NSCN have been met by ONGC;
- (d) if so, whether NSCN have threatened ONGC to face the consequences;
- (e) if so, the details of, new safety aspects ONGC have taken in view of threats posed by NSCN?

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

(b) Extortion notices dated 17.03.06 were received in office of Asset manager, GGM (Drilling) and GM (Prodn.) of Assam Asset, Nazira on 08.05.2006 and 09.05.2006, respectively.

The NSCN through these letters, had demanded Rs. 3.00 crores from each officer.

- (c) No, Sir.
- (d) No threat was indicated in the letter.

However, they have indicated that ONGC can carry out work around Changpang area (Assam-Nagaland Border) under 'Mon' District only after fulfillment of their demands by 5th April 2006.

- (e) 1. The issue of increasing threats by militants has been taken up with the MHA and Government of Assam by MOP and NG.
2. Periodical review with State Authorities (Government of Assam) and liaison with local police authorities is being conducted.
3. The issues of militant threats and extortions have been deliberated periodically in the Onshore Security Coordination Committee meetings.
4. Security personnel (deployed in Assam) have been sensitized to take preventive measures in view of the increasing threats by militants.
5. Patrolling and Checking in vulnerable areas have been intensified. Also areas/roads

have been identified for conducting mobile-checks to combat militant activities with the help of local Police.

6. PSOs have been deployed from Assam police to accompany senior officers on field duties. Shift Buses are escorted by CRPF.
7. An officer of the rank of SSP has been inducted from Assam Police as Chief Manager (Security) for effective liaison with the local police.

#### **Rail Safety Projects**

2044.SHRI RANEN BARMAN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether several projects related to Rail safety in terms of track renewal, rolling stock replacement and repair of Railway bridges are pending; and

(b) if so, the details thereof, zone-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. Repair and maintenance and renewals/rehabilitations of assets such as track, bridges and rolling stock is an on-going activity on Indian Railways.

The works for these are sanctioned and executed on age cum condition basis criteria. This is a continuous process.

[Translation]

#### **Railway Tickets**

2045.SHRI RAGHUVVEER SINGH KOSHAL : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether printed railway tickets for particular destinations are not available at many railway stations resulting in payment of more money by the passengers as reported in Rajasthan Patrika (Kota) dated July 15, 2006;

(b) if so, the facts thereof;

(c) the steps taken/being taken by the Railways to provide adequate number of printed railway tickets at the railway stations;



(d) whether the Railways propose to install computerised ticket machines at all the railway stations; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU) : (a) and (b) There was shortage of tickets at some stations on Kota Division due to delay in printing. In the absence of printed card tickets, paper tickets are issued charging the same fare. Some complaints of over charging were received and disciplinary action has been taken against the defaulting staff.

(c) Regular indenting of tickets and availability of adequate stock in being monitored.

(d) and (e) Computerised Unreserved Ticketing facilities are available at 646 locations in the country as on 31.7.2006 and this facility is proposed to be extended to all A, B, C and D class of stations by March, 2007.

[English]

#### **Rationalisation of Taxes**

2046. SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal to rationalise the taxes on hotels and other tourism industry;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the views of the State Governments have been ascertained in the matter; and

(d) if so, the response of the State Governments thereto?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI) : (a) to (d) The matter regarding rationalization of taxes by the State Governments/Union Territories on hotels and other tourism industry was discussed in the State Tourism Ministers Conference held on 4th and 5th March, 2005 in New Delhi. It was recognized that Tourism is a major driver of economic growth and employment generator. It was therefore passed in the Resolution that the States would work towards rationality and uniformity of taxes so as to make their destinations competitive. It was agreed that this would lead to increase in tourist arrivals and generate higher

revenues. The States were requested to explore the possibility of drawing up a model uniform taxation regime in each zone. No response have been received from the State Governments.

#### **Outstanding Dues**

2047. SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether many individuals owes huge amount to the Indian Air Force for using defence aircraft for unofficial journeys;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to recover the dues from them?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) and (b) An amount of approximately Rs. 6.5 Crore is outstanding against two former Prime Ministers and one former Union Cabinet Minister for use of defence forces aircraft for unofficial journeys.

(c) Necessary steps have been undertaken by the Government to recover the dues by way of sending notices or initiating appropriate recovery process.

#### **Ginger Processing Schemes**

2048. SHRI P.C. THOMAS : Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any ginger processing schemes which are financed by the Government; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY) : (a) and (b) There is no separate scheme for Ginger Processing. However, under existing scheme of Technology up-gradation/establishment/modernization of Food Processing Industries, Spices is one of the several activities/items covered under the scheme. Ginger is covered under the category of Spices.

Under the scheme the assistance will be in the form of grant subject to 25% of the plant and machinery and technical civil works subjects to a maximum of Rs. 50.00

lakhs in General Areas and 33.33% upto Rs. 75.00 lakhs in Difficult Areas.

#### **Pension for Distinguished Persons**

2049. SHRI SUGRIB SINGH : Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of persons receiving Central Pension for 'Man of Arts' at present, State-wise;

(b) the details of the pension provided to such persons and when the same was revised last;

(c) the criteria fixed to award such pension;

(d) whether the Government proposes to change the criteria to cover some more communities under the said pension scheme; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to award such pension to more persons from Tribal communities of the country?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI) : (a) and (b) Ministry of Culture is operating the Scheme of Financial Assistance to Persons Distinguished in Letters, Arts and such other Walks of life who may be in indigent circumstances and their dependents. The Scheme has two components namely Central Quota and Central State Quota. Under Central Quota, financial assistance of Rs. 2,000/- per month is released by Ministry of Culture of the artistes direct. Under the Central State Quota, Ministry of Culture extends an assistance of Rs. 1,500/- per month and sends it to the artistes concerned direct. The balance amount of Rs. 500/- is given by the State/UTs concerned direct. The State-wise break-up is given in the enclosed Statement. The financial assistance was last revised w.e.f. 1.10.1998.

(c) The Scheme is applicable to people aged 58 years or above distinguished in letters and arts who may be in indigent circumstances and whose monthly income does not exceed Rs. 2,000/-. In case of death of a recipient, the financial assistance may be continued at the discretion of the Central Government after examining the financial condition of the dependent. In case of spouse, the benefit will last till life and for dependents it is till marriage or employment or 21 years of age.

(d) The Government is not propose to change the criteria under the Scheme.

(e) The Scheme is equitably implemented on all India basis without any specific reference to any particular community.

#### **Statement**

##### *Number of Artists Receiving Financial Assistance*

Name of the State	Under Central Quota	Under Centre State Quota
1	2	3
Andhra Pradesh	149	16
Assam	21	15
Bihar	29	-
Chhattisgarh	1	-
Delhi	38	-
Goa	9	11
Gujarat	4	-
Haryana	20	1
Himachal Pradesh	5	-
Jharkhand	7	-
Jammu and Kashmir	1	-
Kerala	72	74
Karnataka	155	34
Mizoram	2	2
Maharashtra	145	4
Madhya Pradesh	33	-
Manipur	76	3
Meghalaya	2	-
Nagaland	1	-
Orissa	97	105
Pondicherry	11	1
Punjab	5	2

1	2	3
Rajasthan	6	2
Tripura	1	—
Tamil Nadu	28	—
Uttar Pradesh	130	84
Uttaranchal	11	—
West Bengal	53	4
<b>Total</b>	<b>1112</b>	<b>358</b>

#### Quality of Processed Food Items

2050. SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA : Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the quality of imported processed food items, including the processed food articles entering the markets clandestinely are not being checked/tested;

(b) if so, the measures taken to put imported processed food items to quality checks;

(c) whether Indian manufacturers manufacturing food items are not following the laid down norms and quality standard endangering the health of the people, especially the children; and

(d) if so, the measures proposed/have been taken to ensure that food items manufacturers strictly follow the laid down norms and quality standards?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY) : (a) and (b) The quality of imported processed food items is regulated as per the provisions of the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act (PFA), 1954 and Rules made there under, administered by Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. Samples of processed food items are tested and checked for the compliance of quality standards and norms laid down under the PFA Rules prior to giving clearance for entry into the country.

(c) and (d) Indian manufacturers manufacturing food items have to follow norms and quality standards laid down under the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act (PFA), 1954 and Rules made thereunder the action against the

offenders is taken under the PFA Act, 1954 and Rules made there under. The Statement indicating number of cases registered during last three years State wise is enclosed.

#### Statement

States/U.Ts	No. of cases found adulterated reported during the years		
	2001	2002	2003
1	2	3	4
1. Andhra Pradesh	1273	966	1022
2. Arunachal Pradesh	12	6	2
3. Assam	157	117	212
4. Bihar	690	N.A.	555
5. Goa	2	9	19
6. Gujarat	N.A.	N.A.	499
7. Haryana	370	356	504
8. Himachal Pradesh	93	62	176
9. Jammu and Kashmir	292	67	70
10. Karnataka	302	316	437
11. Kerala	299	308	408
12. Madhya Pradesh	497	476	237
13. Maharashtra	2413	1973	2162
14. Manipur	03	06	Nil
15. Meghalaya	13	Nil	3
16. Mizoram	Nil	Nil	Nil
17. Nagaland	02	Nil	13
18. Orissa	161	218	145
19. Punjab	290	318	360
20. Rajasthan	595	698	465
21. Sikkim	04	10	Nil
22. Tamil Nadu	376	668	N.A.
23. Tripura	08	14	8

1	2	3	4
24. Uttar Pradesh	2361	2773	3171
25. West Bengal	124	124	87
26. Andaman and Nicobar Islands	Nil	Nil	Nil
27. Chandigarh	107	74	50
28. Dadar and Nagar Haveli	5	1	3
29. Daman and Diu	2	04	Nil
30. Delhi	392	350	218
31. Lakshadweep	Nil	Nil	Nil
32. Pondicherry	12	21	21
33. Chhattisgarh	77	70	101
34. Jharkhand	31	N.A.	48
35. Uttranchal	45	20	32
<b>Total</b>	<b>11008</b>	<b>10025</b>	<b>10928</b>

MR. SPEAKER : The House stands adjourned till 13.00 Hrs.

11.31 Hrs

*The Lok-Sabha then adjourned till  
Thirteen of the clock.*

13.00 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha re-assembled at  
Thirteen of the Clock.*

[MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

*(Interruptions)*

[*Translation*]

SHRI HARIN PATHAK : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Gujarat has been facing devastating flood. The situation is very serious their. The State Government of Gujarat has sought Instance from the Union Government. . . .(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Now, Papers to be laid on the Table of the House.

*(Interruptions)*

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

[*English*]

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI) : I beg to lay on the Table :-

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Nehru Memorial Museum and Library, New Delhi, for the year 2003-2004, along with Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Nehru Memorial Museum and Library, New Delhi, for the year 2003-2004.

- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 4619/06]

- (3) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National School of Drama, New Delhi, for the year 2004-2005, along with Audited Accounts.

- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National School of Drama, New Delhi, for the year 2004-2005.

- (4) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (3) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 4620/06]

- (5) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Museum Institute of History of Art, Conservation and

Museology, New Delhi, for the year 2004-2005, along with Audited Accounts.

- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Museum Institute of History of Art, Conservation and Museology, New Delhi, for the year 2004-2005.

- (6) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (5) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 4621/06]

- (7) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Centre for Cultural Resources and Training, New Delhi, for the year 2004-2005, along with Audited Accounts.

- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Centre for Cultural Resources and Training, New Delhi, for the year 2004-2005.

- (8) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (7) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 4622/06]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL): On behalf of Shri Praful Patel, I beg to lay on the Table :-

- (1) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619 A of the Companies Act, 1956 :-
- (a) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Airline Allied Services Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2004-2005.
- (ii) Statement regarding Review by the Government on the Comments of the

Comptroller General on the Audited Accounts of the Airline Allied Services Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2004-2005.

- (iii) Annual Report of the Airlines Allied Services Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2004-2005, along with Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 4623/06]

- (b) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Indian Airlines Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2004-2005.

- (ii) Statement regarding Review by the Government on the Comments of the Comptroller General on the Audited Accounts of the Indian Airlines Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2004-2005.

- (iii) Annual Report of the Indian Airlines Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2004-2005, along with Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

- (2) Two Statements (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 4624/06]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN) : I beg to lay on the Table-

- (1) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619 A of the Companies Act, 1956 :-
- (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Artificial Limbs Manufacturing Corporation of India, Kanpur, for the year 2004-2005.

[Shrimati Subbulakshmi Jagadeesan]

- (ii) Annual Report of the Artificial Limbs Manufacturing Corporation of India, Kanpur, for the year 2004-2005, along with Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 4625/06]

- (3) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) on the Protection of Civil Rights Act, 1955 for the year 2004, under sub-section (4) of section 15A of the said Act.

- (4) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (3) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 4626/06]

- (5) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) on the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989 for the year 2004, under sub-section (4) of section 21 of the said Act.

- (6) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (5) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 4627/06]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF HEAVY INDUSTRY, MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH) : I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Memorandum of Understanding (Hindi and English versions) between the Engineering Projects (India) Limited and the Ministry of Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises for the year 2006-2007.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 4628/06]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL) : I beg to lay on the Table—

- (1) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) :—

- (i) Memorandum of Understanding between the Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited and the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas for the year 2006-2007.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 4629/06]

- (ii) Memorandum of Understanding between the GAIL (India) Limited and the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas for the year 2006-2007.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 4630/06]

- (2) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (6) of section 3 of the Essential Commodities Act, 1955 :—

- (i) The Kerosene (Restriction on Use and Fixation of Ceiling Price) Amendment Order, 2006, published in Notification No. G.S.R. 405 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 6th July, 2006.

- (ii) The Solvent, Raffinate and Slop (Acquisition, Sale, Storage and Prevention of use in Automobiles) Amendment Order, 2006, published in Notification No. G.S.R. 404 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 6th July, 2006.

[Placed in Library, see No. LT 4631/06]

13.01 hrs.

### MESSAGE FROM RAJYA SABHA

[English]

SECRETARY-GENERAL : Sir, I have to report the following message received from the Secretary-General of Rajya Sabha :—

"In accordance with the provisions of rule 127 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha, I am directed to inform the Lok Sabha

that the Rajya Sabha at its sitting held on the 8th August, 2006 agreed without any amendment to the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Amendment Bill, 2006 which was passed by the Lok Sabha at its sitting held on the 2nd August, 2006."

13.01½ hrs.

**FINANCIAL COMMITTEES****A Review***[English]*

SECRETARY-GENERAL : Sir, I lay on the Table (Hindi and English versions) of the "Financial Committees (2005-2006) – A Review".

13.02 hrs.

**STATEMENT BY MINISTER\***

**Statement correcting reply to Unstarred Question  
No. 431 dated 24.11.2005 re corruption in  
sending artists to foreign countries**

*[English]*

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI) : Sir, in reply to above Lok Sabha Unstarred Question, the reply from (a) to (d) was stated on the basis of the information available in the Ministry on that date. Later, some information has been received from the Indian Council for Cultural Relations, Ministry of External Affairs. Accordingly, the following information may be treated as addendum to the reply already given on 24.11.2005.

- (a) Only those artistes who are empanelled with the ICCR are sent to perform in foreign countries based on specific requests received from our Indian Missions in these countries. Full care is exercised in the selection of artistes for any particular cultural troupe keeping in mind his/her professional expertise in the requisite fields.

- (b) Unfortunately, in the ICCR, there has been one and case in September 2005 in which nine Indian  
(c) artistes of a Bhangra group did not return from Germany.  
(d) The matter is being enquired into by the Central Bureau of Investigation. The investigation by the CBI is still going on as far as sending of nine Indian artists of Bhangra Group to Germany in September, 2005.

The reply to the above mentioned question was prepared on the basis of the Information available in this Ministry. The final information from the Indian Council for Cultural Relations, Ministry of External Affairs was received in this Ministry only on 26.7.2006. Therefore, it was not possible to lay a correcting statement in the House within a week.

13.02½ hrs.

**MATTERS UNDER RULE 377\****[English]*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Matters under Rule 377 listed for today may be treated as laid on the Table of the House.

- (i) Need for early approval of proposed Dairy Development Scheme in Alwar District of Rajasthan under the 'Swarnjayanti Gram Swarojgar Yojana (SGSY)

*[Translation]*

DR. KARAN SINGH YADAV (Alwar) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Rajasthan Government had sent a proposal for Dairy Development Scheme in Alwar district under the 'Swarnjayanti Gram Swarojgar Yojana to the Ministry of Rural Development vide their letter no. F. 6 (32) G.V.V./SP/4/2003 dated 31.07.2003. Some clarifications were sought by the Ministry. So the revised scheme has been presented. The scheme has been lying pending with the Ministry of Rural Development for a long time. There is ample scope for agriculture and dairy development in my district. So, keeping in view the scope of generation

\*Laid on the Table and also placed in Library. See No. LT 4832/06

\*Treated as laid on the Table.

[Dr. Karan Singh Yadav]

of rural employment the proposed scheme involving an expenditure of nearly Rs. 4.5 crore under the SGSY should be approved at the earliest.

- (ii) **Need to accept the proposal of the State Government of Himachal Pradesh for equity participation in Hydro Projects**

[English]

SHRIMATI PRATIBHA SINGH (Mandi) : I would like to draw the kind attention of this August House regarding equity participation of Himachal Pradesh Government in Hydro Projects, in Himachal Pradesh. Equity participation of Himachal Pradesh in the 2051-MW Parbati Hydro Electric Project being executed by the N.H. P.C. and the 800 MW Koldam Project being executed by the N.T.P.C.

With this the Government and People will get maximum benefits in lieu of the long term use of the natural wealth available in the State. Our State Government is committed to exploit the entire identified hide potential in the State so that power could be supplied to the neighbouring States and at the same time to the Central Government should safeguard the interest of the State and its people.

I request the Prime Minister and the Power Minister that the demand of the Himachal Pradesh State Government regarding equity participation in Hydro Projects should be met.

- (iii) **Need to exempt the Hill Tea Gardens of Darjeeling from paying Water Cess**

SHRI D. NARBULA (Darjeeling) : Darjeeling is famous for three "Ts" i.e. Tea, Tourism and Timber. Of the three, tea is the most important as the economy of Darjeeling mostly depend on tea. The tea of Darjeeling is famous throughout the World. Presently the production of tea in North Bengal has caused an alarming situation. The increase in the cost of production is one of the main reasons. The present situation of tea industry in Darjeeling is also getting worse day by day. This has caused an anxiety not only in Darjeeling but also to our country as it will affect the export of tea as most of the tea produced in Darjeeling is exported to different countries.

Considering the problem, the Government should give certain facilities in production of tea. Previously the tea gardens in Darjeeling were exempted from paying water cess as tea gardens in Darjeeling do not come under municipality or notified area. Now, however, the Pollution Control Board of West Bengal, in order to raise funds, has levied a sum of Rs. 5000/- (five thousand) per tea estate before the tea garden factory licenses are renewed.

The conditions of tea gardens situated in Darjeeling Hill are different from the other tea gardens of the plains. There is acute shortage of water in the hills. The management is to harvest rainwater and spring water by generating their own resources. The Government or the administration do not help the tea garden management in mitigating this hardship.

I, therefore, urge upon the Government to modify the notification No. 499(E) dated 6th May, 2003 of the Ministry of Environment and Forest and exempt the hill tea gardens of Darjeeling from paying water cess.

- (iv) **Need to evolve a code to check the depiction of vulgarity in T.V. serials**

SHRI N.S.V. CHITTHAN (Dindigul) : Television is a mass media that reaches every home and viewed not only by elderly men and women, it also viewed by a generation of people between the ages of 10-25. This is the age which is known as affirmative period in the life of a person. In our T.V. Serial notable portion of time is being allotted to screen films. Very unfortunately, these films comprises scenes like drinking alcoholics, smoking, shabbily-dressed dances, horror battles and fights, young girls eloping and some of them being kidnapped and even raped in certain cases young boys murdering young girls. I am also to point out that T.V. Channels telecast in detail about trials connected with women in criminal cases which are intended to attract the attention of the viewers solely to steal importance for the respective channels. These scenes will have serious impact and imprint in the minds of younger generation. Thus these younger generation are impregnated with vulgar and stormy ideas. This will affect the future of India and these younger generations will be future citizens. Therefore, we have got an obligation and duty to prevent the polluted ideas getting into the minds of the younger people. This is the direct impact of films and serials, telecasted in the T.V. I am very sorry to say



that we are not able to contain or restrict such kind of scenes in Films and Television from taking such horrified scenes. Therefore, the Government should come to restrict the telecast of such films and serials in T.V. that reach ever home.

This is the matter which also requires to be reduced and sufficient code may be evolved to such telecasters.

**(v) Need to set up a Food Park in Haveri district, Karnataka**

SHRI MANJUNATH KUNNUR (Dharwad South) : The Ministry of Food Processing Industries is setting up Food Parks at various places. It is learnt that 4 such Food Parks are coming up in Karnataka. I would like to request that Haveri district, which is one of the backward districts, should also be included and a Food Park should be set up in Haveri district. Haveri district in Karnataka is located between two rivers, Vardha and Upper Tunga. There is also a Railway Junction. Transport facilities are very good. Haveri district is situated on NH-4 in between Poona-Bangalore road, abutting Western Ghats. Mangoes are grown in abundance. So also maize which is sent to Gujarat and Maharashtra. Of course, Chilli crop is also grown in abundance in this area. Byadgi chillies, which is grown in Haveri district, has got international market. People from other countries of the world come to Byadgi to purchase the chillies. People from Kerala have put up Oleo Resin Oil Factory in Kerala as well as in Haveri district of Karnataka as it has got good demand not only within the country but also outside.

Under the circumstances, I request the Government to set up a Food Park in Haveri district.

**(vi) Need to set up a sub-centre of Sports Authority of India at Jabalpur city, Madhya Pradesh**

*[Translation]*

SHRI RAKESH SINGH (Jabalpur) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, during the year 2001 announcement regarding setting up a sub-centre of Sports Authority of India (SAI) in Jabalpur city of Madhya Pradesh for the training of national and international level sports person was made. For this purpose Madhya Pradesh Government had given 50 acres of vacant land at Ranital free of cost. Indoor, outdoor sports stadium, swimming pool, hostel and offices were proposed

to be constructed at this site. The spot selection and inspection work for the said sub-centre was done in the presence of the Director General, Executive Director and Regional Director etc. of the Sports Authority of India and only after their inspection and satisfaction the land for the said premises was transferred. However, as per the information given to me, this site has been declared unsuitable by the Central Public Works Department whereas stadium and athletic tracks for various outdoor and indoor games and sports are being constructed by the Sports and Youth Welfare Department of Rajasthan Government on an area of 20 acres of land in the same sports premises and on some parts of the land youth hostels have been constructed by the Central Public Works Department with the assistance of Ministry of Sports, the Government of India.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you I would like to request the Central Government that as per the announcement construction work for sub-centre of Sports Authority of India should be started at the earliest by removing all hurdles in its way. The establishment of the long awaited sub centre will pave the way for the promotion of sports in Maha Kausal area which continuously remained neglected after independence.

**(vii) Need for four laning of N.H. 11 from Jaipur to Sikar**

SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA (Sikar) : Sir, Jaipur-Sikar (110 km.) section of National Highway No. 11 remains very busy from the point of view of traffic volume. It is on account of the traffic volume that often there is traffic jam and it remains accident-prone. Jaipur-Sikar section of National Highway-11 is used for going to Bikaner, Jhunjhunu, Churu, Punjab and Haryana from Jaipur.

Jaipur-Sikar road remains busy also due to movement of tourists from the within the country and abroad who come to visit religious places like - Khatushayam ji, Salasarji and Jinmata ji and to see Havelis of Shekhawati area. The said road remains busy also on account of being an industrial area.

I would like to request the Minister of Shipping, Road Transport, and Highways that approval should be given for four laning of Jaipur - Sikar (110 km.) section of National Highway No. 11 at the earliest.

**(viii) Need to stop the work on Polavaram project in Andhra Pradesh**

*[English]*

SHRI PARSURAM MAJHI (Nowrangpur) : The people of Southern Orissa and particularly Malkangiri and undivided Koraput district are very much agitated over the execution of Polavaram Project in Andhra Pradesh. Once the project is completed a large number of people of Malkangiri in Southern Orissa will be displaced as a large areas there will be submerged in water. The State Government of Andhra Pradesh has not made any public hearing in affected areas of its neighbouring State Orissa before the implementation of the project. Rather it took one sided decision. When the people of Orissa come to know about the environment clearance given to that project they raised their protest to which the State Government of Andhra has turned a deaf ear. After this the people are very much agitated and they are ready to go to any extent against the proposed Polavaram project. This will pose a law and order problem for both the State.

Sir, before any untoward incident takes place. I appeal to the Government of India to intervene in the matter and direct the State Government of Andhra Pradesh to stop any further work of the Polavaram Project.

**(ix) Need to check the infiltration on Indo-Bangladesh border**

*[Translation]*

JOGI ADITYANANTH (Gorakhpur) : Sir, the problem of illegal infiltration of Bangladeshis is not restricted of Indo-Bangladesh border alone today.

Their anti national activities in various parts of the country has become a cause of concern from various points of view including that of law and order. Today, approximately two and a half crore Bangladeshi infiltrators are living illegally in the country. These infiltrators have caused a total population-statistics imbalance in all the North-Eastern States, West Bengal and Bihar. The Purnia, Kishanganj, Araria, Katihar, Saharsa districts of Bihar and Murshidabad and Northern Dinajpur districts of West Bengal have become Muslim dominated areas owing to illegal infiltration. Condition of Assam is extremely explosive. These Bangladeshi infiltrators have become the makers of the destiny of the public representatives of 36 out of the 126 assembly segments. An increase from 19

to 31 per cent in the population has been registered during the year 1991 to 2001 in Tripura, Manipur, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Arunachal Pradesh and Mizoram alongwith Assam. These illegal infiltrators have got their names registered in the voters list and have even got ration cards. These infiltrators have now gained the position of affecting the election results in 20 Lok Sabha and approximately 125 Vidhan Sabha segments. They number in lakhs even in the Capital and becoming a law and order problem. The Bangladeshi groups are found to be involved in various crimes and antinational activities.

The Hon'ble Minister of Home is requested to make a categorical statement in this regard in the House and may also explain the steps taken by the Government to put a check on the anti-national activities and repatriate the Bangladeshi infiltrators.

*[English]*

**(x) Need to set up a Passport Office in Madurai, Tamil Nadu**

SHRI P. MOHAN (Madurai) : Passport offices in Chennai and Tiruchirapalli in Tamil Nadu are not able to meet the increasing need for their services as applications for new passport, renewals and attendant requisites like ECNR endorsements, change of address etc. As a result the issuance is delayed beyond measure. This gives rise to the operation of touts who thrive on the anxiety of passport applicants caused due to inordinate delays. Hence, Passport Cell have opened in District Collector's Offices. But still there is no let up in mounting needs and resultant problems.

Madurai city is in the middle of Tamil Nadu and is the gateway to southern districts of Tamil Nadu. It is an emerging city with rapid development due to fast paced industrialisation and growing computer software and IT ventures. In the last two years number of train and flight services to this pilgrimage-cum-tourist-cum-commercial centre has increased manifold. Madurai Airport is sought to be upgraded as International Airport with increasing number of skilled and unskilled labour going in thousands to Malaysia, Singapore and Middle East countries. Hence, I urge upon the External Affairs Ministry to open another Passport Office in Tamil Nadu to be set up in Madurai city. A full-fledged Passport Office may kindly be set up in Madurai which will greatly benefit the public from the far flung southern districts of Tamil Nadu.

**(xi) Need to include Kallada Irrigation project in Kerala Under Command Area Development Water Management (CADWM) programme**

SHRIMATI C.S. SUJATHA (Mavelikara) : Kallada Irrigation Project is the major source of irrigation and drinking water for large sections of people particularly farmers in the Southern Kerala in the districts of Kollam, Pathanamthitta and Alappuzha. The Government of Kerala has been requesting the Centre to include Kallada Project under Command Area Development Water Management (CADWM) Programme and a detailed project in this regard has since been submitted.

I urge upon the Government to include Kallada Project under CADWM Programme.

**(xii) Need to shift the Railway gates of Balrai and 24C, Chandanpur Kothi railway crossing towards East for the convenience of the public**

*[Translation]*

SHRI RAGHURAJ SINGH SHAKYA (Itawa) : Sir, through thr House I wish to draw the attention of the Hon'ble Minister of Railways and request that there is a need to shift two railway crossings in my parliamentary constituency, Itawa towards East. First, the railway crossing on the loopline is towards east of Balrai railway station owing to which the goods trains remain standing on loopline continuously for several days causing a lot of traffic jam and one has to cross from under the train which causes a lot of difficulty and accidents every now and then.

Secondly, 24C, Chandanpur Kothi railway crossing is no longer of any use, since the metalled road constructed is towards the east of the crossing whereas the crossing passes through the village due to which the common rural people have to face a lot of difficulties. Therefore, the Hon'ble Minister of Railways is requested to shift both the railway crossings towards East for the convenience of the people.

**(xiii) Need to implement the proposed reservation for OBCs in higher and technical educational institutions**

SHRI ANIRUDH PRASAD ALIAS SADHU YADAV (Gopalganj) : The Government has for the first time

proposed reservation for OBCs in higher and technical educational institutions in the right perspective. Remodifying the structure of reservation announced by the Government in higher and technical education appears to be an attempt to satisfy the prejudices of anti-reservationists. Therefore, I would request the Government to announce the reservation rules immediately so that the very objective of reservation could be achieved.

**(xiv) Need to equip Bay Exploration Project in Orissa with more technically trained man power**

*[English]*

SHRI PRASANNA ACHARYA (Sambalpur) : The Oil India Limited which is a leading public sector undertaking started its exploration activities in Orissa off-shore and on-shore since 1979 but has failed to achieve its objective due to its cynic and step-motherly attitude towards the State of Orissa even though Orissa is rich enough with hydro carbo reserves. But unfortunately, Oil India Ltd. in the past slowed down its work instead of accelerating their drilling activities. The Project Office set up in Orissa called as the Bay Exploration Project manned by good number of technical personnel and other supporting staff in the beginning was reduced to an office with skeleton staff now having no technical hand. Without any sound reason drilling was slowed down without reaching to the targeted depth and abandoned in the mid way. A situation was created to close the project in Orissa and permission was sought for closure in the year 1998. But due to strong opposition from the employees' union and the people of Orissa this could not be done. The then chief Minister of Orissa, Lt. Shri Biju Patnaik also intervened to halt the closure procedure. The Oil India Limited having its project and infrastructure including drilling material at Paradeep and the Project Office at Bhubaneswar for last 27 years is required to re-dedicate itself in the exploration activities in the coast of Orissa for which the Central Government has to take upon its responsibility of allot new blocks to Oil India Limited.

For such premise, I would urge upon the Petroleum Ministry to impress upon Oil India Limited not to dismantle its existing infrastructure in Orissa, rather it should take immediate steps to equip the Bay Exploration Project with more trained technical personnel.

**(xv) Need to commence classes in Central School Maharajganj, district Siwan, Bihar**

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH (Maharajganj, Bihar) : Sir, Maharajganj is the Sub-Divisional Headquarter of Siwan district, Bihar. Sub Divisional Police Headquarters, Railway Station, Hospital, High School, University, several top commercial establishments, Police Station, Block headquarters are already there in Maharajganj. Thousands of Central Government and State Government Employees, retired employees reside in Maharajganj and nearby areas. Maharajganj has a high density of population but not even a single good school is there and the employees are compelled to send their children outside for education due to which they have to bear unnecessary financial burden. The need for a good school is being felt in Maharajganj for so many years.

The Central Government has given approval for setting up of a Central School in Maharajganj. The State Government has also sent a draft of the Central School Maharajganj as per the directions of the Central Government, however the classes have not commenced in the school so far.

Through you, demand from the Government to commence classes in the Central School approved in Maharajganj of Siwan district, Bihar.

**(xvi) Need to provide timely medical aid and drugs to the victims of snake bite in the country**

[English]

DR. K. DHANARAJU (Tindivanam) : Majority of population of India lives in villages and mostly in remote areas which are not well connected with roads and no fast transportation system is available there.

Every year 15 to 20 thousands of people die by Snake bite as there is no sufficient and timely medical aid and anti snake bite drugs available to them. In the absence of fast transportation system, the victims can't be brought to cities for treatment. There seems to be a shortage of Anti-Snake Venom Serum in the country. Most victims are reported from Tamil Nadu, West Bengal, Kerala and Rajasthan. It has been given to understand that Indian Council of Medical Research, V.M. Scientific Research Foundation, Bangalore have successfully developed anti-snake venom in chicken egg immunizing Leghorn birds with sub lethal dose of each type of snake venom. Anti

snake venom extracted from eggs has been tested for its purity, efficacy and safety. According to my information it is under clinical trial. I congratulate the scientists of the country for this and when it would be put to production and then in treatment. In the absence of sufficient Primary Health Centres and Sub Centres, there should be an alternative arrangement so that the Anti Venom injections are given through Panchayat Raj Institutions and administered by calling Physicians from nearby hospitals.

This is a very important issue. I request the Government through you Sir, that as anti-venom, when lyophilized does not need refrigeration and can be kept for five years. We should open more sub-centres rather in every village under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and stock anti-venom there so that the valuable life of a victim of snake bite could be saved. I hope that Union Government will take suitable action in this regards and will save thousands of victims of snake bite.

**(xvii) Need for timely release of adequate funds for providing scholarships to SC/ST/OBC students of Andhra Pradesh**

DR. M. JAGANNATH (Nagar Kurmool) : Students belonging to Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and OBCs depend mostly on Government's financial assistance (both from Central Government and State Government) to pursue their studies whether it is professional or non-professional courses.

Purchasing of books, payment of fee, payment of hostel mess charges, mostly depend on the timely sanction of scholarships to them.

Delay in the payment of Mess charges, tuition fee and other fees to both professional and non-professional courses, is causing unnecessary, unwanted problems for SC/ST/OBCs students.

Recently Osmania University and its affiliated colleges rejected the admissions of SC/ST/OBC students into their colleges stating that they have to pay the fees in advance.

Constitutional provisions provides that the SC/ST and OBC students should not be demanded the fees in advance and it has to be adjusted when they are sanctioned the scholarships.

If this process is continued for every year the SC/ST students will get demoralized and it is difficult to face the managements insult and pursue the studies.

Hence I request the Government of India to sanction the scholarship fund and fees well in advance to SC/ST/OBC students so that the SC/ST/OBC students could pursue the studies peacefully and get good results.

**(xviii) Need to construct a bridge over Lohit Channel of river Brahmaputra between Dhole and Sadia in Assam**

DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA (Lakhimpur) : I like to draw the attention of the Government regarding urgent need to construct a bridge over Lohit Channel of river Brahmaputra between Dhole and Sadia in Assam to connect NH 67 with Indo-Chinese Border beyond Tezu of Arunachal Pradesh. On construction of this bridge, not only a part of Assam and Arunachal Pradesh will be connected to the mainland but it would largely contribute towards construction of three mega Hydro Power Projects in Arunachal Pradesh being executed by NHPC besides facilitating Defence movement to the border. This landlocked resourceful area in terms of agriculture produce, forest and mineral wealth would also be opened up to the commercial destination of the country. Considering the inter-State importance of this bridge, the NEC has already conducted a feasibility study and the final report is expected soon. It is desirable that the survey includes the connecting approach road upto Tezu and Roing of Arunachal Pradesh from Sadia as extension from km 689 of NH as part of project.

I therefore, urge upon the Government specially the PMO, Planning Commission and DoNER to clear it as a joint venture Central Project for Eleventh Plan so that resource mobilization could be ascertained from all stakeholders like Defence, NHPC, MoRTH, DoNER and NEC. The Planning Commission may be entrusted to co-ordinate with all stakeholders in association with Ministry of DoNER and NEC to finalize the project with commitment of assured funding with a definite time frame for its completion.

**(xix) Need to streamline the Public Distribution System in Manipur**

SHRI MANI CHARENAMAI (Outer Manipur) : Sir, I wish to draw the attention of the Hon'ble Minister for Consumer Affairs and Food and Public Distribution System towards the complete failure of the Public distribution System in the State of Manipur particular in the five hill Districts of Manipur. Poor Villagers who are below Poverty line (BPL) have been unable to purchase food grains and other essential commodities at the price fixed by the Government due to artificial food shortage crisis arising out of the total

control of Public Distribution System by the underground outfits operating in Imphal valley. The poor villagers are compelled to buy rice at Rs. 12 to Rs. 15 per kg, sugar at Rs. 30/kg, and kerosene at Rs. 35/litre.

Not a single fair price shop is operating in any of the hill District, food grains meant for BPL category people are not made available to the needy people.

Further, the two hill district namely Tamenglong and Churachandpur have been hit by famine like situation due to extensive damage of agriculture crops by the rodents.

I, therefore, urge upon the Hon'ble Minister for Consumer Affairs and Food and Public Distribution and also the Home Minister to arrange adequate food grains exclusively for Tamenglong and Churachandpur Districts by directly transporting the food grains to the District H/ Qs so that the food grains shortage can be tackled effectively.

*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : The House stands adjourned to meet again at 1.30 p.m.

13.03 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned till thirty minutes past Thirteen of the Clock.*

13.30 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha re-assembled at thirty minutes past Thirteen of the Clock.*

[MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Nothing will go on record.

*(Interruptions)\**

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : The House stands adjourned to meet again at 11 a.m. tomorrow.

13.31 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on August 11, 2006/Sravana 20, 1928 (Saka).*

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\*Not recorded.

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