

LOK SABHA DEBATES

(English Version)

Eighth Session
(Fourteenth Lok Sabha)



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LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

Thursday, August 17, 2006/Śravaṇa 26, 1928 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock.

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN (Ferozabad): Mr. Speaker, Sir, ... (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I will call you later.

...(Interruptions)

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Santosh Gangwar, Q. No. 301

[Translation]

Technology Mission with IIT

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

(a) whether the Railways had signed any agreement with IIT, Kanpur for providing a technology mission to ensure safety of passengers and railways in the wake of the increasing number of rail accidents;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Railways have retracted from the said agreement; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

[English]

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI LALU PRASAD): (a) to (d) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) No agreement has been signed by Ministry of Railways with Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Kanpur. However, a 'Mission Management Manual' for Technology Mission for Railway Safety' jointly prepared and signed by Director General, Research, Designs and Standards Organisation and Director, IIT, Kanpur, has been approved by the Ministry of Railways.

(b) The Mission has been set up to address safety-related issues on Indian Railways in collaboration with the Ministry of Human Resource Development, represented by IIT, Kanpur and Industry partners. Railway Board had initially approved 14 safety projects at an estimated cost of Rs. 26.5 crores, Railway's share being Rs. 8.01 crore. The cost sharing is to be done amongst Ministry of Human Resource Development, Ministry of Railways and Ministry of Industry in the ratio of 50:30:20 respectively. After review of the progress and scope of projects, the number of projects have been pruned down to 12 and accordingly revised estimated cost gets reduced to Rs. 24 Cr. and Railway's share to Rs. 7.20 Cr. The list of the 12 projects under Technology Mission for Railway Safety is given below:-

S.No.	Name of Project
1	2
1.	Track Side Bogie Monitoring System
2.	Derailment Detector Devices
3.	Sensors for Detecting Hotboxes, Hot Wheels
4.	On-Board Diagnostics
5.	Wheels and Axles of Improved Metallurgy
6.	Measuring Wheel Technology
7.	Environmental Friendly Coach Toilet Discharge System
8.	Corrosion Prevention of Rails
9.	Improved Fastenings
10.	Rail Flaw Detection Instrumentation
11.	Satellite Imaging for Rail Navigation (SIMRAN)

 1 2

(i) Global Positioning System based Rail Network mapping and Train Tracking

(ii) Wireless Connectivity

12. Fog Vision Instrumentation

[Translation]

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to draw your attention towards the terminology used by the Ministry of Railways. The issue was of vital importance. The Ministry of Railways have decided in its four different meetings convened in 2003 that IIT, Kanpur and RGSO will jointly chalk out a ten year action plan. Under this action plan, a technology mission was set up. The Ministry of Railways also signed the agreement for setting up of the mission. The Ministry of Railways have used such a language by which it appears that Ministry of Railways have not signed any agreement and it follows by saying that the Mission Management Manual prepared and signed jointly by IIT Kanpur, was approved by the M/o Railways. The issue is related to the safety of railways and the country as well and it is a plan for future. When trains have become speedier, their number have increased. If we do not adopt the latest technology now we would be lagging behind. For this purpose, an action plan was proposed in the year 2003, and it was decided at that time that the action plan would submit its final report in three years. An additional six months time was given to set it up which meant they had a time of 3½ years. Now, that period is about to be over. I would like to know, through you, certain things from the hon. Minister. First of all, why the amount earmarked for the project has been reduced from Rs. 33 crore to Rs. 24 crore and also about the progress made so far in 2 years and 9 months and the information in this regard?

[English]

SHRI R. VELU: The Technology Mission was the outcome of the announcement made by the then hon. Prime Minister on 15.08.2003 to address all the safety issues relating to Railways comprehensively. Accordingly, cost sharing was to be done in collaboration with IIT, Kanpur, Railways and RDSO, Lucknow and the Ministry of HRD. The question raised by the hon. Member is as to whether there was why there was no agreement. Why do we well call that there was no agreement? The

question was as to whether there was agreement. I would only reply that it was not an agreement but a Mission Management Manual in which all the terms and conditions, the progress, design, etc. would be discussed and evolved. That is why it is called Manual. There is nothing wrong about it.

The other question was as to why the finance was reduced. When it was thought of, 14 schemes, projects were evolved in total under four Mission programmes. Firstly, traction and rolling stock; secondly, track side bogie monitoring system and bridges; thirdly, signal and communication; and fourthly, fog vision instrumentation. Under these four Missions, projects were involved for 14 items. Later on, it was reviewed and pruned down to 12 and that is why from Rs. 26 crore, it has come down to Rs. 24 crore. There is nothing wrong about it.

About the lapsing of period which the hon. Member has mentioned, I would like to say that this has been started in April, 2005 with a three-year period ending August, 2008, with a six month period of transfer of technology from the Mission to the Railways.

So, a period of 1½ years has now lapsed and we still have another 1½ years. They are all in different stages of research and they will definitely come up; by 2013, they will give results and transferred to Railways.

[Translation]

SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister while replying to my question said that the action plan was proposed to be prepared for 10 years i.e. the project was starting in 2003 and ending in 2013 and as decided is August 2003, it was to be completed in 2006-07. But I feel that it would not be completed even by 2008. You have made certain points in view of railway safety. That is not the question. At that time, it was said that there was no paucity of funds, whereas, out of 26 projects, only 12 projects were taken up and even for those 12 projects, amount was reduced from Rs. 26 crore to Rs. 24 crore. It means that the two projects which were left out were important projects.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I would just like to know whether we are going in accordance with international standards of railway safety, in view of increasing speeds of trains and increasing number of trains. If so, the progress made by Government as per

international standards, whether we would be able to achieve that standard on completion of 10 year action plan? As he has just said that this project was launched in the year 2005. When we are already late by 1½ years, then who will take the responsibility to complete this project within the prescribed time-schedule?

[English]

SHRI R. VELU: As I mentioned, consequent upon the announcement of a Corporate Safety Plan for ten years starting in 2003 and ending 2013, a ten-year plan was envisaged for an amount of Rs. 32,000 crore. This is the Corporate Safety Plan.

Now, a mention was made about the 'Technology Mission', in which the safety aspects were taken up. He has a doubt whether sufficient funds will be allocated.

[Translation]

SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, this project was to be completed by 2013... (Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI R. VELU: I will explain it.

MR. SPEAKER: He has answered that.

SHRI R. VELU: I am here to explain. The doubt of the hon. Member was whether it would be completed. Getting fund is of no constraint because we have already earmarked sufficient funds for that. In fact, out of a total Rs. 24 crore, we have already earmarked an amount of about Rs. 5 crore and the balance will also be allocated. The sharing of funds will be like this: 50 per cent by the Ministry of HRD, 30 per cent by the Ministry of Railways and 20 per cent will be by the industry partners. So, there is no difficulty in 'financing' part of it.

I assure the hon. Members that this technology will definitely achieve its objective of providing research and development, to be transferred to the Railways.

DR. K.S. MANOJ: The accidents occurring at unmanned level crossings are frequent phenomena in Railways.

MR. SPEAKER: This is regarding 'Technology Mission'.

DR. K.S. MANOJ: Yes, I am coming to that. In one of the stretches of railway line in my district, in Ernakulam, there is a large number of unmanned level crossings. I

would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the Ministry is contemplating to install some devices at unmanned level crossings so that the passengers and road-users can find out, if a train is approaching the unmanned level crossings.

MR. SPEAKER: This is a matter of technology. He can give an assurance that everybody would be protected.

SHRI R. VELU: We have about 16,000 manned level crossings and about 20,000 unmanned level crossings. Out of this, we have now selected about 900 odd level crossings which are qualifying for manning. In this particular case, he asked whether this technology will provide for warning the road-users. Now we are evolving a system in which the anti-collision device is also built in, which is now put into operation in the North East Frontier Railways as well as in Konkan Railway which will definitely give some kind of an alarm signal to the road-users at unmanned gates in future. We are evolving that.... (Interruptions)

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: Railway safety measures are very vital inputs. Now, three Ministries have joined together to form a Technology Mission. The contribution of the Railway Ministry is only 30 per cent. I understand that the amount sanctioned earlier was Rs. 26,000 crore but now it is being implemented with the reduced amount. I would like to know the reason for reducing the amount.

MR. SPEAKER: The Minister has already answered it. He can repeat the answer once again.

SHRI R. VELU: I would briefly repeat it. Out of the 14 projects sanctioned, only 12 have been taken up and that is why there is this reduction. Now, the question is, why these two projects were dropped. Firstly, with regard to the Computerised Controlling System, we did not find sufficient IIT professionals. Secondly, we have already got sufficient knowledge on Solid State interlocking and that is why we dropped this project. Hence, there is this reduction.

Losses by CPSEs

*302. SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL:
SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL:

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

(a) whether some of the Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs) are incurring losses continuously for the last several years;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the manner in which the Government proposes to reduce the losses of these CPSEs?

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

Statement

(a) and (b) As per Public Enterprises Survey, which is laid in the Parliament every year and is a published document, there were 41 Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs) as on 31.3.2005 which have been incurring losses continuously for the last five years. The list of such CPSEs is at the annexure.

(c) The National Common Minimum Programme stipulates that the Government is committed for a strong and effective public sector whose social objectives are met by its commercial functioning. While every effort will be made to modernize and restructure sick public sector companies and revive sick industry, chronically loss making companies will either be sold-off, or closed, after all workers have got their legitimate dues and compensation. Enterprise-specific measures are taken by the concerned administrative Ministries/Departments/CPSEs from time to time in this regard. In December, 2004, the Government also set up a Board for Reconstruction of Public Sector Enterprises (BRPSE) to address the task of strengthening, modernizing, reviving and restructuring of CPSEs and advise the Government on strategies, measures and schemes related to them.

Annexure

List of continuously Loss making CPSEs for the last 5 years as on 31.3.2005

S.No.	Name of the Ministry/Department	Name of the Company
1		

MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE

D/O AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION

1. State Farms Corporation of India Ltd.

1

2

MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS & FERTILIZERS

D/O CHEMICALS & PETROCHEMICALS

2. Hindustan Antibiotics Ltd.
3. Hindustan Fluorocarbons Limited
4. Hindustan Insecticides Ltd.
5. Indian Drugs & Pharmaceuticals Ltd.

MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS & FERTILIZERS

D/O FERTILIZER

6. Fertilizer Corpn. of India Ltd.
7. Hindustan Fertilizer Corpn. Ltd.

MINISTRY OF COAL

8. Bharat Coking Coal Ltd.
9. Eastern Coalfields Ltd.

MINISTRY OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION

10. North Eastern Handicrafts & Handloom Dev. Corpn. Ltd.
11. North Eastern Regional Agri. Marketing Corp. Ltd.

MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT & FORESTS

12. Andaman & Nicobar Isl. Forest & Plant. Dev. Corp. Ltd.

MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES & PUBLIC ENTERPRISES

D/O HEAVY INDUSTRIES

13. Andrew Yule & Company Ltd.
14. Bharat Pumps & Compressors Ltd.
15. Bharat Wagon & Engg. Co. Ltd.
16. Burn Standard Company Ltd.
17. Cement Corpn. of India Ltd.
18. Heavy Engineering Corpn. Ltd.

1	2
---	---

19. Hindustan Cables Ltd.
20. Hindustan Photo Films Manufacturing Co. Ltd.
21. HMT Chinar Watches Ltd.
22. HMT Machine Tools Ltd.
23. HMT Watches Ltd.
24. Instrumentation Ltd.
25. Nagaland Pulp & Paper Company Ltd.
26. Richardson & Cruddas (1972) Ltd.

MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS

27. Konkan Railway Corporation Ltd.

MINISTRY OF SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY DEPT. OF SCIENTIFIC & INDUSTRIAL RESEARCH

28. Central Electronics Ltd.

MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS

29. Hooghly Dock and Port Engineers Ltd.

MINISTRY OF STEEL

30. Bharat Refractories Ltd.
31. Hindustan Steel Works Costn. Ltd.

MINISTRY OF TEXTILES

32. National Jute Manufacturers Corporation Ltd.
33. National Textile Corpn. (Holding Co.) Ltd.
34. NTC (Maharashtra North) Ltd.
35. NTC (South Maharashtra) Ltd.

MINISTRY OF TOURISM

36. Madhya Pradesh Ashok Hotel Corpn. Ltd.
37. Pondicherry Ashok Hotel Corpn. Ltd.
38. Utkal Ashok Hotel Corpn. Ltd.

MINISTRY OF URBAN DEV. AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION

39. Hindustan Prefab Ltd.

MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES

40. National Projects Construction Corpn. Ltd.

DEPT. OF SPACE

41. Semi-Conductor Complex Ltd.
-

SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL: Sir, the hon. Minister has stated that 41 PSUs attached to various Ministries and Departments are making losses but the C&AG Report says that out of 272 companies, 88 companies are making losses. It has also been stated that while the loss incurred by some companies last year was more than Rs. 82,000 crore, more than Rs. 53,000 crore profit was made by some other companies in 2003-04. Through you, Sir, I would like to know the performance of BRPSE and whether the companies have improved their performances and become efficient after the formation of BRPSE. Are these companies making profits so that they need not be closed because the hon. Minister in his reply has stated that chronically loss-making companies will be closed? How many companies are going to be closed and also what would be the status of their employees because employees should be given their due shares? VRS and compulsory retirement are two different things. The hon. Minister can give more compensation than the VRS.

SHRI SONOTSH MOHAN DEV: Sir, after the formation of BRPSE by the UPA Government, the first thing we did was, we immediately cleared all the statutory liabilities of the sick companies. I have got list of eight companies. They are now earning their own salaries and from operational profits. Some of these companies are in West Bengal. I believe, most of them are waiting for investment proposal for their revival. They have positively reacted. One such company, Bridge and Roof is doing very well now. The order booked by this company is worth more than Rs. 800 crore now. So, the policy enunciated by the Government is a good one and it will be better in future.

The reason for the difference between the figure given by me and the one given the C&AG is, we go by the Public Enterprises Survey which is laid on the Table of the House every year. I have quoted that figure. There may be some difference between that figure and the figure quoted by the hon. Member. I have given the position according to that figure. If the Member wants an up-to-date figure, I will send it to him.

SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL: Sir, I would like to know the total losses made by these 41 companies.

To meet out these losses, companies can be geared with investment. A number of companies are trying to take the advantage of public-private partnership. A number of companies are going for the joint ventures and a number of other companies are going for outside sale.

MR. SPEAKER: What do you want to know?

SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL: I would like to know these figures.

Secondly, the Chairman of BRPSE says that PSUs come out better if they can be liberated from the stranglehold of the Government. What action has been initiated by the Government in this regard?

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV: He has rightly said, most of the companies are revived under the same public sector because when there is a possibility of a public sector being revived, the trade unions do not support the joint ventures. But when a public sector could not be improved, they do agree for a joint venture. We are going in for a joint venture of Kolkata Tyres, which is a specific example. Both the Governments of West Bengal as well as the Union, have agreed. So, there is no such resistance.

As regards the performance of the BRPSE, they are doing well and there is no problem. Whatever the Chairman of BRPSE has said, it is his opinion and I cannot pass any remark on his opinion.

[Translation]

SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir, for giving me an opportunity. I would like to submit the hon. Minister about the figures we have received. He said 41, which has become 88 in the supplementary question. I have the Report of CA&G of India with me, it contains the number of PSUs suffering losses during the last three years till the financial year ending on 31st March, 2005 on page 17 in the table. According to this, the paid up capital of 121 PSUs in 2002-2003 is Rs. 27,225.43 crore and losses are Rs. 11,279.16 crore. The number of loss making PSUs was 105 which suffered losses in 2003-2004 while it was 101 during 2004-2005. More figures are there. The reasons mentioned for losses are slow pace of growth, low productivity, inefficient management, inadequate thrust on research and development, inadequate and disoriented marketing, shortage of working capital, etc. I would like to ask the hon. Minister whether he proposes to take action against the persons responsible for it?

[English]

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV: It is a good question. The BRPSE is considering the sickness. They are taking

into account decision to write off all previous over dues to the Government. They are also recommending giving money for Working Capital. They are also taking steps to see that obsolete and outdated machineries are replaced by new one so that they can be competitive in the private sector. Moreover, in the global competition, they have to be up-to-date. Now we are getting the fruits of it.

As regards the difference of 81 in the figures, I have already said that we quoted on basis of the Public Enterprises Survey which is submitted to the House. It is also correct. The CAG has also submitted its Report. I have already explained it. I do not want to say that it is wrong or that I am wrong. I would say that he is also right and I am also right.

[Translation]

SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, hon. Minister has not replied as to what action he proposes to take against the culprits.

[English]

SHRIMATI ARCHANA NAYAK: May I know from the hon. Minister about the steps taken by the Government to revive the loss making public sector undertakings in the country and the results achieved so far in this regard?

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV: Sir, I have already replied to this question.

MR. SPEAKER: Yes, you have.

PROF. M. RAMADASS: Sir, the question relates to the losses of the public sector enterprises. The public sector enterprises produce commodities and services which have a cost aspect as well as a price aspect. If the price is greater than the cost, the enterprises incur a profit and if the cost is more than the price, they incur losses. Therefore, the measures pertaining to the improvement of the performance of the public sector enterprises must come either from the cost aspect or from the price aspect. But unfortunately, the Minister says that the closure of the public sector enterprises would be necessary to reduce the losses. This is contrary to the commitment of the UPA Government. The public sector enterprises must be improved.

Therefore, I would like to know from the Minister whether the Government would be able to revise its price policies which is the best measure of improving the monetary performance of the public sector enterprises.

MR. SPEAKER: It is all right. you are entitled to ask only one question.

PROF. M. RAMADASS: On the question of prices, the Government follows a policy of deliberate losses in the case of enterprises which have a welfare motive. On the question of profit-making enterprises, we must either go in for a no-profit or no-loss basis or mark-up pricing. Will the Government come out with an imaginative price policy in the existing contemporary environment of liberalisation and globalisation?

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV: Sir, the answer is very short. The UPA Government have reviewed the price preference facility of all the small scale industries as well as the public sector industries thereby they are getting preference than the big companies and they are competing. I am not saying that because everybody is facing loss and we are closing them down. In some areas, private sector has come in a big way. For example in the case of cement industries, we are considering that sick cement industries must not be there and we are only reviving those sick industries which are worth. Your view is correct and we are giving protection to small industries.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: Sir, Bengal Chemicals and Pharmaceutical which is a very prestigious unit is situated in West Bengal. It has been referred to BRPSE. What is happening is, valuable pieces of land in Mumbai and in some other places are being mortgaged without assigning reason and as a result of this mismanagement, this potential unit is fast leading to further loss and the possibility of revival is being eroded. What steps does the hon. Minister propose to take in this regard?

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV: These are prized lands. It is now under BIFR. As a very senior Member, you know that unless the BIFR sends the cases back to me, I cannot take action. In this case also, we have asked for giving back the property. We will either utilise it or sell it at a lucrative price and invest that money in sick industries like the Bengal Chemicals. I will take action and let you know the position.

DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Sir, the hon. Minister, in his reply, has mentioned three PSUs of the North-Eastern Region. They are the North-Eastern Handicraft

and Handloom Development Corporation Limited, the North-Eastern Regional Agri. Marketing Corporation Limited and Nagaland Pulp and Paper Company Limited. These Companies are in the list of sick industries. Ashok Paper Mills is also a commitment of the Government through the Assam Accord but it does not figure in the list of companies for revival or rehabilitation. This Company does not figure in the list of PSUs mentioned by the hon. Minister meant for revival.

I want to know from the hon. Minister as to whether the Minister is considering revival of the PSUs which are loss-making in the North-Eastern Region.

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV: Sir, Nagaland Pulp and Paper Company Limited is on the verge of getting revived. Our Government has taken steps in that regard. The papers have now been circulated and the case will go to the Cabinet. The Nagaland Government has come forward and taken steps in this matter. Previously they used to have a restricted area permit. Now, with my intervention and the intervention of the hon. Prime Minister, that has been eased thereby the technocrats and the bureaucrats will be able to go there.

As regards Ashok Paper Mills, it is a subject matter of Assam Accord. Only six days back, the third sitting was there. We are examining the matter and our Government is of the view that Hindustan Paper Corporation could take it over on behalf of the Government. But before doing so, the Assam Government have to take care of all the liabilities which are lying there. Some court cases are there. But Ashok Paper Mills will be revived. The Government has assured it and action is being taken on that. It is part of the Assam Accord and we stand by it.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, hon. Minister has spoken about the sick industries and our UPA Government has assured in the Common Minimum Programme that they plan to help the sick industries. I would therefore, like to know as to out of 41 how many sick industries have been provided assistance and how many of them have been turned around during the 2 years and 3 months period. My question to the hon. Minister is as how BATA is earning profit, and who do the PSUs suffer losses.

[English]

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV: Sir, in the hon. Member's State, the textile industries were in a bad shape. After our Government came, we have taken several steps in this regard. The Group of Ministers has recommended the sale of land, which was done. The total money was reinvested in the textile sector there. They are being made up to date. There are some examples in other States also. We are not only closing them but we are also reviving them.

The NCMP says that nothing will be done at the expense of the working class. First, we will safeguard the interest of the industry. Second, we will safeguard the interest of the working class. We are doing it with their cooperation. Of course, we are facing some problems and some resistance. We are trying to settle them through negotiations.

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, a list has been given in the list enclosed with the hon. Minister's reply. The name of Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation Limited which is at Barauni has been mentioned at Sl. No. 7 of Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers. A decision was taken during the NDA Government rule that a gas based new plant will be installed in place of earlier Neptha based fertilizer plant and the supply of gas was to be made on priority basis. Hon. Minister, Paswan ji has announced several times that it would start soon. I would like to know from the Government through you about the action being taken to restart the plant at Barauni as was decided between the two ministries during the NDA rule. If the action is being taken, what kind of action is being taken and the time by which it is likely to start functioning?

[English]

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV: After our Government came, we have invited suggestions from all the Ministries, including the Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers, which are having sick industries. As you rightly said, they are sending the proposals one by one. These are being sent to the BRPSE. When the BRPSE gives its recommendations, we will sent it to the CCEA. But all these fertilizer companies which are viable will be revived. That is our policy because the farmers are suffering due to dearth of fertilizers. This is why we are taking special steps.

As far the hon. Member's particular case is concerned, I will let him know the latest position.

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have specifically asked about the Barauni plant.

MR. SPEAKER: The Minister will send a reply in respect of all companies.

[English]

He is a good Minister, but it does not mean that he must know the details about all the companies.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: He will send a reply to your question separately.

[English]

He is inviting you for a cup of tea.

[Translation]

He will reply to your question there.

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR: Sir, I.T.I is one of the primary industries of the country and ITI and BPC have played a very important role in the development of Indian industry. The ITI and BPC are located in Allahabad and they have their branches in Raibareilly, the constituency of Smt. Sonia Gandhi and in Gonda also. Madam had provided some assistance a few years ago, but now both these factories are on the verge of closure and their employees are facing starvation.

Through you, I would like to ask the Hon'ble Minister whether Government is contemplating to provide any special package to both these undertakings since many employees of both the companies are planning to opt for VRS to start their private business. Both these companies are in the mainstream of development of the country.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Are they Central Public Sector Undertakings?

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR: Yes.

MR. SPEAKER: Okay, let the Minister answer.

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV: Sir, these projects are under our active consideration. But in order to achieve this, we need the co-operation of the State Government also. I do not want to say anything right now. We are having negotiations with them. Our persistence has not yet been successful. But I hope very soon they will agree to this and that they will be revived.

Performance of BRPSE

*303. SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA:
SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY:

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

(a) whether the performance of the Board for Reconstruction of Public Sector Enterprises (BRPSE) has not been satisfactory;

(b) if so, the details of sick public sector companies under various Ministries referred to BRPSE so far; and

(c) the decision taken on each of them regarding its revival or closure?

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

Statement

(a) and (b) The Government constituted Board for Reconstruction of Public Sector Enterprises (BRPSE) in December, 2004 as a part-time advisory body to address the task of strengthening, modernization, reviving and restructuring of Central Public sector Enterprises (CPSEs) and advise the Government on strategies, measures and schemes related to them. The concerned administrative Ministries/Departments refer the cases of CPSEs to BRPSE for consideration and making recommendations to the Government. They also take action on these recommendations to obtain approval of the competent authority. The proposals in respect of 47 cases of CPSEs have been referred to BRPSE by the concerned administrative Ministries/Departments (Annexure I). As on 31.7.2006, the BRPSE has held 38 meetings and considered proposals of 41 cases of CPSEs and given its recommendations in respect of 32 cases of CPSEs

(Annexure II). Thereafter, the BRPSE considered 2 more cases of CPSEs in its 39th meeting held on 11.8.2006.

(c) The competent authority has approved 20 cases of CPSEs as indicated in the enclosed annexure II.

Annexure I

Ministry-wise list of CPSEs whose revival/rehabilitation or closure/winding up proposals have been referred to BRPSE

S.No.	Name of CPSE
1	2
Deptt. of Heavy Industry	
1.	Hindustan Salts Ltd.
2.	Bridge & Roof Co. (India) Ltd.
3.	BBJ Construction Co. Ltd.
4.	Tyre Corporation of India Ltd.
5.	HMT Bearings Ltd.
6.	Praga Tools Ltd.
7.	Bharat Pumps & Compressors Ltd.
8.	Tungabhadra Steel Products Ltd.
9.	Braithwaite & Company Ltd.
10.	Nagaland Pulp & Paper Co. Ltd.
11.	NEPA Ltd.
12.	Bharat Wagons & Engineering Co. Ltd.
13.	Richardson & Cruddas Limited
14.	Bharat Yantra Nigam Ltd.
15.	Cement Corporation of India Ltd.
16.	Bharat Ophthalmic Glass Ltd.
17.	HMT Machine Tools Ltd.
18.	Heavy Engineering Corporation Ltd.
19.	Triveni Structurals Ltd.
20.	Bharat Heavy Plate & Vessels Ltd.
21.	Hindustan Cables Ltd.

1	2	1	2
22.	HMT Watches Ltd.		Ministry of Steel
23.	Instrumentation Ltd.	37.	MECON Ltd.
24.	Andrew Yule & Co. Ltd.	38.	Hindustan Steelworks Construction Ltd.
25.	HMT Ltd.	39.	Bharat Refractories Ltd.
	Ministry of Textiles		Deptt. of Shipping
26.	British India Corporation Ltd.	40.	Central Inland Water Transport Corporation Ltd.
27.	National Jute Manufactures Corporation Ltd.	41.	Hooghly Dock & Port Engineers Ltd.
28.	National Textiles Corporation Ltd. & its subsidiaries	42.	Hindustan Shipyard Ltd.
	Deptt. of Fertilizers		Ministry of Urban Employment & Poverty Alleviation
29.	Madras Fertilizers Ltd.	43.	Hindustan Prefab Ltd.
30.	Fertilizers & Chemicals Travancore Ltd.		Deptt. of Agriculture & Cooperation
	Deptt. Of Chemicals & Petrochemicals	44.	State Farms Corporation of India Ltd.
31.	Hindustan Antibiotics Ltd.		Ministry of Mines
32.	Hindustan Organic Chemicals Ltd.	45.	Mineral Exploration Corp. Ltd.
33.	Hindustan Insecticides Ltd.		Ministry of Water Resources
34.	Bengal Chemicals & Pharmaceuticals Ltd.	46.	National Projects Construction Corporation Ltd.
	Ministry of Coal		Deptt. of Scientific & Industrial Research
35.	Eastern Coalfields Ltd.	47.	Central Electronic Ltd.
36.	Bharat Coking Coal Ltd.		

Annexure II

List of PSEs whose revival/rehabilitation or closure/winding up proposals have been cleared by Board for Reconstruction of Public Enterprises (BRPSE)

S.No.	Name of the CPSE	Name of Ministry/Department	Broad gist of the recommendation of BRPSE
1	2	3	4
1.	Hindustan Salts Ltd.*	Deptt. of Heavy Industry	Revival as a PSE
2.	Bridge & Roof Co. (India) Ltd.	Deptt. of Heavy Industry	Revival as a PSE
3.	BBJ Construction Co. Ltd.*	Deptt. of Heavy Industry	Revival as a PSE
4.	Tyre Corporation of India Ltd.	Deptt. of Heavy Industry	Revival as a PSE

1	2	3	4
5.	British India Corporation Ltd.*	Ministry of Textiles	Revival through Joint Venture/ disinvestment
6.	National Textiles Corporation Ltd. its 9 subsidiaries*	Ministry of Textiles	Revival of 15 mills as PSE units and 19 mills through Joint Venture
7.	Madras Fertilizers Ltd.	Deptt. of Fertilizers	Revival as a PSE
8.	HMT Bearings Ltd.*	Deptt. of Heavy Industry	Revival as a PSE
9.	Praga Tools Ltd.*	Deptt. Heavy Industry	Revival as a PSE
10.	Braithwaite & Company Ltd.*	Deptt. Heavy Industry	Revival as a PSE
11.	NEPA Ltd.	Deptt. Heavy Industry	Revival through Joint Venture/ disinvestment
12.	Richardson & Cruddas Ltd.*	Deptt. of Heavy Industry	Revival through Joint Venture/ disinvestment
13.	Central Inland Water Transport Corporation Ltd.*	Deptt. of Shipping	Revival through joint Venture/ disinvestment
14.	Tungabhadra Steel Products Ltd.*	Deptt. of Heavy Industry	Revival through Joint Venture/ disinvestment
15.	Bharat Wagon & Engineering Co. Ltd.	Deptt. of Heavy Industry	Revival as a PSE
16.	Bharat Pumps & Compressors Ltd.	Deptt. of Heavy Industry	Revival through Joint Venture/ disinvestments
17.	Hindustan Antibiotics Ltd.*	Deptt. of Chemicals & Petrochemicals	Revival as a PSE
18.	Eastern Coalfields Ltd.	Ministry of Coal	Revival as a PSE
19.	Cement Corporation of India Ltd.*	Deptt. of Heavy Industry	Non-operating units may be closed. Other operating units will be revived as a PSE
20.	Bharat Ophthalmic Glass Ltd.*	Deptt. of Heavy Industry	Closure
21.	HMT Machine Tools Ltd.	Deptt. of Heavy Industry	Revival as a PSE
22.	Heavy Engineering Corporation Ltd.*	Deptt. of Heavy Industry	Revival as a PSE
23.	Hindustan Organic Chemicals Ltd.*	Deptt. Of Chemicals & Petrochemicals	Revival as a PSE
24.	Hindustan Insecticides Ltd.*	Deptt. of Chemicals & Petrochemicals	Revival as a PSE
25.	Mineral Exploration Corporation Ltd.*	Ministry of Mines	Revival as a PSE

1	2	3	4
26.	Fertilizers & Chemicals Travancore Ltd.*	Department of Fertilizers	Revival as a PSE
27.	Hindustan Shipyard Ltd.	Department of Shipping	Revival as a PSE
28.	Central Electronics Ltd.*	Department of Scientific & Industrial Research	Revival as a PSE
29.	National Projects Construction Corporation Ltd.	Ministry of Water Resources	Revival as a PSE
30.	MECON Ltd.	Ministry of Steel	Revival as a PSE
31.	Andrew Yule & Co. Ltd.	Deptt. of Heavy Industry	Revival as a PSE
32.	instrumentation Ltd.	Deptt. of Heavy Industry	Revival as a PSE

*In respect of 19 CPSEs mentioned against S. Nos. 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 8, 9, 10, 12, 13, 14, 17, 19, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26 & 28 the revival packages have been approved by the Competent Authority.

**Competent Authority has approved closure in cases of Sl. No. 20 *i.e.* Bharat Ophthalmic Glass Ltd.

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: Sir, the hon. Minister when he had assumed Office, he had made a public statement and I can just remind him that he is there not to close down the factories but to revive the factories. We had all complimented him for the straightforwardness shown by him. But I am quoting the figures from the reply that he has given. It was set up in December, 2004, which means 20 months have passed. A total of 47 cases have been referred and 32 cases have been considered and the Government has taken decision only with regard to 20 cases, which is not even 50 per cent. Due to delay in taking decisions by the BRPSE and the delay in the implementation, the losses are mounting, the revival cost is escalating and the large volume of workers are not paid wages during this period.

Therefore, may I ask the hon. Minister is he satisfied the way in which the BRPSE is functioning? Does he believe that more life has to be injected in somewhat dormant activities of the BRPSC? I am not referring to the statement that he has made. It is on record and it has come in the newspapers that BRPSE is doing very wrong. I am not referring to it... *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please do not refer it.

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: It is because he might be embarrassed. I do not like to cause embarrassment to him... *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Dasgupta, please put your supplementary. You are a very senior and articulate Member. The question is question.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: No, I am just saying that I do not like to embarrass him. But let him speak the truth. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Every Member is speaking the truth here. It is expected and required to also.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: More truth should be spoken by the hon. Minister. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV: Sir, BRPSE has been formed with senior and retired bureaucrats and with some technocrats taken from the central universities. It is a very difficult job for the BRPSE to come to a quick decision and to discuss all pros and cons. They have been told to complete two cases in one month and they are maintaining that.

As regards the other question, I have no difference with the BRPSE. Some news item came. I have said that neither I have written to the hon. Prime Minister nor I am going to write. I am satisfied. Now, some of the

cases are long pending because of the various demands which come from the hon. Members of Parliament. They have asked to close down something. After getting their feedback, I will go to them and tell, to please reconsider because our Government has given a commitment to consider the cause of the working class. You are also responsible for some late decision. But it is better for both of us.

Take for example, HMT Chinar in Jammu and Kashmir where operations are almost been closed down. You came to me to ask as to why it has been closed down. We have decided to reconsider it. We are asking other departments to take it up.

Some hon. Members asked for one project in Allahabad in Uttar Pradesh. The hon. Member is here or not I do not know. We have asked the ONGC as well as BHEL to come forward and help them. This is an unusual thing that this Government is doing. Basically, we want that that this industry should be revived. I could guess it what is coming in her 'Supplementary' and about those projects which are there in her mind. It is under our consideration. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: Sir, privately they have discussed. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: There is no bar.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: I thought that we are a part of 'they'. But now he is saying that we are not part of 'they'. He is dividing us. That is not good for him. We thought that we are a part of you. Anyway, while reminding you that we are a part of you and we support your policy to the extent it helps the people and the workers. My pointed question to you is with regard to the Hindustan Cables, which is a very leading company of West Bengal. We have been talking to the hon. Prime Minister. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: This matter is coming up today. I have allowed it.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: I am talking about Hindustan Cables. What is the attitude? ...(*Interruptions*)

I say this because we have suggested that it should be taken over by the Telecommunications Department as we have enough funds. Along with this, my pointed question to him is about the HMT Watch Factory which is in Kashmir. Kashmir is a very sensitive place. There are not many industries.

MR. SPEAKER: We all know that.

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: This is one of the industries on which the Government should take a decision not on the basis of economics but on the basis of politics. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: We all are aware of that.

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: Therefore, my pointed question to him is this. What is your attitude with regard to Hindustan Cables of West Bengal and the HMT Watch Factory of Kashmir?

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV: Sir, do you want me to give a long answer or a short answer?

MR. SPEAKER: Please give a short answer, and to the point. Regarding Hindustan Cables, I have allowed it. I have requested the hon. Minister to be present. After the Question Hour, you can do it.

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV: Hindustan Cables has got 3300 employees. ...(*Interruptions*) 3300 employees are there in the Hindustan Cables. They are not doing any production whatsoever. But that is not their fault. They used to produce jelly-filled cables which is no more in demand. That is the main cause. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: No running commentary, please.

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV: As per the request of the Members of Parliament from West Bengal, we have appointed the first committee comprising IIT Kharagpur people. Then, a negative report came. At the request of you and Shri Basu Deb Acharia, we have done something. you have given a paper to Madam Sonia Ji and to the hon. Prime Minister. They have sent it back to me. I have appointed the Tata Consultancy Services. That report has also come in a negative way. But both the reports are being sent now to the BRPSE. Let us see what happens. I transit through Kolkata quite often while going to my constituency. I have got full sympathy for you. You need not worry. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: No. That is not the way of putting questions.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV: We will try to do something on it.

On HMT, Kashmir, there is the same case. Every month, I am getting Rs. 2 crore expenditure without two watches being produced there. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I know it. I was a Chairman. The committee had a lot to do about it.

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV: Because of the sensitiveness of the area, we do this. But we will consider about it in future.

SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY: The BRPSE was formed in the month of December, 2004. After the formation of this Board, they took at least two years' time for the consideration of the cases. At least, 47 cases were referred to this Board by the Ministry. Out of the 47 cases, they have considered only 32 cases. The Ministry has approved 20 cases. May I know from the hon. Minister one thing? What is the policy taken by your Ministry? What is the attitude of the Government? Are you considering the remaining CPSUs for their revival if necessary by providing financial assistance and other facilities in the interest of the workers, in the interest of the nation and the people? ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: It requires everybody's help.

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV: It will be a great injustice to the members of the BRPSE. All of them are qualified. They are not full-time members. They are given a contract job only with fees for each sitting. We have to persuade them to come and take up the job as it is a very serious one. Whatever they are doing, they are doing a good job. But I will convey the message to them on behalf of you and the House that they should speed up the decision first. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I have not yet said anything.

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV: All right, Sir. Hon. Members, you need not worry about that. But they are doing their job. ...*(Interruptions)* They are doing a very good job. They have given the recommendations. The Cabinet has approved it. Two cases went to Shri Pranab Mukherjee. He has also cleared them. I mean the BRPSE's recommendation. We are taking care because if you give them a chance, they will do a better job in future. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY: Sir, I have put a pointed question.

MR. SPEAKER: No. He has answered it already. Hon. Members, if you are not satisfied with the answers, you know what procedure to follow. I cannot compel a Minister to answer. I have been liberally allowing that process.

[Translation]

SHRI GANESH SINGH: Mr. Speaker Sir, the Cement Corporation of India is one of the 32 heavy industries in respect of which recommendation for revival has been made by the BRPSE board, while the hon'ble Minister has stated in his reply that directions have been issued to close some of its non-functioning units. At present Cement manufacturing is one of the most profitable business but even then orders have been issued to close some of its units and on other hand it has also been stated that assistance will be provided to some units. Therefore, I would like to know the names of units which are likely to be closed?

[English]

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV: Sir, I have given the details in the main answer. I will send him a copy of it. Three of them will be revitalised, but those who are already closed will not be reopened and the total number of employees involved is only 300. We will give them an offer to take VRS. The cement industry is doing well. The two units at Bokajan and Hyderabad are also earning profit and they are doing well. We shall strengthen them and in future local employees will be taken.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Minister has given a list.

MR. SPEAKER: He has covered that company also, Hindustan Cables about which you want to mention during 'Zero Hour'.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: For that you will allow me in 'Zero Hour'.

MR. SPEAKER: No, the same thing cannot be asked again.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: I will not ask the same question which I will raise during 'Zero Hour'.

MR. SPEAKER: All right.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Sir, there is one Central Public Sector Undertaking called Instrumentations Ltd.

MR. SPEAKER: This question is not for individual companies. This is a question of principle.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: It is a very important one.

MR. SPEAKER: Okay. Very well. Everyone is asking about individual companies.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Sir, may know from the Minister as to what is the procedure for referring CPSEs to BRPSE? As per the National Common Minimum Programme, the Government should seriously try to revive those Central Public Sector Undertakings which are chronically sick. So, may I know from the Minister as to what is the procedure that the Ministry is following in regard to revival of such enterprises and whether the Ministry is first seriously examining the proposal and then sending it to BRPSE for its recommendation to the Ministry?

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV: Sir, the UPA Government is taking certain views which were never taken in the past. This particular concern is lying idle for the last 10 years. This is located in the Jadavpur University campus. When this matter was brought to my notice, I had a talk with the Chief Minister of West Bengal and I had requested him to take it over because it is producing certain things and said that it can be a research centre. I have also told him that the only obligation that he has to fulfill is that he has to repay bank money of Rs. 8 crore. After a lot of persuasion he has agreed. Now we have decided to hand it over to Jadavpur University. I am not taking anything for the land, but we want that it should be maintained as a centre of research and the Central Government has taken this decision. I have taken the concurrence of the Prime Minister. I am going to the Cabinet, they will also agree. This is something we are doing for the good of the State of the hon. Member. If I sell this property I can get Rs. 50 crore, but I am not doing it.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Yes, yes.

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV: He is saying 'yes, yes,' but he never appreciates what I am doing.

I am doing it and I have got the approval of the Prime Minister. Though he has not asked about it, I am saying this for his information.

MR. SPEAKER: By keeping quiet, he is appreciating.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Sir, he has not replied to part two of my question.

MR. SPEAKER: No part two is allowed, you know that.

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV: The procedure is. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Normally the Minister will not answer to the part which I do not allow.

DR. SUJAN CHAKRABORTY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I appreciate the Minister.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister, now you have got the appreciation.

DR. SUJAN CHAKRABORTY: Sir, I was also involved in the Instrumentations Ltd. It is good that the Government is trying to revive it. On public sector enterprises, the stand of the Government is very clear. The National Common Minimum Programme stipulates that the Government is committed for a strong and effective Public sector. Then, the social obligations are also there. From that angle, I would like to refer to the issue of IDPL. It is a very important organisation. All of us know that it is a very good and strong organisation. Similarly, Bengal Chemicals & Pharmaceuticals Ltd. And Hindustan Antibiotics Ltd. are very important companies. The Government, in its National Common Minimum Programme, is again committed to maintain rural health and for that National Rural Health Mission has also been launched. It is working quite good. The list of essential drugs is also there. There is now a debate going on whether the essential drugs can be produced by the private companies and whether they will be interested to do that and all these things. In this particular background, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether, the IDPL and Bengal Chemicals, etc. all these taken together a Central policy approach on the health aspect be really taken up by the Ministry.

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV: Sir, in my Ministry, I am considering it case by case on merit. As far as the

policy decision is concerned, if they have anything to say, they can write to the appropriate Ministry. But we examining it on case to case basis through the BRPSEs. That is the set up now.

MR. SPEAKER: Q. No. 304—Shri Navjot Singh Sidhu - Not present.

Q.No.305—Shri Harishchandra Chavan - Not present

Q.No.306—Shrimati (Saw.) Kalpana Ramesh Narhire - Not present.

Shri Srichand Kriplani - Not present.

[*Translation*]

Punctuality Performance of train services

*307. SHRI ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN:
SHRI HEMMAL MURMU:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the punctuality performance of trains since January, 2006, zone-wise;

(b) the reasons for the late running of trains;

(c) whether responsibility against officials/officers has been fixed by the Railways for the late running of trains;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the remedial measures taken by the Railways for improvement in punctuality performance of trains along with success achieved thereof?

[*English*]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (e) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) The zone-wise punctuality of Indian Railways for the period January to July 2006 is as under:

Railways	Broadgauge	Metre Gauge
1	2	3
Central	95.4	—
Eastern	96.3	—

1	2	3
Northern	97.0	—
North Eastern	92.7	98.9
North Frontier	96.7	98.8
Southern	97.5	99.5
South Central	97.9	99.4
South Eastern	97.3	—
Western	97.2	99.4
East Central	91.9	98.1
East Coast	97.0	—
North Central	95.8	99.2
North Western	98.9	99.4
Southeast Central	97.1	—
South Western	98.3	—
West Central	98.9	—

From above it is evident that punctuality of Indian Railways is very good.

(b) The reasons for late running of trains include not only those which are attributable to the Railways such as asset failures, extra time taken for loading and unloading parcels and poor traffic control but also those which are beyond the control of railways such as miscreant activities, natural calamities like cyclonic storms, braches, Law and Order problems, bad weather, cattle run over and electricity grid failures.

(c) and (d) For improving punctuality further, during the period, 1281 staff found responsible for unwarranted detention of trains, were taken up. The zone-wise particulars are as under:

Zonal Railways	Staff Taken up
1	2
Central	34
Eastern	143
Northern	209

1	2
North Eastern	87
North Frontier	61
Southern	65
South Central	30
South Eastern	70
Western	95
East Central	209
East Coast	93
North Central	15
North Western	70
Southeast Central	24
South Western	38
West Central	38
Total	1281

(e) Following steps are being taken by Indian Railways to improve the punctuality of passenger carrying trains:

1. Intensive, round the clock monitoring of trains at all three levels viz. Divisional, Zonal head Quarters and Railway Board.
2. Launching of punctuality drives from time to time.
3. Running of trains at maximum permissible speed subject to observance of safety limits and speed restrictions.
4. Improvements in Time tabling to provide a clear path.
5. Improvement in standard of maintenance of asset to reduce equipment failures.
6. Training, counselling and motivating staff to ensure punctual running.
7. Liaison with State Government to tackle the Law and Order problems and miscreant activities.

8. Whenever trains arrive late at terminals, attempts are made to start the trains right time by deploying more resources. Spare rakes are often pressed into service.

9. Up-gradation of technology of track, rolling stock and signalling.

As a result, constraints notwithstanding punctuality performance of passenger services has been very good.

SHRI ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN: Sir, the hon. Minister has mentioned in his answer that there are many reasons for the delays and some of the delays are because of the Department and lapses by the people who are in charge there.

I would like to know precisely from the hon. Minister what has been done or what steps have been taken in this regard. He has mentioned that steps are being taken for the improvement of asset failure and traffic control. These are the two important things which should have been within the control of the Department. I would like to know why is there a lack of duty of staff in this matter; what is the status of asset failure; and what improvements are they making. Do they have additional funds allocated for this job?

SHRI R. VELU: Sir, punctuality is one of the most primary concerns of the Indian Railways.

SHRI ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN: It never happens in the Railways.

SHRI R. VELU: Please listen.

MR. SPEAKER: Yes, that is right.

SHRI R. VELU: Sir, actually, not only for the hon. Members' satisfaction but also for the satisfaction of the customers, towards that goal, we are now debating, discussing and evolving so many strategies to see that punctuality is maintained.

For the information of the august House, I may say that the punctuality of broad gauge Railways was less than 90 per cent all these years. For the last two years, the kind of punctuality now is 92.1 per cent in respect of broad gauge Railways and 97.6 in respect of metre gauge Railways.

The pointed question raised by the hon. Member has two parts. One is with regard to the controlled factors

and second is with regard to non-controlled factors in the Railways. I might quite admit the fact that there are about 36 per cent of the cases which are beyond the control of the Railways and balance 64 per cent are under the control of the Railways. As far as the question with regard to asset failure and traffic control is concerned, on the asset failure I may submit that under the SRSF, we have allocated a sum of Rs. 17,000 crore to upgrade, modernise and to replace our old assets, both rolling stock as well as other fixed assets so that the asset failure is minimised. So far, we have spent about more than Rs. 13,000 crore up to March, 06 and the balance of Rs. 4000 crore will be spent during the next year.

On the kind of controls, I quite stated that we have set up a mechanism at the Divisional level, Zonal level and at the level of Railway Board, to monitor the punctuality of the various trains. This is within our control. I would like to assure the hon. Member that increasingly we are devoting our undivided attention to the punctuality aspect, and seeing that wherever the employees are really responsible for such failures, we take action against them under Discipline and Appeal Rules.

SHRI ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN: Hon. Member has mentioned that 1281 persons have been found responsible for dereliction of duty. I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to what action has been taken, and how long it will take to take action against the persons responsible for such failures. Time period has not been mentioned; he has said: "During this period". We would like to know about that period.

SHRI R. VELU: I have mentioned 'from January to July'. These are long-drawn processes. Every hon. Member knows about it. A dismissal case involves inquiry and there are various phases in that. So, it will take a long time, maybe six months or one year depending on the cooperation of the employees and also the inquiry officers doing them.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Hemlal Murmu—not present.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI KRISHNA TIRATH: M. Speaker Sir, sometimes the trains are delayed due to law and order problems. Many a time some anti social elements board the trains and indulge in eve teasing. I would like to know from the hon'ble Minister whether any special provision for security has been made in the ladies

compartments? Often it is observed that such persons board the general compartments of the train but sometimes they board the ladies compartments and indulge in eve teasing thereby creating a law and order problem which results in delay of the trains.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: It is a question on punctuality.

SHRI R. VELU: Though it does not relate to punctuality, yet I would like to answer it.

MR. SPEAKER: It is because of this there is a delay in service.

She is the Chairperson of the Committee of Empowerment of Women.

SHRI R. VELU: I would like to answer the Chairperson on that.

Now, in the Indian Railways, we are not only escorting the trains during night time but also more specifically in the suburban trains this kind of vigil is going on. What we have done now is this. We have deployed our RPF women constable to form groups and beef up protection in those compartments. In fact, we are undertaking surprise checks, and more deployment of women constables will do good in these compartments.

[Translation]

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT: Mr. Speaker Sir, Security, Safety and Punctuality is written at all the Railway Stations. It is the motto of the Railways which they try to accomplish and they claim to have done so. But, sometimes it is observed that when exams are conducted by the Railway Recruitment Board, the thousands of candidates appearing in such exams travel on the roof of the trains and the employees of railway as well as the Railway Police have to make a lot of efforts to bring them down. Since, there is no room inside the compartments, they have to travel on the roofs of the trains due to which chain is pulled very frequently. I would like to know from hon'ble Minister of Railways whether he will authorise the concerned officers of the Railways to add an extra boggy in the trains under special circumstances to accommodate candidates whom he has offered railway facility so that they can travel comfortably and other passengers may also reach their destination in time?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI LALU PRASAD): Mr. Speaker Sir, hon'ble Member has rightly said that people travel on roofs as well as in A.C. Compartments. Earlier, such complaints were received from Bihar and the Indian Railways has electrified several routes to check this problem. Due to this people have stopped travelling on roofs. Since the candidates particularly travel on roofs on trains, hence, Indian Railways has introduced a decentralized system for conducting exam. As far as the question of trains being over-crowded is concerned. This problem rarely comes before us.

Mr. Speaker Sir, the main point of hon'ble Member is concerned with punctuality. Our Minister of State in the Ministry of Railways has stated that since there is huge congestion in existing rail lines so we have to place restrictions at several places and in addition we also do the maintenance work. On the request and demand of all the hon'ble Members and keeping in view railways popularity, since it is a cheap mode of transport, we continue to introduce the new trains. We did not have terminal facility at several places, now we are developing it at all those places and when a third line dedicated freight corridor is developed the pressure on the existing line will considerably reduce. We have taken several steps to ensure punctuality so that the trains reach the destination in time and in near future we are planning to develop a third line dedicated freight corridor which will reduce the pressure and there will be no complaints in this regard.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Now, Shri Brajesh Pathak.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Ramdas Athawale, please go to your seat. Nothing will be recorded.

...(*Interruptions*)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please do not openly violate.

[Translation]

SHRI BRAJESH PATHAK: Mr. Speaker Sir, thank you very much. I have no hesitation in saying that Indian Railways is moving steadily on the path of progress under the leadership of Shri Lalu Ji and it has earned fame all over the world. As far as my memory goes, I remember to have seen Balamau Kanpur Passenger train which

passes through my village and constituency upto Kanpur. I have observed that the said train is always late by several hours and the said train has never run on its right time so far. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: The time table will change.

SHRI BRAJESH PATHAK: Mr. Speaker Sir, there is only one train which runs on Kanpur-Balamau Railway track and there is no pressure of traffic there. Therefore, this excuse will be untenable that it runs late due to heavy traffic. The said railway line was laid during the British period and if fast trains are introduced on that route, the tracks will dismantle. Sir, through you I would like to know from the hon'ble Minister whether he proposes to modernize that track so that trains could meet the time schedule.

SHRI LALU PRASAD: Mr. Speaker Sir, the passenger train mentioned by the hon. Member which passes through his constituency is really becoming hopeless. It will be examined how many halts are there in that area. The people must be pulling chain at several places. I will look into this matter to find out whether the people open the hose pipe also. I will seriously consider what the hon'ble member has stated if need be number of stations and halts will be reduced.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Now, Q. No. 308—Shri Arjun Sethi.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: It is nice to have some little laughter in the House. Please sit down. Not very much time is left.

Now, Shri Arjun Sethi.

Renovation of Centrally Protected Monuments

*308. SHRI ARJUN SETHI: Will the Minister of be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount spent by the Government for protection and development of Centrally protected monuments during each of the last three years, State-wise;

(b) whether the Government has chalked out any plan for renovation of some of the Centrally protected monuments during the current year;

*Not recorded.

(c) if so, the details thereof against the funds earmarked for the purpose; and

(d) the action taken/being taken for renovation of these monuments?

THE MINISTER OF STATE WITHOUT PORTFOLIO (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): (a) to (d) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) The total amount spent by the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) for conservation, protection and development of centrally protected monuments during

the last three years, State-wise is as per enclosed Annexure-I

(b) to (d) Conservation, preservation, maintenance and environmental development around Centrally Protected Monuments and Sites is a continuous process. ASI has approved annual conservation programme for 2006-07 for Structural Conservation, Annual Maintenance, Chemical Preservation and Horticulture Operations of the Centrally Protected Monuments totalling to Rs. 98.60 crores. Circle-wise details of the funds allocated are given in the enclosed Annexure-II.

The various conservation, preservation and environmental development works are in progress. The expenditure incurred till July 2006 is also furnished at Annexure-II.

Annexure I

State-wise Expenditure incurred during the last three years for the Conservation, Preservation and Environmental Development of The Centrally Protected Monuments

(Rs. in lakhs)

Sl.No.	Name of State/Union Territory	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	269.84	341.00	461.41
2.	Assam	82.90	60.30	59.86
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	4.14	6.35	3.99
4.	Bihar	470.00	213.75	247.50
5.	Chhattisgarh	171.00	278.00	252.95
6.	Delhi	1001.87	761.37	754.26
7.	Daman and Diu	35.14	22.46	42.73
8.	Goa	74.99	105.02	100.00
9.	Gujarat	134.82	150.75	171.63
10.	Haryana	258.18	178.40	168.17
11.	Himachal Pradesh	19.57	65.59	108.00
12.	Jammu & Kashmir	269.85	239.97	274.83
13.	Jharkhand	82.39	70.72	73.55
14.	Kerala	100.48	76.49	85.02

1	2	3	4	5
15.	Karnataka	767.27	907.41	1434.92
16.	Maharashtra	536.53	448.04	516.25
17.	Madhya Pradesh	445.44	378.44	520.00
18.	Manipur	0.10	00	00
19.	Meghalaya	5.91	2.90	5.11
20.	Nagaland	12.94	7.94	6.29
21.	Orissa	190.04	388.08	296.35
22.	Punjab	35.40	54.30	87.81
23.	Pondicherry	23.80	20.85	13.41
24.	Rajasthan	741.51	279.97	285.00
25.	Sikkim	31.95	24.93	10.50
26.	Tamil Nadu	448.08	580.29	636.58
27.	Tripura	29.32	32.22	32.77
28.	Uttaranchal	132.40	157.00	160.08
29.	Uttar Pradesh	980.89	1398.41	1303.51
30.	West Bengal	291.88	532.44	383.81
31.	Horticulture Branch	982.73	1070.98	1198.98
32.	Science Branch	396.59	433.42	499.23
Total		9027.95	9287.79	10194.50

Annexure II

The Allotment of Funds During Current Financial Year (2006-07) for Conservation, Preservation and Horticulture Operations

(Rs. in lakhs)

Sl.No.	Name of Circle/ Branch	Allotment	Expenditure upto July-06
1	2	3	4
1.	Agra	555.00	210.95
2.	Aurangabad	400.00	88.28

1	2	3	4
3.	Bangalore	580.00	195.10
4.	Bhopal	505.00	216.85
5.	Bhubaneswar	375.00	42.05
6.	Chennai	550.00	34.25
7.	Chandigarh	300.00	107.45
8.	Dehradun	150.00	33.55
9.	Delhi	975.00	155.30
10.	Dharwad	475.00	76.10

1	2	3	4
11.	Goa	140.00	10.35
12.	Guwahati	130.00	12.10
13.	Hyderabad	400.00	216.50
14.	Jaipur	285.00	87.55
15.	Kolkata	300.00	104.20
16.	Lucknow	555.00	140.25
17.	Mumbai	300.00	78.85
18.	Patna	325.00	35.35
19.	Ranchi	100.00	3.10
20.	Raipur	225.00	76.10
21.	Shimla	125.00	10.80
22.	Srinagar	280.00	62.65
23.	Thrissure	180.00	13.60
24.	Vadodara	290.00	94.60
25.	Science Branch	485.00	129.57
26.	Horticulture Branch	830.00	416.65
27.	D.G Office (Reserve)	45.00	130.00
Total		9860.00	2782.10

SHRI ARJUN SETHI: Thank you, Sir. Not much time is left. So, I will be very brief in asking the question.

MR. SPEAKER: Please put a pointed question.

SHRI ARJUN SETHI: Sir, my pointed question is this. The Konark temple in Orissa is one of the world heritage centres in the country, and the temple is in a bad shape. Whatever amount that is being provided to protect and preserve is not quite enough in comparison to the situation that exists because this is a very old one and it is deteriorating everyday. So, I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to what amount they have provided, and whether they are getting any amount from UNESCO for protection of the Konark temple as well as other temples which have been selected as the world heritage centres.

SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI: Sir, I would like to inform the hon. Member that no doubt the Konark temple, over the past years and decades, had undergone a certain amount of erosion and deterioration.

Several remedial measures have been taken to preserve it in as good shape as we would like it to be. The hon. Member certainly knows that the funds available with ASI, which is primarily charged with the responsibility of preserving and conserving, are not adequate. So, keeping that in mind and the importance of the world heritage site like the Konark Temple, we had signed an MoU with the Indian Oil Foundation on the 30th March, 2001, and they are contributing to the National Cultural Fund along with the amounts spent by the ASI.

We are, under these joint funds, looking after the environmental development of the laying the gardens, to the Tourism Ministry. We are doing a Sound and Light Programme to enhance the visitors to the Konark Temple, and we have upgraded the site museum at Konark Temple in order to increase the number of tourists going there and generate further resources.

The immediate causes of concern for the deterioration have been found to be the type of stones, which has been used; and in addition to that, about the salt level, which comes, there is a thermal action, which is taking place. Due to the rainfall and humidity, the temperature thus created has its own damaging effect. There have been biological agents, which have resulted in growth in the Temple premises.

So, all these things have been taken care of within our limited resources. I can give the amounts, which have been spent from the ASI. We have tried to have a weathering effect minimised through stone consolidation. ...*(Interruptions)*. But I can give the exact amount, which we have spent under the ASI, to the hon. Member, immediately after the Question Hour.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you very much.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

Production of Electric Locomotives

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

(a) whether the demand for electric locos is rapidly increasing in Railways;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken or being taken to step up production of electric locos to meet the growing demands?

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

(b) With the increase in traffic during the previous years, the demand electric locos has increased. The production of electric locos at Chittaranjan Locomotive Works has steadily increased and is as under:

Year	Loco production
2003-04	86
2004-05	90
2005-06	129
2006-07(target)	150

(c) The present capacity of Chittaranjan Locomotive Works is available to manufacture 150 electric locos per year. Looking into the growing demands of traffic, capacity of Chittaranjan Locomotive Works is being augmented further to manufacture 200 electric locomotives during 2007-08.

[*Translation*]

Financial Assistance to Libraries

*305. SHRI HARISHCHANDRA CHAVAN: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government provides financial assistance for refurbishing libraries by supply of books, furniture, equipment and for renovation of building;

(b) if so, the details of the financial assistance provided for the purpose during each of the last three years;

(c) whether the Union Government has received requests from town/rural libraries for financial assistance during the current year;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by the Government thereon; and

(e) the steps proposed to be taken to promote and strengthen library movement in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE WITHOUT PORTFOLIO (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): (a) Raja Rammohan Roy Library Foundation (RRRLF), an autonomous organization under the Ministry of Culture renders assistance to the public libraries all over the country on the recommendation of State Governments towards supply of books, furniture, equipments and construction/addition of building.

(b) Statement I indicating financial assistance provided in respect of supply of books, furniture, equipment and for renovation of building during last three years is enclosed.

(c) and (d) The State Governments and Union Territories' Administrations send proposals of town/rural libraries after approval by the State Library Committees. The proposals received have been considered and statement II enclosed indicating the financial assistance released during the year 2006-07 (unto 31st July) is enclosed.

(e) Some of the steps already initiated are as follows:-

The norms of the financial assistance given through RRRLF to State Libraries have been realistically revised. A special scheme has been introduced to set up children's corner's in public libraries. In Association with Nehru Yuvak Kendras, RRRLF has also taken up strengthening of rural libraries.

Statement I

(Amount in Rupees)

Item	2003-04		2004-05		2005-06	
	No. of Libraries	Amount	No. of Libraries	Amount	No. of Libraries	Amount
Books	8826	97788625	11058	97792360	5336	147866845
Furniture	2967	17025984	3061	20314203	2954	25219721
Equipment	9	2795170	20	13006302	52	9703840
Building	187	26870296	129	20272021	159	32201198
Total		Rs. 144480075		Rs. 151384886		Rs. 214991604

Statement #

(Amount in Rupees)

Item	2006-07	
	No. of Libraries	Amount
Books	6307	55994768
Furniture	542	2992841
Equipment	27	10675418
Building	55	109204760
Total		Rs. 80583503

Royalty on Crude Oil

*306. SHRIMATI KALPNA RAMESH NARHIRE:
SHRI SRICHAND KRIPLANI:

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

(a) the criteria being followed for paying royalty to the crude oil producing States;

(b) the amount of royalty paid to the crude oil producing States during 2005-06 and how does it compare with the corresponding figures of the previous two years;

(c) whether the Union Government has received request from some of the State Governments for enhancing the rate of royalty;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the reaction of the Union Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MURLI DEORA): (a) Under Oilfields (Regulation and Development) Act, 1984 (ORDA), as amended from time to time, the Government vide Gazette Notification dated 16-12-2004, has notified a comprehensive schedule of royalty after consultations with the concerned State Governments. The criteria for determination of royalty rates, primarily, are:

(i) Whether the production is from areas awarded under nomination, pre-NELP or NELP regime?

(ii) location of oil field, i.e., onland, shallow water offshore and deepwater offshore.

(iii) The product in question, viz. oil or gas.

(iv) The well head price of the product.

The royalty is then worked out as an absolute amount or as a percentage of the well head price rate in relation to the above mentioned criteria.

(b) State-wise amounts of royalty paid to oil and gas producing States in the last 3 years, i.e., 2003-04, 2004-05 and 2005-06 given in the enclosed statement.

(c) to (e) Yes, Sir. The State Governments, from time to time, have been requesting revision in the methodology for fixation of the rates of royalty paid by National Oil Companies.

These requests were examined in detail with the concerned State Governments and a new royalty regime has been put in place and comprehensive royalty schedule notified under ORDA on 16-12-2004.

Statement

Royalty paid to State Governments on Crude Oil and Natural gas production

(Figures in Rs. crore)

State	2005-06	2004-05	2003-04
Gujarat	1707.60	1130.97	867.45
Assam	1207.47	894.08	703.19
Tamil Nadu	142.83	102.31	70.64
Andhra Pradesh	110.45	77.25	77.29
Arunachal Pradesh	27.70	10.98	20.84
Tripura	7.39	6.96	5.94
Rajasthan	2.57	2.38	1.43
Total	3206.01	2224.93	1746.79

Subsidy to Private Sector Oil Companies

*309. SHRI KAILASH NATH SINGH YADAV:
SHRI MOHD. TAHIR:

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

(a) whether any social responsibility has been assigned to the private sector oil companies;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the private sector oil companies have demanded subsidy from the Government on the lines of subsidy being given to the public sector oil companies;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MURLI DEORA): (a) and (b) No, Sir. Corporate Social Responsibility is a purely voluntary effort under which a company—whether private or public—undertakes social initiatives from its own surpluses/funds.

(c) to (e) Yes, Sir. The private sector oil companies have demanded subsidy from Government for the losses they have sustained on sales of petrol and diesel. However, since they are not subject to pricing restrictions by the Government, there can be no compensation for marketing of petrol and diesel within the country by them. Private oil companies are free to take their pricing decisions on commercial considerations. It may be added that all companies, including PSUs namely ONGC, MRPL and NRL who have been granted authorization to market petrol and diesel in terms of the Government Resolution of 8th March, 2002 are not covered under the subsidy sharing mechanism.

*[English]***Grant-in-aid to Wakf Council**

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

(a) the Grant-in-aid sanctioned by the Government to the Central Wakf Council during each of the last three years and the current year;

(b) the amount of loans released to various Wakf institutions along with the purpose thereof during the said period;

(c) whether some Wakf institutions particularly from North-Eastern States have been deprived of this facility; and

(d) if so, the facts thereof and the corrective measures taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MEIRA KUMAR): (a) The Grants-in-aid sanctioned by the Govt. of India to the Central Wakf Council under the scheme of development of urban wakf properties during the last three years are as under:

Years	Amount (Rs. in lakhs)
2003-04	Rs.158.00
2004-05	Rs.137.00
2005-06	Rs.143.25

During the current financial year, no Grant-in-aid has been sanctioned till date.

(b) The amount of loan released by the Central Wakf Council to various Wakf Institutions for development of Wakf properties is given in the enclosed statement.

(c) No eligible project has been denied assistance.

(d) Does not arise.

Statement

Loans released to Wakf Institutions for development of Wakf properties during last three years

S.No.	Name of the Wakf	Loan amount given	Purpose
1	2	3	4
2003-04			
1.	Dargah Masjid Madar Shah Ujjain (M.P.)	Rs.15.00 lakhs	Commercial complex
2.	Amin-e-Shariat Education Trust (Wakf), Dhroll, Jamnagar (Gujarat)	Rs.16.00 lakhs	Rssidential complex

1	2	3	4
3.	Putthanpalli Jaram Madarsa and Hospital, Malapuram (Kerala)	Rs.10.00 lakhs	Hospital bulding
4.	Madarsha Makan Tumkur (Karnataka)	Rs.14.00 lakhs	Commercial Complex
5.	HMS Education Society, Tumkur (Karnataka)	Rs.19.00 lakhs	Hostel building
6.	Jamia Islamia Ishaatul Uloom, Akkalkuan (Maharashtra)	Rs.25.00 lakhs	Hostel building
7.	Mohiuddin Andavar Pallivasal, Virudhunagr, (Tamil Nadu)	Rs.8.25 lakhs	Shopping complex
8.	SM Bengali Baba Madarsa Wakf, Ahmedabad (Gujarat)	Rs.15.00 lakhs	Cold Storage building
9.	Hostel of Kerala Wakf Board, Emakulam	Rs.15.75 laksh	Office Complex
10.	Bellary Shadi Mahal Committee, Bellary (Karnataka)	Rs.10.00 lakhs	Marriage hall
Total:		Rs.148.00 lakhs	

2004-05

1.	Amin-e-Shariat Education Trust (Wakf), Dhroll, Jamnagar (Gujarat)	Rs.25.00 lakhs	Rssidential complex
2.	SM Bengali Baba Madarsa Wakf, Ahmedabad (Gujarat)	Rs.20.00 lakhs	Cold Storage building
3.	Bellary Shadi Mahal Committee, Bellary (Karnataka)	Rs.20.00 lakhs	Marriage hall
4.	Madarsha Makan Tumkur (Karnataka)	Rs.11.00 lakhs	Commercial complex
5.	HMS Education Society, Tumkur (Karnataka)	Rs.18.00 lakhs	Hostel building
6.	Jamia Islamia Ishaatul Uloom, Akkalkuan (Maharashtra)	Rs.20.00 lakhs	Hostel building
7.	Anjumane Islam, Byadgi, Dharwad (Karnataka)	Rs.10.00 lakhs	Shopping Complex
8.	Wakf Idgah Masjid, Qabrutan, Raghogarh, Guna (MP)	Rs. 23.00 lakhs	Shopping Complex
Total		Rs.147.00 lakhs*	

*It includes Rs.10.00 lakhs unutilised of previous year.

1	2	3	4
2005-06			
1.	Amin-e-Shariat Education Trust (Wakf), Dhroll, Jamnagar (Gujarat)	Rs.24.00 lakhs	Residential complex
2.	SM Bengali Baba Madarsa Wakf, Ahmedabad (Gujarat)	Rs.25.00 lakhs	Cold Storage building
3.	Madarsha Makan Tumkur (Karnataka)	Rs.11.00 lakhs	Commercial Complex
4.	HMS Education Society, Tumkur (Karnataka)	Rs.18.00 lakhs	Hostel building
5.	Jamia Islamia Ishaatul Uloom, Akkalkuan (Maharashtra)	Rs.25.00 lakhs	Hostel building
6.	Hostel of Kerala Wakf Board, Emakulam (Kerala)	Rs.21.25 lakhs	Office Complex
7.	Dargah Masjid Madar Shah Ujjain (M.P.)	Rs.19.00 lakhs	Commercial complex
Total Rs.143.25 lakhs			

*[Translation]***Shortage of Kerosene**

*311. SHRI GIRIDHARI YADAV:
SHRI HARIKEWAL PRASAD:

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

- (a) the total demand of kerosene in the country;
- (b) whether there is a shortage of kerosene to meet the demand;
- (c) whether the Government has imported the kerosene to meet the demand;
- (d) if so, the details thereof along with the rates at which it was imported during each of the last three years;
- (e) whether some State Governments have requested for increasing the quota of kerosene for their States;
- (f) if so, the details thereof, State-wise; and
- (g) the action taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MURLI DEORA): (a) and (b) Kerosene consumption in the country is of either Kerosene distributed through the Public Distribution System (PDS) or free market Kerosene. PDS Kerosene is a subsidized product and the Government of India allocates it to the States on quarterly basis. The details of PDS kerosene allocated to the States during 2005-06 and the first two quarters of 2006-07 are given in the enclosed Statement.

As of 10.08.06, the public sector oil marketing companies (OMCs) had overall kerosene stocks at their supply locations in various States sufficient to meet 25 days requirement on all India basis for allocated quantities. The distribution of PDS Kerosene to the consumers and its mechanism is handled entirely by the State Governments.

In addition to PDS Kerosene, oil companies sell free market kerosene as per requirement.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The details of Kerosene imported by the OMCs during the last three years and the average rates are as under:-

Year	Quantity (in Thousand metric Tonnes)	Rate (Rs/MT)
2003-04	Nil	Nil
2004-05	210.4	20403
2005-06	876.1	25150

(e) to (g) Various State Governments have been requesting increase in their PDS Kerosene allocation. During the current year, such requests have been received from West Bengal, Rajasthan, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Orissa, Kerala, Gujarat, Uttar Pradesh, Uttaranchal and Nagaland. The matter of rationalization of allocation of PDS Kerosene among the states is under the consideration of the Government.

Statement

Name of States/UTs	2005-06 (In MTs)	1st Quarter of 2006-07 (April to June, 2006) (In MTs)	2nd Quarter of 2006-07 (July to September, 2006) (In MTs)
1	2	3	4
Andaman and Nicobar Islands	5816	1454	1454
Andhra Pradesh	517158	129289	129289
Arunachal Pradesh	9257	2314	2314
Assam	258007	64501	64502
Bihar	647430	161857	161857
Chandigarh	13067	3266	3267
Chhattisgarh	146938	36734	36734
Dadra and Nagar Haveli	2782	695	695
Daman and Diu	2118	529	529
Delhi	168484	42121	42121
Goa	19212	4803	4803
Gujarat	743759	185939	185940
Haryana	145619	36404	36405
Himachal Pradesh	50537	12634	12634
Jammu and Kashmir	76044	14489*	14489*
Jharkhand	211175	52793	52794
Karnataka	461478	115369	115369
Kerala	216308	54077	54077
Lakshadweep	795	400#	000#
Madhya Pradesh	488609	122152	122152
Maharashtra	1276876	319219	319219
Manipur	19907	4976	4977
Meghalaya	20401	5100	5100
Mizoram	6217	1554	1554
Nagaland	13311	3328	3328
Orissa	314977	78744	78744

1	2	3	4
Pondicherry	12257	3064	3064
Punjab	237192	59298	59298
Rajasthan	398913	99728	99728
Sikkim	5582	1395	1395
Tamil Nadu	558929	139732	139732
Tripura	30832	7708	7708
Uttar Pradesh	1241772	310443	310443
Uttaranchal	89849	22462	22462
West Bengal	752103	188025	188026
Total	9163712	2286596	2286203

*Allocation for J&K State (other than Ladakh region) is given in two blocks i.e. given in two blocks i.e. Summer (April - September) @ 40% of annual allocation and Winter (October - March) @ 60% of annual allocation. This allocation is for other than Ladakh region of J&K State. For Ladakh region State Government of J&K is allowed to uplift the entire year's allocation i.e. 3600 MTs of SKO during summer months i.e. May to October, when the road remains open.

Advance allocation for Lakshadweep for six months (April-September, 2006) has already been conveyed.

[English]

Gas from Coal Fields

*312. SHRI K.S. RAO:
SHRI HARISINH CHAVDA:

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

(a) the prospects of finding gas in and around coal fields in different States;

(b) the nature and amount of royalty and its sharing among the stakeholders under the terms and conditions of the exploration bids and subsequent contracts;

(c) whether the Government has received representations from various quarters to review the existing oil/gas exploration policy;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MURLI DEORA): (a) The coal fields at deeper

levels are estimated to have coal bed methane gas trapped in coal seams. The Government of India has formulated a Coal Bed Methane (CBM) Policy in 1997 for extraction of this gas. Till date the Government has signed 16 contracts for exploration and production of CBM gas in the States of Chhattisgarh (1 Block), Gujarat (1 block), Jharkhand (5 blocks), Madhya Pradesh (3 blocks), Rajasthan (2 blocks), Maharashtra (1 block) and West Bengal (3 blocks).

(b) The contracts provides for payment of royalty @ 10% in accordance with Petroleum & Natural Gas Rules, 1959 to the respective State Governments and in addition they are required to pay production level payments as specified in the respective contracts.

(c) to (e) No representations have been received from the State Governments to review the existing oil/gas exploration policy. However, some of the State Governments had represented to the Central Government for sharing of production level payments and profit petroleum share payable to Central Government under the contracts for sharing with the respective State Governments. Based on the recommendations of the 12th Finance Commission, the Central Government has accepted the sharing of production level payment and

profit petroleum payable to the Central Government with the respective State Governments in respect of onland Blocks in ratio of 50:50 subject to the condition that this should be within the overall ceiling of transfers recommended by 12th Finance Commission (38% of the gross revenue).

Growth in Freight Traffic

*313. SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO:
SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the projected share freight of the Railways for the Tenth Five Year Plan and achievements made so far;

(b) whether the Railways have been continuously losing its freight market share for the past few years;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps by the Railways to improve growth rate of freight traffic?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (d) Sir, Railways have surpassed the originating freight loading target of 624 million tonnes and freight net tone kilometres target of 396 billions set for the terminal year (2006-07) of the 10th plan in the penultimate year of the plan i.e., 2005-06 itself. The originating freight loading target for 2006-07 is set 726 million tonnes which is 16% higher than the original 10th plan target. For the second consecutive year railways have increased their market share with a growth rate higher than the growth rate of the economy. However, in the absence of any reliable data for the freight traffic (goods) carried by Road sector, which is railways main competitor, it shall not be possible to make a fair assessment of railway's market share in the total freight traffic. The performance of the railways in the 10th Plan so far has been as under:

Year	Originating freight traffic (in million tonnes)	% variation over last year	Freight Net tonne kilometers (in billions)	%variation over last year
2001-02	492.50	-	333.23	—
2002-03	518.74	5.33	353.19	5.9
2003-04	557.39	7.45	381.24	7.94
2004-05	602.78	8.14	407.39	6.85
2005-06 @	667.39	10.72	441.00	8.25
Tenth Plan target 2002-07	624.00	exceeded	396.00	exceeded

@ -Provisional.

However, the Rail Co-efficient of some of the major commodities carried by the rail during the Tenth plan period so far is as follows:

Year	Coal*	Cement*	Iron & Steel*	Fertilizer%	POL %
2002-03	70.01	39.75	34.99	75.84	30.85
2003-04	70.75	40.12	35.22	73.78	26.19
2004-05	71.94	40.87	35.28	74.32	24.88
2005-06 (P)	73.28	41.34	36.86	74.34	25.75
Apr-Jun 2005-06 (P)	78.79	4.29	32.96	74.11	26.21
Apr-Jun 2006-07 (P)	79.26	47.55	40.24	80.58	24.57

P-Provisional.

POL—Petroleum, Oil & Lubricants.

Note: 1. *Rail Co-efficient of coal, cement and iron & steel—Railway loading expressed as percentage of total production.

2. % Rail Co-efficients of fertilizers and POL—Railway Loading expressed as percentage of total production plus imports.

Earlier, the Railways were having monopoly in freight traffic and most of the goods irrespective of suitability of mode of transportation were carried by railways. With the passage of time, as various other modes have developed, they started sharing in the freight traffic as different types of logistics services came up for carrying specific goods. Railways being a bulk carrier can not provide door to door service and handling small piecemeal traffic is difficult for railways vis-a-vis road sector.

In order to improve growth rate of freight traffic Indian Railways have introduced various schemes such as Freight Forwarder Scheme, Traditional Empty Flow Direction Freight Discount Scheme, Loyalty Discount Scheme, Long-term Special incentive Scheme, Mini Rake, 2-point rake scheme, New Parcel Policy, Refrigerated Parcel Vans, Wagon Investment Scheme (WIS), Development of Rail-Side Warehousing Complexes through Public Private Partnership (RWCs) and Liberalization of siding rules.

Financial Assistance for Cold Storages

*314. SHRI L. RAJAGOPAL: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Ministry provides financial assistance for various types of cold storages;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the financial assistance provided to the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations for the said purpose during each of the last three years;
- (d) whether the Union Government has received any proposals from the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations for financial assistance for cold storages;
- (e) if so, the details thereof and the action taken thereon;
- (f) whether some of the State Governments have demanded to increase the amount of financial assistance provided under the said scheme for cold storages; and
- (g) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) to (g) The Ministry of Food Processing Industries provides financial assistance for specific types

of specialized cold storages with controlled Atmosphere/ Modified Atmosphere facility, cold storages for non-horticulture produce and where the cold storage is an integral part of the processing unit or of the common facilities in food park. The assistance (in form of grant in aid) is admissible @ 25% of the cost of Plant & Machinery and technical civil works in general areas and @ 33.33% in difficult areas, subject to a maximum of Rs. 75.00 lakhs.

During the last 3 years, 2003-04, 2004-05 and 2005-06 and during 2006-07 (up to 10.8.2006), an assistance of Rs. 4.28 crores for 14 cold storage projects has been approved by the Ministry. Project proposals received from time to time from various implementing agencies, duly appraised by Banks/financial institutions and recommended by the respective state Nodal Agencies are considered for financial assistance.

Periodic revision of schemes is an ongoing process and in view the X Plan drawing to a close in 2006-07, the Ministry has initiated action for review of the plan schemes for the XI Plan.

Directives of CVC on Defence deals

*315. SHRI BALASHOWRY VALLABHANENI:
SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Central Vigilance Commission (CVC) has issued any directives on defence deals;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the directives of the CVC on defence deals are being followed scrupulously;
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (e) the steps taken by the Government to follow the directives in letter and spirit?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (e) The Central Vigilance Commission (CVC) has been giving advice from time to time in individual cases as well as suggestions on making the procurement system of Ministry of Defence more transparent and efficient. Ministry of Defence have formulated the Defence Procurement Procedure (DPP) for capital acquisitions and Defence Procurement Manual (DPM) for revenue stores for which suggestions of CVC

have been taken into consideration. Some of the important provisions in DPP include:-

- (i) Making Qualitative requirements more broad based;
- (ii) The Standard contract terms are included in the Request for proposal. 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;
- (iii) Offers to be solicited from Original Equipment Manufacturers (OEM)/ authorized vendors/ Government sponsored export agencies.
- (iv) Advances are paid to suppliers against Bank Guarantees confirmed by select Indian Banks. Performance Bonds/Warranty Bonds are also taken after similar confirmation.

Some of the important provisions in DPM include:

- (i) Transparent Request for Proposals, both for indigenous and foreign procurement with clear prequalification, short-listing and award criteria;
- (ii) Standard contract conditions as part of Request for Proposal;
- (iii) Uniformity in interpretation of various contracting clauses and issues;
- (iv) Clear time frame for each stage and process of procurement so as to cut down the delays and bring in accountability;
- (v) General guidelines for benchmarking with a view to assessing reasonability of prices;
- (vi) Summary of CVC guidelines and Banking instruments like Letter of Credit;
- (vii) Rate contract for items required on a recurring basis with clearly approved specifications with a view to availing of economy of scale;
- (viii) No deviation/dilution of Qualitative Requirement After Issue of Request for proposal;
- (ix) Encouraging e-payments and avoidance of negotiation in multi vendor situation.

As regards the individual cases, the Commission tenders advice as to whether the circumstances of the

case warrant initiation of disciplinary proceedings against the delinquent officials. In major disciplinary cases, the Commission tenders 2nd stage advice which is examined in the Ministry in consultation with concerned organizations and UPSC, wherever necessary and, thereafter, decision is taken on merits of each case.

[Translation]

Privatisation of Basic Facilities

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

(a) whether the Railways have taken any decision to privatise the basic facilities/amenities being provided to the passengers in trains and at stations;

(b) if so, the details of basic facilities which are being assigned to the private sector along with the reasons therefor; and

(c) the extent to which the Railway passengers are expected to be benefited therefrom?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) There is no decision for large scale privatisation of basic facilities/ amenities provided at stations and in trains. However there are certain activities which Railways are now getting done through private organisations who are better placed to execute such works. Identification of such areas is an ongoing process. Important areas in which Railways have started entrusting provision of services to private organizations are catering at stations and on trains, architectural improvements to stations/service buildings, maintenance and operation of pay & use toilets at stations, mechanised cleaning of trains at selected locations etc.

(c) With farming out activities of provision of various facilities/amenities to professional organizations in the respective field, Railways hope to enhance the quality standards of these services. Incidentally these services do not fall in the core competency of Railways. Such enhanced quality standards of services will be for the benefit of Railway passengers.

[English]

Construction of Airstrips

*317. SHRI G.M. SIDDESWARA:
DR. M. JAGANNATH:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of airstrips operating in the country, State-wise;
- (b) the maintenance cost on airstrips during each of the last three years;
- (c) whether there is any proposal under consideration of the Government for the construction of more new airstrips in the country;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the time by which these are likely to be constructed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) There are 455 airstrips/airports in the country out of which 127 airports are managed by Airports Authority of India (AAI). State-wise operational airports belonging to AAI including civil enclaves are: Andaman Nicobar-1, Andhra Pradesh-6, Assam-6, Bihar-2, Chandigarh-1, Chhattisgarh-1, Daman & Diu-1, Delhi-1, Goa-1, Gujarat-1, Himachal Pradesh-3, Jammu & Kashmir-3, Jharkhand-1, Karnataka-4, Kerala-3, Lakshadweep-1, Maharashtra-6, Madhya Pradesh-5, Manipur-1, Meghalaya-1, Mizoram-1, Nagaland-1, Orissa-1, Pondicherry-1, Punjab-2, Rajasthan-4, Tripura-1, Tamil Nadu-7, Uttar Pradesh-7, Uttranchal-2 and West Bengal-2.

(b) Maintenance cost for the last three years is (Rs. in crores)—2003-04 = 33.06, 2004-05 = 23.35 and 2005-06 = 25.29.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) and (e) 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.

[*Translation*]

Distribution of Kerosene

*318. SHRI JIVABHAI A. PATEL:
SHRI V.K. THUMMAR:

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

(a) whether the Union Government has issued guidelines to the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations for allocation and distribution of kerosene to ration card holders;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Union Government has received complaints regarding violation of guidelines by some State Governments particularly Gujarat and Maharashtra while allocating kerosene under Public Distribution System;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MURLI DEORA): (a) and (b) The Government of India allocates kerosene under the Public Distribution System (PDS) to the States/UTs for further distribution to eligible consumers. The States/UTs decide the quantity to be issued to each ration card holder under various categories. The norms adopted vary from State to State. The distribution of kerosene is governed under the Control Orders issued under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e) Do not arise in view of reply to (c) above.

[*English*]

Hydrogen Blended Natural Gas

*319. SHRI B. VINOD KUMAR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has any proposal for using mixture of hydrogen gas with natural gas as a transportation fuel;

(b) if so, whether the Government has set up any Hydrogen Corpus Fund for conducting research and development in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether any demonstration projects has been initiated for the purpose; and

(e) if so, the details alongwith the results achieved therefrom?

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

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. The Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas has set up a Rs.100 crore Hydrogen Corpus Fund for taking up hydrogen research activities. IOC (R&D) has been made nodal agency to coordinate the research activities.

(d) and (e) Yes, Sir, IOC (R&D) has set up a Hydrogen-CNG (HCNG) dispensing station at IOC (R&D) Centre at Faridabad for dispensing HCNG blends for test vehicles. At present, trials are being conducted on passenger cars, mini buses and 3 -Wheelers using upto 10% Hydrogen in CNG.

Initial tests indicate that there is power loss with HCNG blends. Emission benefits have been observed particularly with respect to Carbon Monoxide (CO) and Hydrocarbon (HC) emissions.

Introduction of High Speed Magnetic trains

*320. SHRI BADIGA RAMAKRISHNA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways are working on a project to introduce high-speed magnetic trains in collaboration with Japan;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether a delegation from Japan came to India to study the infrastructure of Indian Railways and other aspects of the project;

(d) if so, the details of the discussions held between India and Japan in this regard;

(e) whether any Study Group from India has been sent to Japan to study the high-speed magnetic trains in Japan; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) Does not arise.

Bio-Tourism

2286. SHRI JASHUBHAI DHANABHAI BARAD: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to promote bio-tourism;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has surveyed important places of Gujarat to improve them as bio-tourism destinations; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) and (b) Biospheres such as Nanda Devi Biosphere in Uttaranchal, Silent Valley in Kerala, etc. have a very delicate eco-system. Popularising and promotion of mass tourism to such regions will affect ecological balance of the region. However, National Parks and Wildlife Sanctuaries in the Country which also form part of Bio-systems are promoted both in the domestic and international markets as Eco-Tourism products.

(c) and (d) Surveys on destinations are undertaken by the State Government concerned. Ministry of Tourism, Government of India provides central financial assistance for improvement of facilities at tourist destinations in the States/UTs on the basis of proposals received from State Government/UT.

[Translation]

Production of Railway Wheels and Axles

2287. SHRI CHANDRABHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of overseas rail companies have shown interest in purchasing wheels and axles from the Government Rail Wheel and Axle Factory;

(b) if so, whether the Railways have expressed its inability to meet the demand of wheels and axles;

(c) if so, whether two-third demands of rail wheels and axles are met through imports despite the wheels and axles are manufactured by Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL), Durgapur Steel Plant and Tata Iron and Steel Company (TISCO);

(d) if so, whether there is shortage of rail wheels even after production of same by Railway Wheel Factory, Bangalore and Durgapur Steel Plant;

(e) the total production of the railway wheels every year in the country, factory-wise; and

(f) the requirement of the railway wheels every year in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Yes, Sir. In the recent past, enquiries have been received from the firm m/s. Mariano A Cochet, Argentina; Swiss Federal Railways and Scottish Railways.

(b) Rail Wheel Factory (RWF) has expressed its inability to meet these demand for wheels and axles, because the entire production of RWF is required for Indian Railways, for new manufacture, and its maintenance requirements for existing rolling stock, and ever then there is shortage of wheels and axles.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. The total annual requirement of wheels and axles of Indian Railways is approximately 2,40,000 and 77,000 nos. respectively. The manufacturing capacity of the two indigenous sources i.e. Rail Wheel Factory, Bangalore and Steel Authority of India Limited (Durgapur Steel Plant) put together is about 2,00,000 wheels and about 52,850 axles respectively. Tata Iron and Steel Company is not presently producing wheels and axles.

Only shortfall quantity of wheels which is around 40,000 Nos. and axles around 25,000 are being imported. Wheels for high horse power locomotives and high speed coaches etc. for which requirements are small are also imported since economies of scale do not permit indigenous production. However, indigenous development of these wheels has been taken up and such production will be concurrent with the growth in volumes. The reasons for import of wheels are therefore shortage of capacity and requirement of special type of wheels.

(e) The annual production capacity (as assessed for the current year, i.e. 2006-07) of Steel Authority of India Limited/Durgapur Steel plant is 80,000 approx. The annual production capacity of Rail Wheel Factory, Bangalore is 1,15,000 approx.

(f) The present requirement of railway wheels is 2,40,000 approx. as assessed for the current year, i.e. 2006-07.

Colonies Under PNG Supply

2288. SHRI BALESHWAR YADAV: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the criteria for selection of colonies for Piped Natural Gas Supply;

(b) whether the Government has allocated funds for piped natural gas supply to residential colonies in Delhi/ New Delhi from Indraprastha Gas Limited during current financial year;

(c) if so, the details of funds released/to be released to I.G.L., colony-wise; and

(d) the names of the remaining colonies likely to be covered under the PNG supply in coming years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL): (a) New colonies in NCT of Delhi are covered by the Indraprastha Gas Limited (IGL) every year depending on the possibilities of expansion of Piped Natural Gas (PNG) network and demand/response from prospective customers besides the technical feasibility.

CPWD colonies located in Delhi form a substantial part of IGL's yearly plans. The CPWD colonies are covered as per the advice and the advance payment received from concerned division of CPWD in the beginning of every year.

(b) Government allocated funds only for providing Piped Natural Gas (PNG) connections in the CPWD colonies located in N.C.T of Delhi every year. During current financial year also, CPWD has allocated funds for selected colonies for provision of PNG connections.

(c) Office of Director General of Works, CPWD has allocated funds for provision of PNG connections by CPWD for the following colonies during the current FY 2006-07.

Name of the Colony	Amount (Rs./Lacs)
Srinivasपुरi	71.45
R.K. Puram Sector 9 & Sector 12	72.55
Laxmibai Nagar	44.95
Moti Bagh (NW)	67.15
Moti Bagh (SW)	99.65
Netaji Nagar	54.70
Sadiq Nagar	80.80
Andrews Ganj	61.40

(d) Further coverage of CPWD colonies by IGL in the coming years for PNG supply shall be made depending on advice and release of payment by CPWD to IGL.

Private colonies shall be covered depending on response of customers & availability of permissions from various land owning agencies for laying gas pipelines to connect the colonies from IGL's existing pipelines.

[English]

Food Processing Training

2289. SHRI KULDEEP BISHNOI: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has any plan to provide food processing training to prospective entrepreneurs as well as processors;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to conduct food processing training programmes for the benefit of farmers and entrepreneurs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) to (c) Under the scheme of Human Resource Development, the Ministry of Food Processing Industries provides (i) training to prospective entrepreneurs for setting up of food processing units, (ii) "hands-on" experience to rural entrepreneurs by setting up of food processing and training centres through Central/State

Government organizations, educational and training institutions, industry organizations/associations, Non-Government Organizations, cooperatives etc.

Entry of Unreserved Ticket Holders in Reserved Compartments

2290. SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the instances of army jawans and policemen with unreserved tickets entering into reserved compartments and taking away the seats of reserved passengers have come to the notice of the Railways;

(b) if so, the details of such incidents reported during the current year;

(c) the action taken/to be taken against such persons; and

(d) the efforts being made to ensure that no unreserved person is allowed to enter the reserved compartments in trains?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) Cases of unauthorised passengers including policemen and Army jawans entering into reserved coaches with unreserved tickets and occupying the reserved seats/berths of bonafide passengers do come to notice. However, separate details relating to unauthorised entry of policemen or army jawans are not maintained.

(c) and (d) Apart from manning of reserved coaches, regular and surprise checks are conducted against ticketless/irregular travel and persons detected travelling unauthorisedly are dealt with as per relevant provisions of law. In addition, the minimum penalty has also been enhanced from Rs. 50/- to Rs. 250/- with effect from 01.07.2004 in order to discourage entering of unauthorised passengers in reserved coaches.

[Translation]

Shifting of Railway Employees from Mount Road Quarters

2291. SHRI SUBODH MOHITE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Mount Road quarters of Southern-Eastern Central Railway in Nagpur are being evacuated and the employees are being shifted to the Beli Road quarters;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Railways propose to use it for commercial purpose by demolishing these quarters;

(d) if so, reasons therefor;

(e) whether these quarters at Beli Road are worth living for employees;

(f) if so, the reasons for forcing the employees to shift from there;

(g) whether the Railways propose to provide some alternate accommodations to these employees; and

(h) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) These quarters at Mount Road were built for temporary purpose during 1942-1956. These are not in safe condition for living, beyond the economical repairs, and have been declared condemned by the Railway.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) Yes, Sir.

(f) Does not arise

(g) and (h) Yes, Sir. Alternative accommodations have been offered to concerned Railway employees at Beli shop colony, Nagpur.

[English]

Concessions for Low-Cost Carriers

2292. SHRI RAVICHANDRAN SIPPAPARA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has any proposal to provide concessions to 80 seaters and other smaller aircraft like landing charge, parking route charges, etc.; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) Airports Authority of India (AAI) is already providing concessions to airlines operating 80 seater and small aircraft. No landing charges are payable in respect of aircraft with a maximum certified capacity of less than 80 seats being operated by domestic scheduled operators and helicopter of all types. This concession is not applicable to Cochin International Airport Limited and Defence Enclaves.

Schemes for Backward Students

2293. SHRI RANEN BARMAN: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether proposals to accord sanction for Post Matric Scholarships, construction of Hostels at District Headquarters for backward students and Book Bank Scheme for backward students in Medical Engineering and MBA has been received from Government of West Bengal;

(b) if so, the action taken by the Union Government thereon along with funds released thereunder; and

(c) the proposals which have not been accepted along with the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) No proposal for Post Matric Scholarships and Book Bank Scheme has been received this year from the Government of West Bengal.

Two proposals from Government of West Bengal for construction of Hostels for OBC girls and boys with the following institution have been received:-

(i) Dr. Bhupendra Nath Smriti Mahavidyalaya, Burdwan.

(ii) Haldia Institute of Technology, Haldia

(b) In respect the proposal for construction of hostel for 60 boys with Dr. Bhupendra Nath Smirite Mahavidyalaya, the Govt. of West Bengal has been requested to submit the utilization certificate in respect of grants released earlier and to confirm budget provision to meet the 50% State share.

Regarding the proposal of Haldia Institute, the estimated cost of construction of hostel for 100 OBC girls is Rs.120.20 lakh. The State Govt. has requested to restrict the construction to Rs. 50.00/60.00 lacs.

(c) Does not arise.

Retail Outlets to SCs/STs

2294. SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the petrol and diesel retail outlets sanctioned to Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes unemployed youth under a special scheme during the last three years, State-wise;

(b) whether the Government has terminated some of such retail outlets; and

(c) if so, the details there of and the reasons therefor, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL): (a) While the public sector oil marketing companies (OMCs), viz., Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOC), Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPC), Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPC) and IBP Co. Limited (IBP), have no special scheme for allotment of retail outlet (RO) dealerships (petrol pumps) specifically to the unemployed youth belonging to the Scheduled Caste (SC)/Scheduled Tribe (ST) category, their policy provides for a reservation of 25% of dealerships/distributorships in favour of the SC/ST category as whole. During the last three years, i.e., 2003-04, 2004-05 and 2005-06, these OMCs allotted 3,389 ROs under SC/ST category. The State-wise details of the allotments are available with the Director (Marketing) of the OMC concerned. OMC-wise details are as under:

OMC	Number of ROs allotted under SC/ST category during the last three years
IOC	1,105
HPC	978
IBP	428
BPC	878
Total	3,389

(b) and (c) During the said period, these OMCs terminated 23 RO dealerships allotted under SC/ST category due to reasons like non-performance, adulteration and other irregularities indulged in by dealers, violation of dealership agreement, etc.

[Translation]

Washing Pit At Jabalpur Railway Station

2295. SHRI GANESH SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of trains being maintained in washing pit constructed in Rewa Railway Station under Jabalpur division;

(b) whether the Rajkot Express passenger train was not extended up to Satna and Rewa due to absence of washing pit at the places;

(c) if so, whether it is proposed to extend the Rajkot Express train which remain stationed for hours at Katni upto Rewa after the construction of washing pit there:

(d) if so, whether new constructed washing pit in Rewa is being proved to be useful; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) One train no. 1509/1510—Rewa-Bilaspur-Chirmiri Passenger is maintained at Rewa.

(b) No, Sir. Satna is on way to Rewa. There is no washing pit at Satna but a washing pit exists at Rewa.

(c) There is no such proposal at present and Rajkot Express does not remain stationed at Katni for hours.

(d) and (e) The pit has proved to be useful for maintaining train no. 1509/1510. It will become more useful after additional facilities like sick line and stabling line etc. are provided.

Installation of ACAs in Planes

2296. SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to instal Anti-Collision Apparatuses (ACAs) mandatory in the plan;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the salient features of the said device; and

(c) the types of planes in which the installation of this device has been made compulsory?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir, with a view to reduce the risk of midair collisions between aircraft, Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has mandated installation of Airborne Collision Avoidance System (ACAs) on aeroplanes engaged in commercial and general aviation (non-commercial) operations. ACAS is an airborne equipment that functions independently of the ground based air traffic control system and helps in preventing mid-air collisions.

(c) Installation of ACAS is mandatory in Airbus, Boeing, ATR, Embraer, CRJ200, Beech 1900 D, Domier DO-228 and Beech Super King Air B 350 types of aircraft.

[English]

Funds Sanctioned for Stations of Assam

2297. SHRI NARAYAN CHANDRA BORKATAKY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the total funds sanctioned for improvement of railway stations in Assam during 2005-06 and 2006-07; and

(b) the details of the railway stations covered and the amount spent on each station during the said period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) The Railway Budget is prepared Railway zone-wise and not State-wise. Similarly, it is not possible to work out the figures of allotment for each individual Railway station since number of works for provision of passenger amenities at various stations are clubbed on the basis of various categories like types of amenities proposed, Railway Zone/division under which the stations fall etc. Improvement/augmentation of amenities for passenger at stations including works of improvement of station are carried out under plan head "Passenger Amenities." Northeast Frontier Railway serves the State of Assam, for which the allocation under plan head "Passenger Amenities" during

2005-06 & 2006-07 are as under:-

2005-06 - Rs. 25.94 crore (Revised Grant)

2006-07 - Rs. 26.49 crore (Budget Grant).

Food Development Bank

2298. SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to set up Food Development Bank; 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) Government has not proposed for setting up of the Food Development Bank. However, in Budget 2006-07, the Government have announced that NABARD will create a separate window with a corpus of Rs.1,000 crore for refinancing loans especially for agro processing infrastructure and market development.

Closure of PCO/STD/ISD Booths at Stations

2299. SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether keeping in view the popularity of mobile phones in the general public, the viability of PCO/STD/ISD booths at railway stations is in danger;

(b) if so, the number of such booths closed during the last three years in the Railways, Zone-wise;

(c) whether the persons running these PCO/STD/ISD booths have been provided other alternatives at railway stations for their livelihood;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken or being taken by the Railways to ensure that allottees of these booths are not deprived of their livelihood?

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

(b) to (e) Do not arise.

Financial Assistance for Food Processing Projects

2300. SHRIMATI C.S. SUJATHA: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Council for Food Research and Development of Kerala has submitted any proposals for enhancing food processing industry in the State;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the funds required for each project and the financial assistance sought from the Union Government;

(d) whether necessary sanctions have been accorded in this regard; and

(e) if so, the amount sanctioned for each of these projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) to (e) This Ministry has received proposals under its schemes from Council for Food Research and Development of Kerala.

This Ministry has approved the proposal from the Council for a grant of Rs. 500 lakh for setting up of Food Quality Monitoring Laboratory on 15th March, 2006. Information/documents relating to land and building and government formalities are required to be completed by the Council for released of funds. Other proposals are at various stages of processing. The proposals received in the Ministry for financial assistance are approved if found technically feasible and financially viable.

Raising of Platform Level at Karad Railway Station

2301. SHRI SHRINIWAS DADASAHEB PATIL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have approved to raise the level of platform at Karad Railway Station in Pune Division of Central Railways;

(b) if so, whether construction work for raising the level of platforms at the said station has been started;

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

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

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

(b) to (d) Contract has been finalized and work is targeted for completion by March 2007.

Special Tourist Zones

2302. SHRI E.G. SUGAVANAM: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has proposed to set up Special Tourist Zones in various parts of the country;

(b) if so, the details alongwith the areas identified for the purpose; and

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

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) to (c) The Ministry of Tourism has no proposal to set up Special Tourist zones in any part of the country. The development of tourism in various parts of the country is primarily the responsibility of the State/UT Governments concerned.

2006 as the year of passenger Service

2303. SHRI K. C. PALLANI SHAMY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the railways have declared the year 2006 as the 'Year of Passenger Service';

(b) if so, the details of facilities and amenities provided by the Railways to its passengers particularly the sections falling under Southern Railway; and

(c) the steps taken by the Railways to further improve cleanliness in the Railways?

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

(b) Some of the amenities which have been provided by the Railways are improvements in the façade of the station buildings, improvement in circulating areas, modern cost effective lighting arrangements at the platforms, concourse etc., renovated water booths, renovated modern

'Pay & Use' Toilets, good waiting rooms and retiring rooms with modern furniture, passenger guidance system including signages and coach indication boards, improvements to platform surface, etc.

(c) To improve the standard of cleanliness at railway stations, steps like introduction of mechanized cleaning, provision of washable aprons, provision of 'Pay & Use' Toilets, cleanliness awareness campaigns etc., have been undertaken. Regular inspections are conducted by various officials at the railway stations to monitor cleanliness and also identify weak areas and take remedial measures. In addition, flooring of concourse, platform are being improved by providing mosaic or marble and granites for easy maintenance. Drives are launched from time to time particularly during rush season to have greater impact.

Unused Railway land

2304. SHRI NAVEEN JINDAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to dispose of unused railway land;

(b) if so, the details of the same alongwith the manner in which the land is proposed to be disposed of; and

(c) the total amount which is likely to be earned on this account?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) No, Sir. However, Railways are using some of its land for commercial development. So far, 61 sites having potential have been taken up over Indian Railways for property development. Bids have been finalized for 9 sites involving a total of about Rs. 21 Crore of Which, Rs. 6.5 Crore has already been realized. Such property development is normally done on lease basis.

(c) No such study has been done so far. But Railways have vast potential of generating revenue from its land.

Computerised Reservation Counters

2305. PROF. CHANDER KUMAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of existing computerised reservation counters operating in Himachal Pradesh;

(b) whether the Northern Railways proposes to open more computerised reservation counters in the State of Himachal Pradesh;

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

(d) the time by which these counters are likely to be opened?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Computerised Passenger Reservation facilities are available at 17 places in Himachal Pradesh including 11 non-railhead locations in various districts.

(b) to (d) One more Passenger Reservation System (PRS) centre at Lahaul & Spiti is sanctioned, which is under commissioning.

Fire in Gooty Diesel Shed

2306. SHRI MILIND DEORA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a major fire incident occurred in the Gooty diesel shed in Andhra Pradesh in the recent past;

(b) if so, the number of railway engines burnt in the fire alongwith the total estimated loss incurred in this fire;

(c) whether any enquiry has been ordered into the incident;

(d) if so, the findings thereof and the follow-up action taken thereon; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) No, Sir. However, a minor incident of fire occurred on 18.04.2006.

(b) No Railway's Engine/Loco was burnt in the fire. However loss of Railway's property worth Rs. 25,000/- has been estimated.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. Divisional Railway Manager, Guntakal had ordered a departmental inquiry which has revealed that during the process of welding, some sparks fell into the pit in which oil and water accumulated. This cause the fire. Fire was extinguished immediately by the Railway Administration.

(e) South Central Railway has taken steps to stop recurrence of incidents in future by procuring fire extinguishers, training Railway staff and maintaining constant vigil by the Railway Protection Force (RPF) staff.

Doubling of Daitari-Banspani Railway Line

2307. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have any proposal for doubling of Daitari-Banspani broad gauge railway line in Orissa;

(b) if so, the estimated cost of the project;

(c) the amount sanctioned for the doubling work during 2006-07; and

(d) the steps taken to start the construction work?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Rail Vikas Nigam Limited (RVNL), a PSU under Ministry of Railways have undertaken a survey for traffic assessment, work out cost estimates and rate of return for doubling of this line.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

[Translation]

Railway projects for Punjab

2308. SHRI AVINASH RAI KHANNA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the progress made so far in the various ongoing railway projects for Punjab;

(b) the amount sanctioned for each of these projects during the current financial year and the targets fixed for their completion; and

(c) the steps taken for timely and expeditiously completion of the above said projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (c) The details of ongoing railway projects falling partly/fully in Punjab are given as under:-

(Rs. in crore)

S. No.	Project	Anticipated cost	Budget outlay 2006-07	Status/target wherever fixed
1	2	3	4	5
New lines				
1.	Nangal Dam-Talwara (83.74 kms)-New BG line & taking over siding Mukerian-Talwara(29.16 kms.)	300.00	14.71	Nangla Dam-Una-Churaru Takrala (33 kms.) has been completed. The work of Churaru Takrala-Amb Andaura (11 kms.) has been taken up. Land acquisition has been taken up and land of 4 villages handed over to the Railway. Earthwork and bridge works have been taken up.
2.	Abohar-Fazilka (42.72 kms.)	86.44	5.00	Final location survey has been completed and land acquisition has been taken up. Land for 21 kms. length has been acquired.
3.	Tarantaran-Goindwal (21.5 Kms.)	37.51	5.00	Final location survey has been completed and possession of land has been taken over by the Railway.

1	2	3	4	5
4.	Chandigarh-Ludhiana (112 kms.)	450.00	15.33	The rail line between Chandigarh-Morinda (45 kms.) has been completed. On Ludhiana-Sahnewal (17 kms.) section, earthwork and bridge work has been taken up. On Morinda-Sahnewal (50 kms.) section, final location survey has been completed and land acquisition has been taken up.
5.	Beas-Dera Baba Jaimal Singh-Rail bus siding (5 kms.)	4.07	-	The project was sanctioned with the proviso that Dera Authorities would provide land free of cost and also to carry out earthwork at their own cost. The work would be taken up after the agreement is signed and land made available by Dera Authorities.
Doubling				
1.	Jalandhar-Pathankot-Jammu Tawi (203 kms.)	461.23	120.00	The overall progress on the project is about 66%. Mukerian-Mirthal and Bharoli-Madhapur, sections have been opened for traffic. In all about 57 kms. has been completed and 81 kms. is targeted for completion during 2006-07. The entire project is targeted for completion during 2007-08.

A number of initiatives have been taken to mobilize other than normal budgetary resources to expedite completion of ongoing projects.

[English]

Revamp of Catering and Passenger Services

2309. SHRI K.C. SINGH "BABA": Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have drawn up an ambitious programme to revamp and transform their catering and other passenger services to match with standards certification norms;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether some call centres have also been planned across the country for handling and forwarding complaints in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether public-private participation is likely to be leveraged considerably; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) Improvement in catering services is an ongoing process. As per Revised Catering Policy, 2005, Zonal Railways and Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) are to make endeavour so that all catering services including those operated by small licensees are ISO certified.

Provision of amenities at stations is a continuous process and the same is undertaken based on the volume of passenger traffic handled at the station subject to relative priority of works and availability of funds. However, with a view to provide upgraded passenger amenities at stations, 578 stations have been identified as model stations.

With a view to improve reserved ticketing system, initiatives like internet tickets/e-tickets, ticketing through mobile phones have been undertaken.

(c) to (f) In view of making the facility of rail telephone enquiry available to maximum number of telephone users, Railways are setting up Integrated Train Enquiry System which will consist of both interactive Voice Response System (IVRS) and manual enquiry provisions for dissemination of information on train running status, PNR status and availability of accommodation, fares, rules and regulations etc. This system has been set up at Patna and Bangalore and more such centres are planned.

Railway Projects

2310. SHRI GIRIDHAR GAMANG: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of railway lines sanctioned under inter-ministerial funding and share from the States so far, Zone-wise;

(b) the steps taken by the Railways to make provision of fund for the new railway lines, conversion of N.G. and M.G. lines to B.G. lines from external sources and other sources for early completion of these projects; and

(c) the details of proposals for mobilising the resources for missing link Railway lines in East Coast Railway Zone?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Concession to Senior Citizens in Roadways Buses

2311. SHRI N. JANARDHANA REDDY: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether no concession is allowed to senior citizens while travelling by Government roadways buses, like the practice followed by Railways and Indian Airlines;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government proposes to make it mandatory for the Government roadways buses to offer concessional travel for bonafide senior citizens;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) to (e) Public sector roadways is the responsibility of the State Governments and Central Government is not involved either in fixation of fare or grant of fare concession to any category of citizens including Senior Citizens.

Guwahati Flying Club

2312. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the operation of the flying club at Guwahati has been discontinued for several years;

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

(c) the action taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to revive this flying club?

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

(b) The Assam Flying Club at Guwahati is non-functional due to various operational and administrative reasons like non-availability of Instructor pilot/Aircraft Maintenance Engineer, paucity of funds etc.

(c) The club is operated under the Sports & Youth Welfare Department of Government of Assam. It is necessary for the Club to formulate detailed assessment of requirements for its revival and approach the State Government of Assam, North East Council, Government of India for necessary assistance. Directorate General of Civil Aviation provides technical advice in the matter and inspect the facilities, infrastructure for granting approvals.

Cadre Review of Military Engineering Services

2313. DR. K.S. MANOJ: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to refer to Unstarred Question No. 4325 dated December 22, 2005 regarding cadre review of Administrative Cadre and state:

(a) whether the examination of cadre review of Administrative Cadre in Military Engineering Services (MES) has been completed and finalised;

- (b) if so, the details alongwith salient features thereof;
- (c) the further steps taken to implement it; and
- (d) if not, the reasons for the delay?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (d) The examination of the Cadre Review of the Administrative Cadre in Military Engineer Services (MES) is not complete. Examination of the Cadre Review proposal requires scrutiny of existing cadre structure including obtaining of inputs and detailed information from the MES and its financial implication, before finalization.

[Translation]

Shortage of Rake Points

2314. SHRI RAKESH SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the number of available rake-points for the transportation of fertilizers are lesser than the requirements;
- (b) if so, whether the Railways propose to increase its number in accordance with its requirements;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Railways in this regard?

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

- (b) to (d) Do not arise.

[English]

Super fast Express Between Sambalpur-Allahabad

2315. SHRI JUAL ORAM: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Railways have any proposal to introduce a super fast express train from Sambalpur to Allahabad and vice-versa;
- (b) if so, whether there is any demand from the general public of Western Orissa to introduce that train *via* Rourkela; and

- (c) if so, the steps taken to implement the said proposal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) No, Sir. At present, there is no such proposal.

- (b) and (c) Yes, Sir. Demand is there but introduction of train between Sambalpur and Allahabad is not feasible at present due to operational and resource constraints.

Agreement with France

2316. SHRI SUGRIB SINGH:
SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL:

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has signed any agreement with France in the field of hotel management;
- (b) if so, the details in this regard; and
- (c) the manner in which India will be benefited by the said agreement?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) The National Council for Hotel Management and Catering Technology (NCHMCT), an autonomous body under the Ministry of Tourism, has signed an agreement with VATEL international Business School, France on 1.8.2006.

- (b) The agreement inter-alia envisage:
 - (i) Six scholarships for Indian students in France for the Masters' programme.
 - (ii) Twelve internships for Indian students in France in the 2nd year of the B.Sc. programme.
 - (iii) Third year pass out Graduates would be eligible for integration straight into the final year of the VATEL's two year master's Degree Programme.
 - (iv) Two VATEL Professors would conduct courses of one to two weeks for Institutes of Hotel Management.
 - (v) VATEL will host three Indian faculty for tow to three weeks exposing them to French gastronomy. In turn the Indian faculty would share their experiences with the French

counterparts. similarly, VATEL Chef's would familiarize IHMs on French gastronomy in India.

- (vi) One faculty from either institution would conduct research staying at the partner's premises.
- (vii) VATEL will organize need-based specialized courses for small groups from India.

(c) The agreement is expected to benefit both students and faculty of IHMs leading to long term advantages to Hospitality Education in the country. The students will get international exposure in Hospitality Education and practical training in the hotels in France. On the other hand, the faculty will get opportunity of interaction with their French counterpart through exchange programme, technical seminars, research studies etc., to bring about improvement in the academic standard of Hospitality Education in India.

Upgradation of Technology

2317. PROF. M. RAMADASS: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has taken any steps to upgrade the technology in defence Public Sector Undertakings; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the funds earmarked for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (RAO INDERJIT SINGH): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The modernization and upgradation of technology in the defence Public Sector Undertakings is a continuous process and is being funded by them from their own resources. No budgetary support is being provided by the Government.

Extension to Foreign Pilots

2318. SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has extended the tenure of foreign pilots engaged in various airlines;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the manner in which the Government will protect the interest of domestic pilots after such extension to foreign pilots?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) The Government has recently delegated powers to Director General Civil Aviation to grant permission for employment of foreign pilots upto a period of three years on merit, on case to case basis subject to adequate safety and security considerations. The foreign pilots are not only to be used for operational purposes for line flying but also to give type experience to Indian pilots to qualify for endorsement on type as co-pilots.

(c) This delegation is valid only upto 31-10-2010 and will be revived periodically taking into account availability of Indian pilots.

Subsidy for Non-Economical Air Routes

2319. SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to develop non-economical airports and to provide subsidy to airlines which will operate on non-economic routes; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. On the request of airline operators and State Government to develop non-economical airports, the airports at Cooch Behar, Mysore, Surat, Dehradun and Pantnagar are being developed by Airports Authority of India (AAI). The issue of providing incentive to airlines to operate on non-economic routes is under Government's consideration as part of the proposed Civil Aviation Policy.

New Railway Tracks

2320. SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of new railway tracks added in Tamil Nadu during the Tenth Five Year Plan period so far in terms of length, Section-wise;

(b) the details and length of the railway tracks replaced and upgraded as broad gauge during the above period; and

(c) the length of new railway lines which are proposed to be further added replaced in Tamil Nadu during the remaining period of the Tenth Five Year Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) No new line work under new Line Plane Head falling in the State of Tamil Nadu has been completed. However, Tirumailai-Tiruvanmiyur (6.20 Km single line) under Metropolitan Transport Project Plan Head has been completed and commissioned during Tenth Five Year Plan Period so far.

(b) Details of the gauge conversion done in Tamil Nadu under Gauge Conversion Plan head during Tenth Five Year Plan period so far is as under:-

S.NO.	Section	Length in Kilometer
Gauge Conversion		
1.	Vadalur-Vridhachalam	27
2.	Virudhanagar-Rajapalayam-Tenkasi	123
3.	Villupuram-Pondicherry	37
4.	Vadalur-Cuddalore	30
5.	Thanjavur-Kumba Konam-Mayiladuturai	71
6.	Madurai-Manamadurai	48
7.	Thanjavur-Thiruvavarur	54
Total		390

(c) 306 kms of gauge conversion is targeted for completion during 2006-07. Further, 231 kms. of spill over sections are also planned for completion during 2006-07.

Limitation/Restriction on Tickets to Senior Citizens

2321. SHRI VIRCHANDRA PASWAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Airlines (IA) and Air India (AI) manage a few seats at 50 per cent discounts to senior citizens in their flights in the domestic and international sectors;

(b) if so, the details of total number of seats in a flight of IA/AI and the number of seats out of those allotted to senior citizens;

(c) whether after exhaustion/no-availability of these seats, full fare is charged from the rest of the senior citizens for that particular flight;

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

(e) whether the IA/AI propose to increase more seats at 50 per cent discounts for senior citizens in their flights;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (d) Air India has an Automated Revenue Management system whereby they have different levels of fares in Economy Class. Depending on the seasonality and demand, a certain number of seats including those for discounted senior citizens are released for sale in each booking class. If all seats in the lowest class are sold, then the passengers have to buy a ticket in the next higher class at marginally higher fares.

As regards Indian Airlines, reservation for all concessional tickets including tickets issued for Senior Citizens, are restricted to the discounted booking class having a fixed number of seats allocated to it. This is in accordance with the standard Yield Management in Reservation System and is based on Industry norms wherein a quota of seats is allowed for different fare types. Indian Airlines ha also introduced yield management in Reservation System to ensure that there is optimal utilization of the capacity available and that there is no dilution of revenue also.

(e) to (g) No, Sir. Both Air India and Indian Airlines are commercial organization and have to act on business principles. Any further increase in concessional tickets, including those for senior citizens, will affect the viability of operations.

Outsourcing of Research Facilities

2322. SHRI K.J.S.P. REDDY: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is planning for futuristic weapons system;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has conducted any study to explore the possibility of outsourcing some of the research facilities;

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

(e) the steps being taken by the Government to protect the nation's security while outsourcing the research facilities?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b) Planning for futuristic weapon systems is an ongoing process. Plans are prepared in consonance with the perspective plans of the Armed Forces, which are in turn based on the threat perception as envisaged by the Armed Forces.

(c) and (d) No formal study has been carried out though, outsourcing of research facilities in some form or the other has been already there.

(e) Research work for strategic programmes and sensitive products is not outsourced in a form which may — prove detrimental to nation's security.

Setting up of Special Merit Board

2323. SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Army has constituted a special merit board;

(b) if so, the salient features thereof;

(c) whether the method of assessing the capability of army officials needs to be improved; and

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

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (d) The Army has constituted a special Merit Board since January 2005 to improve promotion of officers who are non-empanelled for promotion to the rank of Colonel. The scheme is, however, being reviewed by the Government.

Military Farms

2324. SHRIMATI MANORAMA MADHAV RAJ:
SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the cost at which milk is supplied by the Military Farms (MFs) to the Army is higher than the market rate;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons for purchasing milk from MFs at higher rates;

(c) the total excess money incurred on the purchase of milk from MFs by Army during the last three years;

(d) the steps taken to purchase milk at the competitive price;

(e) whether any Task Force/Committee was set up for reorganisation of Military Farms; and

(f) if so, the findings thereof and the follow-up action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (f) The cost at which milk was supplied by Military Farms to the Army, in the year 2004-05, was Rs.17.96 per litre. The average price paid for milk procured from National Cooperative Dairy Federation of India Ltd. (NCDFI) was Rs.15.35 per litre for the year 2004-2005.

Milk continues to be supplied by the Military Farms to the Army because the Military Farms are a part of the Army Establishment and they have been established to provide hygienic and fresh milk to the troops at their locations.

The cost comparison between the Military Farms and NCDFI rates for the last three years for which internal audit by the Office of Controller General of Defence Accounts have been completed is as under:

Year	Qty Supplied by Military Farms (Lts)	Issue Price by Military Farms (Rs. Per Litre)	Total Cost at the rate of Issue Price of Military Farms Amount (Rs.)	Total Cost at the rate of Average Price of NCDFI Amount (Rs.)	Cost Difference Amount (Rs.)
2002-03	67606354	16.63	1124329353	103775734	86571819
2003-04	74035598	17.34	1283513122	1136446429	147066693
2004-05	74278774	17.96	1333898637	1140179181	193719456

The shortfall in requirement of milk is purchased from Government Cooperatives. The Army avails discount on the civil rate on account of bulk purchase.

A Committee under the Chairmanship of Joint Secretary, Ministry of Defence was set up for reorganization of Military Farms. On the recommendation of the Committee 18 Military Farms, which were found to be uneconomical, have been closed.

Development of Tourism

2325. SHRIMATI P. SATHEEDEVI: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any institutions functioning under the control of Ministry of Tourism which are providing training to educated youth in the field of developing the country's tourism;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Union Government is also supporting the State Governments in such schemes; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) There are 21 Institutes of Hotel Management, Catering Technology & Applied Nutrition (IHMs) and Indian Institute of Tourism and Travel Management (IITTM) functioning as autonomous bodies under the Ministry of Tourism imparting education specific to Hospitality Administration and Travel & Tourism.

(b) A list of Institutes is enclosed as Statement.

(c) and (d) The Ministry of Tourism provides grants-in-aid for capital expenditure for setting up Institutes of Hotel Management (IHMs) under the State/UT Governments provided the courses offered by them are affiliated to National Council for Hotel Management, Catering Technology (NCHMCT), an autonomous body under Ministry of Tourism. Under this Scheme, IHM at Dehradun has already started functioning from this year's academic session and IHMs at Kurukshetra Raipur, Jamshedpur and Mohali under the respective State Governments are at various stages of construction/approval. The Government of Andhra Pradesh has been assisted in establishing the National Institute of Tourism & Hospitality Management at Hyderabad. The State

Governments have also been assisted in setting up Food Crafts Institutes.

Statement

1. Institute of Hotel Management, Catering Technology & Applied Nutrition, Ahmedabad
2. Institute of Hotel Management, Catering Technology & Applied Nutrition, Bangalore
3. Institute of Hotel Management, Catering Technology & Applied Nutrition, Bhopal
4. Institute of Hotel Management, Catering Technology & Applied Nutrition, Bhubaneswar
5. Institute of Hotel Management, Catering Technology & Applied Nutrition, Kolkata
6. Institute of Hotel Management, Catering Technology & Applied Nutrition, Chandigarh
7. Institute of Hotel Management, Catering Technology & Applied Nutrition, Chennai
8. Institute of Hotel Management, Catering Technology & Applied Nutrition, Goa
9. Institute of Hotel Management, Catering Technology & Applied Nutrition, Gurdaspur
10. Institute of Hotel Management, Catering Technology & Applied Nutrition, Guwahati
11. Institute of Hotel Management, Catering Technology & Applied Nutrition, Gwalior
12. Institute of Hotel Management, Catering Technology & Applied Nutrition, Hyderabad
13. Institute of Hotel Management, Catering Technology & Applied Nutrition, Jaipur
14. Institute of Hotel Management, Catering Technology & Applied Nutrition, Lucknow
15. Institute of Hotel Management, Catering Technology & Applied Nutrition, Mumbai
16. Institute of Hotel Management, Catering Technology & Applied Nutrition, New Delhi
17. Institute of Hotel Management, Catering Technology & Applied Nutrition, Hazipur
18. Institute of Hotel Management, Catering Technology & Applied Nutrition, Shimla

19. Institute of Hotel Management, Catering Technology & Applied Nutrition, Shillong
20. Institute of Hotel Management, Catering Technology & Applied Nutrition, Srinagar
21. Institute of Hotel Management, Catering Technology & Applied Nutrition, Thiruvananthapuram
22. Indian Institute of Tourism and Travel Management, Gwalior

Expansion of Hubli Airport

2326. SHRI MANJUNATH KUNNUR: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the length and breadth of runway at Hubli airport is too narrow to cater the operation of ATR 72 type of aircraft;

(b) if so, whether the Government proposes to expand the Hubli airport;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the funds allocated/ released for the purpose; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (c) No, Sir. The length and breadth of runway at Hubli Airport are sufficient for operation of ATR-72 type of aircraft. However, the strength of the runway is not adequate for full load operations. Hence, Airports Authority of India (AAI) has taken up strengthening of runway and allied works for operation of ATR-72 type of aircraft without load restrictions at a cost of Rs. 11.14 crores.

(d) The work is likely to be completed by December, 2006.

[Translation]

Instructions to PSUs Regarding Profit

2327. SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH "LALAN":
DR. CHINTA MOHAN:

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

(a) whether the Government has issued instructions to the Public Sector Enterprises to earn at least five per cent profit on the investment made therein;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the basis for fixing five per cent profit?

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

(a) The policy of Government on public sector has been stipulated in the National Common Minimum Programme (NCMP) which advocates a strong and effective public sector whose social objectives are met by its commercial functioning. As commercial entities, Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs) are expected to make profit. However, no such instructions have been issued asking CPSEs to earn a specific level of profit.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

Introduction of EMU

2328. SHRI TEK LAL MAHTO: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways propose to introduce an EMU train from Brakakana to Ranchi Road *via* Chandrapura, Gomia, Beramo and Fusro;

(b) if so, details thereof; and

(c) the time by which it is likely to be introduced on the said route?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) No, Sir. At present there is no such proposal.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[English]

Integrated Management Plan for Hampi

2329. SHRI M. SHIVANNA:
SHRIMATI MANORAMA MADHAVRAJ:

Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has received the views of UNESCO and the Government of Karnataka on the Draft Integrated Management Plan for Hampi;

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

(c) the further action taken or being taken to implement the said plan; and

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

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The comments of UNESCO World Heritage Centre on the draft Integrated Management Plan for Hampi was received wherein they have suggested that the State Party may consider reorientation of the current management plan in order to ensure that the research already carried out is reflected and incorporated into a realistic, pragmatic and operational Integrated Management Plan. Other observations made by the World Heritage Centre on the draft management plan include:

- (i) The management plan may redefine the outstanding universal value of the site,
- (ii) State party may consider future re-nomination/ extension of the Hampi site as a cultural landscape,
- (iii) The management plan document should realistically put a management system in place, and
- (iv) The Hampi Management Authority should be fully involved in the planning process.

(c) and (d) In the light of the observations of UNESCO World Heritage Centre and detailed discussion with other stakeholders, a volume on "operationalizing the Integrated management plan" was prepared. Copies of the same have been circulated to the UNESCO.

Other follow up actions on the implementation of the Integrated Management Plan have been taken up by the Hampi World Heritage Area Management Authority and Archaeological Survey of India. These include:

- (a) Preparation of the base map for the area under Hampi Authority.

(b) Setting up of the Technical Unit in the Authority.

(c) Preparation of interim urban development guidelines.

(d) Preparation of inventory of cultural resource located within the jurisdiction of Hampi World Heritage Area Management Authority (excluding ASI monuments).

(e) Documentation of vernacular architecture.

(f) Invitation of public views to the draft Master Plan of Hampi.

(g) Draft conservation action plan for Archaeological Survey of India protected monuments.

[*Translation*]

Cost Escalation of Fighter Planes

2330. SHRI SHISHUPAL PATLE:
PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has made any assessment in regard to the likely escalation in the cost of fighter planes to be purchased for the Indian Air Force till the finalisation of purchase deal as reported in the *Rashtriya Sahara* dated July 18, 2006;

(b) if so, the facts thereof;

(c) the details of countries with which such purchase deals have been delayed;

(d) the escalation registered in cost of such planes due to delay in finalisation of the deals; and

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

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (e) The purchase of fighter aircraft required for the Air Force is currently made in terms of the provisions of Defence Procurement Procedure, 2005 which includes an offset clause in contracts with an indicative cost of Rs. 300 crore or more. This procedure envisages a time frame of two to three years for conclusion of contracts in such major purchases.

*[English]***Second 'Palace on Wheels'**

2331. SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE:
SHRI EKNATH MAHADEO GAIKWAD:
SHRI KIRTI VARDHAN SINGH:
SHRI DALPAT SINGH PARSTE:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways propose to launch a second 'Palace on Wheels';

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Railways propose to invite private partnership in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof alongwith progress made in this regard so far; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (e) Yes, Sir. There is a proposal to start a second 'Palace on Wheels' in collaboration with the Rajasthan Tourism Development Corporation (RTDC). The train is to run on the same sector as in the existing Palace on Wheels. The State Government of Rajasthan has agreed to share the capital cost, of the train, with the Railways. No time frame has been set for the launching of the train.

*[Translation]***Redressal of Grievances**

2332. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether in September, 2005, the Railways have issued instructions to all Zonal Railways to make improvement in the condition of trains and stations and make arrangements for redressal of grievances within a fix time limit;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether in spite of the instructions some of the Zonal Railways have not taken any effective action in the matter; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor and the further steps being taken by the Railways in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) instructions regarding various improvements are issued from time to time. Even in 2006 such instructions were issued in March and April, when it was *inter-alia* directed that five stations on each Division being transformed into modern stations. Similarly 4 rakes of trains are being manufactured/converted to world class interiors. A nominated machinery has been set up under a senior officer in each zonal railway/division to ensure timely redressal of grievances of public.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Advanced Technology for Oil and Gas Exploration

2333. SHRI TUKARAM GANPAT RAO RENGE PATIL:
SHRIMATI SANGEETA KUMARI SINGH DEO:

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

(a) whether modern and advanced technology are being used for the exploration work for oil and natural gas in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of the advanced technology used in exploration of oil and natural gas during the last two years; and

(d) the manner in which this technology is superior to the oil technology along with the extra achievements therefrom?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Modern and advanced technology is being used for exploration of oil and gas in seismic survey, horizontal drilling, multilateral drilling, logging while drilling (LWD) and processing and interpretation of seismic data.

(c) and (d) In the last two years, seismic data is being acquired and then processed and interpreted on especially designed advanced software at a virtual reality centre.

During the last two years (2004-06), ONGC has used the following advanced technology:-

- (i) For onland data acquisition:
- induction of seismic data acquisition system with higher channel capacity, digital sensors and field processing unit (FPU).
 - Multilevel Vertical Seismic Profiling (VSP) Data acquisition system.
- (ii) For offshore data acquisition:
- Upgradation of departmental offshore survey vessel Sagar Sandhani with dual streamer cable, dual source and onboard processing capability.
- (iii) Data Processing: Induction of PC Cluster technology, periodic upgrades of the processing softwares (Western Geco, CGG, Paradigm), induction of new software for onboard Geophysical data processing system of Sagar Sandhani.
- (iv) Data Interpretation: Induction of more powerful graphic workstations, Virtual Reality Centres in Panvel, Geophysical Data Processing and Interpretation Centre (GEOPIC), Dehradun and Vadodara.
- (v) Induction of new methodology like Q-technology, GX Technology, Sea Bed logging etc.
- (vi) "State of art technologies" in wire line logging namely, CHFR (Cased Hole Formation Resistivity), Platform Express, MDT-LFA (Modular Dynamic Formation Tester-Live Fluid Analyser), ECS (Elemental Capture Spectroscopy).

As far as Oil India Limited (OIL) is concerned, OIL has recently set up a highly sophisticated and modern Petroleum Exploration Assets Centre at Noida, U.P. with workstations having state-of-the-art hardware and software. OIL installed prospect evaluation software/hardware for techno-economic evaluation for exploration blocks. This is in addition to a similar set up at OIL's headquarters at Duliajan, Assam.

OIL has also adopted drilling of horizontal well in its fields in Assam through contract services, utilizing OIL's own drilling rig.

In exploration in Thrust belt areas, OIL has adopted techniques of structural balancing for its areas through outsourcing.

In respect of ONGC, the new technology/methodology is superior in terms of:

- Enhanced subsurface imaging capacity
- Computing power which is reflected in terms of turn around time
- Improved workflow methodology and concept, like VR Centre, which gives an improved visualization power of the subsurface.
- Improved tools and technologies for reservoir characterization and direct detection of hydrocarbons like AVO (M/s. Hampson-Russel) and Inversion (M/s. Fugro-Jason).

New technology, like sea bed Logging for direct detection of hydrocarbons and risk mitigation based on resistivity measurements, Q-Technology for higher resolution seismic survey, GX Technology for higher resolution and much deeper crustal information, up to a depth of 10 km and beyond, has also been inducted and data acquisition & interpretation is in progress.

In terms extra achievements, enhanced subsurface imaging capacity and volume visualisation have resulted in firming up prospects for subtle plays, both onland and offshore, for testing them by drilling.

[English]

Development of OBC Communities

2334. SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL:
SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA:
SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO:

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

(a) whether some of the Other Backward Class (OBC) communities, especially those living in rural areas and depend upon the traditional occupations/artisanship viz fishing, stone crushing, tailoring, weaving, carpentry, pottery, blacksmithy, etc. and are languishing in the worst forms of social and economic backwardness;

(b) if so, whether there is any proposal to frame a National Policy for the development and modernization of traditional occupations/artisanship;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the details of the financial assistance provided to the OBC communities especially those living in rural areas

and depend upon the traditional occupations/artisans during each of the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) National Backward Classes Finance and Development Corporation (NBCFDC) under this Ministry has been entrusted with the job of providing financial assistance to the members of Backward Classes including those living in rural areas and depending upon traditional occupation/artisans. The schemes of the Corporation have been formulated to assist poorer section of the backward Classes living below double the poverty line. The NBCFDC channelises its financial

assistance through State Channelising Agencies (SCAs) and therefore, the SCAs are implementing the developmental schemes for the backward classes depending upon the traditional occupations/artisans, etc.

(b) and (c) At present, there is no proposal to frame such a policy in this Ministry.

(d) The details of the financial assistance provided by NBCFDC to State Channelising Agencies for further disbursement to the eligible members of Backward Classes during last three years are given in the enclosed Statement. These figures also include loans disbursed to persons living in rural areas and depend upon traditional occupations/artisans etc.

Statement

National Backward Classes Finance & Development Corporation

State-wise Disbursement by NBCFDC during the last three years upto 31st March, 2006

S.No.	Name of States	2003-04 Disbursement Rs. Lacs.	2004-05 Disbursement Rs. Lacs.	2005-06 Disbursement Rs. Lacs.
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1150.00	250.00	200.00
2.	Assam	95.68	80.20	250.00
3.	Bihar	7.50	170.00	30.00
4.	Chhattisgarh	25.00	108.19	150.00
5.	Chandigarh (UT)	15.00	24.70	10.00
6.	Delhi (UT)	50.00	50.00	-
7.	Gujarat	350.00	350.00	250.00
8.	Goa	46.67	28.45	41.87
9.	Haryana	200.00	175.00	300.00
10.	Himachal Pradesh	182.84	250.00	185.93
11.	Jammu and Kashmir	15.00	40.60	2.00
12.	Jharkhand	270.30	-	25.00
13.	Karnataka	1690.77	1000.00	1005.00
14.	Kerala	3067.50	1697.50	2334.00

1	2	3	4	5
15.	Madhya Pradesh	492.50	148.75	100.00
16.	Maharashtra	2684.00	1950.00	1700.00
17.	Orissa	50.00	50.00	50.00
18.	Punjab	43.00	200.00	230.00
19.	Pondicherry (UT)	50.00	50.00	85.03
20.	Rajasthan	114.68	293.40	400.00
21.	Sikkim	125.00	257.90	352.05
22.	Tamil Nadu	1075.00	800.00	1350.00
23.	Tripura	-	99.03	50.00
24.	Uttar Pradesh	550.00	616.00	158.00
25.	Uttaranchal	9.00	52.75	104.46
26.	West Bengal	750.00	600.00	400.00

Problems of Army Personnel

2335. DR. BABU RAO MEDIYAM:
SHRI DALPAT SINGH PARSTE:
SHRI SARVEY SATYANARAYANA:
SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN:
SHRI P. MOHAN:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any mechanism exists in the Armed Forces to look into the factors leading to stress and strain problems including suicides among Army personnel;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the corrective measures taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (c) There is a well laid mechanism existing in the Armed Forces for educating and counselling of individuals on stress related issues which cover suicides also. This includes increased formal and informal interaction between senior and junior officers; strengthening time tested reporting and feedback system in the unit; using services of psychiatrists and counsellors

to conduct lectures/presentations and educate officers/personnel; identifying personnel under stress and carrying out psychological conditioning and counselling of identified individuals. Officers and other personnel in the Services have been sensitised on the subject. Two Psychiatric centres in the Northern and Eastern Commands have been augmented by posting additional psychiatrists.

Banners and Posters at Stations/platforms

2336. SARDAR SUKHDEV SINGH LIBRA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways are aware that many Railway Trade Unions and other organisations often put up banners and paste stickers, posters, etc. on the railway stations/platforms disfiguring them;

(b) if so, whether the Railways propose to issue instructions or guidelines to the concerned authorities in this regard; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (c) The Railway administrations allot notice boards for displaying notices

by recognized Unions/Associations. Unions/Associations and other organizations sometimes take permission for putting up additional banners, posters, etc., in the interest of Railway staff and travelling passengers. In case they stick posters and put up banners, etc., without prior permission at other than specified places, they are liable for action under extant rules/regulations.

Formation of Eastern Gas Grid

2337. SHRI SUNIL KHAN:
SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA:

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

(a) whether the Government of West Bengal has brought to the notice of the Union Government about the problem faced by States in Eastern Zone in the industrial scenario due to non-availability of natural gas in Eastern Zone;

(b) if so, whether the Government has received any proposals from the Government of West Bengal for formation of Eastern Gas Grid;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

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

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

(b) to (d) The West Bengal Government has *inter alia* conveyed that in spite of substantial demand for natural gas in Eastern India, especially West Bengal, no natural gas transmission infrastructure has been developed in the region mainly due to non-proximity of supply sources. This is likely to lead to serious regional imbalance unless some steps are taken to ensure equitable distribution of natural gas in the country. The responsibility of expanding gas market to the areas which are starved of gas cannot be left to market forces and all inter-state gas pipelines should be built and managed by a public sector undertaking having experience, expertise and requisite infrastructure in the public interest.

The policy for development of natural gas pipelines, under finalization by the Government in consultation with various stakeholders, envisages to promote investment from public as well as private sector in natural gas pipelines to facilitate open access for all players to the pipeline network on a non-discriminatory 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.

GAIL (India) Limited has plans to lay Jagdishpur-Haldia gas Pipeline to cater to the gas demand in West Bengal subject to availability of gas.

[Translation]

Profit Margin of Public Sector Oil Companies

2338. SHRI TUFANI SAROJ:
SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR:
SHRI DUSHYANT SINGH:
SHRI ANANTA NAYAK:

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

(a) whether the profit of Public Sector Oil Companies have declined during the first half of the year 2006-07;

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

(c) whether the Public Sector Oil Companies, particularly GAIL (India) Ltd. have demanded change in subsidy sharing mechanism;

(d) if so, the response of the Government thereon; and

(e) the other steps taken by the Government to make Public Sector Oil Companies profitable?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL): (a) Yes, Sir. The profits of PSU Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) have declined during the first quarter of 2006-07 (April-June) as per details given below:

OMCs	Profit After Tax 2005-06	Profit After Tax 2005-06 (April-June)	Profit After Tax 2006-07 (April-June)
IOCL	4915	(57.93)	1780.52#
BPC	130*	(431.30)	(677.30)
HPC	406	(507.89)	(607.67)
IBP	12	(233.97)	(458.70)

*Unaudited.

#Represents IOC's Profit After Tax for the Period April-June'06. However, this includes profit on sale of shares worth Rs. 3224.78 crores. Hence profit/(loss) after tax before this item would be Rs. (1444.26) crore.

(b) The OMCs have shown declining in profits on account of huge under-recoveries on sale of domestic LPG, PDS Kerosene, petrol and diesel.

(c) and (d) Yes Sir. While it is appreciated that subsidy burden sharing by the upstream companies on LPG and kerosene places a strain on their profitability, the corresponding burden on the OMCs on account of under-recoveries on sensitive petroleum products is even higher. The burden sharing mechanism seeks to place collective responsibility on oil sector.

(e) Government has taken the following additional measures to make up the losses of public sector oil companies for the current fiscal year:

- (i) Issue of oil bonds amounting to Rs. 28,300 crore during 2006-07.
- (iii) Sharing of under-realization by upstream oil companies amounting to Rs. 24,000 crore during 2006-07
- (ii) Change in pricing methodology of petrol and diesel. Discount from refineries.
- (iv) Reduction in Customs duty on petrol and diesel.

Import of LNG from Australia

2339. SHRIMATI KIRAN MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to import Liquefied Natural Gas from Australia;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the progress made so far in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL): (a) to (c) M/s Petronet LNG Limited (PLL) is in process of negotiations for import of 2.5 MMTPA (million metric tones per annum) Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) from Australia for its proposed Kochi LNG terminal.

Construction of Railway Line between Haridwar and Vikasnagar

2340. SHRI AVTAR SINGH BHADANA:
DR. RAJESH MISHRA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways propose to construct railway line between Haridwar and Vikasnagar via Dehradun;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the measures taken by the Railways for implementation of said proposal?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Rail link already exists between Haridwar and Dehradun. Dehradun-Vikasnagar is not a sanctioned project.

[English]

AC Coaches without Water

2341. SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether in spite of complaints, AC coaches in AP Express and Sampark Kranti trains remain without water and toilets uncleaned while coming to Hyderabad;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken to provide basic facilities in these coaches?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) No, Sir. Coaches of all trains including AP Express and Sampark Kranti trains are topped up with water and their toilets cleaned during attention in maintenance depots. Water is also topped up during journey at stations nominated for this purpose. For enroute cleaning of toilets and removal of garbage from bins etc. in long distance trains facilities are being set up at identified location under Clean Train Station Scheme. Under this scheme long distance Mail/Express trains passing such locations during daytime are given mechanised cleaning of toilets, removal of garbage from bins, spray of deodorant and mosquito repellent, outside cleaning of window glasses of AC coaches on platform side etc.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Standard schedule of amenities/facilities are provided in all coaches during their manufacture as also during maintenance schedule like Periodic overhaul/Intermediate overhaul and other preventive maintenance schedules.

[Translation]

Utilisation of Surplus Assets

2342. DR. DHIRENDRA AGARWAL:
SHRIMATI SANGEETA KUMARI SINGH DEO:

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

(a) whether Central Public Sector Enterprises have surplus assets which are lying idle;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken/being taken for appropriate utilization of assets?

THE MINISTER OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) and (b) Surplus assets are identified by managements of Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs) as per their requirement. As a part of revival/restructuring of CPSEs, utilization of surplus assets is an important component of restructuring plan. The Government in December, 2004 has set up a Board for Reconstruction of Public Sector Enterprises (BRPSE) for making recommendations regarding restructuring/revival of sick and loss making CPSEs. Based on the recommendations of BRPSE, the Government has, *inter-alia*, approved disposal/utilization of surplus assets as a part of revival/restructuring package of CPSEs. As per available information, a list is enclosed as statement.

(c) The sale proceeds of the surplus assets are utilized for the purposes like payment to creditors, repayment of Government of India (GOI) loan and Bank Loans, employees dues including VRS payments, outstanding payments to other agencies including Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) and modernization/expansion of units.

Statement

Surplus assets indicated in the revival package recommended by BRPSE and approved by Government

Sl.No.	Name of the CPSE and the administrative Ministry/Department	Surplus assets
1	2	3
1.	Cement Corporation of India Ltd. (Department of Heavy Industry)	Sale of surplus assets of 7 non-operation units.
2.	Heavy Engineering Corporation Ltd. (Department of Heavy Industry)	Settlement of surplus assets and disposal of surplus land.
3.	Praga Tools Ltd. (Department of Heavy Industry)	Sale of surplus assets.

1	2	3
4.	National Textiles Corporation Ltd. & its subsidiaries (Ministry of Textiles)	Sale of surplus land.
5.	Hindustan Antibiotics Ltd. (Department of Chemicals & Petrochemicals)	Sale of surplus land.
6.	Hindustan Insecticides Ltd. (Department of Chemicals & Petrochemicals)	Sale of surplus land.

*[English]***Chakan Airport**

2343. SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Chakan Airport at Pune has not been found suitable to accommodate one additional parallel runway, to serve bigger aircraft on international route;

(b) if so, whether attempts have been made to locate alternative site to construct a new international airport with state-of-the-art infrastructure and facilities; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) Site recommended by Government of Maharashtra is being examined in consultation with Ministry of Defence, Government of India and no final decision has been taken.

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

*[Translation]***Investment in Refinery Sector**

2344. SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN:
DR. CHINTA MOHAN:

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

(a) the total capital invested in the refineries during each of the last three years; and

(b) the annual average percentage of dividend earned by these refineries on the basis of capital invested during the said period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL): (a) The total capital invested in the refineries during the years 2003-04, 2004-05 and 2005-06 is Rs. 4686.21 crore, Rs. 7062.86 crore and Rs. 6274.56 crore respectively.

(b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

*[English]***Petrol Pumps/LPG Agencies Allotted to Ex-servicemen**

2345. SHRI UDAY SINGH:
SHRI CHANDRA MANI TRIPATHI:
PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA:

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

(a) whether the petrol pumps/Liquefied Petroleum Gas agencies allotted to Ex-servicemen/Martyrs and their dependents are being grabbed by oil mafias in connivances with officers of Oil Marketing Companies as reported in *Hindustan Times* dated July 17, 2006;

(b) if so, whether the Government has received any complaints in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the reaction of the Government thereto along with the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL): (a) to (d) The news-item, captioned "Fraud stink

in petrol pump scheme", which appeared in the Hindustan Times on 17.7.2006, has been seen. The specific case referred to in the said news-item is not a retail outlet (RO) dealership (petrol pump) allotted under Government's special scheme for allotment of retail outlet dealerships/LPG distributorships to the widows/next of kin of the defence personnel killed in action in 'Operation Vijay' in Kargil, but it is a dealership allotted by Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOC) under 'Defence Category', as per their normal selection procedure.

The case is about illegal control of IOC's RO, M/s Shaheed Harinder Filling Station at Jattari in Aligarh District, Uttar Pradesh. The matter was referred to IOC's Vigilance Department for investigation. A report has been received by the Government from the Chief Vigilance Officer (CVO), IOC. As per the report, it is prima facie a case of benami operation. The report states that one unscrupulous individual had influenced the allottee of the RO into letting him run the RO in lieu of financial consideration. The CVO has recommended action against the negligent officers and has also recommended certain measures to check the menace of benami operation especially in the case of allottees under 'Defence Category', who do not have much prior business experience. The report has been examined in the Ministry and the management of IOC is being advised to take action as per the findings of the CVO.

Merger of Sick PSUs

2346. SHRI BANSAGOPAL CHOUDHURY: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to rehabilitate the sick Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) by merging with other PSUs;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) and (b) The policy of Government on public sector has been stipulated in the National Common Minimum Programme (NCMP) which advocates a strong and effective public sector whose social objectives are met by its commercial functioning. While every effort will be made to modernise and restructure sick public sector

companies and revive sick industry, chronically loss-making companies will either be sold-off or closed after all workers have got their legitimate dues and compensation. Merging of one sick CPSE with another CPSE is also one of the options considered for revival. Government has since approved merger of Indian Iron and Steel Company Ltd. (IISCO) with Steel Authority of India Ltd. (SAIL) and merger of Praga Tools Ltd. with Hindustan Machine Tools Ltd.

(c) The merger of IISCO with SAIL has already been given effect to.

Extension from KRIBHCO to Hazira

2347. SHRI KASHIRAM RANA:
SHRI MANSUKHBHAI D. VASAVA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposals under consideration of the Railways for connecting Hazira Port to its hinterland;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Railways would consider to extend the side track for KRIBHCO up to Hazira; and

(d) if so, the time bound programme for completion of the project, if any?

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

(b) The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed on 13.01.2005 among the following parties:-

(i) Rail Vikas Nigam Limited (RVNL)

(ii) Hazira Port Private Limited

(iii) Gujarat Industrial Development Corporation

(iv) Essar Steel Limited

(v) Gujarat Maritime Board

The basic objective of the MoU is to enable formation of a project specific Special Purpose Vehicle for implementation of the railway line project from Surat to Hazira Port.

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

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

LPG Plants of ONGC

2348. SHRI BRAJESH PATHAK: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of Liquefied Petroleum Gas plants of the Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Ltd. (ONGC) functioning in the country;

(b) the installed capacity of each plant and the quantity of LPG produced therein during each of the last three years; and

(c) the stock position of LPG during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL): (a) LPG is being produced from natural gas and condensate at the production facilities of Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC), at Uran (Maharashtra), Ankleshwar and Gandhar (Gujarat). LPG produced from ONGC sources is currently being transferred to public sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs).

(b) and (c) Details are given in the enclosed Statement.

Statement

Installed capacity of LPG Plants of ONGC, produced and LPG closing stock during last three years i.e. 2003-04 to 2005-06

(Figures in '000 tonnes)

	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06
Uran Plant (Maharashtra)			
Installed capacity	477.000	477.000	477.000
LPG produced	512.486	455.399	452.737
LPG closing stock	0.807	0.673	0.948
Hazira Plant (Gujarat)			
Installed capacity	570.000	570.000	570.000
LPG produced	603.339	583.481	589.694
LPG closing stock	—	5.969	8.250
Ankleshwar Plant (Gujarat)			
Installed capacity	49.000	49.000	49.000
LPG produced	12.154	12.509	10.692
LPG closing stock	0.255	0.204	0.228
Gandhar Plant (Gujarat)			
Installed capacity	60.000	60.000	60.000
LPG produced	43.786	43.492	41.186
LPG closing stock	0.780	0.720	1.248

High Powered Committee on Railways Safety

2349. SHRI M. RAJA MOHAN REDDY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways propose to set up a High Powered Committee to examine and review the various safety measures introduced in the Railways on the recommendations made by earlier Committees, in the light of spurt in accidents and crimes in trains; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) No, Sir. Actually there had been a declining trend in number of consequential train accidents. During the period from January to June 2006 there had been 109 consequential train accidents as compared to 121 during the corresponding period of last year. Similarly, there is a decrease in the total number of cases of crimes reported in trains during this period as compared to corresponding period of last year.

(b) Does not arise.

Abolition of Posts of Train Superintendents

2350. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have announced the abolition of posts of train superintendents recently;

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

(c) whether the Railways propose to withdraw its decision to disband the posts of train superintendents;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the measures proposed to be taken to provide necessary emergency facilities to the passengers in trains?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) It has been decided to deploy train superintendents in Rajdhani and Shatabdi Express trains only.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) The train manning staff monitor on-board deficiencies apart from attending to passenger complaints and grievances. They are also trained for providing emergency services like fire-fighting, first-aid, etc.

Concession to Artists

2351. SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any concessions are provided to the accredited performing artists by the Railways;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Railways propose to give more concessions to artists to promote art and culture in the country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) Railways grant 50% concession in first class and 75% concession in second/sleeper class Mail/Express fares to bonafide professional entertaining companies or parties (theatrical and concert parties and music and dancing and magician troupes) travelling to participate in specific performances sponsored or approved by the Central Sangeet Natak Academy or State Sangeet Natak Academies or Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports for journeys more than 300 kms on production of the requisite certificate.

(c) No Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Expansion of Railway Networks

2352. SHRI DUSHYANT SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken by the railways on the expansion of railway network in the country during Tenth Plan against the targets set for the said plan;

(b) the funds allocated and spent on expansion of railway network in the Tenth Plan so far;

(c) whether there is also any proposal to further expand its network in Eleventh Plan; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) The physical targets, achievements, funds allocated and amount spent on expansion of network during the first four years of the Tenth Five Year plan is as under:-

Item	Physical Target (10th Plan 2002-07) (Kms)	Performance in First 4 years (2002-03 to 2005-06)		
		Physical Achievement (kms)	Funds Allocated (Rs. Cr.)	Amount Spent (Rs. Cr.)
New Lines	1310	670	6419.98	6678.39
Gauge Conversion	2365	3207	4301.58	4601.91
Doubling	1500	913	2218.61	2301.94

(c) Yes, Sir.

[*English*]

**Railway Line from Haldibari to
Changrabandha line**

2354. SHRI HITEN BARMAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the survey of new railway line from Haldibari to Changrabandha via Mekhligan has been completed;

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

(c) the expenditure by the Railways on carrying out the survey of the said project; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor and the time by which the survey work will be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) No, Sir. However, survey for new line from Haldibari to Mekhligan has been completed recently as per which cost of construction of 17.20 kms. long line has been assessed as Rs. 161.70 crore with rate of return of (-) 5.40%.

(c) The total anticipated cost the survey of new line from Haldibari to Changrabandha is Rs. 1.71 lakhs only.

(d) Survey for Mekhligan-Changrabandha has been sanctioned in May, 2006 only. No target has been fixed for the combined survey for Haldibari to Changrabandha new line.

Protection of Buddhist Sites

2355. SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY:
SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR:
SHRI JOACHIM BAXLA:

Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(d) Construction of Dedicated Freight Corridors, Gauge Conversion, augmentation of capacity by doubling and providing additional lines are some of the major thrust areas in expansion of railway network in the Eleventh Plan.

[*Translation*]

**Upgradation and Development of
Devi Ahilyabai Museums**

2353. SHRI KRISHNA MURARI MOGHE:
SHRI VIJAY KUMAR KHANDELWAL:

Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has received any proposal from the Government of Madhya Pradesh for financial assistance for upgradation and development of Devi Ahilyabai Museums at Maheshwar and Khargon;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) to (c) The proposal was received in this Ministry during 2004-05 and was placed before the Expert Committee constituted under the scheme of 'Promotion and Strengthening of Regional and Local Museums' in its meeting held on 25.11.2004. The Expert Committee did not recommend the proposal, as the construction of a new Museum is not covered under the scheme.

(a) whether many Buddhist sites in the country are not properly protected by the Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government with the help of foreign agencies have spent crores of rupees on the maintenance of Buddhist sites in the country during past few years;

(d) if so, the details of the amount spent there on during each of the last three years; and

(e) the further steps taken by the Government to properly protect th Buddhist sites in the country?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) and (b) All the Buddhist sites in the Country, Protected under the Ancient Monuments

& Archaeological Sites & Remains Act, 1958 are properly maintained.

(c) to (e) Archaeological Survey of India has taken up Ajanta Ellora Conservation and Tourism Development Project under a soft loan from Japan Bank of International Co-operation. The first phase of the work was completed in 2002 wherein an expenditure of Rs. 9.11 crore was incurred. The phase-II of the Project is in progress wherein conservation of Ajanta, Ellora, Pitalkhora and Aurangabad Caves have been identified with a provision of about Rs. 37.90 crores.

In addition, Japan Trust Fund has provided aid for conservation of Stupa at Satdhara.

The expenditure incurred during the last three years on these projects is given in the enclosed Statement.

Statement

(Expenditure in Rs. in lakhs)

Sl.No.	Name of the Monument	Year		
		2003-04	2004-05	2005-06
1.	Ajanta Caves	81.17	41.04	86.26
2.	Ellora Caves	41.41	72.70	50.07
3.	Aurangabad Caves	0.98	22.49	30.25
4.	Pitalkhora Caves	0.21	0.10	0.43
5.	Buddhist stupa at Satdhara	—	21.12	10.43

[Translation]

State-of-the-Art Technique for Survey

2356. SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to conduct aerial survey for exploration of oil and gas reserves in the country particularly Bihar with the help of State-of-the-art technique;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the time by which the survey is likely to be undertaken; and

(d) the estimated funds to be incurred on the said work?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. Directorate General of Hydrocarbons (DGH) has planned to carry out aeromagnetic survey in the area of Himalayan foreland in the States of Punjab, Himachal Pradesh, Uttaranchal, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and North Eastern (NE) States. Till date, about 25,000 Line Kilometres (LKM) has been covered so far. Remaining 75,000 LKM will be carried out in above States by 2007-08. Estimated cost to carry out above survey is Rs. 12 crores

One exploration block GV-ONN-2002/1 was awarded to M/s Cairn Energy (Pty.) Ltd. under 4th round of NELP in the State of Bihar. Operator proposes to carry out aeromagnetic survey in this block.

[English]

Augmentation of Fleet Strength

2357. SHRI B. MAHTAB: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has any proposal to augment the fleet strength of Pawan Hans Helicopters Limited during 2006-07;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the new helicopter services proposed to be started during the current year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) As per the approved plan for the year 2006-07, Pawan Hans Helicopters Limited (PHHL) is to acquire 2 new medium helicopters during the year 2006-07. Accordingly, PHHL has signed contract for purchase of two Dauphin N3 helicopters in May, 2006.

(c) PHHL has plans for leasing their helicopters on wet lease basis to the State Governments of Nagaland, Gujarat and Uttaranchal for connecting important tourist and religious places.

Tourism Development in NE States

2358. SHRI SUBRATA BOSE:
SHRI M.K. SUBBA:
SHRI MILIND DEORA:

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the North Eastern States have registered a growth of 10-15 percent in tourism;

(b) if so, the factors contributed to this growth;

(c) whether the Government has decided to spend Rs. 2 billion to promote tourism in the North Eastern States;

(d) if so, the details thereof alongwith the projects identified for the purpose; and

(e) the extent upto which Eco-tourism has been able to attract the tourists to the North Eastern States?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) and (b) The growth of tourism in North East States differs from State to State. As a result of promotional efforts made by Ministry of Tourism, Government of India and the respective State Governments there is increase in number of domestic and foreign tourist arrivals to NE States. Statement I indicating number of tourist arrivals to NE States is enclosed.

(c) to (e) Development and Promotion of tourism is the responsibility of the respective State Government/Union Territory Administration. However, Ministry of Tourism, Government of India provide financial assistance to State Government/Union Territory Administration in respect of tourism related projects which are identified in consultation with the concerned State Government/UT Admn. Statement II showing the projects identified for NE States for the year 2006-07 is enclosed. A minimum 10% of the total plan outlay of the Ministry of Tourism, Government of India is earmarked for development & promotion of tourism in NE States.

Statement I

Number of Tourist Arrivals To North East States

State U/T	2003		2004		2005	
	Domestic	Foreign	Foreign	Foreign	Domestic	Foreign
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Arunachal Pradesh	2195	123	4740	269	3005	289
Assam	2156675	6610	2288093	7285	2467652	10782
Manipur	92923	257	93476	249	94299	316

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Meghalaya	371953	6304	433495	12407	375901	5099
Mizoram	35129	279	38598	326	44715	273
Nagaland	5605	743	10056	1084	17470	883
Sikkim	179661	11966	230719	14646	251744	16523
Tripura	257331	3196	260907	3117	216330	2677

Statement II

Items of works prioritised for the year 2006-07 for the States of North-Eastern Region

State	Item of works
1	2
ASSAM	<p>(a) Under Destination Development</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Kamakhya and Satellite Pilgrimage Township of Hazo. 2. Sivasagar 3. Convention Centre & Wellness Centre at Hotel Brahmaputra Ashoka, Guwahati. <p>(b) Under Circuit Development</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Orang-Tezpur-Nameri-Bhalukpong-Tawang Tourist Circuit. <p>(c) Under Fairs & Festivals/Events</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Rangoli Utsav 2. Dehing-Patkai 3. Tea Tourism 4. Kaziranga Elephant Festival <p>(d) Rural Tourism: 1. Charideo Sukafa Nagar in Sivasagar Dist.</p> <p>(e) LRG: 1. Ropeway Project at Kamakhya Hill</p>
ARUNACHAL PRADESH	<p>(a) Under Destination Development</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Amenities at Parsuramkund Lohit District. 2. Restoration & Preservation of Heritage Site (Stone Rampart) at Dambuk. <p>(b) Under Circuit Development</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Tinsukia (Assam)-Namsai-Tezu-Walong-Dongi <p>(c) Under Fairs & Festivals/Events</p>

1

2

Events:

1. Arunachal Festival 2006
2. Siang River Festival

Festival:

1. Nyokum/Mopin Festival
2. Buddha Mohatsava

(d) Rural Tourism:

1. Ligu Village, Upper Subansiri District
2. Development of Rural Tourism of Igo-Kato (Nikte), West Siang District

(e) LRG:

1. Development & Procurement of Adventure Equipments at Ganga Lake, Itanagar

MIZZORAM**(a) Under Destination Development**

1. Chaltiang
2. Chalfilh

(b) Under Circuit Development

1. Southern-Hrangchalkawn, Tawipui'S', Lawngtlai, Saiha, Vawmbuk, Sangau, S. Vanlaiphi.
2. Eastern-Keitum, N. Vanlaiphai, East Lungdar, Khawung, Farkawn, Zokhawthar, Hnahla

(e) Under Fairs & Festivals/Events

1. Chapchar Kut
2. Thalfavang Kut
3. Anthurium Festival as Major Events

MEGHALAYA**(a) Under Destination Development**

1. Protection & development of caves around Jowai.
2. Tura

(b) Under Circuit Development

1. Williamnagar-Jakrem-Jowai
2. Shillong-Cherrapunji Jowai Mawplong

1

2

(c) Under Fairs & Festivals/Events

1. Winter Tourism Festival
2. Shillong Autumn Festival
3. Nongkrum Festival
4. Wangla Festival

MANIPUR**(a) Under Destination Development**

1. Nongmaiching (Eco-Park with Golf course)
2. Imphal

(b) Under Circuit Development

1. Imphal, Bishnupur, Sendra, Churachandpur.

(c) Under Fairs & Festivals/Events

1. Manipur Tourism Festival
2. Manipur Tourism Meet
3. LUI-NGAI-NI Festival
4. KUT Festival

(d) Rural Tourism: 1. Andro, Khongiom and None**NAGALAND****(a) Under Destination Development**

1. Tourist Travel Destination Toupheema, Kohima district.
2. Aizuto, Zunheboto District.

(b) Under Circuit Development

1. Zunheboto-Tuensang-Kiphiri
2. Governor's camp (Wokha)-Nui Land Area (Dimapur)-Jalukie Peren).

(c) Under Fairs & Festivals/Events

1. Tokhu Emong
2. Metumniu
3. Hombill Event
4. Event-Cultural night Varsity Show

(d) LRG:

1. Development of Golf Course Dimapur

1

2

SIKKIM

- (a) Under Destination Development
1. Development of Amusement Park at Samsa.
- (b) Under Circuit Development
1. Pilgrim Circuit at Sorang.
 2. Development of Tourist Centres at Aritar, Phodang and Mangan in East & West in Sikkim.
- (c) Under Fairs & Festivals/Events
1. Namchi Mahotsav
 2. Gangtok Winter Festival
 3. Maghey Mela
 4. Aritar Mela
- (d) Rural Tourism: 1. Rong Village in South Sikkim
- (e) LRG: 1. Recreation centre around Tsongu Lake

TRIPURA

- (a) Under Destination Development
1. Chaturdashi Devta Bari
- (b) Under Circuit Development
1. Development of North West Tripura Circuit.
- (c) Under Fairs & Festivals/Events
1. Neermahal festival.

*[Translation]***Assembly of 407 Helicopter**

2359. SHRI RASHEED MASOOD: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd. and BEL have started the assembling work of 407 helicopter;

(b) if so, the success achieved in this direction till now;

(c) whether the Army has placed any order for the said helicopter; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (RAO INDERJIT SINGH): (a) and (b) No, Sir.

However, on the request of M/s BELL Helicopter, USA, the Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) have assembled one 407 helicopter for their customer in India as a gesture.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

*[English]***Funds by ADB for Railway Projects**

2360. SHRI P.C. GADDIGOUDAR:
SHRI SUGRIB SINGH:
SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Asian Development Bank (ADB) has agreed to fund some railway projects during 2004-05 and 2005-06;

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

(c) the details of the target for completion thereof;

(d) the quantum of assistance being extended by ADB so far; and

(e) the details of the externally aided projects and loans taken from various agencies other than ADB by Railways?

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

(b) and (c) Asian Development Bank (ADB) approved funding of the following projects after signing of the loan agreement in 2004-05. The target dates of completion are indicated below:

State	Project	Target
Orissa	2nd Bridge over river Mahanadi	March 2008
Orissa	Rajatgarh-Barang Doubling	Nov. 2008
Orissa	Cuttack-Barang Doubling	Nov. 2008
Orissa	Barang-Khurda 3rd line	Nov. 2008
Chhattisgarh	Bhatapara-Urkura 3rd line	Oct. 2008
Andhra Pradesh	Gooty-Pullanmpet Doubling	March 2009
Andhra Pradesh	Raichur-Guntakal Doubling	March 2008
Uttar Pradesh	Aligarh-Ghaziabad 3rd line	June 2008
Tamilnadu	Thiruvallur-Arrakonam 3rd line	March 2007

(d) ADB has approved a loan of US\$ 313.6 millions with investment component of US\$ 296.6 millions. Till date, Rail Vikas Nigam Limited (RVNL), the executing agency for the above projects has raised claims worth Rs.15.79 crore for the project for construction of 2nd Mahanadi Bridge on East Coast Railway.

(e) The details of Externally Aided projects and loans taken from various agencies other than ADB by Railway are as below:

- (i) Mumbai Urban Transport Project (MUTP), which has both road and rail components, is partly funded by World Bank. The estimated cost of the rail component is Rs. 3125 crore. A loan of US Dollar 463 million has been extended by International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) and a credit of Special Drawing Right (SDR) 62.5 million has been extended by International Development Association (IDA).

- (ii) Project of Modernisation of Signalling between Ghaziabad and Kanpur is being partly funded by Kreditanstalt fur Wiederaufbau (KfW), Germany. The estimated cost of the project is Rs. 425 crore. The loan amount is DM 185 million (Euro 94.5 million).

Modernisation of Chhatrapati Shivaji Terminal Station

2361. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE:
SHRI HARIBHAU RATHOD:
SHRI EKNATH MAHADEO GAIKWAD:
SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Railways have received any proposal from the Government of Maharashtra for setting up a new terminal at the Chhatrapati Shivaji Terminal Station, Mumbai;

- (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) No, Sir.

- (b) and (c) Do not arise.

Welfare Measures for Buddhists

2362. SHRI KIREN RIJIJU: Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is taking any measures for the welfare of the Buddhists in the country;
 (b) if so, the details thereof;
 (c) whether there is any complaints regarding the census related to Buddhists population; and
 (d) if so, the details thereof and the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI A. R. ANTULAY): (a) and (b) Recently, Government has announced Prime Minister's New 15 point programme for the Welfare of Minorities, which provide for enhanced opportunities for education, equitable share in income and employment improving the conditions of living of minorities and ensuring communal harmony. Wherever, possible 15% of the targets and outlays are earmarked for minorities. Besides, National Minorities Development & Finance Corporation provides loans to minorities on concessional rates for term loan, micro financing, educational loan etc. Maulana Azad Educational Foundation also has educational schemes for minorities.

Buddhists are one of the minorities notified under the National Commission for Minorities Act, 1992 and benefits of the welfare schemes for minorities are also available to them.

- (c) and (d) Information is being collected and will be placed on the Table of the House.

Hostels and Residential Schools in Gujarat

2363. SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA:
 DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA:
 SHRI JASHUBHAI DHANABHAI BARAD:

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

(a) whether the Union Government has received proposals from Government of Gujarat for Central assistance for the construction of Babu Jagjivan Ram hostels and residential schools for Scheduled Caste boys and girls under the centrally sponsored scheme;

- (b) if so, the present status of these proposals; and

(c) the time by which the central assistance under these proposals are likely to be released?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Girls Hostel: A proposal for construction of one Hostel each at Babu Jagjivan Ram Pratiethan (Govt. Girls Hostel) at Mehsana, Junagarh and Porbandar was received from the Govt. of Gujarat during 2005-06, out of which matching central assistance to the Hostel at Junagarh had been released during 2005-06 itself, as the documents were complete. Necessary documents in respect of remaining two Hostels have been received from the Govt. of Gujarat subsequently.

Boys Hostel: An incomplete proposal for construction of one Boys Hostel at Babu Jagjivan Ram Pratiethan (Ideal Residential School for Boys), Idar, Sabarkantha was received from the Govt. of Gujarat during 2005-06. Necessary documents are awaited from the Govt. of Gujarat.

[Translation]

Rate of Natural Gas

2364. SHRI BHUVANESHWAR PRASAD MEHTA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Oil and Natural Gas Corporation is being forced to sell its gas on cheaper rates and a very high price is being paid to the oil field operators of Panna, Mukta and Tapti oil fields, as reported in the *Dainik Jagaran*, dated June 27, 2006;

- (b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the sanctioned rate of gas on which the ONGC is permitted to sell its gas;

(d) the names and series-wise details of the field operators of Panna, Mukta and Tapti oil fields and the rates which are being received by these operators; and

(e) the reasons for differences in rates of gas of ONGC and the operators of Panna, Mukta and Tapti?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL): (a) to (c) While, the price of gas produced by ONGC from the fields given to it by the Government on nomination basis is being fixed by the Government under the Administered Pricing Mechanism (APM), the Panna, Mukta and Tapti Joint Venture (PMT JV) is selling their gas on market considerations. While the price of APM gas for Power and Fertilizer sectors is at Rs. 3200/ thousand standard cubic metre (MSCM), the price of APM gas for other than Power and Fertilizer sectors APM consumers is at Rs. 3840/MSCM.

(d) and (e) PMT JV include ONGC, Reliance Industries Limited and British gas in the ratio of 40:30:30. The PMT JV sells 4.8 million standard cubic metre per day (MMSCMD) gas directly to its consumers, and the remaining gas @ US \$ 4.75/million British thermal units (MMBTU) to GAIL. As compared to APM gas from the nominated fields of ONGC, the gas produced from PMT JV is governed in terms of the Production Sharing Contract.

HRA to Employees Working in Vehicle Factory, Jabalpur

2365. SHRI RAKESH SINGH: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the employees working in the vehicle factory, Jabalpur are being compelled to shift into the Government accommodation resulting in loss of House Rent Allowance to them;

(b) if so, the details of the policy/rules/regulations in this regard;

(c) whether the Government proposes amend the said policy/rules/regulations; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (RAO INDERJIT SINGH): (a) to (d) Statutory rules order (SRO-149), relating to quarter allotment in an Ordnance Factory Estate provide that all employees posted at a station, where accommodation has been built specifically for employees of Ordnance Factories, have to apply for allotment of accommodation within one month of their joining duty. Further, if the allotment of Government accommodation does not accept the allottee or fails to occupy the allotted residence after acceptance, then the said Government employee is not entitled for payment of House Rent allowance.

There is no proposal to amend the relevant SRO. As House Rent Allowance (HRA) is given in lieu of government accommodation and sufficient Government accommodation, specifically built for employees of Ordnance factory, is available, it may not be possible to amend the relevant SRO.

[English]

Oil and Gas Exploration Ventures

2366. SHRI P.C. THOMAS: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the oil and gas exploration ventures going on in different areas in the country alongwith the agencies involved in exploration;

(b) whether some of the exploration ventures have been dropped or discontinued;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) the status of exploration in the different areas of Karnataka and Kerala including Cochin High;

(e) whether production of oil, gas or other petroleum products have been started in any of the exploration ventures; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL): (a) Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC) is carrying out exploration in 112 nomination exploration blocks and 46 New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP) exploration blocks spread over 18 basins, both onshore and offshore of the country. ONGC is also

carrying out exploration for Coal Bed Methane (CBM) in two nomination blocks and seven blocks awarded under two CBM rounds.

Oil India Limited (OIL) is carrying out exploration in 8 Nos. of a NELP blocks as consortia partner while in 6 Nos. of NELP blocks, OIL is operator.

In addition to ONGC and OIL, the following companies are also engaged in exploration of oil and gas in the country:

Company	Number of blocks
RIL	34 (thirty four)
Caim	6 (six)
GSPC	5 (five)
HOEC	3 (three)
Focus (previously Phoenix)	3 (three)
Premier Oil	2 (two)
Enpro Finance	2 (two)
OAO Gazprom	1 (one)
Canoro	1 (one)
Tullow	1 (one)
Essar	1 (one)
JEPL	2 (two)
Hardy	2 (two)
Niko Resources Ltd.	2 (two)
ENI	2 (two)
Geo Petrol	1 (one)
Geo Global	1 (one)

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. As per the terms of contract laid down in PSC, operator has the option to relinquish/quit the block after completing the minimum work commitment of phase-I or phase-II work and before entry in next phase.

OIL has discontinued exploration activities in block CY-OSN-97/2 offered under NELP-I, in Cauvery basin.

(d) to (f) ONGC has carried out exploration in the off-shore areas off the coast of Kamataka and Kerala including Cochin High in Kerala Konkan Basin. As on 1.4.2006, ONGC has acquired 114207 LKM of 2D (49148 LK in shallow and 65023 LK in deep waters) and 4260 sq km of 3D (1423 sq km in shallow and 2837 sq km in deep waters) seismic data in Kerala Konakan Offshore. ONGC does not hold any acreage in onland area of these States. Till date no commercial discovery of hydrocarbon has been established in this area.

As far as PSC regime is concerned, no exploratory block has been awarded in the State of Kamataka, Kerala and Cochin High.

Crude Oil from Sakhalin-I

2367. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Ltd. (ONGC) plans to bring crude oil from Sakhalin-I into India as reported in 'Business Line' dated July 19, 2006;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether ONGC has also submitted a report on auctioning of offshore crude to the Government;

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

(e) the amount of crude (equity oil) being brought by ONGC and ONGC Videsh Ltd. from abroad to India and its share out of total annual crude requirement in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL): (a) and (b) ONGC Videsh Limited (OVL), a wholly owned subsidiary of ONGC, is planning to bring the first two cargoes of crude oil each having the capacity of approx. 700,000 bbls from Sakhalin-I project in Russia into India in October and December, 2006.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The details of infrastructure viz. jetties, SBM and pipelines available with ONGC at Jawahardweep and offshore to facilitate auctioning of crude by ONGC are being assessed.

(e) OVL has brought the following quantity of crude oil from GNOP project, Sudan to India from its Saleable Share after the profit Oil and Taxes payable to the Sudan Government:

Year	Quantity shipped to India out of OVL's Saleable share (TMT)	Quantity of crude oil processed in the country (TMT)	Share out of the total quantity of crude oil processed (%)
2003-04	818	118678	0.69
2004-05	333	124302	0.27
2005-06	256	126986	0.20

TMT :Thousand Metric Tonne.

Metro Rail in Kolkata

2368. SHRI RUPCHAND MURMU: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to connect Howrah and Kolkata by Metro Rail under River Ganga;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

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

(d) the total expenditure alongwith expenditure incurred per kilometre on this Metro Rail?

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

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Railway Development in Karnataka

2369. SHRI D.V. SADANANDGOWDA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have received any proposal from the Government of Karnataka and the general public regarding railway development in the State;

(b) if so, the details of the proposal thereof; and

(c) action taken/proposed to be taken by the Railways on each proposal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (c) Record of each and every demand received is not maintained. However, as per available records, requests for some of the proposals received from the Government of Karnataka and Hon'ble Members of Parliament for development of rail network in the State of Karnataka and action taken thereon is as under:-

Sl.No.	Proposal	Action Taken
1.	Talguppa-Honnavar New line	Survey taken up.
2.	Chitradurga-Jagalur-Kottur New line	Survey taken up.
3.	Rayadurg-Tumkur New line	Survey completed and survey report is in the process of finalization in the zonal railway.
4.	Bagalkot-Kudachi	Survey taken up.
5.	Mysore-Ramanagaram Doubling	Updating survey taken up.

Air Fare between Gulf Countries and Kerala

2370. SHRI S. AJAYA KUMAR: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is considering to subsidise the air fare between Gulf countries and Kerala; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) Does not arise.

Doubling of Hospet-Hubli-Vasco Railway Line

2371. SHRI K. VIRUPAKSHAPPA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways are doubling of Hospet-Hubli-Vasco railway line;

(b) since when the work has been started on the said project;

(c) the total expenditure incurred on the project so far; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) On Hospet-Hubli-Vasco Da Gama rail line, Dharwad-Kambarganvi and Hubli-Hebsur patch doublings have been included in the Supplementary Budget 2006-07. These works would be taken up once Budget is passed by the Parliament.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

(d) No target date has been fixed.

[*Translation*]

Food Testing Laboratories

2372. SHRI MUNSHI RAM:
SHRI KULDEEP BISHNOI:
SHRI KAILASH NATH SINGH YADAV:
SHRI MOHD. TAHIR:
SHRI SHISHUPAL PATLE:
PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR:
SHRI ASHOK KUMAR RAWAT:

Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of food testing laboratories functioning in the country at present, State-wise;

(b) the details of food testing laboratories set up with Central assistance during the last three years;

(c) whether the Union Government has received requests for financial assistance from the State Government and other organizations for setting up/upgradation of food testing laboratories;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) to (e) It is estimated that about 280 food testing laboratories are functioning in Public and Private sector in the country. Ministry of Food Processing Industries (MFPI) provides financial assistance under its Plan Scheme to various stakeholders such as Central/ State Government organizations, IITs, Universities, private sector organisations for setting up/up-gradation of food testing laboratories. MFPI has assisted 29 organizations, so far, under its Plan Scheme. Statement-I indicating total number of food testing laboratories State-wise assisted by MFPI is enclosed. Statement-II indicating State-wise food testing laboratories assisted by MFPI during last three years is enclosed.

Statement I

State-wise financial assistance provided by MFPI so far, for setting up/up-gradation of food testing laboratories

Sl. No.	Name of the State	Food Testing Laboratories
1.	Andhra Pradesh	3
2.	Assam	1
3.	Delhi	4
4.	Gujarat	2
5.	Haryana	1
6.	Himachal Pradesh	-
7.	Jammu & Kashmir	1
8.	Jharkhand	1
9.	Karnataka	2
10.	Madhya Pradesh	1
11.	Maharashtra	1
12.	Punjab	2
13.	Tamilnadu	2
14.	Uttar Pradesh	4
15.	Uttaranchal	1
16.	West Bengal	3
Total		29

Statement-II

State-wise financial assistance provided by MFPI during last three years i.e. 2003-04, 2004-05 and 2005-06 for setting up/up-gradation of food testing laboratories

Sl.No	State/U.T.	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	Total Grant-in-aid (Rs. in Lakh)
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	-	-	-	-
2.	Andhra Pradesh	-	-	175.19	175.19
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	-	-	-	-
4.	Assam	-	-	245.50	245.50
5.	Bihar	-	-	-	-
6.	Chandigarh	-	-	-	-
7.	Chhattisgarh	-	-	-	-
8.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	-	-	-	-
9.	Daman and Diu	-	-	-	-
10.	Delhi	-	11.25	37.86	49.11
11.	Goa	-	-	-	-
12.	Gujarat	-	-	137.40	137.40
13.	Haryana	-	-	-	-
14.	Himachal Pradesh	-	-	-	-
15.	Jammu and Kashmir	-	-	-	-
16.	Jharkhand	-	25.00	-	25.00
17.	Karnataka	-	-	-	-
18.	Kerala	-	-	-	-
19.	Lakshadweep	-	-	-	-
20.	Madhya Pradesh	-	-	14.85	14.85
21.	Maharashtra	-	-	-	-
22.	Manipur	-	-	-	-
23.	Meghalaya	-	-	-	-
24.	Mizoram	-	-	-	-

1	2	3	4	5	6
25.	Nagaland	-	-	-	-
26.	Orissa	-	-	-	-
27.	Pondicherry	-	-	-	-
28.	Punjab	-	-	71.57	71.57
29.	Rajasthan	-	-	-	-
30.	Sikkim	-	-	-	-
31.	Tamil Nadu	-	-	130.84	130.84
32.	Tripura	-	-	-	-
33.	Uttar Pradesh	-	-	-	-
34.	Uttaranchal	-	-	-	-
35.	West Bengal	-	-	145.85	145.85

*[English]***Kadapa Airport**

2373. SHRI A. SAI PRATHAP: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to develop Kadapa Airport in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the funds allocated by the Government for this purpose; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) Airports Authority of India has no proposal to undertake further development of Cuddapah airport as there is no demand from any airlines to operate scheduled flights to that airport.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

*[Translation]***Revival of HMTs**

2374. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether all the units of the Hindustan Machine Tools (HMTs) are incurring losses for the past several years;

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

(c) the details of the financial assistance provided to the HMT during the last three years; and

(d) the steps taken or proposed to be taken for revival of HMT?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF HEAVY INDUSTRY, MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH): (a) and (b) Most of the HMT group of companies are incurring losses for the past several years. Details of profit/losses incurred in respect of HMT Ltd. & its subsidiaries during the last three years are as under:

Name of Company	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06
HMT Ltd.	-7.19	18.50	12.74
HMT (International) Ltd.	0.13	0.07	0.23*
HMT Machine Tools Ltd.	-119.08	-73.80	-13.59*
HMT Watches Ltd.	-134.81	-73.80	-74.71*
HMT Chinar Watches Ltd.	-21.92	-25.23	-29.08*
HMT Bearings Ltd.	-9.58	-10.38	-0.65
Praga Tools Ltd.	16.04	-34.39	-7.02*

*Provisional-Subject to audit.

(c) The financial assistance provided by Government of India to HMT Ltd. & its subsidiaries during the last three years is as under:

Year	Rupees in crores
2003-04	226.34
2004-05	162.70
2005-06	129.56

(d) HMT Ltd. & its subsidiaries have formulated comprehensive revival/restructuring plans to address the specific issues related to high operational cost due to dispersed and vertically integrated manufacturing facilities, high cost of manpower *vis-a-vis* turnover levels achieved, product & process constraints, high level of borrowings. The proposed revival/restructuring plans aim to address the above issues through organizational financial restructuring, rationalization of manpower, upgradation of plant & machinery etc. & partnership with renowned overseas manufacturers. Revival plans of HMT group of companies are at various stages of consideration by the Government and implementation where approved by the Government.

[English]

Construction of Railway Line in Neora-Shaikhpura Block

2375. SHRI VIJOY KRISHNA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways are aware that the progress of construction of railway line in Neora-Shaikhpura block of Central East Railway under Danapur Railway Zone is very slow as a result of which there is resentment among the public;

(b) if so, whether the Railways propose to provide the required amount for its quick construction as early as possible in view of the importance attaching to the railway line; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (c) Fatuha-Islampur and Neora-Sheikhpura (171.5km.) new line is an ongoing project at an anticipated cost of Rs. 406.92 crore. Fatuha-

Islampur portion has been completed. The work has been prioritised in category IV and is being progressed as per availability of resources. An outlay of Rs. 5 crore has been provided for the work during 2006-07.

[Translation]

Pilferage of Coal

2376. KUNWAR MANVENDRA SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have made any assessment above the losses incurred due to the pilferage of coal during its transportation to the destination;

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

(c) whether any involvement of the employees of Railways and the personnel of Railway Protection Force has been found in such cases;

(d) if so, the action taken against those erring officials; and

(e) the corrective steps taken to prevent such losses?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (e) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Production in Ordnance Factories

2377. SHRI M. ANJAN KUMAR YADAV:
SHRI SUNIL KUMAR MAHATO:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has made any efforts to make the product of the Ordnance Factories market oriented after fulfilling the needs of the defence forces of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the corrective steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (RAO INDERJIT SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir. After fulfilling the needs of the Defence forces, Ordnance

Factories are supplying their products to civilian customers as well as for exports by utilizing the space capacity available.

(b) Value of supply to Defence and non-defence sector during the last three years is given as under:-

(Rs. in Crores)

Year	Defence Forces	Non-defence sector	Total
2003-04	5547	977	6524
2004-05	5209	978	6187
2005-06	5621	1251	6872

(c) Does not arise.

[*English*]

Funds for Railway Projects in Maharashtra

2378. SHRI HARIBHAU RATHOD: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether adequate funds have been allocated for the on-going Railway projects in Maharashtra during the last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken to provide adequate funds so that the on-going projects will be completed expeditiously?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (c) The funds to various projects in Maharashtra have been allocated as per the availability of resources keeping in view State-wise formula and priority of projects. In the last three years the funds allocated for various projects falling partly/fully in Maharashtra has been as under:-

2003-04	Rs. 482 crore
2004-05	Rs. 438 crore
2005-06	Rs. 325 crore

(d) Number of initiatives have been taken to generate additional resources for expediting completion of ongoing

projects. State Governments have also been requested to participate in funding the projects.

[*Translation*]

Bio Diesel based Trains in Chhattisgarh

2379. SHRI PUNNU LAL MOHALE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether South-East Central Railways has started Bio-diesel based trains in Chhattisgarh;

(b) if so, whether the trains running on Bio-diesel are being proposed to be extended to other States from Chhattisgarh;

(c) if so, whether there is a scheme to run trains on Bio-diesel in all parts of the State;

(d) if so, whether savings to be effected on this account has been assessed; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Yes, Sir. Between Raipur-Dhamtari Narrow (NG) section, two nominated locos are hauling two different NG trains with 5% blend of Bio-diesel with High Speed Diesel from 21.07.06 on trial basis.

(b) Wider use of Bio-diesel depends upon the outcome of the limited trial mentioned above and availability of Bio-diesel.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) No such appraisal has been made so far.

(e) Does not arise.

[*English*]

Losses Due to Price Hike in International Market

2380. SHRI DHANUSKODI R. ATHITHAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether continue increase in price/fluctuation in rates of oil and petroleum products in international market has put India into considerable losses;

(b) if so, the details of losses during each of the last three years and current year; and

(c) the total income of Government on account of import duty on petroleum products during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL): (a) and (b) The profit after tax (PAT) of PSU Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) during the last three years and the first quarter of 2006-07 (April-June) is given below:

OMCs	(Rs. in crore)			
	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07 (April-June)
IOCL	7005	4891	4915	1780.20#
BPC	1695	966	130*	(677.30)
HPC	1904	1277	406	(607.67)
IBP	215	59	12	(458.70)

*Unaudited.

#Represents IOC's Profit After Tax for the period April - June '06. However, this includes profit on sale of shares worth Rs. 3224.78 crores. Hence profit/(loss) after tax before this item would Rs. (1444.26) crore.

(c) As per the information furnished by oil companies, the income of the Government from customs duty levied on import of petroleum products is as follows:

Year	Amount (Rs. in crore)
2003-04	9,552
2004-05	11,697
2005-06 (Provisional)	8,935

Construction of Airports in Lakshadweep

2381. DR. P.P KOYA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to upgrade and enlarge the Airport at Agatti Island, Lakshadweep;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there is also any proposal to set up new Airports in the remote islands of Minicoy, Kalpeni and Kadmat Islands of Lakshadweep;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. There is a proposal to upgrade Agatti airport for operation of ATR 72 type of aircraft with the support of Administration of Lakshadweep.

(c) to (e) Airports Authority of India (AAI) has no proposal to construct new airports at these Islands.

Concession to Senior Citizens in LTC Package

2382. PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Airlines (IA) has announced any LTC package for Kashmir (Srinagar) initiated from the month of April, 2006;

(b) if so, whether IA has granted tickets at 50 per cent concession to the senior citizens in the said package;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to grant tickets at 50 per cent concession to the senior citizens in the packages announced from time to time by the national carriers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) No, Sir. Packages offered by Indian Airlines for Srinagar are not specific to LTC beneficiaries.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

(d) and (e) Indian Airlines offers concessions to senior citizens only in normal fares and not in 'package' schemes. Packages offered include, apart from air fare, cost of hotel accommodation, sightseeing and other facilities, the cost of which is borne by Indian Airlines from within the package price. Any concession in the fare to senior citizens will render the packages commercially unviable for Indian Airlines.

Restructuring of Oil PSUs

2383. SHRI SARVEY SATYANARAYANA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to restructure the public sector oil companies to bring in a great degree of professionalism and make them globally competitive; and

(b) if so, the steps taken in this direction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL): (a) The Advisory Committee on Synergy in Energy headed by Dr. V. Krishnamurthy has submitted its report with recommendations on policy and structural changes and has also suggested certain management solutions for improved performance of the oil companies in the public sector.

(b) The recommendations are under consideration of the Government.

Investment in Automobile Sector

2384. SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to invest more than Rs. 1500 crore in the automobile sector for upgradation/testing facilities;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the places where testing facilities are proposed to be set up particularly Karnataka and the time-frame within which these would be operational?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF HEAVY INDUSTRY, MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH): (a) The Government has approved the National Automotive Testing and R&D Infrastructure Project (NATRIP) in July, 2005 to create world class infrastructure for testing, homologation and certification in the country with an estimated cost of Rs. 1718 crore.

(b) and (c) Under the NATRIP, Testing, Certification and Homologation facilities will be created at Manesar

(Hyaryana), Pune and Ahmed Nagar (Maharashtra) and Chennai (Tamil Nadu). A specialized Hill Area Driving & Training Centre at Silchar (Assam) and Off Road Vehicle Testing Facility at Rae Bareilly (Uttar Pradesh) are also being set up under the project, alongside Proving Grounds facilities at Indore (Madhya Pradesh). The project is to be completed by 2011. There is no proposal to set up testing facility under NATRIP in Karnataka.

[*Translation*]

Mob Attack At Keljhar Station

2385. SHRI SUBODH MOHITE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a mob of passengers has attacked and burnt down the Keljhar railway station of Chanderpur district;

(b) if so, the details alongwith loss of lives and properties therein;

(c) whether any inquiry has been ordered by the Railways into the incident;

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

(e) the action taken/to be taken by the Railways against the persons found guilty; and

(f) the measures taken to check recurrence of such incidents?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. On 01.06.2006, one goods train passed through Kelzhar station of Nagpur division at 21.42 hours and stopped at Kilometre No. 1220/7-13 between Kelzhar and Chandafort station due to engine failure. The matter was informed to Deputy Station Superintendent/Kelzhar and Section Controller/Nagpur by the train driver. In the mean time one Passenger train No. 4 GC (Gondia-Chandafort Passenger) arrived at Kelzhar station at 22.15 hours. As per the advice of Section Controller/Nagpur, Deputy Station Superintendent/Kelzhar attached the engine of train No. 4 GC to the said goods train to clear the section. The goods train arrived at Chandafort at 23.50 hours and the train No. 4 GC remained stabled at Kelzhar station for 3 hours 35 minutes. The passengers of the stabled train got agitated, ransacked ticket counter, set the station building on fire, and destroyed signal system,

electrical equipments and also assaulted Deputy Station Superintendent/Kelzhar. No casualty has been reported. Spot enquiry was conducted by Divisional Railway Manager/Nagpur, Divisional Security Commissioner/Railway Protection Force/Nagpur, Senior Divisional Signal and Telecommunication Engineer/Nagpur, Senior Divisional Safety Officer/Nagpur, and Divisional Commercial Manager/Nagpur who assessed the total loss of railway property which was estimated to be Rs. 2 lakhs.

(e) and (f) On receipt of information, Local Police of Mulmoarora alongwith Deputy Superintendent of Police/Barhampuri and Government Railway Police station/Itwari attended the spot and controlled the situation. On complaint of Deputy Station Superintendent/Kelzhar, a case vide crime No.09/2006 date 02.06.06 under section 143, 147, 149, 353, 436 Indian Penal Code (IPC), 151 Railways Act and 03 of Damage to Property Act has been registered at Government Railway Police Station/Itwari. No arrest has been made so far.

Safety seminars are being organized to improve communication skills of Railway employees especially Station Masters/Station Superintendent etc. to tackle such situation.

[English]

Funds to West Bengal SCs and STs Development and Finance Corporation

2386. SHRI RANEN BARMAN: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the funds sanctioned for West Bengal SCs and STs Development and Finance Corporation for 2006-07;

(b) whether there is any dispute between the State channelising agencies and Union Government on the funds sanctioned to it; and

(c) if so, the reaction of the Union Government thereto?

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

has sanctioned an amount of Rs. 4.51 crore to the West Bengal Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Development and Finance Corporation during the current financial year.

(b) and (c) No Sir.

Maintenance of Central Archaeological Centres

2387. SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI: Will the Minister for CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to enhance the funds for maintenance of Central Archaeological Centres in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has any proposal to carry out special survey drive for finding new spots of historic importance in the country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) and (b) Government has enhanced the budget provision for the conservation and maintenance of the protected archaeological monuments and sites. The allocation for the Archaeological Survey of India during the last three years and for the current year is as under:

Budget allocation of the Archaeological Survey of India (BE)

Year	(Rs. in Lakhs)		
	Plan	Non-Plan	Total
2003-04	4550.00	16565.00	21115.00
2004-05	7000.00	17030.00	24030.00
2005-06	8000.00	17100.00	25100.00
2006-07	7500.00	17700.00	25200.00

(c) and (d) There is no proposal to carry out a special drive to identify new spots of historic importance in the country.

*[Translation]***Railway Projects of Gujarat**

2388. SHRI HARISINH CHAVDA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of Railway projects lying pending and awaiting completion in Gujarat;

(b) the project-wise amount of funds provided for the said projects in the budget alongwith the amount of funds released therefor during the last three years;

(c) the number of projects that are running behind the schedule alongwith the details thereof;

(d) the action taken by the Railways to ensure that said projects are completed expeditiously; and

(e) the success achieved by the Railways as a result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) Details of ongoing projects falling fully/party in the State of Gujarat alongwith outlay provided during 2006-07 and expenditure incurred during the last three years are as under:-

Sl. No.	Project	Outlay during 2006-07 (Rs. in crore)	Expenditure during last three years	Remarks
NEW LINE				
1.	Gandhinagar-Adraj Moti-Kalol	8	27.77	Work on Kalol-Adrej Moti gauge conversion has been completed and Gandhinagar-Adrej-Moti new line is targeted for completion during 2006-07.
2.	Godhra-Indore and Dewas-Maksi	10	-	Dewas-Maksi new line commissioned.
GAUGE CONVERSION				
1.	Bhildi-Samdari	115	7.55	-
2.	Bharuch-Samni Dahej	10	0	-
3.	Pratapnagar- Chhota Udepur	33.91	1.33	-
4.	Gandhidham- Palanpur	65	199.6	Work on Palanpur-Samakhiali has been completed and Gandhidham-Samakhiali is targeted for completion during 2006-07.
5.	Rajkot-Veraval, Wansjaliya-Jetalsar with new line from Veraval to Somnath	9.84	114.41	Work on Rajkot-Veraval gauge conversion has been completed and Veraval-Somnath new line is targeted for completion during 2006-07.
6.	Bhildi-Viramgam	5	82.35	Work on Viramgam-Mahesana has been completed.
7.	Phulera-Marwar-Ahmedabad	5	—	Main line work has been completed.
DOUBLING				
1.	Surat-Kosamba	0.1	0.004	-

(c) to (e) Projects are progressing as per availability of resources. However, a number of initiatives have been taken to augment resources for expediting completion of the ongoing projects. These include sharing by State Governments, Public/Private Partnership, funding from Ministry of Defence, additional resources for National Projects and non-budgetary initiatives for National Rail Vikas Yojana.

Travelling of Passengers on Fake Disability Certificates

2389. SHRI GANESH SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the methods/procedure adopted by the Railways to ascertain the genuineness of the disability certificates;

(b) whether the Railways are aware of travelling of passengers on fake disability certificates;

(c) if so, the number of such cases reported in the Railways during the current year particularly from Jabalpur Division, Zone/Division-wise;

(d) the action taken by the Railways thereon; and

(e) the measures taken by the Railways to check recurrence of such incidents?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Only the certificate in prescribed proforma issued by the Government doctor with the signature and seal containing full name and registration number of the doctor is accepted for the purpose of grant of Railway concession to disabled persons. The photo of person availing the concession must be signed and stamped in such a way that the doctor's signature and stamp appears partly on the photo and partly on the certificate. A photo copy of the certificate is accepted for the purpose of grant of concession. The original certificate is seen for verification at the time of issuing concessional tickets.

(b) Yes, Sir. Some cases of passengers found travelling on fake disability certificate have come to notice.

(c) Separate data of such irregularities is not maintained. However, no such case was detected on Jabalpur Division in the current year.

(d) Whenever such cases are detected, the same are brought to the notice of the concerned authority for necessary action.

(e) Staff have been instructed to keep watch on such cases.

[English]

Import of Wheels

2390. SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to import wheels;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken by the Railways to produce wheels indigenously?

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

(b) The total annual requirement of wheels of Indian Railways is approximately 2,40,000 Nos. The manufacturing capacity of the two indigenous sources i.e. Rail Wheel Factory, Bangalore and Steel Authority of India Limited (Durgapur Steel Plant) put together is about 2,00,000 wheels. Only shortfall quantity of which is around 40,000 Nos. is being imported. Wheels for high horse power locomotives and high speed coaches etc. for which requirements being small, are also imported since economies of scale do not permit indigenous production. The reasons for import of wheels are therefore shortage of capacity and requirement of special type of wheels.

(c) A new wheel manufacturing factory in Chhapra, Bihar, has also been sanctioned and the project is planned to be completed by January 2010. This shall supplement the production capacity available in the country from Rail Wheel Factory, Bangalore and Durgapur Steel Plant.

Indigenous development of special type of wheels has also been taken up and such production will be concurrent with growth in volumes.

Agreement between Pilots and Indian Airlines

2391. SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian Airlines pilots have agreed to do a fourth landing within their Flight and Duty Time Limitations (FDTL);

(b) if so, the detailed agreement reached between the pilots and the Indian Airlines;

(c) whether more emoluments are likely to be paid to the pilots for this fourth landing and extra duty hours;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken or being taken to ensure flight safety keeping in view the long duty hours of pilots?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) Memorandum of Settlement has been signed with Indian Commercial Pilots Association (ICPA) on 18th July, 2006 wherein the ICPA has agreed that a Pilot will undertake 4 landings while operating A-319/A-320 type aircraft provided the total flight time is upto 5 hours and within the existing duty time. The number of 4 landings per Pilot will be restricted to 4 times in a month and will not be allowed in case of scheduled operations between 2300 hours to 0530 hours except delayed flights.

(c) and (d) Pilots who undertake 4th landing in a duty cycle will be paid additionally for one hour beyond the actual flying time at the rate of hourly Flying Allowance applicable in his/her case.

(e) The 4th landing in one duty cycle as well as the flight and duty time agreed to with ICPA is well within the Flight and Duty Time Limitations laid down by the Directorate General of Civil Aviation and does not constitute any safety hazard.

[Translation]

Losses To Coco Pumps

2392. SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a constant decline in the sale of petrol/diesel in the coco pumps of public sector oil companies;

(b) if so, whether the Government proposes to change the policy of allotment of petrol pumps;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether any proposal is under the consideration of the Government to get a review done for this purpose by any management institute; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL): (a) to (e) Government has generally observed that while the public sector oil marketing companies (OMCs) have expanded their retail outlet (RO) network, which includes company-owned-company-operated (COCO) retail outlets, 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 reduction in their average throughput per RO.

The standing Committee on Petroleum & Natural Gas (2005-06) (Fourteenth Lok Sabha) also, 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 & Natural Gas (MOP&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.

At present, Government do not contemplate any change in policy for allotment of retail outlets.

[English]

Setting up of Petrol Retail Outlets in Karnataka

2393. SHRI G.M. SIDDESWARA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to

(a) the number of petrol retail outlets in Karnataka, company-wise;

(b) the details of petrol retail outlets set up in Karnataka by the Oil marketing Companies during each of the last three years, company/location-wise; and

(c) the retail outlets proposed to be set up during the next three years in Karnataka, company/location-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL): (a) As on 30.06.2006, 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) had 1,843 retail outlet (RO) dealerships (petrol pumps) in the State of Karnataka, OMC-wise break up of which is as under:

OMC	No. of ROs
IOC	786
HPC	419
BPC	462
IBP	176
Total	1843

(b) During the last three years, i.e., 2003-04, 2004-05 and 2005-06, these OMCs had set up 675 ROs in the State of Karnataka, the details of which are as under:—

Name of OMC	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	Total
IOC	90	86	133	309
BPC	48	60	51	159
HPC	20	48	50	118
IBP	59	16	14	89
Total	217	210	248	675

Location-wise details are available with the Director (Marketing) of the OMC concerned.

(c) During the next three years, i.e. 2006-07, 2007-08 and 2008-09, these OMCs tentatively plan to set up

501 ROs in the State of Karnataka, the OMC-wise and year-wise break-up of which is as under:—

Name of OMC	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	Total
IOC	115	52	46	213
BPC	66	50	50	166
HPC	50	35	22	107
IBP	5	5	5	15
Total	236	142	123	501

Location-wise details of these ROs are available with the Director (Marketing) of the OMC concerned.

However, actual setting up of these planned ROs will depend on a variety of factors, like, commercial viability, selection/appointment of dealers, availability of suitable land at proposed locations, obtaining statutory approvals/'No Objection Certificates' etc.

Increase in Occupancy Rate

2394. SHRI E.G. SUGAVANAM: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the occupancy rate of Indian hotels particularly hotels maintained by ITDC have shown any remarkable increase during the last few years;

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

(c) whether the ITDC has increased the room rates though there is marginal increase in occupancy rates;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to maintain and to further increase the occupancy rates in hotels and to reduce the room rates and also to provide better service to the tourists?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) and (b) The details showing occupancy of ITDC hotels for the last three years i.e. 2003-04, 2004-05 and 2005-06 are given below:—

Sl.No.	Name of the Hotel	% age of Occupancy		
		2003-04	2004-05	2005-06
1.	The Ashok, New Delhi	48	62	68
2.	Samrat Hotel, New Delhi	74	83	81
3.	Janpath Hotel, New Delhi	49	60	54
4.	Hotel Jaipur Ashok, Jaipur	14	19	20
5.	Hotel Patliputra Ashok, Patna	30	40	35
6.	Lalitha Mahal Palace Hotel, Mysore	33	35	32
7.	Hotel Jammu Ashok, Jammu	14	21	35
8.	Hotel Kalinga Ashok, Bhubaneswar	11	10	29

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. Keeping in view the increase in operational expenditures, wage costs and market dynamics, room rates were increased by ITDC w.e.f. September, 2005 as per the annual past practice.

(e) ITDC has taken following steps to maintain and to further increase the occupancy rates in hotels and to provide better service to the tourists:—

- (i) Aggressive marketing and promotional efforts to tap new markets.
- (ii) Ensuring better customer services.
- (iii) adding new customer facilities/services.
- (iv) Formulation of strategies to identify new client segments.
- (v) Human resource development to improve service standards of the hotels.

X-Ray Machines at Parcel Offices

2395. SHRI K.C. PALLANI SHAMY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have any proposal to install X-ray machines in all its parcel offices for thorough security checking of parcels to avoid any untoward incident;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the details of stations identified for the purpose; and

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

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

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[Translation]

Surprise Inspections in Trains

2396. SHRI BALESHWAR YADAV: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways conduct surprise inspection to check the working of Travelling ticket Examiners (TTEs) and other officials in trains;

(b) if so, the details of such surprise inspection conducted during the current year;

(c) the number of T.T.Es and other officials found involved in illegal activities during such surprise inspections during the said period, zone-wise; and

(d) the action taken/to be taken against the officials found guilty?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) Regular and surprise checks are conducted at various levels by the officers and supervisors of the concerned departments

and by Vigilance branch. Statistics of such inspections are not maintained.

(c) and (d) No separate statistics is maintained in this regard. However, disciplinary action is taken against the staff found guilty.

Financial Assistance for Development of Tourist Places in Punjab

2397. SHRI AVINASH RAI KHANNA: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the number of domestic/foreign tourists visited Punjab during each of the last three years;

(b) the financial assistance provided by the Union Government for the development of tourist places in Punjab during each of the last three years; and

(c) the funds allocated for the development of tourism in Punjab during 2006-07?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) The number of tourists who visited Punjab in the last three years are:

Year	No. of tourists visited	
	Domestic	Foreign
2003	1150015	4589
2004	361568	7312
2005	431036	4353

(b) The Central Financial assistance provided by the Union Government for the development for tourist places in Punjab under various schemes during the last three years is given in the enclosed Statement.

(c) The projects prioritised for the year 2006-07 for the State of Punjab are:

Destination:

1. Ropar
2. Fatehgarh Shib (including Aam Khas Bagh with SEL Show)
3. Kapurthala

Circuit:

1. Freedom Struggle Circuit—Delhi-Amritsar
2. Pilgrim Circuit

Events/Festivals:

1. Rural Olympics (Rural sports, village Qila Raipur, Distt. Raipur)
2. Kinnow Festival at Abohar, Distt. Ferozpur
3. Punjab Festival (Mela)
4. Crafts Mela at Kapurthala

Rural Tourism:

1. Village Paldi (Distt. Hoshiarpur)
2. Village Kalanour (Distt. Gurdaspur)
3. Village Maisor Khana (Distt. Bhatinda)

Those proposals of the State Governments in respect of prioritised projects, which are complete in all respects are examined under scheme guidelines and approved on the basis of inter-se priority and funds are released subject to availability under respective heads.

An amount of Rs. 784.45 lakh has already been sanctioned for Integrated development of Freedom Trail tourism Circuit in the year 2006-07.

Statement

Projects Sanctioned to the State of Punjab during The Years 2003-04, 2004-05 and 2005-06

(Rs. in lakh)

Sl. No	Name of the Project	Amount Sanctioned
1	2	3
2003-04		
1.	Development of tourism infrastructure in and around Amritsar—	81.00
	(i) Illumination of various Tourist Destination in and around Amritsar— Rs. 48.00 lakh	
	(ii) Signages—Rs. 25.00 lakh	
	(iii) Tourist Information Centre at Railway Station and Golden Temple— Rs. 8.00 lakh	

1	2	3
2.	Patiala Heritage Festival	15.00
	Total	96.00
	2004-05	
1.	Tourist Reception Centre at Patiala	74.53
2.	Development/Refurbishment of Mughal Sarai at Shambhu	290.58
3.	Development of Mohali, Kartarpur, Sirhind and Kapurthala under destination development	316.00
4.	preparation of CD ROMS (IT)	13.57
5.	Holla Mohalla Festival, 2005 at Anandpur Sahib	5.00
6.	Baba Farid Aagman Purb, 2004 at Faridkot	5.00
7.	GOI-UNDP Endogenous Tourism Project at village Rajasansi in Amritsar Distt.	20.00
	Total	724.68
	2005-06	
1.	Integrated Development of Patiala as a Tourist Destination	460.29
2.	Integrated Development of Amritsar as Tourist Destination	482.80
3.	Integrated Development of Wagha Border as a Tourist Destination	484.58
4.	Rural Sport Mela at Kila Raipur in Feb., 2006	5.00
5.	Holla Mohalla Festival at Anandpur Sahib in March, 2006	5.00
	Total	1437.67

[English]

Conversion of Coal Shale into Petrol

2398. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large reserve of coal shale is available in Assam;

(b) if so, whether coal shale can be converted into petroleum;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the details of pilot scale work conducted and the estimated cost of conversion;

(e) whether any project is being planned in this regard; and

(f) if so, the details thereof alongwith targets fixed, if any?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL): (a) to (f) The question presumably relates to oil shale. The term 'coal shale' is not commonly known. There are reported occurrences of oil shale associated with coal in Assam. No assessment has been made about oil reserves in shale/coal. Oil India Ltd. in past had

undertaken R&D activity with the help of a foreign company however commerciality could not be established. Directorate General of Hydrocarbons (DGH) has initiated action to take up studies on resource estimated of oil shale deposits and syncrude potential in north eastern part of India.

Frequency of Bhubaneswar-New Delhi Rajdhani Express

2399. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have any proposal to increase the frequency of Bhubaneswar-New Delhi Rajdhani Express from four days to daily;

(b) if so, whether the said proposal has been pending since long;

(c) if so, the reasons for the delay; and

(d) the measures taken by the Railways for implementation of the said proposal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (d) No, Sir. At present, Delhi and Bhubaneswar are connected by two pairs of Rajdhani services *viz* 2421/2422 New Delhi-Bhubaneswar Rajdhani Express *via* Adra (bi-weekly and 2443/2444 New Delhi-Bhubaneswar Rajdhani Express *via* Tata Nagar (bi-weekly). These two pairs of Rajdhani expresses are satisfactorily catering to Rajdhani passengers between these two stations. The present level of occupation of these Rajdhani trains does not justify increase in frequency of Rajdhani services between these two cities.

Frequency of Bhubaneswar-Kurla Express

2400. SHRI JUAL ORAM: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Orissa has requested the Railways to increase the frequency of Bhubaneswar-Kurla Express train; and

(b) if so, the reaction of the Railways thereto?

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

(b) Examined but not found feasible due to operational and resource constraints.

Conversion of Bareilly-Lucknow Railway Line

2401. SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal for conversion of Bareilly-Pilibhit-Dudwa-Sitapur-Lucknow railway line into broad gauge line;

(b) if so, the present status of the said proposal; and

(c) the time by which the Bareilly-Pilibhit-Dudwa-Sitapur-Lucknow railway line is likely to be converted into broad gauge line?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) No, Sir. However, Bareilly-Bhojipura gauge conversion has been taken up. Further, Bhojipura-Pilibhit has been processed for necessary approval as part of Bhojipura-Pilibhit-Tanakpur gauge conversion project.

(b) and (c) Bareilly-Bhojipura is likely to be completed in next 2-3 years as per availability of resources.

Delay in Award of Licences

2402. PROF. M. RAMADASS: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to refer to Unstarred Question No. 4218 dated April 21, 2005 regarding 'delay in award of licences' and state:

(a) whether the observations of Comptroller and Auditor General have been examined;

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

(c) the follow-up action taken thereon?

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

(b) The matter was subsequently followed up by committee on Public Undertakings (COPU). The COPU has made following observations/recommendations;

Airports Authority of India (AAI) should follow prudent commercial practices and undertake wider consultations

while framing eligibility conditions so that there is optimum participation and healthy competition, to fix responsibility for the revenue loss and suitable action taken in the matter, lay down suitable guidelines in the commercial manual providing for seeking Board's directions in crucial matters, strengthen legal machinery in future more effectively, to adhere in future the procedure laid down in the Commercial Manual strictly so as to avoid recurrence of such lapses in future, Ministry to strengthen monitoring mechanism and conduct periodical reviews of PSUs and provide suitable guidance.

(c) Suitable directions have been issued in accordance with the recommendations of COPU to all concerned to strengthen the monitoring mechanism and stressing the need for strict adherence to the time schedule for tender finalization *vis-a-vis* periodic monitoring of legal cases in order to avoid any delay in finalization of commercial contracts in future. In respect of fixing responsibility on erring officials, necessary explanation has been called and action is at hand taken for fixing responsibility.

Retail Outlets

2403. SHRI HEMMAL MURMU: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of petrol retail outlets, LPG and SKO/LDO dealership in each State preferably in Jharkhand, Bihar and Uttar Pradesh, company-wise;

(b) the number of places included in marketing plan for selection of dealer of Liquified Petroleum Gas, Petrol retail outlet in each State, particularly in Jharkhand, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, company-wise; and

(c) the steps being taken by the Government to increase dealership of RO/LPG and SKO/LDO?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL): (a) and (b) The State-wise total number of Retail Outlet (RO) dealerships, LPG distributorship and SKO/LDO dealership as on 1.4.2006 is given in the enclosed statement. The Company-wise details and the places included in marketing plan are available with Directors (Marketing) of the public sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) concerned.

(c) The selection of location for opening of RO dealerships, LPG distributorship and SKO/LDO dealership is done by the OMCs as per their commercial considerations and the Government does not interfere in this matter.

Statement

State-wise total number of Retail Outlet (RO) dealerships, LPG distributorships and SKO/LDO dealerships (As on 1.4.2006).

Sl. No.	State	Total Number of		
		RO	LPG	SKO/LDO
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	2705	868	605
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	44	29	32
3.	Assam	488	249	361
4.	Bihar	1188	301	368
5.	Chhattisgarh	420	146	107
6.	Delhi	389	312	116
7.	Goa	87	52	21
8.	Gujarat	1980	546	497

1	2	3	4	5
9.	Haryana	1334	281	148
10.	Himachal Pradesh	238	114	26
11.	Jammu and Kashmir	302	151	47
12.	Jharkhand	606	137	86
13.	Karnataka	1918	488	325
14.	Kerala	1469	373	243
15.	Madhya Pradesh	1475	561	276
16.	Maharashtra	3024	1001	775
17.	Manipur	50	31	36
18.	Meghalaya	113	32	35
19.	Mizoram	15	25	19
20.	Nagaland	42	26	19
21.	Orissa	777	179	179
22.	Punjab	2308	427	244
23.	Rajasthan	2074	439	252
24.	Sikkim	25	7	12
25.	Tamil Nadu	2649	635	465
26.	Tripura	38	29	40
27.	Uttar Pradesh	3861	1145	697
28.	Uttaranchal	326	161	72
29.	West Bengal	1544	472	476
30.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	5	4	1
31.	Chandigarh	45	29	12
32.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	16	1	2
33.	Daman and Diu	13	2	5
34.	Lakshadweep	0	1	0
35.	Pondicherry	82	18	8
Total		31650	9270	6607

Development of Abhay Ghat

2404. SHRI JASHUBHAI DHANABHAI BARAD: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to develop a memorial 'Abhay Ghat' in the memory of former Prime Minister of India, late Morarji Desai;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the memorial is likely to be developed?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) Identification and development of places of tourist interest is the responsibility of the State Government of Gujarat. However, the Ministry of Tourism provides funds on basis of project proposals prioritised in consultation with the State Governments/UT Administrations every year. No project proposal for Development of Abhay Ghat has been prioritised for grant of central financial assistance during 2006-07 nor has any such proposal has been received by the Ministry of Tourism.

The Ministry of Tourism has sanctioned the following projects for the State of Gujarat during 2005-06:

Sl. No	Name of Project	Amount sanctioned (Rs. In Lakh)
1.	Infrastructure works to be taken up like Roads and Allied services at Mandvi District Kutch in Gujarat	428.31
2.	Dinosaur Fossil Park at Balasinor in Gujarat	345.00
3.	Destination Development of Dandi	380.27
4.	Development of Theme Park at Adalaj, Gandhinagar	480.00
5.	Destination Development of Saputara	378.00
Total		2011.58

During the 10th Five Year Plan (including 2005-06), the Ministry of Tourism has sanctioned projects worth Rs. 3283.14 lakh for integrated development of tourism in the State of Gujarat.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

Grant of Scholarships to Artists

2405. SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any scheme to grant scholarship to Artists in different cultural fields;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of persons benefited under the said scheme in different cultural fields during each year of the last three years;

(d) whether there is any proposal to increase the amount of scholarship given to artists under the said scheme; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Ministry of Culture administers a scheme of Scholarship to Young Artists of 18-25 years of age for advanced training within India in different cultural fields. Each selected scholar is paid Rs.2000/-per month for a period of two years to cover his/her living expenses and expenses on travelling, books, art material or other equipment and tuition or training charges. Selection is made by the expert committee and the progress is reviewed after one year. Besides this, Centre for Cultural Resources and Training (under the aegis of Ministry of Culture) implements Cultural Talent Search Scholarship Scheme to provide facilities to outstanding young children selected in the age group of 10-14 years studying either in recognized schools or belonging to families of practicing traditional performing artists for developing their talent in various cultural fields. The scholarship awarded under the scheme is initially for two years at a time and renewed after every two years till the completion of first University Degree stage of education or up to the age of 20 years, whichever is earlier, subject to the awardee maintaining good progress. The value of scholarship is Rs.300/-only

per month. In addition to that actual tuition fee paid for the specialized training to the Institution or to the Guru is also reimbursed to the scholarship holder subject to a ceiling of Rs. 3600/-only.

- (c) A Statement is attached.
 (d) No, Sir.
 (e) Does not arise.

Statement

Scholarship to Young Artists.

Sl. No.	Cultural fields	No. of awardees of year 2003-04	No. of awardees of year 2004-05	No. of awardees of year 2005-06
1.	Classical Music	87	85	89
2.	Dance & Dance Music	129	124	122
3.	Theatre	40	40	40
4.	Folk/Traditional Arts	51	51	52
5.	Visual Art	64	60	64
6.	Light Classical Music	16	19	21
Total		387	379	388

Cultural talent Search scholarship Scheme (Implemented by CCRT)

Sl. No.	Cultural fields	No. of awardees of year 2003-04	No. of awardees of year 2004-05	No. of awardees of year 2005-06
1.	Classical Music/Odissi Music	104	118	105
2.	Dance & Dance Music	110	109	100
3.	Theatre	17	07	09
4.	Visual Art	48	62	71
5.	Traditional Folk Arts	21	13	59
6.	Light Classical Music	—	01	07
Total		300	310	351

National Aeronautics Commission

2406. SHRI NAVJOT SINGH SIDHU: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received any requests/representations for setting up a National aeronautics Commission for co-ordination between civil and military aviation;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (c) Aeronautical Society of India had suggested for setting of a National Aeronautics Commission for synergy between civil and military aviation sectors.

Necessary mechanism exists for coordination and synergy between civil and military aviation at various levels. It is constantly reviewed and updated from time to time to ensure effectiveness, and is an on-going process.

[Translation]

Residential/Non-Residential Schools for Deaf and Dumb Children

2407. SHRI HARISHCHANDRA CHAVAN: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the criteria laid down by the Government for giving grants to Non-Governmental Organisations for setting up of residential and non-residential schools for deaf and dumb children; and

(b) the details such schools established/to be established in the country, State-wise;

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) Under the relevant scheme namely Deendayal Disabled Rehabilitation Scheme no grant in aid is given to Non-Governmental Organisations for setting up of residential and non-residential schools for disabled children including deaf and dumb.

(b) Does not arise.

Selling of Scrap

2408. SHRI ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the value of the scrap sold by the Railways during each of the last three years;

(b) whether the Railways have now banned to sell scrap; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) The value of scrap sold by Railways during the last three years is as under:

In the year 2003-04—Rs.1314 crores.

In the year 2004-05—Rs.1032 crores.

In the year 2005-06—Rs.1364 crores.

(b) and (c) No, Sir. However, as and when some irregularity is noticed in some Railways, sale of scrap is suspended temporarily.

[English]

Construction of Railway Bridges

2409. SHRI ARJUN SETHI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of over/under bridges constructed during 2004-05 and 2005-06 and the amount spent thereon, Zone-wise;

(b) the number of over-bridges and under-bridges under construction in different Railway Zones at present, Zone-wise;

(c) the present status of construction of Randia over-bridge between Baudpur and Bhadrak Railway Station of East Coast Railway in Orissa and the total amount allocated for it; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) A statement is attached.

(c) Work was sanctioned in 2002-03. General Arrangement Drawing (GAD) has been approved. Tender for Railway portion of work has been opened. Work on approaches is also in progress. An outlay of Rs. 1.00 crore has been provided during 2006-07.

(d) By August, 2008.

Statement

Railway Zone	No. of over/under bridges constructed (completed) during		Amount spent in 2004-05 on construction of Road over/under bridges (ROB/RUB) (Rs. in crs.)	Amount spent in 2005-06 on construction of ROB/RUBs (Rs. in crs.)	Works of ROB/RUBs sanctioned on cost sharing basis	No. of ROB/RUBs under physical construction
	2004-05	2005-06				
Central	1	1	2.45	3.39	18	17
Eastern	2	2	24.1	19.5	39	12
East Central			16.2	37.43	46	18
East Coast			3.29	4.51	18	18
Northern	3		22.7	16.96	59	55
North Central			0.75	3.84	12	9
North Western	1		2.41	2.58	8	4
North Eastern		1	1.4	0.17	16	8
Northeast Frontier	1		0.77	3.42	6	2
Southern	2	10	10.4	21.29	147	35
South Central	3	5	22.4	13.27	66	18
South Western	3		5	10.78	38	9
South Eastern	1		7.2	2.72	19	9
Southeast Central			0.02	2.27	10	9
Western	2	1	3.31	2.08	26	8
West Central		1	2.06	1.41	7	1
Total	19	21	124	145.62	535	232

Funds For Railway Projects of N.E. States

2410. SHRI ANWAR HUSSAIN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has introduced the North-East sub-plans in all Central Ministries for which 10 percent of their budgets are to be earmarked;

(b) if so, the total funds allocated in the budgets for 2005-06 and 2006-07 and how much allocations were made for North-East States for the said period;

(c) whether the Railways have any Special Developmental Wing for planning and executing the developmental works for N.E. States;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the manner by which the 10 percent of the special allocations are being planned and executed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) As per the extent instructions, Ministry of Railways are required to earmark

10% of their Budgetary support available, for spending on developmental schemes in the North Eastern Region.

(b) The Railway Budget is maintained zone-wise and not region or State-wise. Northeast Frontier Railway is the zone that mainly caters to the North Eastern Region. The details of allocation for the North Eastern Region from out of the total plan allocation of the Railways during 2005-06 and 2006-07, financed through the available budgetary support, are as under:—

Year	Allocation		(Rs. in crores)
	All Indian Railways	North Eastern Region	
2005-06 (Revised Grant)	3256.23*	377.77	11.60
2006-07 (Budget Grant)	4806.59*	570.00	11.86

*The available budgetary support to the Railways for earmarking 10% of funds for the North Eastern Region is derived after setting aside, from the Gross Budgetary Support, the amounts specifically provided as contribution from General Exchequer for, Special Railways Safety Fund, identified National Projects, Externally Aided Projects, Railways' share out of diesel cess, etc.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The Construction Organization of Northeast Frontier Railway is responsible for execution of developmental projects in North Eastern Region. It is headed by an officer of General Manager, who has under him a full-fledged organisation for planning and execution of the projects.

(e) Does not arise.

Retirement Age of Pilots

2411. SHRI K.S. RAO:
SHRI BADIGA RAMAKRISHNA:
SHRI P. KARUNAKARAN:
SHRI SWADESH CHAKRABORTTY:
SHRIMATI ARCHANA NAYAK:
SHRI B. MAHTAB:
SHRIMATI P. SATHEEDEVY:
SHRI AJIT JOGI:
SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is an acute shortage of qualified pilots in the public undertakings;

(b) if so, whether in order to meet the requirement of pilots, the Government has recently increased the retirement age of pilots from 60 years to 65 years subject to certain conditions;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the extent to which it will help in meeting the requirement of pilots?

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

(b) and (c) The Government has not increased the retirement age of pilots. However, the Government has permitted services of professional pilots upto the age of 65 years from the existing 61 years provided the aircraft is operated in a multi crew environment and the other pilot is less than sixty years of age.

(d) Based on this permission, public undertakings have taken on contract pilots who are between 60 and 65 years of age in order to overcome the shortage.

Foreign Tourists

2412. SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO:
SHRI BALASHOWRY VALLABHANENI:
SHRIMATI MANORAMA MADHAVRAJ:
SHRI VIJOY KRISHNA:
SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL:
SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA:

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the top five States popular among domestic tourists and top five States popular among foreign tourists;

(b) whether the growth in foreign tourists arrival and foreign exchange earned during 2005 as compared to 2004 has shown any progressive figure;

(c) if so, the steps being taken by the Union Government to support the State Governments to ensure the safety/security of foreign as well as domestic tourists particularly the female tourists;

(d) whether Maharashtra is one of the top five popular States among the foreign as well domestic tourists; and

(e) if so, the specific aid being provided to the State Governments to develop its tourists places to make them more attractive?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) The top five States popular in terms of estimated domestic tourist during 2005 are Andhra Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, and Rajasthan. The top five States popular in terms of estimated foreign tourist visits during 2005 are Delhi, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Safety and security is a State subject. However, in order to ensure safety and security of tourists, the Minister of Tourism has advised all the State Governments/Union Territories to deploy tourist Police at important tourist centres. The State Governments of Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Goa, Kerala, Maharashtra, Himachal Pradesh, Rajasthan, Jammu & Kashmir, Uttar Pradesh and Dehli have deployed Tourist Police.

(d) Data on domestic and foreign tourist visits is collected and compiled by State Governments and sent to the Ministry of Tourism for All-India consolidation. However, no such system exists in Maharashtra and no data is received from the state. As per the estimates made by the Ministry of Tourism, Maharashtra is amongst the top five States for visits by foreign tourists only.

(e) Development of tourist places in the States is primarily the responsibility of the state Government concerned. Ministry of Tourism, however, provides Central Financial assistance to all the States, including the state of Maharashtra, for various infrastructure projects under its plan scheme for development of infrastructure in selected tourist circuits and destinations. During the 10th Five Year Plan, 904 projects have been sanctioned so far for all the States/UTs and an amount of Rs. 1407.78 crore has been sanctioned, out of which 41 projects have been approved for the State of Maharashtra and an amount of Rs. 59.64 crore has been sanctioned to the State.

Implementation of National Policy for PWD

2413. SHRI L. RAJAGOPAL: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether any Inter-ministerial Body has been constituted at Central level to monitor the implementation of National Policy for Persons with disabilities;

(b) if so the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor and time by which it is likely to be constituted;

(d) whether the Union Government has issued instructions to the state Governments for constitution of such bodies at State and District level; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) to (c) The Central Coordination Committee and the Central Executive Committee constituted under the Persons with Disabilities Act, 1995, have been monitoring the implementation of the National Policy for persons with Disabilities.

(d) and (e) The Policy document has been sent to all the State Governments and Union Territory administrations for taking action on points concerning them.

Inspection of LPG Stoves

2414. SHRI BALASHOWRY VALLABHANENI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the public sector oil companies have issued any directions to Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) dealers to inspect the gas stoves of consumers regularly to avoid any mishappening;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government is aware that some LPG dealers misguide the consumers and forcibly ask them to replace and purchase stove and other items from their agencies;

(d) if so, whether the Government has received complaints in this regard; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and action taken against dealers and persons found guilty?

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 issued instructions to their LPG distributors to carry out the mandatory inspection of LPG installation, including the gas stove once in two years for consumers registered with them, against a nominal fee of Rs. 25/-

(c) to (e) OMCs have reported some cases of forced sale of stove by their LPG distributors to the consumers. Action against the erring distributors is taken by the OMCs in accordance with the provisions under the LPG marketing Discipline Guidelines (MDG).

Special Parcel Trains

2415. SHRI B. VINOD KUMAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have introduced 'Special Parcel Trains' using the shadow path of super fast Express trains;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the total number of parcel trains and routes on which these trains are running?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (c) Railways are not running 'Special Parcel Trains' using the shadow path of super fast express trains.

Enhancement in Training Capacity

2416. SHRI BADIGA RAMAKRISHNA:
SHRI AVINASH RAI KHANNA:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to upgrade Indira Gandhi Rashtriya Urn Akademi to enhance its training capacity;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government also proposes to increase the training capacities in other flying training institutes in the country;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the time by which the training capacities of these institutes will be increased?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) The Government propose to upgrade Indira Gandhi Urn Akademi, Rae Bareilly at an estimated cost of Rs. 57 crores, approximately. This includes induction of single engine and multi engine aircraft, rebuilding of helicopters, modernisation of runway, construction of additional buildings for hostel, hangar and office and acquisition of the adjacent Sultanpur airfield. The upgradation would increase its output from 40 trainees per year to 100 trainees per year.

(c) to (e) Yes, Sir. The Government provides necessary assistance to other flying clubs to increase their training capacity by way of providing trainer aircraft through Directorate General of Civil Aviation and Aero Club of India, which is an ongoing/continuous process.

[Translation]

Damage to Oil Pipelines in Assam

2417. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:-

(a) whether ULFA terrorists have exploded the main pipelines of oil due to which supply of crude oil to many refineries in Assam has been obstructed;

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

(c) the extent of damage caused to refineries by these activities; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government for the safety of main pipeline of oil and oil refineries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL): (a) and (b) There have been 5 incidents of blasts in the main crude oil pipelines of Oil India Limited (OIL) during the last 3 years and in the current year in Assam by suspected ULFA terrorists. Although, there were temporary disruption in transportation of crude oil, there was no shortfall in supply of crude oil to the refineries in Assam. Details are given in the enclosed statement.

(c) There has been no damage to the refineries due to the incidents mentioned above in Para (a) and (b).

(d) The following steps have been taken to enhance safety of main pipelines of oil and oil refineries.

- (i) Monitoring, control and operational aspects on real time basis with the state-of-the-art SCADA system.
- (ii) Increased surveillance along the pipelines including aerial surveillance.

(iii) Involvement of Government authorities and coordination with various agencies concerned regarding security aspects.

(iv) Increased involvement of local police/CISF/CRPF/ Army.

(v) Proper illumination in and around the installations including oil refineries.

(vi) Onshore security coordination committee meeting convened by DGP, Assam regularly to review security position with oil companies.

Sl. No	Date & year	Location/Place	Segment Affected	Restored on (remarks, if any)
1.	20.03.2004 (2003-04)	Vill. Ratanpuria P.S. Amguri Dist. Sivsagar, Assam	PL Km. 101.5	23.03.2004
2.	15.07.2004 (2004-05)	Mahananda-I Rty. Bridge at Porajhar Village, Bhaktinagar P.S. Dist. Jalpaiguri, West Bengal	PL Km. 827.7	19.07.2004
3.	10.03.2005 (2004-05)	Jorari, Kathalbari village, near Amguri, Dist. Sivsagar, Assm (There was damages to the pipelines but no rupture. The pumping was continued).	PL Km. 103	Repair deferred for Operational reasons and done on 07.04.2006
4.	10.03.2005 (2004-05)	Deka Gaon, Dist, Jorhat, Assam (There was damages to the pipelines but no rupture. The pumping was continued).	PL Km. 190.6	Repair deferred for operational reasons and done on 11.04.2005
5.	06.08.2005 (2004-05)	Bakchu Konwar Gaon, Cherekapar P.S. Dist, Sibsagar, Assam.	PL Km. 74.74	Temporary Restoration done on 08.08.2005. HDD completed on 07.04.2006.

Integrity Pact for Checking of Corruption

2418. SHRI TUKARAM GANPAT RAO RENGE PATIL:
SHRIMATI SANGEETA KUMARI SINGH DEO:

Will the Minister of DEFENSE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has formulated an integrity pact in order to check corruption in the Defence departments;

(b) if so, the salient features thereof; and

(c) the action taken to make the said pact effective?

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

(b) and (c) All defence procurement cases exceeding Rs. 100 crore require bidders to sign an integrity pact

which provides for an undertaking to avoid all forms of corruption in the process of bidding and for completely free, fair, transparent and unprejudiced dealings prior to, during and subsequent to the currency of the contract to be entered into.

The integrity pact binds both the buyer as well as the vendor and also specifies sanctions and penal provisions for any violations of the same.

The sanctions *inter-alia* include calling off negotiations, cancellation of the contract, forfeiture of EMD/SD/ Performance Bond, recovery of sums already paid with interest thereon and debarment for a minimum period of 5 years.

The integrity pact has been placed on the website of the Ministry of Defence for general information and wide publicity.

[English]

Delay in Supply of LPG Cylinders

2419. DR. BABU RAO MEDIYAM:
SHRI CHENGARA SURENDRAN:

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

(a) whether the Government is aware about the inordinate delay on the part of Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) agencies in replenishing cylinders to the customers:

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the remedial action contemplated by the Government in this regard;

(d) whether the Government has issued instructions to the Gas Agencies not to register the demand for supply of Cylinders from the customers if such fresh demand emanates within 20 days of the last supply;

(e) if so, the reasons therefor and the period upto which it would be in force;

(f) whether the Government has any effective plan to ensure uninterrupted supply of LPG cylinders in future; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL): (a) to (c) While Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) are making all efforts to meet the genuine demand of the customers registered with the LPG distributors, they have reported some cases of delay in supply of Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) refill cylinders by their LPG distributors. Action against the erring distributors is taken in accordance with the provisions under the LPG Marketing Discipline Guidelines (MDG).

(d) to (g) The Government have not issued any instruction to the OMCs for not issuing LPG cylinders before the expiry of 20 days of the last supply. LPG supplies to distributors are being made by the OMCs as per the genuine demand of customers registered with the LPG distributors.

Drug De-Addiction Centres

2420. SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to open drug de-addiction centres during the current year;

(b) if so, whether the proposals in this regard have also been received from Non-Governmental Organisations;

(c) if so, the details thereof alongwith the locations identified for opening of such centres;

(d) the time by which such centres are likely to become functional;

(e) whether the Government is monitoring the functioning of such centres; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and the number of persons treated in these centres during the last years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) to (f) Yes, Sir. Unserved districts are identified for opening of new centres. The proposals received from time to time are scrutinized and considered and it is a continuous process.

Coal Gasification Unit By GAIL

2421. SHRI SUNIL KHAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether GAIL (India) Ltd. has initiated any action plan to set up a coal gasification unit in the pit head of Raniganj coal belt to make available synthesis gas to new closed fertilizer manufacturing unit of Hindustan Fertilizers Corporation of India (HFC) Ltd.

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the progress made so far in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise in view of the reply to (a) above.

[Translation]

PPP in Production Defence Equipment

2422. SHRIMATI KIRAN MAHESHWARI:
SHRI RAJNARAYAN BUDHOLIA:
SHRI G.V. HARSHA KUMAR:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is encouraging public-private partnership with small and medium enterprises in the production of defence equipment;

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

(c) whether the Government is also encouraging outsourcing from small and medium enterprises;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps being taken by the Government to protect the security of the country due to outsourcing?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (RAO INDERJIT SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) So far, Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) are mainly involved in supplying inputs including raw materials, assemblies, sub-assemblies, components etc. to the defence production units in the public sector.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Ordnance Factories outsourced nearly 28% and Defence PSUs outsourced about 5% of their total requirement of input material to SMEs during 2005-06.

(e) While outsourcing their requirement of input material, adequate security safeguards are ensured by the Ordnance Factories and Defence PSUs.

Status of Kamprayag Railway Line

2423. SHRI AVTAR SINGH BHADANA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any survey was conducted for Kamprayag railway line;

(b) if so, the present status of the project; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. A survey for construction of new line from Rishikesh to Kamprayag, was completed in the year 1999-2000 as per which the cost of construction of 125kms long line was assessed as Rs.1372 crore. The proposal could not be considered in view of unremunerative nature, constraint of resources and heavy throw forward of ongoing projects.

[English]

Swayam Saksham Scheme

2424. SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has introduced 'Swayam Saksham Scheme';

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Union Government has received some proposals from the State Governments for providing loan to unemployed educated youth belonging to Backward Classes under the said scheme;

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

(e) the amount of assistance provided under the said scheme along with the number of beneficiaries thereunder, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI

SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) and (b) National Backward Classes Finance and Development Corporation (NBCFDC) has introduced Swayam Saksham Scheme under its Term Loan Schemes. The scheme is meant to provide concessional financial assistance to the educated unemployed youth for setting-up their self-employment ventures. The details are given in the enclosed statement-I.

(c) During current financial year, the state Channelising Agencies have submitted Annual Action Plan (AAP) containing coverage of beneficiaries under Swayam Saksham Scheme also.

(d) The State-wise details are given in the enclosed statement-II.

(e) The details of State-wise release of funds under the Swayam Saksham Scheme are given in the enclosed Statement-III.

Statement

Swayam Saksham

Objective

In order to inculcate the spirit of self-confidence among youths through self-employment and utilize their wisdom and experience gained through professional training and education, the corporation may consider providing financial youths belonging to Backward classes.

Eligibility

1. The youth should belong to Backward Classes as notified by Central/State Government from time to time.
2. Should have obtained a professional education/training.
3. Unemployed youth having annual family income below double the poverty line.
4. Age limit—18 years to 35 years

Maximum Limit of Loan

The maximum loan limit is Rs. 5.0 lakh

Pattern of Finance

(i) NBCFDC Loan	90%
(ii) SCA Loan	05%
(iii) Beneficiaries Contribution	05%

Rate of Interest

- | | |
|-------------------------|---------|
| (i) NBCFDC to SCA | 2% p.a. |
| (ii) SCA to Beneficiary | 5% p.a. |

Repayment Period

Depends upon the nature of the scheme, however, maximum repayment period is 10 years.

Illustrative list

The illustrative list of professions, which may be covered under the scheme are:—

Doctor: Architect: Engineer including Software/ Hardware/Automobile: Advocate: Chartered Accountants/ Cost Accountant: Hotel Management: Geriatric Home Care: Publicity & Advertisement: Service & Maintenance of Buildings: etc: Security Guard Agency: Coaching Centres for Competitive Examinations: Culture and Tourism Development: Printing Press/Jewelry Designing: Gem Cutting: Polishing: Wood Craft: Furniture: Parlour/ Fitness Centre: Stone/Metal Sculpture: Value addition in traditional Art & Craft etc.

The above list is only illustrative and not exhaustive. The eligible youth may get financial assistance for any other technically feasible and financially viable project.

Statement II

Amount of Loan & Number of Beneficiaries under Swayam Saksham Scheme During 2006-07 As Per Approved Annual Action Plan (AAP)

Sl.No.	State	Amount (Lakhs)	No. of Beneficiaries
1	2	3	4
1.	Chhattishgarh	5.00	2
2.	Goa	6.75	4
3.	Haryana	18.00	10
4.	Karnataka	10.00	20
5.	Kerala (Handicrafts)	2.50	13
6.	Kerala (Women)	5.00	5
7.	Kerala (BC)	60.00	25

1	2	3	4
8.	Maharashtra (OBC)	50.00	25
9.	Punjab	20.00	5
10.	Uttar Pradesh	45.00	10
Total		222.25	119

Statement III**Details of State-wise Cumulative assistance provided by State Under Swyam Saksham Scheme**

Sl. No.	State	Financial Assistance (Rs. in Lakhs)	No. of Beneficiaries
1.	Andhra Pradesh	26.81	39
2.	Haryana	3.52	1
3.	Karnataka	7.83	17
4.	Kerala	0.45	1
5.	Maharashtra	62.21	26
Total		100.82	84

Replacement of Scanning Machines at Airports

2425. DR. M. JAGANNATH: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to replace the scanning machines installed at the airports with the new version of scanning machines;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether these scanners are indigenously manufactured;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the manner in which the Government is planning to procure these scanners; and

(f) the time by which these are likely to be replaced?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Airports Authority of India (AAI) has proposals to replace the machines which have outlived their useful lives.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. Such equipments are procured as per the technical specifications upgraded from time to time by the Bureau of Civil Aviation Security (BCAS).

(e) Such equipments shall be procured through competitive global tenders.

(f) While efforts would be made to replace the machines by mid 2007, actual replacement would depend on factors like response to the tender, cost etc.

Indiscriminate Exploration.

2426. SHRI BANSAGOPAL CHOUDHURY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware of the impact of indiscriminate exploration of limited fossil fuels and hydrocarbon reserves on the economy and environment;

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

(c) the steps taken to prevent the Global Warming?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL): (a) and (b) Under the Environmental Impact Assessment Notification, 1994, environmental clearance has been made mandatory for proposals regarding exploration for oil and gas and their production, transportation and storage with investment above Rs. 100 crore. Based on the Environmental Impact Assessment of such projects, environmental management plan is prepared for mitigation of impact due to exploratory activities. Standards have been prescribed for discharge of effluent from onshore and offshore exploratory activities. Guidelines for discharge of gaseous emissions, disposal of drill cutting and drilling fluids from offshore and onshore drilling operations have been notified *vide* GSR 546 (E), dated 30th August, 2005. The project authorities are advised to comply with the above guidelines for disposal of solid waste, drill cutting and drilling fluids for offshore and onshore drilling operation.

(c) India is a party to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and Kyoto Protocol, which addresses the issues related to global warming and climate changes. The Government has taken several steps to address green house gas emissions responsible for global warming. These include energy

efficiency, energy conservation, renewable energy programmes, fuel switching to cleaner energy.

Restriction In Ground Handling Activities

2427. SHRI RAVICHANDRAN SIPPIPARAI: Will the Ministry of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has any proposal to limit the number of agencies for ground handling operations/activities;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has received any complaints from private carriers that these facilities will affect their flight operation;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (e) The ground handling policy is under Government's consideration as part of the proposed Civil Aviation Policy.

[Translation]

Survey for Oil and Gas Discoveries

2428. SHRI BRAJESH PATHAK: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the names of places where survey for oil and gas discoveries/exploration work is being carried out in the country as on date and the details of companies engaged therein, State-wise;

(b) the total amount spent on survey and exploration works by these companies during the last three years;

(c) whether the Government has done any analysis of the survey reports received in this regard during said period;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the action taken/proposed to be taken there on?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL): (a) Hydrocarbon exploration in the country is being carried out by Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC), Oil India Limited (OIL) and private/Joint Venture (JV) Companies in the States of Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Mizoram, Nagaland, Orissa, Rajasthan, Tripura, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal. Name of the Companies are given in the enclosed Statement.

(b) The exploration expenditure made by ONGC, OIL and Private/JV Companies in the last 3 years are as under:—

	(Rs. in Crores)		
	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06
ONGC	2542.30	3277.68	3888.71
OIL	303.17	290.55	528.60
Private/JV	392.97	411.42	105.79

(c) to (e) Directorate General of Hydrocarbons (DGH) is monitoring the exploration activities carried out by Private/JV Companies and national oil companies. Recently under the sixth round of New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP), Government of India have offered 55 exploration blocks including 24 blocks from onland areas, 6 blocks shallow water and 25 blocks from deepwater areas. The bid closing date for these blocks is 15.9.2006.

Statement

Name of The Companies of Hydrocarbon Exploration in the Country

State	Companies
1	2
Assam	Premier Oil, HOEC, OIL IOC, Canoro Resources, Assam Oil Company, Essar Oil, ONGC
Arunachal Pradesh	Geo Petrol NTPC & Canoro Resources

1	2
Andhra Pradesh	ONGC
Bihar	Cairn Energy India Ltd.
Gujarat	HOEC, GSPCL, RIL, Tullow, Okland, Essar Oil, Focus Energy Ltd., Niko, GAIL, ONGC, Cairn Energy, Jubliant Enpro, Geo Global, Prize Petroleum, RIL, Jubliant Capital Pvt. Ltd.
Himachal Pradesh	ONGC
Madhya Pradesh	ONGC
Mizoram	ONGC, IOC
Nagaland	ONGC, OIL
Orissa	ONGC, OIL, IOC, GAIL
Rajasthan	CEIL, Focus Energy, OIL, ONGC, ENI
Tripura	Enpro Finance, ONGC, GAIL
Tamil Nadu	Enpro Finance, GAIL, GSPC, ONGC, BPCL, Niko
Uttar Pradesh	ONGC, IOC, CEIL
West Bengal	ONGC

*[English]***Direct Air Services to European Countries**

2429. SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of international airports in the country where direct air services from European destinations are operated;

(b) whether any requests have been received from the State Governments for direct air service to European destinations; and

(c) if so, the details there of and the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) Direct flights to European destinations are operated from Amritsar, Bangalore, Chennai, Delhi, Goa, Hyderabad, Kolkata, and Mumbai airports in India.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

*[Translation]***Construction of Cargo Complex at Indore Airport**

2430. SHRI KRISHNA MURARI MOGHE:
SHRI VIJAY KUMAR KHANDELWAL:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received any proposal for construction of a cargo complex at the Indore Airport.

(b) if so, the action being taken by the Government thereon;

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

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

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[English]

Gauge Conversion of Alipurdwar to Bamanhat

2431. SHRI HITEN BARMAN:
SHRI JOACHIM BAXLA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways are aware that the gauge conversion work on the Alipurdwar to Bamanhat line is going on for a long time;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Railways are not able to meet the target date to finish the work on this line;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) the target date fixed earlier to finish this work; and

(f) the time by which the work on this line will be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (f) Alipurdwar-Bamanhat is linked branch line of New Jalpaiguri-New Bongaigaon gauge conversion work. Gauge Conversion of New Jalpaiguri-New Bongaigaon (279 kms) has been completed and commissioned. On branch line from Alipurdwar to Bamanhat (73.32kms), earthwork and bridgeworks taken up. New Coochbehar-Alipurdwar (23 kms) is targeted for completion by September, 2006 and the balance during 2007-08. The work is being progressed as per availability of resources.

[Translation]

Housing Facility To Handicapped

2432. SHRI CHANDRABHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is implementing or proposes to implement any scheme in Madhya Pradesh

to provide free of cost housing facility to the handicapped persons;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the funds earmarked under the said scheme;

(d) whether the Government has set up information centres/offices to give information about the schemes for handicapped persons; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

(d) and (e) District Disability Rehabilitation Centres in the States are providing information about the Government of India Schemes for persons with disabilities.

[English]

Upgradation of Railway Tracks

2433. SHRI SHRINIVAS DADASAHEB PATIL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the total length of Railway line (in kms) in the country;

(b) the total length of Class A, Class B, Class C and Class D routes and the maximum speed allowed on these tracks respectively;

(c) the load allowed in tonnes to be carried on class A, B, C and D respectively; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government for upgradation of railways tracks?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) The total length of railway line (route kilometres) in the country as on 31.03.2005 (latest available) is 63,465 kilometres.

(b) the total length and maximum speed allowed on class A, Class B, Class C and Class D routes are as under:

Class	Route length in kms; as on 31.03.2005 (latest available)	Maximum speed allowed
A	6774	Speeds upto 160kmph
B	9184	Speeds upto 130kmph
C	863	Suburban sections of Chennai, Delhi, Kolkata and Mumbai.
D	11664	100 kmph

However, running of trains at the maximum permissible speed requires various improvements to track structure, signalling, manning of level crossings, fencing of tracks etc.

(c) There are no separate prescribed norms in regard to load allowed on the different classes of routes such as A,B,C,D etc.

(d) Inspection and maintenance of track is a continuous process. Track renewals are carried out as and when the track becomes due for renewal on age cum condition basis and subject to availability of funds. Track structure is upgraded during renewal, depending on the class of route, annual traffic density and the traffic needs such as permitting higher axle load, running high-speed trains, etc.

Airport at Navi Mumbai

2434. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the M/s City and Industrial Development Corporation has proposed a new international airport near Panvel at Navi Mumbai;

(b) if so, whether the Techno-economic feasibility study report has been submitted to the Union Government;

(c) if so, whether the Union Government has accorded its approval;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) There are well laid down procedures for development of green field airports. The proposal is under consideration.

(d) The simulation study done by International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) has been received by Airports Authority of India and is under examination.

(e) Does not arise.

Corpus Funds For Development/Maintenance of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel Memorial

2435. SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA:
DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA:
SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY:

Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to create a Corpus Fund for development and maintenance of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel Memorial at Karamsad; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) and (b) A sum of Rs. 1.5 crore was sanctioned by the Ministry of Culture, Government of India to Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel Trust during the year 1996-97 for setting up a permanent memorial at Karamsad, Gujarat. At present, there is no proposal to provide corpus fund for the memorial.

Recruitment of Defence Personnel

2436. SHRI SUGRIB SINGH:
SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL:
SHRI CHHATTAR SINGH DARBAR:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Defence Personnel recruited in Armed Forces throughout the country during 2003-04, 2004-2005 and 2005-2006, State-wise; and

(b) the steps taken to give proportionate representation to the people of each region?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) A statement is attached.

(b) Recruitment to the Army is made as per the share of Recruitable Male Population of each State, Which is reckoned at 10% of the male population. Recruitment

to Navy and Air Force is carried out on the basis of "All India Merit" as per the number of vacancies available.

Sl. No.	Name of State/ Union Territory	Army			Navy			Air Force		
		2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2004	2005	2006*	2004	2005	2006*
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
1.	Andhra Pradesh	5648	3525	1586	317	268	120	640	456	257
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	82	79	43	-	-	-	-	-	-
3.	Assam	1618	1160	557	55	54	30	26	77	31
4.	Bihar	5707	3134	2582	588	391	148	1878	1492	1353
5.	Gujarat	2128	1773	510	1	5	1	09	219	16
6.	Haryana	2927	2521	1119	493	327	174	358	886	510
7.	Himachal Pradesh	2336	1846	818	99	135	57	67	43	201
8.	Jammu and Kashmir	3261	2359	1187	55	66	101	35	333	99
9.	Karnataka	4686	2026	950	18	28	10	43	91	112
10.	Kerala	2599	1645	848	180	91	42	183	602	112
11.	Goa	125	3	4	02	01	07	-	-	05
12.	Madhya Pradesh	4011	3223	1125	68	39	35	26	216	23
13.	Maharashtra	6723	4932	1930	80	62	47	55	87	135
14.	Manipur	371	210	163	38	45	12	33	91	33
15.	Meghalaya	119	87	53	05	02	-	03	01	03
16.	Mizoram	329	145	114	04	04	05	05	01	02
17.	Nagaland	528	415	206	16	10	01	02	02	01
18.	Tripura	159	128	64	00	02	01	30	45	08
19.	Orissa	1814	1647	862	198	99	67	199	99	114
20.	Punjab	7944	5380	2274	101	112	45	26	226	149
21.	Rajasthan	5566	4630	2025	371	302	85	375	719	555
22.	West Bengal	4258	3102	1275	193	149	66	118	161	74
23.	Uttar Pradesh	12650	9801	3640	656	608	299	672	696	1012
24.	Tamil Nadu	4492	3120	1149	49	24	13	39	242	23

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
25.	Delhi	1388	1031	547	43	38	30	31	35	53
26.	Andaman Nicobar	22	-	33	08	12	14	-	16	13
27.	Chandigarh	4	2	-	01	-	-	02	-	-
28.	Pondicherry	6	3	15	-	-	-	01	03	08
29.	Chhattisgarh	1072	643	335	21	13	10	13	124	12
30.	Sikkim	64	5	8	15	09	07	01	06	18
31.	Jharkhand	1715	1168	629	34	29	07	193	148	172
32.	Uttarachal	4077	2049	1022	75	95	44	98	432	346
33.	Lakshadweep	—	—	15	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total		88429	61792	27688	3583	3020	1478	5167	7549	5470
Recruitment from Nepal		1412	722	223	—	1	—	—	1	1

Note: The recruitment figures do not include officers.

* Information for 2006 available for one Batch only.

** Till June, 2006

Programmes Produced on Safety by NF Railway

2437. SHRI NARAYAN CHANDRA BORKATAKY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of video spots/programmes produced by the North Frontier Railway on safety during the last three years;

(b) whether these were telecast through Doordarshan Regional Network in Assam; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Two short animation films, one on manned level crossing and another on unmanned level crossing, each of 30 second duration were produced in 2005-06. Two still video displays, one on unmanned level crossing and another on fire hazards on trains, each of 10 second duration were also produced in 2005-06.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. These were telecast on the following dates through Doordarshan Kendra, Guwahati to cover the North Eastern Region:

(i) December 17, 2005

(ii) January 07, 2006

(iii) April 15 & 29, 2006

(iv) May 06, 13, 20 & 27, 2006

(v) July 01, 08, 15, 22 & 29, 2006

Defence Equipment Manufacturing Depot in Andhra Pradesh

2438. SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has received any proposal from the Government of Andhra Pradesh for setting up of Defence equipment manufacturing depot in the State;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (RAO INDERJIT SINGH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Manufacturing of Rolling Stock

2439. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether workshops of the Railways are engaged in manufacturing rolling stock;

(b) the details of rolling stock manufactured by these workshops during each of the last three years, workshop-wise; and

(c) the amount spent on modernisation of these workshops during the said period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Yes, Sir. Some of the workshops are engaged in manufacture of rolling stock.

(b) Statement-I showing rolling stock manufactured by such workshops is attached.

(c) Inputs with respect to replacement of over aged assets, capacity augmentation and repair/maintenance of existing facilities are being provided from time to time on need based manner and this is a continuous process. Statement-II showing amount spent, specifically on modernization (other than inputs for replacements/augmentation), in these workshops is attached.

Statement I

Number of Rolling Stock Manufactured Year-wise in Last 3 Years Workshop-wise.

(Figures in Vehicle Units)

Workshop	Type of Stock	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06
Samastipur	Wagon	302	258	216
Amritsar	Wagon	288	295	218
Golden Rock	Wagon	602	468	475
Hubli	Wagon	0	33	46
Parel	NG Loco	0	0	2
Motibagh	NG Coach	5	10	11
Kurdwadi	NG Coach	4	4	0
Kalka	NG Coach	14	13	13
Bhavnagar	NG Coach	0	0	2

Statement-II

Amount Spent on Modernisation of Workshops Engaged in Manufacturing of Rolling Stock.

(Figs. in Lakhs of Rs.)

Workshop	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06
1	2	3	4
Samastipur	23.73	25.10	87.33
Amritsar	0	0	0

1	2	3	4
Golden Rock	0	0	0
Hubli	0	0	0
Parel	0	0	0
Motibagh	0	0	0
Kurdwadi	0	0	0
Kalka	0	0	0
Bhavnagar	0	0	0

Pension Funds

2440. SHRIMATI MANORAMA MADHAVRAJ: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the total fund allocated for the Pensionary charges for the year 2006-07;

(b) whether the allocated fund is sufficient to fulfil the pensionary liabilities during the said period;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the steps taken/proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (c) An amount of Rs. 7900 cr has been allocated to meet the pensionary charges in 2006-07 (Budget Estimates), which is considered sufficient to fulfil the pensionary liabilities during this period.

(d) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Production of Vehicles

2441. SHRI RAKESH SINGH: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the production of one tonne capacity vehicles in Vehicle Factory, Jabalpur is under consideration of the Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the sectors for which the said vehicles are likely to be manufactured;

(c) whether the Government has considered all the factors like availability of market;

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

(e) whether the Vehicle Factory, Jabalpur has stopped the production of Jonga vehicles and such vehicles are being manufactured in other factories in the country;

(f) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(g) the future plan of the Government to re-start the manufacturing of Jonga vehicles in the Vehicle Factory, Jabalpur?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (RAO INDERJIT SINGH): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Vehicle Factory Jabalpur is exploring feasibility of developing a 1/1.5 tonne vehicle primarily to meet the requirement of Indian Army.

(c) and (d) The possibility of developing variants of this vehicle for civilian use will be explored subsequently.

(e) and (f) The production of Jonga vehicles in Vehicle Factory, Jabalpur was stopped from 1997-1998 onwards, because of the changes in the requirement of the Armed Forces.

(g) There is no such proposal at present.

[English]

**High Powered Committee Set up for
Railway Project**

2442. SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have set up a high powered committee to review the implementation of on-going railway projects of gauge conversion and laying of new railway lines and doubling of railway routes in the country;

(b) if so, the details and physical progress achieved by the high powered committee during 2004-05 and 2005-06, State-wise;

(c) the names of the on-going projects which have witnessed a steep cost escalation and likely to be commercially unviable;

(d) whether the Railways are considering to abandon such unviable projects in view of the economic measures adopted by the Railways;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the policy of the Railways regarding the completion of the on-going projects within the time schedule?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. An Empowered Committee was set up in September, 2004 to review the ongoing projects costing more than Rs. 100 crore and above. The Empowered Committee consists of representative from Ministry of Railways, Planning Commission, Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Statistics & Programme Implementation and Ministry of Environment & Forests. The Empowered Committee reviewed the mega projects in its meeting held in December, 2004.

(c) The cost escalation in prices of labour, materials, other items related with construction affects all the ongoing projects. No such analysis has been done for projects which have become unviable due to such cost escalation.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

(f) The works are being progressed as per availability of resources and relative priority. A number of initiatives have been taken to generate additional resources to expedite completion of the ongoing projects.

[Translation]

Supply of Shoes and Clothings to Jawans

2443. SHRI M. ANJAN KUMAR YADAV:
SHRI SUNIL KUMAR MAHATO:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the jawans posted in extremely cold areas have not been supplied with proper shoes and warm clothings causing a lot of hardship for them;

(b) if so, whether any departmental inquiry has been conducted in this regard;

(c) if so, the results thereof; and

(d) the follow-up action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (d) The troops posted in extremely cold areas are authorized extreme cold climate clothing items including shoes. The provisioning and procurement of such items is done as per laid down procedure and items are accepted after inspection. Any complaints about quality of items are also dealt with as per laid down procedure. It has always been the endeavour of the Government to provide quality stores to the troops in adequate quantity so that no hardship is faced by the soldiers.

Doubling the Railway lines Connecting Ports

2444. SHRI MUNSHI RAM:
SHRI KAILASH NATH SINGH YADAV:
SHRI SHISHUPAL PATLE:
PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR:
SHRI MOHD. TAHIR:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have approved the schemes of doubling the railway lines connecting ports;

(b) if so, the details of railway lines crossing through connecting various ports on which the work has been started;

(c) the estimated cost of such railway project;

(d) whether the works relating to doubling railway connection have been estimated to be completed by the Tenth Five Year Plan; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (e) There is no such scheme of doubling the railway lines connecting ports.

However, certain works related to port connectivity/its hinterland development has been taken up and is under implementation by Rail Vikas Nigam Limited. The details of the projects along with targets wherever fixed are given in the enclosed statement.

Statement

Doubling to Railway Lines Connecting Ports.

Sl. No.	PROJECT	Cost 06-07	Exp. unto Mar.06	Outlay 06-07	Remarks
1.	Panvel-Jassai-JNPT	53.25	22.62	8	Completed
2.	Rajatgarh-Nergundi	84.84	83.04	0.2	Completed
3.	Rahama-Paradeep	75.51	69.17	5	Completed
4.	Nergundi-Cuttack-Raghunathpur	174.98	164.31	10	Completed
5.	Barauni-Tilrath & Bypass	15.37	12.52	2.39	Barauni-Tilrath Completed & Bypass during 2006-07.
6.	Hospet-Guntakal	268.23	210.37	60	Baliary-Hospet (62kms) and Guntakal-Hagari (35Kms) Completed.
7.	Panskura-Haldia Ph-I	35.02	28.68	0.5	Panskura-Rajgoda (14Kms) Completed.
8.	Panskura-Haldia Ph-II (Rajgoda-Durgachak including fly over at Panskura)				Bankability studies have been undertaken by RVNL. This is an unsanctioned project.

[English]

Screening of Forces

2445. SHRI NAVEEN JINDAL: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Military Intelligence has suggested for screening of the forces after the arrest of some jawans who were having links with Lets as reported in the times of India dated July 26, 2006;

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

(c) the action being taken/proposed to be taken to find such moles in the forces?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (c) A comprehensive mechanism already exists within the organization for detailed verification of antecedents of the Armed Forces personnel and to identify, isolate and remove undesirable elements,

if already in service. This is an ongoing process and measures are reviewed and updated from time to time.

Nagpur Airport

2446. SHRI HARIBHAU RATHOD:
SHRI EKNATH MAHADEO GAIKWAD:
SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the cost of the project to develop a multi-modal International passenger and Cargo Hub Airport at Nagpur has been worked out;

(b) if so, the proportion of Centre and State funding in the said project; and

(c) the time by which the said project is likely to be executed?

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

(b) and (c) A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to be signed between Airports Authority of India (AAI) and Government of Maharashtra/Maharashtra Airports Development Company (MADC) is likely to be finalised in this regard shortly.

Use of Railway Land for Commercial Purpose

2447. SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Mumbai Railway Vikas Corporation has been permitted to commercially exploit the area around the station premises;

(b) if so, whether about 4.5 hectares of land near Bandra (W. East) is proposed to be disposed of for which bids have been invited;

(c) if so, whether the land in question falls under the jurisdiction of Mumbai Metropolitan Region Development Authority and the Railways will have to follow their guidelines; and

(d) if so, the expected earning from this land and how it is proposed to be utilised?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Yes, Sir. Mumbai Railway Vikas Corporation (MRVC) has been permitted to commercially develop the railway area in Mumbai within the jurisdiction of MRVC.

(b) Yes, Sir. A plot of land measuring about 4.2 hectares at Bandra (East) has been entrusted to Mumbai Railway Vikas Corporation for commercial development on long terms lease, Bids have not been invited so far.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The site is having good potential. The exact amount of lease premium can be ascertained only after the bids are finalized. The utilization of funds will be in the ratio of 1:1:1 for development of Railway infrastructure in Mumbai Suburban Section, development of Railway in Maharashtra and elsewhere in India respectively in terms of Memorandum of Understanding signed between Ministry of Railways and Government of Maharashtra.

[Translation]

Fake Railway Tickets

2448. SHRI VIJOY KRISHNA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railway are incurring huge revenue loss on account of fake railway tickets racket going on large scale basis in Railways;

(b) if so, the number of cases of fake railway tickets reported along with revenue loss to the Railways there from during the current year, zone-wise;

(c) whether the railway employees are also found involved in this illegal practice;

(d) if so the number of railway officials along with other persons found involved in such illegal practice during the said period; and

(e) the action taken/to be taken against the officials/ persons found guilty?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Some cases of fake railway tickets have come to notice. However, the loss suffered on this account is not quantifiable.

- (b) A statement is attached.
 (c) Yes, Sir.
 (d) A statement is attached.

(e) Regular checks are conducted at stations as well as in trains by the ticket checking staff in association with Railway Protection Force/Government Railway Police against various irregularities/frauds including fake railway

tickets. Vigilance department also conducts checks in this regard from time to time. Besides this, Zonal Railways have formed Intensive Check Posts (ICPs) at nominated stations to effectively check ticket less/irregular travel including ticket frauds especially in unreserved compartments of trains. Persons found indulging in these illegal activities are handed over to Police. Strict disciplinary action is taken against the railway staff found conniving in such activities.

Statement

Railway	Number of cases of fake/manipulated railway tickets reported (Period April-June 2006)	Number of Railway Official along with other persons involved in such illegal practice.	
		Railway Staff	Other persons
Central	1	Nil	Nil
Eastern	Nil	Nil	Nil
East Coast	Nil	Nil	Nil
East Central	9	Investigation in progress	Nil
Northern	6	2	Nil
North Central	Nil	Nil	Nil
North Eastern	4	5	Nil
Northeast Frontier	3	Nil	16
North Western	Nil	Nil	Nil
Southern	Nil	Nil	Nil
South Central	Nil	Nil	Nil
South Eastern	Nil	Nil	Nil
South East Central	Nil	Nil	Nil
South Western	Nil	Nil	Nil
Western	Nil	Nil	Nil
West Central	Nil	Nil	Nil

[English]

**Construction of Railway Line from
Kollamgode To Trichur**

2449. DR. P.P. KOYA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to construct a new railway line from Kollamgode to Trichur *via* Vadakkecherry, Palakkad District, Kerala;

(b) if so, the present position of this proposal;

(c) whether any survey was conducted earlier for this project;

(d) if so, since when this survey was conducted;

(e) whether any amount has been sanctioned for the re-survey of the above proposal in the last Railway Budget; and

(f) if so, how much amount sanctioned for this project and the present position of the said project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) Survey for construction of Kollengode-Trichur new line has been completed and the survey report is under process of finalisation in the Zonal Railway.

(c) and (d) A survey for this line was conducted in 1949.

(e) Yes, Sir

(f) Does not arise as the project is not sanctioned. However, cost of survey is Rs. 3.25 lakhs.

[Translation]

**Installation of Electronic Bridge at
Satna Railway Station**

2450. SHRI GANESH SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the cases of overloading at Satna Railway Station have been reported;

(b) if so, whether the inquiry into the case of carrying the freight beyond permissible limit in the goods trains has been postponed;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether there is any proposal to install an electronic bridge at Satna Railway Station;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the time by which it is likely to be installed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) No, Sir, No case of overloading has been reported from Satna Railway Station.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

(d) to (f) No, Sir, There is no proposal to install an electronic weighbridge at Satna Railway Station. However, there is a proposal to install an electronic weighbridge at Sagma Station which is next station from Satna towards Manikpur. It is likely to be installed by February, 2007.

Theft of Fuel from IOC Depot

2451. SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Union Government is aware of the theft of fuel from the Indian Oil Depot situated in Tadali at Chandrapur-Nagpur Highway of Maharashtra as reported in the Dainik Lokmat dated July 15, 2006;

(b) if so, whether the Union Government has taken any note of it and taken steps to check this theft; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL): (a) to (c) A news item appeared in Dainik Lokmat on 15 July 2006 alleging theft/pilferage of diesel from Tank Trucks (TTs) loaded at Tadali Depot for Western Coalfield Limited (WCL) with connivance of employees of Indian Oil Corporation (IOC), TT Drivers, Security personnel of WCL and Police. The area described in the news is well outside the IOC Depot boundary. As per IOC, the TTs are sent to customers on rotational basis except those which are used by the dealers for their own load. IOC has introduced security locking system in TTs to curb malpractices en-route. TTs are checked at customers' end also before unloading and, in case there is any short receipt by the customers, the same is reflected in the receipt copy of the invoice. There was no complaint from the customers regarding abnormal shortage in the recent past.

However, in October 2005, on case of TT was found involved in abnormal shortage/tampering of the TT fittings. Necessary action has been taken as per the Transport Discipline Guidelines.

[English]

Funds Allocated to Various Schemes

2452. SHRI G.M. SIDDESWARA: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of funds allocated under various schemes implemented by the Ministry of Food Processing Industries during each of the last three years, State-wise;

(b) the status of the current proposals relating to the Karnataka pending with the Government; and

(c) the steps taken to clear the proposals expeditiously?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) The Ministry of Food Processing Industries is implementing Central Sector Plan Schemes during 10th plan period, which are project specific and not State/Area specific. Ministry does not allocate funds State-wise. However, details of funds released under scheme for technology upgradation/establishment/modernization of Food Processing Industries during last three years is given in the enclosed statement.

(b) and (c) Total number of 64 Project Proposals from the State of Karnataka are at various stages of processing/consideration in consultation with the State Nodal Agency, etc.

Statement

(Rs. in lakh)

State/UT	2003-2004	2004-2005	2005-06
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
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

1	2	3	4
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
Uttaranchal	5.37	87.88	162.71
West Bengal	132.96	325.74	400.14

Discovery of Statues and Pillars in Tamil Nadu

2453. SHRI E.G. SUGAVANAM: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Archaeological Survey of India has discovered various statues and other ornamental pillars from Tamil Nadu recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Archaeological Survey of India to preserve all the heritage values in the State?

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

The details of the statues and ornamental pillars discovered in Tamil Nadu during the last three years are given in the enclosed statement.

(c) 413 monuments and sites in Tamil Nadu are protected by the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) under the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act, 1958. The ASI undertakes their regular maintenance, structural repairs and environmental development in accordance with the established archaeological norms.

The excavated archaeological objects are documented and kept in the safe custody of the Chennai Circle of the Archaeological Survey of India.

Statement

Details of various statues and ornamental pillars discovered from Tamil Nadu recently.

Year of Discovery	Discovered Statues/Ornamental Pillars	Period	Place of Discovery
1. 2003-2004	Stone dancing Ganesh, and a goddess sculpture	<i>circa</i> 9th-12th and 14th-16th century AD	Ekambareswara Temple, Settur, U.T. of Pondicherry
2. 2004-2005	Stone Ganeesha sculptures, and inscribed slabs	<i>circa</i> 9th-12th century AD	Nitiswara swamy temple, Srimushnam, District cuddalore
3. 2004-2005	Broken peacock stone sculpture within the five <i>Rathas</i> Complexes	<i>circa</i> 9th-12th century AD	Mamallapuram, District Kanchipuram, Tamil Nadu
4. 2004-2005	Inscribed stone pillars	<i>circa</i> 9th Century A.D.	Salvankuppam Mamallapuram, District Kanchipuram, Tamil Nadu
5. 2005-2006	Terracotta Ganesh figurine	<i>circa</i> 9th-12th Century A.D.	Salvankuppam, Mamallapuram District Kanchipuram Tamil Nadu
6. 2005-2006	Terracotta plaque figurines	<i>circa</i> 3rd-4th century A.D.	-Do-
7. 2005-2006	Inscribed stone pillars	<i>circa</i> 10th century A.D.	-Do-

Opening of DRM and Zonal Headquarters Offices

2454. SHRI HEMMAL MURMU: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to open Divisional Railway Manager's Office at Sahibganj and Zonal Head Quarters at Ranchi;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the existing norms for opening DRM's office and Zonal Head Quarters?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) New Zones/Divisions are set up keeping in view factors like size, workload, accessibility, traffic pattern and other operating/administrative requirements etc. consistent with the needs of economy and efficiency

without any regional considerations. When seen in the light of these considerations, it has not been found feasible to open Divisional Railway Manager's Office at Sahibganj and Zonal Head Quarters at Ranchi.

Bio-metric Identification of Employees

2455. SHRI K.C. PALLANI SHAMY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of employees deployed at domestic and international airports of four metros;

(b) whether it is proposed to use bio-metric identification for employees who have access to the airports;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps taken to ensure faster security checks at the metro airports in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) The number of airports Authority of India (AAI) employees deployed

at the four Metro airports at Mumbai, Delhi, Kolkata & Chennai are as under:—

IGIA, New Delhi - 2431

CSIA, Mumbai - 2597

NSCBIA, Kolkata - 1232

Chennai - 1218

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. It has inter-alia been decided to install bio-metric access control system at all the major airports in the country in a phased manner.

(d) Technologies like X-ray BIS, DFMD and HHMD etc. are already in operation at airports in the country for faster security checks of employees, passengers and their baggage.

Commission for Economically Backward Classes

2456. SHRI JASHUBHAI DHANABHAI BARAD: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has constituted a Commission for Economically Backward Classes:

(b) if so, the composition thereof;

(c) the terms and references of the said Commission; and

(d) the time by which it is likely to submit its report?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Commission comprises of a Chairperson, a Member and a Member-Secretary.

(c) The terms of references of the Commission are:—

(i) to elicit the views of State Governments/UTs and other Commission on the subject;

(ii) to suggest criteria for identification of economically backward classes;

(iii) to recommend the welfare measures and quantum of reservation in education &

Government employment in consultation with the National Commission for Religious and Linguistic Minorities;

(iv) to suggest the necessary constitutional, legal and administrative modalities as required for the implementation of their recommendations.

(d) The Commission is to submit its report within six months from the date of appointment of the Chairperson. The Chairman, Member and Member-Secretary have been appointed vide notification dated 10.07.06.

Autonomy to ONGC

2457. SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the present shareholding of Government in Oil and Natural Gas Corporation;

(b) whether the Government proposes to bring down its shareholding in ONGC to give more autonomy to it; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL): (a) The President of India holds 105,71,60,451 equity shares of Oil and Natural Gas Corporation. The face value of each share is Rs. 10/- (Rupees Ten Only). The percentage of this shareholding is 74.14% of the total paid up capital.

(b) ONGC enjoys 'Navratna' status and there is no such proposal under consideration of the Government, at the present, to bring down its shareholding in ONGC.

(c) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Construction of Rail Overbridge at Manmad Junction

2458. SHRI HARISHCHANDRA CHAVAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways are aware of the decrepit state of the rail overbridge at Manmad junction;

(b) if so, whether any proposal for the repair of the said bridge or for construction of a new overbridge parallel to the said bridge is pending with the Railways; and

(c) if so, the time by which the repair work of the said old bridge and construction of a new overbridge is likely to be started and completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) The bridge is in sound condition except the condition of paint, footpath and parapet walks.

(b) and (c) Painting was done in April, 2004. Other usual repairs of the overbridge were carried out in the month of Jan, 05. Condition of bridge is satisfactory. Work of renewal of footpath and parapet wall is in progress and will be completed by Sept.,06 by Road Authorities. There is no proposal for a new over bridge parallel to this bridge pending with the Railways.

Construction/Expansion of Platform at Jammu Railway Station

2459. SHRI ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any work has been undertaken for the expansion of the existing platforms and construction of new platforms at the Jammu Railway Station keeping in view of the increase in traffic;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the steps taken by the Railways in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (c) There are three platforms at Jammu Tawi Railway station. All the platforms have capacity for 24 coaches trains which is sufficient as the longest trains has 24 coaches only. So there is no need for further extension of platforms. Keeping in view the opening of Katra Railway station in near future, a large number of existing trains are planned to originate/ terminate at Katra Station. So there is no plan to construct any new platform at Jammu Tawi Railways Station.

[English]

Interest Rate Charged by NSCFDC

2460. SHRI ARJUN SETHI: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the rate of interest of loans given by the National Scheduled Castes Finance and Development Corporation to States/SC/ST Finance Corporations is very high in comparison to the loans given by the Nationalised Banks to them;

(b) if so, whether unless 90 percent of the recovery of the loans given by the NSCFDC, States Finance Corporation are not eligible for getting further loans from the NSCFDC; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) No Sir. The interest rate chargeable from the State Chanelising Agencies (SCAs) is very low and it ranges from 1% to 5%, depending on the scheme and quantum of loan.

(b) and (c) No Sir. As per lending policy of THE NSCFDC, there are certain pre-conditions for disbursement of funds to SCAs, which inter-alia includes a minimum 80% cumulative utilization level of funds already disbursed to the SCA.

Railway Sleeper Coach Factory in Assam

2461. SHRI ANWAR HUSSAIN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there have been persistent demands from various quarters to establish a Railway Sleeper Coach Factory at Bongaigaon in Assam;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

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

(a) No Sir, there is no persistent demand to establish a Railway sleeper Coach Factory at Bongaigaon in Assam.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Public-Private Partnership in running Trains

2462. SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO:
SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have reviewed the public-private partnership in running trains;

(b) if so, the findings thereof and

(c) the extent to which public-private partnership in running trains will help the Railways to boost its resource mobilization?

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

(a) and (b) Public-Private Partnership is an evolving area and the implementation and review of policy in this regard is an ongoing exercise.

(c) The public-private partnership in running container trains and luxury trains has the potential of increasing the volume of transport and significantly boosting the resource mobilization efforts of Railways. Already Rs. 540 crores has been deposited by private parties for registration as container operators.

National Heritage Sites Commission

2463. SHRI L. RAJAGOPAL: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Committee constituted by the Government for drafting a legislative frame-work for setting up the National Heritage Sites Commission has completed its task;

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

(c) if not, the reasons for the delay and the time by which the Committee is likely to complete its assigned task?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI):

(a) to (c) The Ministry of Culture has constituted a Committee for drafting a legislative frame-work for setting up the Heritage Sites Commission. The Committee has prepared a draft legislation which has been forwarded for due examination to the Legislative Department of the Ministry of Law and Justice.

Setting up of Oil Refineries

2464. SHRI BALASHOWRY VALLABHANENI:
SHRI TUFANI SAROJ:

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

(a) whether the Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Ltd. (ONGC) earlier had taken a decision to set up oil refineries in Kakinada in Andhra Pradesh and Barmer in Rajasthan.

(b) if so, whether the Government has now decided to reconsider the setting up of these proposed refineries; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor?

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

Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Ltd. (ONGC)/ Mangalore Refinery and Petrochemical Ltd. (MRPL), a subsidiary of ONGC, is examining the feasibility of setting up an export oriented refinery at Kakinada in Andhra Pradesh, within a proposed SEZ by setting up a joint venture company (JV). ONGC has also reported that it is exploring the techno-economic feasibility/viability of setting up of a well-head refinery for processing the crude oil discovered by the Joint Venture of Cairn Energy and ONGC in Rajasthan.

(b) No, Sir.

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

Properties in Cantonment Areas

2465. SHRI FAGGAN SINGH KULASTE:
DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal is under consideration of the Government for the resumption of private-civilian owned and occupied properties in Cantonment areas;

- (b) if so, the details thereof and reasons therefor;
- (c) the criteria for the selection of such properties;
- (d) whether there is any protection or safeguard for the retired Government personnel/owners and the weaker sections of society against such resumption;
- (e) if so, the details thereof;
- (f) whether the Government has imposed any restrictions on the sale and purchase of properties in the cantonment areas;
- (g) if so, whether there are any restrictions on reconstruction, repairs and renovation on properties in such areas; and
- (h) if so, the details thereof and reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (c) There are proposals for resumption of sites at various Cantonments of the country. These include the sites at Meerut, Dehradun, Faizabad, Fatehgarh, Shahjahanpur, Roorkee, Agra, Lucknow, Jalandhar, Secunderabad and Jabalpur Cantonments. The properties held on resumable tenures are resumed for specific defence/public purpose. Normally, the following criteria for selection of sites for resumption is adopted:

- (i) Bungalows which are on hire with the Government.
- (ii) Sites which are vacant.
- (iii) Sites where the existing structures are in dilapidated condition.
- (iv) Sites where the occupancy holders have committed breaches of the terms/conditions of the grant/lease.

(d) and (e) There is no exclusive provision for protection to the retired Government personnel/owners and the weaker sections of society against such resumption. However, the holders of occupancy rights of such properties, which are identified for resumption, are given one month's notice along with the compensation amount for authorized superstructures. If the resumptee owners are dissatisfied with amount of compensation, they may seek appointment of an Arbitration Committee.

(f) to (h) Sale and purchase of properties in cantonment areas is permitted subject to obtaining prior permission of competent authority as per the terms and the land tenure on which the property is held. The reconstruction/repair and/or renovation are regulated as per the provisions of Cantonments Act, 1924, bye-laws made thereunder by each Cantonment and the policy guidelines issued by Ministry of Defence.

[Translation]

Expansion of Railway Network

2466. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Railway propose to prepare any top priority action plan for modernisation, development and infrastructural expansion of Railways network;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the present status of the said action plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (c) There is no proposal at present to prepare a top priority action plan for modernization, development and infrastructural expansion of Railways network. However, Modernization, development and expansion of the Railway network is an on-going process on Indian Railways. In November 2004, an Integrated Railway Modernisation Plan for the period 2005-2010 was prepared and is currently under implementation. Network expansion is planned annually in the short-term, as a part of Five Year Plan in the long-term.

[English]

Grant of Heritage Status for Punalur Shencotta Railway Line

2467. SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Railways have any proposal to accord heritage status to Punalur-Shencotta railway line;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Railways have taken any steps to improve the tourist potential and to improve its revenue in this section; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Expenditure on Tainees

2468. SHRI AVINASH RAI KHANNA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the expenditure involved in training of one pilot; and

(b) the steps to reduce this expenditure to enable a common man to become a pilot?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) The expenditure in training of one pilot by a training institute is in the range of approximately Rs. 15-30 lakhs, and depends on type and number of trainer aircraft and other infrastructural facilities provided by them.

(b) Government of India and some State Governments are providing Grants-in-Aid and fund support to an extent to flying training organizations, which subsidises the training cost. Trainer aircraft are also provided by the Government to the flying training organizations through Directorate General of Civil Aviation and Aero Club of India. Some scholarships are available to Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe cadets and some scholarship are granted to the students on the basis of merit. In addition, Banks also extend loan facilities to students.

Monitoring of Welfare Schemes by NBCFDC

2469. SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has set up a Monitoring Committee to ensure regular and strict monitoring of welfare schemes run by National Backward Classes Finance and Development Corporation (NBCFDC);

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any deficiencies have been noticed by the said Committee in implementation of welfare schemes by NBCFDC; and

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

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

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Survey of New Tracks and High Speed Trains

2470. SHRI BANSAGOPAL CHOUDHURY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have any plan to conduct any survey for laying of new tracks between all State Capitals and or Metros;

(b) if so, whether the survey has been completed;

(c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether there is any proposal for high speed railway communications between Metros; and

(e) if so, the time by which it is likely to be introduced?

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

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

(d) and (e) as per Integrated Railway Modernization plan, it is proposed to run trains at 150 Kilometer per hour on Delhi-Patna-Howrah route by 2007-08 and Delhi-Chennai route by 2009-10

[Translation]

Gauge Conversion of Jabalpur-Gondia Railway Line

2471. SHRI KRISHNA MURARI MOGHE:
SHRI VIJAY KUMAR KHANDELWAL:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the progress made so far on the gauge conversion of Jabalpur-Gondia railway line project;

(b) the total expenditure incurred on the said project; and

(c) the efforts made by the Railways to complete the project as per the time schedule?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Gondia-Balaghat section has been completed and commissioned. Work is in progress on the remaining section. Land acquisition, earthwork and bridgework have been taken up.

(b) Total expenditure incurred on the project till 31.03.2006 is Rs. 165.80 crore.

(c) No target date of completion of the project has been fixed.

[English]

Permission for Railway Crossings in Gujarat

2472. SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA:
SHRI JASHUBHAI DHANABHAI BARAD:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether many proposals of State of Gujarat for permission of Railway crossings are pending for approval at different levels in the Railways since long;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the reaction of the Railways for giving permission to these proposals?

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

(b) In many cases the party or the State Govt. do not submit proposal well in time, deposit the estimated charges required in time, furnish the agreement or clarify the queries made in regard thereto expeditiously. These work involve stages like joint feasibility inspection, approval of plans and drawings, deposition of estimated charges, obtaining sanction from Commissioner of Railway safety (CRS) etc. prior to permission to carry out the works at site. Checking and approval thereafter of Engineering plans submitted by parties/State Govt., is done at

Divisional & Zonal Headquarters level as soon as the cases are received and revised submissions made thereafter.

(c) 7 cases will be cleared during the current month and remaining cases are at different stages of joint site verification, preparation and approval of plans and estimates, CRS's sanction and payment by the party. Hence, early clearance also depends upon prompt and correct submission by the party in fulfilling the requisites.

Missile Programme

2473. SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the missile programme has put the Indian defence system in gaping holes as reported in *The Times of India* dated July 24, 2006;

(b) if so, the facts thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (c) No, Sir. The Integrated Guided Missile Development Programme was sanctioned to develop Prithvi, Agni (technology demonstrator), Trishul, Akash and Nag Missiles.

All the Missiles have since been developed. Prithvi-I for Army, and its variants P-II for Air Force, and Dhanush for Indian Navy have since been productionized. Agni, Technology Demonstrator project, has been successfully completed and A1 & A2, medium and intermediate range missiles derived from AGNI technologies are already under production.

Akash, Medium range surface-to-air missile, and Nag, Third Generation anti-Tank Missile, are entering user trials phase and are expected to be inducted after that. Trishul, a short range surface-to-air Missile has also been developed as a technology demonstrator.

Market Share of Indian Airlines

2474. SHRI SUGRIB SINGH:
SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) the fleet strength of the Indian Airlines at present;
- (b) whether the Indian Airlines has been continuously losing its market share;
- (c) if so, the market share of Indian Airlines during each of the last three years alongwith the reasons for decline; and
- (d) the steps taken by the Government to upgrade the services of Indian Airlines to compete with private airlines operating in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) At present, Indian Airlines/Alliance Air have a fleet strength of 73 aircraft comprising of 3 Airbus A300, 48 A320, 5 A319, 11 B-737, 4 ATR42 and 2 Dornier DO228.

(b) and (c) The market share of Indian Airlines for the years 2003-04, 2004-05 and 2005-06 was 40.5%, 38.1% and 29.4% respectively. The decline in the market share is due to entry of new private carriers who have inducted fresh capacity in the market, induction of additional capacity by the existing players and delay in acquisition of new and latest technology aircraft by Indian Airlines.

(d) Some of the measures taken to upgrade the services of Indian Airlines are market initiatives, product/service upgrades, inflight initiatives, fleet augmentation/renewal, improvements in cabin ambience, rebranding corporate identity etc.

Production Capacity of CPSEs

2475. SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs) being run by the Government as on June, 2006;
- (b) the number of such CPSEs that have achieved production utilization of more than 90 per cent of their installed capacity during the last three years; and
- (c) the number of CPSEs that could utilize less than 30 per cent of their installed production capacity?

THE MINISTER OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) As per Public Enterprises Survey (PE Survey) 2004-

05, the latest period for which information is available, there were 237 Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs) as on 31.3.2005. Out of these 10 were under construction and 227 were in operation.

(b) and (c) Out of 227 operating CPSEs 144 were manufacturing CPSEs and 83 were rendering services.

The information on capacity utilization for different products of manufacturing CPSEs is available in Chapter 9 and statement no. 23 of volume-I of PE Survey, 2004-05. Capacity utilization of more than 90% and less than 30% in respect of main products of CPSEs for the period 2002-03 to 2004-05 is given in the Table below:

Capacity Utilization	No. of CPSEs		
	2004-05	2003-04	2002-03
More than 90%	31	35	29
Less than 30%	16	17	15

Transfer of Technology for Seabuckthorn/Herbal Beverage

2476. SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the DRDO has transferred the technology for seabuckthorn/herbal beverage during 2004-2005 and 2005-2006; and
- (b) if so, the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b) DRDO has transferred Seabuckthorn Beverage technology to three firms during 2004-2005 and 2005-2006. No technology has been transferred for herbal beverage.

Dividend Paid by Railways

2477. SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the amount and percentage of dividend paid by Railways is in tune with the expectation of the Government;
- (b) if so, the details thereof for each of the last three years;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to ensure receipt of revenue commensurate with priority given to Railways?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The dividend from 2004-05 onwards is payable to Government at 6.5% as per the recommendation of the Railway Convention Committee. Prior to 2004-05 it was payable at 7%. The amount of total dividend paid during the last three years is as under:

(Rs in Cr)

Year	Current dividend for the year	Clearance of dividend deferred during 2000-01 and 2001-02	Total dividend paid
2003-04	3087	300	3387
2004-05	2716	483	3199
2005-06 (Prov)	3005	663	3668
2006-07 (BE)	3208	663	3871

(c) and (d) Does not arise.

Frequency of Hirakud Express

2478. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have any proposal to increase the frequency of Hirakud Express; and

(b) if so, the steps taken to implement the said proposal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) No, Sir. At present, there is no such proposal.

(b) Does not arise.

Expansion of Mancheswar Railway Workshop

2479. SHRI JUAL ORAM: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have any proposal for the expansion of Mancheswar Railway Workshop at Bhubaneswar;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Railways in the matter?

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

(b) and (c) The following works are in progress for expansion of Mancheswar workshop:

(Rs. in crores)

Sl.No.	Year of approval	Work name	Cost	Expenditure upto March, 2006	Outlay 2006-07	Remark
1.	1999-2000	AC coach periodical overhauling capacity of 5 coaches per month	3.34	3.04	0.14	The work has been physically completed
2.	2003-04	Additional periodical hauling capacity	7.24	2.48	3.75	The work is likely to be completed by March, 2008
3.	2004-05	Setting up of central chemical & metallurgical laboratory analysis.	1.62	0.00	0.50	The work is likely to be completed by March, 2008

**Nominations of Members on DRUCC, ZRUCC
and NRUCC**

2480. SHRI G.M. SIDDESWARA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the criteria fixed by the Railways for nomination of Members of DRUCC, ZRUCC and NRUCC;

(b) whether there is any provision for nomination of Members from the Office of Divisional Railway Office, Zonal Railway Offices, etc. on the recommendation of D.R.M. and Zonal Railway Managers; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) The details of the persons belonging to various categories who are given representation on the Divisional Railway Users' Consultative Committees (DRUCCs), Zonal Railway Users' Consultative Committees (ZRUCCs) and National Railway Users' Consultative Council (NRUCC) are given in the enclosed statement.

(b) and (c) General Managers of each Zonal Railway can nominate one member on each of the DRUCC & ZRUCC to give representation to the interests which have not been adequately represented on the Committee.

Statement

*Nomination of Members on DRUCC,
ZRUCC and NRUCC.*

DRUCC

1. Not more than six members to be appointed by the General Manager, made up of one representative each of local Chambers of Commerce, Trade Associations and Industries and Agriculture Associations;
2. Two representatives of the registered Passenger Association in the area, to be appointed by the General Manager;
3. Nine representatives of special interests not otherwise represented on the Committee. One will be nominated by the General Manager and Eight by the Minister;

4. One representative each of the Governments of the States served by the Division;
5. One member each of the Legislature of the States served by the Divisions recommended by the State Governments;
6. One nominee each of the Union Minister and Members of Parliament on one DRUCC within the jurisdiction of Division;
7. One representative of Consumer Protection Organisation; and
8. One representative of Handicapped Association.

ZRUCC

1. One representative each of the Governments of the States served by the Railway as recommended by such Government;
2. One member each of the States Legislature recommended by the State Governments;
3. Not more than five representatives of principal Chambers of Commerce and Trade Associations having a standing of not less than five years.
4. Not more than two representatives to be sent by State Government or Governments of Agricultural Associations and other bodies not included in or affiliated to the Chambers of Commerce, etc. referred to in item (3) above;
5. One non-official representative elected from each of the Divisional Railway Users' Consultative Committees.
6. Two representative of the Public Sector Undertakings including Ports in the case of Railways serving Ports. On the N.F. Railway, the representation will be given to one Public Sector Undertaking only;
7. Registered Passenger Association - one from each of the State, which have a sizeable route kilometer on the Railways;
8. One representative of Consumer Protection Organisation;
9. Ten Members of Parliament (7 from Lok Sabha and 3 from Rajya Sabha);

10. One nominee of each Union Minister to be given representation on the ZRUCC serving his/her constituency.
11. One member to represent special interests to be nominated on the recommendation of the General Manager of the Railway; and
12. Eight members as the Minister may appoint to represent the interests, which he considers are necessary to be represented to the Committee.

NRUCC

- (1) Secretaries of the following Ministries of the Government of India;
 - (a) Ministry of Industry
 - (b) Ministry of Commerce, Civil Supplies and Co-operation
 - (c) Ministry of Tourism and Civil Aviation.
- (2) Chairman, Members of the Railway Board.
- (3) Fifteen Members of Parliament, 10 of whom being from the Lok Sabha and five from Rajya Sabha.
- (4) A representative of each of Zonal Railway Users' Consultative Committee, not being an official to be elected by the respective Zonal Railway Users' Consultative Committee.
- (5) One member each from the following All India Associations:-
 - Federated Chambers of Commerce
 - Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry.
 - Indian Jute Mills Association.
 - Indian Sugar Mills Association.
 - All India Manufacturers Association.
 - Cement Manufacturers Association.
 - All India Travel Agents Association and similar All India Associations.
 - Members will be taken by turn from these Associations.
- (6) One to represent Agricultural Interests.
- (7) Two Retired officers of Railway (Member of Board/General Manager).

- (8) Such other members as the Minister may appoint to represent interests, which he/she considers are necessary to be represented on the council.

NOTE: Persons holding assignments of profit connected with the Railways e.g. catering and vending contractors, Out Agency contractors, handling contractors, engineering contractors, Rail Travellers' Service Agents and State/Central Government Servent etc. are debarred from the membership of the Railway Users' Consultative Committees and the National Railway Users' Consultative Council.

Mural Paintings

2481. SHRI E.G. SUGAVANAM: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Archaeological Survey of India has made any attempts to reproduce more than thousand years old Chola, Nayak, Chhera, Pandiya and Pallava murals and paintings; and

(b) if so, the details and the present status thereof?

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

(b) Question does not arise.

[*Translation*]

Damage to Ancient Fort at Gondkalin Chandrapur

2482. SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government is aware that ancient fort at Gondkalin Chandrapur city in Maharashtra has suffered damage due to illegal construction by municipality as reported in 'Navbharat', Nagpur dated July 2, 2006;

(b) if so, whether the Municipality has taken clearance from Archaeological Survey of India for construction adjacent to the fort;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if no, the corrective steps taken by the Union Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) As reported, the Chandrapur Municipality has constructed a weir of one metre height with four gates across the Jharpat river for storage of water adjoining the bastion of the fortification wall of Gondraja Tombs, Chandrapur, a centrally protected monument. As a result water is getting stored near the bastion which may damage the fort and also the Achaleshwar Temple inside the fort.

(b) and (c) No permission has been obtained by the Municipality from the Archaeological Survey of India for construction of weir adjacent to the fort.

(d) The matter was brought to the notice of the Municipal Corporation and District Collector, Chandrapur with a request not to construct the wall but despite the same, the weir was constructed by the Municipal Corporation, Chandrapur. The matter is pending with District Collector and if no action is initiated at his level, Archaeological Survey of India may initiate legal action against the Municipal Corporation, Chandrapur under the provisions of Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act, 1958 and Rules, 1959.

[English]

Extension of Vikramshila Express

2483. SHRI HEMMAL MURMU: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal for extension of Vikramshila Express unto Sahibganj; 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.

Helicopter Services to Religious Places/ Inaccessible Areas

2484. SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:-

(a) the details of important religious places for which helicopter services exists in the country;

(b) whether the Government is considering to introduce more helicopter services to the important religious places and to inaccessible areas and difficult terrains in the North East Region;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) Helicopter services exists, at present, to Vaishno Devi, Kedarnath, Badrinath and Amarnath shrines.

(b) to (d) Pawan Hans Helicopters Ltd (PHHL) plans to further connect to important adjoining tourists/religious places in Uttaranchal such as Ghagaria, Hemkund Sahib etc. PHHL also plans to provide a Bell helicopter under wet lease arrangement for starting regular passenger services to Jain Temples situated at Gimar Hills in Junagarh District in Gujarat. The operators are free to provide helicopter services to other religious places, inaccessible areas and difficult terrains including North Eastern Region as per their commercial judgment subject to obtaining requisite clearance from the concerned State Governments and religious Trusts manning the shrines, as may be required. As such, no definite time limit can be stipulated at present for commencement of these operations.

[Translation]

Maulana Azad Education Foundation

2485. SHRI HARISHCHANDRA CHAVAN: Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be please to state:

(a) the details of the schemes implemented by the Maulana Azad Education;

(b) the funds released by the Government to the foundation during each of the last three years and the current year;

(c) the funds allocated/sanctioned to Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) Local Bodies by the foundation under its various schemes during the said period, scheme-wise, NGO/Local Body-wise and State/ Union Territory-wise;

(d) the funds actually utilized by these NGOs/Local Bodies under the said Scheme during the said period, scheme-wise and State/Union Territory-wise; and

(e) the measures taken by the foundation for proper utilisation of funds?

THE MINISTER OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI A.R. ANTULAY): (a) The following schemes are being implemented by Maulana Azad Education Foundation:-

1. Financial assistance to establish/expand schools/residential schools/colleges;
2. Financial assistance for purchase of laboratory equipments and furniture;
3. Financial assistance for setting up/strengthening Vocational/Technical Training Centres/Institutes;
4. Financial assistance for construction of hostel buildings.
5. Maulana Azad National Scholarship for Meritorious Girl Students;
6. Maulana Azad Sadbhawna Kendras;
7. Maulana Abul Kalam Azad Literacy Award.

(b) The details of funds released by the Government to the foundation are as under:-

Sl.No.	Year	Amount (Rs. in crores)
1.	2002-2003	2.10
2.	2003-2004	1.65
3.	2004-2005	1.00
4.	2005-2006	29.99
5.	2006-2007	Nil

(c) State/Union Territory and Non-Governmental Organisations/Local body-wise funds released by Maulana Azad Education Foundation is given in the enclosed statement.

(d) and (e) Funds are released in two instalments by the Foundation. Second instalment is released on receipt of utilization certification. Spot inspection is also conducted. Project Monitoring Committee monitors the progress of the Project.

Statement

Details of Grant-in-Aid sanctioned by Maulana Azad Education Foundation during Financial Year 2003-04

Sl.No.	Name & Address of NGOs	Purpose	Grant-in-Aid Sanctioned (Rs.)
1	2	3	4
Andhra Pradesh			
1.	Chaitanya Bharti Educational Society, Kodad, Nalgonda	Girls Hostel Bldg.	1000000
Assam			
2.	Dhulia Regional Physically Handicapped Development Association, Dhulia, Darrang	Construction of Girls Hostel Building	1000000
Jammu and Kashmir			
3.	Sir Syed Muslim Institute of Education, Behrot, Distt. Rajouri	Construction of School Bldg.	1000000
Karnataka			
4.	Mohaddis-e-Azam Mission, Islampur Road, Hubli, Dharwad	Construction of Girls School Bldg.	1000000

1	2	3	4
5.	Sunni darul Ulum Mohammadia Charitable Trust, Moodbidri, D.K.	Construction of School Building	500000
6.	Youth Educational Service Association, Health Office, Ramnagram, Bangalore	Construction of Girls Hostel Bldg.	1000000
Madhya Pradesh			
7.	Muslim Educationl Society, Sunser, Shajapur	Construction of School Building	1000000
8.	Nagar Panchayat, Badawads, Ratlam	Establishment of Sadbhawna Kendra	1000000
9.	Nagar Panchayat, Tal, Ratlam	Establishment of Sadbhawna Kendra	1000000
10.	Nagarpalika Parishad, Nagda, Ujjain	Establishment of Sadbhawna Kendra	890000
11.	Nagarpalika Parishad, Agar, Shajapur	Establishment of Sadbhawna Kendra	1000000
12.	Shahul Eidiz Zahabi, 250 Najmi Path, Qamri Marg, Ujjain	Establishment of Computer Lab.	500000
13.	St. Abu Ayub Ansari Educational Society, 29/3, Ranipura, Indore	Construction of School Building	750000
14.	Jamat Ansar Momin, Hariphatak, Bridge Road, Ujjain	Construction of School Building	1000000
15.	Adarsh Bharti Convent Shikshaa Sansthan, 12-Sankadia Sultan ki Gali, Chand ka Kua, Ujjain	Construction of School Building	1000000
16.	Aman Education Society, Shahjahanabad, Bhopal	Construction of College Building & Purchase of Equipment	1000000
17.	New Progressive Educational Society, 10-Prince Colony, Lower Eidgh Hills, Shahjahanabad, Bhopal	Construction of Girls Hostel Bldg.	1000000
18.	Progressive Educational & Cultural Development Society, Housing Board Colony, Bhopal	Construction of School Building	1000000
Maharashtra			
19.	Hazrat Dada Hayat Kalandar Education Society, Mangrupir, Akola	Construction of School Building	500000
20.	Friends Welfare Society, Habib Nagar, Amravati	Construction of School Building	1000000
21.	Social Society, Morba, Mangaon, Distt. Raigad	Construction of School Building	710000
22.	Nagothane Education Society, Nagothane, Roha, Distt. Raigad	Construction of School Building	1000000

1	2	3	4
23.	Ideal Education Society, Dr. Ansari Road, Rabodhi, Distt. Thane	Construction of School Building	1000000
24.	Roha Educational & Welfare Assn. At & P.O. Roha, Distt. Raigad	Construction of School Building	1000000
25.	Mehmooda Shikshan & Mahila Gramin Vikas Bahu-Uddeshia Sastha, Ahmed Complex, Godcha Marg, Sadar, Nagpur.	Construction of College Building	1000000
26.	Maulana Abul Kalam Azad Social Welfare & Educational Society, Akot, Distt. Akola	Construction of School Building	1000000
27.	The Education Society, 22, Masjid Street, Kadwai, Mumbai	Construction of Girls Hostel Bldg.	1500000
Manipur			
28.	The Hundred Flowers Hr.Sec. School Society, Thangjam, Khunou, Khomidok Pangei Road, East Imphal	Construction of Girls Hostel Bldg.	2000000
29.	New Integrated Rural Management Agency, Nungphou Bazar, Sangaiyumpham, Wangjing, Thoubal	Establishment of Craft Trng. Center	100000
Rajasthan			
30.	Ishaqia Educational Society, Mohalla Kharadian, Jodhpur	Construction of Girls School	1000000
Tamil Nadu			
31.	Islamia Educational Trust, Abdul Khader Street, Bodinayakannur.	Construction of School Bldg.	400000
Uttar Pradesh			
32.	Nadir Educational Society, Atrauli, Aligarh	Construction of School Bldg.	500000
33.	Iqra Junior High School Samiti, Kolhui, Maharajganj	Construction of School Bldg.	400000
34.	Al-Hilal Foundation, Dariachak, Gorakhnath, Gorakhpur	Construction of School Bldg.	650000
35.	Florence Educational & Welfare Society, Balda Colony, Lucknow.	Construction of Inter College Bldg.	1000000
36.	Madarsa Ahle Sunnat Ziaul Ulum, Bagicha Itifatganj, Ambedkar Nagar	Construction of School Bldg.	200000
37.	Maulana Azad Educational Society, Anjanshaheed, Sagri, Azamgarh	Construction of Girls Hostel Bldg.	1500000

1	2	3	4
38.	Maulana Azad Educational & Welfare Society, Jalalpur, Ambedkar Nagar	Construction of School Bldg.	300000
39.	Domariaganj Educational & Welfare Society, Azad nagar, Domariaganj, Siddharthnagar	Construction of College Building	500000
40.	Musab Bin Umair Educational Society, Sadullah Nagar, Utraula, Balrampur	Construction of Girls School Bldg.	600000
41.	Honey Convent Shiksha Samiti, Baragaon, Sarai Mohiddin, Jaunpur	Construction of School Bldg.	500000
42.	Chand Memorial Charitable Trust, New Friends Colony, New Delhi	Construction of School Bldg. at Tewan Grant, Sidharthnagar (UP)	450000
43.	Managing Committee Muslim Qudrat School, Seohara, Bijnor	Purchase of Science Lab. Equip.	500000
44.	Abbasi Charitable & Educational Society, Amroha, J.P. Nagar	Construction of Girls Hostel Bldg.	1000000
West Bengal			
45	Millat Girls Academy, J.K. Ghosh Road, Belgachia, Kolkata	Establishment of VTC	200000
46	Sodpukar Welfare Society, Sodpukar, P.O. Ramchandra Nagar, South-24-Pgs.	Construction of School Building	1000000
TOTAL			38150000

Detail of Grant-in-Aid Sanctioned by Maulana Azad Education Foundation during the Financial Year 2004-05

Sl.No.	Name of the NGO	Purpose	Amount Sanctioned
1	2	3	4
Andhra Pradesh			
1.	Muslim Educational & Cultural Organization, Hyderabad.	For construction of MESCO Vocational Jr. College	Rs. 15,00,000/-
2.	Rizwan Education Society, Hyderabad	For Purchase of 10 computers with accessories for school computer lab.	Rs. 2,50,000/-
3.	Jamiatul Mominath, Hyderabad	For expansion of school building & purchase of 6 computers with accessories	Rs.9,00,000/-
4.	St. Suleman Educational Society, Hyderabad	For construction of school building	Rs.10,80,000/-

1	2	3	4
5.	Al-Macca Educational Society, Mehboobnagar	For construction of School building, purchase of lab equipments & computers with accessories	Rs.23,25,000/-
6.	Dazzling Educational Society, Hyderabad	For construction of school building & purchase of computers.	Rs.20,00,000/-
Bihar			
7.	Board of Trustees Shafi Muslim High School, Darbhanga	Civil construction of ITI building	Rs.13,50,000/-
Delhi			
8.	Herra Education Trust, New Delhi	For purchase of lab equipments, furniture, computers, library furniture	Rs.3,00,000/-
Goa			
9.	Anjuman Touhed Muslimeen, Margoa	For construction of school building & Purchase of Science lab. Equipment, furniture	Rs.26,00,000/-
10.	Anjuman Touheed Muslimin, Chimbel	For purchase of lab equipments & Purchase of lab furniture.	Rs.2,00,000/-
Gujarat			
11.	Hussainya Nagar Kelwani Mandal, Bharuch	Expansion of school building	Rs.10,00,000/-
12.	Mamba-UI-Uloom, Dolka, Ahmedabad	For construction of school building, purchase of lab equipments, furniture & computers	Rs.14,00,000/-
13.	Anjuman Education Trust, Balasinor, Kheda	For construction of school building.	Rs.15,00,000/-
14.	Madarsa Jameah Rehmaniya Arbiyah Islamiya, Distt Godhra*	For expansion of ITI building.	Rs.9,00,000/-
15.	The Valan Educational & Welfare Society, Distt. Vadodara	For expansion of school building	Rs.9,00,000/-
16.	Ankleshwar Taluka Brotherhood Trust, Distt, Bharuch	For expansion of school building (Science section) & purchase of lab equipments	Rs.12,00,000/-
17.	Anjuman Falah Daren, Distt. Banaskantha	For construction of school building	Rs.5,00,000/-
Haryana			
18.	Al-Qasim Educational Society, Distt. Gurgaon*	For civil construction of VTC	Rs.3,60,000/-

1	2	3	4
19.	Mohmmadiya Education Society, Sakras, Distt. Gurgaon	For construction of school building	Rs.10,00,000/-
Jammu & Kashmir			
20.	Keh Kashan Public School, Handwara	For construction of school building	Rs.10,00,000/-
21.	Shams Memorial Islamic Educational Institute, Budgam	For construction of school building	Rs.10,00,000/-
22.	HELP Foundation, Srinagar	For construction of school building	Rs.10,00,000/-
23.	Society for Promotion of Culture & Education, Srinagar	For construction of 100 bedded hostel building for girls	Rs.30,00,000/-
Karnataka			
24.	Khidmat Ul Musleem, Bellary	For construction of 100 bedded girls hostel building	Rs.30,00,000/-
25.	Aflama Iqbal Educational Society, Distt. Bidar	For completion of school building.	Rs.20,00,000/-
26.	Al-Siraj Educational Society, Distt. Bidar	For construction of school building	Rs.12,00,000/-
Kerala			
27.	Mallik Bin Deenar Islamic Complex Committee, Distt. Trissur	For construction of school building & purchase of lab equipments	Rs.14,00,000/-
28.	Arafa Charitable Trust, Distt. Emakulam	For construction of school building	Rs.22,75,000/-
29.	Maswailihu Ssuniya Trust, Mooloor, Distt. Palakkad.	For completion of school building, purchase of lab equipments, furniture and 8 computers	Rs.15,00,000/-
30.	Alpha Charitable Trust, Distt. Palakkad	For Construction of school building, purchase of lab equipments, furniture, 8 computers	Rs.7,95,000/-
Madhaya Pradesh			
31.	Bright Star Muslim Association, Dewas	For construction of school building	Rs.25,80,000/-
32.	Maulana Azad Educational Technical & Vocational Society, Indore	For construction of school building	Rs.15,00,000/-
33.	National Muslim Education Society, Bhopal	For purchase of lab equipments & furniture	Rs.2,00,000/-

1	2	3	4
Maharashtra			
34.	Bazme-e-Talim, Mahsala, Raigad	For expansion of school building	Rs.7,95,000/-
35.	Dondaicha Education Society, Dhule	For expansion of school building	Rs.10,00,000/-
36.	Dr. Allama Iqbal Education Society, Distt. Yavatmal	For expansion of school building	Rs.6,60,000/-
37.	Anjuman-e-Waseel-ul-Taleem, Raigad*	For civil construction of ITI building	Rs.13,50,000/-
38.	Mahila Bahuudeshiya Shikshan Sanstha, Yavatmal	For construction of school building	Rs.6,25,000/-
39.	Anjuman-e-lshaal Taleem, Dhule	For expansion of school building	Rs.8,00,000/-
40.	Late Dwarkabhai Someji Kamble Prathisthan, Nanded*	Setting up VTC	Rs.1,25,000/-
41.	Maulana Azad Education Society, Amravati	For expansion of school building	Rs.6,75,000/-
42.	Parvel Education Society, Parvel.	For expansion of school building	Rs.30,00,000/-
43.	Awami Welfare Association, Mumbai	For purchase of science lab equipments, furniture & computers	Rs.5,00,000/-
44.	Al-Hira Educational & Welfare Society, Aurangabad	For construction of school building	Rs.10,00,000/-
45.	Arbi Urdu Marathi Education Society, Miraj	For construction of school building	Rs.21,00,000/-
46.	Kokan Urdu Education Society, Distt Thane	For construction of school/VTC building & purchase of lab equipments.	Rs.18,90,000/-
47.	Mehboob Education Trust, Raigad	Construction of school building & purchase of lab equipments/ furniture	Rs.10,25,000/-
48.	Bazme Urdu Adab, Ratanagiri	For construction of school building	Rs.15,00,000/-
49.	Hazarat Umar Farooque Education Society, Distt Yavatmal	For construction of school building	Rs.15,00,000/-
50.	Mahapoli Educational and Charitable Trust, Distt. Thane	Construction of school building, purchase of computers & lab equipments.	Rs.12,50,000/-

1	2	3	4
51.	Halqa E Dawanik Education Society, Aurangabad	Construction of girls hostel building	Rs.10,00,000/-
52.	Yateemkhana Madarsa Anjuman Khairul Islam Trust, Mumbai	For 5 schools (for construction of hostel, lab. equipments, furniture, computers, expansion of school building, etc.	Rs.30,00,000/-
53.	Habib Educational & Welfare Society, Kausa	For purchase of lab. equipments, books, software packages & slide projector.	Rs.1,78,500/-
54.	Ideal Education Society, Ratnagiri	For construction of school building	Rs.20,00,000/-
55.	Chiplun Education Society, Ratnagiri	For construction of school building & purchase of lab. equipments	Rs.10,50,000/-
56.	Aisha Education Trust, Mumbai	For purchase of lab equipments, 10 computers, books & lab furniture & fixtures.	Rs.5,00,000/-
57.	Sarovar Shikshan Mandal, Sangli	For construction of school building	Rs.20,00,000/-
58.	Teachers Education Society, Buldanaa	For construction of school building	Rs.16,20,000/-
59.	Juhu Irla Education Society, Mumbai	For purchase of lab equipments, furniture/fixtures, computers	Rs.3,53,000/-
60.	Anjuman Dardman-E-Talim-o-Tarraqui, Raigad	For construction of school building	Rs.5,00,000/-
Orissa			
61.	Imarate Shariah Educational & Welfare Trust, Phulwari Sharif, Patna*	For construction of Imarate Technical Training Centre, Bisra Rourkela.	Rs.12,30,000/-
62.	Madani Welfare Association, Bhubneshwar	For construction of school building	Rs.10,00,000/-
63.	Madarsa Ashrafal Uloom Al Banat, Distt Kendrapada	For construction of school building	Rs.5,00,000/-
Rajasthan			
64.	Darul Ulhoom Ahle Sunnat Faizane, Nagpur	For expansion of school building	Rs.9,50,000/-
65.	Mohammadiya Welfare Society, Tonk	For construction of school building	Rs.10,00,000/-

1	2	3	4
66.	Khwaja Garib Nawaz Shiksha Samiti, Jaipur	For construction of school/VTC building	Rs.13,00,000/-
67.	Islamic Educational Cultural & Welfare Society, Sikar	For construction of 100 bedded hostel building	Rs.30,00,000/-
68.	Al-Huda Educational Society, Distt. Kota	For construction of school building	Rs.5,00,000/-
Tamil Nadu			
69.	Mariamman Services Society, Trichy	Setting up VTC*	Rs.40,000/-
70.	Pallapatti Muslim Kalvi Sangam, Pallapati	For construction of Teachers Training Institute for Women	Rs.18,00,000/-
71.	Pettai Madurai M Dharma Paripalana Sangam, Madurai	For repair & renovation of school building	Rs.4,50,000/-
72.	Muslim Educational & Welfare Society, Coimbtore	For construction of school building	Rs.10,00,000/-
Uttar Pradesh			
73.	Madarsa Gulshan-e-Baghdad, Balrampur	For construction of school building	Rs.6,00,000/-
74.	Jafariya Islamia Educational Association, Ambedkar Nagar	Expansion of school building	Rs.4,50,000/-
75.	Jamia Islamia Maarifya Quran, Ujhari, Distt. J.P. Nagar	For construction of ITI building & purchase of equipments*	Rs.15,00,000/-
76.	Late. Fateh Mohd Educational Society, Maharajganj	For construction of school building	Rs.7,50,000/-
77.	Convent Shiksha Samiti, Baduan	For expansion of school building	Rs.6,75,000/-
78.	Raeen Educational Society, Sitapur	For expansion of school building	Rs.12,00,000/-
79.	Islamia Fatmi Educational Society, Saharanpur	For construction of school building	Rs.7,50,000/-
80.	Samta Vikas Samiti, J.P. Nagar	For construction of school building	Rs.9,00,000/-
81.	National Educational Welfare Society, Rampur	For construction of school building	Rs.9,00,000/-
82.	Ghayasiban Educational Welfare Society, Lucknow	For construction of school building	Rs.10,00,000/-
83.	Faiz-aam Muslim Educational Society, Faizabad	For construction of school building	Rs.15,00,000/-

1	2	3	4
84.	Dargah-e-Islami, Faizabad	For construction of school building & science labs.	Rs.19,50,000/-
85.	Talim Gah-e-Niswan, Mau	For construction of school building	Rs.5,00,000/-
86.	The Ujjar Educational Institution Society, Basti	For construction of school building & purchase of lab equipments/ furniture	Rs.4,10,000/-
87.	M.Ahmed Husain Atta Husain Education Society, Balia	For construction of school building	Rs.7 00,000/-
88.	Anjuman Taleem, Lucknow	For construction of school building & purchase of lab equipments	Rs.16,23,000/-
89.	The Public Education & Welfare Society, Morabadad	For construction of school building	Rs.12,00,000/-
90.	Shan Montessori & Girls Jr. High School Samiti, Moradabad	For construction of school building	Rs.4,50,000/-
91.	Talim-o-Taraqqi High School Society, Ghaziabad	For repair & expansion of school building	Rs.15,00,000/-
92.	Alpsankhyak Talimi Markaz & Imdadi Samiti, Pratapgarh	For construction of school building	Rs.9,00,000/-
93.	Fatima girls junior high schools, J.P.Nagar	For construction of 50 bedded girls hostel building	Rs.15,00,000/-
94.	Maulayee Education Society, Moradabad	For construction of school building	Rs.9,00,000/-
95.	Falah Education Trust, Distt. Mau	For construction of school building & purchase of lab equipments	Rs.10,00,000/-
96.	The Muslim Welfare & Educational Society, Azamgarh	For construction of 50 bedded hostel building & purchase of lab equipments & furniture	Rs.17,00,000/-
97.	Quami Taleemi Society, Sultanpur	For construction of school building	Rs.15,00,000/-
98.	Azad Maktab Pathshala, Kannuj	For construction of school building	Rs.5,00,000/-
99.	Bright Home Shiksha Samiti, Saharanpur	Construction of science block of the school building	Rs.9,00,000/-
West Bengal			
100.	Sheikhdighi High School, Murshidabad	Construction of school building & purchase of lab equipments	Rs.21,50,000/-
101.	Prof. S. Nurul Hasan College, Farakka, Murshidabad	Construction of 50-bedded 50 girls hostel building	Rs.15,00,000/-
102.	Sathi Sangha, 24 parganas	Construction of school building	Rs.7,50,000/-
Total			Rs.12,03,39,500/-

Details of Grant-in-Aid sanctioned by Maulana Azad Education Foundation during Financial Year 2005-06

Sl.No.	Name & Address of NGO	Purpose	Grant-in-aid Sanctioned (Rs)
1	2	3	4
Bihar			
1.	District Rural Development Agency Kaimur (Bhabua)	establishment of Sadbhawna Kendra	1000000
2.	District Rural Development Agency Kaimur (Bhabua)	establishment of Sadbhawna Kendra	1000000
3.	District Rural Development Agency Rohtas, Distt. Sasaram	establishment of Sadbhawna Kendra	1000000
Gujarat			
4.	Muslim Education Trust, Nr. Govt. Rest House, Dakor Road, Mahuda, Distt. Kheda	expansion of school bldg.	1500000
5.	Muslim Educational Society At. & PO: Gothada, Tq. Savli, Distt. Vadodara	construction of school bldg.	1000000
6.	Majlis Davatul Islam Bodeli, Old Bazar, Bodeli, Distt. Vadodara,	construction of school bldg.	500000
Haryana			
7.	Educational & Social Welfare Society, Village Sarai, PO: Khatala, Tehsil Hodal, Distt. Faridabad	construction of school bldg.	700000
Karnataka			
8.	Hzt. Shaikh Minhajuddin Ansari Kallerwan Charitable Trust, C/o KCT Engineering college, P.B. No. 104, KCT Campus, Qamrul Islam Colony, Roza, Gulbarga	construction of school bldg.	1000000
9.	Iqra Education Society Hubli Road, Sirsi	expansion of school bldg.	1000000
Kerala			
10.	Tirur Taluka Sunni Orphanage Committee, PO: Kalpakanchery, Distt. Malappuram	construction of 80-bedded dormitory type girls hostel	2500000
11.	Amal Charitable Society PO: Chammanur, Via: Ponnayoor- kulam, Distt. Thrissur	expansion of school bldg.	1500000

1	2	3	4
12.	Karuvarakundu Darunnajath Islamic Centre, Punnakkar, PO: Karuvarakundu, Distt. Malappuram	construction of 100 bedded dormitory type girls hostel	3000000
13.	Calicut Islami Cultural Society Sneha Nagar, PO: Kolathara, Distt. Calicut	construction of girls school bldg. at Vill. Olavanna, Distt. Kozhikode	1500000
14.	Ansari Charitable Trust, Ansar Nagar, Perumpilavu, PO: Karikkad, Distt. Thrissur	Construction of 80 bedded dormitory type girls hostel	2500000
15.	Manshau-Thazkiathu Ssunniya, Kannur	construction of school bldg.	1000000
Maharashtra			
16.	All India Council of Muslim Economic Upliftment Ltd., (AICMEU), 179, Vazir Bldg., Ibrahim Rahmatulla Road, Mumbai	strengthening ITI, i.e. purchase of equipments for ITI	600000
17.	Everest Educational Society Near Roshan Gate, Aurangabad,	completion of incomplete B.Ed. College bldg.	500000
18.	Al-Jamiatul Amjadiya, 650 Gaibi Peer Road, Gaibi Nagar, Bhiwadi Distt. Thane	expansion of school bldg.	1500000
19.	Urdu Education Society At. & Post Wadner Bholji, Tq. Nandura, Distt. Buldana	construction of School bldg.	1500000
20.	Junedia Education Society Kudachi, Distt. Belgaum	construction of school bldg.	2000000
21.	Shurparaka Educational & Medical Trust, Nawyat Nagar, Sopora (W) Tq. Vasai, Distt. Thane	construction of school bldg.	2000000
22.	Iqra Educational & Welfare Society 3609, Central Bank Road, Ahmednagar	expansion of school bldg.	1500000
23.	Education Society, Lower Tudil, Distt. Raigad	construction of school Bldg.	1500000
Madhya Pradesh			
24.	Muslim Welfare Society Rafiqia School Road, Bhopal	purchase of equipments for ITI	1000000

1	2	3	4
Uttar Pradesh			
25.	Khalil Hasan Kshaitriya Sewa Sudhar Sansthan, C/o Khalil Hasan Hight School, E-111/3, GTB Nagar, Kareli, Allahabad	construction of school bldg. at Vill. & Post Basgit, Saidabad, Handia, Allahabad	1000000
26.	Huda Educational & Social Welfare Society, Jagdishpur, Sultanpur	construction of 50-bedded Girls Hostel bldg. at Huda Islamic Institute, Otiya, PO: Raja Fatehpur, Raibraeli	1500000
27.	Sajid Nursery Primary School Rawli Road, Rahimpur, Distt. Bijnor	construction of school bldg.	500000
28.	Madarsa Darul Uloom Husainia Imambara, Diwan Bazar, Gorakhpur	construction of mini ITI bldg. & purchase of ITI equipment	990000
29.	Bharat Sewa Sadan, C/o Kakori Girls Inter College, 11 Qazi Garhi, Kakori, Lucknow	construction of school bldg. & purchase of lab equipment & furniture	1000000
30.	Idara Talim-o-Taraqqi Muslim Society, Vill. & Post Bahadurgarh, Distt. Ghaziabad	construction of school bldg.	1500000
31.	Madarsa Islamia Jamalul Uloom Darbar, Qasba Phalauda, Meerut	construction of school bldg.	500000
32.	Nagarpanchayat, Musafirkhana, Distt. Sultanpur	establishment of Sadbhawna Kendra	937280
33.	Al-Jamiatul Ghousia Sijajul Uloom Ubhari, PO: Balapur, Distt. Allahabad	construction of school bldg.	1000000
34.	Azad Education Society At.& Post Pipra Kanak, Distt. Kushinagar	expansion of school bldg.	1000000
35.	Darul Uloom Ghousia Teghia Vill. & PO: Rassolabad, Distt. Sultanpur	construction of mini ITI bldg.	1500000
36.	Dini Taleemi Society Zer Qila, Ghazipur	construction of school bldg.	500000
37.	Muslim Fund, C/o Public Girls Hr. Sec. School, Mohalla Khanqah, Deoband, Distt. Saharanpur	construction 50-bedded dormitory type girls hostel	1500000
38.	Shamsi Educational & Welfare Society, Nr. Astro Turf Hockey Complex, PO Box No.64, Rampur	expansion of school bldg.	700000

1	2	3	4
39.	Bright Way Society Vill. Bangra, Post Santanpurwa, Block Singhpur, Distt. Raibareli	expansion of school bldg.	500000
40.	Kaynat Shiksha Vikas Samiti Vill. & PO: Rajpura, Tehsil Gannaur Distt. Badaun	construction of 30-bedded dormitory type girls hostel	1000000
41.	Al-Barkat Educational Society Anoop Shahar Road, Aligarh	construction 60-bedded dormitory type girls hostel	2000000
42.	Ashrafia Educational Society, Vill. & Post Mahul, Azamgarh	construction of 30-bedded girls hostel bldg.	1000000
43.	Ranveer Rananjay Post Graduate College, Amethi, Distt. Sultanpur	establishment of Sadbhawna Kendra	1000000
44.	Raibraeli Polytechnic Association, Raibareli	establishment of Sadbhawna Kendra	1000000
Total			53427280

Details of Grant-in-Aid sanctioned by Maulana Azad Education Foundation during Financial Year 2006-07

Sl. No.	Name & Address of NGOs	Purpose	Grant Sanctioned (Rs.)
1	2	3	4
Andhra Pradesh			
1.	The New Holy Fathima Educational Society, 19-3-262/2/5/A, Madina Colony, Jahanuma, Hyderabad	construction of school bldg.	1500000
Biher			
2.	Shatabdi Foundation, C/o Shatabdi Public School, Katari Hill Road, Gaya	construction of school bldg.	1500000
3.	Abeda High School, Muzaffarpur	construction of ITI bldg.	1500000
Gujarat			
4.	Bachchon Ka Ghar, At.& PO Vagra Distt. Bharuch	construction of 50-bedded Girls Hostel Bldg.	1500000
5.	Polan Bazar Sarvajanik Minority Muslim Yuvak Manda, Madarsa Noorul Islam, Shaikh Mazawar Road, Godhra	Expansion of school bldg.	500000

1	2	3	4
6.	Adarsh Education Trust, Mehtapura, Himmatnagar, Distt. Sabarkantha	construction of school bldg.	1000000
7.	Modasa Ghanchi Education & Social Welfare Trust, Sabaliya Estate, Sanjar Society, Modasa, Distt. Sabarkantha	construction of school bldg.	1500000
8.	The Godhra Muslim Minority Education Society, Opp. Masjid Muslim Society, "A" Vejalpur Road, Godhra	construction of school bldg.	500000
Jammu & Kashmir			
9	Imamiya Mission (Educational & Social Welfare Society), Chuchot, P.B. No.32, HPO, Leh, Laddakh,	construction of 100-bedded Girls Hostel bldg.	3000000
Karnataka			
10	Salsabeel Educational Trust, Masjid-e-Ummul Hasnain Complex, H-Colony, Indiranagar, Bangalore	construction of school bldg.	1000000
11	Rifahul Muslimeen Educational Trust, Farooqia Educational Complex Eidgah, Mysore	construction of school bldg.	1500000
12	Bibi Fatima Education Trust, Ring Road, Ilyasnagar, Sarakki Gate, Kanakapura, Bangalore	construction of ITI bldg.	1500000
Kerala			
13	Irshadiya Charitable Trust Koovallor PO, Kothamangalam, Distt. Ernakulam	expansion of school bldg.	1200000
Madhya Pradesh			
14	St. Jude Education Society, 60 Syed Colony, Housing Board Colony, Krond, Bhopal	construction of school bldg.	1500000
Maharashtra			
15	Anjuman Mifidul Yatama 11, Siddique Lane, Off Mohd. Umar Rajjab Road, Mandanpura, Mumbai	purchase of lab equipments & computers	350000
16	Anjuman-e-Islam, Mumbai, 92, D.N. Road, Off. Badruddin Tayyabji Marg, C.S.T. Mumbai	construction of Sobhani Hostel	5000000

1	2	3	4
17.	Fajandar Education Trust, At & Post Vahoor, Distt. Raigad	construction of 100 bedded Girls Hostel bldg.	3000000
Rajasthan			
18.	Rajputana Mohammed Ali Memorial Trust, Opp. Bus Stand, Beawar,	expansion of school bldg.	1500000
19.	Darul Uloom Faize Ghusia Sansthan Kharchi, Tq. Ramsar, Distt. Barmer	construction of school bldg.	1500000
20.	The Three Dots Children Academy Churu Bye Pass, Jhunjhunu	construction of 100 bedded Boys Hostel bldg.	3000000
Tamil Nadu			
21..	Crescent Education Society Bangalore Road, Kurubarapalli, Tq. Krishnagiri, Distt. Dharampuri	expansion of school bldg.	1500000
Uttar Pradesh			
22.	Qaumi Refahi Society C/o Herra Public School, Hanswar, Distt. Ambedkar Nagar	expansion of School bldg.	1200000
TOTAL			36250000

*(English)***Post Matric Scholarships for SC Students**

2486. SHRI ARJUN SETHI: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is providing Post Matric Scholarships to the Scheduled Caste students to prevent dropouts and help pursuing their studies in the high level;

(b) if so, the total funds allocated and released for this category of students during 2004-05, 2005-06 and 2006-07, State/Union Territory-wise;

(c) whether the funds allocated have not been given to the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations in time as a result the SC students face much difficulties to continue their studies;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether the Government of Orissa has not received the funds till date inspite of fulfilling the criteria fixed for the release of the funds for these years;

(f) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(g) the time by which the funds are likely to be released?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Central assistance released to the States/UTs during 2004-05, 2005-06 and 2006-07 (as on 31.7.2006) is as per statement enclosed.

(c) and (d) Central assistance is released on receipt of proposals from each State/UT. Students do not normally face difficulty as State Governments initially meet their requirements out of their own budget.

(e) to (g) Adhoc Central assistance of Rs. 1739.68 lakhs has been released to the State Government of

Orissa on 27.6.2006, which includes Rs. 861.00 lakhs due for 2005-06. No Central assistance was released to

Government of Orissa during 2004-05, as they had unspent balance of Rs. 201.63 lakhs.

*Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Post Matric Scholarship for SC students—
Central assistance released (Rs. in lakh)*

Sl.No.	State	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07 (up to 31.7.2006)
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	8434.74	9435.46	1814.24
2.	Assam	228.28	490.41	264.86
3.	Bihar	1000.00	1100.00	1892.74
4.	Chhattisgarh	1567.79	526.00	0
5.	Goa	1.93	3.00	3.45
6.	Gujarat	463.84	940.12	521.13
7.	Haryana	425.90	456.00	657.99
8.	Himachal Pradesh	31.21	143.87	0
9.	Jammu and Kashmir	28.80	136.31	111.71
10.	Jharkhand	84.31	0.00	0.00
11.	Karnataka	2699.58	2652.00	1242.22
12.	Kerala	999.49	3771.00	453.14
13.	Madhya Pradesh	1366.60	3064.10	1327.98
14.	Maharashtra	4220.47	8490.95	1433.36
15.	Manipur	84.13	126.43	11.57
16.	Meghalaya	4.67	8.33	1.62
17.	Orissa	0.00	0.00	1739.68
18.	Punjab	0.00	0.00	0.00
19.	Rajasthan	1157.87	1508.34	1992.21
20.	Sikkim	0.00	0.00	4.48
21.	Tamil Nadu	2891.78	6982.18	1719.97
22.	Tripura	195.84	222.39	80.61
23.	Uttar Pradesh	5937.70	11087.00	5098.37

1	2	3	4	5
24.	Uttanchal	302.25	296.13	220.07
25.	West Bengal	807.19	3279.00	2676.60
26.	Daman and Diu	0.89	0.50	2.23
27.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	0.00	0.00	0.00
28.	Delhi	6.65	0.00	0.00
29.	Pondicherry	85.38	90.00	59.71
Total		33027.29	54809.52	23329.94

Railway Training Institute in N.E. Region

2487. SHRI ANWAR HUSSAIN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to establish a Railway Training Institute in N.E. Region;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (c) A multi-disciplinary training center has been planned to be set up at Rangiya in Northeast Frontier Railway at an estimated cost of Rs. 2.37 crores under the Works, Machinery and Rolling Stock Programme of Railways for 2006-07. Since this is still in a nascent stage, no fixed time frame can be given.

Railway Projects

2488. SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of Railways projects lying pending for want of environmental/forest clearances;

(b) the expenditure incurred on these projects so far, and

(c) the steps taken by the Railways to get these projects cleared?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (c) Railway projects

are exempted from environmental clearance. However, forestry clearance is required for acquiring the land in forest area which is a normal activity related to land acquisition for any project. There has been some delay in acquiring forest land on some of the projects and is being pursued at different levels for expediting the same.

Profit/Loss Position of Concor

2489. SHRI BALASHOWRY VALLABHANENI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the profit/loss position of the Container Corporation of India Ltd. (CONCOR) during each of the last three years;

(b) the physical and financial targets fixed by CONCOR for the current financial year; and

(c) the extent to which physical and financial targets achieved during first quarter of the current financial year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) CONCOR has made profits during the last 3 years as per the details given below:-

Financial Year	Gross Profit (Rs. In crores)	Net Profit (Rs. In crores)
2003-04	554.00	367.59
2004-05	676.22	428.60
2005-06	753.39	525.80

(b) The physical and financial targets of CONCOR for current financial year, as per the Memorandum of

Understanding (MOU) signed between CONCOR and Indian Railways are as under:-

(i)	Throughput—International	:	15,38,000 Twenty Feet equivalent units
	—Domestic		3,60,000 Twenty Feet equivalent units
(ii)	Gross Sales (Income from operations)		Rs. 2642.69 Crores
(iii)	Gross Margin	:	Rs. 724.22 Crores.

(c) The achievement status of the physical and financial parameters during the first quarter of current financial year (2006-07) is as under:-

(i)	Throughput—International	:	4,07,865 Twenty Feet equivalent units
	—Domestic		94,638 Twenty Feet equivalent units
(ii)	Gross Sales (Income from operations)		Rs. 721.33 Crores
(iii)	Gross Margin	:	Rs. 232.33 Crores.

Setting up of Rail Neer Plants

2490. SHRI BADIGA RAMAKRISHNA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Rail Neer plants located in Delhi and Bihar are able to cater to the needs of the entire railway Network in the country;

(b) if not, the reaction of the Railways thereto;

(c) whether the Railways have any proposal for setting up more Rail Neer plants;

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

(e) the time by which the said plants are likely to be set up?

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

(b) to (e) Wherever Rail Neer is not available, zonal railways are free to procure supply from available Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) approved brands of packaged drinking water as notified by BIS. Setting up of new Rail Neer plants in other regions is dependent upon feasibility of the same.

Restrictions on Access to Platforms

2491. SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU:
DR. K. DHANARAJU:
SHRI MUNSHI RAM:
SHRI ASHOK KUMAR RAWAT:
SHRI M. SHIVANNA:
SHRI VIJOY KRISHNA:
SHRI SHISHUPAL PATLE:
SHRI MOHD. TAHIR:
SHRI KAILASH NATH SINGH YADAV:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways are planning to impose restrictions on access to platforms as reported in 'The Times of India' dated July 30, 2006;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith reasons for such move; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (c) The standing Committee on Railways in their 21st Report (2005-2006) on Terminal Facilities in Metropolitan Cities has recommended that only genuine passengers with the restricted number of accompanying persons should be allowed at the platforms as is being done in the case of

airports. Efforts are being made to have a consensus view on this subject. Therefore, no formal decision on this recommendation has yet been taken.

[Translation]

Write Off Rent for Using Hanger

2492. SHRI KRISHNA MURARI MOGHE:
SHRI VIJAY KUMAR KHANDELWAL:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has received any proposal regarding write off the rent for using old hanger of the Airports Authority of India by the aeroplanes of the Government of Madhya Pradesh at Raja Bhoj Airport;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Airports Authority of India (AAI) has received request from Government of Madhya Pradesh for waiver of rent for old hangar and surrounding areas occupied by them

at Raja Bhoj Airport. The request is being examined by AAI.

[English]

Ongoing Railway Projects in Orissa

2493. SHRI SUGRIB SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the present status of ongoing railway projects and surveys for laying new railway lines and flyovers in Orissa;

(b) the target set for completion of each of these projects/surveys;

(c) the funds allocated and utilized on each of these projects so far; and

(d) the steps taken by the Railways for timely completion of projects/surveys in the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (c) The project-wise progress along with the target date of completion, tentative or wherever fixed, and budget allocation provided during 2006-07 for various ongoing New line, Gauge Conversion and Doubling projects falling partly/fully in Orissa is given as under:-

Sl. No.	Name of the Project	Present Status	Outlay 2006-07 (Rs. in crore)	Expenditure up to 31/03/2006 (Rs. in crore)
1	2	3	4	5
New Lines				
1.	Daitari-Banspani (155 Kms)	The line from Banspani to Keonjhar (57.44 Kms) has been completed and commissioned. Keonjhar-Daitari (Tomka) (98 Kms) section is targeted for completion during 2006-07. A flyover at Jakhapura is also under construction as part of this project.	155.85	583.48
2.	Lanjigarh Road-Junagarh (56 Kms)	349 out of 477 hectares of land has been acquired. On Lanjigarh to Bhawanipatna (31 Kms), earthwork and bridgework have been taken up.	19.00	27.18

1	2	3	4	5
3.	Khurda Road-Bolangir (289 Kms)	Final Location Survey (FLS) has been completed. 330 out of 2000 hectares of land has been acquired. Earthwork and bridgeworks has been taken up from Khurda end up to 36 Kms of project length.	23.00	45.22
4.	Haridaspur-Paradeep (82 Kms)	FLS has been completed. Soil Investigations of bridges & embankment have been completed. 373 out of 598 hectares of land has been acquired. The project has been found bankable and a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) has been signed among RVNL and Government of Orissa, Paradeep Port Authority, and M/s Jindal Steel Ltd on 24.05.2005. The project is targeted for completion by March 2008.	44.00	49.51
5.	Angul-Sukinda Road (98.7 Kms)	FLS and soil investigation along the alignment have been completed. The project has been found <i>prima facie</i> bankable and is proposed to be implemented through SPV. The project has been transferred to RVNL.	20.00	0.88
6.	Talchar-Bimalgarh (154 Kms)	FLS has been completed. Preparation of plans & estimates has been taken up.	10.00	0.41
Gauge Conversion				
1.	Rupsa-Bagriposi (89 Km)	Rupsa-Baripada (52 Km) section has been commissioned. Work of Baripada-Bagriposi section is being taken up.	15.89	55.59
2.	Naupada-Gunupur (90 Kms)	9 out of 25.5 hectares of land has been acquired. Earthwork and bridgeworks are in progress.	34.00	35.79
Doubling				
1.	2nd Bridges on Mahanadi & Birupa (3 Kms)	the 2nd bridge over River Birupa has been commissioned. Work of the 2nd bridge over River Mahanadi is being executed by RVNL. Contract for the work has been awarded and the work is in progress. The work is likely to be completed during 2007-08.	39.90	48.94
2.	Lanjigarh-Titlagarh (47 Kms)	Kesinga-Lanjigarh (34 Kms) segment has been commissioned. Kesinga Road-Titlagarh (13 Kms) section is likely to be completed during 2006-07.	15.00	122.56

1	2	3	4	5
3.	Rajathgarh-Brang (20 Kms)	The work is being executed by RVNL. FLS and geo-technical investigation of all major bridges have been completed. Work has been taken up on the river Mahanadi and 5 other major bridges. The work is likely to be completed during 2007-08.	72.70	31.36
4.	Khurda Road-Puri (Phase-I) (15.3 Kms)	At present, doubling of Khurda Road-Delang (15.3 Kms) segment is sanctioned, where earthwork and bridgework are in progress. The work is likely to be completed during 2006-07.	10.00	45.01
5.	Sambalpur-Rengali (22.7 Kms)	FLS has been completed. Earthwork and bridgeworks have been taken up. Sambalpur-Sarla (7 Kms) is likely to be completed during 2006-07.	20.00	20.98
6.	Jharsuguda-Rengali (25.6 Kms)	FLS has been completed. Detailed estimate is under process of sanction.	10.00	0.00
7.	Cuttack-Barang (12 Kms)	The work is being implemented by RVNL. FLS has been completed. Work of substructure of Kuakhai Bridge has been completed. The work is likely to be completed during 2007-08.	40.15	24.74
8.	Khurda Road-Barang 3rd Line (35 Kms)	The work is being implemented by RVNL. FLS has been completed. Land acquisition is under process. The work is likely to be completed during 2007-08.	46.60	0.11
9.	Jharsuguda Bypass Line (8.73 Kms)	FLS has been completed. Work has been taken up.	13.62	14.12
10.	Vizianagaram- Kottavalasa 3rd Line (34.7 Kms)	New work included in the Budget 2006-07.	5.00	-
11.	Sambalpur-Titlagarh Daubling (182 Kms)	New work included in the Budget 2006-07.	5.00	-

The ongoing surveys for new lines in Orissa as quoted as under:-

1. Cuttack-Bhubaneswar—Strengthening of transportation system - Target date of completion: 31.03.2007.
2. Badampahar-Keonjhar—Target date of completion 31.12.2006.
3. Digha-Jaleswar—Target date of completion: 31.08.2006

4. Extension of Rupsa-Bangriposi up to Gorumahisani—Target date of completion: 30.09.2006.

5. Buramara-Chakulia: Target date of completion: 30.09.2006.

(d) The works are being progressed as per the availability of resources. Railways have taken a number of initiatives to get additional resources from sources other than the normal budgetary support to expedite the

progress of the projects. A number of new line and doubling projects have been entrusted to Rail Vikas Nigam Limited (RVNL) to expedite their completion.

Subsidy to Hotel Industry

2494. SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the subsidy released for hotel industry under development of tourism scheme during each of the last two years;

(b) whether the subsidy amount so released exceeded the declared budgeted amount during the last two years;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the Government has received any complaints from the State Governments for discriminatory treatment in release of subsidy for such scheme; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) An amount of Rs. 10.00 Crore each was provided during the financial years 2004-05 and 2005-06 under this scheme and the total allocation was utilized.

(b) and (c) No, Sir.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Construction on Railway Line from Ramtek to Getagaon

2495. SHRIMATI NEETA PATERIYA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any survey for construction of a new broad gauge railway line from Ramtek to Getagaon has been conducted;

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

(c) the follow-up action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (c) An updating survey

for construction of Ramtek-Gotegaon new line was completed during 2004-05 as per which the likely cost of this 275 Kms long line was assessed as Rs. 775.29 crore at the then price level with a rate of return of (-) 3%. In view of non-remunerative nature of the line, heavy throw-forward of ongoing projects and acute constraint of resources, it has not been considered feasible to take up the project.

[English]

Infiltration of Militants in Army

2496. SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR:
SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether infiltration of terrorist cadres in the Army has come to the notice of the Government;

(b) if so, whether any inquiry has been conducted in this regard; and

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

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (c) A case of involvement of three Army personnel with a terrorist outfit has come to the notice of the Government. The matter is under investigation and suitable action will be taken against the concerned Army personnel, depending on the outcome of the investigation.

ITDC Phase-IV Project

2497. SHRI P. KARUNAKARAN: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has received any proposal from the Government of Kerala for including the State under World Bank Assisted ITDC Phase-IV Project; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the decision taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) Ministry of Tourism has received no such proposal.

(b) Does not arise.

Tourism Development in Gujarat

2498. SHRI VIKRAMBHAI ARJANBHAI MADAM: Will the Minister to TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has received any requests from the Government of Gujarat for financial assistance for development of tourist places in the State;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Government thereon?

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

Ministry of Tourism provides funds on the basis of projects prioritized every year 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 & Destination Development
- (iii) Large Revenue Generating projects
- (iv) Fairs and Festivals including Events.

The following projects have been received from the State of Gujarat.

1. Integrated development of tourist circuit on Junagadh-Veraval-Porbandar-Dwarka.
2. Navratri festival
3. Tametar festival
4. Int'l Kite Festival
5. Sharad Utsav
6. Rural Tourism at Nageshwar District

Project proposals received, complete in all respects, are appraised as per guidelines and on *inter-se* priority basis and funds are released, subject to availability under the respective heads.

Ministry of Tourism has sanctioned the project proposal for Integrated development of tourist circuit on

Junagadh-Veraval-Porbandar-Dwarka for an amount of Rs. 329.83 lakh in the current financial year. During the 10th 5 Year Plan (till 2005-06) an amount of Rs. 3283.14 lakh has been sanctioned for the State of Gujarat.

Problems Faced by the Tourism Industry

2499. SHRI FRANCIS FANTHOM: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has appointed any Committee to study the problems being faced by the tourism industry;

(b) if so, the terms of reference of the committee; and

(c) the time by which the committee is likely to submit its report?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) and (b) The Government has constituted a National Tourism Advisory Council (NTAC) to act as a 'Think Tank' and advise the government on various policy matters relating to tourism, including the problems being faced by the tourism industry. The Terms of Reference of the Council are broad and cover all aspects of tourism.

(c) The NTAC is a Standing Committee and it makes recommendations on various matters concerning tourism from time to time.

[Translation]

Financial Assistance for Ram Van Museum

2500. SHRI VIJAY KUMAR KHANDELWAL: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has received any proposal from the Government of Madhya Pradesh for financial assistance for upgradation and development of Ram Van Museum in the State;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any financial assistance has been released to the State Government in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the time by which the remaining amount is likely to be released?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. The proposal of Ram Van Museum was received during the year 2004-05 and an amount of Rs.10.00 lakhs has been sanctioned. Out of Rs.10.00 lakhs sanctioned, an amount of Rs. 7.50 lakhs was released as 1st instalment. The balance amount of Rs. 2.50 lakhs will be released on receipt of the Utilisation Certificate in respect of the amount already released by the Central Government and also in respect of the matching share of the State Government.

Encroachments on Centrally Protected Monuments in Delhi

2501. PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of centrally protected monuments in Delhi;

(b whether the Government is aware that the land mafias have encroached these important historical places

and sold the ancient idols to foreign countries;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to evict the land from land mafias and to develop these places?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) A list of 175 centrally protected monuments declared as on national importance under the provision of Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act, 1958 and Rules, 1959, in Delhi is enclosed as statement-I.

(b) to (d) Fourteen cases of encroachments have been reported in the protected monuments of ASI in Delhi. There are no reports of theft of ancient idols from the protected monuments.

The details of encroachment and the steps initiated to evict the encroachers from the protected monuments are given in the enclosed statement-II.

Statement I

The details of Centrally protected monuments in Delhi

Sl.No.	Name of the Monuments/Sites	Location
1	2	3
1.	Bastion, where a wall of Jahan panah meets the wall of Rai Pithora fort.	Adchini
2.	Ramp and gateway of Rai Pithora's Fort	Adchini
3.	Marble Tomb reputed to be that of Newab Bahadur Jawid Khan	Aliganj
4.	Lal Bangla	Babarpur (Kaka Nagar)
5.	Khair-ul-Manzil	Babarpur Bazipur (Kaka Nagar)
6.	Kos Minar or Mughal Mile stone	Babarpur Bazipur (Kaka Nagar)
7.	The Moti Gate of Shershah, Delhi	Babarpur Bazipur (Kaka Nagar)
8.	Begampuri Masjid	Begampur
9.	Phool Chadar aqueduct near Najafgarh Jhil aqueduct	Chaukri Mubarakabad

1	2	3
10.	Lal Gumbad	Chirag Delhi
11.	Tomb of Bahlol Lodi	Chirag Delhi
12.	Ajmeri Gate	Bazar Ajmeri Gate
13.	Alipur Cemetery	Delhi-Alipur Camping group.
14.	Asoka's pillar	Ferozabad (Ferozshah Kila or Vikram Nagar Colony)
15.	Bara Khamba Cemetery	Imperial City
16.	Chauburji	Ridge near Hindurao Hospital
17.	Eremo Cemetery	Kishanganj Railway Stn.
18.	Delhi fort or Lal Qila, Naubat Khana, Diwan-i-am, Mumtaz Mahal' Rang Mahal, Baithak, Maseu Burj, Diwan-i-khas, Moti Masjid, Sawan Bhadon, Shah Burj, Hammam with all surrounding including the gardens, paths terraces and water courses.	Red fort
19.	Delhi Gate	Daryaganj
20.	Enclosure containing the grve of Lt. Edwards and others, murdered in 1857.	North Ridge near flag Staff tower, Civil Lines.
21.	Enclosue wall with Tomb of Najaf Khan	Safdarjang Fly over
22.	Flag Staff Tower	400 yards North of Chauburji Mosque
23.	Jantar Mantar	Connaught Place
24.	Kashmeri Gate and portion of the City Wall on either side of the Kashmeri Gate on the side and on the other unto and including the water Bastions at the Northern corner of the wall and also including the dith outside the City wall where this is exposed.	Kashmeri Gate
25.	Kotla Ferozabad with the remaining walls, bastions and gateways and gardens, the old Mosque, and well and all other ruins buildings it contains.	Two furlangs east of jail and three furlangs due south of S.E. Corner of Shahjahanabad, Delhi.
26.	Lal Darwaza, the northern gate of the outer walls of the Delhi of Shershah.	Three furlang due south of Delhi Gate.

1	2	3
27.	Lothian Road Cemetery	Kashmeri Gate
28.	The Mosque	Qudsia Garden
29.	Mutiny telegraph Memorial	In front of Old Telegraph Building, Kashmeri Gate
30.	Nicholson (Or Kashmeri Gate) Cemetery	Kashmeri Gate
31.	Nicholson statue and its platform and the surrounding gardens paths and enclosure wall.	Outside Kashmeri Gate
32.	Old Baoli Immediately to the west of Hindu Rao's House	On the ridge, Delhi
33.	The Old Entrance Gateway of the Garden.	Qudsia Delhi
34.	The Pirghaib to the north and near Hindu Rao's House	On the ridge, Delhi
35.	Portion of City wall near which Brij Jahn Nicholson was mortally Wounded on 14th Sept., 1857.	On the ridge, Delhi
36.	The Punjabi gate in the Roshanara Bagh	Opposite Municipal Board School, Subji Mandi
37.	Purana Quila (Inderpat) or Delhi with all its walls Arcades, gateways and Bastions, gardens, the Mosque of Sher Shah (Kila Kohna Masjid). The Sher Mandala and entrances to Subteranean passages.	Two miles south of the Delhi Gate of Shahjahanabad, Delhi
38.	Rajpur (Mutiny cemetery)	Old Rajpur Cantonment, North Distt.
39.	The remaining gateways of the old Magazira with their adjoining buildings.	The post office, Delhi
40.	Sher shah's gate with the adjoining curon walls and Bastions and the remains of the double line of structure to its front	Opposite Purana Qila immediately North- east of the Khairul Manazil Mosque
41.	Site of Siege battery known as the Sammy House Battery bearing the following Inscriptions Battery, Sammy house, Major Remington Tank, RA Commanding armament 89 pounds. To command ground near Mori Bastion.	300 Yards East of mutiny memorial

1	2	3
42.	Site of siege Battery with inscription	East of the Hospital in police Line
43.	Site of siege Battery with inscription	Compound of House No. 7 Court Road
44.	Site of siege Battery with inscription	Compound of Curzon House
45.	Site of siege Battery with inscription	In the garden near south west entrance to Delhi Club Ground
46.	Sunehri Masjid near Delhi Fort	Delhi Fort
47.	Tomb of Capt. Mac. Barnatt & others who fall in an attack on Kishanganj	Kishan Ganj
48.	Tomb of Ghiasuddin Khan	Tughlaqabad
49.	Tomb of Roshanara & Baradari	Sabzi Mandi
50.	Tomb of Razia Begum in Mohalla Bulbuli Khana	Shahjahanabad
51.	Tomb of Safdarjang (Mirza Muqim Mansur Ali Khan) with all the enclosure walls, gateways, gardens and the mosque on the eastern side of the garden	Lodhi Road, New Delhi
52.	Tripolia Gateways	Delhi-Karnal Road
53.	Uggar Sain's Baoli	Near Jantar Mantar
54.	Tomb of Darya Khan	Kidwai Nagar East
55.	Baoli at Ghiaspur	Nizamuddin
56.	Tomb of Mirza Muzaffer, Chota Batasha No. 153, Ghiaspur	Nizamuddin
57.	Tomb of Amir Khusro, Ghiaspur	Nizamuddin
58.	Tomb of Mirza Muzaffer, Bara Batasha No. 151 Ghiaspur	Nizamuddin
59.	Tomb of Nizamuddin Aulia, Ghiaspur No. 197	Nizamuddin
60.	Unknown tomb Ghiaspur 153,	Nizamuddin
61.	i. The tomb of Ferozshah II. Domed Building to the west of No.1 iii. Dalan between 1&2 iv. Domed Building & its court to the south of No.3, v. Dalans and all ruined Buildings to the north of No. 1 and existing unto No.10 vi. Five Chhatris to the case of No. 1 & No. 5 vii. Old	Hauz Khas

1	2	3
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Gate to the north of No.6 viii. Three Chhatris to the north-west of No. 7 ix. Ruined courtyard and its Dalans with the Domed buiding to the north-west to No. 8 x. Old wall running east from No.4 xi. 2.23 Acres of land surrounding the above monuments and bouded on the North by house of Chhange and Mehra Chand sons Hansram and house of Udera, son of Kusha South Gharimunkan Resta East by village site belonging to village community house of Nots Zadar Sons of Jai Singh Chhamar and field Nos. 338 & 331 belonging to Naider and others West By field no. 185 belonging to Udara, son of Kusal Jat and field No. 186 belonging to Jagins and Sajawal Rajput, No. 195 Ghairmunkin Johar, common of Jats and Muslamans and filed no. 196, Ghairmunkin Pall.

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|-----|--|--|
| 62. | Bag-i-Alam Gumbad with a Mosque | Humayunpur |
| 63. | Kali Gumti | Humayunpur (Hauz Khas) |
| 64. | Tefewala Gumbad | Humayunpur Deer Park (Hauz Khas) |
| 65. | Arab Sarai | Patti, Ghiapur in Hauz Inderpat |
| 66. | The Gate way of Arab Sarai facing North towards Purana Qila | Near Arab Sarai Village |
| 67. | The Gate way of Arab Sarai facing East towards the tomb of Humayun | Near Arab Sarai Village |
| 68. | Remaining Gateways of Arab Saria and of Abadi-Bagh-Buhalima | Near Arab Sarai Village |
| 69. | Lakhar wal Gumbad (Tomb) | Inderpat Estate (Sunder Nursery), Near Delhi Public School, Mathura Road, Nizamuddin |
| 70. | Sunderwala Burj | Inderpat Estate (Sunder Nursery) |
| 71. | Sunderwala Mahal | Inderpat Estate (Sunder Nursery) |
| 72. | Bijay Mandal, neighbouring domes, buildings and dalan to north of Begumpur | In village Kalusarai (Sarvapriya Vihar) |
| 73. | Old Lodi Bridge with approaches | Near tomb of Sikander Lodi, Khairpur |
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1	2	3
74.	Mosque with the dalans and courtyard and the Bara Gumbaj (the domed entrance to the mosque)	Khairpur
75.	The tomb of Mohammed Shah known as Mubarak khan-ka-Gumbaz	Khairpur
76.	Tomb of Sikander Lodi with its enclosure wall and bastions, gates & compound	Khairpur
77.	Unknown tomb with blue tiles decoration known as Shisha Gumbad	Khairpur
78.	Bandi or Poti ka Gumbad III-280	Kharera village between Hauz Khas and Qutab road
79.	Biran-ka-Gumbad-282	Kharera village between Hauz Khas and Qutab road
80.	Biwi or Dadi-ka-Gumbad-281	Kharera village between Hauz Khas and Qutab road
81.	Chor Minar No. 289 Vol III	Kharehra (Hauz Khas Enclave)
82.	Choti Gunti	Kharehra village Green Park
83.	Idgah of Kharehra No. 287, Vol III	Kharehra village Hauz Khas Enclave
84.	Nili Mosque	Khareha village Hauz Khas Enclave
85.	Sakri Gurmi-284	Kharehra village Green Park
86.	Khirkee Masjid	Village Khirkee
87.	Satpula-III-216	Village Khirkee
88.	Tomb of Usuf-Quttal	At Khirkee in field no.81 min, Property of Shamlat deh.
89.	Jahaz Mahal	Mehrauli
90.	Shamsid Tallab together with platform entrance gates.	Mehrauli
91.	Moti Masjid	Mehrauli

1	2	3
92.	Old Palace of Bahadur Shah-II alias Lal Mahal in Mehrauli	Mehrauli
93.	Bara Khamba-285	Kherera village tombs between Hauz Khas, Qutab road
94.	The Qutab Archaeological area as now fenced in, including the Mosque, Iron Pillar, Minar of Qutabdin, unfinished Minar, all colonnades, screen arches, tomb of Altmash, college, buildings of Aluddin, tomb of Imam Zamin and all carved stones in the above area with gardens, paths and water channels, and all gateways including the Alai-Darwaza, also all graves in the above area	Mehrauli
95.	Tomb of Adam Khan (Rest House)	Mehrauli
96.	Tomb and Mosque of Maulana Jamali Kamali	Mehrauli
97.	Wall mosque	Mehrauli
98.	Walls of Lal Kot and Rai Pithora's fort from Sohan Gate to Adam Khan's tomb including the ditch where there is an outer wall	Mehrauli Kh. No. 1783, 1765, 1766, 1767, 1770, 1772, 1773, 1798 & 1764
99.	Walls of Lal Kot and Rai pithora's fort at the point where they meet together	Near Jamali Kamali's Mosque Mehrauli Kh. No. 1754, Loddho Sarai Kh.No. 86, 87
100.	Wall of Rai Pithora's fort including gateways and bastions	Mehrauli
101.	Gates and walls of Mubarakpur, Kotla in village Mubarakpur	village Mubarakpur, Kotla
102.	Moti-ki-Masjid	Behind south extension Part II.
103.	Inchla Wali Gunti	village Mubarakpur, Kotla
104.	Kala Gumbad	village Mubarakpur, Kotla
105.	Tombs of Bade-Khan, and Mubarakpur Kotla Kotla	village Mubarakpur, Kotla
106.	Tombs of Chote Khan, Mubarakpur	Kotla
107.	Tomb of Mubarik in Mubarakpur, Kotla	Village Mubarakpur, Kotla
108.	Mosque attached to Mubarak Shah Tomb	village Mubarakpur, Kotla

1	2	3
109.	Tomb of Bhura Khan	village Mubarakpur, Kotla
110.	Tin Burji Walla Gumbad	Mohammed pur villagee II, 304
111.	Unnamed tomb	Mohammed pur village, 305
112.	Baoli	Munika II. 318.
113.	Munda Gumbad	Munika 302.
114.	Unnamed Mosque	Munika 314.
115.	Unnamed Tomb	Munika 313.
116.	Unnamed Tomb	Munika 315.
117.	Unnamed Tomb	Munika 316.
118.	Unnamed Tomb	Munika 317.
119.	i. Unnamed Mosque ii. Unnamed Tomb	Munika 321 & Munika 322
120.	Wajir pur—ki-Gumbad	Munika 312.
121.	The Afsah-walla-ki-masjid situated outside the west gate of Humayun's tomb with its dalans and paved court bounded on the east by Humayun's tomb on the west by Abadi Arab Sarai on the north by road and khasra No. 252 and on the south by Abadi Arab Sarai	Nizamuddin
122.	Bara Khamba outside north entrance to shrine	Nizamuddin
123.	Bara Pulah bridge near Nizamuddin	South of Nizamuddin
124.	Chusath Khamba and tomb of Mirza Nizamuddin Aziz-ka-Kokaltash	Nizamuddin
125.	Grave Jahanara Begum	Nizamuddin
126.	Grave of Mohammed Shah	Nizamuddin
127.	Grave of Mirza Jahangir	Nizamuddin
128.	Humayun's tomb, its platforms, garden, enclosure walls and gateways Khasra No. 258 bounded on the east by Khasra No. 180, 181 & 244 of Miri Singh and on west by Kh. No. 268&253 on the north by Khasra No. 266, on the south by Kh No. 245 of Miri Singh & Kh. No. 248 & 249 of Sayyed Mohammad	Nizamuddin

1	2	3
129.	Nila Gumbad outside the south corner of the enclosure of Humayun's tomb (kh. No. 243) bounded on the east by Kh. No. 182, on the west by Humayun's tomb, on the north by Kh. No. 181 & on the south by Kh. No. 244 of Miri Singh	Nizamuddin
130.	Nili chhatri or Subz Burz.	Nizamuddin East
131.	Tomb of Afsar-wala immediately near to the south of Afsar-wala-ki-Masjid	Nizamuddin
132.	Tomb of Atgah Khan	Nizamuddin
133.	The tomb of Isa Khan with its surrounding enclosure walls and turrest garden gateways and mosque (Kh. No. 281) bounded on the east by Arab Sarai Kh. no. 236 on the west by Kh. No. 283 graveyard of Piare Las and Kno. 283 of Bddon on the north by Kh. No. 236 of pandit Brij Vallabh and on the south by Arab Sarai Kh. No. 238.	Nizamuddin
134.	Tomb of Khan-i-Khana	Nizamuddin
135.	Tomb with three domes near Rly. Station	Nizamuddin
136.	Sikargah Kushak-II-327	Old Kaushak Village
137.	Gateways of Badli-Ki-Sarai	Village Pipalthala
138.	Tomb of Sheikh Kaburuddin also know as Rakabwala Gumbad in field no.84 min. situated at Sarai Shah 31 property of Thoks Shahpur and Adhehini	Malviyanagar
139.	Ruined line of walls, bastions & gateways of siri Kh. No. 88, 265 & 447 at village Shahpur Jat	Shahpur Jat
140.	Internal buildings of Siri Mehammadi wali-Kh. No. 14 Shahpur Jat Bul-Bul-Ki-Kh. No. 256 Shahpur Jat Makhdum ki Kh. No. 255 Shahpur Jat Baradari Jat Motiyan wala dome Shahpur Jat Thana wala Shahpur Jat	Shahpur Jat
141.	Nai-ka-kot.	Tughlaqabad. Kotla
142.	Tomb of Ghiyasuddin Tughlaqabad. Walls and bastions, gates and cause way including the tomb of Dad Khan	Tughlaqabad.
143.	Tomb of Mohammed Tughlaqabadshah	Badarpur Zail
144.	Walls of old city of Tughlaqabad.	Badarpur Zail
145.	Walls, gateways bastions and internal buildings of both inner and outer citadels of Tughlaqabad fort	Tughlaqabad.

1	2	3
146.	Walls, gate and bastions of Adilabad (Mohammadabad) and causeway leading there to from Tughlaqabad.	Tughlaqabad.
147.	The Tomb	Wazirabad
148.	The mosque	Wazirabad
149.	Neighbouring Bridge	Wazirabad
150.	Mound known as Jaga Bai comprise in part of surve plot no. 167	Jamia Nagar
151.	Ashoka rock Edict	East of Kailash colony
152.	Mandi Mosque	Ladho Sarai
153.	Rajon-ki-bain with Mosque and Chhatri	Ladho Sarai
154.	Badun Gate	Ladho Sarai
155.	Gateway of Lal kot	Ladho Sarai
156.	Gateway of Rai Pithoria's fort	Ladho Sarai
157.	Walls of Rai Pithoria's fort and Jahan Panah at the point where they meet together	Hauz Rani and Lado Sarai
158.	Tomb of Sultan Ghari	Nalikpur Kohi
159.	Baoli known as diving wall locally known as (Candak-ki-baoli)	Mehrauli
160.	Enclosure containing the tomb of Shah Alam Bahadur Shah, Shah Alam to and Akbar Shah II	Mehrauli
161.	Hauz Shamsi with central red stone pavilion situated at Mehrauli in field No. 157-81, 1586-97, 1614 & 1624	Mehrauli
162.	Iron Pillar Hindu	Mehrauli
163.	Ancient Mosque	Palam
164.	Sheesh Mahal	Shalimar Garden Village Hyderabad
165.	Asokan Pillar	On the Ridge between Hindu Rao Hospital
166.	Sarai Shahji	Malaviya Nagar
167.	Azim Khan Tomb	Lado Sarai
168.	Mazar of Sheikh Muhammad Ibrahim Zauq	ChindBagh, Kadam Sherif, Paharganj, Delhi

1	2	3
169.	Fortification Wall Asad Burj, Water Gate, Delhi Gate, Lahori Gate, Jahangiri Gate, Chhattra Bazar, Baoli	Red Fort, Delhi
170.	Fortification walls, Gates, Bastions and Ancient Buildings of Salimgarh Fort	Bela Road
171.	Portion of the City Wall of Shahajanabad	Ansari Road
172.	Sat Narain Bhawan	Delhi Sadhora Khurd, Dina Nath Marg, Roshanara Road, New Delhi
173.	Balban Khan's Tomb & Jamli Kamali	Lado Sarai, Mehrauli, Delhi
174.	Unknown Tomb in the vicinity of Jawahar Lal Nehru Stadium	Pragati Vihar, New Delhi
175.	Mazar of Mirza Ghalib	Nizamuddin

Statement II

The details of centrally protected monuments under encroachment in Delhi and the steps initiated to evict the encroachers from the protected monuments

Sl.No.	Name of Monument	Location	Action initiated to evict the encroachers from the protected monuments
1	2	3	4
1.	Lal Gumbad	Chirag Delhi	The main encroachments from the protected area of the monument have been removed. The Archaeological Survey of India has provided a porta-cabin to keep the material essentially required by the namazis. Toilet/wazu facilities to facilitate removal of remaining encroachment are being provided.
2.	Nili Masjid	Hauz Khas	Since the monument is under prayers the Archaeological Survey of India in consultation with Delhi Wakf Board and Imam has provided a porta-cabin to keep the material essentially required by the namazis and toilet/wazu facilities. The process for removal of the encroachments will be soon initiated.
3.	Tomb of Razia Begum in Mohalla Bulbuli Khana	Shahjahanabad	Since the monument is under prayers the Archaeological Survey of India, Delhi Wakf Board and Imam, have discussed the matter in detail. The Archaeological Survey of India has provided a port-cabin to keep the material (saif. Book etc.)

1	2	3	4
			essentially required by the namazis. An awning has also been provided besides wazu facility. The encroachment has been removed.
4.	Ancient Mosque	Palam	The monument is under prayers prior to its notification as centrally protected monument. The additions/alterations carried out over a period of time have altered the original fabric of the monument to a large extent. Efforts are being made in consultation with Delhi Wakf Board to reach an amicable solution to remove the encroachments.
5.	Qudasia Mosque	Qudasia Garden	Since the monument is used for prayers for Archaeological Survey of India in consultation with Delhi Wakf Board and Imam has provided a porta-cabin to keep the material essentially required by the namazis and toilet/wazu facilities. Removal of encroachments from the monument would be soon taken up.
6.	Sunehri Masjid Near Red Fort	Delhi Fort	Since the monument is used for prayers the Archaeological Survey of India in consultation with Delhi Wakf Board and Imam has provided a porta-cabin to keep the material essentially required by the namazis and a toilet to facilitate removal of encroachments.
7.	Kashmiri Gate and portion of the city Wall on either side of the Kashmiri Gate on the side and on the other onto and including the water bastions at the northern corner of the wall and also including the ditch outside the City Wall where this is exposed.	Kashmiri Gate	The Archaeological Survey of India with the assistance from civic and law enforcing agencies has evicted 39 encroachers from the centrally protected monument on 14-05-2006.
8.	Purana Qila (Indraprastha)	Two miles south of the Delhi Gate of Shahjahanabad, Delhi	The matter is <i>sub-judice</i> in the Hon'ble High Court of Delhi for final disposal. The Hon'ble court has granted stay. The next date of hearing is 23.08.2006.
9.	Tughlaqabad	Dadarpur Zail	The matter is <i>sub-judice</i> in the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India for disposal.

1	2	3	4
10.	Begumpuri Masjid	Begampur	The Archaeological Survey of India has filed an application in the Hon'ble High Court for modification of the earlier order in view of the latest demarcation carried out by the Revenue authorities.
11.	Sarai Shahji	Near Shivalik Malviya Nagar	A part of protected area is under encroachment since the time of its protection. Some of the encroachers have got stay order from the Hon'ble court and the matter is listed for 14.9.2006. The removal of encroachments from the remaining portion of the protected area and the mosque is being vigorously pursued.
12.	Rajpur (Mutiny) cemetery	Old Rajpur Cantonment North Distt.	The Archaeological Survey of India has initiated action for removal of 205 encroachers from the protected area of the monument by issuing show cause notices and personal hearings, etc. the written submission of the notices are being processed for further necessary action.
13.	D'Eremaro Cemetery	Kishanganj	The persons served with demolition orders have filed CWP No. 20917/2005 in the Hon'ble High Court. The Hon'ble Court has directed to maintain <i>status-quo</i> till the next date of hearing i.e. 8.12.2006.
14.	Lothian Road Cemetery	Kashmiri Gate	The encroachments have been removed on 09.07.2006.

Delegation of Financial Powers

2502. SHRI RASHEED MASOOD: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has decided to give financial powers to Defence and Finance Ministers to expedite the decision making process with regard to different schemes; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b) Powers of the Raksha Mantri have been enhanced in April 2006 from Rs. 50 crore to Rs. 100 crore and of the Finance Minister from Rs. 100 crore to Rs. 200 crore for sanction of schemes/projects/acquisition of non-scaled and new items.

Deployment of Indian Army

2503. PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR:
SHRI JAI PRAKASH (MOHANLAL GANJ):
SHRI SHISHUPAL PATLE:

SHRI MUNSHI RAM:

SHRI ASHOK KUMAR RAWAT:

SHRI MOHD. TAHIR:

SHRI KAILASH NATH SINGH YADAV:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian Army has been deployed in Lebanon under the UN Peace Mission;

(b) if so, the details alongwith the strength thereof;

(c) whether any casualty of Indian Army has been reported since the escalation of war in Lebanon;

(d) if so, the total number of soldiers died and injured therein;

(e) whether the Government is contemplating to withdraw its troops deployed under the UN Peace Mission; and

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

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b) An Infantry battalion and a Medical Team consisting of 673 personnel are deployed at present in Lebanon, as a part of the United Nations (UN) Peacekeeping Operations. The deployment of Indian troops under this UN Mission is continuing since 1998.

(c) and (d) While no fatal casualty has been reported so far, three personnel have sustained splinter injuries. The injuries are of minor nature and the condition of all the three personnel is stable.

(e) and (f) The Government is constantly monitoring the situation. No decision has been taken in this regard.

[English]

Revenue from Tourism

2504. SHRI FRANCIS FANTHOM: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the government has chalked out any plan to increase the revenue from tourism; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken to implement the plan?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) The Ministry of Tourism has commissioned 20-year Perspective Plans for the States/UTs with the objective to develop tourism in the States/UTs in a systematic manner so as to increase the tourist visits & resultant benefits like increase in revenue, employment generation, income creation, etc.

(b) The Perspective Plans have broadly assessed the existing tourism scenario in the States; reviewed the status of existing development/investment plans; evaluated the existing tourist destinations; identified the new tourism projects having potential for development and; given an actin plan for development of tourism in the States/UTs.

As development of tourism in the States/UTs, is the responsibility of the State/UT Governments, the Plans were forwarded to them for taking up their future tourism projects accordingly. The Ministry of Tourism also provides Central Financial Assistance to the States/UTs every year for development of infrastructure at specific tourist destinations and circuits and organization of festivals based on the discussions with the State/UT Governments and *inter-se* priority.

Assistance to Co-Operatives/NGOs for Promoting Tourism

2505. SHRI P.C. THOMAS: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has any schemes to provide assistance to the Co-operatives and Non-Governmental Organisations/Agencies engaged in promoting tourism; and

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the assistance provided to them during each of the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) and (b) Rural Tourism, a new initiative of the Ministry of Tourism is implemented through the Deputy Commissioner/District Collector of the respective districts. However, in the implementation of the capacity building component of the Rural Tourism Programme, the services of the leading NGO of the area are utilized. The Ministry of Tourism has no scheme to provide direct assistance to Co-operatives/NGOs for promoting tourism.

Scheme for Self-Employment of Unemployed Youth

2506. SHRI S. AJAYA KUMAR: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any schemes for the self employment of educated unemployed youth through the projects and subsidies offered by the Ministry of Food Processing;

(b) if so, details thereof; and

(c) the number of persons benefited under the scheme(s) during each of the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) to (c) the Ministry of Food Processing Industries has implemented six Central Sector Plant Schemes during Tenth Five Year Plan Period. The major schemes are Technology Upgradation/Establishment/Modernization of Food Processing Industries and Scheme for Infrastructure Development. The schemes of the Ministry are project specific. Financial assistance as per prescribed pattern of assistance is available in the form

of grand in aid to the projects, which are found technically feasible and financially viable. Assistance is admissible to Individuals, Firms, State Undertakings, State Governments, Cooperatives, etc.

The Schemes of the Ministry have a potential to generate employment and, according to an estimate, every one lakh of grant released by the Ministry generates 0.98 direct employment and 1.29 indirect employment.

Visit of Foreigners

2507. DR M. JAGANNATH: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that the tourists visiting India with a fixed holiday plan have to face inconvenience and harassment due to general strikes and hartals;

(b) if so, whether the Government proposes to evolve any mechanism to compensate such tourists if they cannot visit all destinations according to their itinerary; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) No specific instance of any tourist having faced inconvenience or harassment due to general strikes and hartals, has been brought to the notice of this Ministry.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

Recruitment in Army

2508. SHRI RANEN BARMAN: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has allotted the quota of vacancies of personnel below officers rank and regimental vacancies in Army on the basis of Recruitable Male population in a State;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the number of candidates recruited in Army from West Bengal during each of the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b) Recruitment to the Army in respect of Personnel Below Officers Rank (PBOR) is

made on the basis of Recruitable Male Population (RMP) of the State which is reckoned at 10% of total male population of the State.

(c) The number of candidates recruited to the Army from West Bengal during the last three years is as under:-

Year	Candidates recruited
2003-04	4258
2004-05	3102
2005-06	1275

Procurement of Defective Equipment

2509. SHRI SUNIL KHAN: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Comptroller and Auditor General (C&AG) in its Report No. 6 of 2005 has pointed out that the Government not only procured defective equipment worth Rs. 13.22 crores but also failed to encash performance bonds worth Rs. 66 lakh;

(b) if so, the facts thereof;

(c) whether any investigation has been made in this regard; and

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

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b) The C&AG report No. 6 of 2005 referred to two contracts which were signed in March, 2001 with M/s Federal State of Unitary Enterprises, Russia for supply of Simulators for missiles and Self Loading Vehicles at a cost of Rs. 12.80 crore and Rs. 41.61 lakhs respectively, where certain shortcomings were noticed in stores supplied.

The matter was taken up with the vendor.

In the contract for self loading vehicles, the required repairs were carried out and the vehicles released. The matter has been settled.

In the case of the other contract for Simulators for missiles, out of 5 claims, 4 have been settled. Rectification of defects in consultation with the vendor in the remaining claim is under way.

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

Inter-Caste Marriages

2510. DR. BABU RAO MEDIYAM: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether recently the Supreme Court has directed the administration and police throughout the country to protect the couples of inter-caste marriages from harassment and violence;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. In WP (Criminal) No. 208 of 2004 in the matter of Lata Singh vs. State of UP and Anr., the Hon'ble Supreme Court has directed the administration and police authorities throughout the country to see to it that, if any boy or girl, who is a major, undergoes inter-caste or inter-religious marriages with a woman or man who is a major, the couple are not harassed by any one nor subjected to threats or acts of violence, and any one who gives such threats or harasses or commits acts of violence either himself or at his instigation, is taken to task by instituting criminal proceedings by the police against such persons and further stern action is taken against such persons as provided by law.

Technology Tie-Up for Promoting Food Processing Industries

2511. SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any technology tie-up with any foreign country for promoting food processing industries;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of the schemes under implementation for promoting food processing industries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) and (b) This Ministry does not have technology tie up with any foreign country. Technology

tie-up and transfer of technology are allowed as per the normal industrial technology transfer guidelines of Government of India.

(c) Government has formulated and is implementing several plan schemes for promoting food processing industries. Assistance is provided under the plan schemes of this Ministry to the food processing industries in the following manner:-

(i) Under the Scheme for Technology upgradation/ Establishment/Modernization of Food Processing Industries, assistance is provided @ 25% of the total cost of plant and machinery and technical civil works subject to a maximum of Rs.50 lakh in general areas and 33.33% with a cap of Rs.75 lakh in difficult areas.

(ii) Under the Scheme for Infrastructure Development, financial assistance is provided for setting up of Food Parks, irradiation facilities, packaging centres, value added centres & for modernizing abattoirs @25% of the project cost in General Areas and 33.33% in Difficult Areas subject to a maximum of Rs.4 crore for Food Parks, Rs.5 crore for irradiation facilities, Rs.4 crore for abattoirs, Rs.2 crore for Packaging Centres & upto Rs.75 lakh for value added centre.

(iii) Assistance as per the approved pattern of assistance is also provided for human resource development, Quality Assurance and R&D and Strengthening of Institutions.

Opening of Taj Mahal

2512. SHRI HARIBHAU RATHOD: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to open Taj Mahal whole night, specially on Full moon for general public at nominal rates;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) There is no such proposal to keep Taj Mahal open for the whole night.

(b) and (c) Questions do not arise.

*[Translation]***Tourist Spots in A & N Islands**

2513. SHRI RASHEED MASOOD: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has received any proposal from Andaman and Nicobar Islands Administration for financial assistance for development of tourist spots in the Islands during the current year;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

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

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

*[English]***Lord Buddha Idol Stolen from Samath**

2514. SHRI VIJOY KRISHNA: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a gold image of Lord Buddha was stolen from Samath in the past;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any investigation has been made in the matter; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) to (d) Yes Sir, a gold image of Lord Buddha was stolen from Mulgandhakuti Vihar of Samath on the night of 8th January, 2006. The Mulgandhakuti Vihar is managed by the Mahabodhi Society of India.

The Samath Police Station has registered a case and taken up investigation in the case.

Promotion of Tourism in Lakshadweep and A & N Islands

2515. DR. P.P. KOYA: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is contemplating special projects to promote tourism in Lakshadweep and Andaman and Nicobar Islands;

(b) if so, the details of such projects;

(c) the steps taken or being taken by the Government to implement the said projects; and

(d) the employment opportunities for the local youth visualized in the above projects?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) to (d) Ministry of Tourism provides funds on the basis of projects prioritized every year 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 & Destination Development

(iii) Large Revenue Generating projects

(iv) Fairs and Festivals including Events

Project proposals received, complete in all respect, are appraised on inter-se-priority basis and funds released, subject to availability under the respective heads.

No project proposal complete in all respect as per guidelines has been received from Lakshadweep during 10th Five Year Plan so far.

A project proposal for Hamfest convention of International Amateur Radio was sanctioned for Andaman & Nicobar Islands during 2004-05 for an amount of Rs. 6.25 lakh.

12.00 hrs.

PAPER LAID ON THE TABLE*[English]*

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Railway Passengers (Cancellation of ticket and refund of fare) (Second Amendment) Rules, 2006 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No.

G.S.R. 453 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 1st August, 2006 under section 199 of the Railways Act, 1989.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 4749/2006]

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, for your information, I want to briefly recapitulate the main items of business.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing else is being recorded.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Please allow me, at least, some time. Already, of course, I have been characterized to be garrulous.

...(*Interruptions*)

12.02 hrs.

OBSERVATION BY THE SPEAKER

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, for your information, I want to briefly recapitulate the main items of business transacted by the House during the last week.

Let all the hon. Members know, out of the 80 Starred Questions admitted, only four could be answered orally. Replies to the remaining Starred Questions alongwith the replies to 639 Unstarred Questions were laid on the Table.

During the period, as many as 23 matters of urgent public importance were raised after the Question Hour. Also 36 matters were raised under Rule 377 during the period.

As regards the financial business, the House discussed the Supplementary Demands for Grants (General) 2006-2007 for six hours and nine minutes before passing the same along with the related Appropriation Bills.

The House also discussed the Supplementary Demands for Grants (Railways) 2006-2007 for four hours

and 55 minutes before passing the same along with the related Appropriation Bills.

During the week, we lost 12 hours and 32 minutes of valuable time due to interruptions and adjournments.

The House, however, sat late and worked extra for as many as two hours and 40 minutes to transact essential items of business.

I again convey my thanks to all the hon. Members.

12.04 hrs.

GREETINGS TO SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: Well, I am very happy that Shri Chandra Shekhar-ji has been able to come here. I welcome him. I am sure, he will be able to join regularly.

The entire House wishes you, very, very speedy and complete recovery and your full participation. I am very happy to meet you.

12.05 hrs.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

Re: Postponement of Calling Attention

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, a Calling Attention regarding situation arising out of violation of various labour laws in the country by Shri Gurudas Dasgupta and others is listed at Serial No. 3 in today's List of Business.

The hon. Minister of Labour and Employment, *vide* his letter dated 16th August, 2006, addressed to me, has informed that due to health related problems, he is not in a position to attend to the Parliament today and has requested that the Calling Attention may kindly be postponed.

I have acceded to his request. I hope, the House agrees. It will be taken up on 23rd August, 2006.

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA (Panskura): I have a point.

MR. SPEAKER: What is the point on this? You cannot raise a point on my decision.

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: I am making a submission with your kind permission. My point is that after a long wait, we have been able to get the permission for having a Calling Attention.

MR. SPEAKER: You cannot control the illness of hon. Members. Because he is a Minister, I cannot take it that he never falls ill.

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: Minister is a Minister. Government is a Government. My point is this. I would like to know from you whether this Calling Attention would be taken up later or not. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing else is being recorded except the speech of Mr. Gurudas Dasgupta.

*...(Interruptions)**

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: I do not question the matter of his illness, whether on medical or political ground. My point is different. Will you kindly assure me that this Calling Attention on labour, which has been pending over months, will be taken up at a later date?

MR. SPEAKER: I have already said it.

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: On what date? Will you kindly allow me?

MR. SPEAKER: I will allow you. I have said that it would be taken up on the 23rd. I have said that. But I cannot control if he continues to be ill. Let us all wish him speedy recovery also.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura): We have never seen him in the House.

MR. SPEAKER: This is very unfair. An hon. Member may be a Minister. He is a Minister. That is not the primary consideration. An hon. Member says he is ill. I have no reason to disbelieve him.

*Not recorded.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: He never comes in the House.

MR. SPEAKER: I am very, very pained. I am very pained if this is happening in a matter where, as I told you, I shall allow it on the 23rd. He has requested me. He rang me up also to say that he is very ill. He assured me that he would come. Let us not question the *bona fides* of the Members. I am not permitting that.

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: He is abstaining from the House for a long time. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing more will be recorded.

*...(Interruptions)**

12.07 hrs.

SUBMISSION BY MEMBERS

- (I) **Re: Reported news of posting of three surrendered militants presently absorbed in CRPF, in Prime Minister's security**

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Now, I am coming to the matters of urgent public importance.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please allow me one second. I am conscious of my responsibilities so far as I can perform. Please co-operate.

Some hon. Members have given notice regarding the matter of employing some surrendered militants—it has been described as surrendered militants—in CRPF in Prime Minister's security. I have been informed that the hon. Minister for Home Affairs will make a statement in the matter at 3 p.m. Therefore, you can be there if you wish to hear him. He is going to make a statement.

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA (South Delhi): I want to make a statement.

MR. SPEAKER: Very well, you can. You make the statement one by one.

First, Mr. Ramji Lal Suman. Let us hear him first and I will call you next.

*Not recorded.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN (Firozabad): Mr. Speaker, Sir, under the healing touch policy of the Government, the surrendered terrorists were inducted in the CRPF. Three terrorists belonging to the Hizbul Mujahiddin, from Baramulla, Kashmir, Gulzar Ahmad Lone, Manzur Ahmad and Mehrajuddin, surrendered in 1990 and were inducted in CRPF. What is important is that as per DG, CRPF, Shri J.K. Sinha, these three had no links with terrorists. This is a very important point. After the theft of the carbine of constable Shri Raj Kumar 27.11.2004 these three were interrogated. They were interrogated for a month. They underwent brain mapping, narco-analysis and die detector test.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, against the backdrop of DG, CRPF, Shri J.K. Sinha's claim that they had no links with terrorists, why were they interrogated thus? It is certainly a matter of concern that the Government is not alert to the seriousness of the problem regarding Army being infiltrated by terrorists, in spite of such news appearing daily.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the House and the country wants to know the facts in this regard.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I have allowed you. The hon. Minister has promised me to answer.

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI): The hon. Home Minister will make a statement on the same subject.

MR. SPEAKER: I have said that. But the hon. Members are insisting on making their own personal statements.

[Translation]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is a very important issue. A suo motu statement should have been made by them before the question was raised. Two of our Prime Ministers fell victim to terrorism. How did the three ex-terrorists come to be deployed with the security forces at the Prime Minister's residence? This, in spite of the fact that they had disclosed receiving training in Pakistan. It is incomprehensible how such persons could

be deployed for the Prime Minister's security. I want to highlight only two aspects. It was mentioned that these former terrorists had joined the CRPF under the healing touch policy of the Government. It is learnt that some such ex-terrorists, who had joined the security forces rejoined terrorists organizations. Full information regarding such ex-terrorists should be provided. The national security advisor himself has suggested that 82 dreaded militants have infiltrated into India. They are busy setting up ISI network in the country. Three terrorists were arrested from the Narora Nuclear Plant site. Recently there was a bomb blast in the Iskon temple in Imphal causing 4-5 deaths. All the information being provided by your government paints a grim picture of terrorists having infiltrated the security forces on a large scale. Against this backdrop, we want to know how the ex-terrorists came to be deployed in the security of the Prime Minister.

MR. SPEAKER: The Minister will make a statement here.

SHRI MOHAN SINGH (Deoria): kindly allow me also to ask a few questions ... *(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I cannot assure you that.

... *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I will allow only those hon. Members who have given notices—you have insisted on this. You can have a discussion. I will not stop you. You can have a Calling Attention, but not now.

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN SINGH: I have also given a notice Sir. ... *(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I will not break the rules. The rule is very clear.

... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY (Puri): Mr. Speaker, Sir, yesterday we have witnessed on the television a news item about the hon. Prime Minister's security lapses and this Government's failure in maintaining the internal security of the country and its

failure in controlling the militants. Unfortunately, the incident has again come to notice. Everyday we are coming across news items that some militants have attacked some place etc. These incidents are coming to our notice regularly and we have discussed them time and again and you have allowed also to discuss this matter.

How is it that in the hon. Prime Minister's security such ex-militants have been included and come in and they have remained in the inner circle of the internal security of the hon. Prime Minister? The hon. Prime Minister's security is provided by SPG, R&AW, CRPF and Delhi Police. For maintaining the security of the hon. Prime Minister, so many organizations are taking care, but nobody is taking it seriously. How is it that ex-militants have come in the inner circle of the security and protection of hon. Prime Minister? Everybody knows that it is better to prevent and prepare than to repent and repair. This is very serious matter concerning the hon. Prime Minister's security. We have already lost two Prime Ministers who have been killed by the militants. In spite of all these things the Government is still callous. They are not serious as to who will remain in the security of the hon. Prime Minister.

MR. SPEAKER: Let us see the statement, Shri Mohan Singh to speak now.

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: The entire country is shocked with this news and we are worried about the security of the people in the country. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: This is not a debate.

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: When the Prime Minister of the country is not secured how will the people of this country be safeguarded? I charge this Government. They have completely failed in maintaining the internal security. ...(*Interruptions*) The Government must reply. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing else will go on record except the speech of Shri Mohan Singh.

...(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI MOHAN SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the aim of the healing touch policy was to bring such elements to the mainstream of the society. Here, a recruitment drive was launched to bring them within the CRPF fold. But,

it is a matter of concern as to how they came to be deployed with the Delhi Police from CRPF. And the Delhi police posted them at Teen Murti on the 15th August, along the Prime Minister's route. Prime Minister's programme had several engagements. According to me, this is a matter of concern. Any laxity in the Prime Minister's security sends a wrong message to the entire country. How is such former terrorists who had joined the CRPF or BSF, under the policy of healing touch came to be transferred to police force? And, they were posted on sensitive points on a day when the entire country was on red alert. From the security point of view, this was the most sensitive day. How did this happen? I hope the hon'ble Minister would while making his statement would also touch these points.

[*English*]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Sir, since the hon. Minister has come, he can make a statement right now. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Then, your time for raising important matters will be reduced. So, do not blame me.

Now, the hon. Minister.

[*Translation*]

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL): Mr. Speaker, Sir, 15th August, 2006. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: Please do not disturb him. This is not right. He has come to make a statement.

[*Translation*]

SHRI SHIVRAJ V.PATIL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, with your permission I have making a statement concerning the telecast of the talk on 16th August, 2006. Before I make my statement, I want to say that I fully subscribe to the views expressed by the hon'ble Members that there should be no lapses in the Prime Minister's security. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: Your office has not distributed copies.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: Sir, I am not making a written statement. I am replying to what they have said. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: He is not reading a written statement.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: I am making a statement. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR (Bangalore South): A *suo motu* statement means a written statement copies of which should be supplied to Members. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: He is replying to the queries of the hon. Members. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: The Minister is competent to say, without a written statement.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: I am replying to the matter raised during 'Zero Hour'. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I am permitting you.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: I have not received any notice from you. I am replying. ...*(Interruptions)*

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA (South Delhi): When he is responding to the matter raised during 'Zero Hour', let him respond to that, but he is not making a statement. He should have made a *suo motu* statement on such an important issue. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Very well. You wanted to hear him. He is here. I have allowed him.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: It was my misunderstanding because I was given to understand that you are reading a statement. Since you are not reading a statement, you can carry on.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: Sir, I can make a statement or I can read a statement in response to what hon. Members have raised on the floor of the House. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You reply to it. You say whatever you wish to say.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: Sir I appreciate what the hon. Members have said and we value their suggestions on this point.

First of all, let us understand how the Prime Minister's security is provided. This is the procedure which is followed. There has been no breach of Prime Minister's security. The security apparatus at PM's residence is provided by Special Protection Group in the inner cordon and is supported by uniformed Special Duty Group drawn from CRPF which provides security as outer cordon. All the personnel deployed in SPG and Special Duty Group are thoroughly security-vetted, in addition to other personnel allowed access into the Prime Minister's household or the office. The security of the area around the Prime Minister's residence and the office is provided by Delhi Police which also takes help of the Central paramilitary forces in discharge of these duties.

Sir, on examination of the statements made in the TV channel on the evening of the 15th of August and subsequently on 16th of August, it is discovered that they were referring to an incident which had occurred on 26th November of 2004. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: All right in 2004. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: This is really misleading all of us over here and also the people outside. ...*(Interruptions)* Let me complete please. Every now and then, if you get up, it becomes difficult for me. ...*(Interruptions)* You have to hear me. This is not being fair. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I think, Chair is becoming irrelevant. I thought everybody should address through the Chair.

...*(Interruptions)*

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: We know that. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: If you know that, then let us understand what the incident is. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please do not enter into discussion. You make your own statement.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I know that. Let us not enter into discussion.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: This is an incident which had taken place on 26th November of 2004.

MR. SPEAKER: Therefore, it is not even an urgent matter to have been raised now. I did not know this.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: Let us understand this. Why was it raised on 15th August of 2006?

Now, we have to understand this question in clear terms.

Out of these three or four persons—to whom the reference has been made—one of them was recruited in 1968, and the second person was recruited in 1998. It was not in this period, and it was as per the policy evolved by the then Government that those who were surrendering should be recruited in the police. This was in the year 1998. ... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: This is very unfair.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: No, I would not allow this. Please sit down, otherwise, I would request the hon. Minister not to respond on this issue.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: Sir, how can they find fault with the policy of the then Government? ... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, please take your seats.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down. This cannot be done.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: Sir, they cannot criticize the policy. ... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Do not record anything. Do not record one word except the hon. Minister.

...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: We cannot dictate each other. This is also becoming very common these days, namely, one Member advising another Member on how to speak and what to speak, and the hon. Minister is being directed what to say and what not to say. We cannot dictate to each other. He has to listen, and give a reply at an appropriate time. We cannot interrupt him like this. Please do not do it. I am requesting all sides that this is not permitted. Let us develop a decent way of doing it.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: Sir, I am willing to reply to each of the queries after my statement.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister, this is not the Question Hour.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: But I would request them that I should be allowed to make a full statement on this issue.

MR. SPEAKER: I am requesting you to please carry on with your statement. I have not allowed the questions.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: You all have raised a very important issue, and I am responding to that only. We would also go by your guidance. But if you want a response, then do not interrupt me like this because the continuity of my thoughts is lost.

MR. SPEAKER: You have made an appeal, and I have also made an appeal to all sections of the House

*Not recorded.

[Mr. Speaker]

to please listen to each other. Thereafter, we can take up the matter.

... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: Sir, we are not finding fault with that policy. I am just giving the facts. We are continuing with that policy. I am not saying that that was a wrong policy. I am only bringing to your notice that one of the persons against whom some allegations are made was recruited in 1998 as per the policy adopted by the Government, and that policy is continuing. I am not finding fault with you, but I am only giving you the facts. You should hear these facts, and if you have any question, then I would reply to it and I am repeating it.

There are three persons, and two of them are from Jammu and Kashmir and one of them is from Punjab. They are trying to say that all of them are persons, who were involved in some sort of militant activities. This is coming from them, and that is factually not correct. One of them is from Punjab. Another person, in 1998, had said that he was a surrenderee and should be recruited. He had said that he should be allowed to work in the CRPF, and he was recruited as per the policy at that time and he was there. Thereafter, it was found that he was not at all a surrenderee, and he had given wrong information. An inquiry was held at that time, and he was punished at that time. This is all that had happened then, and not now. This had not happened in 2006 or in 2004, but at that time. Now, this fact has to be taken into consideration.

What had actually happened is this. These 3 or 4 persons were part of the pickets provided by the police at many places in the city, and they were not part of the security provided to the hon. Prime Minister. They were only part of these pickets, that is, at different places the police groups are sitting and they are available any time they are required to assist the police, so that they can immediately rush to the places where they are required.

They were not part of the security provided to the Prime Minister. They were far away from the place of the Prime Minister's House. When they were working as a picket, one of the Head Constables, Raj Kumar, had left that place without taking the permission of his superior. When he returned the next day, his gun and his ammunition were found missing at that time in 2004 and not now. When it was found that they were missing, an inquiry was started. and Raj Kumar was dismissed from

the service by the officers who were there at that time. This gentleman, I am told, has been giving statements to others and saying that other policemen were the militants and they are doing this and that. These are facts, and I was told that he is making statements to others at different places. He was not part of the Prime Minister's security. ... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: He made an appeal at that time.

MR. SPEAKER: This is very unfair. I would not allow this.

MR. SPEAKER: If you want to have a discussion, take recourse to proper procedure.

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: The Minister is trying to justify the breach of security.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: I am justifying nothing.

MR. SPEAKER: Please do not respond to them.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: I am putting the facts before the House for your appreciation. I have said at the beginning that if you have any advice to give, we will respect you advice and we will follow your advice. Let us not mislead the country.

Action was taken against him and he was dismissed from service. Other 6 policemen who were living with him in the tent or in that picket were also punished. These people who were punished at that time had a grudge against each other and against officers. They were making all kinds of statements in the name of terrorists, this and that. But this picket was not a part of the Prime Minister' security. Let us understand it in clear terms.

This kind of statement you have made here and this kind of discussion you have raised in the House is welcome and we appreciate it. We appreciate your concern and we are not going to brush it aside. We will be more careful. In the evening of 15th of August, when fortunately for the entire country, the police in the City of Delhi and in all other cities had done their best to see that there is tranquility, peace and nothing happened, this kind of statement was issued. This has to be assessed in the background of this and that too two years after it had happened. This happened in 2004, and you raised it in the evening of 15th August, 2006, when

everything had gone according to the plan made by the police. This has to be clearly understood.

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA (Panskura): We have understood.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: I am saying that these are the facts and that there was no breach of security as such. All the same, whatever suggestions you will give, we will accept them and the concern shown by you is appreciated by us. We are not deprecating it.

MR. SPEAKER: I would not have allowed this matter if I had known that it was a two-year old matter. This is an hour for raising urgent matters of public importance.

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: The report has to be given to us. We want the report. ... (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Please do not raise a two-year old matter now in the name of urgent matter of public importance. This is a two-year old matter, and nobody told me about that fact.

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: Now I give the floor to Shri Ganesh Singh.

... (*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA (South Delhi): I am speaking on the Prime Minister's security. ... (*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing else will be recorded.

... (*Interruptions*)*

[*Translation*]

SHRI GANESH SINGH (Satna): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to raise a very important point. ... (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Please keep quiet otherwise I will adjourn the house.

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI GANESH SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the House towards a very important issue. ... (*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, you are all very learned and very much concerned. If you can teach me how two hon. members would be given an opportunity to speak at a given point of time, I will be very much obliged.

... (*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

MR. SPEAKER: Hon'ble Members I have a long list of members to speak and I am trying to finish this list.

SHRI GANESH SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you I would like to draw the attention of the Government and the House towards an important point regarding news published in newspapers about unloading of imported wheat from Australia containing excess quantity of pesticides residues. It was claimed that the wheat unloaded in first round contained more than 500% pesticide residues in excess. Whether the Government is going to provide such poisonous foodgrain to people. Whether the Food Corporation of India have accepted this poisonous foodgrain? Will the consumption of such poisonous foodgrain? Will the consumption of such poisonous foodgrain would not cause serious infections and diseases in human body?

Mr. Speaker, Sir, off late, an institution had confirmed the cases of adulteration of poisonous substances in various cold drinks. At that time too, I had remarked in the House that multinational companies are engaged in selling slow poison in our country and our Government continues to be a mute spectator. I would like to know who is accountable for ensuring the quality of goods being imported from abroad? It is already an unprofitable proposition. Moreover, the imported wheat is useless. Let a high-level enquiry be conducted to probe into the whole state-of-affairs and an immediate check be put on the import of wheat in the second round. Concomitantly, I would like to make a humble submission that despite the integration of markets across the world, the multinational companies stay especially centered on our as a market in view of its potential as one of the biggest markets marked by the highest level of consumption. In wake of the said observation, it is hardly justified to allow the

[Shri Ganesh Singh]

multi-national companies to dominate the domestic market. The Government ought to seriously pay attention to the issue immediately before some eventualities are witnessed at the fore-front.

[English]

SHRI LONAPPAN NAMBADAN (Mukundapuram): Sir, I rise to bring to the notice of the House the following problems being faced by the workers of the Government of India Press at Koratty in Trichur District of Kerala:

1. This only Government of India Press at Koratty in Trichur District of Kerala was commissioned in 1996 with a total of 400 workers in two shifts.
2. It has 106 acres of land, and 208 staff quarters most of which are lying vacant.
3. In 2002, this Press was given the prize for the best Government of India Press.
4. Out of 400 posts, at present only 190 workers are in position as a result of which the machines newly imported at high cost are not used to full capacity. Many of these imported machines are not of any use to this Press.

I, therefore, request the Government of India to take urgent necessary action to modernize this only Government of India Press in Kerala by importing suitable machines, filling up the remaining 143 posts, and ensuring that all the machines in the Press are put to optimum use by ordering two shifts as was done in the past.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Madhusudan Mistry - Not present.

...(Interruptions)

12.35 hrs.

(ii) **Re: Revival of Hindustan Cables Limited and non-payment of salaries to its employees**

[English]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura): Sir, Hindustan Cables Limited was a premier public sector undertaking in the field of cables.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Dasgupta has already mentioned it.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: This company used to make profits up to 1993-94. Since 1995, it has been incurring losses. It has previously more than 7000 workers. But today, there are only 3350 workers in three units — one is in West Bengal, another is at Hyderabad in Andhra Pradesh and the third one is at Naini, Allahabad.

There was an agreement, and that was done by BIFR, that VSNL (previously DoT) would place orders with Hindustan Cables Limited to the extent of 30 per cent with 50 per cent advance.

HCL used to supply better quality of cables. But suddenly, BSNL stopped placing orders to HCL. When there was no production in 2002, because of our efforts, BSNL agreed to place orders with HCL and it continued for one year. Then, in July 2003, BSNL refused to place orders. In spite of our sincere efforts, BSNL did not agree. The, HCL was referred to IIT, Kharagpur. ... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I have requested the Minister. He is here. Please be brief.

... (Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Subsequently, Tata Consultancy Services was appointed to recommend revival of HCL. Both these consultants have not recommended for the closures. Rather, I would quote what Tata Consultancy Services has stated: Tata Consultancy Study Report has clearly stated that revival of HCL is viable provided HCL is diversified into new products. The cost of revival, as per their recommendation, would be Rs. 281.22 crore whereas the cost of closure would be Rs. 1,766.61 crore. There are two options. ... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please be brief.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Hon. Minister has also written to the Prime Minister. ... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: He is here. He is waiting to reply. I have called him.

... (Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Whenever we met — we met 12 to 15 times — he never said that it cannot be revived. ... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Let us hear from him what he want to say, Shri Acharia. This is not a debate, you know.

... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: He himself has written to the Prime Minister requesting him to intervene to see that Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited takes over HCL. ... (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Bansagopal Choudhury.

... (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Another Member of your party has given choice.

... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: There is still a need for cables. We have landlines; we have basic telephone services; new exchanges are not being commissioned because of shortage of cables. Extension of telephone lines is not possible because of shortage of cables. ... (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Therefore, it should be revived.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: This is a very important point. The Ministry has not recommended for revival. When I saw his statement in the newspaper that HCL cannot be revived and it should be closed down, in reply to my letter what he stated is. ... (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: This is for raising matters of urgent public importance. I cannot allow you indefinitely. Many important matters are there.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: This is very important. I have to point out this. The options that have been suggested by the Ministry of Heavy Industries are change in management. ... (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Don't annoy the Minister!

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: If disinvestment of HCL as a single unit is not possible; the, disinvest HCL as a separate unit. Thirdly, its closure. Unless Ministry recommends for revival or merger, it cannot be done.

MR. SPEAKER: You cannot go on speaking until he agrees with you.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: There have been a number of mergers and a number of take-overs during a year. If HCL is closed down, it would affect 3,500 directly.

Indirectly, there are a number of auxiliary industries that are dependent on Hindustan Cables Limited.

MR. SPEAKER: Please conclude. You have taken more time. Many hon. Members are to make their submissions.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: It will affect 50,000 workers and it will also adversely affect the economy of that area.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Bansagopal Choudhury.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: So, I demand that the Ministry of Heavy Industries should recommend to the Board for Restructuring Public Sector Companies, BRPSC, for revival of Hindustan Cables Limited, to save an important industry of our country. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: An hon. Member of your own Party is waiting to make his submission. Shri Bansagopal Choudhury.

SHRI BANSAGOPAL CHOUDHURY (Asansol): Sir, the matter has already been explained by the hon. Member, Shri Basu Deb Acharia. ... (*Interruptions*) A number of times, we have explained the matter to the hon. Minister. ... (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing will be recorded. I am appealing to all sections of the House. This is very unfair. It will not be recorded.

...(*Interruptions*)*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Acharia, why are you replying to him?

... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI BANSAGOPAL CHOUDHURY: A number of times, this matter has been discussed. ... (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Do not record one word of him.

...(*Interruptions*)*

*Not recorded.

MR. SPEAKER: Would you please take your seat?
Please take your seat.

... *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You have to take your seat. Please take your seat.

... *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing is being recorded. Why are you speaking and interrupting the House?

...*(Interruptions)**

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN (Balasore): Sir, this is very unfair. ... *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: It will always be unfair, I know that. Is your disturbing the House fair?

... *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I will request the senior leaders of his Party to come and see this.

... *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Do you have a right to speak whenever you want to?

... *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down.

... *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: If the hon. Members do not cooperate, how will this House run? Whose House is this? Everybody is showing concern, but nobody is showing concern for running of the House.

... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: You may please show the same concern to everybody. ... *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: How many times have I rung the bell? I am not here to explain to you my conduct. The whole country is watching this.

... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI BANSAGOPAL CHOUDHURY: Sir, it was discussed with the Union Minister. ... *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please keep quiet now.

... *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please keep quiet.

... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI BANSAGOPAL CHOUDHURY: Sir, actually, it has already been mentioned and explained by the hon. Member Shri Acharia. ... *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please be brief. If you all do not cooperate, how can I run this House?

SHRI BANSAGOPAL CHOUDHURY: I only want to associate myself with what he said. The matter is very serious that nobody knows what will happen to this public sector company. I will request the hon. Minister to explain to this House what will be the fate of this public sector undertaking. That is all; thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: I have gone out of my way because the workers are involved in this. So, I have requested him; he immediately agreed; and he is waiting here to respond. It seems, you will even stop him; and all sorts of advices are coming from all sections of the House. You are lifting the status of the House in this process!

THE MINISTER OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): Mr. Speaker, Sir, this is one of the cases for which we take a long, long time. There was a request from the CPI (M), CPI, Congress Party in West Bengal, the West Bengal Government, INTUC, the BJP's Union; and all of them demanded that it should be revived. Hence, at their request, it was done.

It was Shri Gurudas Dasgupta and Shri Acharia who first suggested to me to refer it to IIT, Kharagpur for its report. I agreed. There was an objection from my Office saying that it was not capable of doing it. I overruled that and I referred it to IIT, Kharagpur. When the negative report came, then again, Shri Gurudas Dasgupta, Shri Acharia and others asked me to refer it to Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) for its report. I agreed and at an expenditure of Rs. 7 lakhs, it was referred to Tata Consultancy Services. The Tata Consultancy Services

submitted a report and there was no positive recommendation.

In the meanwhile, there was a pressure. In the previous question also, we have seen that Members were mentioning that it took a long time. BRPSE wants that such cases should be sent immediately. So, I have sent the case. I have given my recommendations. I have said that this is not a very good case to be revived.

Here, what Shri Basu Deb Acharia said is not correct. I have also recommended to close down M/s. Richardson & Crudas in Mumbai, but BRPSE did not agree; the Cabinet did not agree. They have said that it must be a joint venture.

So, I would convey your views to the Chariman, BRPSE and to the hon. Prime Minister, who will be chairing the Cabinet meeting. They may think and recommend that it can be done. You have met the hon. Prime Minister. So, the matter is open. I am not the last person to say on this. It is the Cabinet. I have said what I thought is right. I have all sympathies for it. Our National Common Minimum Programme says that we should not do anything to affect the position. I have been told unofficially that those vintages of labour, which are working there, will not be able to adopt the new technology because one Chinese party went there at the instance of West Bengal Government and they had told me that nothing could be done there with this set of people and the machinery.

Anyhow, I assure you that I will again write a letter, if necessary, to reconsider it.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: What about the merger?

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV: I cannot say about that. It is up to them.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister, if you go on replying to everyone then we can never conclude the discussion.

... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV: I conclude, Sir.

[*English*]

DR. THOKCHOM MEINYA (Inner Manipur): Sir, four innocent people, all *Bhaktas* and devotees, including one child and an old man, were killed and more than fifty

others were injured in a powerful grenade attack yesterday in the ISKCON complex at Imphal, Manipur, during the Krishna Janmashtami celebration. When a powerful grenade was hurled into the crowd, the Ras Lila was in progress and all those gathered were in a very festive mood. Maharaj Damodar, the head of the ISKCON, was one among those who were injured.

I would request the august House to strongly condemn this dastardly act and the killing of innocent devotees in religious places of worship and to initiate action to see that such unfortunate incidents do not recur.

MR. SPEAKER: Yes, they should be condemned.

DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA (Lakhimpur): Sir, I associate with him. ... (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: I will not allow this procedure.

[*Translation*]

SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE (Aurangabad, Maharashtra): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the festival of Janmashtami was celebrated with full pomp and show yesterday throughout the country. ... (*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

SHRI TAPIR GAO (Arunachal East): Sir, ... (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Please wait. Though you are so much concerned about it, you did not give notice in time.

[*Translation*]

SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: Sir, Elaborate security arrangements were made around the temples. However, the terrorist activities perpetrated in Imphal based ISKCON temple leading to the loss of 4-5 lives and causing injury to around 50 people is unfortunate.

Sir, through you, I would like to know from the Government the whereabouts of the terrorists involved in the attack. Whether they are anyway affiliated to Delhi or have anything to do with Mumbai-Bomb blast? Why is it that they are hell bent on attacking on the Hindu's temples only? What is their motive and whether they have nexus with Pakistan. One is required to study all these facts seriously. The country as well as the temples belonging to the Hindu Community will have to be protected against

[Shri Chandrakant Khaire]

the palpable danger. The innocent devotees were engaged in worshipping. The incidence of terrorist attack over there evokes awful shame. Through you I would like to urge upon the Government to take stringent action against the organizations or groups involved in perpetrating such acts and the concerned one or ones must be completely dismantled.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Tapir Gao, your notice was only 34 minutes late. You were so much concerned about it that you did not get time to give notice in time and then you are disturbing the House.

SHRI TAPIR GAO: I am sorry, Sir.

Yesterday, Krishna Janmashtmi festival was celebrated all over the country and abroad also. The incident of throwing a powerful hand grenade in the ISKCON Temple at Imphal, when more than 20,000 devotees were present in the temple, is of grave concern for all of us. I would like to highlight the core point behind this incident.

There are more than 20 *Aatankvadis* in the Manipur State. They are demanding banning of Hindi films in Manipur.

MR. SPEAKER: It is a different issue.

SHRI TAPIR GAO: I am coming to it, Sir.

They are demanding banning of Hindi films, wearing of *sarees* and *Salwar Kameej* in schools and banning Bangla script. Hindu temples are one of their targets.

Therefore, I would urge upon the Government to find out the militant outfits who have done this.

I would like to inform you that last time the *(Interruptions)* ... have been quoted by the Army to have given Rs.150 crore to the militant outfits. So, if the *(Interruptions)* ... is involved in such activities then who will take care of such incidents and the law and order situation of the State of Manipur.

MR. SPEAKER: Do not say that. Please cut that.

SHRI TAPIR GAO: Therefore, I would urge upon the Government to take necessary steps against the State of Manipur.

DR. ARUN KUMA SARMA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the House to the increasing incidents of violent activities in the North-Eastern Region. Everyday, there is a news of bomb blast or a grenade throw. The initiative of the Government to have a political solution with the various militant outfits has not resulted into any fruitful outcome. There is cease fire agreement already with NSCN, NDFB, DHDN and some other organizations of the region. There was some kind of process of negotiations at official and unofficial levels. But we are yet to know what is the outcome of this cease fire agreement and also of the negotiations at political and at the official levels.

Recently, there was a news item in Assam that the Government has suspended the Army Operation against ULFA. Now it was a welcome approach but we want to know as Members of this House actually what operation has been suspended. We would also like to know whether the Government is planning to suspend the operations of other security organisations like CRPF, BSF and other para-military forces. There was an initiative of the people's consultative group of Assam for having preliminary talk on behalf of ULFA. Now more than six months have passed but the political negotiations are yet to start. I want to know from the Government what is the present status of the negotiations with the various militant outfits because the North-East Region is a very sensitive zone. A large number of international organizations including ISI have been working there. The fundamentalists organizations are growing day-by-day. The situation of the North-East Region would become more volatile than Kashmir if it is not tackled. It is because 90 per cent boundary of the North-East Region is with neighbouring countries of Bangladesh, Bhutan, China and Myanmar. The Government is not taking seriously the security aspects of this region.

Therefore, I would urge upon the Government to immediately restore peace process with various militant outfits.

MR. SPEAKER: You have already said all these things. You are saying it third-time. Why are you repeating them?

DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: The Government should also have a political dialogue with ULFA and other organizations to maintain peace. ... *(Interruptions)*

12.54 hrs.

(iii) Re: Non-payment of salaries to 14,000 employees of ITI Limited working in various units in the country

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Now. Mr. Ananth Kumar to speak and only his statement would be recorded and nothing else.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR (Bangalore South): Sir, I want to raise a very important issue of ITI Limited. Around 14,000 employees including officers of ITI Limited which are in Bangalore, Naini, Allahabad, Raebareli, Palakkad, Mankapur and Srinagar, are yet to receive their salaries for the month of May. They have not receive the salaries of May, June and July. In this connection, I would also urge the cooperation of the hon. Member of Parliament from Raebareli and the Chairperson of the UPA, Shrimati Sonia Gandhi.

It is because the employees of the ITI had met her twice. Actually, Shri A.N. Malviya, the President and Shri Hanuman Prasad, the General Secretary of the ITI Naini Officers' Association wrote a letter to Shrimati Sonia Gandhi on 10th august, 2006. Again and again, I am drawing her kind attention to this letter.

MR. SPEAKER: You should ask for the attention of the Government.

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR: Sir, I am enlisting her support and the Leader of the House is also here. I would like to quote from that letter.

"Respected Madam, despite our repeated requests to look after the matter of ITI, if you kindly recall your memory that on your visit to Rae Bareilly on 18.6.2000,..."

MR. SPEAKER: I did not visit Raebareli recently. By 'you', you can only mean me. You should say 'the hon. Member's visit'.

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR: Sir, I am quoting from the letter which Mr. A.N. Malviya, the President and Mr. Hanuman Prasad, the General Secretary of ITI Naini Officers' Association had written to the Chairperson of

the UPA and the hon. Member from Raebarely. The Leader of the House is also the hon. Defence Minister.

MR. SPEAKER: I am allowing you to quote because it is a matter about workers. Otherwise, you cannot do like this.

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR: This letter was written on 10th August, 2006.

"Respected Madam, despite our repeated requests to look after the matter of ITI, if you kindly recall from your memory that on your visit to Rae Bareilly on 18.6.2006, a joint memorandum was given to you regarding the problem of ITI and again a meeting was held with your honour on 21st July, 2006 at your residence in which we have requested to take keen interest on the very humanitarian issue of ITI that we are not getting our salary since the last three months and this is going to be the fourth month. But still no response from your side has yet come."

Why I am raising this issue today is because my dear friend and trade union leader, shri Michael Fernandes, and other office bearers came and met me on this issue. You know that, in the next three years, the Government of India is going to spend Rs. 1,30,000 crore on telecom industry but the turnover of ITI is only Rs. 4000 crore. So, required orders should be placed on them and there should be a level-playing field. About 30 per cent of the orders of all the public sector undertakings should be going to them but this has not been paid heed to.

Sir, while mentioning this, I also want to place on record that your kind self, when you were the Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Information Technology, have been instrumental to see that ITI Limited is not privatized and it has survived. I thank you for that.

MR. SPEAKER: This is a red-letter day for me.

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR: Sir, good work needs to be complimented. But, at the same time, what is the UPA Government doing? Since 2004, ITI has become a whipping boy. ITI is a telecommunication giant of the country. But why is there no level playing field for it? I would request the hon. Minister to respond on this issue.

... (Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura): Sir, I associate with Mr. Ananth Kumar and I also demand that...

MR. SPEAKER: No demand. Association cannot be a demand. Only Mr. Ananth Kumar's speech will go on record.

...(Interruptions)"

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR: Sir, sufficient orders should be placed on them and there should be a level-playing field. ITI should be merged with BSNL and MTNL and as a short-term relief, three months salary should be immediately disbursed to the employees. Therefore, I would request the Chairperson of the UPA to associate herself with this issue. I also thank Shri Acharia for associating himself with me. I would request the hon. Minister to respond to this issue.

MR. SPEAKER: We must thank the hon. Minister that he is ready to respond on this matter.

13.00 hrs.

THE MINISTER OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): Sir, this is under the active consideration of the Ministry. We know about it. Salaries will be paid before *Dussehra* not only in this Company, but also in all other public sector companies, where the salaries have not been paid. The file is now moving and it will be done.
(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Let me conduct the proceedings.

... (Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA (Panskura): Sir, as usual the hon. Prime Minister had addressed the nation yesterday, the 15th August. He had made a long speech explaining the policies and perspectives of the Government. ... (Interruptions) Sir, what is happening?

MR. SPEAKER: Tell me what I can do.

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: He had explained the policy that the Government is pursuing. I am only referring to a particular aspect of the speech that the hon. Prime Minister has made. He said:

*Not recorded.

"The price of kerosene and LPG has not been raised. But there is a limit to which we can go on subsidizing the consumption of petroleum products in the face of rising import cost. How much more can the Government treasury bear this burden? At some point this will affect our ability to spend on other important development programmes."

Sir, we are deeply distressed by this reference. We feel deeply hurt. This is nothing but a direct suggestion to say that at a future date, which is not very far away, the Government would increase the prices. ... (Interruptions) Sir, kindly give me two minutes. ... (Interruptions)

The Government is going to increase the prices of kerosene and cooking gas. ... (Interruptions) Already the Prime Minister has made a suggestion that there is a relation between the international price and the domestic prices. ... (Interruptions)

Sir, kindly give me one minute. ... (Interruptions) I do not agree with the Prime Minister of the country. ... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: The House stands adjourned to meet again at 2 p.m. Other matters will be taken up later.

13.02 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned for lunch till Fourteen of the Clock.

14.05 hrs.

The Lok Sabha re-assembled after Lunch at five minutes past Fourteen of the Clock.

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER in the Chair]

14.05 hrs.

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now, the House will take up Item No.4 — Matters under Rule 377. If the hon. Members of the House agree.

[*Translation*]

I want that 377 should be laid.

SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT (Shajapur): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, at times we get an opportunity to advance our views on this issue. ... (*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: It's okay. All of you may take lesser time to speak. Just do not protract.

(i) Need to set up a 'Food Park' In Ramnagar, Kanakapura Pallamentary Constituency in Karnataka

[*English*]

SHRIMATI TEJASWINI SEERAMESH (Kanakapura): Respect Deputy Speaker, Sir, Bangalore Rural District is part of my Kanakapura Parliamentary constituency which consist of talukas called Kanakapura, Sathanur, Ramnagar, Channapatna, Magadi, Nelamangala, Doddaballapur, Devanahalli and Hosakote, in which our farmers grow large-scale fruits like mango, grapes and tomato. These farmers are suffering from lack of cold storage, as well as proper marketing facilities. These items are very much perishable items. This district had suffered by severe drought 2000 to 2004. In this District, 33 farmers committed suicide which was the second highest number in Karnataka State. There is not major irrigation facility or rivers. Even underground water table is very much reducing alarmingly.

I request the Government to set up a world-class large-scale 'Food Park' between Garden City Bangalore and the Royal City Mysore at Ramnagar town which is known for its world famous rocks depicted in the Hindi film Sholay. The upcoming International Airport at 'Devanahalli' will further facilitate our farmer to grow export-quality fruits, vegetables and flowers. This 'Food Park' will provide jobs to our unskilled, less educated rural youths including women.

(ii) Need to ensure security of women working In Call Centres

SHRI BADIGA RAMAKRISHNA (Machilipatnam): Sir, one more incident of killing of a woman, working in a Call Centre at Bangalore, came to light recently. This is the second incident in a matter of few months. It is being reported in the media day in and day out about women working in Call Centres being harassed. The timings of the duties at Call Centres are unregulated

because of the nature of work. Many qualified people are migrating to different cities of the country because of job opportunities available due to outsourcing. On account of the increasing incidents of this nature with ladies, it is creating fear among girls and causing anxiety to the parents to sent them to work at other places. With the growth in IT industry, more Call Centres are coming up in different cities where a large number of ladies are being employed. Hence, Call Centre operators should make foolproof arrangements for the security of the women employees working in their respective Centres.

The Union Government as well as the State Government should ensure that the Call Centre operators take all security measures for safety of women employees, particularly during their commutation. It should also be made mandatory to install vehicle tracking system in all vehicles ferrying Call Centre employees, because women are targeted only when they are commuting, and, ID Cards should also be issued to drivers.

I also request the Government of India to examine the possibility of introducing certain clauses, as a part of the IT Act, for providing absolute security to women working in Call Centres, in view of the odd timings of the job.

(iii) Need to give adequate compensation to the farmers whose lands were acquired for setting up High-Tech cities in Ghaziabad and Gautam Budh Nagar districts in Uttar Pradesh

[*Translation*]

SHRI SURENDRA PRAKASH GOYAL (Hapur): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, on one hand the farmers of Ghaziabad and Gautam Buddha Nagar districts in Uttar Pradesh are not getting remunerative prices for their agricultural produce and on the other hand, their precious land is being sold off to a few capitalists through administration on the pretext of setting up of high-tech cities. While the farmers rose in protest against this move, the administration is trying to suppress their agitation and we have witnessed the tragic incidents that took place at Bajherakhurd, the administration resorted to stringent action against the rural people there. As a result, hundreds of farmers have been jailed in Ghaziabad prison. I demand their unconditional release and if the capitalists have to purchase the farm land, I would like to suggest that the farmers should be given right to dispose of their land at the existing prices fixed by the Government rather

[Shri Surendra Prakash Goyal]

than permitting the acquisition of land by the capitalists at throw away prices. I would like to demand through you to take necessary action immediately in response to the suggestions advanced by me.

- (iv) **Need to provide necessary funds to construct bridges in Dharapuram and Kangayam Taluks in Palani Parliamentary Constituency, Tamil Nadu**

[English]

SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN (Palani): Sir, Amaravathi River is one of the perennial rivers in Tamil Nadu and it is crossing Palani Parliamentary Constituency in Dharapuram and Kangayam Taluks. Large number of villages are located at both sides of the river. During rainy season, large quantity of water flows in Amaravathi River. During that time, the public residing at Sankarandampalayam and nearby villages have to go a long distance to reach Dharapuram. The agriculturists also have to spend more money to transport their goods to Dharapuram Market or any other market. If there is any medical urgency, it is not easy to reach the nearest hospital. Students have to reach their schools by bicycle with great difficulty. They are not able to reach on time. Everyday, large number of young boys and girls are going to textile mills and they are also struggling hard to reach Dharapuram and other nearby towns. Hence bridges are very necessary to connect:-

- (i) Athukal Pudur to Sellakumaragoundanpudur;
- (ii) Peramium to Sankarandampalayam Village; and
- (iii) Kumarasamy Kottai to Chellandiammankoil in Selvi Nagar.

It is a long-pending request of the public of that region.

Hence, I urge upon the Union Government to allocate necessary funds to construct the above bridges to mitigate the sufferings of the people of the region.

- (v) **Need to entrust Bala Quila and Step-Well or Baori monuments situated in Alwar, Rajasthan to Archaeological Survey of India to save their glorious heritage**

DR. KARAN SINGH YADAV (Alwar): Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the Government towards cultural heritage in neglected condition in Alwar District of Rajasthan.

The Bala Quila at Alwar is picturesquely situated atop a hill at a height of 1,000 feet. This fort was constructed by Nukumbha Rajputs in 10th Century A.D. and was annexed by Maharaja Pratap Singh in 1775 A.D. before foundation of Alwar State. The circumference of the fort is 11.2 km. and the fort complex consist of court yards, corridors and pavilions resting on marble pillars. It is a potential destination of tourism in Rajasthan. Another such monument is Step-Well or Baori in Neemrana on Delhi-Jaipur Highway near a famous Neemrana Fort.

This represents the developed stage of Ancient Water Management System. Both the above monuments are in good condition but all in state of neglect. I request that these monuments be entrusted to Archaeological Survey of India to save their glorious heritage.

- (vi) **Need for four-laning of NH 3 between Gwalior and Dewas**

[Translation]

SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT: Sir, the density of traffic running through National Highway No-3 (NH-3) popularly known as Agra-Mumbai road is very high. One is subjected to numerous traffic difficulties in running vehicles from Gwalior to Dewas due to the unavailability of four lane roads, on account of narrow roads, the road accidents are also on the rise resulting in huge loss of life and property. In principle approval has been accorded for the construction of bye-pass road for Shajapur city, two bridges over Lakhunder river, an over bridge over Maksi-based Railway track and for the four laning of the stretch of National Highway from Gwalior to Dewas. However, even after lapse of a long duration of time the work has not yet been commenced. This has resulted in severe resentment among the local people.

I demand the Government to take necessary action to ensure the commencement of the above mentioned work immediately.

- (vii) **Need to computerize the Reservation Counter at Konch-Station in Jhansi Division**

SHRI BHANU PRATAP SINGH VERMA (Jalaun): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, through you I would like to draw the attention of the Central Government towards the Konch station in the Jhansi division of North Central Railway of Jalaun Garotha parliamentary constituency. This station is 150 years old. At the distance of around 25 kilometres there is Rawatpura Dham and around 8 kilometres away from Konch Station there is shrine of

Paramhans Badri Vishal Maharaj. Thousands of pilgrims visit both the pilgrimage centres and the passengers hailing from Madhya Pradesh commute from this station. Passengers have to face a lot of difficulties owing to the unavailability of computerized Reservation system for the trains at Konch station.

Thus, I would like to urge upon the Hon'ble Minister of Railways to put computerized Reservation System in place at Konchi railway station.

- (viii) **Need to declare sea erosion as a calamity for assistance from Calamity Relief Fund (CRF) and National Calamity Contingency Fund (NCCF)**

[English]

DR. K.S. MANOJ (Alleppey): Sir, coastal line of Kerala is subjected to severe sea erosion throughout the year and is more during monsoon months. During the monsoon, coastal line is vastly affected. In my constituency Alappuzha alone, nearly sixty houses were fully destroyed and nearly two hundred houses were partially damaged. This is the same along the entire coast of Kerala. This is repeating every year. The State Government has to spend a huge amount every year for the rehabilitation of those affected families. But unfortunately the State of Kerala does not get any Central assistance since the sea erosion is not considered as a natural calamity as per the Government of India guidelines.

The Government of Kerala has represented this matter before the Union Home Ministry and was informed that CRF norms are fixed by the Finance Commission.

Considering the devastation cause by these natural calamities, I would urge upon the Government to include natural calamities, sea erosion, landslides and lightning under natural calamity norms set-up by Government of India and assistance under Calamity Relief Fund (CRF) and National Calamity Contingency Fund (NCCF) should be provided for the sufferers of these catastrophes.

- (ix) **Need to accord approval for including sixteen castes of OBC in Uttar Pradesh into SC category**

[Translation]

SHRI HARIKEWAL PRASAD (Salempur): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Government of Uttar Pradesh have sent

a proposal to include 16 poor and backward castes including Nisad, Mallah, Bind, Prajapati, Rajbhar in the category of Scheduled Castes and the proposal is still pending. The Government of Uttar Pradesh have sent the proposal to include these castes in SC category to speed up their social and economic progress. Their economic condition is very miserable. There are many reasons of their backwardness. It is very necessary to include these castes in Scheduled Castes category so that they can uplift themselves economically by getting benefits of reservation.

I request the Government to expedite the approval process of inclusion of these castes in the category of Scheduled Castes.

- (x) **Need to expedite the construction work of NH 30 between Patna and Aara**

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV (Patna): Sir, there was a proposal to construct N.H. 30 from Bakhtiarpur to Mohania in the first phase of NHAI and there was a deadline for completion of all the proposed National Highways by December, 2004. But, the actual work on this road could be completed only between Bakhtiarpur to Patna zero mile (unto Beur jail and Mohania) and Aara zero mile. The remaining stretch is still incomplete which has caused much resentment among the people of my constituency. The completion of this road will serve as a connection road to Patna, the capital of Bihar. The survey work, soil testing and the construction of bridge on Sone river has been completed but road construction is still incomplete when even second and third phase of work has been initiated. Now, the work on fourth phase is going to start, but the first phase work has not yet been completed in Bihar.

So, through this House, I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister of Shipping, Road Transport and Highways to instruct N.H.A.I to expedite the construction of the stretch of N.H. 30 from Patna to Aara zero mile.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Kamla Prasad Rawat—
not present.

Shri Sadashivrao D. Mandlik—not present.

(xi) Need to release educational scholarship for the children of Beedi workers in Tenkasi constituency, Tamil Nadu

SHRI M. APPADURAI (Tenkasi): Beedi rolling is an important livelihood activity in and around my Tenkasi constituency. Thousands of school going children are engaged in this collective family occupation beyond their school hours. Based on the recommendation from the Deputy Welfare Commissioner of Union Labour Welfare Minister these children get annual education scholarship. But in 2005-06 instead of the total scholarship amount to the tune of Rs. 11,23,70,940/-, only a sum of Rs. 4,13,04,240 has been released. These poor children of Beedi workers are now languishing in abject poverty and deprivations due to the no-release of Rs. 7,10,60,700/-. Hence I urge upon the Union Labour Welfare Ministry to release the Education scholarship immediately. It is also necessary to fill in the vacant post of Chief Medical Officers in exclusive dispensaries — Alangulam, Surandai — meant for Beedi workers as it deprived these workers and family members to get timely medical assistance easily. Hence I urge upon the Union Health Ministry and Labour Welfare Ministry to initiate action in this regard at the earliest.

(xii) Need to expedite the construction of various roads in Bagaha Parliamentary Constituency, Bihar under 'Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojna'

[Translation]

SHRI KAILASH BAITHA (Bagaha): Sir, many roads in my Parliamentary Constituency were selected for inclusion under 'Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojna'. District Rural Development Authority had also included it as a priority list item in pursuance of my recommendation made in the capacity of a Member of Parliament. But, only one road has been constructed so far even after the lapse of one year. The remaining roads have not been constructed so far which is affecting the credibility of Central Construction Agency. This issue demands urgent attention so that the people can benefit from this 'Sadak Yojana'.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Dr. K. Dhanaraju—not present.

Shri Munshi Ram.

(xiii) Inclusion of some castes belonging to OBC category into SC category in Uttar Pradesh

[Translation]

SHRI MUNSHI RAM (Bijnor): After independence of the country, Baba Saheb Bhim Rao Ambedkar worked towards framing some regulations in the form of Constitution (Scheduled Castes) Order, 1950 to bring the untouchables and socially, economically and academically backward castes at par with other castes of the society. Under this Act, an amendment to the Reservation Act 1994 (Uttar Pradesh Act No. 4 of the year, 1994) was made by the hon. Governor, Uttar Pradesh in Uttar Pradesh Public Service (the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes) and other Backward Castes while exercising powers under section 13 of the said Act. It resulted into change of status of Kahar, Kashyap, Kewat, Malha, Nishad, Kumhar, Prajapati, Dhiwar, Bind, Bhar-Raj Bhar castes from Backward to Scheduled Castes. Although all these castes were included by the then British government into the list of Scheduled Castes on the basis of Simon Commission Report released on 31.12.1931. But, the Government of India kept those castes in the list of Backward Castes. But, it was found in the survey made by the State Government of Uttar Pradesh through the Scheduled Tribes Research and Training Institute that all the above-mentioned castes have been at the receiving end of the evil of untouchability; besides majority of them being illiterate and landless and having an annual income of less than Rs. 22,000 per annum.

In view of the said facts, I demand that the Government of India should include all the above-mentioned castes in the list of Scheduled Castes so that they can make progress.

[English]

SHRI ANWAR HUSSAIN (Dhubri): Sir, kindly allow me to read my matter under Rule 377. ... *(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: When I called your name, unfortunately you were not present in the House. Anyway, I allow you now.

(xiv) Need to provide reservation to Muslim OBCs as provided in the Mandal Commission Report

SHRI ANWAR HUSSAIN (Dhubri): Sir, the population pattern in India is deliberately not reflected in employment

and in other avenues. Against about 13 per cent of Muslim population, less than two per cent employees of them are there. The spirit of secularism in respect of reservation of services for Muslims is totally and deliberately ignored.

The Mandal Commission, while providing 27 per cent reservations to OBCs, had recommended some sections of Muslims as OBCs with a provision of 8.34 per cent reservation in services for them. The share of 8.34 per cent for Muslims have been denied since the day of implementation of the Mandal Commission Report in the Central and State Government services.

No Government took any sort of action to initiate scheduling of the earmarked sections of Muslims as OBC. Almost all States do not have the schedule and as such Muslims do not get OBC certificate to claim reservation facility.

As such, I urge upon the Government to complete scheduling of the particular sections of Muslim as OBCs at the earliest in order to provide them proper representation in employment and in other avenues.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: In future, I will not allow those hon. Members who are not present in the House when I call their names for reading their Matter Under Rule 377.

14.29 hrs.

CANTONMENTS BILL, 2006—*contd.**

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now, we will take up item no. 5. Time allotted for this item is three hours. We have already taken 42 minutes. Two hours and 18 minutes are left with us. Last time when the House was adjourned, Dr. Babu Rao Mediyam was on his feet. He has already taken three minutes. Now, I would request him to continue his speech.

DR. BABU RAO MEDIYAM (Bhadrachalam): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, this Cantonments Bill, 2006 is a delayed Bill. It intends to replace the previous Cantonments Act of 1924. I rise to support this Bill with some suggestions.

Sir, it envisages four main points, as is stated in the Statement of Objects and Reasons. One is, imparting

greater democratisation of the cantonments; second is, improvement in its financial base; third is, allowing the State Governments and the Central Government the developmental activities into the cantonments; and fourth is, proper regulation, control and management of these cantonment laws.

This is a welcome Bill because the cantonment system is a colonial legacy; and we want to democratize it and improve and increase the facilities.

On the first point regarding democratization of the cantonment, I would submit that the cantonments were classified into four categories. My suggestion is on Section 12 at page 7. This Bill has four categories. There are 62 cantonments in our country out of which 56 were established during the colonial period and another six were established during the Independent period. But this classification is based on the population criterion. But I feel and I suggest that apart from this population criterion, we must take into consideration the territorial income of that cantonment and resources available for its infrastructural developments etc.

As this Bill intends to consider the cantonment as a deemed municipality, I would submit that in some of the States, municipalities are of three types, namely, Category (a), Category (b) and Category (c). That is also determined on the basis of population statistics. So, I want this Clause to be re-written clearly stating the three different categories. It is because of financial sustainability that it is called the deemed municipality. If it wants to create a social infrastructure like drinking water, sanitation, health, school and other things, it requires a financial resources.

Suppose, there is a fourth category, where the population ranges between 2,500 and 10,000. That is a very small population, which may generate very less income. That is why, I feel that there should be three categories of municipalities. The first category may be of more than one lakh population. It is because, in my State of Andhra Pradesh, there is a big cantonment — Secunderabad Cantonment — which has a population of about two lakh and odd. The voter strength there is 1.8 lakh. So, it should be able to sustain itself and it should be able to provide the basic amenities for that area. That is why I would like to suggest that the Category (1) should be for a population of more than one lakh. Below that, two Categories should be formed.

[Dr. Babu Rao Mediyam]

There has been delimitation of cantonment wards as far as Secunderabad is concerned. Only on the 6th August, this month, we have had the Cantonment Board elections there. The biggest cantonment ward there is consisting of 42,000 voters; and the smallest ward is consisting of 20,000 votes. So, all the disparities should be removed, equal number of votes should be allotted to each ward, thereby having more and more democratisation.

Regarding the composition of this Board, it is given on the same page under Section 12 that there should be eight members from the Department. The Command, that is, the General Officer Commanding-in-Chief is the Command, the District Magistrate; the Chief Executive Officer *ex officio*; the Health Officer; the Executive Engineer and three military officers will also be there. There should be eight members, and eight members should be elected from the ward. Here, in this composition, I would suggest to you to include the local MLAs and MPs to be the members of this Board.

Now, this Bill proposes that they will be the *ex officio* members without vote but they can be included with voting rights. But now-a-days, since the MLAs and MPs are having certain funds for the developmental activities, those MPLAD funds and other resources can be spend in the cantonment areas. I want a provision to be added like that. Then, in order to have social composition, members from SC, ST and women should be there in the Cantonment Board.

My second suggestion is about the election. The election criteria are given on page 13 under Section 27. Regarding the division of wards, I have already quoted. Here Section 30 is regarding corrupt practices in the elections. As far as my knowledge goes, cantonments are not devoid of corruption. As they are on par with municipalities, there is corruption. In the recent elections also, all the six points, which are given in this Section, namely bribery, undue influences, appeal of candidates or his agents by religion, caste, race, community and language, promotion of hatred and enmity between the different classes, publication of the candidate's merits and hiring of the vehicles, were ignored. The elections were held on par with the general elections of any political party. They are being held without political affiliations but political parties are also intervening in it. Even though if we deem it to be a municipality, because in most of the States, the elections to the municipalities, corporations

and the local bodies are being held under party banner, why can it not be held on the same line in the cantonment areas? So, I would request the hon. Minister to consider this.

Regarding quorum, it is said in this Bill that half of the number is the quorum but as the definition goes, quorum is the smallest number possible to commence a meeting or to take a decision or to transact something. So, this should be one-third. So, one-third quorum should be put for this.

Regarding the supersession of the Board, on the one side, we are giving some democratization within the organization, the Cantonment Board, but on the other side supersession is advised in Section 60, and no period is specified there. I want here to specify a period that the supersession should be up to one year or two years or up to the next election. The period should be specified.

Regarding taxation, for example, in Secunderabad, the octroi taxes or the terminal taxation is very high. There is a National Highway, NH-7, which is going through the Secunderabad Cantonment, and on that road, the octroi taxes are being collected.

I hope that will be changed. The checking and other inspections are highly corrupt. That is why the Cantonment is not getting its revenue. The corrupt practices should be stopped and the octroi tax should be banned.

Lastly, the bill talks about the defence land. I have only one question to ask to the hon. Minister of Defence. At present there is no provision in this Bill. I want to know whether the State level land acquisition rules and the Urban Land Ceiling Act etc., would be followed in these cantonments or not. I would like to have an answer to this question.

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN SINGH (Deoria): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, there is no question of raising objection to the bill which has been prepared after a long discussion and deliberation among members of all parties in the Standing Committee and which has already been passed by Rajya Sabha after discussion. Although, it is the prerogative of the Government to either accept or reject the Report of the Standing Committee on account of any administrative exigency, I welcome and support this bill in a broader way.

If we pay attention to the events which took place in the year 1757, 1857, then it becomes clear that if we had got our independence in the year 1957 it would have been complete independence. But, the events that took place 10 years before its due time; it was like a miscarriage with history of India that was damaging for both our nation and the generation as a whole. After the year 1757, a new concept of permanent and regular with the military emerged conquerors of entire India having a clear conception in their mind about the need for regular military forces. They wanted a disciplined military with a distinctive behaviour and secluded from the civilian population. They implemented cantonment culture in our country to implement those above-mentioned concepts. However prior to that period, one can see that invader used to come to our country to plunder our wealth. Their modus operandi was to hire mercenaries in their own country with the sole aim of plundering the defeated people and country and after that they use to return to their countries. Only Mughals lived in the country of invasion and they formed the base of a military system in this country. Prior to Mughal period the military system prevalent in our country was the mob of brave and able-bodied people from villages who were recruited in the military of the day temporarily on the basis of caste and religion. They used to form small groups after the day's fight to cook for themselves. Assured lunch and dinner used to be a big incentive for them to re-join the military. But this concept undergone a sea change during the time of Britishers. They ensured that armed forces must be disciplined and trained and provided for their better life. This was the basis of military concept given to our country by the British and the number of cantonments increased with the increase in British-occupied areas. The conflict in the year 1857, which is also called the First Independence Struggle of India, comes largely be attributed to the saw military concept. The explosion of discontent had also erupted from these cantonments. The history of our freedom struggle shows that the people who received their education in Britain and the education of India played a leading role in the struggle for democracy. Similarly those very people who had been working to strengthen British Rule in the country like a disciplined soldier of the military had dreamt of Indian Independence which resulted in the expression of not simmering discontent in those military cantonments in 1857. Thus many a cantonments in our country did not remain unaffected.

India got her independence. After independence villages came up where sculptors, artisans, masons and the 'safai walas' lived in harmony. On the same pattern

residential areas of the military were developed and like villages were planned in such a way that tailors, masons and ordinary civilian people may co exist with the military. They were, therefore, allotted residential plots in the military cantonments. Then, it was thought that if they were civilians and not military men, they should also be provided civilian facilities. Military Cantonment Boards were constituted to extend them those facilities. Some sort of elections also started to take place. These elections used to be held in the same way as the elections to Gram Panchayats or municipalities were held.

The framers of our constitution had left a drawback in the constitution. Gandhi ji and Rajendra Prasad ji had desired that the concept of 'Gram Swaraj' should have first and foremost place in the development of villages but it was abandoned due to this apprehension that people of high castes would dominate the traditionally disciplined Scheduled Caste people and they would be rendered vulnerable. On the basis of this argument the local bodies and Panchayati Raj institutions were denied the same status which our legislative assemblies and Paliament enjoy while drafting the Constitution. But, the tenth Lok Sabha has done away with that trend and gave constitutional status to all the municipalities and Gram Panchayats through a constitution amendment. There was an opinion that if they have got the constitutional Status, why should not the military cantonments got the game. With this intention this Amendment Bill aimed at democratization of the military cantonment Board has been introduced in the House. I welcome this Bill but it requires further modifications.

When elections were first held in 1937 our national leaders announced their boycott. They did so because the aforesaid act provided for the supremacy of the Lord Governor over the legislative powers of the Indian Legislative Assembly which the Congress leadership was not ready to accept. Similarly if any proposal is passed by the Cantonment Board, the Military officer at the helm of affairs in the Cantonment could overrule that. I think that this thought and idea is contrary to the fundamentals of democracy. It should therefore, be fully democratic. Besides this I would like to give another suggestion that the entire demarcation work of the military land should be started at the earliest. My own idea is that 40% of the military land is under unauthorized encroachment. The Indian Military and the Government of India should undertake measurement in respect of all cantonment lands as to how much land is owned by each cantonment separately within a period of six months and that land

[Shri Mohan Singh]

should be demarcated afresh to indicate that land belongs to the cantonment or military as it used to be in the case of villages where they would erect some landmarks of stones. In this way demarcation of the cantonment lands would take place.

I have come to know about the city of Lucknow where a conflict is going on over the years. The Municipality has sold some land. The people have constructed their houses. The Development Authority has constructed dwelling units and allotted the same. After a few years of the allotment the military came into the picture and claimed that land. Now the dispute is going on. Sometimes it is the military which becomes active to save this land and sometimes it is the PAC which does the same to help the allottees take possession of their houses. Both parties reach even a clashing point in this matter. Therefore, first of all lands of military should be demarcated on the other hand the civilians living on the land allotted by the military should be provided civic amenities. Today the Budget of military has mounted to Rs. 80-85 thousand crores but if we observe the Cantonment area today, we find that luxurious buildings, are coming up on that land there. The military has laid more emphasis on construction of buildings. It is okay that you spend funds on construction of military buildings, multi-purpose halls, beautiful cinema halls, hospitals, they should also be constructed but a component of this should also be spent on providing amenities to the inhabitants of the Cantonments. You can conduct a military intelligence enquiry whether the canteen items are sold outside in private shops? I am not making any allegations but request you to investigate it as to why it happens? This tendency can be checked if we remove the residential areas of the civilians attached to military from their residential areas. The military can build some malls on the residential areas of the cantonment out of their own funds and allot them to the recognized sellers and those who are found selling canteen items should be punished along with the cancellation of their shop licenses. You can do this.

I would like to give a suggestion the hon'ble Member which is related to our State. Crores of people visited 'Ardh Kumbh Mela' at Allahabad. There is a common belief that whosoever goes to the 'Sangam' to have a holy dip and does not get a glimpse of the ancient Banyan tree which is in the fort under the military cordon, they do not get spiritual benefit. Some years ago the erstwhile Minister of Defence who is at present the Chief

Minister of Uttar Pradesh had got a gate thrown open for public in consultation with the Government of Uttar Pradesh which had greatly facilitated the movement of pilgrims but the military closed the same and that has become disputable for sages and saints. You should make efforts to get the gate opened.

In the cantonment area of Allahabad where one hundred years ago a number of influential people got some part of land allotted on the lease basis at a paltry rates of Rs. 9-10. If that lease agreement is concluded in terms of present rates it would fetch Rs. 10-12 thousand as tax which they do not pay. Now-a-days people from some lower strata build their houses in the military area but the military authorities demolish the same. You have given lands to the influential people on nominal rates for building luxurious houses in the Cantonment areas which should be revaluated and reallocated. We can do this properly by demarcating the military and civilian areas separately. I support this bill and thank the hon'ble Minister that he has made efforts in the right direction and a few other amendments which are required can be made through another amendment by sitting together. With these suggestions I support this Bill.

SHRI ALOK KUMAR MEHTA (Samastipur): Sir, I am grateful to you for giving me an opportunity to speak on the Cantonment Bill, 2006. This is an important Bill which is aimed at providing some relief to the civilian population living in and around the cantonment areas of this democratic country. I would like to extend my heartiest thanks to the hon'ble Minister of Defence for this step that he has taken initiative to bring in an Amendment Bill. I would like to state with figures that there are 62 cantonment areas and about 600 military stations in the entire country. I think that the kind of provision being made in the cantonment areas should also be made in the military stations as well. This Bill does not cover these stations at all. In my view military stations are also required to be brought under its ambit. It needs to be deliberated.

The basic idea behind bringing this Bill is to democratize the Governance and administration of the cantonment areas. The Civilian bureaucrats are being empowered and the powers of the military officers are being curtailed. The constitution has given the highest status to the democratically elected person. I welcome statement of the hon'ble Minister that the military for which these areas are meant, should be provided full facilities but my plea is that the civilians living there who do not

probably feel comfortable with the military discipline, should be provided the benefits of development by the administration. I want that there should be an indepth discussion in this regard so as to prevent isolation of the people from the mainstream. Many important schemes are being run in the country at present by the UPA Government. To ensure that the benefits of development by these schemes reach the targeted population, the provisions should be made through same democratic system. If you leave everything to Chief Executive then whosoever is that, whether from military or civilian background, they will have same way of thinking. Even if it is different, perhaps it cannot be local public friendly. Therefore, I want to tell that a slight change is required in this regard. I want that it should be considered upon.

Clauses 24-26 are hinting at the same thing that you have empowered the Chief Executive in Standing Committee as well. Keeping all these things in mind I would like to say that in an elected body, only elected persons should have dominance over that committee. We advocate this thing. I would like to draw your attention towards few inconveniences. I will give a small example. Danapur Cantonment area is located near Patna. There is a main road along that area. You have to drive your vehicle on that road 5 to 10 kms. of speed even if you are in emergency. You cannot do anything even if you are a local civilian.

15.00 hrs

If you accelerate the speed then the driver and occupant are made to do sit-ups as a punishment. They are humiliated in such a way. These administrative things should be brought before the committee for consideration. If public representatives are not part of it then work will not be done as per democratic procedure and sensitivity cannot be seen in approach. I have not said many things about it but whatever I have said, it underlines the need of democratization and conventions of the country in this regard should be adhered to. The dominance of officers should definitely be less than elected persons and they should work as executives.

With these words, I thank you very much and I want that the hon'ble Minister will bring about few amendments in this Bill by seriously considering whatever submissions I have made. I strongly support this Bill.

[English]

SHRI B. MAHTAB (Cuttack): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I rise to deliberate on the Cantonments Bill, 2006. The hon. Minister for Defence, the Leader of the House, is very much aware of the cantonments in the country. In Hind, we call them *Chhavani*. The hon. Minister comes from the State of West Bengal and I come from the State of Orissa where we have a martial dance called *Chhau* dance which evolved from the word *Chhavni*. So, it is not correct to say that cantonments did not exist before the Britons arrived in India. But, cantonments as being discussed today are basically the ones created by the British where military and civilians lived together, away from the hustle and bustle of city life.

As has been stated, we have 62 cantonments in 16 States of the country. Cantonment Boards are autonomous bodies functioning under the overall control of the Ministry of Defence in the Central Government under the provisions of Cantonments Act, 1924. While initiating the discussion, the hon. Minister had said that it is an old Act and that none of us would have been born in 1924. To say precisely, it is an outdated Act. This Act has already been amended 28 times. Yet this is a very bulky Bill running into 113 pages.

The basic idea behind piloting this Bill, as has been stated, was to provide buffer, to keep a distance between the troops and the civilians. The second was to ensure availability of civilians nearby to take care of the needs of the Armed Forces. The third was to ensure minimum civic standards to the civilian population in cantonment areas. These were the three basic points which were required in a cantonment area, where a military establishment is there.

The existing Act is not geared to meet the economic and social challenges involved in the administration of cantonments. It lacks a proactive development orientation. With the passage of time, as I had said, many of the provisions of the Act have outlived their utility.

This new legislation has been brought in with a view to re-enact the existing Act in the context of the Seventy-fourth Amendment and to provide better urban management in the Cantonment. There are basically three points. This Bill envisages enhanced representation for elected members. Secondly, provisions have been incorporated to streamline financial administration and thirdly, extension of Centrally-sponsored development

[Shri B. Mahtab]

schemes in Cantonment has been incorporated. The fourth part, of course, has been deleted after the suggestion of the Standing Committee regarding land ownership, which earlier hon. Member had also mentioned.

I have seven points to make. One of the major aims of the Bill is greater democratisation of Cantonment Boards, which has already been mentioned. Clause 47 deals with power that is given to the Committee. Even the decisions taken by the Committee especially for civil areas can be objected to and can be stalled indefinitely making its existence infructuous. The very nominated members of the Board, who may be privy to that decision, can override even the decision of the full Board. This is in clause 56. These provisions smack of a colonial mindset. If you are democratizing, why do you have these clauses? These provisions do not in any way help in democratization of the Cantonment Boards.

As the Cantonments are spread over 16 States and in the National Capital Territory of Delhi, different municipal laws are prevalent in different States. There is a need to have a system of proper coordination with adjoining municipal bodies.

I come to the second point relating to clause 13. I would like to draw the attention of this House to clause 13 of the Bill. Wide powers have been given under this Bill to vary the constitution of Boards in special circumstances in case of war. There are a number of instances that were given. I would like to mention here that the special circumstances have not been specified, nor any time limit has been laid down within the varied Board must be restored or fresh elections should be held. Today, what is the position? Sixty-one Cantonments are functioning without elected members. These provisions need amendments and the maximum time limit of at least six months be prescribed within which the Board be restored or fresh elections should be held.

I come to my third point relating to clause 31. This clause authorizes the Government of India, the Union Government, to make rules for regulating elections, but no authority has been mentioned. Who would initiate the process of holding elections to various Cantonment Boards as and when they are due? It would be proper that the Ministry of Defence should designate one of its officers as Election Officer who would initiate the election process and supervise the conduct of elections in a free and fair manner.

There is multiplicity of authorities also in various provisions of the Bill in clauses 52, 53 and 77, and in serial number 5, 6 and 7 of Schedule V. These are likely to cause confusion because the Government has not examined it; this is my impression. There is a need to define the field of authority and the role of various functionaries mentioned therein. Starting from the Commander-in-Chief downward, multiplicity of authorities have been mentioned there, and it will lead to confusion. It is better if we define it.

Another point is that wide powers have also been given to the Chief Executive Officer (CEO), and no right of appeal has been given against the decision in a number of clauses in the Bill. There is a need to have an Appellate Authority to hear an appeal against the decisions of the Board, Civil Area Committee or any functionary of the Board, like the CEO. I feel that the CEO should only be a Secretary to the Board and should exercise only 'for and on behalf of the Board.' This has been mentioned by one of the hon. Members earlier here.

The Union Government should be made the appellate authority and it can delegate the power suitably. It is found that presently civil and military population ratio — it is very interesting — is 80 : 20 in various cantonments whereas land uses is in the ration 20 : 80, thus depriving the civil population of their basic requirements like education, health, sanitation, etc. There is a need to increase the civil area in various cantonments.

Lastly, I come to the finance part of it. The resources of the Cantonment Boards are limited as the bulk of the property in the cantonment is Government-owned on which no tax can be levied. The Union Government had provided — this is the information, which I could gather — financial assistance, by way of grant-in-aid, in 1999-2000, which was hardly Rs. 22 crore. What is the latest position? I would urge that more funds should flow for public health, sanitation, primary education and street lighting, etc.

In most democratic countries, forts and palaces have been held by armies or armed forces. Apart from the daily maintenance of the structure, there is an element of shine and ceremony, that a professional army adds to such historic sites. Buckingham Palace in London has the Brigade of Guards. Tower of London has the Yeoman of Guard, which is a unit of army pensioners. The US Army has all its major cantonments with the prefix 'fort'. The Jhansi Fort has been evacuated. The Kangia Fort

inhabited by Assam Rifles since 1891 has been handed over to the State Government of Manipur. It would be better — this is my suggestion — to keep the forces at historical forts along with a permanent presence of Archaeological Survey of India. It may not only be worthwhile but necessary if all these fascinating structures are to be maintained as a proof of our rich past.

SHRI SURESH PRABHAKAR PRABHU (Rajapur): The Cantonment Bill, which is under discussion in this House is a comprehensive legislation, dealing with various cantonment properties, cantonment areas that are situated in different parts of the country.

Whenever one moves away from a civilian area into the cantonment area, one is always startled by the difference that one notices. It seems that one is in a different country. The entire environment in that area is so-unique that it only reminds us of the areas by-gone and sometimes, we wonder why in the same country there should be some islands like this that exist and the other areas are unfortunately infested with all types of problems that are associated with civil and civic life.

Therefore, while it is important that we must democratize all the institutions in the country, at the same time, we must also think and introspect to find out whether democratization and the forces of democracy which are unleashed all over the country have been able to attain what was really aimed at — that is, to better the public life, the lives of the common man. We would see whether the quality of air has improved, whether the general quality of water has improved, whether the ambient air quality has improved, whether the lot of the common man has improved, etc. When we go there, we see a totally different change.

Therefore, I would really like to support the Bill and at the same time, we, the representatives of 1.1 billion people of the country, should really introspect to find out what has gone wrong. Day before yesterday, we celebrated India's Independence Day. We must really wonder whether in these last 60 years we have been able to attain what we started attempting. Therefore, we support the Cantonments Bill. Everybody sitting here is the product of democracy. We are elected by the people. This is the House of People. Democratic forces have to be supported. While doing that, I would appeal to the hon. Minister to deliberate on this issue and make sure that the Bill is passed.

In areas like cantonments, there are different islands. There are some unique structures in those areas. They are so different, that probably after some time if you demolish those structures, the entire humanity will lose something. It is not just Indian culture that is depicted there. Actually speaking, it is the culture of the whole humanity, which lives on this planet for so many years. That culture should not be destroyed. Democracy ultimately is the rule of numbers. If more number of people say to demolish the structure, I think we should not be able to do that. We must have enough safeguards in the Bill to make sure that such monuments, such archaeological structures are properly preserved and maintained and kept intact for the years to come.

I must confess that I have not read the Bill properly. I must give another glance to the Bill. I was going through the Bill and found out that there is provision which says that illegal structures will not be allowed to come up. Right now, in the National Capital of India we are grappling with an issue wherein the Supreme Court has said that illegal structures should not be allowed to stand. I think while we are coming out with a comprehensive legislation, I would appeal to the Minister to please do census of all the structures in that area, identify any illegal activity that is going on there right now and make sure that when we hand over these structures to be managed to the local bodies they will not be able to tamper with it and say that this was existing even before 50 years. As we have seen now, some of the structures could not be demolished because in India you can produce any evidence to say that it was existing even before 100 years. Therefore, we should try to make sure that such a census is carried out and all illegal activities should be demolished at once. If we do not do that, probably after some time we will see so much of mushroom of activities will come up. When we hand over the control of these bodies to the local self-government, they must have the inventory in the form of a register, which should be verified by a senior Army Officer saying that there is no illegal structure which has come up in that area.

My colleague, Shrimati Maneka Gandhi has moved an amendment, which I would try to support because this amendment is actually the spirit of the law which the Government is trying to introduce. It only elaborates further what needs to be done. For example, Clause 240, talks about making sure that structures are properly maintained. If you can make sue that this particular amendment, as proposed, is put in place, we shall ensure that you will be able to take it forward.

[Shri Suresh Prabhakar Prabhu]

We already have a new Forest Policy. The Report has been submitted to the Government by the former Chief Justice of India, Shri Kirpal, which says that 33 per cent of the land area must be covered with forests. It also says that we need urban forest. There are many cities in the country, world where there is a lot of urban forest. Hyderabad has also created a new forest in the last two years. I would request the hon. Minister, in each of these cantonment areas, to earmark at least one-third of the land for forest, fore green area, so that area remains intact for all the time and serve as lung not only for the cantonment area but also for adjoining municipality and adjoining areas where people are residing. I would request the Minister to take note of this.

I would like to make another point for kind consideration of the Minister. We are thinking of having potable drinking water quality. We are thinking of setting the standards. This House itself has deliberated this issue and it was said that potable drinking water standards should be specified. We are not able to do that all over the country for the simple reason, it is a mammoth task. We never had standards and it becomes difficult to introduce standards and straightaway start using them all over the country.

So I would request the hon. Minister to please think about introducing such potable quality water standards, at least, for the citizens living in the cantonment areas. Then what will happen is that the forest, water, legal structures as well as monuments which are there in that areas, as I said, would be a part of an ideal island. May be, the rest of the country will look up to that and say that we should also follow these islands and this island will become a part of the main land. Then India will become a better place to live in.

SHRI PRABODH PANDA (Midnapore): Sir, I rise to support the Cantonments Bill, 2006. I have listened to the speech made by the Minister at the point of its introduction. He clearly stated the position of the cantonments, short history of the cantonments and the need for democratization of the cantonments. I think that idea of this Bill is to give the deemed municipality status to the cantonments. It is just at an intermediary stage and moving from military *raj* to the self-government. This is neither military *raj* nor self-government as municipalities or the Panchayats. So, I do support this idea. But while supporting this Bill, I would like to make some suggestions and I also want some clarifications from the Minister in this regard.

The cantonments should have a system of proper coordination with the adjoining municipalities. Nothing of this sort is found in this Bill. In regard to alteration of limits of the cantonments, in Clause-4, it is said that public is allowed to give objections to the Central Government through GOC-in-C within six weeks from the date of the publication in the official gazette. But the public may not be aware of this fact. How will the public be made aware about it and how will they submit their objections within the prescribed limits to the GOC-in-C? So, some arrangements should be made for making announcements and for pasting notices in the public places.

Coming to Clause 10 regarding Cantonment Board, that provision is not clear. It is not clear as to whether the Board will get allocation of funds from the respective State Governments to which it has been allocated or directly from the Government of India. That is not clear. It should be made clear. In this context, I would like to know whether before deciding to give deemed municipality status, the Ministry of Defence had consulted the State Governments. There is an apprehension of conflict between the Centre, the States and the Cantonment Boards. So, we would like to know whether the State Governments had been consulted or not in this regard.

Coming to Clause 67, the civil residences of the cantonment should not be subjected to double taxation. All types of vehicles are taxed by the regional transport authority of the concerned district. So, double taxation particularly of vehicles and such other items should not be there.

Coming to point of assessment, the assessment should be done not in three years but in five years. It is our suggestion.

Sir, clause 240 talks about preservation of heritage and conservation of ancient historical monuments. I would like to thank the hon. Minister that they have thought of including such a clause in this Bill. But it has not been very clearly mentioned in the Bill. The provision, as made in the clause, should be made more clear. Also, what about the powers given to the GoC-in-C in this regard? He should be given the responsibility for this. He should be given all responsibility in regard to the Cantonment Board.

Sir, about clause 249 I would like to say, this aspect has already been mentioned by hon. Member, Shri Mehta, that there should be a provision made for an appeal against the decision of the Board. There should be a

provision made for creation of some sort of an appellate authority.

Sir, clause 265 gives the power to the Cantonment Board to inspect and regulate any market situated even beyond the jurisdiction of the Cantonment Board. Now, how can a Cantonment Board be authorized to inspect and regulate something beyond its jurisdiction? This aspect is not understood. This should be corrected so that a Cantonment Board is not authorized to intervene beyond its jurisdiction.

Sir, I am thankful to the hon. Minister who said in his initial remarks that for other military camps and establishments the Government would think of bringing about a separate legislation. That is a welcome step.

Sir, with these words I support the Bill and I hope the hon. Minister would ponder over all the points that have been raised here.

SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI (Pilibhit): Sir, my colleague, Shri Suresh Prabhu has spoken extremely well about what we need to protect in the Cantonment Boards. I was born into the Army and brought up there. Anybody who has live in the Cantonment in the early part of their lives will never forget the experience of being there. We should always want, as Shri Prabhu has put it, to benchmark the cantonments as an aspirational ideal of what India should be. Therefore, rather than dragging or giving the ability to someone to bring the cantonments to the civilian level, it would be better for us to aspire to be like them.

15.28 hrs.

[SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL *in the Chair*]

Sir, I am not going to speak for long. I just want to say that the 62 Cantonment Boards have some of the finest monuments, but for some bizarre reasons we regard heritage only those monuments that have been built by men. We do not regard as heritage what nature has given to us for free. Recently, I wanted to put some captured wild animals into the deer forest in Chandimandir, but I was informed that the Army had turned this deer forest into a cricket ground and nothing had been more upsetting than this latest information. I would like to request the hon. Minister to protect the environment, which means, trees, atmosphere, quality of air etc. as part of our natural heritage. Environment should be regarded as

heritage specifically and it desperately needs protection. The Cantonment Bill,, 2006 gives power to the Cantonment Board, in Clause 64, at page 105, to conserve heritage and frame byelaws. However, nothing has been said about environmental protection. In the case of the municipalities, the State Governments have the power to protect both the heritage as well as the environment, especially if the municipalities do not act. In case of the cantonments, the authority, as is given to the State Governments in case of the municipalities, is the General Officer Commanding-in-Chief. The Goc-in-C needs to be given the power to protect the heritage of environment. For this purpose, I have moved an amendment. The amendment is for line 9 at page 73, after 'sanitation' if the hon. Minister would be good enough to insert or, for the purpose of conservation of ancient and historical monuments as defined, or of heritage or of environment.

Sir, I will not be here tomorrow. I have to leave urgently. Therefore, nobody will be moving this amendment. Whether or not it is moved, it is your country as much as it is mine. As the hon. Minister for Defence, I am sure, you would like to preserve it. I know the hon. Minister would say 'no' in any case because the Bill has already been passed by the Rajya Sabha and so it would be difficult for the Government to take it right back and every person in the Executive would try to avoid that. But if he could find a way in which the environment could be protected on paper, because once we give them a loophole then everybody will misuse that, then I would be grateful.

DR. COL. (RETD.) DHANI RAM SHANDIL (Shimla): Sir, I rise to speak in support of this Cantonment Board Bill which has been presented to this House after it has been passed by the Rajya Sabha. This Bill was long overdue. The hon. Minister deserves all the praise and commendation for having brought forward this legislation to this House. The hon. Minister, I would say, has served a great national cause by doing so. It is because after 82 long years, the inhabitants of cantonments will be having a feeling of democratization. At the same time, in the entire context of the clauses, it is seen that the character of the cantonments has been preserved.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, out of the 62 cantonments that we have in our country, four are in my parliamentary constituency alone. I wish to submit that I have been associated with the cantonments from my early childhood. I have been a student in cantonments. I had joined the Armed Forces because of the impact of cantonments,

[Dr. Col. (Retd.) Dhani Ram Shandil]

because of the life in cantonments, because of its ordinariness and its organized way of life.

Sir, this Bill contains some salient features. It is meant to provide greater democratization by conferring them with the status of a municipality. I think, this Bill aims at moving towards a more liberalized form because the number of elected and nominated members are equal in number and they also are being sought to be provided with powers. I think, it is a step towards democratization. There is a provision for developmental activities and centrally-aided schemes, in public interest, now can be taken up.

Clause 31(b) seeks to provide reservation for women and also for persons belonging to the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes community and the cantonments are also sought to be now divided into various wards. There is also a proposal for improvement of the financial base of the cantonments. The cantonments is now proposed to be divided into for categories. It has been categorized as follow: Category I for a population over 50,000; category II for a population between 10,000 and 50,000; category III for a population between 2500 and 10,000 and category IV for a population up to 2500.

So, cantonment which literally means temporary quarters for the troops ironically became permanent quarters for the troops from the British period onwards, as has been brought out by various hon. Members who spoke earlier. And it became an inseparable entity of our country. We are seeing it from the British period till today.

The first and the oldest cantonment, as was clarified by the hon. Defence Minister, was not in 1758 but it was in 1765. The cantonments in Barrackpore in West Bengal and Danapur in Bihar were simultaneously raised in 1765. Over a period of time, a large number of people got attracted presumably because civic amenities were better available there and elites wanted to live in a more enters fashion. As was brought by Shri Suresh Prabhu, when you walk into a cantonment from a civic area, you find that there is a drastic change. You find a change in ambience. You find many gardens, buildings, cleanliness and roads which are properly maintained. The entire atmosphere in fact is changed there. I wish to follow this example in the rest of the country. The example of cantonments should be followed in the rest of the country so that our country can move ahead. We find that, in the Western world, most of the towns are just like cantonments.

Sir, I have gone through the reply given by the hon. Defence Minister in the Rajya Sabha. Out of 92 recommendations given by the Standing Committee on Defence, 42 recommendations have been accepted as we see it in the Bill now. It is a commendable effort. Out of these, I wish to touch upon the most important one, namely, defence land measuring around 15 lakh acres.

I must compliment the hon. Defence Minister, the hon. Prime Minister, the Cabinet and the Chairperson of the UPA for the strategy and policy adopted for the use of defence land. In fact, the term used by the Defence Minister in the Rajya Sabha was that we should try and avoid land grabbing. Really speaking, that is not the real sense of the term. I would like to dwell upon it a little further. It is not only that the cantonments or the military stations are located in prime land but we must also think about the role of the Armed Forces in today's context. We must know that there is security concern also. Depending upon the nature of the job of the Armed Forces as such, there should be a change of policy found everytime. There is a need to research. In today's context, when we have institutes of higher learning of international standard, there is a need to have such land available with the Armed Forces. There is a need to have this land under some scheme of things so that you can build institutes of international standard like good stadiums, etc. If primary land is used for high-rise buildings or for commercial purposes, then we will not be left with land that is required for the next generation. Personally feel that this policy that has been adopted is a welcome aspect. Today, when technology after technology is sweeping the globe, we require for research and learning. For that, we need defence land, leave aside DRDO and other requirements that we find.

I would now come to the second point which Shri Mohan Singh also brought out. After all, why should we say to take away the power which should not be taken away from an elected member?

I will give you an example of my constituency. There are too many contentious issues. They have come up so many times in Kausali and Subathu Cantonments. I know that we, the Members of Parliament, and the MLAs do not have the voting power. But even then, when we cooperate with the authorities and when we ourselves intervene, every contentious issue gets attended to.

Similarly, I feel, there has to be a unity of purpose. We have to realize that our Army officers in uniform are

no different. They are also thinking of the welfare of those inhabitants. Really speaking, in Subathu Cantonment, when I was a student, there used to be a great respect for the Commandant of the Centre, who was the Station Commander. Even now people have high respect for him. So, it is a question of how we sit and sort out issues. If we keep on only worrying about our powers, as to how much power one elected body has or the nominated people have, then, I think, things will not be sorted out, even if the powers goes the other way.

I feel there is a need to understand that the officers of the armed forces are also one among us and that they are trying to look at things in an objective manner for the welfare of inhabitants; for the law and order there; for the peaceful living; for the organized living; for the healthy and happy living in the Cantonment. That is exactly the aim. That is why the hon. Defence Minister, while replying in the Rajya Sabha, said that it is the privacy of the armed forces and that it should not be construed as an autocratic way of living or in any such connotation. Really speaking, they will be able to preserve their beauty, charm and glory that we have been seeing over the years better. If it is gradually shifted, probably, it might get disturbed. All the same, if there is a need to amend it, I am sure we, the Members here can always amend it in the times to come and implement the provisions of the Act. ... (*Interruptions*)

The next point is about heritage buildings. That is a very important point. I think it was very adequately covered by the hon. Members. The important areas should be protected. In Shimla, we have Annandale Grounds. It has been the target of civilians, who wanted to have buildings there, but it has not been handed over. It should be done all over the country. ... (*Interruptions*)

I think the Government, as rightly brought out by the hon. Defence Minister, always thinks about the society. Substantial land for the Metro in Delhi was transferred from defence land. The same is the case in Bangalore and Pune. It has always been given when it is in the national interest.

I feel it is a welcome Bill. In the final analysis, it is a very welcome Bill. I would like to give one or two suggestions with your permission. There is a long-standing demand from the inhabitants of Subathu Cantonment of Himachal Pradesh for construction of a hospital. It is a very genuine demand. The hospital has to be built in the same place where it was earlier made. We require your

blessings. Once the Act is implemented, elections be conducted without delay. We may ponder over the status of the CEO, Chief Executive Officer.

With these words, I fully support the Bill.

SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU (Srikakulam): Mr. Chairman, Sir, the Cantonment Bill, 2006 is a very comprehensive Bill. This Bill contains 360 Clauses and five Schedules.

According to clause 10 of the Bill,, "Every Board shall be deemed to be a municipality under clause (e) of article 243P of the Constitution." After 73rd and 74th Amendments to the Constitution, we have given more autonomy to the local bodies, like gram panchayats, zilla panchayats and the municipalities. After the introduction of this clause 243P, we have given deemed municipalities. According to 73rd and 74th Amendments, there shall be a Financial Commission to provide financial resources to the municipalities and the local bodies. This is also based on the constitutional amendment. I am requesting the hon. Minister to provide a financial commission, and to provide funds to the deemed municipalities of these Cantonment Boards. Then, only the Cantonment Boards will get more finance. They can meet the demands of the civic needs and other things.

Secondly, there shall be an Election Authority. They should conduct elections every five years without any gap. That is the mandatory provision under the Constitution. But here there is no Authority. They may conduct or they may not conduct elections. That is why, on the basis of the Constitution, you have brought this comprehensive Amendment Bill. Under clause 31, you have mentioned about the election authority, how to conduct elections and power to make rules regulating elections. But you have to add that there should be an Election Authority. The Election Authority will conduct elections every five years and also help in preparation of the voters' lists. Without any authority for the preparation of the voters' lists conducting elections, there is no sanctity in the Bill. So, normally, the authorities will not go for the elections. Why is it so? It is because this is a semi-democratic Bill. In the municipalities and Gram Panchayats etc., all the representatives are elected by the people. As per this Bill, 50 per cent of the members are nominated by the Government and 50 per cent of the members are elected by the people. The head of the Board is the head of the Cantonment Board governing it. So, he is the Chairman of the Board. That is why,

[Shri Kinjarapu Yerrannaidu]

elections should be conducted every five years without any delay.

Thirdly, the benefits or the advantages of the Centrally sponsored schemes are to be seen. Normally, there is the Bharat Nirman Scheme. Out of the Bharat Nirman Scheme, we are providing funds to corporations, major municipalities which are having a population of more than 10 lakhs. But there should be a provision that once we are providing Rs. 1,76,000 crore to the municipalities and corporations under the Bharat Nirman Scheme, these centrally sponsored schemes would also be implemented in those cantonment areas. Out of the Bharat Nirman Scheme, some percentage of the money should go to these cantonments and financially, they would get more money to meet the demands of the citizens, particularly in Secunderabad which is one of the biggest cantonments in India. Three hundred and fifty years back, the first cantonment was established in West Bengal's Barrackpore District. So, after 350 years, so far 62 cantonments are there and after the Independence we have established only six cantonments. The Secunderabad Cantonment is a big cantonment. People are suffering from octroi and double taxation. Even many times they are collecting motor transport toll tax also. Along with the cantonment, the Hyderabad Corporation is there. If they have a vehicle and they have to go and come ten times in a day, then they have to pay ten times this motor vehicle toll tax etc. The poor, petty vendors, hawkers etc., everybody is suffering. So, since so many years there is a demand for abolition of the octroi tax and also toll tax.

Sir, we have a lot of heritage. We have to protect our heritage. So, this is an alarming situation. All our heritage buildings are in a dilapidated situation and their condition is deteriorating. So, the Government of India should take care to protect our heritage. This is our nation's culture. It will reflect to the people everywhere in the world.

Thirdly, as far as environment is concerned, we have enough lands. Each acre is costing some crores of rupees. Now, land-grabbers and unauthorized persons are occupying our lands. Only two lakh acres of land in under the control of the cantonments and other 15 lakh acres of lands is beyond the cantonment areas. We have to protect our 15 lakh hectares of lands by bringing a separate legislation to protect our lands. Under this Cantonment Act, there is no provision other than the cantonment lands. I am requesting the Government of India to bring a separated legislation to protect other than the cantonment area lands.

Under this Cantonment Act, there is no provision for other lands other than the Cantonment lands. I am requesting the Government of India to bring forward a separate legislation to protect the lands other than the Cantonment area lands. By making this suggestion, I am particularly requesting the hon. Minister to abolish the octroi tax and the toll tax. Otherwise, people will suffer a lot.

With these suggestions, I am supporting this Bill.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Next, Shri Chandrakant Khaire to speak.

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI): Sir, before he speaks, I would like to submit that we have already given notice to the hon. Speaker's Office saying that our Law Minister will move a Resolution at Four of the Clock contained in the Supplementary List if he is permitted. Since the debate on farmers has been fixed at Four of the Clock, we would request that the rest of the speakers can continue tomorrow and then the Minister of Defence will reply tomorrow.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Up to what time, will it continue?

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Up to Four of the Clock the debate will continue. At Four of the Clock, the debate relating to the Agriculture Ministry will take place. Then, the Defence Minister will reply tomorrow.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The rest of the speakers will continue. Is it all right?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Yes.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: My only request to the Chief Whip of the principal Opposition is that if he can help reduce the number of speakers, it would help us because the time that was allotted has already surpassed. So, I cannot accommodate many Members.
... (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: He is not winding up the discussion. We will continue it.

... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN: This discussion will continue tomorrow also and the Minister will reply. We have to decide it, there is no objection on it.

SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN (Indore): We should also be given opportunity to speak. ... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: The time which has been fixed for discussion can not be further extended. How the listed business will be taken up?

SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE (Aurangabad, Maharashtra): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am very thankful to you that you have given me opportunity to speak. ... (*Interruptions*) There are 62 cantonments in country and one such cantonment is in my constituency Sambhaji Nagar, Aurangabad which I have represented four times, twice as a Member of Legislative Assembly and two times as an M.P. We have carried out development works from MLA funds, after that at present no amount from MPLADS and MLA funds is being allowed to be utilized. I want to tell hon'ble Minister, through you Sir, that we have told them that it is our fund and he should ensure its utilization. Then they gave approval but Cantonment board could not spend it. Development works are being done there due to toll tax works but Cantonments do not get any money from the Union Government. After 82 years the Act of 1924 is being separated and therefore, I welcome it but I want to say a few more things. Mr. Chairman, Sir, you have made few suggestions as a Chairman of Standing Committee out of which some suggestions have been accepted and some have not been accepted. Therefore, the democratization and pro-civilian set up we want, seven members will be selected from there because my Cantonment will be a class two Cantonment and we will have seven officers. A Brigadier will be its Chairman while the Vice Chairman will be from civilian side. He will not have much say there. Many members from there have met me several times and asked me to speak when this Bill comes up for discussion. There were no toilets, bathrooms, drain lines in Cantonment board area. When I was Minister in Government of Maharashtra, they approached me with all relevant papers. As that time Shri Kishor Kachwah was Vice Chairman there. I met the then Prime Minister Shri Narsimha Rao. He was also holding the defence port folio. I urged upon him whom he accepted and drainage lines were laid with a cost of at least Rs. one and half crore facilitating easy habitation of people there. But not other maintenance is in place there. There are no hospitals, roads, park or gardens, grounds or other civic amenities there. There are roads through army land in Cantonment area, as you have to take road for airport

through my constituency. I want to tell hon'ble Minister that every alternate day accidents are taking place between S. club to Cantonment area. I have been following up this issue 12 years but nothing has happened. When I was a member in Standing Committee during 13th Lok Sabha, I talked to D.G., Land and said, if you give recognition to the road leading to highway which is a State highway connected to national highway then it will be four lane road. But so far it has not been given recognition. I want to say that such small land development works are pending for many years because permission has not been granted so far. I urge upon you to make provisions for according permission of these works in the next Bill.

Our old bypass is Beed and if we go ahead for that then we find that the road beyond Gulwadi has been closed. They say that we will not be allowed to go through the military land. That road is still closed. You had been the Chairman of the Standing Committee so you may be having a lot of experience. Likewise the condition of persons living in the cantonment board is very bad. Their houses are very old. They are in dilapidated condition for years because nobody is there for the development of these houses.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, you had raised this issue yesterday. The number of his family members has increased. If he has been given F SI-II. He should get this right also, as we are converting it into a municipality. I would like to mention two or three issues more. There has been made a provision under sub section B of Section 96 at page No. 37 of the Chapter, to appeal against order issued by this District Court. Under this section, the provision to repay the disputed amount decided by an appeal under sub section B is unjustified. I would like that provision should be deleted or an order of this intent should be issued because we still can not make amendments. The provision to submit the amount should be deleted.

Section 101, at page No. 38 mentions about CEO i.e. Chief Executive Officer. I would like to say that you make CEO a Member Secretary but do not transfer all the powers to ECO otherwise the voice of the public will not be heard if brigadier and CEO are made all in all. Hon'ble Sharad Pawar is sitting here. I would like to request him to provide some facilities in the rest of cantonment Boards also, he has provided in the Pune Cantonment Board. All Cantonment Boards should be like Pune Cantonment Board. Under Section 197 at page 63

[Shri Chandrakant Khaire]

of chapter No. 9, the penalty of Rs. 2500 for the use of potable water for other purposes is not suitable. My humble request is that this penalty should not be imposed. Further, Section two which provides for a penalty of Rs. One lakh should not be there. This is my request. People living in the Cantonment Boards should be provided all the facilities. Cantonment area should be developed. People residing there should get the same facilities as are available in the municipality area. With these words I conclude my speech.

SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR (Bareilly): Mr. Chairman, Sir, you are on the Chair now and the Cantonment Amendment Bill was recommended by that very Standing Committee which worked under your Chairmanship. This Bill was introduced in the Rajya Sabha. As you were telling yesterday that you had suggested 95 amendments out of which Government has accepted only 42 amendments and the rest 53 amendments were not accepted. It can be understood as to how much this Cantonment Bill was needed. ... *(Interruptions)*

16.00 hrs.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Gangwar, now it is 4 O' Clock, you can speak later. This discussion would continue.

16.01 hrs.

DISCUSSION UNDER RULE 193

Widespread distress among the farmers in the country

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN SINGH (Deoria): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am happy that a discussion was held in the last session also regarding the poor condition of farmers and agriculture in the country and six hours time has been fixed for the discussion on this issue. It is often said that when a long discussion has been made in the last session and hon'ble Members also asked a number of questions to the hon'ble Minister by way of a number of questions and answers, then why the discussion was deemed necessary in this session? Replying to the discussion in the last session, hon'ble Minister had said that out of the total number of suicides committed in the country, 16 percent suicides are committed by the farmers who commit suicide because of their compulsions and about

one lakh farmers have resorted to commit suicide due to their problems during the last decade. It is a serious challenge to the country like India and an attempt made by our Agriculture Minister to face this problem, the Prime Minister of our country had visited Vidarbha where the maximum number of suicides have been committed by the farmers. After the visit of 30th June and 1st July, the Prime Minister had announced a package for farmers in the six districts of Maharashtra. Prime Minister and the Agriculture Minister have paid attention towards those six districts of Vidarbha where, it is assumed maximum suicides have been committed and the Government of India has announced a subsidy of Rs. 712 crores to the farmers as a special package to waive off the interest on the loan. The Government of India provided Rs. 700—800 crores to make dams and for irrigation. According to the news that on the same day when Prime Minister had announced the package, two farmers committed suicide and on an average the farmers commit suicide in Vidhabha. The task force formed by the Government of India included a total of 31 districts of India out of which 17 districts from Andhra Pradesh, 6 districts from Maharashtra, 9 districts from Karnataka and 3 districts from Kerala had been selected. It does not mean that the rest farmers of the 600 districts of India are prosperous and they do not need any subsidy or package. I would like to urge as to whether the Government of India, by giving package to the areas where the farmers commit suicide is giving message to the farmers from far off Bihar, Jharkhand, Eastern Part of Uttar Pradesh and Bundelkhand area of Uttar Pradesh who do not commit suicide despite all adverse circumstances, that they should also resort to the path of suicide if they need any package, only then Government would give package to them to solve their problems.

If the Government of India wants to send such a message; then I think it is wrong one and it should not be done. The problems of all the farmers of India are same. That's why, as you will find it, the contribution of agricultural sector in formulating the schemes and in the economic development of the country is declining day by day. During the First Five Year Plan of our country the contribution of agriculture was 56 per cent and the same had declined to 24.3 per cent during 2001-02. Now, if the accurate figures of Tenth Five Year Plan come out, we will see that the contribution of agricultural sector has declined to 16—20 per cent. Recently, Planning Commission has submitted the approach paper of 11th Five Year Plan. If the same is studied properly, we will find that there they mention of getting 8 per cent growth

rate in our economy. But to get 8 per growth rate in the economy, the contribution of agriculture sector must be 4 per cent. But in the same review we see that during the 10th Five Year Plan the contribution of agriculture in the development of the country was counted 3 per cent, but now this has declined to 1.5 per cent. During the years 2003 and 2004 the direction of agricultural growth has been reversed. What are the reasons therefor? There cannot be anything more unfortunate and deplorable than this fact that the agriculture sector of this country where two third population is dependent on agriculture, where work force is dependent on agriculture, constitute 59 per cent of the population and that has 11 crore agrarian labours is on a decline and has shrunk to 1.5 per cent. Why is such thing happening? Why is agricultural development being hampered day by day. The Ministry of Agriculture is required to undertake a threadbare analysis of all these things. The Government claims time and again that it achieved the target fixed for providing loans to the farmers before the end of the year and we will tackle the problems of the farmers by way of disbursing the loan of Rs. 1,76,000 to the farmers. According to me, this perception of the government is not in the proper direction. The proposal to improve the condition of the farmers by means of disbursing loan to them is nothing else but a new way to make them slaves. So, the Government of India should seriously ponder over it.

Presently which are the States where farmers are committing suicide? Most of the cases of suicide belong to those States where the maximum number of farmers are indebted. In Andhra Pradesh 80 per cent farmers are indebted and hence they are committing suicide there. In Maharashtra, 65 per cent of them are indebted and there they are committing suicides. Minimum loan is a grace on farmers from the Bank. On account of some circumstances or the other the loan could not be disbursed in Bihar and hence, despite poverty, the farmers of Bihar are not committing suicide there. The commercial banks have not opened up their branches in Uttar Pradesh leading to the non-disbursement of the loan and hence even after facing a number of hardships, the farmers of Uttar Pradesh are not committing suicide. So I am against the concept of solving the problems of the farmers by providing loans to them.

Presently, farmers require urgently two or three things. The farmers should be given remunerative prices for their crops. The Government should take it into account. Of late, the Government of India has increased the price of

sugar by 70 paise, while today sugar is being sold at the rate of Rs. 27 a kilo. The day is not far when the same will be sold at the rate of Rs. 30 a kilo. During the last one year, the prices of sugar has risen from 45 to 53 per cent whereas the prices of sugarcane has witnessed the increase of only 75 paise. Even this nominal increase is causing uneasiness for them who are involved in the progress of fixing price. In these circumstances it seems that major problem lies with the Government in providing remunerative prices to the farmers. The Government of India increased the purchasing price of the paddy by Rs. 10. What a shameful matter it is that the prices of foodgrains are soaring high. Whereas the government has increased the prices of paddy only Rs. 10 per quintal. Wheat was not purchased and we are compelled to import wheat. The Government says that it can purchase even 45 lakh tonne of wheat. The people of the country are not told as to how much wheat Government will purchase, whether five, ten or 19 lakh tonne of wheat. When asked about the amount spend on the wheat exported from abroad; the Government said that the cost on the purchase of wheat from Australia and transporting the same to Madras amounted to Rs. 992 per quintal. The price of that wheat will be crossing even Rs. 1000 a quintal after transporting it to Lucknow. But the farmers of our own country is paid only Rs. 650 per quintal. That is why the farmers did not sell their wheat to the Government. Later on, Hon'ble Minister of Agriculture announced the bonus of Rs. 50 per quintal. Why was this given? The reason behind this was that if the price of wheat had been determined Rs. 700 per quintal, the same would have been determined Rs. 950 per quintal for the next year. So, determine the price of wheat Rs. 650 and give the bonus of Rs. 50 thereon, so that there is no need to increase price for the next year. Consequently, the farmers did not sell their wheat to the Government. The multinational companies and private companies purchased the wheat of the farmers at the rate of Rs. 830 per quintal and exported the same. Today, you are compelled to import wheat to control the prices of the same. Hon. Finance Minister announced in this House that the subsidy he had given on the fertilizers this year amounted to Rs. 18500 thousand crore. Who receives this subsidy? The Standing Committee on Agriculture opines that subsidy should not be given on fertilizers. You do not provide direct assistance to the farmers. You provide subsidy on the fertilizers to the major companies but that does not percolate to the farmers. The prices of agricultural produce of the farmers should be determined by way of adding 30 per cent profit to the aggregate cost on the crop. There should be

[Shri Mohan Singh]

guarantee for the payment of such amount. If such measures are not taken we will not be able to prevent the farmers from committing suicide.

Third thing is that the multidimensional nature of agriculture is changing now. It is very unfortunate that our population has gone around 108 billion. Two or three things are inevitable to feed such a large population. At the same time, pulses, and oil seeds are not being grown according to the requirements of our country. Today, the things which are most affected by the price rise are pulses. They are major sources of protein for the poor but today price of black gram is Rs. 65 per kilo and the prices of pigeon pea has gone up to Rs. 45 per kilo. The pulses have gone beyond the reach of the common people. Edible oil is the second need of the common man. Today the same is also required to be imported. That's why I would like to say that the farmers should be trained in such a way that he may be encouraged to grow pulses and oilseeds and their propensity for growing traditional crops such as wheat and rice may be brought down.

Sugar production decreased last year in our country and due to the surge in its price we had to import it. After three years when sugar cane production increases, its prices come down sharply and the farmers do not sow sugar cane. Again its price goes up and farmers sow sugar cane. There must be stability in this. Hon. Minister of Agriculture appreciated Uttar Pradesh and we extend thanks to him for his appreciation. Maharashtra had been the leading producer of sugar till date but following the unceasing efforts of two years, Uttar Pradesh became the leading sugar producing State and we produced sugar two times more than that of Maharashtra. Our sugar cane production increased three times more than that of Maharashtra. The Uttar Pradesh Government got the government mills and private mills paid Rs. 7000 crore to the farmers. Consequently, the wealth of the farmers accrued resulting in salability in their lives which was followed by the confidence in them that the farming can be source of their income. The Government should also make sincere efforts towards bringing about stability in sugar-cane farming.

Why did the yield of wheat decrease? Hon. Minister of Agriculture might have got an analysis of all these things made by his department. The Kharif Crop got boosted but the forecast made in the economic survey turned out to be wrong. During this year the crop of wheat was not as per estimate made by the agricultural

scientists in the economic survey. The reason behind the low yield is that the hybrid seeds are imported into our country and the same is required to be changed every year. Our problem is that 90 to 95 per cent farmers hold even less than two hectare of land. Those farmers cannot afford the hybrid seeds as their financial condition is not well. They are not able to use as much quantity of fertilizers as is required. They cannot use pesticides and they do not have as much money as is required to increase their cultivation. I would like to urge that the assistance should be given to the farmers on the basis of acres of land they have, instead of considering the types of crops being shown by them.

The farmers suffer due to natural calamity. Some areas are covered with floods and some areas suffer from drought. The data received from a small State Gujarat shows that the flood in the city has caused the loss of 30 thousand crores. I think, in future the data of all the States particularly of Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh and Gujarat will show the killing of crops of one lakh crore, this will be loss to farmers. Our government do not pay attention to the sufferings of the farmers brought out by the extreme weather conditions. It is generally seen that due to excessive rain when some areas are covered with floods, other areas are hit by drought. During this year weather caused this type of situation in India. In three States it rained heavily and it was drought in the remaining States of North India. And the targets of these natural calamities are farmers and their crops. Farmers should be given subsidy on the basis of money invested by them acre wise for the production of grains and accordingly there should be insurance policy. The flood relief and drought relief provided to the farmers are very meagre and government does not pay attention towards it.

The agriculture of this country is dependent on vagaries of the nature. About 60 per cent of agricultural land does not have irrigation facilities even after so many years of independence. Irrigation projects should be extended. Very often it is said that our natural water resources are depleting. Scientists of our country are saying that Gangotri glacier of our holy river is depleting. If Gangotri depletes completely then natural water resources of our country will last no more. Many times, this matter has been discussed in the Parliament. Scientists and our Government have stressed to formulate plan for conservation of natural raining water and also for recharging of under ground water. There are many

parts of the country where there is regular drought. For example, Marathwara area of Maharashtra, when it rains in the entire India in Marathwara it rains below average. I have been seeing for last 20 to 25 years. Since I come into the politics. It rains lower than average in Rajasthan and for last 10 years it has been drought in Rajasthan. The drought damaged all the crops there. We cannot make arrangements of irrigation for the areas which are regularly hit by the drought that is known to us by weather and forecast by the scientist.

Alongwith this I would like to say that in the areas where it has been raining above average continuously, we have digged so many tube wells that the level of ground water is depleting. Therefore a national programme for water recharging and water harvesting should be prepared and a special investment should be made by the Government of India. I will conclude with two or three suggestions.

You cannot improve the condition of farmers by putting them under the burden of loan. The first way of improving their condition is to give them remunerative prices of crops. The second way is that all the agricultural investment should be within their reach on easy interest. Third, farmers should be made aware of which crop will fetch good returns for them. For this Government of India is opening Agricultural Centre that should be reviewed. The Minister of Agriculture should call the said scientists. We have serious objections against them. I would like to say with great regret that Shri Swaminathan's has demanded to increase the budget for agricultural research from 14 per cent to 20 per cent. But, we say that increase may be not 20 or 25 per cent but 30 per cent but what is outcome of this? What are agriculture scientists doing? Agriculture scientists should tell about it. With a bit sorrow I just narrate my experience of my constituency that an Agricultural research centre was opened there but that is not functioning at all. No scientist has gone there. They do not want to go in interior areas. This is governed by the people sitting in Varanasi. This is the condition of all the agricultural research centres in entire India. No scientists want to go in the interior to train farmers. Therefore, a review should be done of agricultural research centres. We should insure the presence of agriculture scientists at agricultural research centres and training should be imparted to the farmers. They should be told about recent development in knowledge, recent

agricultural technique and invest of fertilizers therein. We see that in many areas land is losing its fertility. Shri Swaminathan ji says that the farmers should be told the capacity of soil after surveying. Why this fertility is decaying? The reason is that the land requires manure and fertilizers. They use nitrogen more than required because they do not get supply of fertilizers and if they get it is very expensive. They use urea in their fields and this creates imbalances in the fertility of the soil. Due to their ignorance they do not use it in a proper way. Therefore, they are the farmers who required most of the training and technical know-how of the agriculture.

Alongwith the farmers should be motivated. The farmers do not take loan for investing in agriculture. They invest in other sectors. Last time the Minister of Agriculture stated it rightly that they use their money on mortgaging their agriculture land, for arrangement of their daughter's marriage ceremony. If any one is sick in their family, on operation and transplantation of kidney an amount of Rs. 3 to 4 lakh is incurred. On open-heart surgery an amount of Rs. two lakh to Rs. two and half lakhs is increased and for these treatment they have to get money by mortgaging their three acres of land and they uses the amount there. They do not have repaying capacity. Therefore, an arrangement for their treatment should be made.

Alongwith, a meeting with the banks in rural areas should be held and there those banks should be considered favourably that have opened their branches in remote areas during last three years. The Minister of Finance claims that an amount of Rs. one lakh and seventy five thousand crores has been distributed but he does not know the amount taken away by the middlemen? Today, the farmers in villages have to depend on loan at the rate of 25 per cent (Chavanni sud). These banks do not give assistance to the farmers who borrow money from private market. Therefore, they have to borrow from money lenders. More and more Branches of commercial banks should be opened in rural areas so that the farmers could get loan from banks on easy terms for investing in their agriculture without paying any bribe.

With these suggestions, since all hon'ble Members have to express their views, I conclude my speech and initiate the discussion on this topic.

16.25 hrs.

**MOTION RE: CONSTITUTION OF JOINT
COMMITTEE TO EXAMINE CONSTITUTIONAL
AND LEGAL POSITION RELATING TO
OFFICE OF PROFIT**

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now the House will take up Item No. 6-A.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN (Chirayinkil): Sir, please allow me for a minute. ... *(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Let the hon. Minister complete.

... *(Interruptions)*

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ): Sir, I beg to move:

"That a Joint Committee of the Houses to be called the Joint Committee to examine the constitutional and legal position relating to Office of Profit be constituted consisting of fifteen Members, ten Members from this House to be nominated by the Speaker including the Chairperson of the Joint Committee and five Members from the Rajya Sabha to be nominated by the Chairman, Rajya Sabha.

2. That the terms of reference of the Joint Committee shall be—

- (i) to examine, in the context of settled interpretation of the expression "Office of Profit" in article 102 of the Constitution and the underlying constitutional principles therein, and to suggest a comprehensive definition of "Office of Profit";
- (ii) to recommend, in relation to "Office of Profit", the evolution of generic and comprehensive criteria which are just, fair and reasonable and can be applied to all States and Union Territories;
- (iii) to examine the feasibility of adoption of system of law relating to prevention of disqualification of Members of Parliament as existing in the United Kingdom and considered by the Constitution (Forty-second Amendment) Act, 1976; and

(iv) to examine any other matter incidental to the above.

3. That in order to constitute a sitting of the Joint Committee, the quorum shall be one-third of the total number of members of the Joint Committee.

4. That the Joint Committee shall make a report to this House by the winter Session of the Parliament.

5. That in other respects, the Rules of Procedure of this House relating to the Parliamentary Committees shall apply with such variations and modifications as the Speaker may make.

6. That this House recommends to the Rajya Sabha that the Rajya Sabha do join the said Joint Committee and communicate to this House the names of the Members nominated by the Chairman, Rajya Sabha to the Joint Committee."

... *(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That a Joint Committee of the Houses to be called the Joint Committee to examine the constitutional and legal position relating to Office of Profit be constituted consisting of fifteen Members, ten Members from this House to be nominated by the Speaker including the Chairperson of the Joint Committee and five Members from the Rajya Sabha to be nominated by the Chairman, Rajya Sabha.

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existing in the United Kingdom and considered by the Constitution (Forty-second Amendment) Act, 1976; and

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4. That the Joint Committee shall make a report to this House by the winter Session of the Parliament.
5. That in other respects, the Rules of Procedure of this House relating to the Parliamentary Committees shall apply with such variations and modifications as the Speaker may make.
6. That this House recommends to the Rajya Sabha that the Rajya Sabha do join the said Joint Committee and communicate to this House the names of the Members nominated by the Chairman, Rajya Sabha to the Joint Committee."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN (Balasore): Sir, this is not correct. ...*(Interruptions)* Please allow me....*(Interruptions)*

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI): Sir, we gave a solemn assurance in the House during the debate and we complied with it. ... *(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: The hon. Minister has already explained why the Motion has come before the House.

[Translation]

Discussion is never made on a motion for the Committee.

... *(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: Sir, this is wrong. What the hon. Minister is saying is wrong ... *(Interruptions)* This is what the hon. Leader of the Opposition was trying to say then. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Nothing will go on record.

...*(Interruptions)**

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, I would like to make it clear that we gave our assurance to the House during the debate and we complied with it. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: As per the commitment, the hon. Minister has explained it.

... *(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Nothing is being recorded.

...*(Interruptions)**

MR. CHAIRMAN: As per the commitment, the hon. Minister has explained why the Motion has come. They have complied with it. Kindly cooperate.

... *(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Nothing will be recorded.

...*(Interruptions)**

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: Sir, this is not proper. ... *(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer): Minister should come here. ... *(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: You should listen to him.

... *(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: There is no discussion at all when the Motion is moved for the formation of a Committee. The House is aware. There is always no discussion when the Motion is moved for the formation of the Committee.

... *(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Kindly do not create a new precedent. Kindly hear the hon. Minister.

... *(Interruptions)*

*Not recorded.

MR. CHAIRMAN: If you do not want to hear the hon. Minister I am helpless.

... *(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Kindly hear the hon. Minister. Kindly keep quiet.

... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, first of all I would like to inform the House through you that during the course of the debate on Office of Profit..... *(Interruptions)* I think you are being misled. ... *(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: He is a competent Minister of Parliamentary Affairs. How can you challenge him?

... *(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Kindly sit down. Kindly hear the hon. Minister. Kindly cooperate.

... *(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Kindly sit down for a minute. Please hear him and then, you can do as you like.

... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, I do not understand ... *(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Kindly hear him. Kindly co-operate. Nothing is going on record. You first hear what he wants to speak. Let the Minister speak. Then, you have the right to speak. Let him explain. Nothing is going on record.

...*(Interruptions)**

MR. CHAIRMAN: Kindly do not record anything other than what Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi speaks. Only what the Minister explains may be recorded.

...*(Interruptions)**

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, during the course of the debate on Office of Profit Bill, Government gave a solemn assurance to this House and the other House that an appropriate Committee would be constituted to look into all these things in a comprehensive manner.

*Not recorded.

We have simply complied with our assurance. ... *(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Kindly sit down. You know that as per the Minister's explanation, the Government had given an assurance and they have complied with it. Every Member is very learned and knowledgeable. When the Motion for an appointment of a Committee is adopted, no discussion takes place. So, do not create a new precedent. Kindly sit down.

Shri Kailash Joshi.

... *(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Discussion is being held on farmers, please let that discussion continue. Farmers are committing suicides, they are in danger. Let us have a discussion on the problems of farmers. These things will continue. What the farmer will think. We are in trouble and discussion on us is being interrupted. Farmers will have a wrong impression about you.

[English]

Let the discussion under Rule 193 be allowed further.

... *(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN: All of you please take your seats. What the farmers will think of you? As a mark of respect for farmers, let the discussion going on under Rule 193 be allowed further.

... *(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Your party Member is going to speak. He has been the Chief Minister. He is a very learned and respected figure.

... *(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Rasa Singh Ji, you please sit down. A member from your party is on his legs. You let him speak. Please, sit down. Is this the way we function?

[English]

Kindly sit down.

... *(Interruptions)*

[*Translation*]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Kindly sit down. I have already mentioned, when the motion for formation of a committee is moved, no discussion takes place on that statement. We can not adhere to new rule, new precedent.

... (*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Nothing is going on record.

...(*Interruptions*)*

[*English*]

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA (Panskura): Sir, I am making a point.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Dasgupta, once I permit one Member, then I have to permit everybody. Kindly co-operate. Now the Motion is moved and accepted. Why should we make a new precedent when there is no such rule?

... (*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Dasgupta, kindly co-operate. Now, the Motion is moved and accepted and the Committee is formed as per the assurance given. The Minister has explained this. Once I allow one Member, I have to allow all the Members. This will be converted into a discussion, and discussion under Rule 193 will be bypassed. So, kindly do not create a new precedent.

... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: When the motion is moved, Members are at liberty to raise questions and seek clarifications. ... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Shri Dasgupta, do not teach me parliamentary practice ... (*Interruptions*)
When there is a Motion, the Members can either support it or oppose it. ... (*Interruptions*) I am sorry.

[*Translation*]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Rajya Sabha holds discussion on statement but in Lok Sabha no such discussion is held on statement. Do not form a new rule.

[*English*]

Kindly sit down.

... (*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please cooperate with the Chair. Let us continue with the discussion under Rule 193 on the issue of farmers.

... (*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Let the discussion on farmers take place.

AN HON'BLE MEMBER: Mr. Minister has left.

MR. CHAIRMAN: People do leave when their job is done. It has nothing to do with the Minister leaving the House.

[*English*]

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: Sir, I have a point to raise in the House. ... (*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Nobody has run away from the House.

[*Translation*]

When he moved the resolution, his job is over and he left. A discussion under Rule 193 on farmers is taking place, you participate in that. Do not make a new rule now.

... (*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: Sir, I am on a point of order. ... (*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Kindly sit down, and let us continue with the discussion under Rule 193.

... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI VARAKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: Sir, I am on a point of order. ... (*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Kindly cooperate with the Chair.

... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY (Puri): Sir, the Minister should not have left the House like this after moving the Motion. ... (*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Why you people are creating a new situation?

... (*Interruptions*)

[Mr. Chairman]
[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Motion was moved, and the House accepted the Motion. Now, you cannot have new procedures and rules for it. Therefore, kindly cooperate with the Chair, as you all are aware about the rules to be followed in the House regarding this issue.

... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN: He left after his motion.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: Sir, I am raising a point of order. As regards this Motion, the Law Minister could not have read it and went away after doing it. ... (Interruptions) Is this the way this House is to function? Is this the way the Lok Sabha is to function? The hon. Members must be heart in the House. ... (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Kindly do not misunderstand and misinterpret the things. I do not accept this conduct by the hon. Members.

... (Interruptions)

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: Sir, I raised an objection at the very outset. This is a matter, which has been considered by this House, and returned to the President. Now, a Committee has been appointed. This Office of Profit Bill has been discussed in this House twice, and sent to the hon. President. ... (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Radhakrishnan, nothing will go on record.

...(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, I think that the hon. Members. ... (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: The hon. Minister wants to say something on this issue. Please allow him to do so. Nothing else will go on record.

...(Interruptions)*

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: Sir, this is a mockery. ... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN: If you do not want to listen to Minister, what is the way out?

... (Interruptions)

AN HON'BLE MEMBER: Kindly call Hon'ble Minister.

[English]

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR (Bangalore South): ... (Interruptions) where has it been put for the consideration of the House? ... (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Member, you are a senior and learned Member of this House. You are very well aware that a Motion was moved, and the House accepted the Motion. What more is to be done in it? Now, we can go to the next item before the House.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR: No, Sir. It was not so. ... (Interruptions)

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY; Sir, you have not gone to the next item. The Members are agitated, and some of them are ... (Interruptions)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: You only shout, and you do not have the patience to hear others. Kindly allow me to explain the position. ... (Interruptions) Mr. Malhotra, please allow me to speak. You can speak a little later. We are unnecessarily getting agitated because during the concluding part of the debate on the Office of Profit Bill, in both Houses, our hon. Law Minister did reiterate not once but thrice that this is a one-time legislation. It was further stated that the comprehensive matter of this issue, which has been raised, should be looked into by a Committee appointed by the House. We gave this assurance in that House, and in this House. Therefore, we are only complying with that assurance. There is nothing new in it. ... (Interruptions)

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: Sir, we are not discussing the merit of it. ... (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Kindly hear what Mr. Malhotra has to say.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Will you not hear your own Party colleague?

...(Interruptions)

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: Sir, I had raised this issue at the very outset. ... (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Radhakrishnan, please sit down. Nothing is going on record. Nothing should be recorded other than the submission of Mr. Malhotra.

...(Interruptions)*

[*Translation*]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA (South Delhi): Mr. Chairman, just now Shri Dasmunsi has said that. ... (*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Motion has already been moved, and it has been adopted.

... (*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: What can we do about it? It has already been approved.

... (*Interruptions*)

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Sir, there are two points in it. Firstly, he says that they had announced in the House that a Committee would be formed for it. It was passed on 31st July, and today is 17th August.

[*Translation*]

For 18 days, they hardly bothered about constituting any committee or doing any thing.

[*English*]

The second point is just look at the motion that has been moved. The Minister moved this Motion.

[*Translation*]

No Joint Select Committee can be formed without names.

[*English*]

Names of the Members who form the Joint Select Committee have to be mentioned in the motion.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: It is the Speaker who has to appoint the Members.

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: I do not remember even one case where a Joint Select Committee was formed without the names of the Members. The names of the Members have to be mentioned in the House.

[*Translation*]

It is not proper to try to get it passed without moving it, without giving the names of Members. On that day, it was decided that all the Members holding the offices of profit will resign from their offices and then only it makes sense to set up this Committee. It is not proper for you to get it passed without moving it, without giving the names of Members. It was decided on that day that all the Members holding the offices of profit will resign from those offices and then there is some sense in formation of this Committee.

[*English*]

They are continuing in their offices. Now, you say in the motion that the Committee will decide what is an "office of profit".

[*Translation*]

Both these things are totally contrary and diametrically opposite. You have to decide that whether any Joint Select Committee can be constituted without given names, whether such thing has happened till date? You have to look into it. ... (*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: Sir, I am on a point.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Gurudas Dasgupta, kindly go on.

... (*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: I have called him, kindly cooperate Prabhunath Singh ji. Shri Gurudas Dasgupta, kindly go on.

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: I am saying only one thing. The hon. Minister of Parliamentary Affairs will kindly consider the point. There is no question of opposing the motion. The motion has to be adopted, and a Joint Parliamentary Committee has to be formed. There are no two opinions on that. The second point is, the Government is only fulfilling its commitment to the House, and that is also true. Definitely, the Government has to be complimented for that. However, that is not the bone of contention. Hon. Chairman, and hon. Minister of Parliamentary Affairs, the point is that when a motion is moved in the House, if a Member or Members want to make submission, they should be heard. We shall pass the resolution unanimously, but we should be heard. The way it was done, I do not think that it sets a good precedent. ... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: We must be heard.

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: I disagree with the hon. Member that the motion should be passed with names. You will remember that I was a Member of a Joint Parliamentary Committee, in which you were also a Member. ... (*Interruptions*)

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: I was not a Member. Which Committee are you referring to?

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: I am referring to the Joint Parliamentary Committee on Security Scam of which I was a Member. The names were not mentioned in the House. ... (*Interruptions*) Please listen to me. The House passes a resolution, and then the hon. Speaker will nominate some Members from this House, and the hon. Chairman of Rajya Sabha will nominate some Members from the other House. This is the normal system. However, I wish to say that the way the hon. Minister of Law and Justice behaved in the House is not the way he should have behaved. ... (*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Let us hear Radhakrishnan first. He has been agitating for long.

[English]

Now let me do justice by giving the floor to Shri Varkala Radhakrishnan, otherwise, he will not allow you to speak.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: Hon. Chairman, Sir, I am not opposed to the motion. The question is that there are some parliamentary norms to be observed. This is a House constituted under the Indian Constitution. This is the Lok Sabha. The Minister has come and moved the motion, which was circulated just now. We did not even get the time to read the motion. All of a sudden, he stood up, read the motion, and then you said that it was passed. Is it the right way of doing things? It is very shameful for this House that the Law Minister comes, moves the motion, and then leaves the House without hearing the people who are here. We have a right to say on this matter. This is a constitutional issue. You remember that the office of Profit Bill was discussed thoroughly twice in this House. The first thing we did was, we discussed it, passed it, and then sent it to the President for his approval. The President had scrutinised it and returned the Bill. We had again passed it without any amendments, without any changes, and then sent it to the president, and the President is legally bound to put in his signature.

He has not done that so far. We do not know what happened to the signature. This procedure could have been followed before passing the Bill the second time. This Resolution could have been passed before passing the Bill. After receiving the Bill back from the President, the lawful procedure open to the Treasury Benches was to move this move referring the matter to the Joint Select Committee for legal interpretation and other things. That is the proper way. That is the democratic way. This is something unjust and illegal. It cannot be passed like this. I am sorry that in this old age I happened to be a witness to this undemocratic way. ... (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Radhakrishnan, you have made your point.

... (Interruptions)

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: I am extremely sorry. Is this a library meeting? This is Lok Sabha. ... (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Radhakrishnan, everybody has a right to speak. Kindly do not monopolise the time of the House.

... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH (Maharajganj, Bihar): Mr. Chairman, Sir, Hon'ble Minister made an announcement and he moved a motion, we do not have any objection to that, but the moment he was reading the motion and people from both side were expressing their opposition, they were not heard. Mr. Minister ... (Interruptions)* He left the House, it is contempt of this House.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, kindly call the Minister here, he has committed contempt of the House ... (Interruptions) He should say sorry here then you run this House.... (Interruptions) This is contempt of the House. ... (Interruptions)

SHRI JAI PRAKASH (Hisar): How is he saying so. ... (Interruptions) He always speaks that way. ... (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Kindly sit down. If there is anything unparliamentary, it will be removed. Do not worry.

... (Interruptions)

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: Mr. Chairman, Sir, this is most deplorable and unfortunate thing. ... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Mr. Chairman, Sir, if Minister is not coming then he should*. ... (Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: The Minister left the House when the business was being transacted. The Minister moved the Motion. He had not even consulted the Opposition. Hon. President has not given his assent yet to the Bill that was approved for the second time in both the Houses of Parliament. This is a sensational issue. The entire country is watching this. The entire intellectual community is waiting to see what happens. ... (Interruptions)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, it is most objectionable to discuss the hon. President on the floor of the House. ... (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: I agree with you.

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: Sir, when Members from the Treasury Benches as well as Opposition were agitating to seek some clarifications, the Minister immediately went out of the House. Is this the way a responsible Minister should treat Lok Sabha? ... (Interruptions) He is a respected person and a senior Minister. How could he treat Parliament this way? We demand that the Minister should come to the House. Otherwise, we will not allow this House to run. I would request you to ask the Minister to come to the House and apologise for his misbehaviour. It is then that this House will run. This is my demand.

MR. CHAIRMAN. Kindly sit down. You have made your point.

... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN: You have said what you had to say, now let Mr. Geete speak.

... (Interruptions)

*Not recorded.

[*English*]

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: The Minister must come and apologise. ... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, The Minister need not apologise. He has not done anything contrary to the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the House. Everybody has a right to move a Motion and go out the moment the business is over, unless the Chair directs otherwise. ... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: The entire country is witnessing this. ... (*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Geete, kindly address the Chair. They will keep quiet. Hon. Members, kindly cooperate. Kindly sit down, all of you.

... (*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE (Ratnagiri): We do not have objection on motion, but on the method.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Geete ji, you should address the Chair.

... (*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: I am giving an opportunity to Shri Anant Gangaram Geete so that discussion on farmers could be started soon.

... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE: Mr. Chairman, Sir, we do not have any objections to motion moved by Minister of Law but after that when our Minister of Parliamentary Affairs said that after moving the motion and passage of the same, if he wants to go, he can go. We do not have any objection to even that but when the motion was moved, voting was conducted, then more than half of the Members were agitated. Voting was not done. ... (*Interruptions*) When voting stage came, at the point of time more than half of the Members got agitated. ... (*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: When 'Ayes' was done then only I made the announcement. You see the records.

[*English*]

It is there. Nobody challenged at the time When I announced. After my announcement, then, the Minister left the House.

... (*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE: You made the announcement, but at that point more than half of the members became agitated and objections were being raised then Minister left. ... (*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: It is a different thing to raise objection then saying 'no' and giving acceptance is a different thing.

... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE: Minister of Agriculture is saying that he did not runaway, he left, but I want to say that his behaviour was not proper. He should have stayed on in the House. I do not have objection to whatever you are saying or Minister of Parliamentary Affairs is saying that the kind of behaviour Minister of Law has showed is not proper and it tantamount to contempt of House. ... (*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: I am on a point of order.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Under which rule?

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN (Balasore): Under Rule 349.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: During the course of the Debate of Discussion under Rule 193, how can a point of order be raised on the matter of Motion? You cannot. It could be done before the Motion. ... (*Interruptions*) Point of order can be raised on Discussion under rule 193 not on any other issue. ... (*Interruptions*) During the debate on Rule 193 on agricultural issue, point of order can be raised. Before that, on any other issue, we can merely discuss in the House. No point of order can be raised. ... (*Interruptions*) I strongly say that the matter which is disposed of, on that, no point of order can be raised. ... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: This is my point of order. ... (*Interruptions*) Sir, you reject my point of order. But let me register it. ... (*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: What is your point of order?

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: Rule 349, clause (xvii)—
Whilst the House is sitting, a member shall not leave the

[Shri Kharabela Swain]

House immediately after delivering his speech. ...
(*Interruptions*)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: It is the 'Member'. He is not a Member of the House. ... (*Interruptions*) It applies to you.

MR. CHAIRMAN: There is no point of order.

... (*Interruptions*)

16.54 hrs.

[MR. DY. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

[*Translation*]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the manner in which the business of the House has been conducted was very wrong and improper. If it is not being accepted and Mr. Minister is saying that it has been passed then it is wrong. If this House is going to be conducted like this then we are staging a walkout. ... (*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

In protest, we would like to walk out. ... (*Interruptions*)

16.55 hrs.

(*Prof. Vijay Kumar Malhotra and some other hon. Members then left the House*)

16.55 hrs.

DISCUSSION UNDER RULE 193—*Contd.*

Widespread distress among the farmers in the country

[*English*]

SHRIMATI PRENEET KAUR (Patiala): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I thank you for giving me time to speak on this very important subject, 'widespread distress amongst the farmers of India.'

With your permission, I would like to dwell on the most important aspect today, which is of the Minimum Support Price. The recent decision to enhance the MSP from Rs. 600 to Rs. 610 per quintal is just too meagre

to provide for the cost of inputs of the farmers. The increase of Rs.10 does not even cover the increase in the diesel prices over the last year, let alone any other input.

This, it is felt, is adding to the economic miseries of the small and marginal farmers who constitute almost two-thirds of the farming community of Punjab and other parts of the country. Such a meagre MSP would also de-motivate the farmers, compelling them to move away from foodgrains to more remunerative cash crop patterns. This could cause severe shortages of foodgrains. We saw this in the last season when the wheat procurement was well below the target that was desired and this was because the farmers were not paid the MSP commensurate with the market prices.

I strongly feel that we should not repeat the same and should not re-visit the same issue of MSP when the paddy season is coming up. I feel that MSP should be raised to at least Rs.700 a quintal. MSP is the price of the agricultural product which is supposed to be announced before the starting of the sowing season. It gives a fixed price for the farmers and the Government accepts any quantity of the produce, if the market rate is below the MSP. The Government, in all its wisdom, fixes certain norms and parameters for considering the fixation of MSP — cost of production, input, output, other prices and everything else.

If the market prices are higher than the MSP that the Government fixes, it may not ensure the desirable quantum of procurement, that is, for the requirement of buffer stock, for TPDS and for food for work programme, etc. since there is only one MSP fixed for the whole country, the basis for fixing this needs to be reviewed. In some States like Punjab, Haryana and Western UP, the cost of production is high because of mechanization and other capital investments for irrigation and improvement of the land.

In these areas, due to this massive investment in infrastructure, productivity has been higher and these areas ensure that national food security and national food self-sufficiency are there. The announcement of increase of Rs.10 in MSP for paddy does not even cover the increases due to inflation in the last year which has been approximately five per cent. So, in real terms, the MSP has now been reduced to what it was last year. The MSP for agricultural products and commodities is the prime indicator of how we look at the wellbeing of the farmers.

But unfortunately, the MSP is more often suppressed due to considerations other than the economic issues, irrespective of the food stocks that we have for food security, and the prices are kept down to the minimum. I mean, when the food stocks are plenty, the increase of MSP is Rs.10 and now when the food stocks had been exhausted and when the country is buying from other countries at a higher price, the increase is still Rs.10.

17.00 hrs.

To my lay mind, this really is not economics. The insignificant increase of MSP of rice and wheat over the last five years has been the major factor for the increase of the farmers' indebtedness. The rate of growth of paddy over the last three years has fallen from six and eight per cent to which it had gone up in eighties down to two per cent. Even the rainfall in the country, as my colleague has mentioned, which they say is normal during the monsoon, is deficient in many parts of the country. According to *The Tribune*, in Punjab itself, except for five districts out of 19, the rest are facing drought-like situation. This is causing immense pressure. People and the farmers are very hard working. We are faced with three major problems.

The power situation is very bad in Punjab. We have been trying to give eight hours uninterrupted power to the farmers at the cost of Rs.6 per unit, which in spite of putting no burden on the farmer — giving him free — does not even cover half the cost of the inputs that the farmer is having. This is because in this drought like situation he has to rely on diesel operated pumps. About 94 per cent of Punjab is irrigated either by tubewells or by canals and this is done at the cost of farmers. He has to keep his crop growing in the drought like situation and to keep the stocks of the country growing. The hike in the diesel price has cost him Rs.220 per quintal in excess. According to the informed sources, the increase per acre is Rs.2500 to Rs.3000 more than last year. Minimum wage of the agricultural labour in Haryana and Punjab has also gone up by five per cent. Since these are two major States that contribute major food grains to the Central pool, we both have been asking for an increase in the MSP. This will help the farmers to service their debts and contribute to negate to some extent the agrarian crisis we are facing.

The agricultural crisis in the States like Punjab and Haryana is marked by a stagnant productivity and a decline in the net income of the farmers. This decline is

because of almost freezing of prices of food grains by the Government of India and the other increasing prices of the inputs, such as fertilizers, diesel, pesticides, etc. The prices of wheat and rice produced by Punjab have increased by 51 per cent during the last decade whereas the prices of inputs for us have increased by about 127 per cent during the same period. So, you can see the difference of what the farmer has to suffer. This alone has led to a phenomenal indebtedness of the farmers.

The total interest liability of the farmers of Punjab is to the tune of about Rs.40,000 crore, which is almost 25 per cent of the gross income. This debt crisis becomes more severe for the small and the marginal farmers, which in Punjab forms about 65 per cent. A recent study of the Punjab Agricultural University has indicated that the level of the small and marginal farmers in Punjab is even below the class-IV employees and because of the ever-increasing debt burden there has been a very little capital formation and investment in the agricultural sector. Today, Sir, while I have spoken about the MSP, we have to make a concerted effort to solve this crisis that the farmers are going through. An over all picture of diversification and relief for rural indebtedness and a level playing field for the future is a must. All aspects of our life are taken into consideration by the Government. Probably, the *kisan*, the *khet mazdoor* form the largest area in India and for the sake of our future, the future of our children and our country, this sector has to be given top priority. No matter what else we put on the back burner, the *kisan* must not be made of suffer.

The other pressing need which I would like to put forward to the hon. Minister is that the need of the hour is the requirement of DAP for the *rabi* crop of 2006-07. This is about 5.5 lakh metric tones and 80 per cent which is about 4.4 lakh metric tones will be needed at the time of sowing which would be between 25th October and 15th November. We would need, at least, four lakh metric tones to be placed there before the sowing starts.

Lastly, as I represent the State of Punjab, I would like to request that the Government should ameliorate the immediate financial crisis faced by the farmers of Punjab and give a debt relief package of Rs.2060 crore.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon. Members, more than 45 speakers are yet to speak on this subject. So, those hon. Members who would like to lay their speeches on the Table of the House, they may do so. That will form part of the proceedings.

[*Translation*]

SHRI KAILASH JOSHI (Bhopal): Hon. Deputy Speaker Sir, two annual budgets of the UPA Government have been passed and in both of the Budgets assurances were given to solve the problems of the farmers on priority basis. They are going to complete two years, but if you leave aside the immediate relief, the basic problems of the farmers have not yet been solved. Debt of the farmers is continuously increasing, after all what are the reasons therefore? I believe that some of the farmers would have spent the money in marriages or any other things, but all the farmers have not done so, then how they have become loanee? Why are they committing suicide after taking loan? What is the root cause behind this, the Government have never tried to know it during last two years? Now the outcome of this is coming before us. A few days back the Prime Minister had visited Vidarb region and he had announced some special package for Vidarb region in the month of June. It has been more than two months since but that money has not reached to the farmers. Chief Minister of Maharashtra had visited there in December and he had announced a package of Rs. one thousand crore. Now we have come to know and it is true also that package has not reached to the farmers till now. ... (*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Nothing should be recorded except the speech of Shri Kailash Joshi.

(*Interruptions*)*...

[*Translation*]

SHRI KAILASH JOSHI: If this situation prevails, then how the basic problems of agriculture sector and farmers would be solved by this Government? Today this question has arisen before us. Now such a situation has occurred in our country that if any Minister goes to the farmers then he has to face their anger. A sense of gross disappointment is prevailing amongst the whole farmer community. He has heard the views of the Hon. lady member who have spoken before me. He does not pay attention to my views but atleast you should pay attention to what she has said. Whatever she has said before you is a hard fact. The Government should have taken some steps to solve their problems but the Govt. is not taking

any steps. Now you are seeing the consequence thereof. Hon. Minister of Agriculture belongs to Maharashtra. A few days back he had gone to Maharashtra what he had seen there. When he had called upon the farmers to have the discussion with him then how much anger and excitement the farmers had shown before him over there. This is the situation there. We want that the Government must take some steps to solve this problem.

Before this, there was NDA Government. NDA Government had raised three-four issues during their tenure, which could prove to be helpful in improving the lot of the farmers. On that issues also, be it the issue of crop insurance, reducing the interest rate of loan of the farmers, or constructing rural godowns and cold storage in a large number in the villages only half the work has been done. The most important issue was that of an inter linking of rivers. We had gone through the speech of His Excellency Rashtrapati ji which he had delivered on the eve of the Independence day i.e. 15th August. He had also emphasized on the need to interlink rivers. This may be an important measure to stop this havoc in the country today. Honourable members who have spoken before me have also said about this. There is heavy flood in a number of states and a number of other states are suffering due to drought. That is why NDA Government had formulated a scheme to start inter linking of river movement. A committee was set up under the Chairmanship of an hon. Member of this House and that Committee had done a lot of work in this regard. But when your Government took over the charge, the same has been put on the backburner. It is being said that work would be done on interlinking of river movement, but nothing has been done on its report. They have neither turned the pages of the report nor have they considered that report. Hon. Minister of Agriculture should go into the root cause as he is capable enough to do so. He is a farmer and has an attachment with agriculture. But we are sorry to say that despite him being a Minister of Agriculture, whatever should have been done in the agricultural sector, is not being done.

Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, we all know that India has been predominantly an agriculture country for thousand of years. Here, the agriculture was so advance that people from all over the world come here to see the methods of farming, quality seeds and advance agricultural resources being used here. Farmers themselves use to prepare the seeds. Lecturers living in Gurukul in the village use to teach the teachers, they also use to share knowledge

with the farmers and they themselves use to do new experiments in agriculture. The experiments are being made even today also. The member moving the motion has himself discussed about this. Please tell us as to what type of advantage the country is taking through these experiments. What type of new experiments are taking place in our country and how much benefit the farmers are getting from these experiments. Even today the condition of the farmers of our country is such that they get spurious fertilizers, spurious pesticides and spurious seeds. What steps the Government is taking to improve the lot of farmers, this is what we want to know from you in this House.

This system has been in practice for many years but in the meantime where our quality seeds have disappeared. I know, there was an agricultural expert in Madhya Pradesh. He had told that about 300 quality paddy seeds have been taken away by foreign countries and we do not have the quality seeds. The farmers who had kept the seeds with them, they can provide the seeds. Seeds of Jwar and wheat are also not traceable. I know that in foreign countries also they conduct new experiments. If advent of any country technology should be welcomed but before welcoming there is a need to think over the possible utility of the sow seeds for our agriculture for which in my opinion, there seems no system in place this. Agricultural experts are sitting there in ICAR but the concrete result is not reaching to the farmers. You will have to take care of that also.

Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, farmers of our country were taught Japani cultivation. Now only God knows that how much benefit has been accrued from Japani cultivation but what I know's that when there was drought in our region after that the farmers started saying that by saying Japani repeatedly, the water has gone and there is no rain fall. We have not conducted any inquiry into the result of such experiment. As it come from the foreign countries, we accepted that in toto.

Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, I am sorry to say that even today, that very system is being followed. I have with me a book which has been published by cotton Growers Interests Protection Association of Gujarat. The title of the book is 'BT Cotton—A painful episode, need for a Thoughtful policy.' What is the view of the Government about the things written in that book, because we have come to know that most of the suicides have been committed by the cash crop producing farmers whereas farmers producing foodgrains have not committed suicide

to that extent. Sugarcane farmers have not committed that much suicides. Most of suicides have been committed by cotton growing farmers. This has been analysed in detail in this book.

Although, I accept that the Government have not reached any agreement with an American multinational company Monsanto, yet it has signed an agreement with a private company in Maharashtra. The same company Monsanto has entered into an agreement with a private company in Gujarat. The farmers over there had to face the consequences of both the agreements. Even today I know that its mixed response is BT Cotton. I have also talked to the farmers of some of the regions in this regard. From the information provided to me I gathered that at some places BT cotton achieved good results and the farmers also got the benefit from that, at most of the places benefit of BT Cotton has not reached to the farmers. Therefore, I want to say that there must be research in this direction. Now we are not concerned as to in which direction ICAR is doing research. What we are concerned with is that benefit of the research must reach to the farmers which is not happening at present unfortunately.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to give another example after this. I have with me a letter from the all India Cotton Farmers Action Committee. They have written a very long letter. In this letter, they have paid special attention towards the fact that why is it that we do not take any measures for the protection of agricultural sector and farmers, as are taken in the foreign countries. I am aware of the fact that in the WTO meeting which took place recently, our Hon'ble Minister had stated that all of us will have to reconsider our higher amount of subsidy. This is just one side of it. I think that it was good that our hon'ble Member had said so, but there is another side of this also and that is, if the farmer is left to commit suicide like this and no measures are taken to save him, then where would this situation lead to — can we not think in this direction? Should we provide some other kind of relief to the farmer so that the burden of his debt could be reduced and there could be some improvement in the quality of his life and as a result the pace of development of agriculture could be increased. What is required is that we need to think in this direction even today? We have never pondered over this issue. And the result is that as honourable members who have spoken prior to me have stated and I would also like to repeat the same thing that the support price be increased by Rs. 10, but whether any method to fix the support

[Shri Kailash Joshi]

price is available? Once I had heard that the Government had decided to include one farmer for the purpose of fixing the support price. Probably, a farmer from Punjab was once included in the panel for one year, but once he presented his views before the panel, he was removed from the panel in the second year itself. We would like to urge that a representative each from the big farmers, medium farmers and small farmers should be included in the panel meant for fixing the prices of agricultural products. They must present their views and while accepting their views, we can take good decisions and in fact, it should be done. But no steps have been taken in this direction.

Sir, should we keep waiting that, as long as the court does not reprimand us, we will not take any steps. Hon'ble Minister, Sir, this Government has set a record in this regard in the last two years. The Government never initiates any step as long as the court does not reprimand it or pulls it. Just two days back the Supreme Court has stated that the Government must conduct an enquiry and inform the court as to why the farmers are committing suicides? Now, the Government will have to conduct an enquiry into this. So far the Government itself could have conducted an enquiry on its own and identified the reasons behind the suicides being committed by the farmers? Recently, when the Pepsi and Coke issue came up, Hon'ble Minister gave no reply to that. He merely said that the actors and sports persons should not advertise for them, but he has not mentioned anything about whether he will stop it or will it continue. Nothing has been stated in this regard. Even now, it is being stated that they will deliberate on this and see by the end of this year as to whether they are to be stopped or not. Which is this direction that we are moving towards? When people are accepting that these soft drinks contain such things which are harmful for human beings. Even then the Government is not taking any step. After all, why such a situation has turned within the last two years?

Just a few days back, a matter came up. Our Minister of Parliamentary affairs had said that discussion is being held regarding the agriculture and farmers and therefore, no other issue should be taken up in the meantime. I would like to know from the Government as to what powers the Minister of Law had got to bring any motion in the house when discussion on agriculture had already started. This motion could have been brought the next day, but he is empowered to move a motion and if any objections were raised by one side or by the House, by

not just the opposition but also from different parties of the ruling alliance, the objections are not being heard. It is so because he believes that the majority is with them and therefore, today, they can do whatever they want to do. There may be any amount of opposition on the Office of Profit Bill but if they have to pass it, they will pass it, but now when they come to know that the Bill is not getting accent from the President, then the Government has now changed its stand. Why does not this Government take some steps in the interest of democracy? I do not want to speak much on these issues; I would rather like to draw more attention towards agriculture only...*(Interruptions)* Although the imbalance between agricultural produce and industrial production has been constantly increasing since a long time but the manner in which this imbalance has grown during the last two years, has developed an explosive situation. It is not only a cause of concern for the farmers but also for all of us. To what extent the prices of the products produced by the factories have gone up during the last two years, whether there has been any increase in the prices of agricultural produces in comparison to it? If we do not work towards creating a balance in this direction, then I am sorry to say to the Minister of Agriculture that these cases of suicide by the farmers are not going to stop. How many packages would the Government provide, the government would go on giving the packages and the farmers would continue to commit suicides because they are under heavy burden of loan. Some of the things of which the prices have increased are—iron, cement, agricultural implements diesel, petrol, seeds, fertilizers etc. The Government must be having better data as to what has been the percentage of rise of the prices of these items. I would like to request him to take some immediate steps in this direction and evolve some new system and measures for creating a balance between the agricultural produce and the industrial production and these measures should be implemented with immediate effect. The condition of the farmers of the country has become worse and the Government has failed to take adequate and timely action to check it. Now what is required is that there are certain matters which can be resolved unanimously. He can constitute a special committee in this House if he desires so. In that Committee, he must include such members from all the parties who have special knowledge about agriculture. Then they must decide as to what the Government wants to do. They should find out a solution unanimously, then only some change can be brought. If this arrangement is not made, then the situation is going to become more explosive and more complicated. Hon'ble Minister of Agriculture must

also be realizing it as we are realizing because we are observing this thing daily.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to give some unanimous suggestion... (*Interruptions*) They are saying to give these suggestions, so I would like to say you also please listen. Outside our country a lot of research has been done on organic farming and fertilizer and its use has also increased. In our country also there is a need to use it expeditiously. Research has also been done in our country also but I believe that its use has not increased as fast as it was required. The results of using chemical fertilizers have been reported to be bad in some states. The fertility of the land has been reducing with the use of these fertilizers. I do not say that chemical fertilizers be banned totally because today the farmer would not like it; but the Government should make such an arrangement that a balance could be established between chemical fertilizers and organic farming so that the fertility of land is not adversely affected. The production in our country is not increasing rapidly. New experiments are being made out, new developed seeds are coming into the market but still the development is not taking place at a pace at which it was required. This is not just a matter pertaining to cash crops. Soyabean crop has been destroyed at a number of places because the farmer could not get good quality seeds. The Government must think over this issue also. I believe that the Government would definitely think over it.

Co-operative sector is also related to the agriculture sector. The condition of the people is deteriorating in co-operative sector also. Certain people have entered the co-operative sector that is trying to derive all the benefits from this sector. If we see, we will find that out of the 100 co-operative banks at the district level, only 20 are functioning properly, the remaining banks are running into losses. The condition of all the Agricultural Development Banks is very poor. The Government should take some immediate steps in this direction. An Act in this regard was enacted some two-three years back but the benefit of that Act has percolated down to the lower level co-operative institutes.

17.28 hrs

[SHRI MOHAN SINGH *in the Chair*]

Hence special efforts should be made in the cooperative sector. If new laws are needed to change the pace of cooperative movement, then new laws should

be enacted. In this regard, all party consensus should be achieved because everybody is aware of the fact that today cooperative sector is facing the problem of mismanagement. As I have said that NDA Government had started this process and later on they were least bothered about it. You must let us know if you know about the improved data. We are getting information that matter of godwons to be built in the rural area have been put on back burner. Issue of cold storage has also been put on back burner. Despite being attention paid towards cold storage since our independence agricultural product worth crores of rupees are perished due to lack of cold storages and godwons in adequate numbers. I can recall that Congress Party had constituted an Agrarian Reform Committee. That committee had recommended in its reports that India will continue to advance towards progress if attention is paid towards two points. One of these was that farmers should be paid adequately and another point was that godowns should be built in villages so that farmers are not forced to sell their produce immediately after its harvesting. Government should work in this field very expeditiously.

Farmers should be involved in the process of fixation of price for agricultural produce. Once it was done but later on it was abandoned. This needs to be taken up again and as I have said earlier that big, medium and small farmers should be made members so that they can explain their position about the cost of their produce and on the basis of that what would be the minimum price of their produce.

Laws have been there regarding blanket ban on cow-slaughter in the whole country except two or three states but I have no hesitation in saying that these laws are being violated. Beef is being exported. This should not be taken as religious faith only but it is also important from an economic point of view. So, I would like to say that ban should be imposed effectively on cow slaughter and export of beef should also be banned.

Today, we have only small farmers in the villages and small farmers can not buy a tractor. He is dependent on bovine for his farming. So, blanket ban should be imposed on bovine slaughter and blanket ban should be imposed on the export of beef also. I have highlighted the basic things and at last I would like to say one thing in particular as His Excellency Mr. President is of the view that India has got vast resources and immense potential which can make India a world-mentor by 2020 and reach the level of developed countries but whether

[Shri Kailash Joshi]

we will be able to achieve the goal by 2020 in the manner in which we are marching ahead? Now-a days we are advancing one steps and going backward by two steps. We have got huge capabilities and we are also performing good in other countries. We are opening big industries there, but only this will not do. We will become a developed nation only when our country advances by making progress in every field and country is benefited with that. I would like to request Hon'ble Agriculture Minister to pay attention towards it and make the whole House aware about what he is going to do.

[English]

*SHRI KULDEEP BISHNOI (Bhiwani): Sir, the politics of SEZ in India has become just another reason for sophisticated Land Grab by big Industrial Houses, aided and abetted by acquiescing State Government's & their wrong policies. Leading the pack is the Reliance Group, which was in the news recently for grabbing 25,000 acres of agricultural, prime cultivable land in Haryana, in the name of Industrial development & economic advancement. I started an 'AAM ADMI ADHIKAR ANDOLAN' for protecting the interest of kisan (farmers). I would like to make it clear here that I am not against industrialization but I am against the way the policy is being formulated and implemented. We must keep in mind the growing population for which adequate foodgrains are required. If we industrialize large chunks of fertile cultivable agricultural land, how will we maintain a balanced ratio? Will we become a food grain deficient State from being foodgrain surplus? These serious questions need some serious thinking.

In 2000, the Government of India formulated the SEZ policy and the SEZ came into force from February 10, 2006. with this one stroke, the corporate powers cornered exemptions from almost every tax, while getting the services of water supply, electricity, usurping the natural resources, distorting the constitutional sovereignty of the people. There are more than 140 SEZs that are earmarked in almost all parts of the country. As per the Union Government's handout, the Special Economic Zone, Which is ostensibly for providing an impetus to economic development is a specially delineated duty free enclave and shall be deemed to be foreign territory for the purpose of trade operations, duties and tariffs.

According to an internal assessment of the Union Finance Ministry in 2005, the net loss to the Central Government from exemptions given to the SEZ's will be a whopping Rs.90,000 crore in direct and indirect taxes over the next four years. The SEZs enjoy unbridled freedom in exemption from all sorts of taxes viz. Stamp duty and registration fees, cess or levies including import-export duties, customs duties, sales tax, excise, octroi, sevice tax, mandi and turnover taxes; to bring in export proceeds without any time limit and have freedom to keep 100% of export proceeds in EEFC account and to make overseas investment from it.

The way the laws are structured, these SEZs have full autonomy of operation and are outside the purview of statutory laws of the land. Thus the SEZs are free from environmental and labour laws and they are exempted from public hearing under Environment Impact Assessment Notification. The SEZs have no responsibility to provide employment to the people in and around the area. Labour laws will not be applicable and all the powers of the Labour Commissioner shall be delegated to the Development Commissioner of the particular SEZ and a single point mechanism in SEZs will be provided to give all clearances and permissions pertaining to industrial safety and other regulations. The practice of 'hire and fire' will be made easier. Except for Government controlled SEZs, operation and maintenance of the SEZs will be wholly privatized in the hands of the developers. In effect these SEZs will function like autonomous mini-privatized townships.

It is the handing over of large tracts of land to private developers that is most worrisome. This coupled with the autonomous nature of the SEZs virtually means that local self government bodies will have no control over them. It is like creating private fiefdoms—a hark back to the Zamindari system of pre-Independence days in its new avatar. The SEZs should be actually christened as Special Real Estate Zones as 75% area can be used for anything from trading, entertainment, hotels, and housing projects, all in the name of economic development and only 25% area for Exports. A very good example is that of Haryana where 20 SEZs have been cleared and another 30 are in the process. Haryana is nowhere near a sea-port from where majority of exports are done in India. It is a clear case of prime land grabbing by corporate and the State Government acting as a real-estate agent. I would like to ask here what kind of exports will take place from this 50,000 acres (SEZ area) of prime fertile cultivable agricultural land in Haryana? Can these export obligations be fulfilled in as less as 1000 or 2000 acres? If yes, why this unnecessary land acquisition by State Government's in the name of development in industrialization. Is this just to misguide the people and favour the corporate houses?

*The speech was laid on the Table.

When there are serious and burning issues of land reforms and restoration of land rights in adivasi areas; there is an urgent need for a legislation permitting at least operative consolidation of agricultural landholdings to extract efficiencies of scale; where there is a crying need to address the acute water scarcity in the country and manage its distribution equitably, when there are issues of reduction of subsidies to agriculture and the working class to be addressed, the breakdown of the public distribution system, when it cannot assign even a fraction of the funds for its grandiose Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme, such blatant largesse by the Government in encouraging State sponsored land grab is criminal and anti-people.

The setting up of SEZs makes no sense as there are already a plethora of existing programmes for export promotion such as Export Promotion Zones (EPZ) which have been operating for two decades now, Export Oriented unit Schemes and Export Area Intensive Area Sub Plan, Soft Technology Parks and infrastructure development schemes for 93 no – industry districts. They will lose their attraction once these SEZs come into being. In an effort to enhance capacity, the danger is the existing operating units operating elsewhere will be tempted to move to these SEZs to avail of tax sops being offered there thereby creating a situation of vast "Deserts" of undeveloped rural and under-developed urban areas around small oasis of development of the SEZs. Regional disparities will widen specially in the BIMARU States (Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh), who account for 40% of the country's population but less than 15% of Bank Loans.

Revenue cannot be frittered away for the sake of a few monopolistic Industrialists. The SEZs have effectively become zones of conflicts between the villagers & the Industrialists; the villagers and the acquiescing State. The villagers were fighting to retain the land which Industrial houses like Reliance are out to grab; not only the land but also the fiscal incentives in the guise of development. There is no question of increased compensation either. The villagers simply don't want to give their land to Reliance or the Government. As for Reliance, the Company that swears by market forces in marketing their products, it runs to the Government for subsidies and concessions for their illegal acquisitions. For they know that they cannot acquire the land in the open market, so the Government must acquire it for them by using the provisions of the antiquated land acquisition act of 1894.

The developers say that the ousted will be trained for skilled jobs and will grow with the SEZs. But do you

see them on the glossy SEZ brochures advertising the Maha Mumbai project of Reliance. 20 years ago 30,000 families were displaced by CIDCO to develop Navi Mumbai. The Government promised a healthy compensation rate, assured a fixed rate of return of the developed land to the original owner and jobs to every family. The State, expectedly didn't deliver on its promises and the owners were turned into beggars overnight — all in the name of development. There will be many more Navi Mumbais in the future, in different parts of the country, the valley of the Narmada and in fertile fields of Haryana as self serving politicians and Government follow short-sighted policies dictated by their corporate masters who hold the purse string.

Yet at the time of Independence, our politicians were made of a different mould. In Punditji's interpretation of socialism the single biggest emphasis was placed on productivity and employment. Back in 1956, it was the public sector that was essentially seen to be the building block of a young nation and was destined in Nehru's scheme of things to play a much larger role than the private sector in promulgating and promoting productivity and employment in our economy. It was not part of Nehruvian socialism to allow the public sector to be used for nepotistic purpose. The essence of the Nehruvian vision was a remarkable balance between democracy and socialism. In deliberately diluting the predominant nature of the role of the public sector in a mixed economy and opening India to the free market model by later day Governments, distortions crept into the Nehruvian model of socialism. So much so that the State now, actively acquiesces and abets in the sins of the private sector, something that was abhorred by Nehru.

In attempting to blindly catch up with the fast developing East Asian economies and at the expense of "increasing productivity", democracy & the rights of the *aam admi* have been given the go bye. The SEZs are an unholy example of this trend.

But resistance and the ground swell of opinion against the SEZ concept is quietly building as the *aam admi* gears himself up to fight yet another battle of survival. The earlier one was against the "Gora Sahib"—The British. This one will be against their own Government.

As far as the SEZs mushrooming in the NCR area (around Delhi), the regional plan prepared by the NCR Planning Board in spite of being an important document is not being implemented at all. The central SEZ Act no

[Shri Kuldeep Bishnoi]

doubt overrides all the existing central statutes and in case of all the SEZs in Haryana (NCR region) the Haryana Act makes land use determined under the various Town and Country Planning Laws irrelevant but still do any of them override NCR Act 1985 and the Regional Plan that has been notified under it. This is a Central legislation on what is really a state subject. It could, therefore, be enacted by Parliament only after the four States (Delhi, Haryana, UP and Rajasthan) gave their consent to it. It is for this reason that neither the SEZ Act notwithstanding anything contrary to any other law for the time being in force nor the Haryana Legislature overriding provisions for land use, can override the regional plan. Both the Apex Court and the Allahabad High Court have decreed that the regional plan land uses supersede what the States may have decided. It now becomes the duty of the NCR Planning Board and its Secretariat to prevail upon the concerned State Government to stop this major attack on its regional plan. If their requests go unheeded, they must knock at the Apex Court to stop these SEZs from mushrooming in the NCR area at least. The complete abdication of the Government from its responsibilities to protect natural resources of the community, land, water coastal areas and prevent its usurpation by rapacious corporate interests in connivance with the corrupt babudom is a direct threat to constitutional democracy and the rights of the *aam aadmi*. It leads us to ask ourselves...Have we become a Banana republic—where the Government is unwilling and unable to discharge its social responsibilities, it is so strongly held captive in the hands of a wealthy few. Are we a Failed State?

In the end I would like to again say that I am not against industrialization but not at the expense of Kisan (Farmers). It is very important to take a re-look at the SEZ Act 2006 as it will have a fatal impact on the farmers of the country, not to mention the decline it will cause in the food gain productivity. I will continue my '*AAM ADMI ADHIKAR ANDOLAN*' in Haryana to protect the interest of the farmers at any cost. I will continue to raise issues where the interest of majority of Indians and India on the whole is getting compromised to benefit a few people. I will fight till justice is done. I will fight till my last breath. I will fight till every Indian feels that their voice is being heard.

[Translation]

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE (Ratnagiri): Mr. Chairman Sir, you had initiated this discussion before coming to the chair and also gave a number of good

suggestions. I do not want to repeat what you have said here. But you said that we are having an opinion that we assist the farmers by providing them more and more loans but the same is not correct. I agree with what you had said and I would like to say it more categorically. Today, it is said that our country is self-reliant in food-grains. Unfortunately, at present farmers who have made this country self-reliant in food grains are themselves not self-reliant. Even now they are living in the same condition and incidents of suicides committed by farmers have increased during the past one and half year. We have discussed it during the last session and Hon'ble Agriculture Minister had presented his view point in detail. We are discussing it today also that why incidents of suicides committed by farmers are increasing? Hon'ble Prime Minister had been at Vidarbha recently and he had announced a package there. As Hon'ble Joshi ji has said here that Chief Minister of Maharashtra had also announced a package but it has not benefited the farmers.....(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Athwale, you will get an opportunity to speak.

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE (Ratnagiri): Mr. Chairman Sir, I am not saying anything wrong. Farmers of Vidarbha perhaps have not been benefited by the package announced for Vidarbha and that is why incidents of suicides committed by the farmers have increased after the visit of Prime Minister. Incidents of suicides are still being reported from there. We should try to evolve a mechanism to make those farmers self-reliant who have made this country self-reliant in food-grains. Whether there are some shortcomings in the policies we form to make the farmers self-reliant? Whether the farmers are being benefited by the schemes we introduce?

Mr. Chairman Sir, as you have said here as a Member that if we do not improve the condition of farmers, then their condition will go from bad to worse in future. Import of wheat was opposed here in this House. Agriculture Minister is also holding the portfolio of Food Ministry. Our sister from Punjab and Member of ruling party has explained about the plight of farmers in this House and when the decision was taken to import the wheat, then farmers of Punjab had expressed their resentment and opposed this move more vigorously. If some one in the country had played a crucial role to make the country self-reliant in wheat, it is the farmers of Punjab and Haryana. This is a fact.

We should accept the fact that Punjab made India self reliant in production of wheat and other food grains but its farmers are not getting remunerative prices for their produce. Therefore, when the matter of importing wheat came it was opposed all over the country and especially by farmers and the Akali Dal leaders who staged dharnas against it. I am saying this because really at present our country is facing shortage of wheat. I don't think that the Govt. will accept this fact. Today we are short of buffer stock. There was a time when we had so much of buffer stock that we had to dump the food grains into the sea.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The food grain was not dumped into the sea, but it was damaged due to rain.

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE: Sir, this is a fact. Really the foodgrain was dumped into the sea. The foodgrain continued to rot in the godown of FCI and since there was no use of that rotten foodgrain, it was at last dumped into the sea. Our farmers, who fulfil foodgrain requirements of the country should be encouraged instead of importing wheat. That is why the import of wheat was protested. If we had given remunerative prices to our farmers they would have the capacity to produce wheat as per the requirement of our country. Why farmers are committing suicide there are various reasons for it but the main reason behind it as you have also mentioned is that they are reeling under heavy debts.

I would like to put one new idea. Hon'ble Minister for agriculture is present here. In this very House the Employment Guarantee Bill was passed under which the provision of employment for at least one hundred days to one member of a rural BPL family was made. There are small, medium and big farmers in the country but majority of them are small farmers and they own very small holdings. These farmers are becoming victims of adverse conditions every year. There are many rural employment schemes but they can not make use of these. The benefit of these schemes does not reach to the people living below poverty line. They work hard throughout the year but at the end of the year they find that they have not got the remunerative prices for their crop and they feel dejected and commit suicide. I would like to give one new idea to the Minister of Agriculture. As we have passed the Rural Employment Guarantee Bill to ameliorate the condition of the people living below poverty line in the rural areas, we need to bring a new scheme like that in this House for consideration. The small and marginal farmers whose holdings are of less than five acres and inspite of working hard throughout

the year sometimes due to natural calamities or appropriate rains or for not getting appropriate prices of their produce get themselves ruined and are forced to sell their produce at a lower price than their input cost. In such circumstances our farmers are forced to commit suicides and hence a scheme should also be formulated for employment of one hundred days for one member of their family. The services of those farmers who are tilling their land should be taken as national service because they are fulfilling the foodgrain requirements of the country. They have made the country self reliant. They work throughout the year and at least one member of such farmers should be provided employment for hundred days. It's a different idea.

A farmer who works in his field does not get employment, he does not get any wages, he works for 365 days and if he works in a field of someone else or do work as a labourer somewhere else then he would get Rs.20-25 or Rs.50 as wages but if his crops are spoiled at least even after working throughout the year in his field, then he gets nothing more than dejection. The farmers are producing foodgrains for the country, recognizing their labour as national service, one member of their family must be provided employment for one hundred days by the Govt. If such scheme is formulated then certainly there would be guarantee of employment and they will get certain amount and as a result of that he will work hard with more dedication keeping in view that my hard work is being valued by the Govt. and his work is recognized as service. If any scheme of this type is formulated then the small, marginal farmers may be directly benefited. Such schemes need to be pondered over.

I don't want to give more suggestions. The farmers of Marathwada and Vidarbha have committed the most suicides. Mr. Chairman Sir, as you have mentioned that the States where the farmers have taken more loans, the maximum member of suicides have taken place there and out of these Andhra Pradesh is at number one and Maharashtra is at second place. Since the farmers of these States were under heavy debt so they were left with no choice but to commit suicide. Some people come under heavy debt for taking loan for marriages or some other purposes, but 90 percent farmers are such who are committing suicides for non-repayment of loan taken for agricultural purpose. We have to save such farmers, we have to make them self reliant. If Govt. announces any package or Hon'ble Minister or Prime Minister visit there announces any packages for it. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. RAVI PRAKASH VERMA (Kheri): There should be a separate budget for agriculture.

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE: There is a demand that we should have a separate budget for agriculture and I will also welcome it. But our country is an agriculture dominated country and that is why it is the only area where maximum number of employment opportunities are available. So, the suggestion given by our colleague for a separate budget for agriculture must be considered, we must check the suicides being committed by the farmers and the Govt. must take effective steps in this regard. With these words, I conclude and thank you for giving me time to speak.

[English]

DR. SUJAN CHAKRABORTY (Jadavpur): Respected Chairman, Sir, I rise to speak, I believe, on a very important issue which is having tumbling impact all over the country. My learned friends, cutting across the sides, have given their own views. We should take some very positive and some very agreed approach on this important occasion, on this very important issue. Shri Sharad Pawar is here. He is known as a very efficient Minister also. I believe, the people and farmers also must have confidence on him; that is why responsibility on him is mounting much more. From that end, we should view the seriousness and the gravity of the entire situation. For the last few years, more than one-lakh farmers have committed suicide. It is just not the question of committing suicide; distress is mounting heavily also. Suicide is obviously the extreme end. For example, in Vidarbha, the Prime Minister has visited and announced a package. Some of my friends also are asking for new packages all over the country. But, in Vidarbha itself, before the Prime Minister's visit, two farmers were committing suicide per day. After that, it just mounted to the level of almost three persons committing suicide per day. It has not contained the situation positively; it could not contain. It is not the question of Vidarbha alone but the entire length and breadth of the country maybe Andhra Pradesh, maybe Kerala, maybe Maharaashtra and even maybe Punjab; Even in Punjab which is relatively a much better State, as all of us understand, in 2004, according to the Chief Minister, there were 2,000 suicides. The gravity of the situation obviously can be well understood. It is the responsibility of the entire nation, of the entire Government to contain this distress, and to settle the issues in the best possible manner. I would urge upon the Government to see the issues from the holistic point of view, from the

basic point of view. It is just not the question of formulating one or two packages and arranging for that; much more is the gravity of the situation.

We should prioritize some four or five important issues to deal with them in the entire ambit of seriousness. The first and foremost obviously is the issue of access of farmers to land. What is the situation? Sir, 60 percent of our labour force is still engaged in agriculture, but having production of 22 percent of our GDP, they are really and relatively in an ill position

Sir, the issue of access to land had been debated for long. As early in 1960s, the Mahalanobis, Commission was formulated and it was given the responsibility to assess what was the amount of land in excess, how the Government could vest it and how it could be distributed among the peasants. In 1969, the Mahalanobis Commission had reported that 63 million acres of land was in excess which could be vested. Up-till now, only 7.35 million acres of land could be vested; of which, only 5.39 million acres of land could be distributed. It is not giving a very healthy situation.

Probably we are not interested in going into the basic issues. The access of land is the prime thing than according some package. We should see it from that end. Till today, the marginal farmers, are relatively more in numbers, and they are having less amount of land. About 72 per cent of the farmers have control on 27 or 28 per cent of land. Is this a healthy situation? If this situation continues, then are we really in a position to settle the issues correctly or positively? Probably, not. The Government should look into the very basic issues.

If you look back at the last few Plan period, you would notice that allocation in agricultural field is not proper. During every Plan period, the overall allocation in the field of agriculture had been mounted. That is very good, and we are happy. In absolute term of rupee, investment or allocation in the field of agriculture had increased over the previous plan period or the previous year, but percentage-wise, if you see, it had come down. From the First Plan to till today, it was not increasing as it should be and as it was desired. In the Eighth Plan, the overall growth rate in GDP of the country was 6.7 per cent while the growth rate in agriculture and allied fields was only 4.7 per cent. So, it was less. In the Ninth Plan, the overall growth rate in GDP was 5.5 per cent while the growth rate in agriculture was 2.1 percent, and it had come down. In the Tenth Plan, which is going to

be completed and yet not completed, it has been projected that eight per cent would be the growth rate in GDP while the growth rate in agriculture would be less than two per cent. What is the indication? Are we really looking into the field of agriculture and farmers in the right direction? Probably, the direction is to be corrected.

Sir, food consumption in 1980s was 177 kilograms *per capita*, and it had come down to roughly 155 kilograms *per capita*. How has it happened? Probably, much more in-depth study has to be made, and from that angle, our planning and decision will be required.

The number of mal-nourished children in rural areas is the highest, and it is 56 million in our country while in the world, it is only 140 million. From that end, I would urge upon the Government to look into these things in a more serious manner.

The third issue is another important one, that is, input-output ratio. Is it favourable? No. Increasingly it is becoming negative. Increasingly, input cost is increasing, output price is getting down, and this is also continuing for long. Cost is escalating for many reasons.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude.

DR. SUJAN CHAKRABORTY: Sir, I have taken only five or six minutes. Please allow me some more time.

Cost is increasing in fertilizers, pesticides, seeds, electricity and everywhere.

About the loan composition to the farmers, it is seen that 90 per cent of the loan is from the private lenders till today, with the interest rate varying from 24 per cent to 60 per cent. With this, can we expect a healthy situation? No; not at all.

About the question of subsidy, these days particularly in the new liberalization and liberalization age, there is a continuous discussion that the subsidy to farmers should be reduced. You are happy that subsidy should be reduced. But what is happening? In Andhra Pradesh, cost of paddy seed has tripled from Rs.120 per quintal to Rs.350 per quintal between 1996 and 2004. It is almost three times. Similarly, cost of urea has gone up from Rs.120 per quintal to Rs.230 per quintal, which is almost double.

The developed countries are giving huge subsidy, and they are dictating us. And, we become happy when

we see that their subsidy is also coming down. But the fact is that they have not cut their subsidy, which was being used. The escalated composition of subsidy provision, which was not in use, has been cut. They are opining that we should have our subsidy much less; our cost much more. Our price is not conducive; and our input-output ratio is going into negative. There lies the cause of even suicide.

If you go into greater details, you would find that the suicide in different States might be for cost of loans; might be for the cost of seeds. Mr. Chairman, when you were initiating the discussion, you said things very correctly. You also said that if these reasons cannot be eradicated, how would the problems of farmers be solved? It should be thought in a proper manner.

Sir, on the question of Support Price, this year for wheat, while the Support Price the Collecting Price by the Government was fixed at Rs.650 per quintal, in the market its price was Rs.700. So, the Government could not collect it. Then, the Government raised it to Rs.700 per quintal, but in the meantime, the collection was much less. While this year, we have imported wheat from Australia at the cost of Rs.997 per quintal, at 42 per cent extra. Why? What is the reason for it? Therefore, I believe that the thing should be seen with a much more seriousness; and we should have a deeper look.

Every time, we are asking for the price. As you had rightly said, the benefit is not to the peasants, to the farmers. It is the middleman who is benefiting. The market chain is not proper. We have not, up till now, developed that situation when the entire advantage and benefit should go to the farmers. With the result, there is a huge pressure on the farmer all over the country.

Sir, we have ICAR; we have KVKs. I also believe that our scientists are very efficient. Quality-wise, there is no comparison of our scientists with the scientists of other countries. Our scientists have greater ability and scope. But, as rightly being said by my predecessor speakers, is the research in our country really result-oriented? Is the research really being done from the practical point of view? No. A good amount of research is going on without having its impact on practicability. That is why, there is a need to give a serious thought. We should see as to how best we can use the entire science and technology in the best fashion.

[Dr. Sujan Chakraborty]

Sir, land use map is also very important. It is very important to have the revenue *mauja-wise* land composition characterizing. Based on that, we can decide whether it could go for agriculture, horticulture, animal husbandry or whether we could allow this land for industry. This sort of planning must be there. It is very essential.

Now, we are hearing about SEZ. We understand that industry is a must; industrial development is a must, and for that purpose, obviously land would be required. In the name of SEZ, the land is being grabbed in different areas. But is it really practical? Is it really need-based? Though industry must be there, agriculture must be there, but a very well-balanced agri-horti-animal husbandry industry combination on the issue of land should be there. It should be science-oriented, technology-oriented. We must have the land-characterization oriented planning. But I believe that till today, we do not have that amount of planning, and thereby, we cannot dictate the development according to the plan.

18.00 hrs.

Rather, as it is developing, we have to move behind, and that is why, we have the miserable situation.

Hence, the last point would be the question of holistic development, the question of land reforms and obviously, the question of insurance. In Andhra Pradesh, the insurance of five lakh peasants, farmers was lapsed within a very short time because the premium could not be paid on time or even the insurance company was also not doing very correctly. Insurance is also very important.

Regarding the question of seed, why State-wise we will not develop our own seed banks? from that end if we see, no doubt the overall development of the country is required but without development in the agricultural field, without employment in the agricultural field, the country cannot prosper. So, from that end, proper agricultural policy, in addition to the package that you are proposing for the short-term, for the long-term total planning, including the value addition of food, food products and agricultural products, is required. So, the overall planning along with value addition should be taken up for consideration.

I believe the Minister is very efficient. He understand the issues. How best the Government can be carried with is the main question. With these words, I thank you.

*SHRIMATI ARCHANA NAYAK (Kendrapara): Sir, thank you for giving me an opportunity to participate in the discussion under Rule 193 regarding widespread distress among farmers. Agriculture is the biggest profession in our Country. Seventy per cent of our population is living in rural areas. There are about 11 crore households which are directly involved in the procession of agriculture. We have 22 crore agricultural labourers who earn their livelihood through agriculture. It is sad to note that Indian agriculture is in a deep crises. As per the Census about 71 lakh farmers disappeared from the profession.

The Indian farmers are in a debt trap. Their crops failed miserably. This is the reason tens of thousands of farmers are committing suicide every year. This is a grave matter of serious concern. Peasants are becoming pawns in the vagaries of nature.

It has been six decades since independence, yet several policy initiatives framed by Central and State Govts. do not really reach their intended beneficiaries—the farmers. Recent findings of the National Sample survey Organization's 59th round reveals the plight of farmers in the Country. Over 48 per cent of them are indebted and nearly two-thirds of the farmers are frustrated with their profession. It is only hoped that the results will help in the framing of long term farm policy.

Farmers indebtedness has been the foremost cause for farmer's suicide in a few States. Borrowing during the farming season and returning the principal with interest at the time of harvest is a routine, most commonly followed by farmers over centuries. Large number of loan sharks take advantage of this so as to take advantage of the situation further. The estimated prevalence of indebtedness among farmers was seen to be highest in Andhra Pradesh (82%) and lowest in Uttaranchal (less than 10%).

Distress farmers in the Country are in States like Karnataka, Kerala, Maharashtra and Orissa. The survey shows that out of 1000 borrowers, 356 borrow from banks whereas 309 prefer to borrow from money lenders and traders. It is clear that the hassles involved borrowing from banks and cooperative societies are far difficult than borrowing from money lenders. Almost 70% of farmers are frustrated with their profession. But none expects that 70% of farmers to express their willingness to opt out.

*The speech was laid on the Table

The present Govt. has no clue on how to increase the farm incomes while it is keen on promoting agri-business. Vidarbha sits on a volcano. Yavatmal district in Maharashtra alone has seen more than 300 farmer's suicides since 2001. Simply visiting the place by the VVIPs and announcing some stop gap relief packages is no an answer to the catastrophe. What the farmers need desperately is an assured mechanism to enhance profitability from agriculture. This can't be ensured by making the farmers subservient to the private trade. It has to be based on an innovative system that is farmer centric. There is an urgent need to provide higher procurement prices to farmers. Procurement should be extended to regions which are not covered. The cropping pattern need to encourage multiple cropping linked with animal husbandry.

The great agriculture economists like M.S. Swaminathan and Hanumantha Rao are of the opinion that there is a slow down at agriculture growth. The biggest challenge facing the sector is lack of public and private investment in the sector. In China the interest rate for farm credit is zero per cent but in India it ranges between 10 to 16 per cent. The farm growth in India is hardly one per cent. In China agriculture and rural development triggered growth.

Last but not the least, Green Revolution of the 60s had a symphony between technology, services and policies. These have to be reinforced. Therefore, I urge upon the Govt. to come forward with effective and far reaching scientific policies to rejuvenate the agriculture and save the farmers from distress and suicide. With these words I conclude my speech.

[Translation]

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV (Jhanjharpur):
Mr. Chairman, Sir today we are discussing problems of farmers. This is a very important matter. It is the speciality of this supreme legislative body that rising above party lines we are discussing the matter here. Mr. Chairman, Sir, you have also spoken on the matter with open heart just a while ago, when you were sitting here as a member. We discuss problems of farmers in almost every session and also hear about Government's action plan and schemes. But practically farmer face many complications in their implementation on the ground level. If we look practically, farmers don't have approach in the banks. The loan facility we announce from here, they don't even get that. There are several other such situations about that I will speak later on.

Today, this is a good opportunity to debate on the matter since the Minister of Agriculture of the country belongs to a family of farmers. He is a sympathizer and well-wisher of farmers. Today if we fail to make a national policy for the comprehensive interests of the farmers, then I don't think that any national agriculture policy will be formulated for the comprehensive interests of the farmers. Today, it is the need of the hour to make a national agriculture policy. It needs to be reviewed in the country. We need to review all the announcements made from here, whether they were made during the budget or on the other matter of support price. There are frequent discussions in this house on the suicides by the farmers. I would like to say one thing with profound grief. 60-70 percent people in the country are dependent on agriculture and that's reason why India is known as predominantly an African country. I believe that if no improvement is made in the condition of farmers and their economic condition does not improve, economic condition of the country can never be improved. Farmers are the only class of people who don't have any scope for dishonesty. That's why I would like to say that if farmer is irrigating in five kattha land, sowing good variety seeds, and supervising the labour, then the crop will come up in five kattha. This is not possible in sixth kattha. But if 10 kilometres road is to be constructed in other categories then they will construct only nine kilometer road and prepare papers for 10 kilometers. I am not talking about any specific category. There are various categories where there is scope for dishonesty but farmer is the only category which works for the achievement of national production target. There used to be regular discussion in the country about the foodgrain stock. We had 610 lakh million tones stock of food grains in the country. Today, production of food grains has declined somewhat. I would like to say this because farmers are not allowed to indulge in dishonesty because if he resorts to dishonesty, then production will reduce. He will produce foodgrains only after ploughing the field, sowing the seeds and he will supervise the labour. This is a honest category, but he is hungry even today, his children do not get good education. After 59 years of independence the benefits of independence has still not reached to the villages.

Sir, Several hon. Members were saying and I also said earlier that inside the India Gate, there is India and outside, there is Bharat. UPA Government has taken pledge for Bharat Nirman. Will power is required in plenty for taking the pledge of Bharat Nirman. Stress should be given on its implementation because farmer provide the food stock required for the feeding of Ant to Elephant. It

[Shri Devendra Prasad Yadav]

is the farmer only, who feeds the Jawan fighting on the border of the country and feeds all the people of the country. He generates wealth through agriculture and he feeds himself by his produce because appetite is satiated by foodgrains only. Foodgrains produced from the agriculture feeds the people of the country. Farmer is only the one who can feed all by producing foodgrains. That's why I have submitted that agriculture has because loss incurring business, I am very grieved to say that only yesterday, we celebrated 60th Independence day but even today agriculture is a loss incurring business. There is no other loss incurring business such as agriculture. That's why more than half of the farmers want to leave agriculture. There is a need to undertake research on the decline in national production, Research and development work is being carried out by ICAR. You are also mentioning that farmer should also get the benefits of research but I would like to ask that what will be the result of loss incurring business of agriculture? Today, land is shrinking because 25-30 years ago, one who was owning 40 bighas of land has five brothers and division after division the land shranked to one and a half bigha of the family and then in the next ten years farmer owning one and a half acre will become agricultural labourer, he will find himself in the situation of exodus. He will go to another state to earn his living to get employment. Yesterday's farmer is today becoming agricultural labourer. Therefore this problem is taking dangerous overtones, dangerous economic condition is being created. So, it needs to be considered. Therefore, I basically discussed this point because if we look at the latest Economic Survey of India, then we will find the declining trend in the production of food grains, whether it is only 20 lakh metric tones, but declining trend is dangerous. Hon'ble Minister has to take action as a precautionary measure for food security. He has made arrangements in advance to meet the demand of domestic consumption whether it is Public Distribution System or targeted PDS of Focus on Poor. If there is decline in the production then the situation will become very dangerous. Another basic point I would like to say is that there is a lot of talk about MSP. We should appreciate the Government for the good work it has done enabling us to stand with all its strength with the Third world Countries in the WTO for the broader interests of India. We will not reduce MSP because we are not going to reduce the subsidy being given to our farmers.

[English]

in the larger interest of the farmers of India.

[Translation]

It was a good initiative. Our Commerce Minister Shri Kamal Nath Ji represented us in the WTO. It is a good initiative and I think that he should also lead this. India should lead the farmers of Third world countries. What are the duties and conditions of the WTO? They say that India's MSP is Trade Distorting Domestic Supporting Price. This definition by them disturbs our trade.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, European Countries are demanding that Government of India should reduce the MSP being given to farmers. I would like to tell you that America and other European countries are providing 400 percent subsidy to their farmers. Some countries are now demanding that India should reduce the MSP being given to farmers. It was a dangerous trend. Hon. Minister of Commerce of India has taken stand against this in the broader interests of the country. Well done. I would like to say that we should not deviate from our position on the issue.

Sir, through you I would like to request to the Government to stop the import of agriculture produce from abroad in the country. It is correct that the Government has made a policy that there is no quantitative restriction but we should take measures to levy counter duty on agricultural produce coming from abroad for the interests of India's farmers and we must take measures to stop the foreign agricultural produce from coming to India's markets. Clothes, Crockery, Fruits and various other items are coming to India from abroad but in the interests of the farmers I request to the Minister of Agriculture to take measures so that India will never become a dumping ground for foreign agricultural produce because we are getting such indications due to the present new policy of Globalization. I have put my apprehension in the house through you.

Sir, every year 10 thousand crore rupees are spent on providing relief after natural calamities. Five thousand crore rupees are given in cash and remaining five thousand crore rupees are given as assistance. For example, if someone was bitten by the snake, then he was given 50 thousand rupees. Cash financial assistance is given through the block to the people when their houses are washed away or destroyed due to fire. Cash Assistance is given to people whom boat is washed away or destroyed. I would like to say that the Government should give less importance on such kind of relief because such assistance is making our country dependent on such assistance. A permanent solution to drought and flood has to be searched. By formulation a comprehensive

Master Plan for the country, contemplation should be done for the solution of drought and floods. Some states are affected by drought and some other affected by floods.

Sir although every year Bihar got affected by floods but this year it is facing severe drought. Bihar is facing the problems of famine and draught. Seeds of paddy has dried in the farms due to drought. People are facing starvation. Today, on August 17, I would like to inform the House that famine like situation is prevailing in Bihar. It is such a tragedy due to which a situation of commotion has created in Bihar. There is no alternate for small and marginal farmers. I am not talking about farmers having tractors and about big farmers. I am talking about small and marginal farmers of Bihar.

Sir, engineers of India and Nepal have entered in to a joint project agreement to prepare a ADR by studying rivers coming in India through Bihar which has been mentioned in the 10th Five year plan. For this purpose, offices have to be established at seven places and Rs. 30 crore had been sanctioned for this. But these offices are not functioning fully till now. I want to request through you to Hon'ble Minister that progress should be made in this direction as soon as possible. Hydroelectricity and irrigation task can be performed efficiently from the rivers coming from Nepal but neither electricity is being generated nor irrigation is taking place. Seven northern States will be benefited if study and optimum use of water of rivers coming from Nepal is carried out. That's why I have mentioned it.

Mr. Chairman, I will conclude after putting two-three points. UPA Government has decided to enhance irrigation capacity under Bharat Nirman Yojana. For creating new irrigation facilities United Progressive Alliance Government has set a target of inclusion of one crore hectare of additional land for creating new irrigation capacity by the year 2009. This target of new irrigation capacity is quite impressive. To consider all the aspects of water resources in rain fed areas, an announcement has been made for the establishment of National Rain Fed Area Authority but no body knows what progress has been made in this direction. This Authority has not been set up. That country will not progress which will not use water properly. I have emphasized it that until and unless we shall use water properly. I have emphasized it that until and unless we shall use water properly till then our country will not be a developed country.

Sir, I don't want to talk much about suicides, many members have spoken about it. I just want to say if farmers have to commit suicide even after passing of 59 years then we should look into it. It is very shameful situation. Farmers are committing suicide only in those States where cash crops are grown, including that of cotton irrespective of whether they belong to Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala or Punjab. About 15-16 percent farmers are forced to commit suicide. I don't want to go into details. High interest rate, damage of crops due to natural calamity, crop failure due to monsoon are reasons of it.

Sir, Hon'ble Members have talked about private money lenders. Farmers have to borrow money from them at 40-50 percent interest rate All farmers are not in a position to approach banks. Practical situation is this. If a farmer borrow money at 40-50 percent interest rate, what would be his situation? How would he pay this amount? He does not have any other alternate to earn livelihood except agriculture. When he funds himself unable to pay it he does not have any other resort except suicide.

Sir, You have rung the bell to conclude the speech, therefore, I will not take much time. I will conclude after putting my last point. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: We have our limitations also.

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV: I know you have also limitations that's why I will not take too much time and I want to produce an extract of Shri M.S. Swaminathan, upon which Government should contemplate.

[English]

"...for strengthening rural livelihoods, Dr. Swaminathan decried the practice of describing millets, ragi, bajra and jowar as "coarse cereals." instead, they should be called "nutritious cereals," as they were rich in micronutrients and minerals.

Referring to the low share of cereals and pulses in the country's total foodgrain production, he said given the technologies available, the production of cereals and pulses could be easily doubled or trebled..."

[Translation]

I have mentioned this because Marua, Jau, janer, Jwar and Bajra are food for poor. These cereals combat

[Shri Devendra Prasad Yadav]

with diabetes and controlled blood pressure. Cultivation of these crops enrich the fertility of soil because bacteria present in roots and tips of these crops have capacity to kill pests. Production of these crops is declining. We have to contemplate upon it how the production of coarse cereals will enhance. These cereals are very important as nutritional food for poor. Mr. Swaminathan has recommended that banks should provide loan to farmers at the rate of four percent interest rate. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: It is easy to recommend but to implement them is a difficult task.

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV: Sir, at last, I want to request that there is a need to formulate a new National Agricultural Policy. Farmers could not get remunerative prices for their produce. A policy has to be formulated for this purpose. Cost of agricultural production and of the products produced in factories is not decided according to cost expenditure. Dr. Lohia has said and you will be agreed with it that increase or decrease in the prices of cereals per kilogram should not be very little. That's why price of goods produce from factories should not be more than one and half times. Fixed price policy should be there. Today the prices of goods produced from factories is more than from 500 to 1500 times. Farmers have to buy the good produced in the factories. Even if he has money how he would pay 1500 times for the produce. There is no balance between both of these. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, you conclude and make balance about time.

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV: So, I want to urge that there should be a proportion in it. There is a need to make a balance between agricultural produce and factory goods prepared from it.

With these words, I want to urge you that as Giteji was saying, poverty line is set by Planning Commission but today I want to demand that for the welfare of farmers line of richness has to be set. That how many rich people are there in the country. Where is budget of our country is being spent while farmers and 60-70 percent people are dependent upon agriculture. Planning Commission has estimated 26 percent of people below poverty line then what is the line of richness and the budget provisions for the people living in between these two lines? I want to raise a moral question that there should be a line of richness in the county only then welfare of farmers is possible.

SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA (Guna): Mr. Chairman Sir, we are discussing about farmers today. In this modern age whenever we talk about progress, we talk in terms of its percentage that our country is showing a GDP growth rate of 6 percent, 8 percent or 10 percent. But today I would like to put this question before the House that as to whether it is right to talk in terms of figures when we discuss about development. Development is incomplete without employment, and without bringing marginal farmers of the country into mainstream. Ultimately it is our duty to bring the progress and development within the reach of farmers by demolishing the illusion of 'India Shining' and 'Bharat Uday.'

Ours is predominantly an agrarian country and farmers form the backbone of the country. 23 percent of total gross domestic product comes from agricultural sector. The agriculture sector provides 56% of employment opportunities. 70% of people in our country depends on agriculture. But true look at the present situation we find that while service sector and industrial sector is growing at the rate of 10-15% while agricultural sector is growing at the rate of two or three percent. Is it justified that 70% population is progressing at the rate of only two percent and 30% of population is progressing like an island at the rate of 15 percent.

Today we recall what Shri Jawahar Lal Nehru once said that everyone can wait except a farmer. Our family has a deep relation with Maharashtra. A century ago there was a saying in Vidarbha "Uttam Kheti, Madhyam Vyapar Aur Kanishtha Naukri", but we all are aware of the present situation of our country. *(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: This saying is everywhere.

SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA: It started from Vidharbha. The farmers have faced many crisis in last several years. Our hard working and brave farmers had to face tsunami, floods, drought, earthquake and other natural disasters. Our farmers are no less then our Jawans. 50% families of Nine crores farmer families are debt ridden in our country. According to figures based on National Sample Survey, 42% farmers want to leave farming.

There is a shortage of irrigation. Only 40% area of our country gets irrigation, the rest 60% area depends on rain. If there is no rain, this area becomes useless. No sector in our country can develop without R&D but in comparison to other countries only 0.34 percent of GDP

is being spent on R&D. All the scientists of the world publish two papers in a year but our scientist are publishing only half paper in a year.

[English]

Research is the largest contributor to total factor productivity in agriculture and return on investment in agricultural research is greater than 70 per cent. Therefore, it is imperative that we focus on this.

[Translation]

Due to lack of proper guidance our farmers are producing only traditional crops. There is 30% increase in credit but even today farmers are not able to get institutional assistance. There is no problem in providing loans to the farmers today. The biggest challenge in farmers life today is to repay the loan. Four thousand farmers have committed suicide in recent years. Today creditor is taking life of farmer. Today, even after increase in credit the bank provides 36 percent loan whereas creditors provide only 26 percent loan and that too at the rate of 26 to 30 percent. There is a story of a farmer named Rangaya in Madhya Pradesh. He had no source of water so he took a loan of Rupees Twenty Thousand and tried a bore well but he could not find a source of water and again took a loan of Twenty thousand rupees. Once again he could not get water and hence had to commit suicide. He had four children. There are many Rangayas in our country. When their crops get destroyed again and again, there is shortage of electricity there is no sufficient water, the farmer has only one option is such a situation and that is to take more loan. Where there is only two percent increase in profit by sale of produce, there is 38% increase in production cost due to increase in price of electricity, diesel petrol, loan for irrigation. Today, the cost of production is lower than MSP. Today, whereas there is four percent increase in the cost of production, there is only 1.5 percent increase in the income. Hence, the farmers have to take more loan. There are still 85 percent marginal farmers in the country even today. They have 1.5 hectares land holding. Nobody provides loan to him because bank asks for collateral. He does not have a reach to the market and when he does he has to face the active middlemen and profiteers and as a result he is unable to get the real value for his product. Today even the land holding farmers has to work as bonded labourers. What are the measures to deal with the present situation? I am glad that our Government has taken historic steps in this regard by

which their condition will certainly improve and they will progress and develop. There is no difference between our intention and our policy. A new scheme of crop insurance has been introduced. The most criticized fact is that when a consumer intends to buy a vehicle, he gets loan at eight percent and similarly an industrialist gets loan at eight to ten percent but a farmer gets a loan at the rate of 15 percent. I am glad that our Government has set this right. Today a farmer can take loan of up to rupees three lacs at the rate of seven percent. All subsidy of Rs. 2500/-crore has been announced for this scheme.

Now let's talk about infrastructure. Electricity has been brought not only to sub-station and transformers but to the fields of every district and village under the Rajiv Gandhi Granmin Viduatikaran Yojana. I believe it himself because I have applied this scheme to both my districts and I am aware of the benefit which the farmers will accrue by this scheme.

There is a scheme to renovate old ponds in the area of water resources. Similarly is Accelerated irrigation Benefit Programme. Bharat Nirman is one of our ambitions projects. We are living in a federal system. I would like to ask a question that whether it is entirely the duty of Central Government or the State Governments have also some role to play? There was hailstorm in Madhya Pradesh four months ago. Crops in two lakh hectares area were totally destroyed. 42 out of 48 districts were affected and the State Government did nothing except waiving of lagaan. We demanded that the farmers must be given compensation at the rate of Rs.Ten thousand per hectare. If crops on 2 lacs hactares have been destroyed, then we are talking about two hundred crores rupees. Whether a state like Madhya Pradesh does not even have two hundred crore rupees to give compensation to marginal farmers? I am glad when we met the Prime Minister, when we met Soniaji, when we met Sharad Pawar Ji, hon'ble Minister may recall, I remember that you have provided assistance of Rs. 185 crores. The electricity bill is three-fold in areas where one-third electricity is being provided, and the farmers. ... *(Interruptions)* Mr. Chairman, Sir, I may be given five minutes more. I am a young member, so give me some more time. ... *(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: It is ok.

SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA: The farmers not paying electricity bill are being sent to jail. This injustice is not only being committed on farmers of the country

[Shri Jyotiraditya M. Scindia]

but on bread providers of the country. As Shri Devendra Prasad has said that it is not a question of money only, our farmers are bread providers and matters is related to food grains and food. We will have to raise the means of irrigation also. We will have to start the campaign of drip-irrigation and water conservation. I want to discuss a very important issue. Today the issue of suggestions has come before us. We will have to think afresh. We will have to bring the green revolution in this country and the most important thing is this that the green revolution has because a cliché but we will have to concentrate on value chain from production stage to marketing the greater part should go to the farmers which is today only ten percent for the farmers. There are three parts of value chain the first is of low technology which is production; the second is medium technology which is collection and processing; and the third is high technology which is marketing and distribution. We must bring second green revolution of low cost technology. China's per acre production is double then that of India. We will have to achieve that target. Besides, we will have to bring high value produce and specialization. But if we talk about medium technology of collection and processing, we feel pride that India is at number one position in the world with 90 million tonnes, at number two the production of vegetables and fruits with 150 million tonnes and at number three in the production of crops with 210 million tonnes. But I want to know today that only 2 percent out of the above is processed and 30-40 percent goes waste. Today the demand is for the cold-storage chain and of new techniques. In order to sell our products anywhere in India, we will have to amend the Essential Commodities Act. Let us talk about high technology. We will have to ensure high technology to our farmers which is unavailable to them at present. The maximum money comes from the marketing and distribution field. We will have to make three parts very efficient. We will have to bring supply chain management and by using the model of co-operatives maximum money should be given to our farmers. There are three models before us I would like to discuss one—Anand and Amul Model. By it, the farmers get 60 percent of the last value. They themselves do the marketing no outside agency is involved in it. 'Seva' and Subhiksha in the private sector are examples in Chennai. If this is the dream of every Indian citizen that we want to emerge as star then we will have to remember the words of Mahatma Gandhi that we do not want more production, but production with more hands,

[English]

Not mass production but production by the masses.

[Translation]

The spirit of India lives in villages and till we give Social and economic freedom to our rural people, we cannot take that ours is an independent country. If we want the triumph of democracy we will have to empower rural farmers and show then a new direction in the 21st century.

*SHRI D. VENUGOPAL (Tiruppattur): Hon'ble Chairman let me thank you for giving me an opportunity for participating in the discussion on the wide spread distress among the farmers all over the country.

The major problem that confront the farmers is the non-availability of a remunerative price for their agricultural produce. Cost of agricultural inputs have been escalating. But, the farmers are not able to get a matching increase and they are not able to get a proportionately balancing remunerative price. Due to these reasons, many of the farmers are facing heavy financial burden and they become poverty stricken and some of them are driven to suicide deaths.

Let me put forth some of my view points based on my experience. The world cannot go on without water. As far as rain is concerned, it can help but can also spoil by way of pouring heavily and falling badly. As far as crops are concerned, they can spoil by way of growing in plenty and growing less. Floods, drought, abundant growth resulting in less price, drought conditions forcing farmers even to sell their seed stock are the problems faced by the farmers are one too many. Even in this computer age, if we calculate the efforts put in and the inputs thrown in, the returns are nil or negligible in agriculture but still this occupation is carried on.

Cultivation of paddy, wheat, sugarcane, pulses and cereals is all part of traditional occupation of this country. Even when the entire family puts in their labour day in and day out toiling and mulling in the sun, they are not able to get the returns in a good measure. Unfortunately, such farmers are not able to determine the price of their agricultural produce. Globalization of economy can be meaningful only when the producer, i.e., the farmer gets

*English translation of the speech originally delivered in Tamil.

the right to determine the price of his agricultural produce. Only then economic restructuring will bear any meaning. The conditionalities of WTO have been forcing the Governments of any meaning. The conditionalities of WTO have been forcing the Governments of the developing world to withdraw the few subsidies that are available to farmers. This may crush agriculture and it may greatly affect this traditional occupation.

Our late lamented Leader and the former Union Minister Murali Maran reiterated the view points of the developing world in the Doha round of talks. Recently, our Commerce Minister, Shri Kamal Nath, has also emphasized the same in the Hong Kong meet. I appreciate and welcome the same. I repose faith and confidence in our able Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh who is also a renowned economist and the Chairperson of UPA, Madame Sonia Gandhi. I fervently hope that they would evolve suitable measures to promote agriculture and the lot of agriculturists.

As far as Tamilnadu is concerned, the Government there under the leadership of our Leader Dr. Kalaignar Karunanidhi has been taking various measures to usher in another Green Revolution aimed at improving the lot of the farmers and increase agricultural production. Even the Center needs to follow and observe them. Immediately after the recent elections, soon after his taking over as Chief Minister, he had allocated an amount to the tune of Rs. 1900 crore to ease the debt burden of farmers who had to forgo their belongings as they were auctioned in lieu of their interest arrears and pending loans from co-operative societies. In order to encourage the agriculturists to continue with their occupation, credit facilities have been streamlined at reduced rate of interest. The Government of Tamilnadu continues with the distribution of free power supply to agriculturists for agricultural purposes. In order to provide direct marketing facility to farmers Uzhavar Santhai Scheme has been reintroduced. The Government is providing basic infrastructural facilities so that farmers can take their fresh produce direct from the fields to the market centers and sell them at a remunerative price directly to the consumers thereby curtailing the role of middlemen. Trained extension workers are taking to farmers the information on new techniques and technology pertaining to better crop management and water management. There are also efforts afoot to procure quality seeds and standard fertilizers so that they will be distributed to farmers to augment agricultural production. At a time when subsidies to agricultural sector are being directed to be reduced,

these measures as priority schemes aimed at farmers would be reaching them like indirect subsidies.

Our Leader Dr. Kalaignar Karunanidhi is showing the way to the entire country to implement suitable measures to ease the problems faced by the farmers. I wish the Center to closely follow the implementation of the schemes to be taken up in other States. There is no scope for any difference of opinion or any kind of political differences.

Farmers who are going about with their hard labour throughout the year are faced with the problem of rising prices of essential commodities. They are mostly beyond their reach. As a measure in the right direction a scheme has been introduced in Tamilnadu to provide quality rice at price of Rs. 2/- per kg. Through public distribution system to family ration card holders who live below poverty line. We can take this as an indirect agricultural subsidy. From the economic point of view this is a revolutionary scheme because it will help contain the price rise in the open market. Hence, I urge upon the Union Government to facilitate the inclusion of other essential commodities like pulses and cereals as commodities distributed through public distribution system. This will help the poor, in particular, to overcome the problem of price rise. Similarly, paddy, sugarcane and oil seeds must get minimum support price (MSP). Thus, our leader is showing the path to carry out an economic revolution with a human touch that needs to be studied and translated into action in other parts of the country to improve the lot of the farmers.

18.41 hrs.

[MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

Economic liberation of the farmers can be better ensued through land reforms. Waste lands are being developed and are being distributed to farmers. As a first step five lakh farmers will be getting two acres of land each through the valiant efforts of our Leader Dr. Kalaignar Karunanidhi. On 17th September this year, i.e., on the Birthday of Periyar E.V.R., the great social liberator this scheme to distribute developed waste land to the poor farmers will be introduced. I urge upon the Union Government to take such suitable measures to wipe out the tears of farmers who are in distress all over the country.

[Shri D. Venugopal]

As promised during the elections, our Leader converted our election manifesto as his first Budget proposal. Most of the promises are being implemented now. Conducive atmosphere has been created to improve the agricultural productivity and agricultural production. These measures must continue not only in Tamilnadu, but also in all other States through the coordinated efforts of the Centre as these measures will greatly benefit the farmer. As far as Tamilnadu is concerned, there are many districts that are entirely dependent on agriculture. Thanjavur and adjoining districts are traditional areas where cultivation activity is going on from time immemorial. Districts like Vellore, Tiruvannamalai, Dharmapuri and Krishnagiri are dependent on lift irrigation. Water table is also receding there. Hence, I urge upon the Union Government to evolve a viable scheme to attend to the irrigational needs of drought prone districts. There can be so many occupations and livelihood activities. Among them all, agriculture has the pride of holding its leading position because every other sector is dependent on agriculture. Even sages and saints, monks and hermits, culture and heritage, civilization and social development are all relying on agriculture and cannot exist there in the absence of continued agricultural activities. Hence, it holds the top place. I feel proud to say so as an agriculturist myself.

With a firm hope that Centre will act accordingly to attend to the problems faced by the farmers all over the country, especially in Tamilnadu, let me conclude my speech.

*SHRI S. MALLIKARJUNIAH (Tumkur): Sir, the condition of farmers is deteriorating even after 59 years of independence. Recently, the former Prime Minister and the President of JD(S) Mr. Deve Gowda has mentioned that the Centre's agricultural policy is anti-farmer. He has also mentioned that 8,500 farmers have already committed suicide. The majority of these cases are due to financial mismanagement. These are all real facts and the Centre should come forward to solve the problems of farmers.

Hon. Finance Minister has fixed the interest on agricultural loan at 7 percent. In Karnataka the rate of interest is only 4 percent. Why don't we have a uniform rate of interest on agricultural loans throughout the country? In fact, I suggest that the interest on agricultural loan should be reduced further to 2 percent only.

Promotion of agricultural produce is very essential. These days educational institutions and some offices are

banning the sale of several soft drinks because they contain pesticides. Now, there is a new method of packing tender coconut water. The kernel is taken out completely along with its tender water. This is packed nicely and sold at about Rs. 15/- piece. A person who can pay about Rs. 10/- for the pesticide contaminated soft drink will definitely do not hesitate to pay Rs. 15/- per tender coconut, because he can enjoy both tender water and tender kernel which are soft, sweet and healthy. The Center along with states should come out with new technology such that our farmer can export the packed tender coconut water.

Milk producers are in a pathetic condition. Water is costlier. It is costlier than milk. They should get a better deal. There is acute shortage of water in some areas. Floods have devastated many other areas hundreds of people have lost their lives during this recent flood havoc. This is the most important point Mr. Chairman Sir.

This excess water available due to the flood must be stored especially by villagers. This step will prove to be a boon to them who always wait for rain. Conservation of water will solve 95 percent of farmer's problems. Desilting of tanks and liking rivers and tanks should be taken up on top priority basis. Both the Centre and States should ensure the distribution of very good and healthy seeds. Recently some farmers who got artificial seeds lost their entire crop. This happened to tomato growers in Kolar, Bangalore and some parts of Tumkur district. The red tomatoes which they produced turned into a peculiar yellowish colour and the producers had no other option but to through them on the streets. The growers of jowar (especially mekke jola) met the same fate in the central and northern parts of Karnataka.

Now it is for the Centre to come forward to tackle the above problems of farmers in the country. Better marketing facilities, storage facilities, free electricity and all other encouragement should be given to farmers such that there should not be any more suicides of farmers in our country, and they can lead a normal and peaceful life like others.

[English]

SHRI PRASANNA ACHARYA (Sambalpur): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, every day in the newspapers, some news or the other appears regarding the suicide by

*English translation of the speech originally delivered in Kannada and also laid on the Table.

farmers. A few days back, I came across a news-item saying that a few farmers from Vibarbha region in Maharashtra had sent a petition to the hon. President of India seeking his permission for mercy killing. As you know, if somebody is suffering from an chronic disease and he is neither in the living condition nor in a dead condition, he applies to the Government for mercy killing. It happens in many countries abroad. Now this has started happening in our own country. The farmers are petitioning the Government or the President of India for permission to kill themselves. What can be more tragic than this? Normally, a doctor wants his son to be a doctor, an engineer wants his son to be an engineer and now-a-days a trend has begun that politicians want their sons to be in politics so that they can occupy their position after they retire. If you ask the farmer in this country today whether he would like his son to be a farmer, he would reply that he may go for any profession other than agriculture. Today, no middle class or small farmer would like his son to be a farmer. The farmer wants his son – his progeny – to be safe and that he should not commit suicide. This is the condition of the farmer in this country today.

In a nutshell our agriculture is now a state of crisis in this country. There is no doubt it. There are numerous indicators of these crises like farmers indebtedness which is consequently leading them to commit suicide, stagnation of agricultural domestic product, fall in *per capita* GDP in agricultural products, rise in cost of production, reduced prices of agricultural produce and greater susceptibility of India prices to international prices. These are all various indicators of the crises this country is going through at present. A few members were mentioning about the basic problems for which there is agrarian crisis in this country today. I am not going into the immediate reasons or immediate relief that the Government is providing or trying to provide to the farmers to save them from these crises. There are many in-depth reasons and far-reaching reasons which the Government and the House must ponder over.

An hon. Member from West Bengal was rightly referring to the land reforms in this country. If I am correct, the land reforms and green revolution are the two sides of the same coin. There exists a negative relationship between the ownership of land and the actual cultivators. In this country, many farmers are those who are in the farming and are toiling in the fields but they do not own a *bigha* of land till today even after 60 years of Independence.

This is because in spite of our sincere and best efforts we have not been able to successfully implement

land reforms in our country. The intermediaries, the landowners are enjoying the rent and it is those poor cultivators who are toiling. This is what is happening today in many parts of the country. The intermediaries are not interested in production they only are interested in the rent which they derive out of their land. The farming community in rural India is an insecure lot. They do not have any land of own. The land reforms were initiated in order to remove this anomaly.

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): Are you referring to tenancy?

SHRI PRASANNA ACHARYA: Sir, I am referring to tenancy and share cropping. This is happening in many parts of the country. The process of land reforms is far from complete. We had initiated this process the day after we achieved Independence. This was basically started during the First Five Year Plan, but this is incomplete even today and I think, this is one of the reasons, there are many other reasons though, as to why we are today faced with this agrarian crisis. The benefits of the reforms may not be adequate to enable the farmers to cross the poverty line owing to meagre size of land and its inferior quality.

Sir, you might have heard the name of the late Nandini Satpathy, who passed away a few days back, who had been the Chief Minister of Orissa twice, had initiated the process of land reforms in our State, but in spite of her best efforts, the problem still persists in our State. Surplus land had been distributed amongst the landless labourers, but their quality is inferior and the land holding is so meagre that a farmer is unable to derive any benefit out of that holding. This is the problem a farmer is facing at the ground level. The focus of land reforms has to be properly re-focused.

Sir, as per a survey report of 1991-92, the percentage of landless persons amongst the persons belonging to the Scheduled Castes was 13.34 percent and amongst the persons belonging to the Scheduled Tribes was 11.50 percent. Now, under these circumstances, how could one expect any improvement in the conditions of the agriculturists? How could we think of surpassing the agrarian crisis that we are faced with today?

[Shri Prasanna Acharya]

Sir, many hon. Members have talked about credit flow to farmers. I would like to compliment this Government in this regard. Last year, the hon. Finance Minister announced in his Budget speech that the credit flow to farmers would be trebled. That is a commendable announcement. But this very notion that the more credit we flow to the farmers, the more we help them to solve their problems is a fallacious and wrong notion. No doubt credit is required. No farmer can survive without credit. It is also a fact that credit has to be doubled and if required, trebled, but the defects in the credit policy has to be analysed properly.

The need for institutional credit was felt as early as the Nineteenth century. Strengthening of this concept began, if I am correct, only with the First Five-Year plan. Only seven percent credit came from institutional sources and the rest were from moneylenders. This was the situation during the First Five-Year Plan.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: You may please conclude now.

SHRI PRASANNA ACHARYA: Sir, I have taken only five minutes. Give me some more time. I think, I am the only speaker from my party.

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: This is only the first bell !

SHRI PRASANNA ACHARYA: I only hope that this is not the warning bell !

Sir, the agrarian crisis, that has spread through the length and breadth of rural India, is very closely associated with the rising burden of indebtedness amongst the farmers. There is no doubt about it. Most of the farmers who are committing suicide are because of indebtedness. There is no denying this fact. Half of the Indian farmers are in the grip of a debt trap. What are the sources of their loan? Are their sources of loan institutional in character? No. According to a survey conducted by the National Sample Survey Organization in 2005, 29 per cent of their loan is from moneylenders.

The share of the banks was only 27 percent, the share of the co-operative societies was 26 percent; share of friends and relatives of farmers was 18 percent; the share of traders was 12 percent, share of Government was only 3 percent and others 5 percent. This was the result of the survey undertaken by the National Sample

Survey Organization in 2005. Till today a vast majority of the flow is neither from the co-operative societies, nor from the Government sources. It is mostly from the moneylenders. It is a matter of shame that even after almost 60 years of Independence such a thing is happening in this country. How do we expect, under such circumstances, to overcome the agrarian crisis that we are faced with today? Most surprisingly, in which States are the suicide by farmers taking place? They are taking place in developed States like Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Kerala, Maharashtra. The rate of suicide is rather low in less developed States like Chhattisgarh and Orissa. This is an irony. We have to find out the reasons for this.

Sir, this Government has increased the credit flow of the farmers. The credit flow to farmers this year has been doubled, as was announced in the Budget. We hope it would continue to be trebled and quadrupled in the years to come. But there are certain defects in the credit policy and in the interest rate policy of the Government, the NABARD and the Reserve Bank of India. The new credit policy of the Government has created some problems. I would like to give an example.

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: You sum up your points. Shri Mahtab of your party with also speak in this subject.

[English]

SHRI PRASANNA ACHARYA: Sir, I would like to give an example here. Government has reduced the rate of interest to 7 percent whereas the Swaminathan Commission, the National Commission for Farmers appointed by this Government, has recommended for a rate of interest of 4 percent. Most of the loans taken by the farmers are through the co-operative banks in the rural sector. Now the Government has directed the commercial banks and the RRBs and the co-operative banks to double the credit flow to the farmers at a reduced rate of interest of 4 percent and Government, if I am correct, has offered to compensate at the rate of 2 percent for loss to be sustained due to reduction in interest rate. But this compensation is only meant for commercial banks and RRBs and not for the co-operative banks because the co-operative banks are basically coming under the jurisdiction of the State Governments. This facility of compensation at the rate of 2 per cent will be provided by the Central Government to RRBs and to commercial banks, not to co-operative banks. This is a major problem. I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister to the problem as prevailing at the ground level. The co-operative banks would be deprived of this benefit because they come under the jurisdiction of the

state Governments. At the national level, 65 percent of the credit flows through the co-operative banks. Now, if my information is correct, the State of Maharashtra has offered to compensate the co-operative banks at the rate of 4 percent. The hon. Minister may correct me if I am wrong. There are certain States which have come forward to compensate the co-operative banks. But what will happen to poor states like Bihar, Chhatisgarh, Orissa and the like?

19.00 hrs.

Those State Governments are not in a position to compensate the cooperative banks as regards the loss that they will be incurring due to this reduction of interest rate. NABARD has offered 40 per cent of the total credit flow by cooperative banks to the farmers at an interest rate of 2.5 percent, if the cooperative banks charge only 7 percent from the farmers. As you know, the present rate of NABARD is 5.50 percent. They are giving loan at this rate to the cooperative banks. I will cite the example of my own states, Orissa. In this process, if the State and District Cooperative Banks are not compensated and are made to give loans to the farmers at the rate of 7 percent, then, in a single year, they would be incurring a loss of Rs. 35 crore. Those cooperative banks, be it a district cooperative bank or the cooperative society, who are in a profitable position will be incurring a loss. If the cooperative banks are made weaker, then the entire process of giving loans to the farmers will be jeopardized. That is my point.

My next point is about interest rate on house building and car loans. It is ironical and a tragedy that the interest rate on car loans and house building are consistently slashed down but the rate of interest on agricultural loan is increased by banks. The credit rate is increasing. It is an irony happening in this country. It never happens in any developed or developing country of the world. It is paradoxical that the interest rate on agriculture, though considered as a priority sector, is higher than other sectors. As I said, this is not happening in any developing country.

Before two or three days, I saw an alarming news in some of the English newspapers. Sir, I would like to draw your attention, the attention of the House and the attention of the Government, through the hon. Minister, to that news item. What is that news? The Reserve Bank of India is exploring the possibility of allowing moneylenders to reach out to farmers who are in need of loans. If the news is correct, the RBI is contemplating the idea of allowing moneylenders, who are treated as exploiters in this country and whose exploitation is going

on since the British days, to reach the common villagers in the remotest parts of the country. It is a very dangerous contemplation. The Bank would lend to moneylenders or give loans to the moneylenders who, in turn, would advance loan to farmers. Of course, the interest charged by the moneylenders will be within a certain level. But who will enforce this limit? Has the RBI or the Government got any framework to check the moneylenders to see that they will not charge more interest from the farmers? This is a very dangerous contemplation.

Sir, I have two or three more points to make.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You have taken 15 minutes. Please conclude now.

SHRI PRASANNA ACHARYA: The slow growth rate of agriculture of our country as compare to other countries is very dangerous. In India, during 1980—96, the growth rate was 3.10 percent. It was 2.8 per cent per annum during 1991-2005. It is very discouraging when you compare it with other developing countries. It is much less than the GDP growth rate of 6.2 per cent in the same period whereas two-third of India's population depends on farm-related income. This position is very dangerous. Hence, the Government should do the needful to improve the position.

What is our Plan outlay in agriculture? Is increasing or reducing? Our Plan outlay in agriculture is reducing. Coinciding with the loan from International Monetary Fund, the Plan outlay is reducing from 16.4 percent in 1978 to 4.9 per cent in 1997-2000 in the Ninth Plan.

There is an alarming point concerning the investment pattern in agriculture. There is a continuous decrease in public investment which is affecting agriculture negatively with less creation of infrastructure facilities. Public investment was 37 per cent in the First Plan and it came down to about 17 per cent in the Tenth Plan. There is 50 percent reduction in the last 53 years.

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: There will be other speaker from your party. You can speak for two minutes more.

...(Interruption)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You can speak as long as you can, but no other speaker from your party will be allowed. You asked for five minutes but I have given you about twenty minutes. Therefore, I had told Anant Kumar that he was supposed to go somewhere.

[English]

SHRI PRASANNA ACHARYA: Sir, one Bill is pending in the House and I think, that has been referred to the Standing Committee. I am talking of the Seeds Bill which was introduced in 2004.

In that Bill very dangerous things have been included. This Seeds Bill, will for ever destroy the biodiversity of our seeds and crops, and will rob the farmers of all their freedom. It will establish a seed dictatorship in this country. This is a very dangerous phenomenon. This Bill, instead of helping the farmers, is going to destroy their future.

These are the points on which I wanted to speak. I have many other points to speak. Since you are not allowing me, I am concluding my speech with the request to the Government to come out with a clear cut policy which can save lakhs of farmers of this country from committing suicide.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Today the last Member to speak on this discussion will be Shri Sukhbir Singh Badal. We will have discussions next week also. After this, we will take up matters of public importance.

SHRI SUKHBIR SINGH BADAL (Faridkot): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, thank you very much for allowing me to speak on such an important subject, which is of national interest at the moment.

It is very unfortunate that when we are celebrating our sixty years of Independence we are debating the issue of farmers suicide in our Parliament. In fact, on this day we should be debating about better technologies and advancement of technologies rather than debating about the plight of farmers in India. In this country, majority of people live in villages and majority of people depend on agriculture for their livelihood. But these days, wherever you go, whether it is Andhra Pradesh or whether it is Maharashtra or whether it is states like Punjab, which are considered the most progressive States in India as far as agriculture is concerned, you hear and read everyday – particularly in Punjab about how hundreds of farmers are committing suicide.

I belong to a farming family. I have been brought up in a farm; lived in a farm, and I understand the problems of farmers. I have seen one thing. Since Independence, all political parties has been talking about as to how to bring back farming economically viable. In every Parliament Session, there is a debate on farmers issue;

every Budget and every Finance Minister talks about how to make farming economically viable. But it is very sad that after sixty years of Independence, we are witnessing situations where farming has become economically unviable and farmers are in a very big debt trap. What is the reason? Have you ever analysed? For any business to be successful, it has to be profitable. If a unit is not profitable, the business gets closed down. But what can the poor do? The prices of his products are controlled. His input prices are increased every year. I do not want to go into the statistics of the last fifty or sixty years. I would like to share with you the statistics of the last five years.

What are the basic inputs of farming in agriculture? The basic and major inputs are diesel, seeds, pesticides, fertilizers and labour. If you look at them, in the last five years, the prices of these inputs have increased phenomenally. I will just take one input and show you how. Let us take diesel for example. In the year 2002, the price of diesel was Rs.15.79 per litre and in the year 2006 it is Rs.31.59 per litre, an increase of 100 per cent. But what was the increase in the output? What is the increase in the MSP? In the year 2002, the MSP of paddy was Rs.560 and in the year 2006, it is Rs. 610, which comes to eight per cent.

The price of inputs has increased more than hundred per cent and the price of output has increased just by eight per cent. The same is the case of wheat where the prices have increased in 2002 from Rs. 610 per quintal to just Rs. 650 per quintal. It does not include bonus together. Every next year, the price have increased on the basis of MSP but not the bonus. The shocking thing is that this time, the bonus on wheat was increased at 150 percent of the procurement of crop by farmers that had taken place in Punjab. Today, the majority of the farmers were not able to receive this bonus also.

Sir, another very disturbing factor is rather than encouraging farmers, rather than making them economically viable, the policy of the Government seems to be of discouraging farmers. The Government is ready to import wheat from Australia at a much higher price, but the Government is not ready to pay the Indian farmers the price at which they can import the wheat from outside. What has all this resulted in? The result is that production in this country has started declining. India became a surplus State in food grains. But now it has to import and it is a very dangerous trend. I have facts from the Government and it is very shocking.

I am just talking the example of wheat. In the year 1997, total procurement of wheat in the Central pool was

92 lakh tones; it went up to 206 lakh tones in the year 2001-02. It is nearly double in five years' time. But what happened after 2001? From 2001 to this year, during the last five years, it has gone back to 92 lakh tones. Can you imagine the procurement in the Central pool has come down by hundred per cent? Why is it so? It is because of the policies of the Government of India. We have plain double standards. We talk about farmers and we talk about poor, but actually our policies are for big and heavy industries and also for the rich and the famous.

I want to give you an example. A lot of my colleagues have been talking about farm credit. Today I talked to the banks before coming here. I asked them only two questions I asked him that I want an agricultural loan. I asked them at what rate could I get the agricultural loan. The bank manager told me that if you want an agriculture loan of Rs. 50,000, the rate of interest is 9.25 percent; from Rs. 50,000 to Rs. 2,00,000 it is 10.25 percent; and from Rs. 2,00,000 and above, it is 11.25 percent. Then, I asked him, if I want to set up a factory, what will be the rate of interest? He said that it would be eight per cent. I asked him what would be the rate of interest for companies like Reliance. He said that it may be six per cent or may be seven per cent. That means, big companies are given at six per cent or seven per cent and poor farmers of this country, who day and night work and sweat it out, have to pay 11 per cent. In the same way, I asked him if I want to buy a tractor, then what will be the rate of interest? He said that it will be 10.25 per cent till Rs. 2,00,000 and above Rs. 2,00,000 the price of a tractor, it will be 11.75 per cent.

If you want to buy a Mercedes car in this country, you will be charged just seven per cent rate of interest by the bank and if you buy a tractor, then it will be 11.75 per cent. This is the policy of this country. How do you expect the farmers to survive in this country with policies like these? For Reliance Company or for any big company, if there is a natural calamity or there are floods and something happens to the factory, their production gets stopped, their profits are stopped or they make losses because of natural calamity, but they are insured. It does not make any difference. They will get everything back from the insurance company and if poor farmer's crop is destroyed due to natural calamities or maybe due to floods. He gets nothing. It takes a minimum of ten years to recover for a poor farmer. I will give you an example. This year in Punjab, thousands of farmers suffered because of bad weather. The potato crop was destroyed. I think the loss was more than Rs. 200 crore.

A question was asked in Parliament as to what was the loss. It was mentioned that mentioned that it was more than Rs. 200 crore.

Then another question was asked. What steps had been taken? They said there was no report from the State of Punjab. But even then what happened? Nothing has happened. They give the farmers hardly Rs. 500 or Rs. 1000 per acre. But that does not cover the loss of, maybe, Rs.20,000 or Rs. 30,000 per acre suffered by the farmers. So, that is the basic problem in this country. We do not make policies accordingly. The policies which we make are not actually pro-farmers. The policies actually do not go back to the farmers, do not reach the farmers. They just stay here or in the offices of the authorities. But they do not go back to the farmers. Actually, we should realize that we have to save our farmers.

Today, the plight of farmers in Punjab is so bad. Every year, there is agitation in Punjab. Thousands of farmers are suffering because of the debt trap. If we do not take very strong steps, farming will become so bad that nobody will do it. Finally, we will have to be importing all the food grains like what we have been importing now.

Sir, we have a lot of faith in the hon. Agriculture Minister. The hon. Agriculture Minister himself is a farmer. He knows about farming. We are sure, he will come out with some reasonable MSP, not the just Rs. 10 MSP which has been announced this time. It is very shocking.

I was going through the statistics of the last five years. What has the present Chief Minister of Punjab done? In the case of Punjab, in the last five years, the MSP for paddy has been increased by just Rs. 50. Before that, from 1997 to 2001, the MSP was increased by Rs. 165 from 2001 till now, it has been increased just by Rs. 50 in the case of paddy. In the case of wheat, it is even worse. From 1997 to 2001-02, the MSP for wheat was increased by Rs. 230. From 2001 to 2006, in the last five years, the MSP for wheat has increased by Rs. 40 only! So, that is the reason. ...(*Interruptions*) That is what I am saying. That is the basic problem. There is a saying that if you do not have a good lawyer, you will not win a case. The problem in Punjab is that we have a very bad lawyer. He has no time for the State of Punjab. He has no time to fight for the people of Punjab. He has no time to protect the interests of Punjab. He has no time and he does not listen to Punjab. What has happened is this.(*Interruptions*) That is the main reason.

SHRIMATI TEJASWINI SEERAMESH (Kanakapura): It is very unfair. Do not politicise the issue. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Only Shri Sukhbir Singh Badal's speech will be recorded. Except that, nothing will go on record.

...*(Interruptions)**

SHRI SUKHBIR SINGH BADAL: Please look at this. These are the statistics. The figures for the last five years are showing the position. It is because the Chief Minister of Punjab has not been able to present his case to the Centre for the last five years. He has not been able to come and force the Centre. That is why today for paddy, the MSP is only Rs. 40 during the Akali Dal-BJP regime for five years, Rs. 165 was increased in respect of paddy and Rs. 230 for wheat. That was the MSP which was announced then. Now we have shown the results. ...*(Interruptions)* We are showing the results. These are the facts of life. You should take the help of a better lawyer to present your case. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: He is not saying anything unparliamentary. Please sit down. Shri Sukhbir Singh Badal, please conclude now.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SUKHBIR SINGH BADAL: At the end, I would like to conclude by saying this. I personally feel that the hon. Agriculture Minister is himself a farmer. He understands the problems of the farmers. I am sure, rather than increasing the MSP to the extent of Rs. 10 only, he will link it to the price index, he will link it to the inflation.

Secondly, I also feel that the hon. Minister will come out with a policy of insuring the crops of the farmers so that during adversities, during natural calamities or due to any other cause, the farmers are protected against the natural calamities.

Thirdly, I would like to say that the farmers of Punjab as also the farmers in all parts of the country are in a debt trap. We should come out with a special package. The package should not be only for one State. It should be for all the farmers of this country because all the farmers

work hard to produce food grains for this country. The State of Punjab is considered as a prosperous State. But I must say that out of my experience the farmers of Punjab are suffering because of the policies of the Government of India.

With these words, I conclude.

*SHRI B. MAHTAB (Cuttack): Sir, I participate on the discussion under Rule 193 on widespread distress among the farmers in the country. Suicide deaths, growing indebtedness, wheat imports and stagnant food production coupled with declining crop productivity signal a farm crisis that can no longer be ignored.

I am sure that this House is aware that Agriculture underpins both the economy and society and there can be no sustainable growth or national well being unless this regression is reversed.

Per capita rural incomes have fallen and the urban rural gap has widened.

Average yields are low across the country. It is often said that agriculture in India is a non-remunerative if not losing, proposition. But how many of us have gone into the real issue?

How many of us have tried to examine the costs of cultivation and returns on different crops?

I have come across a study which has examined this issue. Since cost of cultivation and returns on different crops vary from region to region, the focus was on those states where yields are the highest.

Thus for paddy and wheat, the benchmark State was Punjab. For sugarcane, cotton and rapeseed-mustard the chosen states are Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh and Gujarat respectively.

Paddy-wheat	-	Punjab
Sugarcane	-	Tamil Nadu
Cotton	-	Andhra Pradesh
Rapeseed-mustard	-	Gujarat

It is found that in Vidarbha region, cotton is cultivated in rainfed areas. But profits have been declining, particularly since late 1990s because of a substantial

*Not recorded.

*The speech was laid on the Table.

Increase in the cost of cultivation. While the cost of cultivation increased nearly 17 times between 1975-76 (Rs. 1047/ha) and 2001-02 [Rs. 17,234/ha] the income from cotton increased only 11 times during this period, from Rs. 1252 to Rs. 13775/ha. This led to low profit margin. Farmers were unable to pay debts in time.

As per the data on average yields and costs, one is to refer to Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP) latest estimates for 2005-06 sowing season.

As per the CACP data, cost of paddy in Punjab, covering all actual production expense in cash and kind incurred by the owner is worked out to Rs. 408.53 a quintal.

On an MSP of Rs. 600 a quintal and a yield of 58.55 quintals to a hectare, the net return from growing wheat in Punjab comes to Rs. 6994.97 a hectare.

It can be seen that if a farmer were to cultivate two crops—paddy in Kharif and wheat in Rabi season – he would annually earn less than Rs. 12,700 per hectare. The return is higher (Rs. 23,600) for sugarcane which is a full 12 months crop unlike 120-150 days each for paddy, wheat, cotton and mustard. What clearly emerges from the exercise is that under the best irrigated conditions – making it feasible to take out two seasonal crops or one full crop of sugarcane – a farmer owing one hectare of land will not earn a profit of more than Rs. 2000 per month. And here, one is assuming no crop losses due to hail-storms, floods, cyclone or pest attacks.

Now consider the macro picture. According the 1995-96 Agricultural Census, there were 11 crore 55 lakh 18 thousand farming families in India. Of these 7 crore 11 lakh were "marginal" holdings of less than one hectare. Another 2 crore 16 lakh constitute small holdings of 1-2 hectares.

Thus over 80 per cent of the country's farming families own less than two hectares. Since, only 30 per cent of marginal and small holdings are "wholly irrigated" the rest being either partly or wholly un-irrigated, it can be safely surmised that three-fourths of Indian farmer take home less than Rs. 3000 a month. That is roughly 60 per cent of the starting salary for a government attendant.

At the other end, there are 14 lakh large land holdings exceeding 10 hectares (nearly 25 acres).

If one projects the Rs. 3000 per hectare maximum monthly profit figure, a "rich" farmer with 25 acres will earn Rs. 75000.

But how many such families? And whether those land is "wholly" irrigated? Thirdly, I was wondering whether the Eleventh plan Approach paper available from the Planning Commission will throw some light. I found the plan target growth rate for agriculture has been set at about 4 per cent.

The Approach paper notes that on the demand side there is evidence that farmers face adverse demand conditions including the prices received for agricultural products not keeping pace with the costs or the general price level.

On the supply side, the Plan document affirms that no domestic technological break through comparable to the Green Revolution is in sight.

Then what is the way out? Does this Government has any direction? Or it thinks by encouraging corporate farming and diversification to horticulture will be enough to make agriculture buoyant again? Lack of credit at reasonable rates is a persistent problem in a large part reflecting the collapse of the cooperative credit system. What the Government is doing to re-energise the credit flow to the farmers?

I would come to the last point. India's recent growth has had a strong urban bias. While the service sector is booming agricultural productivity has declined. This has affected the poor at large.

The role of agricultural research and development is critical to enhance agricultural productivity.

Our country has ample scope to increase its yields of several major crops substantially. Our rice yields are about half those in Vietnam and Indonesia and one-third of China. Has anyone, at any point of time enquired the reasons thereto?

Other than sugarcane, potato and tea, the same is true for most other agricultural commodities.

With limited scope to expand the area under cultivation, the role of agricultural research and development is critical to enhance agricultural production

[Shri B. Mahtab]

Unless our agriculture, shift from resource and inputs-based growth to knowledge and science based growth, we cannot grow our productivity.

The main reason for farmers' suicides/distress is that the agriculture is no longer a profitable enterprise. Income from crop cultivation is not enough to meet the annual cultivation expenditure in most of the states, including in agriculturally developed states like Haryana.

This has been overwhelmingly proved by the recent Situation Assessment Survey (SAS) carried out by the National Sample Survey Organization (NSSO 2005).

Unremunerative prices for crops, indebtedness and crop failures due to frequent droughts are the core reasons of widespread distress of farmers.

While drought related problems cannot be solved immediately, the other two-prices of crops and indebtedness can be addressed.

This year the US has approved of giving \$ 180 billion as direct subsidies to its farmers. When we add the subsidy offered by the European Union countries to this, the figure for direct subsidies comes to a whopping \$300 billion per year.

This is some 700 per cent more than the aid offered by the developed world to the developing world per year.

The time has come to provide direct subsidy to our farmers.

Land reforms were introduced. Quality of farming was improved, farm inputs were subsidized like fertilizers, seeds, pesticides, farm equipments, water supply and electricity supply. Yes, we became self-sufficient during last 4 decades. But distress of farmers have increased.

I would conclude by saying that the present crisis in Indian agriculture is linked not simply to stagnating yields and rising costs of cultivation but also the drying up of non-farming employment opportunities.

Growing fragmentation of land holdings is also rendering farming increasingly unviable.

Therefore, there is an urgent need for a price Stabilization Fund to ensure remunerative prices for farm

produce, as suggested by National Commission on Farmers chaired by Dr. M.S. Swaminathan.

There is a need to provide farm credit at lower interest and this should be expanded also and there is a need to provide direct subsidy to farmers too.

With these words, I conclude.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: This discussion will continue during next week. Now, we take up matters of urgent public importance.

SHRIMATI ARCHANA NAYAK (Kendrapada): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the House to the need to have 33 per cent reservation of seats for women in Parliament. Even after 60 years of Independence, adequate representation of women in Indian Parliament still remains a dream.

The House may be aware that 10 years ago, the Government headed by Shri Devegowda brought a Bill seeking to reserve 33 per cent of seats for women in Parliament. Later, a Joint Parliamentary Committee was formed and a consensus Bill emerged from there. The Bill was there even during the Government headed by Shri Gujral. It was introduced in Lok Sabha by the Government headed by Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee during 1998, for the first time. After the dissolution of that Lok Sabha, it was again introduced in Lok Sabha in 1999.

However, it is painful to note that the Bill is still pending before the House. The present Lok Sabha has only 8 per cent representation of women. During 2004-06, the average representation of women in state Legislative Assemblies is just 6.5 per cent. Therefore, it is evident that till a constitutional mandate is imposed on Parliament, democratic rights of women will continue to suffer.

Therefore, I urge upon the Government to bring a Bill seeking one-third reservation of seats for women in Parliament and State Legislative Assemblies and get the same passed during the current Session itself.

SHRIMATI TEJASWINI SEERAMESH (Kanakapura): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I associate myself with the views expressed by Shrimati Archana Nayak. ...(*Interruptions*)

PROF. M. RAMADASS (Pondicherry): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I would like to associate myself with the matter raised by Shrimati Archana Nayak.

SHRI A. KRISHNASWAMY (Sriperumbudur): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, on behalf of the DMK, we would like to associate ourselves with the views expressed by Shrimati Archana Nayak just now. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI A. V. BELLARMIN (Nagercoil): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I would also like to associate myself with the views expressed by Shrimati Archana Nayak. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The names of Shrimati Tejaswini Seeramesh, Shri Ramdas Athwale, Prof. M. Ramadass, Shri A. Krishnaswamy, Shri E. G. Sugavanam, Shrimati M.S.K. Bhavani Rajenthiran, Shrimati V. Radhika Selvi, Shri A.V. Bellarmin and Shri P. Mohan will be associated with the views expressed by Shrimati Archana Nayak.

PROF. M. RAMADASS: Mr. Deputy-speaker, Sir, I wish to draw the attention of the Government of India regarding the need to strengthen the Panchayati Raj Institutions in the Union Territory of Pondicherry.

As many people know, Panchayati Raj Institutions in Pondicherry have been revived just now after 38 years. The last elections to these institutions were conducted in 1968 and in the last 38 years Panchayati Raj Institutions were defunct in the Union Territory of Pondicherry and I have also intervened in this regard in Parliament in the last two years. The hon. Minister of Panchayati Raj and the hon. Minister of Rural Development have taken the initiative to conduct elections and now elections have been completed and only last month we have established these grassroots institutions in the Union Territory of Pondicherry. Therefore, I take this opportunity to compliment and congratulate Shrimati Sonia Gandhi under whose leadership the Congress Party in Pondicherry has conducted the local body elections and I would also like to compliment the Minister of Panchayati Raj Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar and the Minister of Rural Development Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh who have evinced keen interest in this matter.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you.

PROF. M. RAMADASS: Sir, I have not yet come to the problem.

Now that these institutions have come into existence, they are without any infrastructure and without any facility. We are starting from the scratch. There are 98 Gram Panchayats and 108 Intermediate Panchayats covering half of the total population of the Union Territory of Pondicherry. We do not know what is in store in these Panchayati Raj Institutions because now they are the new-born children in the political map of the Union Territory of Pondicherry. Therefore, I urge upon the Government of India, particularly the Ministry of Panchayati Raj, that they have to nurture their children there because the Union Territory of Pondicherry is under the direct control of the Government of India.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you.

PROF. M. RAMADASS: Sir, we are spending a lot of time on many issues. I am raising an important issue. Please give me two minutes. I will complete it as quickly as possible.

Sir, the first thing the Government will have to do is that they will have to prepare a status report of the Panchayati Raj Institutions in the Union Territory of Pondicherry.

Secondly, already the Government has constituted a Council of Panchayati Ministers under the Chairmanship of the hon. Minister of Panchayati Raj. But now that the Panchayati Raj Institutions have come into existence, the Minister of Local Administration Department of the Government of Pondicherry should also be included. The Chief Secretary of the Government of Pondicherry should also be in the Council of Chief Secretaries of various States that has been constituted by the Government.

Thirdly, these institutions must be given a special financial assistance to create infrastructure.

Fourthly, the representatives who have been elected are the first generation elected representatives in Pondicherry and they do not know the do's and don'ts of the functioning of the Panchayati Raj Institutions. They must be given a widespread training programme so that they will know the art of this.

[Prof. M. Ramadas]

Fifthly, the Government of India should also devolve resources as well as the functions for which the Government will have to the help with its expertise for the Union Territory of Pondicherry to prepare what is called 'Activity Mapping'. Only when the 'Activity Mapping' is prepared, they will know what functions to be performed and what not to perform. The National Common Minimum Programme says that the resources should be devolved without any delay on the part of the State Governments and therefore, there should be direct funding of these Panchayati Raj Institutions by the Government of India also. The Centrally Sponsored Schemes relating to the Rural Development Department must be devolved to the Panchayati Raj Institutions to be implemented. The Government is now considering the issue of Centrally sponsored Schemes; that must be directly given not to the DRDA but to the Panchayati Raj Institutions, which are more equipped to bring all these activities in the Government.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please do not make a speech here.

PROF. M. RAMADASS: Sir, finally, I would like to say that there is no District Planning Committee in Pondicherry because there is only a two-tier system, that is, Gram Panchayat and then Intermediate Panchayat. The District Planning Committees are not in existence, so the Government should find a way of district planning also. Thank you.

[Translation]

SHRI MUNSHI RAM (Bijnor): Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir. during the census of 1931 of India, depressed classes were identified and enlisted in 1936. In 1950 this depressed class was notified as Scheduled Castes under article 341. Under the above arrangement Shepherds Dhangar sub caste in the whole U.P. i.e. presently UP. and Uttarachal, enjoys the Status of scheduled castes. The concerned officials mistakenly instead of considering Dhangar as scheduled caste included it among back ward classes thereby counting it alongwith its main caste Garedia which is the violation of Article 341. Dhangar is the sub-castes of Gaderia society which weaves the blanket after spinning wool from sheep. It has been notified so by Registrar-General in its bibliography on SC/ST and marginal community in 1961. In 1982, sociologists considered Dhangar community as part of Scheduled Castes which is mentioned in

bibliography on SCs/STs on page No. 294 in connection with Scheduled Castes of Bihar, West Bengal and Uttar Pradesh. Similarly, Shri Listus in his book castes and Tribes of Swam India, Madras, 1909 on page 167 and J.S. Hutton in book Caste in India, Bombay, 195 at page No. 278 and M.A. Sering in his book Hindu Tribes and Castes at page 190, considered Dhangar as Shepherd Go gthurd Caste, which has been supported by R.C. Sharma in Census of India, 196, volume, 15, part-VII in the Chapter-II of monograph of Handicraft survey described Dhangar as sub-caste of Gaderia and also not the Brahmins and Vaishyas do not dine at the home of Dhangar.

How the Dhangar community was separated from Scheduled Castes List by the Government of India and what status it enjoys on 27.7.1977. It appears from the above that the previous Governments have betrayed the people belonging to the Dhangar community.

Sir, this is being done to thwart the progress of this community. Therefore, I demand that Dhangar community should be given the benefit of scheduled caste all over the country.

SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR (Bareilly): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, through you, I want to bring in the knowledge of Hon. Defence Minister that there are cantonment area and military installations also in my constituency Bareilly. There is a village Bhartol nearby to a military installation 6 Mountain Dip which has population of more than 5000 and out of which more that half of the population belong to servicemen and ex-servicemen. This village is surrounded by cantonment area from three sides and near to the firing range. The road leading to has been built by army but there is no sewage facility in the village. Therefore, army has continuously been asked to provide sewage facility to the village. If you don't want to do it, please allow the villagers to do it. But the army is creating trouble in it and is not co-operating. Therefore, through you, I want to say that the officials posted in 6 Mountain Div. or other official inspecting it, should be instructed that since sewage disposal is the important problem of this country, they should pay attention to it and arrangement should be made for sewage disposal of the village and solve the problem of these villages.

[English]

SHRI B. MAHTAB (Cuttack): Thank you Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, for allowing me to raise an urgent matter of public importance.

It is alarming to note that there are among a total 35,610 foreign nationals who have gone missing on arrival

last year. An official statistics reveal a staggering 12,338 Bangladeshis, 11,845 Afghans and 4742 Pakistanis have gone missing after entering India in 2005. These are individuals who had valid papers, the number of those who may have sneaked it can only be guessed.

With some Pakistanis who went missing after a Cricked match at Mohali under the terror scanner adequate measure should be taken so that persons with terrorist links, perhaps, with active help from agencies like Pakistan's ISI, should not take advantage of the Confidence Building Measures (CBMs) initiated as part of the Indo-Pak peace process. It is said that 371 Pakistanis and 1082 Bangladeshis were intercepted and deported during 2005; but there are large number of foreign nationals who have gone missing.

We are informed through media that security agencies do not have any record of these foreign nationals as they entered on short term or tourist visas and are exempted from registering themselves with the Foreigners Regional Registration Officers (FRROs).

Does not the Government think that dispensing with this procedure, as part of CBMs with Pakistan and Bangladesh, has created a headache for security agencies? Already the Home Minister, Shri Shivraj Patil has expressed in the House that terrorists have taken advantage of buses and trains launched as CBMs to sneak in from Parkistan and Bangladesh.

Though Government has released figures of missing people from 165 countries, the area of concern is the presence of Pakistani, Bangladeshi and a section of Afghani nationals. There is a need to review the short-term tourist visa being imparted to Pakistan, Bangladesh and Afghanistan.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Sarbanand Sonowal.

[Translation]

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR (Chail): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am on point of order.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I know about your point of order.

[English]

SHRI SARBANANDA SONOWAL (Dibrugarh): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir. ... (*Interruptions*)

[Translation]

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR: Sir, kindly listen to my point of order.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Pleas sit down. I know what is your point of order.

... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, notice is required at 8 O' Clock. Several senior members also come. I walk out.

19.34 hrs.

(SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR *then left the House*)

[English]

SHRI SARBANANDA SONOWAL: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to raise a very important matter of public importance relating to the upgradation of ITIs into centers of excellence in the State of Assam and North-Eastern Region.

I would like to draw the attention of the House and the Central Government that the Centrally-Sponsored Scheme of establishment of new ITIs and upgrading of existing ITIs in the North Eastern States was started in the financial year 2001-02.

Initially the Scheme was valid up to 31st March, 2004 but later on it was extended up to the end Tenth Five Year Plan, that is, up to 31st March, 2007.

Under the North-Eastern Scheme, 22 new ITIs are to be established with an outlay of Rs. 49.88 crore, and strengthening/modernization of 35 existing ITIs to be carried out with an outlay of Rs. 49.02 crore. There is a provision of Rs. 1.10 crore for providing technical assistance also. Thus, the total outlay under these schemes comes to Rs. 100 crore. This Scheme has been designed to create and develop infrastructure for training of youths in these States in identified skill areas as per the demand pattern of these region in order to increase their employability.

During the five years of implementation of the North-Eastern Scheme, up to 31st March, 2006 total funds amounting to Rs. 85.75 crore have been sanctioned and Rs. 65.12 crore have been released so far. It seems that

[Shri Sarbananda Sonowal]

the progress of implementation of this Scheme is relatively slow in the North-Eastern States. The Financial Year 2006-07 is the last year approved for completion of the Scheme, and still about 35 per cent of the allocated funds are to be utilized.

In this context the Central Government has allotted a new ITI at Dibrugarh for upgradation into Centres of Excellence with the proposed Gas Cracker Unit coming up into the Region. The sector identified for upgradation is the plastic processing sector.

In view of the above, I urge upon the Central Government to immediately release the remaining amount of allocated fund, that is, 65 per cent for the cause mentioned above to the North Eastern States.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now, Shri P. Mohan.

[Translation]

*SHRI P. MOHAN (Madurai): Hon'ble Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to draw the attention of this august House to the near battle situation and civil war situation available now in Sri Lanka, our friendly country in our neighbourhood. The clash between the armed forces and LTTE has been escalating day by day.

Hundreds of people have lost their lives due to hostile ethnic clashes in the Northern and the Eastern provinces of Sri Lanka. In Mullaithivu, due to air bombardment in civilian areas, a school was attacked and about 61 children have lost their lives. About a lakh of people have fled from the affected areas in the Jaffna peninsula to other parts of Sri Lanka due to this escalating violence. Thousands of people are fleeing to India as refugees every day. Hence, there is an urgent need to impress upon the Sri Lankan Government to stop air bombardment and shelling of civilian areas in the Northern and the Eastern provinces of Sri Lanka. LTTE must also be restrained from resorting to provocative actions of spoiling the irrigation water systems at Muthur in Trincomalee.

Cessation of hostilities must be followed in letter and spirit by both the parties. Ending of this ethnic hostilities must be achieved through negotiations. Through diplomatic channels and through political means, Government of India must evolved ways and means to ensure that Sri Lanka

is not driven to become a civil-war-torn country. On behalf of CPI(M), I would like to urge upon the Union Government to facilitate a situation to settle amicably through peaceful political negotiations.

[English]

SHRI A. KRISHNASWAMY: Sir, on behalf of the DMK Party, we would like to associate ourselves with the matter raised by Shri P. Mohan. ... *(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri A.V. Bellarmin, Shrimati M.S.K. Bhavani Rajenthiran, Shrimati V. Radhika Selvi, Shri E.G. Sugavanam and Shri Ramdas Athawale are also associating with the matter raised by Shri P. Mohan.

[Translation]

DR. KARAN SINGH YADAV (Alwar): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Doordarshan and AIR services in rural areas of my parliamentary constituency are very few and that too at a very nascent stage. At present, Doordarshan Relay Stations are resulted at Alwar and its nearby town Kotputli. My constituency is surrounded by Arwali Range due to which full signals of Doordarshan are not reaching to Thanagasi, Behrore, Bansur, Mundawar, etc. and programmes telecasted by Doordarshan are not clearly visible. People residing in rural area are deprived of entertainment and information due to this problem.

Sir, a common family of a village can afford a black and white T.V. but not monthly rent payable to cable operator. Doordarshan is the only medium of their entertainment and information.

Therefore, I request that a high power relay transmitter at Alwar and separate relay centres at Thangasi, Behrore, Mandowan and Bansur may be setup so that people may get this facility. Likewise, radio waves do not reach there as it is a hilly region. The existing relay tower of AIR is installed at the ground level. If this tower is set up in Bala Fort on the hill top in Alwar. Then all the villages of Beror, Bansur, Mundawar and Thanagasi of my constituency would be able to receive interesting programmes of Alwar AIR station.

Therefore, I would like to remind hon. Minister that AIR and Doordarshan centres may be set up there.

*English translation of the speech originally delivered in Tamil.

SHRI ANIRUDH PRASAD ALIAS SADHU YADAV (Gopalganj): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Gopalganj parliamentary constituency located at meeting point of Bihar and Uttar Pradesh has been ignored in terms of roads but even national highway has always remained in dilapidated condition as well due to lack of Central grants and cooperation.

National Highway-28 which reaches Assam via Delhi, Lucknow, Gorakhpur, Gopalganj is very important in view of economic and strategic matters. I want to remind the government about inter-state road connecting Patna from Deoria district headquarters of Uttar Pradesh via Pagra, vijayipur, Mirganj, Siwan, Chhapra. It can strengthen this area economically.

It may be noted that approach road to Kushinagar, the place at which lord Buddha attained 'Mahaparinirvana' and Buddha pilgrimage Gaya and Rajeeer passes through Gopalganj and reaches Bodhgaya to connect the capital of Bihar Samam, Mirganj, Siwan via Fazil Nagar. With a view to promote tourism industry Thave Bhavani also has an importance of its own on national map, a place visited only through road by tourists from North India including Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh.

Therefore, I request the government that the road to Assam via Delhi, Lucknow, Gorakhpur, Gopalganj, Muzaffarpur, Samastipur may be taken under East-West corridor, Golden Quadrilateral Plan and its construction may be expedited by extending it to other states of north-east so that Government may earn revenue through transport and tourism and public get facility. Thank you.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Had you said it to Lalu ji it would have been done.

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE (Pandharpur): I associate myself with it.

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV (Patna): Hon. Deputy Speaker, Sir, a Technical Training Centre (N.I.N.I) for shipping was set up by Ministry of Shipping, Government of India in Patna, Bihar. It was decided that training of seven courses would be provided in this institute, but unfortunately training of only two courses was started. Now as a part of conspiracy the teaching of both courses was stopped and the Government want to close this N.I.N.I; Gayghat, Patna completely, a conspiracy is being hatched. Unemployed youth who have got training from here are not being provided employment in shipping

companies. Bihar is very backward state on its own. The Government can be instrumental in the development of Bihar by setting up maximum number of training centres relating to such employment. On the other hand a conspiracy is being hatched to close established Institutes. It is very unfortunate for Bihar. Bihar is so backward state where such Institutes are not being set up. ...
(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: What do you want?

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: Sir, through you, we want to request the Hon. Minister of Shipping to stop any injustice to Bihar and allow the commencement of all courses of N.I.N.I (National Inland Navigation Institute) Gayghat, Patna on regular basis.

This will provide unemployed youths of Bihar an opportunity of employment in shipping company by getting training in such institutes.

Previously there were two courses and they have been discontinued. As I had said they should continue two courses alongwith five courses which have not been started so that students of Bihar may get technical education and employment also.

With these few words I would like to draw the attention of Hon'ble Minister through Hon'ble Minister of Parliamentary Affairs towards the action being taken regarding the discontinuation of courses.

SHRI PUNNU LAL MOHALE (Bilaspur): Hon'ble Deputy Speaker Sir, I would like to draw your attention towards the Bilaspur Chirmiri train plying in the Chattisgarh state. This local train from Chirmiri to Bilaspur departs from Chirmiri at approx. 6 P.M. and it arrives at Bilaspur at 4.30 a.m. This train again departs from Bilaspur for Chirmiri at 9.30 in the night after a stay of 16 hours. Another train ply between Ambikapur and Bilaspur. The Government has extended this train to capital city of Raipur with effect from 15 August. It is long pending demand of the people of Chirmiri and Bilaspur that this train which is stranded for 16 hours at Bilaspur should be extended to Raipur Durg so that 10 lakh people may get facilities who are stranded for 16 hours there.

Sir, I would like to say that Anupur Station is situated between the route of the train which is plying between Ambikapur and Bilaspur Durg. Train plying between Chirmiri and Bilaspur also crosses from Anupur. If these

[Shri Punnu Lal Mohale]

trains are run at an interval of one or one and half hours after the gap of two hours, then Raipur bound people will be facilitated. I would like to draw the attention of Hon'ble Minister of Railways through you that local trains plying between Chirmiri to Bilaspur should be extended to Raipur Durg. Last time when I had asked a question about this, then the Hon'ble Minister had informed us that this train is not being extended for name of railway of track. Now I would like to demand that now track has been laid there so Chirmiri-Bilaspur local train from Bilaspur should be extended to Raipur Durg. Union Government should pay attention towards it.

With these words I would like to conclude my words.

[English]

DR. K.S. MANOJ (Alleppey): Sir, kindly permit me to speak from here.

Sir, Kerala, being a food deficient State, is heavily dependent on the Public Distribution System for ensuring food security of the State. More than 85 per cent of the foodgrain requirement of the State is dependent on Public Distribution System foodgrains from outside the State. The decision of the Government of India to implement targeted Public Distribution System has adversely affected the State. The percentage of BPL population fixed was arbitrary. This has led to the exclusion of several eligible families from the BPL list. Also, the crisis in agricultural sector and recurring natural calamities are adding to the number of BPL families. Instead of widening the network of PDS, the Government of India has curtailed the already existing quota of wheat, sugar and kerosene to the State. As per the revision, the allocation of wheat for PDS in Kerala has been reduced from 46190 MTs 19130 MTs—that is, it is almost reduced to one-third—from June 2006 to March 2007. During the last five year, there has been a substantial reduction of 7750 MTs in the allotment of kerosene to the State. In this way, the Government of India is neglecting the genuine demand of the State.

The hon. Chief Minister of Kerala has personally met the hon. Minister for Food and Public Distribution and apprised the situation of the State. The other day, the ration retail dealers from Kerala and other States organised a rally and dharna at Jantar Mantar demanding strengthening of PDS.

Therefore, I urge upon the Government to take immediate steps to restore the universal rationing through Public Distribution System.

[Translation]

SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN (Deogarh): Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, in the interest of our country it is desirable to pay attention towards two incidents, on which Government of India may express views or not, occurred in Bangladesh. Last year on 31st July Foreign Secretary of India Hon'ble Shri Sharan had visited Bangladesh for talks with his counterpart there. In the meeting held on the night of the talks, India's AIR representative Hon'ble.*...

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Do not take names, name will not be included in the record.

... (Interruptions)

SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN: O.k.

An officer of AIR living at Gulshan Nagar, Dhaka was brutally attacked at his home at 10 P.M. in the night. He was admitted in the Apollo Hospital and remained in coma for 42 hours. Co-incidentally he is from Orissa, thereby justifying our further concern. He lives there with his wife and a daughter. It was a matter of concern because Government of India has concealed the facts. Initially it was said that he is down with food-poisoning whereas there were multiple injuries from head to toe. Indian Government should be concerned about the Indian officials working abroad. ... (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Whether is it not a state matter?

SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN: In the same manner three BSF posts were attacked by Bangladesh Rifles in the Kacchar districts of Assam. Three civilians including children have died in this incident. I would submit through you and would like to draw the attention of the Government that this House express its concerns over the atrocities done over the civilians in Lebanon whereas Government of India is indifferent when attacks are made by Bangladesh on our land in which women and children are died then why not the Government of India clarifies it's policy. I would like to say that Government of India should take some action. ... (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You should first give your notice. You have not given notice.

... (Interruptions)

*Not recorded.

[English]

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN (Balasore): Sir, the hon. Minister is here. Will he comment on the matter that was raised by hon. Member Shri Dharmendra Pradhan?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I cannot compel him.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: You cannot, Sir. But we are requesting you. This is a serious matter. Let him say that he would carry our matter to the concerned hon. Minister.

SHRI PRASANNA ACHARYA (Sambalpur): Sir, we request the hon. Minister to reply. ... *(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, in the wake of view adopted in Indian Constitution regarding national integration, our whole society should be uniform to make India powerful. But there is a controversy in our country regarding reservation. In our country's population STs and SCs population is 25 percent

and OBCs population is 55 percent. To sum up people having 80 percent population gets 49.5 percent reservation whereas 20 percent higher class people gets 50.5 percent general seats. Despite that they feel that they are not getting reservation. I would request to the Government that if we cannot give more than 50 percent reservation, we can give 20 percent reservation to the economically backward class people among the 20 percent higher class people. Struggle between anti and pro reservation people should be stopped. They should not oppose our reservation. Government of India should consider upon this and take some decision. You will also support this.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The House is adjourned to meet again at 11 a.m. on 18th August, 2006.

19.53 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Friday, August 18, 2006/Sravana 27, 1928 (Saka)

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