

LOK SABHA DEBATES

(English Version)

Eighth Session
(Fourteenth Lok Sabha)



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LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

Friday, August 18, 2006/Sravana 27, 1928 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock

(MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*)

[Translation]

SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR (Bareilly): Mr. Speaker Sir, a very serious item was telecast on a channel today. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please raise this issue at 12 o'clock.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SUKHDEO SINGH DHINDSA (Sangrur): Mr. Speaker Sir, I have also given a notice. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Dhindsa Saheb, I have received your notice. Your point is very good. You better raise this issue at 12 o' clock. At 12 Hrs. first of all I shall call you to make your point.

...*(Interruptions)*

11.01 hrs.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Q. No. 321, Shri Sugrib Singh.

Loan to Priority and Non-Priority Sectors

+

*321. SHRI SUGRIB SINGH:

SHRI JIVABHAI A. PATEL:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether due to the policy of extending more loan to non-priority sector, non-performing assets of public sector banks have gone up;

(b) if so, the details of loan disbursed to priority and non-priority sectors during 2005-06, sector-wise;

(c) the amount of loan converted into NPA in the priority and non-priority sectors during the above year;

(d) the difficulties being faced by public sector banks in recovering their NPAs; and

(e) the details of the recoveries of NPAs by these banks during the said period?

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

Statement

(a) No, Sir. Gross Non-Performing Assets (NPAs) of the public sector banks (PSBs) have reduced from Rs. 47,696 crore as on 31st March, 2005 to Rs. 41,378 crore as on 31st March, 2006. Reserve Bank of India has reported that as a percentage of Gross Advances, Gross NPAs of public sector banks have declined from 5.6% as on 31st March, 2005 to 3.7% as on 31st March, 2006.

(b) and (c) The outstanding advances of public sector banks to Priority and Non-priority sectors and the NPAs associated with such advances as at the end of March 2006, are as under:-

(Rs. in crore)

	Agriculture	SSI	Other (Priority Sector)	Total Priority Sector	Non- Priority Sector	Total
	A	B	C	D (A+B+C)	E	F (D+E)
Outstanding Advances	1,40,895	82,210	1,73,946	3,97,051	6,75,833	10,72,884
Gross NPAs	6,203	6,917	9,253	22,374	19,004	41,378

Data provisional

(d) Lack of an effective and accurate land record system in the States, inadequate security available in NPA accounts, time taken in the proceedings in the Debt Recovery Tribunal (DRT) / Court Cases etc. are some of the reasons for slow recoveries in NPA accounts. However, public sector banks make concerted efforts to recover their NPAs through issue of notices under The Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest (SARFAESI) Act, 2002, One Time Settlements, recovery through Lok Adalats etc.

(e) The public sector banks have effected total cash recoveries of Rs.10,590 crores from NPA accounts during the year 2005-06.

SHRI SUGRIB SINGH: I would like to know whether the problem of sickness is prevalent in the non-priority sector, and due to globalisation and stiff competition, the percentage of borrowers during the year, to whom credit has been provided, is under stress. Please also give details of the steps taken by the Government to clean up their balance-sheet and also to provide relief or concession to non-priority sector.

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): Sir, I am not sure whether I quite understood the thrust of the question. The non-priority sector is not denied credit. The priority sector is defined as agriculture, weaker sections, farmers and self-employed, and the rest is all non-priority sector. The non-priority sector is not being denied credit. In fact, non-food credit is growing in this country at over 30 per cent for the third year in succession. Therefore, unless the hon. Member specifies what he has in mind, which sector of the economy he has in mind, which is being denied credit, or which sector of the economy faces problems, it will be difficult for me to respond to a general question of that nature. But I will be very happy to answer if he can specify what he has in his mind, which sector or which particular industry is denied credit.

SHRI SUGRIB SINGH: I will write a letter regarding this matter.

In case of non-recovery of NPAs, the banks sell their NPAs to other companies at less than 50 per cent of the principal dues. There is very limited scope for the banks to go for higher percentage because the RBI has permitted a few companies. I would like to know whether the Government will permit more such companies so that due to healthy competition in this field, the interest of banks, while selling their NPAs to such companies, can get protection by getting higher rate for their NPAs.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: I think, hon. Member has in mind ARCIL, the first asset reconstruction company that has been licensed by the RBI. This is a new initiative. It is a beginning. I think, perhaps one more company has been licensed, but I am not sure. In the course of time, there will be more companies which are in the asset reconstruction business. I agree that if there is only one asset reconstruction company, then there is a near monopoly situation. But in course of time, there will be more companies and banks will have a choice to sell their NPAs to these companies, but since this has just started recently, you should give time for this new kind of companies to come into being.

[Translation]

SHRI JIVABHAI A. PATEL: Mr. Speaker Sir, loans disbursed to a host of private companies have not yet been recovered. I would like to ask the hon'ble Minister whether any enquiry has been conducted by the Govt. to ascertain the role of the Bank officials into this state of affairs? If so, the outcome thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto?

[English]

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Sir, borrowing and lending are businesses like any other business. Some loans will turn to be bad, and some borrowers will default. There are a number of reasons why borrowers default. Certainly, the criminal law is set in motion wherever there is mala fide or collusion or illegality. Otherwise, there are very strict regulations laid down by the RBI on how to treat an asset as a Non-Performing Asset (NPA); how to provide for a NPA; and how to recover even after it has been classified as a NPA. Although assets are classified as NPAs, even then recoveries are indeed made among assets classified as NPAs.

For example, in the years 2002-2003, 2003-2004, 2004-2005 and 2005-2006, for four years, the actual cash recoveries have been Rs. 6,245 crore, Rs. 6,927 crore, Rs. 8,560 crore and Rs. 10,590 crore respectively. Therefore, it is not correct to say that no recoveries are made. These provisions are made according to the RBI regulations. Nevertheless, bank officers make recoveries.

SHRI AMITAVA NANDY: Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state whether some foreign institutional investors have expressed their desire to purchase the NPAs? Has the regulatory authority like SEBI and RBI given approval to it? What is the name of those foreign institutional investors? What is their credibility in the market?

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Sir, to the best of my information, as at present advised, I think that ARCIL has been granted a licence to setup an Asset Reconstruction Company. I will have to find out if any other potential investor has been given permission to setup an Asset Reconstruction Company. I will find out if there is anyone else who has applied or has been granted a licence, and I will let the hon. Member know about it as I do not have the information with me.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Alok Kumar Mehta – not present.

Shrimati K. Rani

SHRIMATI K. RANI: Sir, the RBI had stated some time back that the banks had made substantial progress in cleaning up their NPAs from their balance sheets. The level of NPAs is recognised as the critical indicator for assessing credit risk of the banks, asset quality and efficiency in allocation of resources to productive sectors.

There is a perception that public sector banks are hard on recovery of small amounts from farmers and small-scale industrial units, while they go easy on big borrowers. In any case, everyone is interested in bringing down the NPA very substantially. How is the Finance Ministry thinking of proposing to the banks, so that they take some concrete action to reduce their NPAs further?

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Sir, the performance of public sector banks in the matter of reducing Gross NPAs and Net NPAs has been exemplary in the last two years. I compliment all bank officers and employees for bringing banks to this improved state of health.

Now, the answer itself says that Gross NPAs have come down from Rs. 47,696 crore as on 31 March 2005 to Rs. 41,378 crore as on 31 March 2006. Even in absolute numbers, the Gross NPAs have come down. As a percentage of outstanding advances, the percentage has declined from 5.6 per cent to 3.7 per cent. This is the lowest in many many years, and the Net NPAs are now only about 1.3 per cent. I think that the banks – in the last two or three years – have taken very many steps to control NPAs. While more efforts should be taken, I want to take this opportunity to congratulate the bank management, officers and employees for joining in this effort to reduce the NPAs.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: I would like to know this from the hon. Minister. Is there any provision in the banking system to examine and monitor the end use of the loans in view of the rampant misuse and abuse of the loans, and diversion of the loans?

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: There is a provision in the banking system.

MR. SPEAKER: This is what is known as brevity and relevance.

Assistance to Self-Help Groups

*322. SHRI RUPCHAND MURMU: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Self-Help Groups (SHGs) working at present under Swarnjayanti Gram Swarojgar Yojana (SGSY), State-wise;

(b) whether most of these SHGs are waiting for the Government assistance since formation of SGSY in 1999;

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

(d) the total funds required for assisting these SHGs in the current financial year; and

(e) the time by which assistance is likely to be provided to the said groups?

[Translation]

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

Statement

(a) An annexure showing state-wise number of Self-Help Groups (SHGs) formed, eligible for economic assistance and economically assisted since inception of SGSY (i.e. 1.4.99) upto 14th August 2006, is enclosed.

(b) As of 14th August 2006, of the total number of 6,24,104 SHGs which became eligible for economic assistance under SGSY, 3,27,488 SHGs have been provided economic assistance. The remaining 2,96,616 SHGs are in the process of getting economic assistance. Out of these 2,96,616 SHGs, a significant number (2,31,594) is in the state of Andhra Pradesh. The Andhra Pradesh government is covering these SHGs through World Bank assisted projects viz., Andhra Pradesh Rural Poverty Reduction Project (APRPRP) and Andhra Pradesh District Poverty Initiatives Project (APDPIP), in addition to the SGSY.

(c) One of the important reasons behind the non-

rendering of assistance under the SGSY is that the programme being a process-oriented one, it took time to organize and establish the SHGs, develop their skills, mobilize bank credit, etc. Additionally, it has also been seen that some states have not fully utilized the funds allocated to them. There was a reduction in the allocation to the programme during the earlier years due to low absorption of funds by the State Governments, but in subsequent years the allocations have started improving. So far, most of the states have received funds as per their requirement. However, now that the scheme has established, additional funds are required for meeting the requirement of the eligible SHGs.

(d) and (e) The Ministry of Rural Development is estimating the requirement of funds to assist all the eligible SHGs through a process of consultation with the state governments. For the current financial year, the requirement of funds has been worked out to be Rs. 4400 crore to cover the balance eligible SHGs. Planning Commission and the Ministry of Finance have been approached for additional funds. The Ministry envisages that the eligible Self Help Groups will be provided the requisite assistance as and when they become eligible.

Annexure

Physical progress under the SGSY since inception (1.4.99) upto 2006-07 (As on 14.08.2006)

S.No.	States/U.T.	No. of SHGs Formed	No. of SHGs Passed Grade I	No. of SHGs Passed Grade II and Eligible for Economic Assistance	No. of SHGs Economically Assisted
1	2	3	4	5	6
1	Andhra Pradesh	461181	413591	277489	45895
2	Arunachal Pradesh	361	155	82	212
3	Assam	126019	69501	29975	21088
4	Bihar	97316	40270	17668	20963
5	Chhattisgarh	50124	19701	5654	4687
6	Goa	664	374	167	228
7	Gujarat	89846	25437	7549	4922
8	Haryana	10729	7081	4527	4191
9	Himachal Pradesh	5476	4799	4029	3958
10	Jammu and Kashmir	7111	3775	1011	2902
11	Jharkhand	31161	17198	5425	10507
12	Karnataka	38804	23144	18082	17604
13	Kerala	56963	40488	14601	7385
14	Madhya Pradesh	247056	87243	30920	26545
15	Maharashtra	126288	79054	37642	24477
16	Manipur	705	139	36	17

1	2	3	4	5	6
17	Meghalaya	4727	2540	880	777
18	Mizoram	1406	1024	798	1253
19	Nagaland	2436	945	978	2009
20	Orissa	153765	79735	29556	18950
21	Punjab	4158	2478	1427	1593
22	Rajasthan	26413	14208	4206	3168
23	Sikkim	1149	694	248	275
24	Tamil Nadu	246907	148002	37572	26086
25	Tripura	17933	7141	2018	6145
26	Uttar Pradesh	331606	163362	64513	57541
27	Uttaranchal	19400	12517	6725	5494
28	West Bengal	153936	100152	19781	8118
29	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	348	218	104	141
30	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	16	0	0	0
31	Daman and Diu	0	0	0	0
32	Lakshadweep	4	2	0	1
33	Pondicherry	1230	1051	441	356
Total		2315238	1366019	624104	327488

[English].

SHRI RUPCHAND MURMU: Sir, the Self-Help Groups are producing a variety of goods, but they are not getting the market to sell their produce as their packaging systems are not attractive, like other company products. The first part of my supplementary is whether the Union Government has any plans to buy the produce from the Self-Help Groups and sell the same after packaging it attractively. The second part of my supplementary is. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You can come to the second part later on.

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Mr. Speaker Sir, the hon. Member has rightly raised the issue that self-help groups produce very attractive and varieties of goods.

However, they don't have proper marketing arrangements in place. That is why, in the first place, we have accorded permission of opening 50 shops at Pragati Maidan in Delhi which will be inaugurated on ensuing 14th November. There shall be arrangement for the sale of goods manufactured/produced by the self-help groups over there. Alongwith that, an acre of land has also been acquired adjacent to Apollo Hospital in Delhi where arrangement of sale of goods manufactured by self help groups will be made. This apart, in every state Saras fairs are organised every year. This fair shall be inaugurated at Pragati Maidan in Delhi on the birth anniversary of Late Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru which will last for 15 days. In addition, Saras fair will also be organised at Delhi Hat. I have written to the Chief Ministers of all the states to provide land for Saras fairs in all major cities or District Headquarters in the State. The expenditure involved in building shopping complexes shall be borne by the Central

Government. It will invariably include uninterrupted and sustainable marketing arrangement. An amount of Rs. Five lac is disbursed to every district on this account with a view to putting in place an arrangement for the sale of goods manufactured by the self help groups. Therefore, marketing is a significant issue and it is a productive self employment programme for the eradication of poverty which is very much useful for the country. This is a good scheme sanctioned by us. We have a good hold on this market. The Government have come forward to see that the poor withstand tough challenges posed by the Multi-National Companies under the severe impact of globalization. For this, we have also requested the State Governments to come forward. We are taking pains to make special arrangements for marketing of the rural products manufactured/produced by the poor and the self help groups. Not only that, it has also been reported by our embassies that arrangements are being made in the foreign markets also for the sale of the goods produced by the poor and the metallic products made by the tribals in Bastar district.

[English]

SHRI JOYTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA: Sir, Q. Nos. 322 and 323 are alike and there is not much of a difference. They can be clubbed together.

MR. SPEAKER: Let me see.

SHRI RUPCHAND MURMU: Sir, the Self-Help Groups are ready to buy paddy from the farmers and they are also ready to produce rice. In order to encourage them, has the Government any plans to buy rice from the Self-Help Groups for Mid-Day Meal Projects?

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Sir, in every State the Governments concerned are engaging self-help groups in multiplicity of work. So their services are utilised in the purchase of paddy. This apart, quite often their services could be sought for sulabh sauchalayas and in total sanitation campaign. Thus, we see that their support is very useful in a number of activities. The State Governments may seek the services of these self-help groups by making district-wise allocation of work. We are ready to extend our whole-hearted support.

SHRI RUPCHAND MURMU: The issue of mid-day meal has not been answered.

MR. SPEAKER: He has given the reply. It is not a discussion time.

DR. ARVIND SHARMA: Mr. Speaker Sir, the SHGs engaged under SGSY scheme provide assistance and employment to the poor families. I would like to ask the hon'ble Minister whether the Government shall further ameliorate the schemes by increasing the quantum of loans and will further increase the subsidy. Concomitantly, I would also like to know from the hon'ble Minister about the steps taken or proposed to be taken to make further amelioration in the scheme. As a matter of fact, even after the submission of all the relevant and requisite documents, the youth of the poor families are subjected to harassment and the disbursement of the loan is inordinately delayed. In view of this, I put forward my humble request to make any such arrangements that may facilitate the needy with the quick disbursement of loans so that they may be able to start their work.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Hon'ble Member has rightly laid emphasis on the right point. He said that it is a very good scheme aimed at the eradication of poverty and the removal of unemployment as it is employment-oriented scheme and the banks have a pivotal role to play or: this. Their Coordination Committees work in tandem with banks at the national level, state-level, district level and even at the block level. It is monitored on monthly basis to ensure quick resolution of the cases of the applicants belonging to the poor strata of society, if lying pending. Monitoring has led to an improvement. There is no further scope regarding the complaint of the hon'ble Member made recently. Now banks are also extending cooperation.

SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN: Mr. Speaker Sir, the hon'ble Minister has not replied to the main question regarding the quantum of economic assistance. Out of the total SHG prepared since 1999, 12-15 percent of these have been financially upgraded. When will this upgradation be completed? Even in case of grade-2, only 15 percent level has been reached. All these are useful projects. Will the hon'ble Minister throw some light on the financial aspects of these? Keeping in view the fact that since the problem is not only related to the bank but also marketing, are you planning to bring about coordination by bringing in the cooperative sector?

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Sir, perhaps the hon'ble Member has not taken the trouble of going through the reply. It has been stated in the reply that "the total requirement of funds for the current financial year to cover the remaining eligible self help groups would be Rs. 4400 crore." For this, we have sought supplementary budget. The Planning Commission has agreed to do the needful. Our target for the 11th five year plan is to make

each family living below the poverty line a member of at least one self help group. For this the budget for the 11th five year plan has to be at least Rs. 35,000 crore. The planning commission has referred this to its select group for discussion and decision. This is the single best method to remove poverty. Unemployment and poverty are the two blots in our country. Poverty will persist as long as there is unemployment. Emphasis should be on productive self employment to remove poverty. Additional source of income in each family will lift it above the poverty line. All our attention is on this. This aspect is inherent in it. All arrangements have been made to provide full assistance to the members of the self-help groups.

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon'ble Minister in his reply has mentioned that there are some States which were given certain funds and did not utilise the funds within the time frame. Hon. Minister has stated that efforts were being made to provide a market in Delhi and other States. Hon'ble Minister, Sir, your main aim to remove unemployment and poverty and keeping in view your aim, markets should be found for the products of the poor. Providing shops would not meet the requirement of markets.

I would like to know from the hon. Minister the arrangements being made to bring their products at par with the best produced by the reputed and bigger companies?

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Sir, details regarding year-wise and state-wise expenditure would be provided to the hon. Member.

The hon. Member has raised a valid point regarding marketing. The multinational companies in this era of globalization spend in huge amount in publicity. It is not possible for a poor man to match this. Hence arrangements for marketing, designing, training packaging and creating a brand etc. will be made. Emphasis is on marketing since because in absence of publicity, the good quality products of the poor for which there is demand, do not find any market. The government and the people should extend help in all aspects of marketing. This will help in creating a market for the product of the poor in this age of competition. This will help increase his income.

[English]

DR. P.P. KOYA: Sir, thank you very much for giving me an opportunity.

In our country, the system of Self-Help Groups has

come to stay since 1999. ...*(Interruptions)* The Minister is very proud of it. I am also proud of it. This is one of the programmes which caters to the needs of the poorest of the poor. The Minister has confessed that assistance has already been given to a little more than three lakh projects; and a little less than three lakh projects are still remaining to be extended assistance. Some of the projects which have already been started are closing down just because they do not have the market. Even if the produce is produced by the poor or rich, it should be palatable for me to eat.

Under such circumstances, does the Government have a method or mechanism where it can maintain the quality of the produce?

MR. SPEAKER: How can you assure the quality?

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Sir, there is a DRDA in each district. It looks into the sale of the products and its improvement in products made by the self-employed. Our endeavour is on improving the quality, publicity and various aspects of marketing may be there so that the products of the poor find a market enabling him to increase his income.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I am little liberal because of the importance of the question.

SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA: Thank you for giving me this opportunity.

[Translation]

Mr. Speaker, Sir, if the Minister could go into the practical aspect of this scheme, he will learn how difficult it is for such people to earn their livelihood. This is the situation in all States, be it Andhra Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh or Madhya Pradesh, where a large number of people are associated with this scheme. This is specially true in my constituency, Rampur, where there are 800 groups. About 40,000 persons are dependent on it. I would like to state that groups are formed, they are formed either 'A' grade or second grade. Only 'A' grade groups are eligible for loans. And, their loans would not be sanctioned if they are in the second grade. This consumes one year. My request is that their loans should be sanctioned even before they reach 'A' grade. This will save their an year's time.

Sir, the Minister of Finance is present here. I would like to raise another query.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: All questions are important.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: He cannot reply.

*[Translation]*SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA: Keeping in view their plight, I demand that the 800 groups. *...(Interruptions)**[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Finance Minister, kindly listen to her, but do not reply to her.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA: A package should be announced as assistance. This will help them, as also, the Centre would be able to help the States. All the hon. Members complained that there was no buy banking assurance. In my constituency, Rampur girl children make various products.

MR. SPEAKER: Pay attention to quality. This will ensure a good price to them.

SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA: They are not in a position to sell their products. They cannot market their products. Hence, the government should give an assurance. *...(Interruptions)* They should be extended financial assistance.

MR. SPEAKER: Will you give an assurance?

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to tell the hon. Member that groups are elevated to grade one within six months: After getting grade one status when revolving fund gets deposited, they come to grade 2 and become eligible for getting loan. Monitoring is talked about time and again and there is much thrust in it. The Government are ready to extend every possible help so that the poor people could sell their products but we want cooperation from hon. Members for this. Articles should be purchased from the self help groups and State Governments should also make purchases from these groups. I seek cooperation specially from the hon. Members for this. *...(Interruptions)* It has taken the form of a movement. There is also a provision of marketing of the produced goods. *...(Interruptions)*SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I wanted to say that. *...(Interruptions)**[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: No. Nothing more will be allowed. I am sorry.

(Interruptions)...*

MR. SPEAKER: I am sorry. No.

*...(Interruptions)**[Translation]*

MR. SPEAKER: You go and discuss with the hon. Minister in this regard. He will offer you tea also.

SHRI SUKHDEV SINGH DHINDSA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have already told the hon. Minister earlier also that MPs of a particular party which is in power in a State are consulted on all the central schemes but the MPs of opposition are not consulted. So, such instructions should be issued that....

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, no discrimination is made among MPs in connection with the implementation of the schemes of Deptt. of Rural Development, whether they are from treasury benches or from opposition or from any other party. We have advised the State Government to respect all hon. members. No discrimination is made in District Vigilance Monitoring Committee either. In all the schemes, hon. Members preside over as Chairman. *...(Interruptions)**[English]**...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: No. Nothing will be recorded.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Only Shri Anant Gudhe's question will be recorded.

(Interruptions)...*

MR. SPEAKER: No. Nothing is being recorded.

(Interruptions)...*

MR. SPEAKER: It is very unfortunate. No. I would not allow this. You have to take your seat. Please take your seats.

...(Interruptions)

* Not recorded.

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: I am on my legs, so you please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I will find out from the Minister, but this is not the way to do this. By creating such a situation here, you are not furthering your cause, unless he is so vulnerable.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: All of you please give me an opportunity to help you.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: But you have never brought it to my notice. Nobody has brought it to my notice. You have done it now; I will look into it.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: I am an old man. I forget things.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I have called Shri Anant Gudhe. Nothing else will be recorded.

(Interruptions)*...

[Translation]

SHRI ANANT GUDHE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the House is having maximum discussion on the sale of articles produced by self help groups because the major problem before them is to sell their products. The hon. Minister has stated that a fair is about to be held in Delhi at Pragati Maidan. They organise exhibitions in every district by providing some money. I would like to know whether there is any scheme to allot shops to persons for sale of their goods who have been provided loans and who are working fully as self help groups at Zila Parishad and Panchayat Samiti offices where Government land is available? I demand that in all the States wherever such land is

* Not recorded.

available, orders should be issued to allot land in some proportions to the self help groups at all such locations so that shops could be opened there.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: You have said that.

[Translation]

SHRI ANANT GUDHE: Though, such shops have also been constructed at some places, some good self help groups have demanded for this but still they don't get the shops for selling their products. I would like to ask the hon. Minister whether he would gather complete information and make such arrangements so that these self help groups could get the shops there?

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: All the State Governments have a lot of responsibility in this.

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Sir, I have been keeping full knowledge of this. Twelve States have made arrangements for this in their capitals and district headquarters. I had gone to Amaravati to attend a conference on savings. There also I had demanded land for this purpose from the State Government so that shops could be constructed on that land. The hon. Member met me there also. A grand conference of Self Help Groups on savings had been held there. The hon. member do have interest in marketing but State Governments should also evince equal interest in that and a good arrangement of marketing with mutual cooperation should be there. I agree to this and am ready to cooperate.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Dr. R. Senthil — Not Present.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU: Mr. Speaker, Sir. ... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I feel you are very persisting. I will not allow the question if it is not relevant.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: What I can do if names are given. I

have already called eight members, how many more members can I call.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I would like to know how many supplementaries hon. Members want for each Question. There are 34 Parties represented in the House. Can 34 supplementaries be allowed for each Question?

...(Interruptions)

SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU: After Independence, this is one of the best schemes to eradicate poverty and to provide employment. A lot of money is being provided for the big players. For industry we are providing crores of Rupees. To meet the demand of the self-help groups, we have asked the Union Finance Ministry to provide Rs.4,400 crore. If you see the Non Performing Assets, you will find that the repayment from the self-help groups is 98 to 95 per cent but still the Government of India is not providing money. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please put your question.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU: For big non-performing companies, we are providing money. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: No, you will have to put the Question. I will not allow it.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU: This is a very important scheme. Repayment from the Self-Help Group is to the extent of 95 per cent. In this situation, will the Government provide Rs.4,400 crore to meet the demand of nearly 3 crore beneficiaries? What is the problem of the Government in providing money to the self-help-groups?

My second supplementary is, ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I will not allow second supplementary. By this time you should know that only one supplementary is allowed.

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Member has rightly said that big persons in

the country have created non-performing assets to the tune of one and a half lakh crore rupees by way of loans taken from the banks but the Self Help Groups run by the poor folks have shown 95 to 98 percent recovery of loans. The non-performing assets are not constituted by the poor, it is the well off people who indulge more in frauds. So, I assert that banks should extend full help to the poor. No petition pertaining to Self Help Groups should remain pending, their accounts should be opened quickly and there should be a fair treatment with them in respect of interest also. The hon. Member said that a demand of Rs. 4400 crore has been made for this. I would like to tell him that the Planning Commission while giving its assent has said that provision for this will be made in the Supplementary Budget.

Pending Projects under SGSY

*323. SHRI SRICHAND KRIPLANI:

SHRI KRISHNA MURARI MOGHE:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of special projects being run by the Government at present under Swarnajayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY), State-wise;

(b) the details of the proposals/projects received by the Government from various States under SGSY during the last three years and the current year, State-wise;

(c) whether the Government has accorded sanction to the said proposals/projects;

(d) if so, the details thereof alongwith financial assistance provided/likely to be provided, State-wise;

(e) if not, the reasons therefor; and

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

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

Statement

(a) to (f) Two hundred and twenty one Special projects under Swarnajayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY) have been sanctioned/approved by the Government so far since inception of the scheme in April 1999. A statement indicating the number of special projects sanctioned under SGSY, State-wise is given at Annexure-1.

The number of special project proposals under SGSY received from various States since inception of the scheme up to 31.3.2006 and during the current year (2006-07) State-wise is given at Annexure-II. The State-wise number of special projects under SGSY sanctioned/approved during the last three years (2003-04 2004-05 and 2005-06) and during the current year (2006-07) is given in Annexure-III. The details of Central share of funds released for special projects under SGSY during the same period are given in Annexure-IV. Since inception of the scheme, 665 proposals have been received by the Government, out of which, 221 projects have been sanctioned/approved so far, 365 project proposals have been returned to the concerned State Governments or other sponsoring agencies for various reasons such as non compliance with the guidelines of SGSY special projects non-viability of projects, lack of focus on Below Poverty Line (BPL) beneficiaries etc. and 79 project proposals are with the Government at various stages of processing including proposals referred to technical agencies for comments, proposals cleared by Project Screening Committee (PSC) but yet to go to Project Approval Committee (PAC) etc.

A large number of special project proposals under SGSY are received from the State Governments for sanction. Since they are large rural livelihoods projects whose cost can go up to a maximum of Rs. 15 crore, such proposals are first scrutinized for their compliance with the guidelines of Special Projects under SGSY, mainly relating to focus on BPL beneficiaries, viability and sustainability of projects, commitment for 25% matching share of project cost by the State Governments, inclusion of credit component, etc. Projects that do not fulfill these requirements are returned to the concerned State Governments. The State Governments keep on revising, restructuring and resubmitting such proposals. The proposals, wherever necessary, are also sent for obtaining technical comments of the concerned Central Government Departments/agencies. The project proposals which comply with the basic parameters of the guidelines are then appraised through two Inter-Ministerial Committees for screening and approval. The projects are first examined and screened by the Project Screening Committee (PSC) headed by Joint Secretary (SGSY) with members from the Internal Finance Division and the Planning Commission. The project cleared by PSC are finally considered and approved by the Project Approval Committee headed by Secretary, Ministry of Rural Development, with Additional Secretary and Financial Adviser, Ministry of Rural Development. Adviser (Rural Development), Planning Commission and Joint Secretary (SGSY) as members. Receipt of project proposals, their

revision by the sponsoring State Governments and their appraisal and approval through the above two tier Inter Ministerial Committees is a continuous process. Since appraisal and approval/clearance of these proposals is a continuous process and depend on various factors like their fulfilling the prescribed guidelines, economic viability of the proposals, BPL focus of projects, etc., no time frame can be indicated for final approval of these project proposals.

Annexure-I

State-wise number of Special Projects sanctioned since inception i.e 1.4.99

S.No	States	Total Number of Projects Sanctioned
1	2	3
1	Andhra Pradesh	23
2	Arunachal Pradesh	4
3	Assam	11
4	Bihar	7
5	Chhattisgarh	5
6	Goa	1
7	Gujarat	10
8	Haryana	1
9	Himachal Pradesh	9
0	Jammu and Kashmir	4
11	Jharkhand	3
12	Karnataka	6
13	Kerala	8
14	Madhya Pradesh	22
15	Maharashtra	11
16	Manipur	5
17	Meghalaya	2
18	Mizoram	5
19	Nagaland	5

1	2	3	1	2	3
20	Orissa	2	25	Uttar Pradesh	5
21	Punjab	5	26	Uttaranchal	12
22	Rajasthan	21	27	West Bengal	4
23	Tamil Nadu	8	28	Multistate Projects	17
24	Tripura	5	Total		221

Annexure-II*Details of SGSY Special Projects Received since inception, i.e. April, 1999**(As on 10.08.06)*

State	Projects Received Before 31.03.06	Projects Received in Current Year 2006-07	Total Projects Received	Approved	Pending*	Returned
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Andhra Pradesh	51	3	54	24	3	27
Arunachal Pradesh	13	1	14	4	3	7
Assam	28	0	28	11	0	17
Bihar	20	7	27	7	4	16
Chhattisgarh	16	1	17	5	2	10
Goa	1	0	1	1	0	0
Gujarat	22	1	23	12	3	8
Haryana	8	0	8	1	0	7
Himachal Pradesh	15	1	16	9	3	4
Jammu and Kashmir	12	0	12	4	0	8
Jharkhand	8	1	9	3	0	6
Karnataka	32	9	41	6	5	30
Kerala	18	1	19	8	3	8
Maharashtra	32	9	41	11	18	12
Manipur	29	3	32	5	3	24
Meghalaya	9	2	11	2	1	8
Mizoram	11	2	13	5	0	8

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Madhya Pradesh	52	3	55	22	11	22
MPEDA	1	0	1	0	0	1
Nagaland	22	3	25	5	1	19
Orissa	11	2	13	2	0	11
Punjab	8	1	9	5	2	2
Rajasthan	50	1	51	21	1	29
Sikkim	1	1	2	0	1	1
Tamil Nadu	30	2	32	8	2	22
Tripura	16	0	16	5	1	10
Uttar Pradesh	24	2	26	5	5	16
Uttaranchal	22	6	28	12	4	12
West Bengal	11	5	16	5	2	9
Multistate	19	6	25	13	1	11
Total	592	73	665	221	79	365

*Includes all projects under different processing stages, referred to other departments, deferred etc.

Annexure-III

State-wise number of Special Projects sanctioned During Last 3 years & Current Year

S.No.	States	Year				Total Number of Projects Sanctioned
		2003-2004	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	
1	2	7	8	9	10	11
1	Andhra Pradesh	4	3	0	2	9
2	Arunachal Pradesh	0	1	0	1	2
3	Assam	1	0	0	1	2
4	Bihar	2	3	0	0	5
5	Chhattisgarh	1	1	0	3	5
6	Goa	1	0	0	0	1
7	Gujarat	4	1	0	0	5
8	Haryana	0	0	0	0	0
9	Himachal Pradesh	0	0	0	1	1

1	2	7	8	9	10	11
10	Jammu and Kashmir	2	0	0	0	2
11	Jharkhand	0	0	0	1	1
12	Karnataka	1	2	0	1	4
13	Kerala	2	1	2	1	6
14	Madhya Pradesh	3	0	2	2	7
15	Maharashtra	2	3	0	3	8
16	Manipur	2	0	0	1	3
17	Meghalaya	1	0	0	1	2
18	Mizoram	0	1	0	0	1
19	Nagaland	1	1	2	0	4
20	Orissa	0	0	0	0	0
21	Punjab	0	0	0	0	0
22	Rajasthan	4	2	1	0	7
23	Tamil Nadu	3	0	2	0	5
24	Tripura	1	0	0	0	1
25	Uttar Pradesh	2	0	0	1	3
26	Uttaranchal	1	2	1	0	4
27	West Bengal	1	0	1	0	2
28	Multistate	0	5	2	6	13
Total		39	26	13	25	103

Annexure-IV**Year-wise Funds Released to the States under SGSY Special Projects**

(Rs. in Lakhs)

S.No.	States	Year			
		2003-2004	2004-2005	2005-06	2006-07
1	2	3	4	5	6
1	Andhra Pradesh	770.35	823.86	362.41	0.00
2	Arunachal Pradesh	0.00	126.00	126.00	0.00
3	Assam	965.10	22.13	329.91	337.50

1	2	3	4	5	6
4	Bihar	682.40	764.10	0.00	0.00
5	Chhattisgarh	358.50	358.50	379.73	0.00
6	Goa	294.70	0.00	0.00	0.00
7	Gujarat	799.25	448.80	690.00	0.00
8	Haryana	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
9	Himachal Pradesh	0.00	292.60	655.37	345.42
10	Jammu and Kashmir	73.05	60.00	0.00	0.00
11	Jharkhand	0.00	90.00	270.90	0.00
12	Karnataka	295.64	97.59	163.04	356.82
13	Kerala	199.74	405.60	880.00	0.00
14	Madhya Pradesh	1960.38	396.67	756.83	0.00
15	Maharashtra	543.82	273.09	0.00	18.27
16	Manipur	126.12	116.32	221.70	28.99
17	Meghalaya	34.85	0.00	0.00	0.00
18	Mizoram	0.00	170.62	347.54	144.87
19	Nagaland	126.00	236.60	539.72	0.00
20	Orissa	0.00	109.17	270.00	91.00
21	Punjab	83.25	26.80	0.00	0.00
22	Rajasthan	1838.72	568.88	1469.61	246.76
23	Tamil Nadu	560.90	99.00	1319.11	0.00
24	Tripura	51.03	102.53	0.00	0.00
25	Uttar Pradesh	604.40	0.00	60.00	516.24
26	Uttaranchal	777.14	203.44	370.98	0.00
27	West Bengal	28.32	283.47	866.05	0.00
28	Multistate	0.00	1021.68	70.68	110.88
Total		11173.66	6897.45	10149.56	2196.75

SHRI SRICHAND KRIPLANI: Mr. Speaker Sir, the hon'ble Minister is talking big of Swarn Jayanti Gram Swarojgar Yojana. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: It is not proper to make such comments.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SRICHAND KRIPLANI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, he wants the State Governments and the MPs to come forward for his succour but I would like to assert and it merits considerable attention that Swarna Jayanti Gram Swarojgar Yojana was started in the year 1999 during the regime of Shri Atal Behari Vajpayee and a host of schemes had been prepared for the progress of the families living below poverty line (BPL) and to impart training to people. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Put your question.

[Translation]

SHRI SRICHAND KRIPLANI: As per data available, as many as 665 proposals were forwarded to the Government ever since the scheme was put in place, out of which 221 proposals were sanctioned, 79 proposals are pending and 365 proposals were returned. I would like to state that Rajasthan is the most backward state of the country and the largest state geographically. This scheme of Rajasthan has been lying pending for a very long period. As many as 51 projects were sent by Rajasthan out of which 29 projects were returned. In your reply you have just stated that one project of Rajasthan is to be considered while as per data available with me. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Please ask your question otherwise I will not allow you. What is your question?

[Translation]

SHRI SRICHAND KRIPLANI: As per data available with me, as many as seven schemes are yet to see the light of the day. They include Chittorgarh based Dairy Project, Gramin Haat Pariyojana etc. ...*(Interruptions)* I would like to know the time by which these schemes are likely to be implemented?

MR. SPEAKER: It was of only one minute's question and you have taken ten minutes.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon'ble Member must have noticed that there is a table in respect of every state in it. A total of 21 out of 51 projects have been sanctioned. Viewing at national level. 24 projects of Andhra Pradesh have been noticed. Rajasthan ranks third. As many as 21 projects of Rajasthan have been sanctioned while one is lying pending with us which is under process. 29 projects have been returned. Some technical shortcomings have been detected. The fact remains that the personnel of all the departments are member of the screening committee and on the detection of short-comings, these are sent back to the State Governments concerned for submitting them again after rectifying the shortcomings. The screening committee may re-consider the projects and accord sanction.

SHRI SRICHAND KRIPLANI: Sir, you have just stated that schemes sent back to Rajasthan are for lesser in number than that of other states. However, as per data available with me in terms of money allocated so far and after having a close look at the calculations you will find that Rs. 1833 lakh were given in the year 2003-2004, Rs. 568 lakh in the year 2004-2005 and an amount of Rs. 1469 lakh and Rs. 246 lakh were allocated to Rajasthan for the financial years 2005-06 and 2006-07 respectively. Assam is a small state as compared to Rajasthan whereas Rs. 336 has been allocated to Assam and in case of Himachal Pradesh the amount is Rs. 345 lakh. It indicates gross injustice done to Rajasthan. I have to make a humble submission that a huge amount earmarked for the completion of seven pending projects of Rajasthan remains to be disbursed. I would like to know the time by which the amount in question shall be disbursed and the time by which sanction shall be accorded to those 7 schemes.

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT: Sir, a huge amount remains to be disbursed to Rajasthan. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing will be recorded.

*(Interruptions)...**

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, in the financial year 2006-07 commencing from the month of April to August an amount of Rs. 2.46 crore has been allocated in these five months and in the financial year 2005-06, Rs. 14 crore were disbursed. You are overlooking this fact. As soon as terms and conditions of any project are fulfilled, there is a provision to release the

* Not recorded.

funds immediately. Even we keep on reminding the State Governments for fulfilling the conditions and get the funds allocated for them. In case of pendency, the amount of expenditure involved gets augmented and the quality of work also suffers. This is why we always monitor such cases. We are furnishing the details to the hon'ble Member and he should ensure that the errors are rectified by the State Governments concerned and get the funds released. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing will be recorded.

*(Interruptions)...**

MR. SPEAKER: Do not record anything. If you are not satisfied, you give a notice for Half-an-Hour Discussion. Nothing will be recorded.

*(Interruptions)...**

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY: Sir, after the restructuring of IRDP and other allied programmes, the SGSY was launched in the year 1999. It is basically a credit based subsidy programme where credit is considered as a critical component and subsidy is an enabling element.

[Translation]

The hon'ble Minister is making efforts to make this programme successful. As far as West Bengal is concerned, we see that only four projects have been sanctioned since 1999. I would like to know from the hon'ble Minister the amount allocated to the State of West Bengal from 1999 to this date, as no money has been sanctioned to West Bengal for the year 2006-07. As far as the utilization of funds is concerned, the method of utilization of funds for this programme in West Bengal is as follows:-

[English]

Fifteen per cent of this fund has been earmarked for catapulting the Below Poverty Line families into the Above Poverty Line. This aspect has to be assessed. My first question is. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You are allowed only one question.

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY: How much fund has been allocated to the State Government of West Bengal and how many projects have been approved since the inception of this programme in 1999?

* Not recorded.

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, out of 16 projects received from West Bengal, five projects have been approved, two are pending and they are under process and remaining nine have been returned for correction. The hon. Member has desired to know the amount allocated to the State. I would like to say that Rs. 28 lac were allocated in 2002-04, 2 crore 83 lac in 2004-05 and 8 crore 66 lac allocated in 2005-06. During 2006-07 no amount has been released so far but it will be released very soon. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: You cannot carry on until you are not satisfied.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI RANJEET RANJAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, pending schemes of SGSY have been merged with Rozgar Guarantee Yojana by the Government. In my constituency 1050 schemes of SGSY are lying pending and work worth Rs. 14 crore is pending in them. Government made a provision of Rs. 8 crore for these schemes in the Budget. Yesterday I talked to DM and he said that he had not received any instruction that these pending schemes had been merged with the Rozgar Guarantee Schemes. Through you, I would like to know from the hon'ble Minister as to the time by which these pending schemes are likely to be completed?

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the main question is related to SGSY but hon'ble Member desired to know about SGRY, I would like to tell the hon'ble Member that SGSY and SGRY are two different schemes. SGSY is a self employment programme.

MR. SPEAKER: Please, send a letter to the hon'ble Member.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to tell the hon'ble Member that SGRY is a self employment programme which provides for completion of any scheme or food for work scheme, instructions have been issued to complete the scheme so that no scheme remained incomplete, if some schemes remain incomplete, they should be completed and they should be completed alongwith employment guarantee law w.e.f. February 2, 2006. In those districts where Employment Guarantee Scheme has been implemented. SGRY and food for scheme have been included in it. Therefore, it has been instructed that schemes lying pending should be completed with the employment guarantee law.

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, hon'ble Minister has given the reply of the question alongwith four annexure with year wise details of funds released. According to the reply of the question no funds were released for Bihar during the year 2005-06 and 2006-07. Besides, he has also given the statewise details of the specific projects in the schemes sanctioned during last three years. No funds were allocated to Bihar during 2005-06 and the year 2006-07. Thus from the beginning of the schemes in the year 1999 till date all the details of SGSY schemes have been given. As per the details total 27 schemes were received, out of them 16 were returned and rest seven have been approved by the Government. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: He has given all the details.

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, recently the Minister visited Bihar and a statement made by him was published in the news paper. In this statement he has threatened the State Government that even a single paisa would not be released to the State Government from the Central funds and as per his statement he is taking back these projects and discriminating with Bihar. Through you, I would like to ask the hon'ble Minister that although the people of Bihar have changed the Government of his party but Bihar is his native State. So forgetting this discrimination does he propose to take any action for sanctioning these projects?

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is not correct to say that I threatened the State Government. It is absolutely wrong to say that any discrimination is being made. I put all the facts here. The Government of NDA was in the Centre. Bihar got only Rs. 700 crore per year and deduction was Rs. 300 crore. When UPA Government came in the Centre, we are giving Rs. 2100 crore yearly and we have given them more than sufficient funds. Now he is raising the issue of special projects I would like to say that hon'ble Member does not have the basic knowledge of the special projects. Special projects are prepared at the district level and sent to the Centre through the State Government. Neither any special project is prepared in Bihar nor it is sent to the Union Government. After repeated reminders, they prepared a special project and sent it to us but that was not appropriate, so we again requested the State Government to modify it. Hon'ble Member is talking about good Governance in Bihar but he knows about the bad Governance prevailing there. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: He was in power when all these irregularities took place there. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Only the reply of the hon'ble Minister will go on record.

*(Interruptions)...**

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Hon'ble Member should persuade the State Government that the amount being released by the Union Government should be utilized for removing all type of disparities prevailing in the State. Presently, there are 16 thousand crore rupees in Backward region fund. The 12th Finance Commission has recommended an allocation of Rs. 7973 crore for the State Government. He presented the budget of Rs. 5500 crore to the Union Government but Planning Commission sanctioned Rs. 8500 crore. News papers published that he got much more than his expectation. Therefore, the Union Government is committed to the poor people of Bihar and full assistance is being provided to the State Government. Hon'ble Member need not make any incorrect statement and needs to do work in his native land. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: I am not asking question. Through you, I would like to know whether hon'ble Minister is replying or*...

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: What he is doing? ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: That will not be recorded.

*(Interruptions)...**

DR. K.S. MANOJ: Sir, I would like to compliment the hon. Minister for regularly writing letters to the Members of Parliament seeking suggestions and recommendations for the various programmes under his Ministry.

One of the drawbacks of the products manufactured by the Self-Help Groups is that. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: This is regarding SGSY.

DR. K.S. MANOJ: Sir, there is lack of diversification and value addition. Diversification and value addition requires large investments. The Self-Help Groups find it

* Not recorded.

difficult to raise that amount of money. I would like to know from the hon. Minister if some funds could be allocated for technology upgradation of the SSI units under the SGSY scheme.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister, are you providing anything for technology upgradation?

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: This also includes the item of skill development. Percentage of expenditure to be made on skill development has already been included in it. There is also a provision for quality training as per demand so that they can get employment. Hon'ble Member may kindly see it.

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to tell the hon'ble Minister that he has constituted District Monitoring Committees for all the schemes in gram panchayat, be that S.G.S.Y. or National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme, run by the Ministry of Rural Development. Recently, he has issued orders for constitution of Panchayat Mitra on the pattern of Shiksha mitra and alongwith that he has also issued orders for the appointment of technicians.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you I would like to ask the hon'ble Minister whether the selection procedure for the appointment of technicians of Panchayat Mitra will be completed under the supervision of hon'ble Members of Parliament who are holding the post of chairman of the District Vigilance Committee, i.e. the monitoring committee as he has proposed honorarium of Rs. 2000 to 2500 for technicians and Panchayat Mitra. Will he complete the selection procedure under the supervision of other members and hon'ble Members of Parliament who are the Chairmen of District Monitoring Committees?

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the power to supervise the appropriateness of selection has already been vested with hon'ble Members as Chairmen of the Committee. The power to scrutinize the implementation of specified procedure and to check irregularities has been vested with the District Vigilance Monitoring Committee. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: No this habit of interrupting has to go.

[Translation]

SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I want to tell the hon'ble Minister that from

our State of Maharashtra a total 41 proposals i.e. 32 proposals upto 31 March 2006 and nine proposals during the year 2006-07 have been sent to his Ministry. Whenever we prepare any special project, it is prepared through D.R.D.O. and after that it is cleared by a committee comprising C.O. and Collector. Thereafter it is cleared in D.P.D.C. and then sent to State Government and then to the director. After passing through these channels it is cleared. Then it is sent to the screening committee and then to the Joint Secretary and then Screening Committee finalises it. After that the final committee is formed at secretary level. Like this, the garment proposal of our district is likely to create employment opportunities for four thousand women. Now this project is at final stage but I have come to know that it is about to be rejected. When it was finalized by the screening committee and the secretary of the State Government also assured that they are about to release the funds, it is happening. Then how could we believe? ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: These are about individual projects. This is not the way to put a supplementary. Question Hour is not for that purpose.

[Translation]

SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: You are a very dynamic Minister. ...*(Interruptions)* You have taken a good decision in the field of rural development. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: You are right.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to know from the hon'ble Minister whether he will accept the proposal for our Aurangabad district?

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, how the reply to the specific question asked by hon'ble Khaire ji may be given without information but hon'ble Member explained the entire procedure and talked about existence of screening committee. ...*(Interruptions)* After scrutiny whatever decision will be appropriate will be taken. I have got no specific information about it and we do not get specific information since it is done by the committee. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Since these two Questions are based on rural development, I have allowed a number of supplementaries so that different parties can put their questions. Please cooperate. As these are important issues, I want them to be discussed. Now, last supplementary will be put by Shri Brajesh Pathak.

[Translation]

SHRI BRAJESH PATHAK: Mr. Speaker, Sir, today a very important question on rural development was raised in the House and whenever this question is raised all hon'ble Members unanimously said that the Union Minister of Rural Development has a good intention, he is devoted towards this. But the State Governments do not pay any attention to whatever is said by the Members of Parliament and they do not accept their suggestions. Monitoring Committees have been formed but their sittings have not been held and if held, then neither the Chairman nor the Minister is able to implement the decisions taken in the sittings of these committees.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to ask a question to the Minister that he announced in the House, the very importance of the Ministry of Rural Development and he is committed to eradicate poverty. Is he able to issue any directions to the State Governments in this regard?

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the question raised by the hon'ble Member does not relate to S.G.S.Y. Since many Members have raised a question on it, I would like to say that there are about 600 districts and out of these, in 374 districts, sittings of the monitoring Committees have been held on several occasions.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, different States have the governments of different parties. The Members of Parliament belonging to the ruling party in a particular state also make the same complaints. We see that meetings are held in States where the Members of Parliament are interested and pursue the matter. You cannot find even one State, ruled by any party, where there is no arrangement of holding meeting in spite of interest shown by the Members of Parliament. No disregard is shown to any M.P.

Many hon'ble Members have given good reports and favourable information. Therefore, if any state government ignores this and does not call a meeting, we will again appeal to them to empower fully the Monitoring Committees and get cooperation from the Members of Parliament so that rural development schemes may run and function properly and strict monitoring could be done.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, strict vigilance, monitoring, people's participation, transparency and accountability are the parts of our National Common Minimum Programme. It is the target of the programme that rural development schemes should be implemented on the basis of these four formula but it is not possible without the cooperation of hon'ble Members. Therefore, cooperation from hon'ble Members is solicited so that monitoring could be done, work done properly and sittings held. I would like to urge Shri Brajesh Pathak, also, to take interest and participate in it.

MR. SPEAKER: After such a detailed reply now no question from any hon'ble Member should be raised further.

[English]

Rajiv Gandhi Grameen Vidyutikaran Yojana

*324. SHRI K. FRANCIS GEORGE:
DR. RAM LAKHAN SINGH:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Rural Electrification Corporation has suggested implementation of the Rajiv Gandhi Grameen Vidyutikaran Yojana on a turnkey basis;

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

(c) whether there is slow progress in undertaking the work of the scheme in some States;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

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

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

Statement

(a) and (b) As per the sanction orders, one of the conditions stipulated for implementing projects under Rajiv Gandhi Grameen Vidyutikaran Yojana is that "the project shall be executed on turnkey basis in accordance with REC's guidelines for procurement of goods and services". Accordingly, States along with the State utilities have entered into a Tripartite or a Quadripartite Agreement with Rural Electrification Corporation Limited (REC). 27 States have entered into such Agreements.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. The target set for village

electrification for 2005-06 was 10,000 against which 9819 villages have been electrified. In 2006-07, upto 14.08.2006, 5590 villages have been electrified.

(e) Following steps have been taken to speed up the work under Rajiv Gandhi Grameen Vidyutikaran Yojana:-

- To augment the implementation capacities of State Electricity Boards/Power Utilities, the services of Central Public Sector Undertakings (CPSUs) have been offered to the States.
- REC has issued guidelines for formulation of projects, procurement guidelines and bidding procedure for procurement of goods and services for projects to be executed on turnkey basis and for selection of franchisees. It has also updated the existing REC's technical specifications for equipment/material and construction standards for adoption in project implementation/execution.
- States advised to constitute District Committees to monitor the progress of rural electrifications works.
- Constant periodical review meetings conducted by Secretary (Power) and REC with State Governments and State Utilities.

[English]

SHRI K. FRANCIS GEORGE: Sir, the Rajiv Gandhi Grameen Vidyutikaran Yojana is one of the very ambitious projects that has been included in the National Common Minimum Programme. This has been a very good Programme. I recall with gratitude the efforts that have been put up by our former esteemed colleague, the late Shri P.M. Sayeed in initiating this Programme. I congratulate the present Minister also for achieving the target last year in the case of rural electrification. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please put the question. Not much time left.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI K. FRANCIS GEORGE: Sir, I would like to point out two matters. They are regarding the practical problems being faced by States like Kerala in implementing the Scheme.

One is regarding the turnkey based tendering of the Scheme. Second is regarding the franchisee system of distribution. In the case of Kerala, when it was tendered the tender excess came to 69 to 76 per cent. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You cannot have all these details. This is not the procedure.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI K. FRANCIS GEORGE: Sir, I just want the Minister to understand the difficulties.

That means, ninety per cent of the grant that is being given by the implementing agency, the Rural Electrification Corporation, which comes to Rs. 152 crore, simply goes to the contractors instead of benefiting the State or the rural population.

I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the Ministry will consider allowing normal tender process and whether it will do away with the franchisee system of distribution.

SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Member had asked me the same question earlier also. I had replied that I would look into the problem. Not only that. I have received a letter from the Minister, the State Government of Kerala. I have invited them, the Member of Parliament and the Minister, for a meeting on 21st.

But I must tell you here that the turnkey based tendering has been finalised because there is a total transparency in the turnkey process. I would like to bring to your notice that the Kerala Government, particularly their Utility, has said that re-tendering was done and the cost has come to about Rs. 60 lakh. Whereas in the case of Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh, the cost comes to Rs. 1.77 lakh, Rs. 3.42 lakh and Rs. 3 lakh respectively. As compared to cost of these other Southern States, Rs. 60 lakh is far more. If the State Utility is unable to do it, our PSUs, the NTPC and the Power Grid will be able to do it as they are doing it in States like Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, etc. If the Government desires, our PSUs, the NTPC and the Power Grid will be able to take up the job and save money on this.

SHRI K. FRANCIS GEORGE: Considering the practical difficulties faced in implementing the Centrally-Sponsored Schemes, like this one – as has been requested by Shri Dhindsa – I would also request the Minister and would like to know from the Minister whether he will initiate steps for constituting a Vigilance and Monitoring Committee, as is done by the Ministry of Rural Development, giving representation to the local MPs in every district to supervise the power projects.

MR. SPEAKER: Now, there is no time left.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE: The District Committees are already existing and the State has done excellent work in that. I appreciate the work done by the State.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[Translation]

Fast Track Courts

*325. SHRI BALASASHEB VIKHE PATIL: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Fast Track Courts (FTCs) established and the number of them are functional;

(b) the number of cases admitted and disposed of in these Courts during 2004-05, 2005-06 and the current year;

(c) whether some FTCs are non-functional;

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

(e) the steps the Government proposes to take to make them functional?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ): (a) The Eleventh Finance Commission had recommended setting up of 1734 Fast Track Courts (FTCs). Out of the 1711 FTCs notified by the State Governments upto 31.3.2005, 1562 FTCs were functional on that date. The State-wise break up of 1562 FTCs is given in the enclosed Statement-I.

(b) As per the information available in the Department, out of a total number of 17,88,048 cases entrusted to the FTCs in all the States, since their inception, 10,19,038 cases were disposed of by them and 7,69,010 cases are pending. State-wise details are given in the enclosed Statement-II. The number of cases admitted and disposed of by the FTCs, State-wise and year-wise, during 2004-05, 2005-06 and the current year is being collected.

(c) to (e) Out of 1562 FTCs functional as on 31.3.2005, some FTCs in different States are not functional as on date. The Hon'ble Supreme Court is monitoring the functioning of the FTCs in Transfer Case No.22/2001 (Brij Mohan Lal Vs UOI) and in its Order dated 21.11.2005 has directed all High Courts and State Governments to furnish affidavits to know as to how many FTCs are required to be continued having regard to the pendency. The matter is, therefore, sub judice.

Statement-I

Sl.No.	Name of States/UTs.	No. of FTCs functional as on 31.3.05
1	Andhra Pradesh	86
2	Arunachal Pradesh	3
3	Assam	20
4	Bihar	150
5	Chhattisgarh	31
6	Goa	5
7	Gujarat	166
8	Haryana	16
9	Himachal Pradesh	9
10	Jammu and Kashmir	0
11	Jharkhand	89
12	Karnataka	93
13	Kerala	31
14	Madhya Pradesh	66
15	Maharashtra	187
16	Manipur	2
17	Meghalaya	3
18	Mizoram	3
19	Nagaland	2
20	Orissa	41
21	Punjab	18
22	Rajasthan	83
23	Sikkim	0
24	Tamil Nadu	49
25	Tripura	3
26	Uttar Pradesh	242
27	Uttaranchal	45
28	West Bengal	119
	Total	1562

Statement-II

Sl. No.	Name of States/UTs.	No. of cases transferred to	No. of cases	No. of cases pending
1	2	3	4	5
1	Andhra Pradesh	127784	89904	37880
2	Arunachal Pradesh	2069	534	1475
3	Assam	20887	14050	6837
4	Bihar	78495	29178	49317
5	Chhattisgarh	41939	32762	9177
6	Goa	4371	2181	2190
7	Gujarat	280048	47823	232225
8	Haryana	17169	11409	5760
9	Himachal Pradesh	5263	2546	2717
10	Jammu and Kashmir			0
11	Jharkhand	53373	34981	18392
12	Karnataka	29377	19629	9748
13	Kerala	52386	37522	14864
14	Madhya Pradesh	58962	40242	18720
15	Maharashtra	261903	160415	101488
16	Manipur	1351	985	366
17	Meghalaya	573	287	286
18	Mizoram	1261	723	538
19	Nagaland	650	287	363
20	Orissa	31864	23303	8561
21	Punjab	24089	14184	9905
22	Rajasthan	55621	34448	21173
23	Sikkim			0
24	Tamil Nadu	232820	203038	29782
25	Tripura	3100	2858	242

1	2	3	4	5
26	Uttar Pradesh	323019	163313	159706
27	Uttaranchal	53370	36793	16577
28	West Bengal	26304	15583	10721
Total		1788048	1019038	769010

[English]

Foreign Investment in Real Estate

*326. SHRI K.S. RAO: Will the Minister of HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of foreign investors and the funds invested by each of them in real estate sector since it has been opened to foreign investment;

(b) the criteria/guidelines for foreign investment in real estate sector;

(c) the opportunities available for small foreign players to invest in real estate business;

(d) whether the Government proposes to set up Real Estate Investment Trust or Real Estate Mutual funds to regulate foreign investment alongwith the big players and to check speculative rise in prices of real estate in the country; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION (KUMARI SELJA): (a) to (e) The Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) received from January, 2004 to April, 2006 in Housing, Real Estate and urban infrastructure is Rs.594.33 crore. The list of the countries from where it has been received is given in the enclosed Statement.

In order to catalyse investment in Real Estate as an investment to generate economic activity, create new employment opportunities and add to the available housing stock and built up infrastructure the Government has vide Press Note 2 (2005 series), allowed FDI upto 100% under automatic route for townships, housing, built-up infrastructure and construction-development projects, which would include, but not be restricted to housing, commercial premises, hotels, resorts, hospitals, educational institutions, recreational facilities and regional level infrastructure rather than limiting it to only development of integrated townships.

There is no such proposal at present.

Statement

Name of the country from where Foreign Direct Investment received during the year 2004, 2005 and 2006

Sl. No.	Country
1.	Austria
2.	Canada
3.	Cayman Island
4.	China
5.	Cyprus
6.	Denmark
7.	Germany
8.	Hongkong
9.	Italy
10.	Liechtenstein
11.	Kuwait
12.	Malaysia
13.	Mauritius
14.	Norway
15.	Russia
16.	Singapore
17.	South Africa
18.	Spain
19.	Switzerland
20.	Thailand
21.	United Kingdom
22.	United States of America
23.	Venezuela
24.	British Virginia
25.	Muscat
26.	Vietnam

Loan Outstanding against States

*327. SHRI M. RAJA MOHAN REDDY:

SHRI SUKHDEV SINGH DHINDSA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the Central loan including interest outstanding against each State during the last three years, year-wise;

(b) the loans/advances provided to each of the State Government during the above period;

(c) the details of loan written-off by the Union Government, State-wise; and

(d) the steps proposed to be taken by Government to improve management of finance in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) State-wise details of outstanding central loans (Ministry of Finance) including interest for the last three years is given in the enclosed Statement-I.

(b) Amounts of loans/advances provided to each of the State Governments during the last three years are given in the enclosed Statement-II.

(c) Detail of State-wise loans written off by the Union Government under Eleventh Finance Commission's (EFC) General Debt Relief Scheme and Twelfth Finance Commission's (TFC) Debt waiver Scheme is given in the enclosed Statement-III.

(d) Consequent upon the acceptance of the recommendations of the Twelfth Finance Commission, Government of India has formulated and circulated a scheme called "The States' Debt Consolidation and Relief Facility (2005-06 to 2009-10)". Under the scheme, the past Central loans (Ministry of Finance) contracted till 31.3.2004 and outstanding as on 31.3.2005 are to be consolidated and rescheduled for repayment in 20 equal annual installments at a reduced interest rate of 7.5%, subject to states enacting Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management Acts with suggested core provisions. In addition, the debt write-off recommended by TFC is linked to reduction of revenue deficit of states for repayments due from 2005-06 to 2009-10 on the consolidated central loan, subject to laid down conditions.

State Governments are also required, inter-alia, to formulate their own Fiscal Correction Path outlining various reforms to augment their revenues and compress their expenditure to eliminate their revenue deficits by the year 2008-09 and control their fiscal deficits.

Statement-I

Central loans (Ministry of Finance) including interest outstanding against each State during the last three years

(In Crore of Rupees)

S. No.	Name of States	3/31/2004	3/31/2005	3/31/2006
1	2	3	4	5
1	Andhra Pradesh	18384.19	15889.69	15647.80
2	Arunachal Pradesh	428.53	468.80	449.43
3	Assam	3000.99	2336.46	2273.25
4	Bihar	10180.53	8984.82	8572.37
5	Chhattisgarh	2743.01	2298.48	2217.73
6	Goa	787.23	750.27	723.70
7	Gujarat	14074.56	11269.93	11385.88
8	Haryana	3622.85	2206.60	2127.28
9	Himachal Pradesh	1777.01	1034.62	1010.19
10	Jammu and Kashmir	2696.83	2215.29	2091.14
11	Jharkhand	3057.40	2893.51	2741.91
12	Karnataka	10555.16	8697.94	8960.12
13	Kerala	5517.09	5298.11	5302.60
14	Madhya Pradesh	8974.30	8877.76	8761.39
15	Maharashtra	16165.80	8253.54	8346.75
16	Manipur	787.81	1437.67	1398.48
17	Meghalaya	356.65	359.29	343.83
18	Mizoram	292.99	330.22	320.98
19	Nagaland	359.25	373.53	355.61
20	Orissa	8954.64	9047.76	8614.73
21	Punjab	9127.21	7182.20	7042.45
22	Rajasthan	9602.06	7627.98	7648.86
23	Sikkim	210.08	205.99	196.27
24	Tamil Nadu	9170.64	6290.23	6439.30
25	Tripura	555.88	524.64	500.74
26	Uttar Pradesh	27484.13	24094.69	23282.17

1	2	3	4	5
27	Uttaranchal	246.27	404.39	386.76
28	West Bengal	19044.42	15807.80	15183.01
	Total	188157.52	155162.21	152304.74

Interest outstanding during the above years have been recovered in the same financial year

Statement-II

Loans/advances (including Ways & Means Advances) provided to each of the State Government during the last three years.

(In Crore of Rupees)

S.No.	Name of States	Release 2003-04	Release 2004-05	Release 2005-06
1	2	3	4	5
1	Andhra Pradesh	3107.7930	1828.0760	506.8902
2	Arunachal Pradesh	98.1921	65.7103	200.7038
3	Assam	338.5794	428.2621	47.9103
4	Bihar	1158.7088	1290.8892	0.0000
5	Chhattisgarh	434.9295	433.2576	23.3389
6	Goa	60.9525	82.4236	0.0000
7	Gujarat	2160.5124	1778.6858	686.1910
8	Haryana	327.6535	273.2937	24.1799
9	Himachal Pradesh	283.8440	228.8282	24.0792
10	Jammu and Kashmir	414.7486	314.6008	3.7487
11	Jharkhand	469.1453	508.3230	1.4389
12	Karnataka	1942.9027	1531.4497	658.7924
13	Kerala	962.8872	1472.3829	590.4171
14	Madhya Pradesh	1714.1184	1866.5621	287.1044
15	Maharashtra	1068.7392	1454.1325	469.5360
16	Manipur	420.6038	1017.8625	0.2917
17	Meghalaya	75.2719	110.4246	1.4814
18	Mizoram	70.9992	58.7045	5.1984
19	Nagaland	59.4648	156.1406	100.5756

1	2	3	4	5
20	Orissa	1537.0114	1409.7858	-15.8840
21	Punjab	539.7559	542.4435	22.1919
22	Rajasthan	1623.6827	1453.9224	365.9349
23	Sikkim	37.6839	38.8094	0.7144
24	Tamil Nadu	1008.2337	1024.6613	437.9709
25	Tripura	79.3909	79.6815	0.3406
26	Uttar Pradesh	3058.6991	2820.5159	297.8830
27	Uttaranchal	233.7210	138.7906	3.4819
28	West Bengal	1358.0468	1631.9458	578.9615
Total		24646.2715	24040.5659	5323.4730

Statement-III

Amount of Debt Relief to the States under Eleventh Finance Commission (EFC) and Twelfth Finance Commission (TFC)

(Rs. in crore)

S. No	States	General Debt Relief under EFC	Debt Waiver under TFC (DCRF) * as on 31.7.2006
1	2	3	4
1	Andhra Pradesh	77.52	
2	Arunachal Pradesh	1.72	
3	Bihar	65.28	
4	Chhattisgarh		93.26
5	Gujarat		315.89
6	Haryana	74.48	96.67
7	Karnataka	4.83	358.33
8	Madhya Pradesh	37.28	363.06
9	Manipur	2.47	
10	Orissa		381.90

1	2	3	4
11	Punjab	132.12	
12	Rajasthan	29.8	308.70
13	Tamil Nadu	137.14	263.28
14	Uttar Pradesh		1063.71
Total		562.64	3244.80

* Debt Consolidation and Relief Facility

[Translation]

Allocation of Loan for Development of Rural Areas

*328. SHRI RAKESH SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that the total loan amount allocated to the rural areas of the country is comparatively lower than that allocated to the metropolitan cities;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government proposes to earmark a fixed amount out of the total loan amount for the development of rural areas where country's 75% population reside; and

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

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (d) The total agriculture credit disbursed in 2005-06 by Scheduled Commercial Banks, Regional Rural Banks and Cooperative Banks was Rs. 1,67,775 crore (Provisional), which represent a growth of 34% over the disbursement of Rs. 1,25,309 crore in 2004-05.

As per the instructions issued by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on Priority Sector Lending, all Scheduled Commercial Banks (SCBs), excluding Foreign Banks have to ensure a minimum of 18% of their Net Bank Credit (NBC) to Agriculture Sector. The total outstanding agricultural advances of Public Sector Banks as on the last reporting Friday of March, 2004, 2005 and 2006 (provisional) are Rs. 86,186.77, Rs. 1,12,474.95 and Rs.1,54,900.12 crores respectively, which is 15.41%, 15.65% and 15.22% of Net Bank Credit.

Quite often, the operations of the entities are in rural areas and their corporate offices/head offices are located in urban areas. Hence, it is not possible to clearly demarcate credit flowing into rural or urban/metropolitan areas.

Low Cost Houses

*329. SHRI HARISHCHANDRA CHAVAN:
SHRI VIKRAMBHAI ARJANBHAI MADAM:

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

(a) whether the Government proposes to assist the States on low cost housing schemes by providing additional Central assistance to the States for this purpose;

(b) if so, whether the Government would disburse and monitor the Housing for all schemes targeted for the economically weaker sections and the lower income group; and

(c) if so, the steps Government proposes to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION (KUMARI SELJA): (a) to (c) For integrated development of Slums through projects for providing shelter, basic services and other related civic amenities to the urban poor in selected 63 cities, a Sub-Mission on Basic Services to the Urban Poor has been launched as part of the Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission on 3.12.2005. In the

remaining cities/towns an Integrated Housing & Slum Development Programme has also been launched along with Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission. Integrated Housing & Slum Development Programme has subsumed Valmiki Ambedkar Awas Yojana and the National Slum Development Programme. For implementation of Basic Services to the Urban Poor and Integrated Housing & Slum Development Programme, Central share is released in the form of Additional Central Assistance. Houses at affordable costs for slum dwellers/urban poor/economically weaker sections/low income group categories is an admissible component under Basic Services to the Urban Poor and Integrated Housing & Slum Development Programme. Both Basic Services to the Urban Poor and Integrated Housing & Slum Development Programme are demand driven schemes for which Urban Local Bodies are required to submit detailed project reports and sign a Memorandum of Agreement committing to implement specified urban reforms.

[English]

Swarna Jayanti Shahari Rozgar Yojana

*330. SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA:
SHRI M. ANJAN KUMAR YADAV:

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

(a) whether the Government has achieved the desired objectives of Swarna Jayanti Shahari Rozgar Yojana (SJSRY);

(b) if so, the details regarding the number of persons assisted/trained in the various sector against target fixed during the years 2004-05 and 2005-06, State-wise;

(c) the details of funds released under SJSRY during the above period, State-wise;

(d) the details of the funds utilised during the said period, State-wise;

(e) the reasons for non-utilization of funds if any; and

(f) the funds allocated for the Financial Year 2006-07 under SJSRY, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION (KUMARI SELJA): (a) to (f) The main objective of the employment oriented urban poverty alleviation programme of Swarna Jayanti Shahari Rozgar Yojana (SJSRY) is to provide gainful self-employment to the urban unemployed

or underemployed poor living below the poverty line through setting up of micro enterprises and also through provision of Wage employment by utilizing their labour for construction of socially and economically useful public assets. During the Tenth Plan period the cumulative physical targets of assisting 4 lakhs urban poor for setting up of individual/group micro-enterprises annually and also imparting skill training to 5 lakhs urban poor has been fixed at National level. Annually this comes to assisting 80,000 urban poors in setting up of individual/group micro enterprises and imparting skill training to 1,00,000 urban poor. These targets are further distributed to the States/ Union Territories in proportion to the population of urban poor living below the poverty line in the States/Union

Territories, as estimated by the Planning Commission. During the last two years, the State-wise achievements against these targets, as reported by the States/Union Territories are given in the enclosed Statement-I.

The Details of Central funds released, funds utilised by the States/Union Territories during last two years are given in the enclosed Statement-II.

The Tentative allocation made to the States/Union Territories under Swarna Jayanti Shahari Rozgar Yojana (SJSRY), in proportion to the population of urban poor living below the poverty line in the States/Union Territories, as estimated by the Planning Commission are given in the enclosed Statement-III.

Statement-I

State-wise Physical Targets and Achievements under SJSRY

Sl.No.	State/UTs	2004-2005				2005-2006			
		No. of Urban poor assisted to set up individual/group micro enterprises		No. of Urban poor provided training		No. of Urban poor assisted to set up individual/group micro enterprises		No. of Urban poor provided training	
		Target	Achievement	Target	Achievement	Target	Achievement	Target	Achievement
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1	Andhra Pradesh	7270	17704	9088	5631	7270	2020	9088	3957
2	Arunachal Pradesh	21	40	27	0	21	0	27	0
3	Assam	275	1150	343	4638	275	2825	343	2230
4	Bihar	4401	0	5501	0	4401	34087	5501	4233
5	Chhattisgarh	2619	1903	3274	4559	2619	558	3274	2027
6	Goa	70	53	88	345	70	22	88	0
7	Gujarat	3354	4307	4193	5958	3354	2028	4193	1585
8	Haryana	644	2362	805	4171	644	2553	805	3078
9	Himachal Pradesh	35	302	43	839	35	89	43	450
10	Jammu and Kashmir	59	1265	73	1748	59	822	73	987

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	Jharkhand	1466	0	1833	0	1466	0	1833	0
12	Karnataka	5313	4572	6641	2709	5313	3451	6641	3451
13	Kerala	2397	3007	2996	4736	2397	1982	2996	2541
14	Madhya Pradesh	7080	8704	8850	7524	7080	817	8850	5078
15	Maharashtra	12285	19114	15356	14518	12285	9579	15356	18382
16	Manipur	79	0	99	2506	79	0	99	0
17	Meghalaya	41	0	51	0	41	0	51	0
18	Mizoram	54	1175	67	379	54	156	67	2126
19	Nagaland	33	265	42	250	33	131	42	154
20	Orissa	3033	3967	3792	2273	3033	1179	3792	1063
21	Punjab	512	527	640	1440	512	17	640	1236
22	Rajasthan	3198	4660	3998	1957	3198	3260	3998	5555
23	Sikkim	5	76	6	176	5	104	8	170
24	Tamil Nadu	5967	2356	7459	5016	5967	1412	7459	4756
25	Tripura	59	544	73	4783	59	878	73	3081
26	Uttaranchal	705	153	881	1212	705	0	881	0
27	Uttar Pradesh	13373	6919	16716	29031	13373	6345	16716	5253
28	West Bengal	3986	4033	4983	2361	3986	4030	4983	20222
29	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	29	4	36	0	29	16	36	0
30	Chandigarh	54	72	67	961	54	35	67	0
31	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	4	10	4	98	4	0	4	0
32	Daman and Diu	6	0	7	0	6	0	7	0
33	Delhi	1364	214	1705	220	1364	170	1705	300
34	Pondicherry	211	1108	264	1792	211	1122	264	2152
Total		80002	90566	100001	111831	80002	79688	100001	94067

Statement-II*Central funds released and utilised under SJSRY during last 2 years i.e. 2004-05 and 2005-06.*

(Rs. in crore)

Sl.No.	States/UTs	2004-05		2005-06	
		Central fund released to the States/UTs	Central fund expenditure reported by the States/UTs during this year*	Central fund released to the States/UTs	Central fund expenditure reported by the States/UTs during this year*
1	2	3	4	5	6
1	Andhra Pradesh	11.16	3.20	15.26	2.90
2	Arunachal Pradesh	0.08	0.26	0.00	1.25
3	Assam	2.45	4.06	0.00	5.39
4	Bihar	4.68	4.68	6.82	0.00
5	Chhattisgarh	1.19	1.15	4.06	1.47
6	Goa	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
7	Gujarat	1.64	2.83	0.00	5.72
8	Haryana	6.68	4.33	6.81	6.74
9	Himachal Pradesh	0.02	0.39	0.45	0.34
10	Jammu and Kashmir	1.28	0.72	0.09	0.48
11	Jharkhand	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
12	Karnataka	11.65	7.97	8.23	7.56
13	Kerala	5.55	1.29	6.81	0.00
14	Madhya Pradesh	9.31	8.86	15.97	11.97
15	Maharashtra	15.09	18.36	25.53	2.70
16	Manipur	0.00	0.00	1.11	0.34
17	Meghalaya	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
18	Mizoram	4.91	0.94	3.52	0.00
19	Nagaland	0.34	0.34	1.95	0.00
20	Orissa	0.49	1.62	4.70	2.12
21	Punjab	0.00	1.07	0.40	0.37
22	Rajasthan	2.56	2.18	4.95	2.02

1	2	4	5	6	7
23	Sikkim	0.00	0.92	0.00	0.34
24	Tamil Nadu	5.12	3.77	9.24	2.03
25	Tripura	3.52	4.35	0.00	1.10
26	Uttaranchal	1.60	0.11	3.09	0.16
27	Uttar Pradesh	26.23	28.11	30.71	31.55
28	West Bengal	4.24	7.68	6.17	7.55
29	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	0.00	0.58	0.00	0.40
30	Chandigarh	0.29	0.50	0.00	0.36
31	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	0.00	0.07	0.00	0.00
32	Daman and Diu	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
33	Delhi	0.00	0.25	0.00	0.21
34	Pondicherry	1.91	2.35	0.00	1.19
Total		122.01	112.96	155.88	96.26

* This include the expenditure from earlier funds also as the Scheme is an ongoing Scheme and the unspent funds are carried forward to the next year.

Statement-III

State-wise Tentative Central Fund Allocation under SJSRY for 2006-2007			1	2	3
Sl. No.	State/UT	Total SJSRY Allocation (Rs. in Crore)			
1	2	3			
1	Andhra Pradesh	19.39	13	Kerala	6.39
2	Arunachal Pradesh	0.93	14	Madhya Pradesh	18.88
3	Assam	12.34	15	Maharashtra	32.76
4	Bihar	11.74	16	Manipur	3.42
5	Chhattisgarh	6.98	17	Meghalaya	1.76
6	Goa	0.19	18	Mizoram	2.33
7	Gujarat	8.95	19	Nagaland	1.45
8	Haryana	1.72	20	Orissa	8.09
9	Himachal Pradesh	0.09	21	Punjab	1.37
10	Jammu and Kashmir	0.16	22	Rajasthan	8.53
11	Jharkhand	3.91	23	Sikkim	0.21
12	Karnataka	14.17	24	Tamil Nadu	15.92
			25	Tripura	2.54
			26	Uttaranchal	1.88
			27	Uttar Pradesh	35.66
			28	West Bengal	10.83
			29	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	0.56

1	2	3
30	Chandigarh	1.05
31	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	0.07
32	Daman and Diu	0.12
33	Delhi	1.65
34	Pondicherry	0.26
Total		236.11

[Translation]

Impact of NREGA on ongoing developmental schemes

*331. SHRI TEK LAL MAHTO: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the future status of the ongoing developmental schemes pertaining to rural development sector in the wake of the introduction of the National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (NREGA);

(b) whether the Government has made any review of such schemes on which crores of rupees have already been spent with a view to completing them; and

(c) if so, the details of progress made in regard to each scheme till July 2006?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH): (a) The Ministry of Rural Development has implemented the National Rural Employment Guarantee Act w.e.f. 2nd February 2006, in 200 most backward districts of the country, identified by the Planning Commission, including 150 districts of National Food for Work Programme (NFFWP). The National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (NREGA) would be extended to all the districts of the country within a period of five years. The National Food for Work Programme

(NFFWP) and Sampoorna Grameen Rozgar Yojana (SGRY) have been subsumed in the NREGA in the identified districts. Sampoorna Grameen Rozgar Yojana (SGRY) will be gradually subsumed in the NREGA as and when remaining districts are covered under NREGA. All those projects/works undertaken under NFFWP and SGRY and are pending for completion may be completed as per the provisions of NREGA. The other existing schemes namely, Swamjayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY), Indra Awaas Yojana (IAY), Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY), Drought Prone Areas Programme (DPAP), Desert Development Programme (DDP), Integrated Wastelands Development Programme (IWDP), Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP) and Total Sanitation Campaign (TSC) are to be continued for implementation through State Governments/Union Territories Administration during the current year.

(b) Review of each scheme of the Ministry of Rural Development is a continuous process. For this purpose, the Ministry has developed a comprehensive system of monitoring, review and impact assessment of the programmes including utilization of funds through Periodical Progress Reports, Performance of Review Committee, Area Officer's Scheme, Vigilance and Monitoring Committee at the State/District Level with greater involvement of Members of Parliament, National Level Monitors and District Level Monitoring to monitor quality of work, adherence to implementation of schemes as per programme guidelines. Besides, the States have been advised to adopt a five-pronged strategy consisting of (i) creation of awareness about the schemes, (ii) transparency, (iii) people's participation, (iv) accountability - social audit through Gram Sabha and (v) strict monitoring and vigilance.

(c) The details of Central allocation made for 2006-07 and the releases made till July, 2006 and physical achievement in regard to major schemes are given in the enclosed Statement.

Statement

Financial and Physical achievement of the Major Rural Development programmes of the Ministry during the year 2006-2007

(Rs. in lakhs)

Sl.No.	Programme Name	Central		Utilisation	Physical Achievement	Unit
		Allocation	Release			
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1	SGRY	290634.31	132624.20	17043.61	230.56	Lakh Mandays
2	NREGA	1130000.00	438642.07	137534.39	74.58	Lakh Mandays

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
3	SGSY	110000.00	49000.46	12150.38	98401	Total Swarozgaris Assisted
4	IAY	290753.00	141303.79	22358.83	103093	No. of house Constructed
5	PMGSY	522562.00	267676.00	1513976.00\$	32191\$ 93898.36\$	No. of work completed Length of road in Kms.
6	DPAP	36000.00	4848.00	N/R	N/R	No. of Projects completed
7	DDP	27000.00	9816.00	N/R	N/R	No. of Projects completed
8	IWDP	56500.00	24881.00	N/R	N/R	No. of Projects completed
9	ARWSP	520000.00	165705.81	26108.68	15855 10288	No. of Habitations covered No. of rural schools
10	TSC	80000.00	4189.00	14242.00	24.47 435	Lakh No. of toilets constructed Women Sanitation Complexes.

* Utilisation includes out of total available funds (center + state release + opening balance and misc. receipts)

\$ Commulative figures from inception of the scheme.

NR—Not reported

Incentives to SEBs

*332. SHRI BRAJESH PATHAK:

SHRI ARJUN SETHI:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government provides incentives to States under the Accelerated Power Development & Reforms Programme (APDRP):

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the criteria fixed for incentives:

(c) the financial losses being incurred by SEBs as on date and the total amount released under the APDRP during the last three years, State-wise;

(d) whether the Government has received representation from any State requesting for release of incentives for reduction of losses of its Electricity Board; and

(e) if so, the details thereof along with the decision taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Under the incentive component of APDRP, the state utilities are incentivised up to 50% of the actual cash loss reduction by them as grant. The year 2000-01 has been fixed as the base year for calculating the reduction of loss during subsequent years. Losses are calculated net of any subsidy & tariff

compensation given by the state Government both in the base year as well as during the subsequent years. All types of subsidies are netted off and the auditor's qualifications affecting the profit or loss for the period under scrutiny are also factored out. Incentive in the subsequent years is given on the incremental loss reduction effected by the utility. The calculation of loss is done at the Utility level. For the states, where SEBs have been unbundled, profit/loss for transmission and distribution utilities is accounted together for assessing reduction in cash loss. Private utilities are not eligible for APDRP incentive.

(c) As per the information compiled by Power Finance Corporation (PFC) up to the year 2004-05, the overall financial/commercial losses (without subsidy) of the State Power Utilities were Rs.29,331 Crore during 2001-02, which have been reduced to Rs.22,129 Crore during 2004-05. Details are given in the enclosed statement-I. A statement-II showing the funds released till date under investment component of APDRP to various States is enclosed.

(d) and (e) So far, Ministry has received incentive claims from 21 states. On scrutiny, 8 states were found to be eligible and an amount of Rs.1536.62 crore has been released to these states. A statement-III containing details of claims received for grant of incentive from 21 States is enclosed.

Statement-I**State wise Commercial Profit, (Loss), (w/o subsidy)
of Power Utilities**

(Rs. in Crore)

Sl. No.	State	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05
1	2	3	4	5	6
1	Bihar	(896)	(966)	(987)	(1,122)
2	Jharkhand	(255)	(462)	(730)	(1,183)
3	Orissa	(261)	(944)	193	303
4	Sikkim	(10)	(30)	42	56
5	West Bengal	(1,706)	(914)	(296)	(275)
6	Arunachal Pradesh	(93)	(84)	(126)	(87)
7	Assam	(696)	(776)	(656)	(1,081)
8	Manipur	(129)	(128)	(128)	(127)
9	Meghalaya	(34)	(52)	64	(9)
10	Mizoram	(30)	(44)	(62)	(48)
11	Nagaland	(52)	(61)	(167)	(96)
12	Tripura	(102)	(93)	(7)	(27)
13	Delhi	(1,092)	(803)	(1,781)	(812)
14	Himachal Pradesh	(107)	(52)	(46)	(37)
15	Haryana	(948)	(803)	(785)	(1,449)
16	Jammu and Kashmir	(703)	(1,089)	(989)	(1,080)
17	Punjab	(1,868)	(1,386)	(663)	(1,520)
18	Rajasthan	(1,324)	(1,739)	(1,777)	(2,037)
19	Uttar Pradesh	(2,518)	(2,374)	(2,118)	(3,624)
20	Uttaranchal	(26)	23	(40)	(179)

1	2	3	4	5	6
21	Andhra Pradesh	(2,948)	(1,232)	(1,579)	(1,194)
22	Karnataka	(1,870)	(1,599)	(1,315)	(1,107)
23	Kerala	(1,254)	(935)	(916)	(239)
24	Pondicherry	(43)	33	38	52
25	Tamil Nadu	(5,174)	(2,100)	(1,360)	(2,030)
26	Chhattisgarh	204	643	561	370
27	Goa	(7)	131	153	146
28	Gujarat	(3,146)	(2,267)	(3,031)	(2,125)
29	Madhya Pradesh	(1,703)	(835)	(667)	(764)
30	Maharashtra	(540)	(255)	(549)	(804)
Total		(29,331)	(21,193)	(19,722)	(22,129)

Source: PFC

Statement-II**Cost of projects sanctioned and funds released to the States under investment component of APDRP**

(Rs. in crore)

Sl. No.	Name of State	Number of projects sanctioned	Cost of the projects sanctioned	APDRP Component	Funds released
1	2	3	4	5	6
1	Andhra Pradesh	101	1458.49	648.00	566.76
2	Arunachal Pradesh	4	82.69	78.09	36.68
3	Assam	15	650.73	601.54	349.26
4	Bihar	15	854.05	370.10	313.18
5	Chhattisgarh	7	407.70	181.53	159.21
6	Delhi	6	922.61	283.41	105.51
7	Goa	7	294.01	130.20	113.40

1	2	3	4	5	6	1	2	3	4	5	6
8	Gujarat	13	1083.22	470.94	400.26	18	Meghalaya	9	227.44	210.53	58.38
9	Haryana	18	431.95	192.48	168.99	19	Mizoram	7	108.74	100.76	78.01
10	Himachal Pradesh	12	322.77	306.89	242.33	20	Nagaland	3	122.27	114.33	68.58
11	Jammu and Kashmir	6	1100.13	1021.61	408.50	21	Orissa	7	592.22	185.07	74.02
12	Jharkhand	8	423.65	182.85	153.87	22	Punjab	26	715.57	268.26	178.74
13	Karnataka	35	1186.31	514.30	447.97	23	Rajasthan	29	1193.25	491.23	385.82
14	Kerala	52	863.63	331.18	230.55	24	Sikkim	4	164.19	163.24	154.73
15	Madhya Pradesh	48	663.20	230.74	129.87	25	Tamil Nadu	41	948.12	457.94	441.82
16	Maharashtra	35	2231.58	692.01	374.13	26	Tripura	7	146.74	135.83	54.31
17	Manipur	5	141.62	127.73	2.67	27	Uttar Pradesh	36	1091.30	340.09	236.63
						28	Uttaranchal	6	310.08	303.15	279.76
						29	West Bengal	21	442.20	130.64	92.92
							Total	583	19180.46	9264.67	6306.86

Statement-III**Status of Incentive Claims under APDRP**

(Figures in Rs. Crore)

State	Claim Year	Claim Amount	Cash Loss Reduction	Eligibility	Incentive Released
1	2	3	4	5	6
	'02-03	481.82	530.22	265.11	265.11
Andhra Pradesh	'03-04	147.23	No cash loss reduction found on scrutiny		
	'04-05	174.63		Under Scrutiny	
Gujarat	'01-02	235.16	472.76	236.38	236.38
	'02-03	149.31	296.16	148.06	148.06
	'03-04	14.11	No cash loss reduction found on scrutiny		
	'04-05	434.19		Under Scrutiny	
Haryana	'01-02	105.49	210.98	105.49	105.49
Kerala	'01-02	165.00	No cash loss reduction found on scrutiny		
	'02-03	159.41	129.86	64.94	64.94
	'03-04	461.82	No cash loss reduction found on scrutiny		
	'04-05	477.74	160.32	80.16	Under Scrutiny

1	2	3	4	5	6
Maharashtra	'01-02	137.89	275.78	137.89	137.89
Punjab	'01-02	240.74	No cash loss reduction found on scrutiny		
	'02-03	639.10	No cash loss reduction found on scrutiny		
	'03-04	243.10	503.88	251.94	65.28
Rajasthan	'01-02	137.71	275.42	137.71	137.71
West Bengal	'01-02	406.76	No cash loss reduction found on scrutiny		
	'02-03	911.03	146.00	73.00	73.00
	'03-04	953.39	605.52	302.76	302.76
	'04-05	103.38	11.75	5.88	Under Scrutiny
Bihar	'01-02	422.12	Claim based on Provisional Accounts. Not eligible		
Assam	'01-02	12.06	No cash loss reduction found on scrutiny		
	'02-03	118.62	No cash loss reduction found on scrutiny		
	'01-02	280.00	No cash loss reduction found on scrutiny		
Goa	'02-03	64.02	17.91	8.95	Not released due to non corporatization of Electricity Department
	'02-03	109.40	No cash loss reduction found on scrutiny		
Pradesh	'03-04	258.45	No cash loss reduction found on scrutiny		
Karnataka	'02-03	256.81	No cash loss reduction found on scrutiny		
	'03-04	362.51	No cash loss reduction found on scrutiny		
Orissa	'03-04	264.94	Private utilities are not eligible for incentive		
Tamil Nadu'	01-02	265.23	No cash loss reduction found on scrutiny		
	'02-03	440.75	No cash loss reduction found on scrutiny		
Uttar Pradesh	'02-03	281.06	No cash loss reduction found on scrutiny		
Uttaranchal	'02-03	6.21	No cash loss reduction found on scrutiny		
Meghalaya	'03-04	26.38	No cash loss reduction found on scrutiny		
Madhya Pradesh	'01-02	724.14	Under Scrutiny		
	'02-03	330.72			
Tripura	'03-04	33.80	Under Scrutiny		
Delhi	'01-02	265.04	Claim based on unaudited accounts of Delhi Vidyut Board - not eligible		
	'02-03	-	Accounts of BSES only submitted without proper claim - private utilities are not eligible for incentive.		
Total Incentive Released					1536.62 Crores

[English]

Fraudulent Transfer of Money

*333. SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR:
SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the CBI has recently conducted searches at several places in various parts of the country in connection with the alleged accounts of exporters as reported in the Statesman dated July 22, 2006;

(b) if so, the facts of the matter reported therein;

(c) whether the nexus of customs officials with exporters have put the Government in losses worth crores of rupees;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to check such frauds and to punish the involved officials?

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

(b) Intelligence was received in the Exports Commissionerate, Delhi, that certain exporters have received Drawback claims fraudulently by way of electronic transfer of amounts against supplementary claims of Drawback even though no such claims were filed with Customs. Fraudulent use of passwords to benefit particular exporters was suspected. The case was handed over to the CBI on 31.05.2006 after preliminary verification. After due consultation with the CBI, a formal complaint /FIR was also lodged on 19.07.2006. The CBI has registered one case, vide No.RC-4/2006, EOU-IX against an Assistant Commissioner of Customs, a Superintendent of Customs, one private person and other unknown persons. The CBI conducted searches on 21.07.2006 at various locations of 20 exporters, their agents and a casual worker. The extent of unlawful loss is estimated to be about Rs.8 crores.

(c) and (d) The matter including nexus of Customs officials with exporters is being investigated by the CBI. The preliminary investigation by Customs Air Cargo Commissionerate, New Delhi has estimated the loss to be Rs. 8 crores approximately.

(e) The Central Board of Excise & Customs has directed the Director General of Systems to take measures to ensure the integrity and security of the Systems including improvement of EDI software to avoid such fraudulent transfer of money in future. All Chief Commis-

ioners/Director Generals have been apprised of the modus operandi and the measures to be taken to guard against such frauds. The officers, whose passwords were used to make illegal transfers, have been ordered to be transferred to non-sensitive charges pending investigations.

Implementation of Rural Development Schemes

*334. SHRI HITEN BARMAN: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the progress in the implementation of rural projects by States is slow despite adequate allocation of funds by the Union Government;

(b) if so, whether after a review focusing on certain States, the Ministry found that despite a positive response from several States to the Union Government's plea for more transparency, the situation at the village level continues to be unsatisfactory;

(c) if so, the States where there has been slow progress in rural projects alongwith the reasons for the same; and

(d) the suggestions made and the action taken by the Union Government for implementation of the rural development schemes vigorously by the States?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH): (a) to (d) The Ministry of Rural Development implements a number of schemes through the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations and Panchayati Raj Institutions. The progress in terms of financial and physical achievement is furnished by the respective State Governments and Union Territory Administrations on regular basis as per the guidelines. According to the progress reports received from the State Governments, during the year 2005-06, it is observed that the overall progress of the rural development programmes was found to be satisfactory in most of the States. However, in some States the progress was lower than the national average.

The Ministry of Rural Development has been regularly reviewing and monitoring all the schemes with the State Governments at various levels. The Ministry also emphasize the need for effective implementation of schemes at grass root level and to adopt five pronged strategy (i) creation of awareness about the schemes, (ii) transparency (iii) people's participation (iv) accountability-social audit through Gram Sabha and (v) strict monitoring & vigilance.

According to the provisional progress reports received from the State Governments, the total release to total allocation is 100.50% and the overall percentage utilization of funds with respect to the available funds was 60.35% during 2005-06. Percentage of utilization is lower in the States of Bihar, Himachal Pradesh, Jharkhand, Maharashtra, Meghalaya, Manipur, Mizoram, Nagaland, Orissa, Punjab, Sikkim, Tamil Nadu and West Bengal. A statement showing financial progress is enclosed.

There are multiple reasons like recurrence of national calamities, drought, flood and election etc. for slow progress in implementation of rural development programmes in these States. In the North Eastern States the implementation capacity of the government agencies is low and in some cases the institutional set up are lacking. The

progress is also slow in these States where elections took place to various constitutional bodies.

With a view to improve the pace of implementation of rural development programmes by the State Governments, the Ministry of Rural Development has put in place a comprehensive system of monitoring, review and impact assessment of the programmes including utilization of funds through Periodical Progress Reports, Performance of Review Committee, Area Officer's Scheme, Vigilance and Monitoring Committee at the State/District Level with greater involvement of Members of Parliament, National Level Monitors and District Level Monitoring to monitor quality of work, transparency and adherence to implementation of schemes as per programme guidelines.

Statement

*State and Union Territory-wise funds allocated, released, available and utilised under various rural development programmes *during 2005-06*

State Name	Central Allocation	State Allocation	Total Allocation	Central Release	State Release	Total Release	Total available Funds	Total Expenditure
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Andhra Pradesh	132781.23	19602.74	152383.97	147195.31	19037.66	166232.97	179160.52	112118.16
Arunachal Pradesh	19813.06	1044.27	20857.33	20724.32	250.12	20974.44	22548.62	14088.89
Assam	143936.37	22822.64	166759.01	138255.84	435.46	138691.30	163764.93	102338.23
Bihar	250922.87	47317.46	298240.33	226985.55	45839.71	272825.26	384316.12	212853.74
Chhattisgarh	89132.27	7628.24	96760.51	88070.27	7308.12	95378.39	102954.92	63662.33
Goa	1811.96	224.31	2036.27	1110.07	132.99	1243.06	1275.86	794.17
Gujarat	65260.14	9083.43	74343.57	66666.72	9273.77	75940.49	82570.20	54627.09
Haryana	19971.45	3333.07	23304.52	21278.28	3479.43	24757.71	26124.42	16859.37
Himachal Pradesh	32750.15	1411.34	34161.49	38149.18	1141.60	39290.78	41570.99	18371.22
Jammu and Kashmir	36049.28	2066.85	38116.13	41062.28	2450.04	43512.32	47642.05	29586.20
Jharkhand	128104.25	16614.93	144719.18	123836.95	16077.77	139914.72	179096.90	107439.32
Karnataka	79396.21	11794.85	91191.06	86384.18	11801.12	98185.30	111074.70	73911.49
Kerala	28182.27	5675.10	33857.37	30069.56	5386.34	35455.90	41412.83	32046.83
Madhya Pradesh	16373173	16363.80	180095.53	162862.04	14822.87	177684.91	192721.70	136685.43

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Maharashtra		153455.20	21835.23	175290.43	145176.05	22847.74	168023.79	174674.79	102310.11
Manipur		11954.87	1397.44	13352.31	8926.55	1505.31	10431.86	11714.75	6340.44
Meghalaya		15104.07	1712.71	16816.78	10493.58	1158.93	11652.51	13075.96	7465.10
Mizoram		8688.20	439.91	9128.11	12777.43	296.33	13073.76	13259.01	3636.89
Nagaland		14265.33	1220.62	15485.95	16351.65	299.57	16651.22	17054.22	4776.57
Orissa		148872.57	17747.23	166619.80	156144.19	20398.71	176542.90	189838.42	107981.41
Punjab		19565.89	3498.47	23064.36	19957.67	2435.21	22392.88	22821.46	11720.19
Rajasthan		130713.81	8729.62	139443.43	152512.37	8359.41	160871.78	175911.26	102577.58
Sikkim		5687.12	370.78	6057.90	7874.77	310.00	8184.77	8355.44	3333.55
Tamil Nadu		76131.30	13430.71	89562.01	76751.36	13758.14	90509.50	95450.66	81069.30
Tripura		18385.29	2544.61	20929.90	18312.81	2934.45	21247.26	22875.57	16351.43
Uttar Pradesh		287087.86	49141.57	336229.43	292504.71	49096.33	341601.04	391515.76	237122.29
Uttaranchal		31641.94	3114.79	34756.73	23937.43	4973.50	28910.93	32149.96	22219.86
West Bengal		127016.33	20816.89	147833.22	142095.77	21677.91	163773.68	190659.14	91946.36
Andamana and Nicobar Island		715.96	0.00	715.96	1839.34	0.00	1839.34	4456.77	228.00
Dadra and Nagar Haveli		364.96	0.00	364.96	75.78	0.00	75.78	86.45	9.01
Daman and Diu		173.74	0.00	173.74	11.66	0.00	11.66	106.55	2.73
Delhi		4.69	0.00	4.69	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Lakshadweep		218.60	0.00	218.60	159.39	0.00	159.39	217.21	64.90
Pondicherry		627.70	0.00	627.70	197.34	0.00	197.34	719.57	347.32
Total		2242518.65	310983.61	2553502.26	2278750.38	287488.54	2566238.92	2941177.69	1775285.51

Total available funds includes, opening balance as on 1.4.2005 and miscellaneous receipts

* Swarnjayanti Gram Swarajgar Yojana (SGSY), Sampoorna Gramin Rozgar Yojana (SGRY), National Food for Work Programme (NFFWP), Indira Awaas Yojana (IAY), Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY), Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP), Total Sanitation Campaign (TSC), Drought Prone Areas Programme (DPAP), Desert Development Programme (DDP), Integrated Wasteland Development Programme (IWDP), DRDA Administration, Strengthening of Revenue Administration and Updated Land Records, and Computerization of Land Records.

Accelerated Urban Water Supply Programme

*335. SHRI B. VINOD KUMAR: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of water supply schemes sanctioned and completed, State-wise under the "Accelerated

Urban Water Supply Programme" (AUWSP) as on March 31, 2006;

(b) the total amount of Central Assistance provided to States under the Scheme as on March 31, 2006;

(c) the targets fixed under the scheme, State-wise during the financial year 2006-07;

(d) whether any performance appraisal/study had been conducted on the functioning of the scheme; and

(e) if so, the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN): (a) As on 31.3.2006, water supply schemes for 1244 towns have been sanctioned under Accelerated Urban Water Supply Programme (AUWSP) since its inception from 1993-94. 633 schemes have been completed / commissioned. State-wise details of schemes approved and completed and the Central share released are given in the enclosed Statement-I.

(b) An amount of Rs.804.32 crore has been released as central share to various State Governments upto 31.3.2006.

(c) Since the Centrally sponsored AUWSP has been subsumed in Urban Infrastructure Development Scheme for Small & Medium Towns (UIDSSMT), no new projects were sanctioned during the financial year 2006-07. Hence, the question of fixing of the targets did not arise.

(d) and (e) Yes, Sir. Performance appraisal of the scheme of AUWSP was undertaken through a region-wise study conducted by 4 institutes, namely, Indian Institute of Public Administration, New Delhi, National Institute of Urban Affairs, New Delhi, Centre for Environment Studies, Chennai and National Environmental & Engineering Research Institute, Nagpur. Salient findings and recommendations of various institutes on Evaluation Studies of AUWSP are placed in the enclosed Statement-II.

Statement-I

Status - 11.8.2006

Accelerated Urban Water Supply Programme (AUWSP)

Sl. No.	Name of State	Total no. of schemes approved	Total no. of schemes completed/ commissioned	Total central share released (Rs. in lakh)
1	2	3	4	5
1	Andhra Pradesh	42	2	3237.30
2	Arunachal Pradesh	3	1	540.96
3	Assam	21	5	2320.33

1	2	3	4	5
4	Bihar	33	8	2020.03
5	Chhattisgarh	42	26	1790.12
6	Goa	4	2	176.18
7	Gujarat	70	43	4116.43
8	Haryana	38	29	3570.82
9	Himachal Pradesh	16	12	1604.20
10	Jammu and Kashmir	15	3	2675.95
11	Jharkhand	16	6	1181.34
12	Karnataka	45	33	6635.60
13	Kerala	13	1	1379.73
14	Madhya Pradesh	147	47	7275.28
15	Maharashtra	37	16	4827.05
16	Manipur	26	11	1603.34
17	Meghalaya	2	1	290.87
18	Mizoram	8	7	567.36
19	Nagaland	2	2	451.40
20	Orissa	35	20	2995.97
21	Punjab	16	9	501.61
22	Rajasthan	72	39	5305.56
23	Sikkim	2	2	225.78
24	Tamil Nadu	93	76	5073.12
25	Tripura	12	5	1486.53
26	Uttar Pradesh	390	204	14990.18
27	Uttaranchal	22	16	2147.77
28	West Bengal	22	7	1441.85
Total		1244	633	80432.76

Statement-II**Salient Findings and Recommendations of various Institutes on Evaluation Studies of AUWSP****Findings:**

- Raw water source in most of the schemes based on surface water and spring water source are reliable. However, in case of tube well based schemes, sustainability upto design period may not be possible due to recurring droughts.
- There has been delay in completion of the schemes, mainly due to non-release of funds in time by the State Governments to the implementing agencies, transfer of concerned officials in the States, delay in getting electricity connections etc.
- Population coverage with distribution system varies between 64% to 100%.
- Per capita supply in most of the towns has improved to 70 lpcd and above.
- Present hours of supply vary from 1 hour to 10 hours.
- Domestic water tariff has increased in most of the towns.
- Most of the towns have not been able to recover full cost of providing water supply. Cost recovery ranges from 11% to 84%. Deficit is met by the State Agencies/ ULBs as the case may be.
- Water quality in the sampled towns was fit for drinking. There was no outbreak of water borne diseases in any of the towns.
- Lack of coordination among departmental agencies.
- There has been lack of community participation while implementing the schemes.

Recommendations:

- While handing over the completed schemes to the local bodies, adequate technical staff should be provided to ULBs to maintain the schemes.
- Floating population up-to 25% of the base year permanent population may be permitted to be considered for designing of the scheme.
- Raw water source reliability may not be always

possible due to local/regional conditions. Therefore, flexibility should be allowed in the design period, so that schemes could be augmented.

- The State Govt. should ensure timely release of funds to the implementing agencies to avoid delay in completion of the schemes, hence cost overruns.
- The tariff should be increased periodically and the efficiency of collection should also be increased.
- Adequacy of staff should be ensured in ULBs order to manage the system properly.
- Training programmes related to AUWSP for field Engineers should be imparted periodically.
- All the concerned departments in the States should be sensitized about the programme, so that there is interdepartmentally coordination for timely completion of the schemes.

Loan by Private Banks under Poverty Alleviation Programmes

*336. SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has directed the private banks to provide loan under poverty alleviation programmes of the Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reaction of the private banks in this regard; and

(d) the details of loans provided by the private sector banks under various poverty alleviation programmes of the Union Government during the last two years, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has requested all Indian Private Sector Banks to participate in Government Sponsored Schemes and co-operate with the Lead Banks in the districts and take appropriate steps to improve the flow of credit to Priority Sector/Weaker Sections.

The State-wise details of loan provided by Private Sector Banks under the poverty alleviation programmes are not available. However, bank-wise details of loans provided by private banks under Swarnajayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY), Swarna Jayanti Shahari Rozgar Yojana (SJSRY), and Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana (PMRY) are given in the enclosed Statement.

Statement

Private Sector Bank Wise Disbursement for SGSY, PMRY and SJSRY
for the year 2004-2005 and 2005-2006

(Rs. in lacs)

S. No.	Name of the Bank	SGSY		SJSRY		PMRY	
		2004-05	2005-06	2004-05	2005-06	2004-05	2005-06
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	ICICI Bank Ltd.	0.03	0	1.02	0.20	119.39	182.54
2.	Bank of Rajasthan Ltd.	93.21	139.11	13.52	53.88	232.23	303.76
3.	Bharat Overseas Bank Ltd.	32.05	9.55	7.39	2.03	84.57	82.49
4.	Banaras State Bank Ltd.^	0	0	0.00	0.47	0	0
5.	Cathelic Syrian Bank Ltd.	119.58	114.5	15.90	1.34	416.53	847.85
6.	Dhanlakhmi Bank Ltd.	160.03	232.87	28.95	48.64	359.42	264.05
7.	Federal Bank Ltd.	728.16	594.44	25.04	31.66	996.94	759.86
8.	J & K Bank Ltd.	853.47	774.99	204.74	239.75	1032.8	830.42
9.	Karnataka Bank Ltd.	92.92	109.6	84.71	77.05	677.12	719.09
10.	Karur Vysya Bank Ltd.	25.39	19.94	17.99	22.13	314.5	378.2
11.	Lakshmi Vilas Bank Ltd.	29.04	65.91	27.48	5.90	256.87	263.36
12.	UTI Bank Ltd.	0	0	0.00	0.00	0	49.2
13.	Ratnakar Bank Ltd.	6.75	3.54	3.98	3.34	139.35	80.3
14.	Sangli Bank Ltd.	65.36	32.03	13.57	1.29	29.35	34.61
15.	South Indian Bank Ltd.	364.61	115.33	20.84	15.38	562.02	576.25
16.	Tamilnadu Mer. Bank Ltd.	66.21	109.4	3.56	2.61	302.75	358.38
17.	United Western Bank Ltd.	139.38	200.59	46.74	43.80	332.04	422.73
18.	Vysys Bank Ltd.	219.29	408.38	53.83	32.76	647.27	462.08
19.	Nainital Bank Ltd.	30.89	59	15.45	16.52	265.67	0
20.	City Union Bank Ltd.	41.99	19.38	2.13	9.85	195.07	212.93
21.	Lord Krishna Bank Ltd.	15.08	7.92	0.90	0.80	80.75	114.43
Total		3083.44	3016.48	587.74	609.40	7044.64	6942.53

^ Banks have merged

**Task Force for Development
of Wasteland**

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

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government had set up a Task Force in 2002 for linkage with credit institutions for wasteland and watershed development;

(b) if so, whether all the recommendations made by the said Task Force were taken up for implementation;

(c) if so, the details of recommendations which were put for implementation; and

(d) the extent to which the credit institutions have implemented the said recommendations and made available funds for wasteland and watershed development in each State?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) A Nine member Task Force was constituted in March 2002 by Department of Land Resources under the Chairmanship of Secretary, Ministry of Rural Development, for linkage with Credit Institutions for Wastelands/Watershed Development.

(b) to (d) The Task Force submitted its report in December 2004. The report was circulated to the Secretaries of the Ministries of Agriculture, Environment and Forests and Water Resources, all State Secretaries of Rural Development Department, Planning Commission, CEO, Indian Banks' Association, Reserve Bank of India and NABARD in January 2006 for information and necessary action. The major recommendations of the Task Force are concerning:

– Role of NABARD in flow of credit for livelihood activities; Bankers' involvement; Corporate involvement; Credit to user groups/Self Help Groups/Gram Panchayats; Legal provisions; Technical Guidance for selection of Watershed Development models; Zila Parishads/District Rural Development Agencies to help in documentation; Watershed/Wasteland Development programme by one department.

The recommendations of the Task Force on which NABARD and banks are to take action are as under:-

- NABARD should step up its scope of funding from bilateral agencies for development of watersheds/ degraded lands.

- It should develop viable models of projects for development of wastelands/degraded lands.
- NABARD should co-ordinate with Non-Government Organisations (NGOs), People's Organisations, Local Bodies to facilitate their involvement.
- NABARD should also be involved in providing policy inputs at the National Level.
- The lead Bank in the District should be involved in formulation of watershed projects.
- Training programmes be held for bankers to create awareness on watershed development programme and natural resource management and with District Administration and Implementing Agencies for exploring definite avenues of investment in this sector.

Banks have initiated preparation of Credit Plans.

IREP

*338. SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA: Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of districts covered under the Integrated Rural Energy Programme (IREP) so far, State-wise;

(b) the nature of the projects undertaken under the programme; and

(c) the Central assistance given for the programme to each State during the last three years and that provided for the current year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR): (a) to (c) The Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources has been implementing the Integrated Rural Energy Programme (IREP) since 1994-95. The IREP was reviewed and modified during 2003-04. The IREP is a centrally sponsored scheme with 50:50 central and state shares and is presently being implemented in 312 districts in 21 States/ UTs. The State-wise number of districts covered under the modified IREP is given in the enclosed Statement-I.

The projects undertaken under the programme provide for meeting energy needs in selected village clusters in the IREP Districts, through the optimum mix of available energy sources, with focus on renewable energy.

The programme aims at development of planning and institutional capabilities of the States to prepare and implement micro and macro-level rural energy plans.

The state-wise details of central financial assistance released for implementation of IREP during the last three years and the current year are given in the enclosed Statement-II.

Statement-I

State-wise number of Districts Covered under IREP

(as on 17.08.2006)

S.No.	State/UTs	Districts covered (Nos.)
1.	Andhra Pradesh	13
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	5
3.	Chhattisgarh	16
4.	Gujarat	2
5.	Haryana	19
6.	Himachal Pradesh	12
7.	Jammu and Kashmir	14
8.	Jharkhand	7
9.	Karnataka	27
10.	Kerala	14
11.	Madhya Pradesh	48
12.	Manipur	9
13.	Meghalaya	7
14.	Mizoram	6
15.	Nagaland	6
16.	Pondicherry	1
17.	Punjab	17
18.	Tamil Nadu	14
19.	Tripura	2
20.	Uttaranchal	13
21.	Uttar Pradesh	60
Total		312

Statement-II

Details of State-wise Release of Central Financial Assistance under Integrated Rural Energy Programme during the last three years and current year

(Rs. in Lakhs)

S.No.	State/UTs	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07(*)
1.	Andhra Pradesh	61.50	-	34.07	-
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	31.11	-	12.74	-
3.	Chhattisgarh	82.50	-	-	-
4.	Gujarat	-	32.00	-	-
5.	Haryana	97.50	88.00	12.20	-
6.	Himachal Pradesh	62.5	-	-	-
7.	Jammu and Kashmir	-	72.50	-	-
8.	Jharkhand	27.66	-	-	-
9.	Karnataka	101.65	13.00	20.00	-
10.	Kerala	142.50	-	-	-
11.	Madhya Pradesh	52.52	203.25	-	-
12.	Manipur	34.64	-	-	-
13.	Meghalaya	20.00	25.50	4.20	-
14.	Mizoram	32.50	4.36	16.25	-
15.	Nagaland	32.50	-	-	-
16.	Pondicherry	3.66	-	-	-
17.	Punjab	87.50	67.75	-	87.01
18.	Tamil Nadu	-	-	72.50	-
19.	Tripura	-	12.50	-	-
20.	Uttaranchal	67.50	50.75	-	12.31
21.	Uttar Pradesh	264.52	284.50	191.32	-

(*) As on 17.08.2006

[Translation]

Subsidy on Foodgrains

* 339. SHRI SITARAM SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the World Bank has advised the Government to curtail the subsidy being provided on foodgrains;

(b) if so, details thereof;

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to reduce the subsidy being provided on foodgrains?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b) There is no advice from World Bank regarding curtailing the subsidy being provided to foodgrains.

(c) and (d) The Government incurs food subsidies in fulfilling its obligations towards distributive justice through minimum nutritional support to the poor. The Government is committed to the National Common Minimum Programme which mandates targeting all subsidies at the poor and truly needy. Extensive discussions have been held with stake-holders on food subsidy. The Government seeks to evolve a consensus on the issue of subsidies.

The expenditure on food subsidies in the last four years are as follows:

Year	Food Subsidy (Rs. crore)
2003-04	25181
2004-05	23280
2005-06*	23078
2006-07(BE)	24200

* Provisional and unaudited.

[English]

National Wastelands Updation Mission

*340. SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether National Wastelands Updation Mission (NWUM) was initiated in 2003 to monitor changes in wastelands;

(b) if so, the objectives of the said mission;

(c) whether the Government has issued guidelines to the States for the implementation of wastelands/watershed programmes;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government has constituted a Task Force for the better utilization of wasteland/watershed programmes;

(f) if so, the suggestions made by the said Task Force; and

(g) the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH): (a) and (b) No Sir. The National Wastelands Updation Mission (NWUM) was neither proposed nor set up in 2003. In March 2000, the Department of Land Resources (DoLR), Ministry of Rural Development, in collaboration with the National Remote Sensing Agency (NRSA), Department of Space, Hyderabad had brought out the Wastelands Atlas of India with the objective of creating a reliable data base of the extent of wastelands in the country. Subsequently, the DoLR had again commissioned the NRSA to undertake a project for updating the Wastelands Atlas of India (2000) in order to monitor the temporal changes in the extent of wastelands in the country. On the basis of satellite data pertaining to Rabi season 2003, the revised and updated version of the Wastelands Atlas of India was brought out in November 2005.

(c) and (d) The Department of Land Resources issued guidelines to the States for implementation of wasteland development programmes on participatory basis based on watershed approach with effect from 1-4-1995 on the recommendations of the Hanumantha Rao Committee Report of 1994. These guidelines were subsequently revised in 2003 to assign the pivotal role to the Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) in accordance with the 73rd and 74th Constitutional Amendments. These guidelines were issued as "Hariyali guidelines". The salient features of the guidelines are given in the enclosed Statement-I.

(e) to (g) No Task Force has been constituted for wastelands/watershed development in the Department of Land Resources, Ministry of Rural Development. However, a Task Force headed by Secretary (Rural Development) was constituted in March 2002 to suggest measures for promoting involvement of credit/financial institutions in mobilising additional funds for wastelands/watershed

development projects. The Task Force submitted its report in December 2004. The report was circulated to the secretaries of the Ministries of Agriculture, Environment and Forests and Water Resources, all State Secretaries of Rural Development Department, Planning Commission, CEO, Indian Banks Association, Reserve Bank of India and NABARD in January 2006 for necessary action. The recommendations of the Task Force are given in the enclosed Statement-II.

Statement-I

Hariyali Guidelines

The Department of Land Resources has brought out the Guidelines for Hariyali with an objective of empowering PRI's both financially and administratively in implementation of Watershed Development Programmes in the country.

2. Under these Guidelines, the Gram Panchayats shall implement the projects under the overall supervision and guidance of Project Implementation Agencies (PIAs). An intermediate Panchayat may be the PIA for all the projects sanctioned to a particular Block/Taluka. In case, these Panchayats are not adequately empowered, then the Zilla Panchayat can either act as PIA itself or may appoint a suitable Line Department like Agriculture, Forestry/Social Forestry, Soil Conservation etc. or an Agency of the State Government/ University/ Institute as PIA. Failing these options, the ZP/DRDA may consider appointing a reputed Non-Government Organization (NGO) in the district with adequate experience and expertise in the implementation of watershed projects or related area development works as the PIA after thoroughly examining their credentials.
3. As envisaged in the earlier Guidelines, under Hariyali Guidelines also, the Project Implementation Agency (PIA) will provide necessary technical guidance to the Gram Panchayat for preparation of development plans for the watershed through Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA) exercise, undertake community organization and training for the village communities, supervise watershed development activities, inspect and authenticate project accounts, encourage adoption of low cost technologies and build upon Indigenous technical knowledge, monitor and review the overall project implementation and set up institutional arrangements for post-project operation and maintenance and further development of the assets created during the project period. However,

under this initiative, total funds will be released in 5 instalments (@15%, 30%, 30%, 15% and 10%). The work component has been enhanced from 80 to 85% of total project funds. 10% is kept for administrative expenses and remaining 5% for training and community participation.

4. New projects under the ongoing area development programmes namely IWDP, DPAP and DDP shall be implemented in accordance with the Guidelines for Hariyali with effect from 1.4.2003. Projects sanctioned prior to this date shall continue to be implemented as per the earlier Guidelines.
5. Detailed Guidelines of Hariyali have been circulated to all States and Union Territories for operationalization.
6. The details of Hariyali and earlier guidelines are available at Department of Land Resources web site <http://www.dolr.nic.in>.

Statement-II

Recommendations of the Task Force for Linkage with Credit Institutions for Wastelands/ Watershed Development

India has now entered a post-Green Revolution stage that requires new strategies to enhance land productivity and reduce rural poverty. A move to an intensive diversified farming system with strong forward and backward linkages is the next evolutionary step in the country's future development. Economic liberalization and adjustments to the market economy are placing new demands on the land use system and farming business. However, the speed and extent of such a change and its impact on rural development through multiplier effects would depend on the availability of adequate credit facilities and adoption of improved technologies.

At present, projects for watershed development and wastelands development are being financed by different Ministries/Departments at the Central as well as State levels. NABARD has been assigned the specific task for development of wastelands under which States are being provided credit under the Rural Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDF). NABARD has already developed infrastructure for it and it is expected to play a greater role, not only for providing credit to watershed projects but also provide refinance to Banks for providing credit to Self-Help Groups, specially during the post-project period, to ensure sustainability of the projects and public participation.

NABARD should develop/identify viable models of watershed development projects for different categories of wastelands and geo-graphic locations. They should develop necessary appraisal machinery for successful implementation of the projects.

NABARD should also be involved by the concerned Ministries at the Centre as well as in the States while formulating policy issues for watershed/wasteland development programmes to ensure their meaningful interaction at every stage.

In order to involve banking/credit Institutions in watershed projects, it will be desirable that Orientation Programmes as well as Exposure Visits of Bank officials are arranged specially to successful watershed projects so that they can realize for themselves the economic viability of these projects.

The lead Bank in the District should also be involved, in formulation of watershed projects. Members from such Banks as well as AGM, NABARD of each District may be nominated to the District Watershed Advisory Committee. When the watershed project is sanctioned, the nominee (preferably Branch Manager) from the concerned Bank, which is required to provide necessary credit especially for livelihood activities, should be invited to the meetings of the Watershed Associations.

For appreciation of watershed development programme by bankers and the district administration on credit modalities and problems faced by the bankers, it is recommended that training programmes be held for bankers to create awareness on watershed development programme and natural resource management and with District Administration and Implementing Agencies for exploring definite avenues of investment in this sector.

On the part of NABARD/Banking/Credit Institutions, necessary MoUs could be drawn up to have their commitment for making credit available for physical infrastructure works and for farm and non-farm livelihood activities before they are associated at the National level or District level as recommended earlier.

Wasteland development projects/activities should not be undertaken only with the subsidy/finance provided by the States or Banks but should also have an element of commitment from the individuals benefited. In the case of individual private land, there may not be any difficulty for such a contribution but in the case of community land, the PIAs/Gram Panchayats could take the lead to ensure contribution from the beneficiaries.

Once the watershed project is sanctioned, the Watershed Committee should prepare a detailed Comprehensive Action Plan which may involve not only taking up the activities, as provided in the Common Guidelines for Watershed Development but may also involve certain plus activities relating to livelihoods for the weaker sections or self-help groups during the project period as well as the post project period. The Action Plan should include funds provided from the Banking Sector, Government, as well as beneficiaries (cash, kind or labour) for successful implementation of the projects. The Plan shall also address the recovery of past defaults, to facilitate further fund flow from Credit Institutions.

The integrated watershed plan prepared on the above basis involving funds of the Government, Banks and community shall be discussed in the DWAC and shall form part of the annual credit plan of the district.

In order to ensure smooth recovery of the loans provided by the banks, the District Rural Development Agencies/Zilla Parishads/Watershed Associations should come forward to stand as guarantor for the repayment of the loans advanced by the Banks/NABARD. In such a case, the Banks should not shy away from extending credit for activities relating to development of wastelands/degraded lands.

The Banks are providing credit for infrastructure development such as land development, pond etc. and for promoting production activities involving agriculture, horticulture, animal husbandry in rural areas, etc. It is recommended that such Schemes of the Bank should systematically be dovetailed with the schemes of watershed development and development of degraded/wastelands. For this purpose, Banks, especially NABARD, should prepare area specific models for watershed development so that the credit worthiness of such projects does not require scrutiny on a project-to-project basis.

The infrastructure, so developed with the credit provided by the Banks, is to be safeguarded and mortgaged with the Banks till full recovery of the funds provided by them. If there are any impediments in this regard under some State laws, the State should make amendments to the local laws or issue necessary instructions/clarifications so that such physical infrastructure could be mortgaged with the Financial Institutions.

In order to make the project successful, there is need to provide technical guidance and expenditure support for selection of suitable species for specific soil and agro-climatic conditions. In addition to the activities relating to

in situ and water conservation, techniques could also be evolved for soil treatment including nutrient management, organic management, vermiculture, farm biomass generation, etc. Medicinal plants could also be encouraged on wastelands/degraded lands to generate profits. Studies may also be made on the economics of reclamation and returns to establish viability and sustainability.

DRDAs/PIAs should assist groups of farmers in documentation for obtaining necessary loans from Credit Institutions. NABARD/Financing Institutes should prepare necessary guidelines in this regard for preparing documentation for obtaining loans from the Banking Sector.

The Guidelines for Watershed Programmes should be modified to provide for Watershed Functionaries and for proper orientation on preparation of credit plans in the watershed. The Watershed Secretary and PIA should prepare the actual credit requirement for the forthcoming financial year in advance in consultation with the Service Area Branch Manager and submit to Zilla Parishad/DRDA by December of the preceding financial year. Zilla Panchayat/DRDA will consolidate for the whole District and give it to the District Lead Bank Manager by January for being incorporated in the Annual District Credit Plan of the next financial year. The approved credit plans will be communicated to the watershed functionaries for interaction with the financial Institutions. The item of credit linkage should be included for periodic review of District Credit Plan.

There is need to make a provision in the Panchayati Raj Act so that the Gram Panchayat can stand as guarantors.

Many projects aimed for development of rainfed/degraded land are being implemented on watershed approach by different Departments viz. (i) Department of Agriculture & Cooperation, (ii) Department of Land Resources, (iii) Ministry of Environment & Forests, (iv) Ministry of Water Resources, and (v) Planning Commission. Further, it is felt that having the watershed programmes under various Departments results in wastage of funds and overlapping of work. It is, therefore, suggested that for effective coordination among all the Schemes and projects, all watershed programmes should be handled by one single Ministry/Department in Govt. of India/State Governments. The funds should be provided to one nodal Ministry and be implemented and monitored by that Ministry so as to ensure proper utilisation of funds for achieving set targets.

CE Laws (Amendment & Validation) Ordinance, 2005

2516. SHRI RANEN BARMAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) the purpose of promulgation of the Central Excise Laws (Amendment & Validation) Ordinance 2005;
- (b) whether validity of the Ordinance has since been allowed to expire, if so, the reasons therefore;
- (c) the volume of claim on account of unpaid excise duty made on M/s ITC Limited;
- (d) the status of the excise duty claim following expiry of the terms of the Ordinance;
- (e) whether any Ordinance were promulgated, seeking amendment(s) to Central Excise Rules with retrospective effect; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S. S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) By an order dated 29.12.1995 the Commissioner of Central Excise, New Delhi confirmed an amount of Rs. 683.5 crores on M/s. ITC Ltd. in a matter arising out of a show cause notice demanding duty of Rs. 803 crores issued to M/s. ITC Ltd. and its outside contract manufacturers during the year 1987. During the pendency of an appeal against the said order before the Tribunal, M/s. ITC Ltd. paid Rs. 350 crores as pre-deposit. The said demand was set aside by the Tribunal on 4.9.1998 and thereafter by the Hon'ble Supreme Court on 10.9.2004. The Court subsequently also dismissed the review petition filed by the Government. The Central Excise Laws (Amendment & Validation) Ordinance, 2005, came in to force on the 25th January 2005 to cure the infirmities pointed out by the Supreme Court in the relevant notifications and to validate the actions taken thereunder.

(b) During the currency of the Ordinance, M/s. ITC Ltd. expressed their willingness to forego their claim for refund of the deposit of Rs. 350 crores and requested the Government to waive the demand for the balance under the Ordinance or otherwise. After carefully considering the matter, and having regard to suggestions that the tax dispute should be settled on a reasonable basis, the Government accepted ITC Ltd's offer. The adjudicating authority by an order dated 5th April, 2005 accepted the settlement and adjudged the payment of Rs. 350 crores as central excise duty.

(c) By an order dated 29.12.1995 the Commissioner of Central Excise, New Delhi confirmed an amount of Rs. 683.5 crores on M/s. ITC Ltd. in a matter arising out of a show cause notice demanding duty of Rs. 803 crores issued to M/s. ITC Ltd. and its outside contract manufacturers during the year 1987.

(d) The Excise duty claim does not survive following the expiry of the terms of the Ordinance and acceptance of the settlement by an order dated the 5th April 2005.

(e) and (f) Reply to these parts has to be constructed with effect from the date the Central Excise Rules came into force. The same is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House.

Balance of Payments

2517. SHRI MILIND DEORA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether India's balance of payments posted a surplus in January-March 2006 against a deficit in October-December, 2005;

(b) if so, the details of factors that contributed to such positive performance in the economy;

(c) the broad policy followed by India in this regard; and

(d) the steps taken to consistently improve the balance of payment position of the economy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) As per the data released by the RBI, there was a surplus of US \$ 13.2 billion in the overall balance in the Balance of Payments in January-March 2006 as against a deficit of US \$ 4.7 billion in October-December 2005.

(b) There was a current account surplus during January-March 2006 at a level of US \$ 1.8 billion as compared to a deficit of US \$ 3.8 billion in October-December 2005. The capital account (net) during January-March 2006 improved to a surplus of US \$ 11.4 billion from a deficit of US \$ 0.8 billion during October-December 2005.

(c) and (d) External sector policies are aimed at maximizing the benefits of increased globalisation by facilitating the smooth flow of goods, services, capital and technology, and maintaining the Current Account Deficit at

a sustainable level consistent with the needs of development. The steps taken by the Government in this regard include: establishment of a liberal and globally competitive trade regime through progressive reduction in peak customs duties on non-agricultural products and removal of trade barriers; maintaining an appropriate exchange rate regime; management of foreign exchange reserves that is calibrated to the external as well as overall macroeconomic situation; liberal policies for Foreign Direct Investment, Foreign Institutional Investment and External Commercial Borrowing. These measures have led to significant improvement in country's Balance of Payments, as reflected in the country's foreign exchange reserves.

Cost Audit of Tea Companies

2518. SHRIMATI MANORAMA MADHAVARAJ: Will the Minister of COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has ordered 36 tea companies, owning plantations to get their production cost records audited by independent auditors and submit reports;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether such a move is prompted by the need to establish the manner by which subsidies and incentives to the industry is utilized;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether such independent audit rules the lines of Cost Accounting Records (Plantation Products) Rules framed in 2002, have been framed for other sectors; and

(f) if so, whether independent audit has been ordered in any of these sectors where subsidies and incentives are involved?

THE MINISTER OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA): (a) and (b) Government has issued cost audit orders in regard to 38 tea companies as per details indicated in the enclosed statement.

(c) and (d) The Government, where it considers necessary, in exercise of its powers under section 233 B of the Companies Act, 1956, may direct the audit of cost accounts of a company that is required to maintain cost records under section 209 (1)(d) of the Act. Companies Act, 1956 does not restrict cost audit to only those companies which are receiving subsidies or incentives from the government.

(e) Cost Accounting Records Rules have been framed for 43 other sectors.

(f) Yes, independent audit orders have been issued to certain companies belonging to the sectors availing subsidies/incentives.

Statement

S.No. Names of Tea Companies

1	2
1	Amgoorie India Ltd.
2	Assam Company Limited
3	B & A Limited
4	Barak Valley Tea Company
5	Bazaloni Group Ltd.
6	Bhagatpur Tea Co. Ltd.
7	Dhunseri Tea & Industries Ltd.
8	Duncan Industries Ltd.
9	Eveready Industries India Limited
10	Gillanders Arbuthnot & Co. Ltd.
11	Goodricke Group Ltd.
12	Grob Tea Co. Ltd.
13	Harrisons Malayalam Limited
14	Hasimara Industries Ltd.
15	Highland Tea Produce Co. Ltd.
16	Jay Shree Tea & Industries Limited
17	Kothari Plantations & Industries Ltd.
18	Maran Co. Ltd.
19	Neelamalai Agro Industries Ltd.
20	New Tea Co. Ltd.
21	Octavius Tea & Industries Ltd.
22	Parry Agro Industries Ltd.
23	RNT Plantation Ltd.

1	2
24	Rossel Tea Ltd.
25	Sankar Tea co Limited
26	Scotish Assam (I) Ltd.
27	Stanes Amalgamated Estates Ltd.
28	Tamilnadu Tea Plantation Corporation Ltd.
29	Tata Tea Limited
30	Teesta Valley Tea Co. Ltd.
31	Tezporo Tea Co. Ltd.
32	Tiru Tea Ltd.
33	Warren Tea Limited
34	Assam Frontier Limited
35	Empire Plantations (India) Ltd.
36	Singlo (India) Tea Co. Ltd.
37	Bobay Burmah Trading Corpn. Limited
38	Peria Karamalai Tea & Produce Co. Ltd.

Global Flux Network

2519. SHRIMATI ARCHANA NAYAK:

SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR:

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

(a) whether India is hopeful of joining the global flux network;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it would enable to collect data pertaining to environmental changes including pollution;

(d) whether a Central repository for data is to be established; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, AND MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) to (e) The possibility and feasibility of setting up a Indian Flux Network through a set of instrumented towers for measuring gaseous fluxes and meteorological parameters in various representative ecological environments of the country is being studied.

**Strengthening of Southern Region
Transmission System**

2520. SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has sanctioned a meager amount for setting up south region power transmission system;

(b) if so, whether Karnataka has asked for more financial investment in power sector in order to increase supply in south region; and

(c) if so, the details thereof along with Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE): (a) For the Southern region transmission system 23 transmission schemes have been taken up during the 10th Five Year Plan and the 11th Five Year Plan at an estimated cost of Rs.13977 crores. Of these, schemes for Rs.7934 crores have been completed, schemes for Rs.4143 crores are under construction, schemes for Rs.900 crores are under investment approval stage and schemes for Rs.1000 crores are under tie-up stage.

(b) and (c) Government of Karnataka made a reference for taking up transmission schemes for evacuation of power from the proposed generation schemes of 4000 MW ultra mega project at Tadri, 1015 MW between Udupi and Mangalore and 2000 MW at Mangalore. The transmission system for evacuation of power from these projects would be firmed up based on the allocation of power from the project to the beneficiary States after a final view on the generation project is taken up. If the beneficiaries happen to be two or more States then the inter-State transmission system would be finalized and firmed up for execution by the Central Transmission Utility. If, on the other hand, the beneficiary happens to be a single State the transmission system would be finalized and firmed up for execution by the State transmission utility concerned.

**Revision of Wages of Public Sector
Insurance Companies**

2521. SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that there is a long pending demand for revision of wages of employees in the four public sector General Insurance Companies;

(b) if so, the action taken by the Government thereon and the time by which the wage revision would be implemented; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) to (c) The wage revision in respect of all employees belonging to Class-I, III and IV in the four public sector general insurance companies has been notified on 21st December, 2005. The same could not be done for Class-II employees because the concerned unions/associations of these employees did not agree to sign the agreement that was reached with other categories of employees. The General Insurers' (Public Sector) Association (GIPSA) has already held six rounds of meetings with the representatives of Class-II employees' unions/associations. The wage revision for Class II employees would be finalized as soon as the concerned unions/associations reach an agreement with GIPSA.

**Indo-Myanmar Co-operation
in Energy Sector**

2522. SHRI M.K. SUBBA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to extend all cooperation to Myanmar in the Energy Sector; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) (I) National Hydroelectric Power Corporation (NHPC) has done pre-feasibility study for the Tamanthi Hydroelectric Project (1200 MW).

(II) In January, 2005 a Memorandum of Understanding was signed between India & Myanmar for cooperation in petroleum sector. Cooperation in this sector envisages following:

- Participation of Indian companies in the petroleum exploration programme of Myanmar.
- Export of Myanmar natural gas to India.
- Construction of Myanmar-India Gas Pipeline.
- Participation of Indian companies in the downstream and marketing sector.

- (iii) A demonstration project for small and medium scale industries using Biomass Gasifier System was set up in April, 2003.
- (iv) The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI) has undertaken a project for strengthening education infrastructure in Myanmar through use of Renewable Energy Technologies.

India has also agreed to cooperation in Energy Sector with neighbouring countries in Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC). Myanmar is one of the member countries in this initiative. A Plan of Action for cooperation in Energy Sector in BIMSTEC was adopted by the Energy Ministers' Conference held in October, 2005. A copy of the Plan of Action is enclosed as statement.

Statement

*First BIMSTEC Energy Ministers' Conference
October 4, 2005 New Delhi, India
Plan of Action for Energy Cooperation in BIMSTEC*

(A) BIMSTEC Trans Power Exchange and Development Project

- i) Task Force being led by Thailand, with representatives of member countries, will give a report within one year on draft MOU for grid interconnections. The Task Force would consider issues which inter alia include flow of electricity on a non-discriminatory basis taking cognizance of capacity availability in respective national grids, also to consider steps to harmonise technical, planning and operational standards of the national grids for removing barriers to grid interconnections.
- ii) A Workshop on Harmonization of Grid Standards would be hosted by India some times in December 05.

(B) Trans BIMSTEC Gas Pipeline(s)

- iii) A Task Force is to be constituted with representatives of all member countries for deciding Terms of Reference for the study on Trans BIMSTEC Gas Pipeline(s) and suggesting further course of action after taking into account the work done so far. Thailand would host the first Meeting of this Task Force early next year.

Thailand also offered to host a Workshop on Petroleum Reserves in BIMSTEC Region. It was

agreed that this Workshop would be organized to coincide with the first meeting of the Task Force.

- iv) India will host a Conference to consider Energy Charter Treaty and other such arrangements which have emerged for regional energy trade, in February-March 2006.

(C) Hydro potential of the BIMSTEC region

- v) India would host a workshop on sharing of experiences in developing hydro projects.

(D) Non-Conventional Sources of energy

- vi) Myanmar will coordinate setting up a web site with the help of all member countries. India would prepare a concept paper on broad structure, content and operational mechanism of the agreed website. In this regard, a meeting will be held in Bangkok in the later half of November 2005 for discussing the concept paper and steps required to take the activity further.
- vii) Nepal will host a workshop on Small Hydro Projects. Nepal to confirm the venue and date latest by January 2006.
- viii) Thailand will host a Workshop and site visits for member countries, in the area of rice husk cogeneration in second half of year 2006.
- ix) India will prepare a status paper on renewable sources of energy in member countries to be presented in next SEEnOM.
- x) Solar Energy Centre in India will coordinate cooperation activity in association Bangladesh and Sri Lanka in solar energy systems/devices, standards and testing.
- xi) The BIMSTEC Task Force on Renewable Energy would carry out harmonization of standards for various non-conventional energy sources.

(E) Energy Efficiency

- xii) Sri Lanka would host a two day workshop on experience sharing in certification of energy managers and energy auditors in the second quarter of the year 2006.
- xiii) An expert group will be constituted with participation of all the member countries on standards and labeling to be led by India. This

would include testing systems, procedures and hardwares. The Expert Group will meet in second quarter of the year 2006. All member countries to forward names of their nominees to India. India would confirm the dates and venue for the meeting latest by January 2006.

(F) Energy Security

- xiv) A two day conference on sharing of experience regarding efficient development of coal resources will be hosted by Bangladesh in September 2006. Venue and dates to be confirmed by Bangladesh by April 2006.
- xv) A workshop for discussing concept note on BIMSTEC Energy Centre would be hosted by India on January 25-27, 2006.
- xvi) A workshop on sharing of experiences on Rural Electricity Cooperatives (to be confirmed by Bangladesh).
- xvii) Bhutan will organize a workshop on sharing of experiences in rural electrification with emphasis on remote area electrification some time in May/June 2006. Bhutan to confirm the venue and date by January 2006.

Circulation of Counterfeit Bonds

2523. SHRI JOACHIM BAXLA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is suffering substantial financial losses due to circulation of forged/counterfeit Cash Certificates and Bonds;
- (b) if so, the quantum of losses suffered annually;
- (c) whether the Government are contemplating to incorporate foolproof device in order to eliminate possibility of circulation of counterfeit Bonds;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) to (e) There have been some instances of circulation of non-genuine Government debt instruments that have come to the notice of government. It is difficult to quantify the amount of losses on this account.

In respect of Government securities, the progress towards dematerialisation, which is proposed to be completed after enactment of Government Securities Bill, is expected to curb the possibility of counterfeiting.

In respect of instruments in physical forms, various administrative steps have been taken. These include

instructions regarding surprise checks of concerned agencies, greater awareness about the security features, publicity requesting the public to conduct transactions through Post Offices/ Authorized agents, and more stringent procedure for verification by staff before encashment.

Setting up of Hydro-Electric Power Projects in Tamil Nadu

2524. SHRI K.C. PALLANI SHAMY: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether any agreement on hydro-electric power projects has been signed between the Union Government and the Government of Tamil Nadu;
- (b) if so, whether the Government of Tamil Nadu being given its share in accordance with the agreement;
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (d) the steps taken by the Union Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Do not arise.

(d) On the request of the Governments of Tamil Nadu and Karnataka, during January 2001 National Hydroelectric Power Corporation Limited (NHPC) had been entrusted with the work of preparation of the Detailed Project Reports (DPRs) of 4 Hydroelectric Projects (HEP) in the Cauvery Basin, viz. the Hogenekkal HEP (120 MW) and Rasimanal HEP (360 MW) in Tamil Nadu and Shivasamudram HEP (270 MW) and Mekadatu HEP (400 MW) in Karnataka.

Preparation of the DPRs for the above projects will be taken up by NHPC after the differences between the Governments of Tamil Nadu and Karnataka on the draft of the Tripartite Agreement to be signed between the two State Governments and NHPC are resolved and the Tripartite Agreement is signed by all the parties.

Forecasting of Earthquake

*2525. SHRI E.G. SUGAVANAM: Will the Minister of EARTH SCIENCES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether many of the areas in Delhi is falling in highest risk category of earthquake hazards;
- (b) if so the details of high, moderate and low hazard areas;
- (c) whether any techniques are available to make structural changes in the existing building and the steps taken by the government to educate the public;

*The name of the Member was subsequently changed from Shri V. Hanumantha Rao to Shri E.G. Sugavanam through a Correcting Statement made in the House on 25.08.2006, which was also placed in Library under L.T. No.4903/2006.

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government has constituted any research team to forecast earthquakes in this country; and

(f) if so, details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) and (b) As per seismic zoning map (enclosure-1), Delhi lies in seismic zone-IV, which is not the highest risk category.

Recently Earthquake Risk Evaluation Centre, India Meteorological Department has conducted a study at 1:50,000 scale to further microzone National Capital Territory (NCT) Delhi. As per this study, territory of NCT Delhi has been found to have nine different ground characteristics, which respond to earthquakes differently, all fall within zone-IV, and generate three levels of hazard viz. low, moderate and high.

According to this study

(i) Areas of East and Northeast Delhi (Such as Patparganj, Shahadra, Burari and Narela) areas of Chhatarpur in the south (Ghitomi, Dera mandi, Asola, Arajungarh etc.) and West of Delhi ridge (Mahipalpur,

Cantt, Karol Bagh, Narayana etc.) fall under high hazard category.

(ii) Ridge, Delhi University area, Anand Parvat, Vasant Kunj, Tuglakabad, Greater Kailash etc. fall under low hazard category.

(iii) Rest of Delhi falls under moderate hazard category.

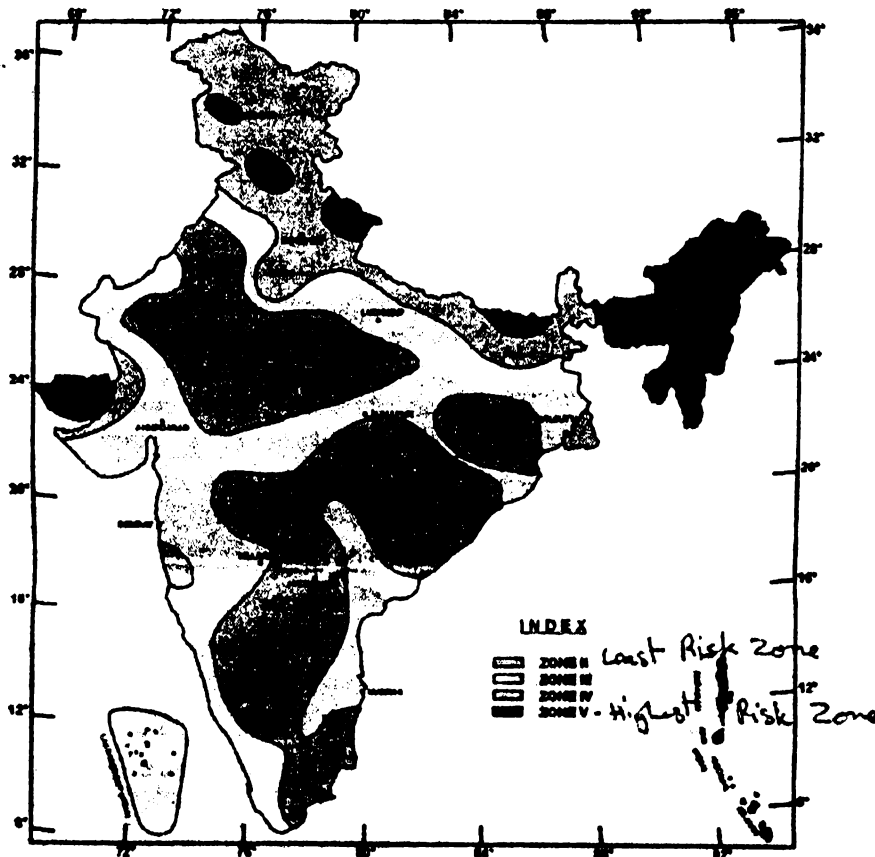
A detailed map showing these nine units along with levels of hazard is enclosed (Enclosure-2).

(c) Yes Sir.

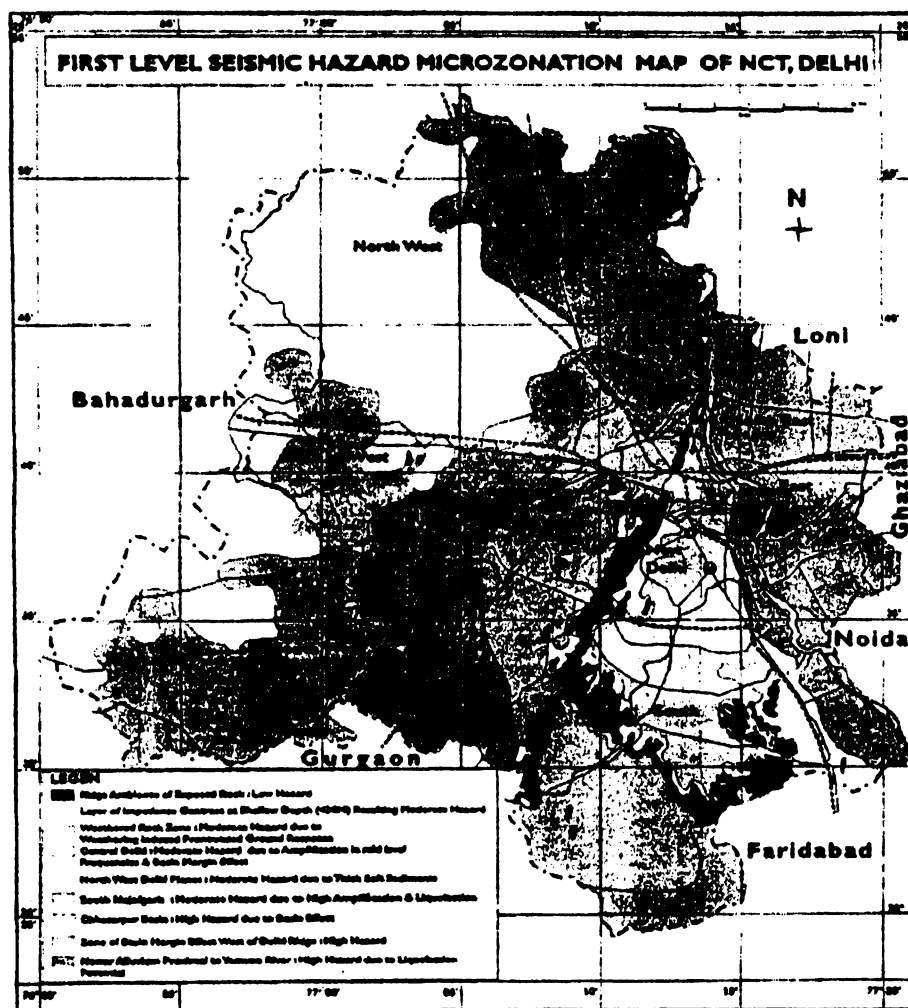
(d) Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) has published the criterion for design and construction of earthquake resistant structures. For poorly built structures also, BIS has prepared guidelines for retrofitting. In addition to this, guidelines have also been proposed by HUDCO.

(e) and (f) No specific research team has been constituted for the purpose, since no techniques for prediction are available anywhere in the world so far. However, in order to understand the earthquake process in India, various research groups are studying different precursors and multiparametric geophysical observations such as Helium & Radon gas anomaly, water-level changes, Ultra Low frequency/Very Low frequency emissions, Strain built-up including micro-seismicity etc.

(Enclosure-1)



(Enclosure-2)



Bank Strike

2526. SHRI JASHUBHAI DHANABHAI BARAD: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the bank employees' association and other bank unions have observed one day's strike on July 28, 2006:

(b) if so, main demands for the strike;

(c) the total number of strikes, the banks have observed during the last one year;

(d) the extent to which their demands have been met during the period;

(e) whether due to frequent strikes of banks, the Union Government is considering to dismantle the unions/associations which are causing inconvenience to the general public; and

(f) if so, the time by which the final decision is likely to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Three unions of employees in Public Sector Banks, viz. All India Bank Employees' Association, All India Bank Officers' Association and Bank Employees Federation of India had given a call for one day all India Bank strike on 28th July 2006 in support of their following demands:-

- (i) Withdrawal of RBI circular on outstanding of banking services;
- (ii) Withdrawal of decision of RBI on outstanding of clearing operations;
- (iii) Withdrawal of amendment to Section 12 (2) of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949 on removal of ceiling on voting rights in banks;
- (iv) Filling up of the nearly one lakh vacancies in banks through recruitment; and
- (v) Expeditious extension of one more option for pension.

(c) and (d) During the period from 1.1.2005 to till date three nationwide strikes were observed by bank employees for which the Chief Labour Commissioner (Central) had been holding conciliation proceedings with the unions to resolve the issues from time to time but, the parties could not arrive at any acceptable position.

(e) There is no such proposal under consideration of the Government to dismantle the unions/associations of bank employees.

(f) Does not arise.

Bio-Technology Centre

2527. SHRI BADIGA RAMAKRISHNA: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has set up a biotechnology centre, under the auspices of UNESCO;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the steps taken by the Government to protect the patents in biotechnology, help in having a strong database on sharing genetic resources as well as traditional knowledge;

(d) whether the institute is going to offer PG courses in biotechnology; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) Yes Sir, The Department of Biotechnology is setting up a Regional Centre for Education and Training in Biotechnology under the auspices of UNESCO in India. The Cabinet and the General Conference, UNESCO both have approved the proposal. A Memorandum of Agreement has been signed between the Department of Biotechnology and UNESCO for establishment of the Centre.

(b) The Regional Centre shall be an autonomous institution under the Department of Biotechnology with participation from member states of UNESCO. The role of UNESCO centre will be:

- to promote capacity-building through education, training and research and development (R&D) in biotechnology for sustainable, development objectives through regional and international cooperation;
- to facilitate transfer of knowledge and technology relating to biotechnology area at the regional level;

- to create a hub of biotechnology expertise in the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) region, and more generally in the Asian region, for addressing human resource needs in the region;
- to create a network of satellite centres in the region;
- to promote and strengthen South-South cooperation;

The functions of the Regional Centre shall be:

- to execute educational and training activities and transfer knowledge in biotechnology;
- to undertake research, development and scientific investigations in collaboration with relevant research centres in the region;
- to hold scientific symposia and conferences (regional and international) and to conduct short-term and long-term training courses and workshops in the areas of biotechnology;
- to collect universally available information with a view to set up a data bank;
- to collect and disseminate the relevant local knowledge, through networking;
- to disseminate the outcomes of research activities in different countries through the publication of books, articles, etc.;
- to promote collaborative research and development network programmes in specific areas of biotechnology, exchange and facilitates mobility of scientists at the regional level with due consideration for issues pertaining to intellectual property rights of the collaborating institutions.

The structural and financial organisation will be overseen by a Board of Governors which will be serviced by the Executive Committee and the Programme Advisory Committee.

(c) Patents and IPR emerging out of the research to be carried out in the Regional Centre and its satellites will be equitably shared between the collaborating partners. Provision for sharing of genetic resources would be worked out subsequently following the stipulated respective government norms and policies.

(d) and (e) Yes, Sir, the institute is going to offer PG courses in biotechnology and the details of the courses are being worked out.

National Building Construction Corporation

2528. SHRI NARAYAN CHANDRA BORKATAKY: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of projects under implementation by National Building Construction Corporation in Assam, location-wise; and

(b) the amount earmarked for these projects in the current financial year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN): (a) Details are given in the statement enclosed.

(b) Amounts are released by the departments of Government of India to the NBCC on the basis of utilization certificate and the progress of the project.

Statement

Sl. No.	Name of Project	Sanctioned Cost (Rs. in lakhs)
Ministry of Urban Development:		
1.	Improvement of Lanes & By-lanes of Guwahati Phase-II (Part-I)	2416.45
Ministry of Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation:		
2.	Construction of 4 Storeyed RCC building for EWS category at Borsojoi, (Plot land 6945 sqm) Guwahati.	2071.5
3.	Construction of 4 Storeyed RCC building for EWS Category at Borsojoi, (Plot land 12435 sqm) Guwahati	2123.04
4.	Construction of Market Complex for rehabilitation of vendors at Deragaon, Assam	1641.42
Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region:		
5.	100 bedded Hospital at Kajalgaon, Kokrajhar in the Bodoland Territorial Council (BTC) area of Guwahati.	4190.75
Income Tax Department Guwahati:		
6.	Income Tax Building in Guwahati (incl. Elec. Sub-station and Lift)	1231.70 (Revised estimate of Rs. 1658 lakhs submitted for approval)

Funds for Orissa for 12th Finance Commission

2529. SHRI GIRIDHAR GAMANG: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the funds provided to Government of Orissa on the basis of recommendation of 12th Finance Commission so far, year-wise and programme-wise, thereof;

(b) whether the State Government had allocated the funds to the executive departments and utilized the fund in time;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government of Orissa sanctioned the funds for repairing irrigation project in Rayagada District; and

(e) if so, whether the scheme and funding go as per the guidelines of 12th Finance Commission?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) Funds released to Government of Orissa on the basis of recommendation of 12th Finance Commission during 2005-06 and 2006-07 (so far) is as under:

Sector/Grant	(Rs. in crore)	
	2005-06	2006-07 (so far)
1 Share in Central Taxes & Duties	4876.75	2093.55
2 Non-Plan Revenue Deficit Grant	488.04	-
3 Forest Sector	15.00	7.50
4 Health Sector	31.22	17.40
5 Education Sector	53.46	29.29
6 Local Bodies Grant (PRI and ULB)	181.40	-
7 Calamity Relief Fund	226.16	116.34
8 Maintenance of Roads & Bridges	-	184.39
9 Maintenance of Public Buildings	-	48.64
10 Heritage Conservation	-	6.25
Total	5872.03	2503.36

(b) and (c) According to State Government the funds have been allocated in favour of executive Departments and are being utilized as per norms prescribed by the

12th Finance Commission and the guidelines issued by Government of India. The funds are being utilized for the following purposes:

Grants recommended by 12th Finance Commission	Purpose for which grant is being utilized
1 Grants for Education Sector	Towards State's share of Sarba Shiksha Abhiyan
2 Grants for Health Sector	For purchase of Bedding, Clothing, Medicines & Equipments and for operation of Mobile Health Units in Keonjhar and Mayurbnaj Districts.
3 Grants for Maintenance of Forest	For scientific management of forests
4 Grants for Maintenance of Roads & Bridges	Maintenance of Roads & Bridges
5 Grants for Maintenance of Public Buildings	Maintenance of Public Buildings (Non-Res.)
6 Grants for Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRI)	For Operation & Maintenance of Rural Water Supply, Sanitation and Maintenance of Accounts
7 Grants for Urban Local Bodies (ULB)	For Solid Waste Management and Creation of Data base and Management of Accounts.
8 Centre's share towards CRF	For relief, rescue, repair & restoration works due to Natural Calamities.

(d) and (e) Out of the grant recommended by the 12th Finance Commission, no funds have been sanctioned for repairing of irrigation projects in Rayagada District.

[Translation]

Energy Through Rice Husk

2530. SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR:
SHRI K.C. PALLANI SHAMY:

Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is providing any incentive to use the technology for power generation from rice husk and coconut-shells;

(b) if so, the details of the incentive and scheme;

(c) whether the Government has formulated any action plan for generating power from rice husk in the rice producing regions of the country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof alongwith the number of units set-up for the purpose in these regions so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR): (a) Yes, Sir. The Government is encouraging setting up of power generation projects from biomass including rice husk and coconut shells through various technological routes such as combustion, gasification and cogeneration.

(b) The Government provide incentives such as capital subsidy and interest subsidy for setting up such projects and financial assistance for preparation of Detailed Project Reports, awareness creation and training. Fiscal incentives including accelerated depreciation and relief from taxes and duties, are also being provided. Term loans are available from Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency (IREDA) and other Financial Institutions for such projects.

(c) and (d) A target for setting up of biomass based power generation projects for 700 MW has been fixed for the Tenth Plan period in the country including in rice producing regions. A cumulative capacity of 1050 MW has already been installed so far, for generation of power from biomass in the country including rice producing regions.

[English]

ADB Loans to NTPC

2531. SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT "BACHDA": Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Asian Development Bank (ADB) has approved a loan of \$300 million to NTPC Limited;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the purpose for which this loan was taken; and

(d) the extent to which the power sector propose to generate power by utilizing this loan?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Asian Development Bank (ADB) has approved a loan of US\$ 300 million to National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) Limited. This loan has been extended without Government guarantee. The loan has been approved by ADB under Complimentary Finance Scheme of their private sector window.

(c) and (d) The loan is proposed to be utilized for part financing the capital expenditure of Kahalgaon Stage-II (phase-I & II) of 1500 MW capacity, Sipat Stage-I of 1980 MW capacity and Sipat Stage-II of 1000 MW capacity.

Stamp Duty in SM

2532. MS. INGRID MCLEOD: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to refer to the reply given to USQ No. 4335 dated May 19, 2006 and state:

(a) whether the Government have received a copy of notification issued by the Government of Maharashtra in regard to not to levy stamp duty on stock brokers in other States;

(b) if so, whether the Government proposes to lay a copy of the notification, issued by the Government of Maharashtra in this regard on the Table of the House;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) Yes, Sir. The Central Government have received a copy of Order No. Mudrank 2006/C.R.290/M-1, dated 23 May 2006, issued by the Government of Maharashtra, Revenue and Forests Department, published on Page 737 of Maharashtra Government Gazette Extraordinary, Part Four-B. Since the reply to the USQ No.4335 dated 19 May 2006 had been treated as an Assurance, a copy of the aforesaid Order of the Government of Maharashtra was sent to the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs, as per procedure, vide O.M. F.No.30/27/2006-ST, dated 19 July 2006 of Ministry of Finance, Department of Revenue, while submitting the Implementation Report to fulfil the Assurance.

(b) to (d) The Order has been issued by the Government of Maharashtra in exercise of powers under the Bombay Stamp Act, 1958, which is a State Legislation of Maharashtra and this Order is not required to be laid on the Table of the House.

Implementation of Watershed Programmes

2533. PROF. M. RAMADASS: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has asked the State Governments to prepare Five Year Perspective Plan for each district under their domain clearly indicating the watershed development under various programmes;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the name of States which have prepared and submitted their perspective plan to the Union Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL): (a) to (c) The Department of Land Resources is implementing three demand driven area development programmes, namely, Integrated Wasteland Development Programme (IWDP), Drought Prone Areas Programme (DPAP) and Desert Development Programme (DDP) on watershed basis. The State Governments have been asked to prepare a district-wise perspective plans for five years showing the physical and financial requirement for each district keeping in view the availability of funds under IWDP, DPAP, DDP and other such programmes being implemented through International Cooperation projects and other agencies. The States have also been advised to use code numbers developed for micro-watersheds in the Wastelands Atlas of India 2005 prepared by NRSA, Hyderabad. The perspective plans should indicate already treated watershed areas, ongoing project areas and new project areas to be taken up during the next five years. Tamil Nadu has submitted the perspective plans in respect of three districts and Kerala has submitted the Perspective Plan in respect of one district.

Banks in Rural and Urban Areas

2534. SHRI HEMMAL MURMU: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of public sector banks in rural and urban areas in the country, State-wise; and

(b) the total amount of loan sanctioned by each bank during the last three years, in rural and urban areas in the country, bank-wise and State-wise?

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

Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Expansion of NTPC Power Projects

2535. SHRI JUAL ORAM: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) has any plan for the expansion of its plants;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, project-wise and State-wise;
- (c) the steps taken in this regard; and
- (d) the time by which the expansion work is likely to commence?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. Apart from on going present expansion projects with 5200 MW capacity under construction, NTPC has plans for expansion of its plants for a capacity of 3940 MW. The commencement of these projects is contingent upon tying up of various inputs, clearances and finalization of fuel supply agreements.

The details of these projects are given in the enclosed Statement.

The Ministry of Power has initiated the following steps:

- (i) Quarterly review of capacity addition programme by Secretary (Power).
- (ii) CEA entrusted with responsibility for monthly monitoring of power projects including those of NTPC's.
- (iii) Quarterly Performance Review (QPR) of NTPC by Secretary (Power).
- (iv) Regular Coordination Meetings with Ministry of Environment and Forests, Ministry of Coal and Ministry of Petroleum, at Secretary level.
- (v) Frequent review by Ministry with power equipment manufacturers.

These projects are likely to commence in the XIth Plan.

Statement

Details of NTPC's expansion projects for which Feasibility Reports have been prepared

Sl. No.	Project	Location	Fuel	Capacity (MW)
1.	NCTPP-II, Dadri Unit-II	Uttar Pradesh	Coal	490
2.	Farakka-III	West Bengal	Coal	500
3.	Rajiv Gandhi Combined Cycle Power Project (CCPP) Stage-II at Kayamkulam	Kerala	Gas	1950
4.	Kawas CCPP-II	Gujarat	Coal	500
5.	Jhanor Gandhar CCPP-II	Gujarat	Coal	500
				3940

IREDA

2536. SHRI BALASHOWRY VALLABHANENI:
SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO:

Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of the loans distributed by IREDA during the last three years;
- (b) the details of debts and non-payment of loan amount during the period;

(c) whether IREDA imposed any penalty on defaulters; and

(d) If so, the recovery percentage during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR): (a) The details of loans disbursed by the Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency (IREDA) during the last three years are given below:

Year	Disbursed Amount (Rs. in crore)
2003-04	343.28
2004-05	289.98
2005-06	302.51

(b) During the last three years, i.e., 2003-04 to 2005-06 the non-payment of loan was Rs.217.12 crore against a total debt of Rs.715.53 crore.

(c) Yes Sir, defaulters are charged penal interest.

(d) The cumulative loan recovery percentage during the last three years, i.e., 2003-04 to 2005-06 is 60.87, 54.32 and 52.72 respectively.

Non-Payment of Taxes by Companies

2537. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether some companies in Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu and West Bengal did not pay any tax even though these had declared dividends amounting to Rs.2,498 crore;

(b) whether at least 125 of these companies were required to pay direct tax amounting to Rs.241.12 crore under the special provisions but did not pay;

(c) if so, the details of the companies who have evaded taxes; and

(d) the steps taken to recover the dues from these companies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) and (b) The C&AG of India in Report No.13 of 2004 (for the year ended March 2003), at Para 1.4.4 of the Systems Review on "Operation of the Scheme of Taxation of Companies under Special Provisions of the Income Tax Act (Section 115JA/JB)" have observed that in the States of Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu and West Bengal, 6185 companies did not pay any tax under the Special Provisions despite declaring dividends amounting to Rs.2498 crore. Further, as per the Report, tax amounting to Rs.241.12 crore in respect of 125 companies have not been levied.

(c) and (d) The Audit's observation pertains to 6185 cases, assessed in the above three States. The details of these companies have not been given in the Audit Report.

In respect of Audit's observation on cases included in Systems Review, wherever the facts stated by the Audit are found to be correct, appropriate remedial action is undertaken for rectification/reassessment/fresh assessment. Depending upon appeals at various stages, different cases achieve finality at different points of time. After the outcome of appeals, the taxes due from these companies would be recovered. Only after the assessments of all the 6185 companies achieve finality, it may be ascertained as to whether taxes were evaded by these companies. It may be mentioned that the relevant details are not maintained centrally in the Ministry.

[Translation]

Drinking Water Supply in Tsunami Affected States

2538. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has taken any steps to improve the drinking water supply in the States affected by Tsunami;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the amount of funds allocated for the said purpose as on date?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL): (a) to (c) Rural Drinking Water is a State subject. The central Government, however, supplements the efforts of the States in providing drinking water facilities in the rural areas by rendering financial assistance and technical support through a Centrally Sponsored Scheme namely Accelerated Rural water Supply Programme (ARWSP). The State Governments are competent to plan, sanction, implement and execute rural water supply projects from the funds provided under ARWSP. Every year upto 5% of ARWSP funds are kept aside for rendering financial assistance to States/UTs for restoration of water supply affected due to Natural Calamity (including Tsunami). After the outbreak of Tsunami in December 2004, funds released to Tsunami affected States/UTs during 2004-05 from calamity relief quota of ARWSP are as under:-

Andhra Pradesh	Rs. 3.00 Crores	Kerala	Rs. 1.75 Crores
Tamil Nadu	Rs. 8.50 Crores	A& N Islands	Rs. 15.37 Crores.
Pondicherry	Rs. 1.00 Crore		

In addition Central Ground Water Board procured machinery and equipment for restoration of rural drinking water supply schemes in A&N Islands. An expenditure of Rs. 3.27 crores was incurred on this account from the budget head of ARWSP against authorization.

[English]

Additional Allocations under Swajaldhara

2539. SHRI P. KARUNAKARAN: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether any request has been received from the Government of Kerala for additional allocation of funds for the implementation of 226 more schemes under 'Swajaldhara' Scheme and other schemes;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether in view of successful implementation of such projects in Kerala, the Union Government is considering the sanctioning of more funds; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. During 2005-06, the State Government had requested for additional allocation of Rs.1568.46 lakh for 226 schemes in 7 districts of the State. It was proposed to take up 106 schemes in Kozhikode, Malappuram, Palakkad, Thrisur, Idukki and Kottayam at an estimated cost of Rs. 751.98 lakhs and 120 schemes in Kasargod (Swajaldhara II mode) at an estimated cost of Rs.816.48 lakhs. As per availability of funds, additional allocation to Kerala during 2005-06 was Rs. 261.54 lakh out of which, 1st installment amounting to Rs. 196.15 lakh was released.

Further, on the basis of additional demand raised by the State Government in the last financial year, an amount of Rs.685.50 lakh has been released towards the 1st installment against the Central allocation of Rs.914.00 lakhs to Kerala for the year 2006-07 for implementation of Swajaldhara projects.

Pharmaceutical Research

2540. SHRI SURESH PRABHAKAR PRABHU: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether investment in pharmaceutical research has picked up in recent years; and

(b) if so, the annual investment made by the Government in this area during each of the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The investment in pharmaceutical research has picked up in recent years in the country because of several steps and measures taken by the Government to promote pharmaceutical research. The annual investment made by the Government in this area during each of the last three years was Rs.29.71 crores in 2003-04, Rs.53.40 crores in 2004-05 and Rs.148.29 crores in 2005-06.

Zee-Cine Award Sponsored by LIC

2541. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the LIC of India sponsored the Zee-Cine award function held in Mauritius;

(b) if so, the procedure adopted for holding the LIC Zee-Cine award in Mauritius;

(c) the total amount spent by LIC for sponsoring Zee-Cine award; and

(d) the reason for sponsoring LIC Zee-Cine Award at Mauritius?

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

Bio-Fuel Policy

2542. SHRI CHENGARA SURENDRAN: Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has formulated bio-fuel policy;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, whether the policy is under the consideration of the Government; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR): (a) to (d) A Draft National Policy on Bio fuels was prepared by the Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources, which was sent in April, 2006 to the Ministries/Departments concerned and some States for their comments. The comments of the Ministries/Departments and States were discussed in a meeting taken by MNES in July, 2006 and the Draft National Policy on Biofuels has been revised based on the comments and inputs.

The Draft National Policy on Biofuels outlines the approach, strategy, targets, fiscal and financial incentives on various aspects of bio-fuel development, purchase policy, research, design and development (RD&D), legislation for enabling use of bio-fuels, capacity building, etc. to achieve energy security in the country.

Action Plan for Housing Requirements

2543. SHRI UDAY SINGH:

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY:

Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether to meet the capital's future housing requirements, the Union Government has since taken any action plan;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has allowed DDA to allot land to Group Housing Societies;

(d) if so, whether the DDA itself proposes to construct and sell flats at the land to avoid giving land to Group Housing Societies; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN): (a) and (b) The Development Authority (DDA) has reported that the Draft Master Plan for Delhi (MPD)-2021, has estimated additional requirement of housing stock as 24 lakh dwelling units for the projected population up to the year 2021. This includes 4 lakh dwelling units considered as the backlog, as per the census of 2001, comprising one lakh net housing shortage and the remaining for replacement of the dilapidated and kucha structures. To meet the total requirement of housing stock, the draft MPD-2021 envisages upgradation/densification of the existing housing stock, creation of additional housing in the NCT of Delhi and generation of additional housing stock in NCR Region.

(c) to (e) DDA has been making available housing stock in Delhi both by allotment of land as well as by allotment of built up flats. Allotment of land by DDA to Cooperative Group Housing Societies is provided for in Rule 6 of the Delhi Development Authority (Disposal of Developed Nazul Land) Rules, 1981. This allotment is governed by the seniority determined on the basis of registration of the Societies with the office of Registrar Cooperative Societies, Govt. of NCT of Delhi and verification of membership by that office. On the other hand allotment of built up flats constructed by DDA is governed under the Delhi Development Authority (Management and Disposal of Housing Estates) Regulations, 1968.

[Translation]

Projects Completed under Swajaldhara

2544. SHRI HARISINH CHAVDA:

SHRI V.K. THUMMAR:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state the number of projects completed under "Swajaldhara" Yojana alongwith the number of people benefited through these projects so far, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL): As per the reports received from the State Governments so far, the number of projects completed under Swajaldhara is 6956. The State-wise details are as under:-

Andhra Pradesh (2000), Arunachal Pradesh (22), Assam (386), Chhattisgarh (53), Gujarat (294), Himachal Pradesh (204), Jammu & Kashmir (76), Jharkhand (3), Karnataka (258), Kerala (104), Madhya Pradesh (328), Maharashtra (126), Orissa (185), Punjab (2), Rajasthan (602), Tamil Nadu (1200), Tripura (605), Uttar Pradesh (486), Uttaranchal (17) and West Bengal (5).

Information regarding the number of people benefited through the projects under Swajaldhara is not maintained at Central level.

Shortage of Public Prosecutors

2545. SHRI EKNATH MAHADEO GAIKWAD:

SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE:

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

(a) whether there is acute shortage of public

prosecutors in Supreme Court and various High Courts in the country;

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

(c) whether the Government has taken any steps to appoint more public prosecutors to remove the said shortage;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI K. VENKATAPATHY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (e) Does not arise.

Power Shortage in Delhi

2546. SHRI REWATI RAMAN SINGH:
SHRI AVTAR SINGH BHADANA:
SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

Requirement	Energy (MU)		Peak (MW)			
	Availability	Surplus/Deficit(-)	Demand	Met	Surplus/Deficit (-)	
(MU)	(MU)	(MU) (%)	(MW)	(MW)	(MW)	(%)
8,562	8,313	-249 -2.9	4,000	3,736	-264	-6.6

(c) and (d) No request has been received from Government of Delhi in recent past to address the prevailing shortage of power in Delhi.

(e) According to Government of NCT of Delhi, privatization of distribution sector in Delhi has shown very encouraging results. Distribution companies are committed to reduce Aggregate Technical and Commercial (AT &C) losses by about 17% in the first five years, against which AT&C losses in the first four years have already reduced by about 12%. Further, there has been significant reduction in the assistance provided Government of NCT of Delhi to Delhi Transco Limited from about Rs.1,200 crore/year at the time of privatization to about Rs.138 crore in 2005-06 and only a nominal amount of about Rs.91 crore has been spent for subsidizing the power tariff for domestic and agricultural consumers during 2005-06.

(f) Ministry of Power has facilitated signing of Memorandum of Understanding/Power Purchase Agreement by Delhi Transco Ltd. (DTL) with Tehri Hydro

(a) whether there is severe shortage of power in Delhi;

(b) if so, the actual demand and supply of power in Delhi at present;

(c) whether the Government of Delhi has sought the assistance of the Union Government to tide over the crisis;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the privatization of power in Delhi has not improved the power position in Delhi; and

(f) if so, the remedial measures taken/proposed to be taken to meet the shortage of power in Delhi?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE): (a) and (b) There has been overall shortage of power in the country including Delhi. Details of demand and supply of power in respect of Delhi during the current year (April - July, 2006) are given below:

Development Corporation and NTPC Ltd. for a total of about 1574 MW of power. Delhi is expected to have additional power availability from Tehri HEP (4x250 MW) as well as thermal stations of the Eastern Region in lieu of Tala power (6x170 MW) allocated to Eastern Region constituents.

In addition, all possible assistance is provided from time to time to meet immediate requirements, by way of utilization of capacity of gas-based stations on liquid fuel and additional allocation from unallocated quota of Central Generating Stations.

Financial assistance has also been provided to Delhi under Accelerated Power Development & Reforms Programme (APDRP) for improvement of sub-transmission and distribution system as a major step towards reduction of Aggregate Technical and Commercial losses.

Use of Fluorescent Lamp

2547. SHRI VIJOY KRISHNA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the percentage of power consumption in domestic lighting of the country is very high as compared to developed countries;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the steps taken by the Government to minimize the power consumption in the above sector;

(d) whether the Government proposes to insist for using power saving compact fluorescent lamp (CFL) in the country;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE): (a) and (b) The percentage of power consumption in lighting including domestic lighting in India is about 18%, while the percentage of power consumption in lighting including domestic lighting in developed countries is about 10%. However, no information on percentage of power consumption in domestic lighting within the country and in the developed country is available.

(c) to (e) The Government of India has enacted the Energy Conservation Act, 2001 and established Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE) under it, to promote energy efficiency/conservation in the country in every sector including domestic lighting. Ministry of Power is continuously interacting with the State Governments for undertaking energy efficiency/conservation measures. In order to promote the use of Compact Fluorescent Lamps (CFLs) in houses to reduce power consumption in lighting, the Government of India has reduced excise duty on CFLs from 16% to 8% from current financial year. Use of CFLs in the country including in domestic lighting is being promoted through awareness programmes like organization of workshop with all stake holders and advertisement in print and electronic media. Government of India has also launched labeling scheme for Fluorescent Tube Lights (FTLs) in order to promote manufacture of efficient FTLs. All the CFLs produced in the country have to meet the mandatory performance requirements including that of energy efficiency, from 22nd February, 2007.

(f) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Solar Energy Villages

2548. SHRI BHUVANESHWAR PRASAD MEHTA: Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to announce some villages as solar energy villages in the country;

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

(c) the number of villages in different States where Solar plates have been installed to make them complete solar energy villages;

(d) whether the quality of solar plates installed on houses is up to the mark; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR): (a) to (c) No, Sir. There is no proposal to announce some villages as Solar Energy Villages in the country. However, under the Remote Village Electrification Programme of the Ministry, financial support is provided for electrification of remote, unelectrified villages and hamlets with different non-conventional energy sources such as solar energy. State-wise details of villages and hamlets wherein support has been sanctioned for electrification through solar energy are given in the enclosed Statement.

(d) and (e) No post installation survey to assess quality of solar systems installed under the Programme has so far been organized. However, under the Programme provisions, the state implementing agencies are requested to use systems supplied by those manufacturers who have a valid test report from a centre authorized by the Ministry. This is to ensure installation of quality systems under the Programme.

Statement

No. of Villages & Hamlets taken up for Electrification through Solar Energy Systems

S.No.	State	No. of Villages
1	2	3
1	Arunachal Pradesh	189
2	Assam	72
3	Chhattisgarh	325
4	Gujarat	38
5	Haryana	45
6	Jammu and Kashmir	140

1	2	3
7	Jharkhand	361
8	Karnataka	20
9	Kerala	558
10	Madhya Pradesh	99
11	Maharashtra	177
12	Manipur	174
13	Meghalaya	25
14	Mizoram	20
15	Orissa	18
16	Rajasthan	230
17	Tripura	535
18	Tamil Nadu	152
19	Uttar Pradesh	97
20	Uttaranchal	363
21	West Bengal	1156

*[English]***Mumbai Urban Transport Project**

2549. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government and the Government of Maharashtra have taken up the Mumbai Urban Transport Project (MUTP) with the help of World Bank to improve the traffic and transportation condition in Mumbai;

(b) if so, the details thereof:

(c) whether the cost of the Mumbai Urban Infrastructure Project (MUIP) is to be shared between the Union and State Governments;

(d) if so, whether the Union Government has released the amount earmarked for the scheme now; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The project consists of construction of the following Road and Rail Sectors:-

Road	Rail
Jogeshwari-Virkhroli Link Road (JVLR)	5th Line on Western Railway between Mahim & Borivalli.
Santacruz-Chembur Link Road (SCLR)	5th & 6th Lines between Kurla & Thane
ROBs at Jogeshwari & Virkhroli	Borivali- Virar additional pair Lines (including Virar Car Shed & Virar-Dahanu Road Track Centre Work)
Purchase of about 500 BEST Buses.	Optimisation on Western Railway, Central Railway & Harbour Line.
Pedestrian Subways & FOBs (30)	DC to AC conversion
Area Traffic Control	EMUs (Rakes)
Station area Traffic Improvement	EMUs Maintenance & Stabling
Scheme (SATIS) for 6 Stations	Lines & Track Matching
Other Traffic Management & Safety Schemes	Technical Assistance & Studies
Environment-Air Quality Monitoring	
Purchase of Equipments (IT related & others)	
Technical Assistance, Pre-Investment Studies.	

(c) Yes, Sir. The cost is being shared by Government of India (M/o Railways), State Government, World Bank etc.

(d) The amount due is released in phases.

(e) Does not arise.

Rising Demand of Housing

2550 SHRI BANSAGOPAL CHOUDHURY: Will the Minister of HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware of the rising demand of housing in the country;

(b) if so, the estimated requirements by 2021;

(c) the steps being taken/likely to be taken by the Government in this regard; and

(d) the employment opportunities likely to be available to the people as a result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION (KUMARI SELJA): (a) to (d) The housing requirement by 2020 is not estimated. However, the Working Group on Urban Housing for the 10th Plan 2002-2007 had estimated that 22.44 million dwelling units would be required to be augmented during the Tenth Plan Period.

In order to facilitate construction of adequate housing, particularly for Economically weaker Sections (EWS) and Low Income Group (LIG), the Government launched the Two Million Housing Programme in 1998-1999. Valmiki Ambedkar Awas Yojna (VAMBAY) is also being implemented since 2001 to provide houses for the Below Poverty Line Population as well as Economically Weaker Sections. With the launching of Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission, Valmiki Ambedkar Awas Yojna (VAMBAY) has been combined with National Slum Development Programme (NSDP) into the schemes of Basic Services to the urban poor for mission cities & Integrated Housing & Slum Development Programme for non-mission cities for an integrated approach in ameliorating the condition of the urban slum dwellers who do not possess adequate shelter and reside in dilapidated conditions. Construction Industry including housing gives vast employment opportunities to the people.

Population in Urban Areas

2551. SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE:

SHRI EKNATH MAHADEO GAIKWAD:

Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has estimated that urban development will have to take on the challenge as about 75 per cent of the population is expected to live in urban areas by 2021;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the areas of urban development to be carried out to meet this challenge and its funding;

(d) whether the Government proposes for private participation in funding this scheme; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN): (a) No, Sir. As per projection made by Census 2001, urbanization in the country by 2026 would be 36.2%, and by 2051 48%. As per National Institute of Urban Affairs (NIUA) estimate, 34.40% will constitute urban population in 2021.

(b) Detail of urban population from 1951 to 2001 and projected population by 2011 and 2021 is given in the enclosed Statement.

(c) Realizing the problems of growing urbanization and deficiency in the provision of urban infrastructure and giving encouragement to the Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) to carry out urban reforms, Government of India has launched scheme of Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM) in December, 2005.

The Mission aims at creating economically productive, efficient, equitable and responsive cities in an integrated framework with focus on economic and social infrastructure, basic services to urban poor, urban sector reforms and strengthening of Municipal Governments and their functioning.

The Mission comprises two sub-missions, viz. Sub-Mission-I for Urban Infrastructure and Governance and Sub-Mission-II for basic Services for the urban poor. The Mission provides focused attention to 63 select cities in different States.

For cities/towns not covered under the Mission, the Government of India has launched another scheme known as Urban Infrastructure Development Scheme for Small and Medium Towns (UIDSSMT). Government of India, Ministry of Urban Housing & Poverty Alleviation has also launched a scheme known as Integrated Housing and Slum Development Programme (IHSDP).

(d) and (e) As per JNNURM guidelines, private sector participation in developments, management and financing of urban infrastructure would be clearly delineated projects with private sector participation will be given priority over projects to be executed by ULBs/Parastatals themselves, as this will help leverage private capital and bring in efficiencies.

Statement**Table: Trends of Urbanisation in India, 1951-2001**

Census Year	Total population (in million)	Urban population (million)	Percentage of Urban Population to total population
1951	361.08	62.44	17.29
1961	439.23	78.93	17.97
1971	548.15	109.11	19.91
1981	683.32	159.46	23.34
1991	846.30	217.61	25.71
2001	1028.78	286.11	27.8
2011*	1298.15	405.26	31.22
2021*	1607.77	553.04	34.40

*Project figures

Source: NIUA Urban Statistics Handbook 2000, National Institute of Urban Affairs, New Delhi, January 2000.

[Translation]**Metro Rail for Faridabad**

2552. SHRI AVTAR SINGH BHADANA: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to connect Delhi with the industrial city of Faridabad through Metro Rail; and

(b) if so, by when the said scheme is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN): (a) No such proposal has been received in the Ministry of Urban Development from Government of Haryana.

(b) Does not arise.

[English]**Micro-Mini Hydel Power Projects**

2553. SHRI CHHEWANG THUPSTAN: Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of proposals received from the State of Jammu and Kashmir for funding by the Ministry under Mini and Micro Hydel power projects;

(b) the total number of schemes with detail received from Ladakh region of J & K;

(c) the present status regarding sanction/ approval of all these schemes;

(d) whether the Ministry has approved schemes proposed by LAHDC, Leh and Kargil; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR): (a) The Ministry of Non-conventional Energy Sources received 16 proposals for small hydro projects from Jammu and Kashmir under its various schemes for providing Central Financial Assistance (CFA) for projects that are new or languishing or require renovation & modernization.

(b) 11 out of 16 proposals received are for the Ladakh region, details of which are given in the enclosed Statement.

(c) Central Financial Assistance for 9 proposals has already been sanctioned, in-principle, approval for another 5 proposals has been conveyed, and additional information has been sought in the remaining 2 proposals.

(d) No proposal has been received from LAHDC, Leh and Kargil.

(e) Does not arise.

Statement**Details of Proposals Received from Jammu & Kashmir for seeking Central Financial Assistance**

S.No.	Project	Project Type	Region	Capacity	Status
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Sanjak	Languishing	Ladakh	1280 KW	Sanctioned CFA - Rs.2.35 Crore

1	2	3	4	5	6
2.	Haftal	Languishing	Ladakh	1,000 KW	Sanctioned CFA - Rs.2.25 Crore
3.	Marpachoo	Languishing	Ladakh	750 KW	Sanctioned CFA - Rs.1.70 Crore
4.	Igo-Marcellong	Languishing	Ladakh	3,000 KW	Sanctioned CFA - Rs.3.00 Crore
5.	Bhaderwal	Languishing	Jammu	1,500 KW	Sanctioned CFA - Rs.2.43 Crore
6.	Pahalgam	Languishing	Kashmir	3,000 KW	Sanctioned CFA - Rs.2.25 Crore
7.	Ganderbal	Renovation & Modernisation	Kashmir	15,000 KW	Sanctioned CFA - Rs.10.00 Crore
8.	Hunder	Renovation & Modernisation	Ladakh	400 KW	In-principle approval *
9.	Bazgo	Renovation & Modernisation	Ladakh	300 KW	In-principle approval
10.	Sunoor	Renovation & Modernisation	Ladakh	100 KW	In-principle approval
11.	Chenani	Renovation & Modernisation	Jammu	23,300 KW	In-principle approval
12.	Sumbal	Renovation & Modernisation	Jammu	22,600 KW	In-principle approval
13.	Tangste	New	Ladakh	450 KW	Sanctioned CFA - Rs. 2.33 crore
14.	Hanu	New	Ladakh	3,000 KW	Sanctioned CFA - Rs. 6.00 crore
15.	Thusgam	New	Ladakh	500 KW	Additional Information sought
16.	Chellong	New	Ladakh	400 KW	Additional Information sought

*In-principle approval is given in case where it appears that prima-facie a proposal for R&M is technically feasible but whose economic viability remains to be established with firm cost estimates, obtained after the bidding process.

Financial Management of States

2554. SHRI P.C. THOMAS: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether States are facing debts due to fiscal mismanagement;

(b) If so, details thereof and action taken by the Union Government thereon;

(c) whether the Government has given guidelines to States for better financial Management;

(d) If so, the details thereof;

(e) the details of the debts incurred by States and action taken to help them;

(f) the details of the debts the Government of Kerala has reported by the end of the last financial year; and

(g) the details of the Central share provided to Kerala for better fiscal management?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) and (b) Utilization of borrowing to meet the current account deficit and growing dependence on debt financing for higher plan size are, inter-alia, attributed to debt build up of the States to curb the further debt build up of the State Governments, Government of India has imposed annual borrowing ceiling of the States under Article 293(3) of the Constitution.

(c) and (d) Twelfth Finance Commission (TFC) recommended a multi dimensional restructuring of State finances containing, inter-alia, various reforms measures. Consequent to acceptance of the recommendation of TFC, a scheme of "The Debt Consolidation and Relief Facility (DCRF)" has been evolved and circulated to States. Under the Scheme, State Governments are required to enact Fiscal Responsibility Management Act (FRBMA) to eliminate revenue deficit and reduce fiscal deficit to 3% of GSDP by 2008-09 to draw their own Fiscal Correction Path.(FCP).

(e) The estimated outstanding debt and liabilities of State Governments for the year 2005-06 (RE) is given in the Statement enclosed.

Under Debt Relief, recommended by TFC, the past Central loans contracted till 31.3.2004 and outstanding as on 31.3.2005 are to be consolidated and rescheduled for repayment in 20 equal annual installments at a reduced interest rate of 7.5%, subject to states enacting Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management Acts with suggested core provisions. As a result, the states together would have to pay lesser amount of Rs. 11,929 crore under principal repayment and Rs.21,276 crore under lower interest repayment. In addition, the debt write-off recommended by TFC is linked to reduction of revenue deficit of states for repayments due from 2005-06 to 2009-10 on the consolidated central loan, subject to laid down conditions. The above recommendations have been accepted by Government of India and detailed guidelines called "The States' Debt Consolidation and Relief Facility (DCRF) 2005-06 to 2009-10" has been formulated and circulated to all State Governments.

(f) The outstanding debt and liabilities of Government of Kerala stood as Rs.49,438 crore as on 31.3.2006.

(g) Under DCRF the central loans (Ministry of Finance) to Government of Kerala contracted till 31.3.2004 and balance as 31.3.2005 amounting to Rs.4176.69 crore has been consolidated for a fresh term of 20 years with a reduced interest rate of 7.5% p.a. TFC has estimated lower repayment of Rs.379.14 crore and lesser interest payment of Rs. 715.03 crore during its award period for Government of Kerala due to consolidation of Central loans. Besides, Government of Kerala is entitled for Rs.1063 crore of debt relief during the award period of TFC, if the State eliminates its revenue deficit by 2008-09 and contains the fiscal deficit at the level of 2004-05 along with other stipulated conditions.

Statement

		(Rs. in Crore)
S.No	State	2005-06 (Revised Estimate)
1	2	3
1	Andhra Pradesh	82715
2	Arunachal Pradesh	2314
3	Assam	19362
4	Bihar	45633
5	Chhattisgarh	13347
6	Goa	5045
7	Gujarat	78296
8	Haryana	26825
9	Himachal Pradesh	17505
10	Jammu and Kashmir	13644
11	Jharkand	15434
12	Karnataka	50512
13	Kerala	49438
14	Madhya Pradesh	48852
15	Maharashtra	140072

1	2	3
16	Manipur	3573
17	Meghalaya	2475
18	Mizoram	3019
19	Nagaland	3051
20	Orissa	37548
21	Punjab	52727
22	Rajasthan	65782
23	Sikkim	1235
24	Tamil Nadu	60975
25	Tripura	4506
26	Uttar Pradesh	145354
27	Uttaranchal	12300
28	West Bengal	112613
Total		1114151

Mundra Coal Based Power Project

2555. DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA:
SHRI BHUPENDRASINH SOLANKI:
SHRI MAHESH KANODIA :
SHRIMATI JAYABEN B. THAKKAR :
SHRI JASHUBHAI DHANABHAI BARAD :

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

- whether the Government has announced a coal based ultra mega power project for Gujarat at Mundra;
- if so, the details thereof; and
- the present status of the project?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir, Mundra in Gujarat is one of the sites identified for development of an ultra mega power project. Preliminary development work for the project has been initiated through a shell company. Expression of Interest (EOI) stage is over. Pre-qualified bidders have been identified through Request for Qualification (RFQ) stage. Bids are scheduled to be received by end November, 2006 and successful bidder to be identified by December, 2006 to take over the shell company and develop the project.

Import Duty on Soda Ash

2556. SHRIMATI JAYABEN B. THAKKAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

- the present status of import duty on Soda Ash;
- whether the Government of Gujarat has requested against further reduction of import duty rates to protect Soda Ash industry; and
- if so, the stand of the Government on the request?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) Soda ash attracts 12.5% basic customs duty, 16% countervailing duty (in lieu of excise duty), education cess @ 2% of the aggregate of duties of customs and 4% additional duty of customs.

(b) Before this year's budget, Government of Gujarat had recommended against any further reduction in import duty on Soda ash to protect the domestic industry.

(c) In this year's budget, peak rate of customs duty on non-agricultural items was reduced from 15% to 12.5%. Duty on Soda ash has been kept at peak rate of 12.5%.

[Translation]

Home Loan to Rural Areas

2557. SHRI SUNIL KUMAR MAHATO:
SHRIMATI SANGEETA KUMARI SINGH DEO:
Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- whether the public sector banks are providing home loans in cities only and not in rural areas;
- if so, the reasons therefor;
- the amount of home loan provided to cities and rural areas, percentage-wise by the public sector banks during the last two years; and
- the steps taken by the Government to provide home loan in rural areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) to (c) As reported by Reserve Bank of India (RBI), the amounts of outstanding housing loans provided by public sector banks in rural, semi urban, urban and metropolitan areas and percentage thereof as on 31st March, 2004 and 31st March, 2005 are as under:

	2004		2005	
	Amount O/S (Rs. crores)	Percentage	Amount O/S (Rs. crores)	Percentage
Rural	6123	11.05	9433	11.55
Semi-urban	11265	20.33	16350	20.01
Urban	18532	33.45	26336	32.24
Metropolitan	19484	35.17	29580	36.21
Total	55405	100.00	81700	100.00

(d) Steps taken by RBI/Government to provide home loan in rural areas inter alia include:

- (i) Housing sector advances given by banks in rural and semi-urban, urban and metropolitan areas (for housing purpose) are being treated as priority sector.
- (ii) Golden Jubilee Rural Housing Finance Scheme was introduced in 1997. The Public Sector Banks have provided an amount of Rs.5773.79 crore to 229713 dwelling units during the year 2005-06.
- (iii) Loans up to Rs. 5 lakhs to individuals for acquiring or constructing new dwelling units and up to Rs.50,000/- for up-gradation or major repairs to the existing units in rural areas under Special Rural Housing Scheme of National Housing Bank.
- (iv) Banks have been advised that while fixing the repayment schedule in case of rural housing advances granted to agriculturists under Indra

Awaz Yojana and Golden Jubilee Rural Housing Finance Scheme, banks may ensure that the interest/installment payable on such advances are linked to crop cycles.

[English]

Micro-Enterprises under SGSY

2558. SHRI LAKSHMAN SINGH: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state the number of micro-enterprises started in rural areas of each district under Swarnjayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY) in the country since inception of the Yojana; State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL): The Ministry of Rural Development is implementing a self-employment programme viz. Swarnjayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY) that adopts the Self-Help Group (SHG) approach to generate economic activity in rural areas and provide sustainable self-employment. SGSY focuses on organization of the poor at grass-root level through the process of social mobilization. The approach of the programme stems from the conviction that there is a tremendous potential within the poor to help themselves and that this potential can be harnessed by organizing them. Social mobilization enables the poor to build their own organization (SHG) in which they participate fully and directly and take a decision on all issues concerning poverty eradication.

A statement showing state-wise No. of District Rural Development Agencies (DRDAs), no. of SHGs formed, SHGs that have taken up economic activities and total swarozgaris assisted (SHG + individual) since inception upto 2006-07 of the Yojana is annexed.

Statement

No. of DRADs, No. of SHGs formed, Taken up Economic Activities and Total Swarozgaris Assisted under SGSY since inception (01.04.99) upto 2006-07 (upto June'06)

S.No.	States/UTs	No. of DRDAs	No. of SHGs Formed	SHGs taken up Economic Activities	Total Swarozgaris Assisted (Individual+SHGs)
1	2	3	4	5	6
1	Andhra Pradesh	22	461181	45895	707784
2	Arunachal Pradesh	13	361	212	12060
3	Assam	23	126019	21088	274355

1	2	3	4	5	6
4	Bihar	37	97316	20963	877225
5	Chhattisgarh	16	50124	4687	162232
6	Goa	2	664	228	3728
7	Gujarat	25	89846	4922	173063
8	Haryana	20	10729	4191	111818
9	Himachal Pradesh	12	5476	3958	61403
10	Jammu and Kashmir	14	7111	2902	63278
11	Jharkhand	22	31161	10507	390703
12	Karnataka	27	38804	17604	272232
13	Kerala	14	56963	7385	176672
14	Madhya Pradesh	48	247056	26545	452179
15	Maharashtra	33	126288	24477	511356
16	Manipur	9	705	17	2324
17	Meghalaya	7	4727	777	20440
18	Mizoram	8	1406	1253	10580
19	Nagaland	11	2436	2009	19429
20	Orissa	30	153765	18950	459665
21	Punjab	17	4158	1593	46696
22	Rajasthan	32	26413	3168	241917
23	Sikkim	1	1149	275	11626
24	Tamil Nadu	29	246907	26086	439170
25	Tripura	4	17933	6145	72570
26	Uttar Pradesh	70	331606	57541	1080445
27	Uttaranchal	13	19400	5494	67486
28	West Bengal	19	153936	8118	230339
29	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	2	348	141	2828
31	Daman and Diu	1	0	0	113
30	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	1	16	0	250
32	Lakshadweep	1	4	1	75
33	Pondicherry	1	1230	356	4706
Total		584	2315238	327488	6960727

Excise Duty Exemption to Bamboo Products

2559. SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPPAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has received a request from the Minister of Industries of Kerala and from the Kerala State Bamboo Corporation Ltd. that the Government should resume excise exemption on its products;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the action taken/being taken thereon; and

(d) the details of fiscal steps taken by the Government to promote the cause of the bamboo ply manufacturers in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. Government has received a request from Sh. Elamaram Kareem, Minister for Industries, Government of Kerala, for restoration of excise duty exemption to 'bambooply', a product manufactured by Kerala State Bamboo Corporation Ltd. (KSBCL).

(c) The issue is under examination in this Ministry.

(d) Government had earlier provided full exemption from excise duty on 'resin bonded bamboo mats'. However, this exemption was withdrawn in this year's budget as part of the general policy of broadening the tax base. For small units, full exemption from excise duty upto annual clearance value of Rs. 1 crore, within the turnover eligibility limit of Rs.4 crore, continues to be available.

[Translation]

Promotion of Solar Energy

2560. SHRI TUKARAM GANPATRAO RENGE PATIL: .
SHRI KASHIRAM RANA:

Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has launched any awareness campaign regarding solar energy and its use;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the achievements made by the Government so far in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI VILAS

MUTTEMWAR): (a) and (b) Ministry of Non-conventional Energy Sources (MNES) has been creating awareness through newspapers, booklets, leaflets, brochures, news letters, exhibitions, fairs on various renewable energy technologies including Solar Energy in Hindi, English and regional languages all over the country.

An awareness campaign to popularize the use of solar water heating systems and Akshay Urja Shops has been launched. Advertisements in national and regional newspapers highlighting the availability of soft loans from various banks and financial institutions for installation of solar water heating systems in domestic, institutional, industrial and commercial sectors are published.

MNES is also organizing Rajiv Gandhi Akshay Urja Diwas in all districts, metros and state capitals of the country on 20th August for wide publicity and awareness on renewable energy including solar energy since 2004. District Advisory Committees on renewable energy have also been constituted in 550 districts for coordination and awareness creation of renewable energy systems/ programmes at district level. Renewable Energy Clubs have been established in Engineering Colleges for raising awareness among engineering students.

(c) The campaigns generated considerable interest for the installation of solar water heating systems and setting up of Akshay Urja Shops. As a result, around 4 lakh square metres of solar collector area for water heating was installed during 2005-06 taking the cumulative installations in the country to 1.5 million square metres. Based on the proposals received for setting up of Akshay Urja Shops, 118 shops have been sanctioned.

Import of Foreign Cars

2561. SHRI CHANDRA MANI TRIPATHI:
DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether several cases of importing foreign cars for sale in India by violating Custom Act, 1962 have come to the notice of the Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the State-wise comprehensive details of the cars brought to India under export promotion of consumer goods scheme during the last three years;

(d) the details in regard to foreign cars impounded by the Government so far in import of which revenue loss has been caused to the Government;

(e) the total revenue loss caused to the Government such import; and

(f) the details of the action taken by the Government against such people?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) to (f) The information is being collected from the field formations and will be laid on the Table of the House once complete information has been received and compiled.

Age Relaxation to Senior Citizens

2562. SHRI J.M. AARON RASHID: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether age limit for providing relaxation to senior citizens under income-tax and TDS is 65 years whereas in railways and air flights it is 60 years for seeking relaxation in reservation;

(b) If so, whether the Government is contemplating to bring parity by reviewing different norms being adopted by the ministries thereunder in order to enable senior citizens to avail the facilities being given in respect of TDS and post offices; and

(c) the action taken or proposed to be taken in this regard including progress made in regard thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) An individual resident in India and having attained the age of sixty five years and above during the financial year is treated as 'senior citizen' for the purposes of tax benefit under the Income-tax Act.

Indian Airlines provides concession in airfare to citizens who have completed sixty five years in case of male passengers and sixty three years of age in the case of female passengers on the date of commencement of journey, subject to certain conditions.

Ministry of Railways extends concessions to individuals of the age of sixty years and above.

(b) No, Sir. The variation in the age limit for senior citizens for grant of concessions by different Ministries is due to the difference in the purpose for grant of such concessions.

(c) Does not arise.

[English]

Changes in criteria of PMGSY

2563. SHRI KIREN RIJJU: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is contemplating to remove or change the population criteria for the hilly and difficult States under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY);

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps the Government is taking to provide special benefits to those in remote and forward areas which are not connected by roads?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL): (a) to (c) The primary objective of Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) is to provide connectivity by way of all-weather road to all unconnected habitations with a population of 500 persons and above (250 persons and above in case of Hill States and Desert areas). No change in the population criteria for hill States under PMGSY is being contemplated. Under Bharat Nirman, goal has been set to provide connectivity to all habitations with a population of 1000 (500 in case of hilly or tribal areas) with all-weather road by 2009.

Credit to SSI

2564. SHRI G.M. SIDDESWARA:

SHRI CHHATTAR SINGH DARBAR:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the credit flow to SSI sector from public; sector banks during the last three years, bank-wise and State-wise; and

(b) the efforts made by Government to improve upon the flow of credit to SSI sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) The data on credit flow to Small Scale Industries (SSIs) sector from Public Sector Banks during the last three years bank-wise and State-wise, as reported by the Reserve Bank of India, is given in the statement-I and II.

(b) Besides the Government's "Policy Package on Stepping up credit to Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) sector" envisaging 20% year on year growth in

credit to SMEs, Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has formulated a scheme to encourage banks to establish mechanisms for better co-ordination between their branches and branches of Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) which are located in clusters identified by the Ministry of Small Scale Industries for co-financing of SMEs sector (including tiny and services sector) on mutually agreeable operational modalities. Modification in Credit Linked Capital Subsidy Scheme for upgradation of SSI sector, introduction of Credit Rating Scheme by National Small Industries Corporation and setting up SME Rating Agency by SIDBI are some other measures taken by the Government and RBI to increase the credit flow to SME sector.

Statement-I

(Rupees in Crore)

Name of the Bank	Amount outstanding as at the end of March		
	2004	2005	2006*
1	2	3	4
State Bank of India	13033	14865	18485
State Bank of Bikaner & Jaipur	1207	1418	1680
State Bank of Hyderabad	1091	1245	1446
State Bank of Indore	800	959	1231
State Bank of Mysore	547	645	808
State Bank of Patiala	1092	1121	1323
State Bank of Saurashtra	782	925	1239
State Bank of Travancore	723	822	927
Allahabad Bank	1253	1513	1886
Andhra Bank	1026	1250	1217
Bank of Baroda	3316	3630	4596
Bank of India	3888	4472	5648
Bank of Maharashtra	1044	1022	1065
Canara Bank	4971	5779	6591
Central Bank of India	2489	2751	3057

1	2	3	4
Corporation Bank	1000	1263	1796
Dena Bank	1318	1257	1322
Indian Bank	978	1144	1516
Indian Overseas Bank	2209	2635	3187
Oriental Bank of Commerce	1760	2422	2914
Punjab & Sind Bank	828	789	940
Punjab National Bank	5675	6850	8612
Syndicate Bank	1229	1591	2007
UCO Bank	1677	1953	2121
Union Bank of India	3130	3658	4585
United Bank of India	525	818	1192
Vijaya Bank	686	837	1075
IDBI**	00	00	217

*Data Provisional

** Included in the list from 2005-06

Statement-II

(Rupees in Crores)

States	Amount Outstanding		
	2003	2004	2005
1	2	3	4
Haryana	2076	2307	2778
Himachal Pradesh	226	291	306
Jammu and Kashmir	153	189	220
Punjab	4005	4551	4897
Rajasthan	1840	2086	2252
Chandigarh	357	389	448
Delhi	4443	4392	5770
Assam	256	326	388
Manipur	22	23	27

1	2	3	4
Meghalaya	28	34	145
Nagaland	20	23	37
Tripura	30	30	42
Arunachal Pradesh	6	7	12
Mizoram	8	10	40
Sikkim	2	5	24
Bihar	600	593	646
Jharkhand	504	636	730
Orissa	710	858	1021
West Bengal	3544	3847	3872
Andaman and Nicobar	7	23	33
Madhya Pradesh	1421	1715	1993
Chhattisgarh	471	524	671
Uttar Pradesh	4203	4652	5287
Uttaranchal	320	263	517
Gujarat	2982	3488	4066
Maharashtra	10071	10769	12408
Daman and Diu	8	23	32
Goa	187	146	474
Dadra and Nagar Haveli	12	14	7
Andhra Pradesh	3659	3734	4345
Karnataka	2877	3469	3770
Kerala	1606	1716	1907
Tamil Nadu	5933	7117	8692
Pondicherry	41	61	140
Lakshadweep	0.1	0.2	0.3

(Data Provisional)

Interest on Loan to Textile Workers

2565. SHRI D. VITTAL RAO: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has any proposal to give loan at the rate of 7 per cent or even lower to this to textile workers in the country on the lines of loans providing to agricultural sector; and

(b) if so, the details worked out so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) and (b) It has been decided that Ministry of Finance in consultation with Ministry of Textiles and other stake holders will discuss the problems relating to credit to the handloom weavers. No decision has been taken as of now.

Assistance to Karnataka for RUDSET Institute

2566. SHRI M. SHIVANNA: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Karnataka has sought financial assistance for the special projects/ proposals for developing own infrastructure of 7 RUDSET Institute centres;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the funds are likely to be released for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL): (a) to (c) Yes Sir The Rural Development and Self Employment Training Institutes (RUDSETI), Karnataka submitted a proposal to the Ministry of Rural Development during the year 2005-06 seeking financial assistance for setting up of five centres at Agra (Uttar Pradesh), Anantpur (Andhra Pradesh), Bhopal (Madhya Pradesh), Bhubaneswar (Orissa) and Jaipur (Rajasthan). The Ministry of Rural Development sanctioned the project with central share of Rs.365.63 lakhs amounting to 75% of the project cost. Rest of the project cost is to be borne by RUDSETI. The Ministry of Rural Development has already released a total amount of Rs.109.65 lakhs @ Rs.21.93 lakhs per institute to the RUDSETI as first installment for setting up its five centres.

Non-Banking Financial Companies

2567. SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to allow non-banking financial companies to raise External Commercial Borrowings (ECB);

- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the time by which it is likely to be allowed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) to (c) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reported that presently, Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs) can raise External Commercial Borrowings (ECB) with minimum average maturity of 5 years from multilateral financial institutions, reputable regional financial institutions, official export credit agencies and international banks to finance import of infrastructure equipment for leasing to infrastructure projects, under Approval Route.

[Translation]

NOC for Crop Loan

2568. SHRI MOHD. TAHIR:
SHRI KAILASH NATH SINGH YADAV:
SHRI SHISHUPAL PATLE:
PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR:
SHRI ASHOK KUMAR RAWAT:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the farmers have to obtain "No Objection Certificates" from all the banks of their area to seek crop loans from the Government;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether this scheme has been introduced in all the States and by all the banks;
- (d) if so, whether banks are charging uniform fee for issuing NOC;
- (e) whether the Government are contemplating to direct the banks to issue NOCs free of cost in the interest of the farmers; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) to (f) Reserve Bank of India had dispensed with production of 'No dues Certificate' by borrowers as a compulsory requirement in 1998 to avoid delay in sanction and disbursement of loans. However, banks at their discretion may take steps considered necessary to avoid multiple financing.

RBI's mid-term review of the annual policy statement for the year 2004-05 had dispensed with the restrictive

provisions of the Service Area Approach (SAA). Accordingly, scheduled commercial banks including RRBs, were advised in December 2004, to dispense with requirement of obtaining 'no dues certificate' from the service area branch for lending by non-service area branch also.

Similarly, NABARD had issued instructions to Registrar of Cooperative Societies to dispense with production of no dues certificate from banks/institutions by borrowers as a compulsory requirement.

RBI and NABARD have not issued any instruction to banks in respect of charges for the purpose of issue of no dues certificate.

[English]

Plastic Currency Notes

2569. DR. RAJESH MISHRA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether some countries have issued the plastic currency for circulation in their country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether Reserve Bank of India propose to print plastic currency notes of higher denomination to check fake currency notes in circulation in the country;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) if not, the steps Government have taken or propose to take to check fake currency notes in circulation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. As per the information furnished by Reserve Bank of India, the following countries have issued the polymer substrate based banknotes for circulation in all denomination/some denomination: 1. Brasil 2. Mexico 3. Bangladesh 4. Indonesia 5. Malaysia 6. New Guinea 7. Zambia 8. Romania 9. Brunei 10. Nigeria 11. Singapore 12. Nepal 13. Australia 14. New Zealand and 15. Vietnam.

(c) and (d) There is no move to print plastic currency notes of higher denominations to check fake currency notes in circulation. However, Reserve Bank of India is looking at various options including polymer substrate based currency from point of view acceptability and cost effectiveness.

(e) The steps taken by the Government to curb circulation of Fake Indian Currency Notes in the country

include stepping up of vigilance by the Border Security Force and Custom authorities to prevent smuggling of fake notes; dissemination of information on security features through print and electronic media and formation of Forged Note Vigilance Cells in all the Head Offices of the banks. Further, based on the recommendations of an Expert Committee, additional security features have been incorporated in the Indian Bank notes which will make counterfeiting very difficult. In addition, Government of India have nominated the Central Bureau of Investigation as the Nodal agency to monitor investigation of fake currency note cases.

World Bank Schemes

2570. DR. M. JAGANNATH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of World Bank assisted schemes which are in operation in the country;
- (b) whether the repayment of World Bank loans by the States which have utilized the loans are regular;
- (c) if not, the details of the World Bank loan defaulting States; and
- (d) the States that have drawn the maximum assistance from the World Bank alongwith the amount thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) As on 30.06.2006, 54 projects are in operation in the Country with the assistance of World Bank.

- (b) The repayment of World Bank loans is done by the Government of India and it is being repaid regularly.
- (c) Does not arise in view of (b) above.
- (d) Of the current World Bank portfolio, the following three States have drawn the maximum assistance from the World Bank as on 14.08.2006:-

S.No.	State	Amount (Rs. in crores)
1	Andhra Pradesh	3,514.68
2	Uttar Pradesh	2,641.51
3	Gujarat	2,409.37

Insurance Coverage in Rural Areas

2571. SHRI SUBRATA BOSE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether ratio of life insurance coverage-to-population as well as that of insurance premium-to-GDP in India is one of the lowest in the world;
- (b) if so, the comparative details with other countries;
- (c) the findings of any survey/study conducted to ascertain potentials of life insurance coverages in India during the current decade;
- (d) whether rural areas has been yielding larger premium deposits to LIC than the urban areas;
- (e) if so, the details thereof alongwith schemes of LIC exclusively for the benefit of rural areas; and
- (f) the steps taken/contemplated by LIC to strengthen its network in rural areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) and (b) The ratio of life insurance coverage to population (insurance density), and ratio in percentage of life insurance premium to GDP (penetration), of India is quite low in comparison to countries like US, Japan, Australia, UK etc. as per details given in the statement enclosed. The performance is lower than some of the Asian countries also as per details given in the statement enclosed. However, the opening up of the Insurance Sector in the year 2000 and with the entry of new players in the private sector, the life insurance density of India during the last five years has witnessed a steady increase. The life insurance coverage to population has increased from 7.60 USD for the year 2000 to 18.30 USD for the year 2005. Similarly, the life insurance penetration in India i.e. ratio in percentage of life insurance premium to GDP has increased from 1.77 for the year 2000 to 2.53 for the year 2005.

- (c) The surveys of the private insurance companies applying for license to commence insurance business indicate significant potential for insurance. After the opening of the sector in the year 2000, there are 15 life insurers operating now, out of them 14 are in private sector and one in public sector i.e. LIC. The new business premium for the life insurance industry in 2005-06 was Rs. 35897.96 crore as against Rs. 9707.40 crore in 2000-01.

(d) to (f) LIC has reported that the rural areas are not yielding larger premium deposits as compared to the urban areas. However, LIC has in vogue the Bima Gram Concept and the Bima School Concept in order to cater to the larger insurable population in the rural areas. It also has a

rural area specific product namely "New Jana Raksha" policy. LIC is opening its Satellite Offices in rural areas and appointing Apprentice Development Officers to strengthen its network in rural areas.

Statement

Life Insurance Density - Premium per capita in US\$

And

*Life Insurance Penetration - Gross Premium as percentage of gross domestic product (GDP)
(Emerging Nations)*

Country	2002		2003		2004		2005	
	Density	Penetration	Density	Penetration	Density	Penetration	Density	Penetration
Malaysia	118.70	2.94	139.80	3.29	167.30	3.52	188.00	3.60
Thailand	42.10	2.09	52.00	2.25	50.80	1.94	54.60	1.99
PR China	19.50	2.03	25.10	2.30	27.30	2.21	30.50	1.78
Philippines	8.70	0.87	8.60	0.87	9.40	0.91	10.60	0.91
Indonesia	5.20	0.66	6.40	0.66	7.50	0.63	10.50	0.82
Sri Lanka	4.50	0.55	5.30	0.55	6.20	0.60	6.90	0.62
Vietnam	3.80	0.87	4.10	0.87	7.30	1.35	6.10	0.97
Pakistan	1.00	0.24	1.10	0.24	1.50	0.28	1.90	0.27
Bangladesh	1.00	0.29	1.40	0.37	1.50	0.37	1.70	0.42
India	11.70	2.59	12.90	2.60	15.70	2.53	18.30	2.53

(Developed Nations)

Country	Year 2005-2006	
	Insurance penetration: Premium as % of GDP	Insurance density in US \$
US	4.14	1753.20
UK	8.90	3287.10
Japan	8.32	2956.30
Australia	3.51	1366.70

Amendment in Advocate Act

2572. SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether various Bar Associations have been demanding the Government to amend the Advocates Act;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has decided to amend the Advocate Act; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ): (a) and (b) Demand has been made to enlarge the period under Section 36B of the Advocates Act from one year to two years for completion of disciplinary proceedings by the State Bar Councils against their members and to delete the proviso to Section 24A of the Advocates Act.

(c) The Government has decided not to amend the Advocates Act for the purpose.

(d) Does not arise.

Collaboration between CSIR and Industry

2573. SHRI M. SREENIVASULU REDDY: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether scientists in collaboration with industry would be able to explore totally uncharted areas; and

(b) the steps taken by the Government to facilitate greater interaction between the CSIR and industry?

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. CSIR has put in place a mechanism to undertake collaborative R&D with industry. To further strengthen the effort, CSIR is operationalizing some newer initiatives, like setting up of knowledge alliances between CSIR and industry to build up higher level of competencies in an identified R&D area; setting up of incubation centres by CSIR where industry can incubate its ideas with the assistance of CSIR; effecting mobility of scientists from CSIR to industry and vice versa, etc. This further facilitates joint R&D in specific areas with industry.

Customs Duty on Rubber

2574. SHRI S. AJAYA KUMAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is considering the removal of anomalies in customs duty structure on raw-rubber and rubber products;

(b) if so, the details of customs duty on raw rubber and rubber products; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?"

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) and (b) There is 20% basic customs duty and 4% additional customs duty on import of natural (raw) rubber whereas most rubber products attract 12.5% basic customs duty and 4% additional duty of customs. In addition, 2% education cess is also attracted on all such imports.

(c) While examining the customs duty structure of any agricultural commodity like raw rubber, Government takes into consideration various factors including concerns of the domestic producers, and domestic and international prices of the commodity. At the current level of prices for raw rubber, no reduction in import duty is considered necessary for the present.

ADB Loan

2575. SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the ADB/World Bank loans received during the last three years for taking up various basic infrastructure works;

(b) details of the infrastructure works initiated by the Government in various States during the last three years with the help of such ADB/World Bank loan, State-wise;

(c) whether the projects submitted by State Governments particularly of Karnataka under ADB loan schemes are pending for approval;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) Details of the ADB/World Bank loans authorized during the last three years for taking up various basic infrastructure works are as under:

(in Rs. Crores)

Year	ADB	World Bank
2003-04	2618.88	5341.84
2004-05	7742.98	6273.70
2005-06	2416.19	8765.42

(b) State wise details of the infrastructure works initiated by the Government in various States during the last three years with the help of such ADB/World Bank loan may be seen at Statement.

(c) to (e) the details of the projects as submitted by various State Governments including from Karnataka which are under pipeline for ADB loans for 2006 are as follows:

1. North Karnataka Urban development Programme (US\$ 264million)
2. Uttaranchal State Roads Development project (US\$ 550 million)
3. Rajasthan Urban Infrastructure development Project (US\$ 250 million)
4. Uttaranchal Power Sector Project (US\$ 300 million)

Details of the above projects will be known after appraisal, negotiations and ADB Board approval.

Statement

(Amount in Rs. Crore)

Year	Donor	State	Name of the Project	Amount Authorized
1	2	3	4	5
2003-04	ADB	Assam	Assam Power Sector Development Programme	689.18
2003-04		Assam	Assam Power Sector Development Project	459.45
2004-05		Chhattisgarh	Chhattisgarh State Roads Dev. Sector Project	808.15
2005-06		Chhattisgarh	Chhattisgarh Irrigation Dev. Proj.	204.00
2004-05		Jammu & Kashmir	Infrastructure Rehabilitation Project	1122.43
2004-05		Madhya Pradesh	Urban Water Supply & Environment Imp.	812.64
2004-05		Multistate	Rural Roads Sector-I	1795.89
2005-06		Multistate	Tsunami Emergency Assistance Sec. Proj.	442.44
2003-04	IBRD	Andhra Pradesh	Second Andhra Pradesh Eco. Reform Prog.	505.40
2004-05		Karnataka	Karnataka Municipal Reforms Proj.	2.24
2004-05		Karnataka	Karnataka Urban Water Sector Improv. Proj.	177.34
2004-05		Madhya Pradesh	Madhya Pradesh Water Sector Restructuring Proj.	1769.04
2004-05		Orissa	Orissa Socio-Economic Development Programme	381.63
2004-05		Punjab	Advance Preparation of Pro Punjab State Roads Projects	8.98
2003-04		Tamil Nadu	Tamil Nadu Road Sector Proj.	1598.89
2005-06		Gujarat	Gujarat Urban Development Proj.	4.42
2005-06		Himachal Pradesh	Preparation of the HP State Road Project	6.86
2005-06		Maharashtra	Maharashtra Water Sector Improv. Proj.	1437.92
2005-06		Multistate	India Hydrology Project-Ph II	464.47
2005-06		Orissa	Preparation of Orissa State Roads Projects	13.27
2005-06		Tamil Nadu	Third Tamil Nadu Urban Development Project	1327.31
2004-05	IDA	Jharkhand	Jharkhand Participatory Forest Mgt. Proj. (Advance)	2.31
2003-04		Andhra Pradesh	Andhra Pradesh Rural Poverty Reduction Proj.	748.84
2004-05		Assam	Assam Agricultural Competitiveness Project	702.84

1	2	3	4	5
2003-04		Chhattisgarh	Chhattisgarh District Rural Poverty Proj.	539.96
2003-04		Maharashtra	Maharashtra Rural Water Sys. & Sanitation Jal Proj.	846.06
2004-05		Orissa	Orissa Socio-Economic Development Prog.	183.41
2004-05		Rajasthan	Rajasthan Health System Development Proj.	408.32
2004-05		Tamil Nadu	Tamil Nadu Health System Project	494.67
2004-05		Uttaranchal	Uttaranchal Decentralised Watershed Develop. Proj.	317.28
2005-06		Himachal Pradesh	HP Mid Himalayan Watershed Dev. Proj.	267.00
2005-06		Pondicherry	Emergency Tsunami Reconstruction Project	159.12
2005-06		Tamil Nadu	TN Emergency Tsunami Reconstruction Project	1829.86
2005-06		Tamil Nadu	TN Empowerment and Pov. Reduction "Puthu Vazhu" Pr.	512.08

Mini Hydel Projects

2576. SHRI C.H. VIJAYASHANKAR: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is severe power crisis all along the country which is hampering the agricultural productivity;

(b) if so, the measures taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to overcome this situation;

(c) whether the Government is contemplating any supportive measure such as subsidy, interest free loan etc., to set up mini hydel projects or wind power projects; and

(d) the number of proposals pending in MNES/ IREDA for setting up of such projects?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE): (a) There has been overall shortage of power in the country. The shortages vary from state to state, season-to-season, month-to-month, day-to-day and hour-to-hour basis depending on the demand and availability of power. The average energy and peak shortages in the country during the period April to July, 2006 was 8.7% and 12.8% respectively. The supply and distribution of electricity to the consumers in various sectors (including agriculture) in a State is the responsibility of the concerned State Government/State Electricity Board/State Power Utility, which decided priority of power supply to various categories of consumers.

(b) Following measures have been taken by the Government to bridge the gap between demand and supply of power:

- Quantum jump in generation capacity addition.
- Enhancement in central plan outlay.
- Advance planning of generation capacity addition during 11th plan.
- Strengthening/augmentation of sub-transmission & distribution system in State under Accelerated Power Development & Reforms Programme (APDRP) as a major step towards reduction of Aggregate Technical & Commercial (AT&C) Losses.
- Expediting rural electrification programme in the country under Rajiv Gandhi Gramin Vidyutikaran Yojana (RGGVY).
- "Partnership in Excellence" Programme for adoption of better operation and maintenance (O&M) practices to enable enhancement of Plant Load Factor (PLF) of existing thermal power stations upto national average.
- Renovation, modernization and life extension of old and inefficient generating units with interest subsidy on loans by the Power Finance Corporation under Accelerated Generation and Supply Programme (AG&SP).

- Enhancement of inter-state and inter-regional transfer of power by strengthening of inter-state and inter-regional transmission links eventually leading to formation of National Grid.
- Exploitation of hydro potential at a faster pace.
- Promoting demand side management, energy efficiency and energy conservation measures.

(c) and (d) As per Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources (MNES), various incentives are being given to encourage development of small hydro power (SHP) projects in the country. These include support for Detailed Project Report preparation, subsidy to set up SHP projects, support for renovation & modernization of existing SHP projects and languishing projects. Support is also extended for development of water mills. No subsidy is given for wind power projects.

The project proposals for the grant of central financial assistance under various schemes/programmes of MNES are received on a regular basis. The complete proposals which are in line with the provisions of the schemes/programmes are considered and approved subject to budget provision.

**Chief Commissioners of Income Tax in
Andhra Pradesh**

2577. SHRI G. NIZAMUDDIN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of location of post of Chief Commissioners of Income Tax (CCIT) working in Andhra Pradesh;
- (b) the manner in which the CCITs work are coordinated;
- (c) whether there are plans to increase the number of CCITs in the State; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) There are five posts of CCsIT (including one post of Director General) (Investigation) in Andhra Pradesh. Out of which 4 are located at Hyderabad and one at Vizkhatnam.

(b) The work of CCsIT is coordinated by the respective zonal Members and Chairman, CBDT.

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

Allocation for the North East

2578. SHRI MANI CHARENAMEI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) allocation of funds to the States of the North East by Eleventh and Twelfth Finance Commissions, State-wise;
- (b) details of proposals placed to the Twelfth Finance Commission vis-a-vis the allocation made to each of such States;
- (c) whether the Government makes efforts to ensure proper utilisation of the funds; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) Allocation of funds to the States of the North East by the Eleventh and Twelfth Finance Commission are given below:

(Rs. Crore)

State	Eleventh Finance Commission (2000-05)	Twelfth Finance Commission (2005-10)
Arunachal Pradesh	2319.77	3525.56
Assam	13423.71	24329.40
Manipur	3226.38	6870.20
Meghalaya	2971.29	4367.77
Mizoram	2538.53	4660.91
Nagaland	4454.79	7453.41
Sikkim	1635.98	1829.14
Tripura	4376.20	8417.00

(b) State Governments are required to project their requirements to the Finance Commission for its award period as per its Terms of Reference. Copy of the Report of the Twelfth Finance Commission indicating its Terms of Reference was laid on the Table of the House on 26th February, 2005.

Finance Commission after considering the views of State Governments and Central Government, as contained in their Memoranda to the Finance Commission, makes its own assessment of the requirement of the States under

various sectors. In making its recommendations the Finance Commission takes into account the resources of the States and its expenditure liabilities for its award period. States in their memoranda to Twelfth Finance Commission requested for grants for tackling certain state specific issues. Twelfth Finance Commission made an assessment of the more pressing needs of the states and details of grants-in-aid allocated by it for specific needs are given in the statement enclosed.

(c) and (d) For monitoring proper utilisation of funds, Central Review Committees have been constituted by the Government of India. High level Committee headed by Chief Secretary have been constituted in every State. These Committees will be responsible for monitoring both financial and physical targets and for ensuring adherence of the specific conditionalities in respect of each grant, wherever applicable as per the recommendations of the Finance Commission and the guidelines issued by Ministry of Finance.

Statement

Proposals of the States to Twelfth Finance Commission vis-a-vis the allocation made to each of such States for specific needs

(Rs. crore)

State	Proposals of State	Grants-in-aid recommended by TFC
Arunachal Pradesh	12 Treasury Buildings and 5 sub-treasury buildings (Rs.10 crores)	Rs.10 crores
Assam	(i) Development of Urban Areas (Rs.924 crores) (ii) Health Infrastructure (Rs. 9.00 crores)	Rs.121 crores Rs.9.00 crores
Manipur	(i) Secretariate Complex (Rs.3.50 crores) (ii) Sports Complex (Rs.16.07 crores) (iii) Loktak (Rs.32.88 crores)	Rs.3.50 crores Rs.15.00 crores Rs.11.50 crores
Meghalaya	(i) Zoological park (Rs.30 crores) (ii) Botanical Garden (Rs.5.00 crores)	Rs.30 crores Rs.5.00 crores
Mizoram	(i) Bamboo Flowering (Rs.566.00 crores) (ii) Sports Complex (Rs.50.00 crores)	Rs.40.00 crores Rs.25.00 crores
Nagaland	(i) Health Facilities (Rs.17.92 crores) (ii) Assembly Secretariat (Rs.34.60 crores)	Rs.15.00 crores Rs.30.00 crores
Sikkim	Construction of Airport (Rs.174 crores)	Rs.100 crores
Tripura	(i) Construction of Capital Complex (Rs.28.91 crores) (ii) Establishment of 150 bedded Hospital for Dhalai District at Kulai Rs.11.99 crore) (iii) Construction model prison at Bishalgarh (Rs. 11 crore)	Rs.28.00 crores Rs. 11.00 crore Rs.10.00 crores

[Translation]

Setting of Hydro Power Project in Brahmaputra Valley

2579. SHRI RASHEED MASOOD: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to set up a Hydro Power Project in Brahmaputra Valley of Assam and Chindwin Valley of Myanmar;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the project is likely to be commenced?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE): (a) to (c) Karbi Langpi (Lower Boorpani) Hydro-electric project (2x50 MW) is under construction in Assam in Brahmaputra Valley and is likely to be commissioned in 2006-07. In addition, 4 hydro-electric schemes, namely,

Karbi Langpi Intermediate Stage (60 MW), Amring (33 MW), Upper Borpani (60 MW) and Lower Kopli (150 MW) are under survey and investigation in Assam.

Tamanthi Multi-purpose Project (1200 MW) in Myanmar on Chindwin River has been identified as a likely mutual benefit project between India and Myanmar. The Detailed Project Report (DPR) being prepared by the Government of Myanmar is likely to be ready by January, 2008, after which the Government of Myanmar and Government of India will take a decision on the implementation of this project.

[English]

Commonwealth Games 2010

2580. SHRI SARVEY SATHYANARAYANA: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Delhi Development Authority is making all efforts to construct the Games Village within the scheduled period;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the present position thereof;

(d) whether DDA has approached Railway Ministry to seek cooperation in regard to construction work for Commonwealth Games in 2010; and

(e) if so, the response received so far in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN): (a) and (b) The Delhi Development Authority (DDA) has informed that it has prepared timelines for completion of the construction of Games Village by December, 2009 and all temporary overlay works by August, 2010.

(c) The DDA has indicated that financial consultants and environment impact assessment consultants have been appointed. The change of land-use for the residential zone of the Games Village has also been taken up for approval.

(d) and (e) The DDA has stated that the cooperation of Ministry of Railways has been sought and response from that Ministry has been encouraging.

Strengthening of Northern Power Grid

2581. SHRI B. MAHTAB: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Northern Power Grid has been integrated with the North Eastern Power Grid;

(b) if so, the main objectives thereof;

(c) whether the Northern States are going to be benefited therefrom; and

(d) if so, to what extent?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE): (a) to (d) Northern Power Grid is presently not integrated with the North-Eastern Power Grid. However, North-Eastern Grid is operating in synchronism with the Eastern Grid which is connected to Northern Grid through 500 MW HVDC back to back link at Sasaram. Synchronous interconnection of Northern Grid with the Eastern Grid through 400 kV East North Inter-connector (associated with Tala HEP) has been planned with the objectives of improved frequency stability and transfer of additional surplus power of up to 1000 MW from Eastern Region to Northern Region.

Development of Slum

2582. SHRI PARSURAM MAJHI: Will the Minister of HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC) has identified some slum areas in various cities in the country for providing grants for their development;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the names of the cities in which slum area are being developed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION (KUMARI SELJA): (a) to (c) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Tehri Hydro Power Project

2583. SHRI DUSHYANT SINGH: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the generation capacity of Tehri Dam Project;

(b) whether the above project has started commercial production;

(c) if so, the names of the beneficiary States from that Power Project; and

(d) the share of Rajasthan right from first phase till the peak stage?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE): (a) The Tehri-Hydro Power Complex comprises of Tehri Dam & HPP Stage-I (1000 MW), Tehri Pumped Storage Plant (PSP) Stage-II (1000 MW) and Koteshwar Dam & HPP (400 MW).

(b) The first Unit of 250 MW of Tehri Dam & HPP Stage-I (1000 MW) was synchronized with Northern grid on 17.07.2006 and commissioned on 30.07.2006.

(c) and (d) The allocation of power generated from Tehri Stage-I (1000 MW) to the various beneficiary states including Rajasthan is as below:-

	MW
Haryana	43
Himachal Pradesh	28
Jammu and Kashmir	48
Punjab	77
Rajasthan	75
Uttar Pradesh	374**
Uttaranchal	147*
Chandigarh	6
Delhi	103
Unallocated	99
Total	1000 MW

* Including 120 MW (12%) free power to host state.

** Including 220 MW equity share against 25% equity.

Appointment on Compassionate Ground in Insurance Companies

2584. SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) The policy on compassionate appointment in public sector insurance companies;

(b) the number of appointments on compassionate ground provided during 2004-05 and 2005-06 till July 31, 2006 in United India Insurance Company Limited;

(c) the number of applications pending for appointment on compassionate ground for Group 'C' and 'D' posts in United India Insurance Company Limited;

(d) the reasons for their pendency so far; and

(e) the time by which the pending applicants are likely to be appointed on compassionate ground?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) The scheme of compassionate appointment in Group 'C' and 'D' posts to the dependents of employees who die in harness in Public Sector General Insurance Companies has been substituted by a scheme of Lumpsum Monetary Compensation (Grant) w.e.f. 01.06.2002.

(b) In respect of death of employees which occurred prior to 01.06.2002, the previous scheme of compassionate appointment was applicable and as such eligible dependents have been given appointment on compassionate grounds. The number of such appointments provided during the year 2004-05 and 2005-06 in United India Insurance Co. Ltd. (UIICL) is as under:-

2004-05	-	Nil
2005-06	-	8

(c) to (e) UIICL has reported that two applications were pending with it for want of certain documents/clarifications from the applicants, who have been reminded for submitting requisite papers and would be considered thereafter.

Notaries

2585. SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of central Notary Public appointed during each of the last three years, State-wise;

(b) the number of posts of Notary Public lying vacant, State-wise; and

(c) the time by which all these posts are likely to be filled?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI K. VENKATAPATHY): (a) A State-wise statement-I showing the number of Central Notary Public appointed during each of last three years, is enclosed.

(b) A State-wise statement-II showing the maximum number of Notaries to be appointed by the Central Government and the Number of Notaries has been appointed by the Central Government, is enclosed.

(c) No time limit has been prescribed for appointment of Notary in the Notaries Act 1952 and Notaries Rules 1956.

Statement-I

The State/UT-wise number of Public Notaries appointed by the Central Government during last three years i.e. from 2003 to 2005

Sl. No.	Name of the State/UT	Number of Notaries appointed during last three year i.e. from 2003 to 2005		
		2003	2004	2005
1	Andhra Pradesh	02	03	20
2	Assam	-	-	-
3	Bihar	-	01	01
4	Gujarat	08	15	53
5	Kerala	04	25	05
6	Madhya Pradesh	03	-	01
7	Tamil Nadu	02	04	36
8	Maharashtra	28	35	110
9	Karnataka	08	09	17
10	Orissa	-	-	01
11	Punjab	18	32	69
12	Rajasthan	10	17	21
13	Uttar Pradesh	33	48	110
14	West Bengal	03	04	02
15	Jammu and Kashmir	-	-	-
16	Nagaland	-	-	-
17	Haryana	31	43	55
18	Himachal Pradesh	-	-	-
19	Manipur	-	-	-
20	Tripura	-	-	01

1	2	3	4	5
21	Meghalaya	-	-	-
22	Sikkim	-	-	-
23	Mizoram	-	-	-
24	Arunachal Pradesh	-	-	-
25	Goa	-	-	01
26	Uttaranchal	-	-	02
27	Chhattisgarh	03	-	01
28	Jharkhand	-	-	-
29	Delhi	08	17	11
30	Andaman and Nicobar Island	-	-	-
31	Lakshdweep	-	-	-
32	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	-	-	-
33	Daman and Diu	-	-	-
34	Pondicherry	-	-	-
35	Chandigarh	-	-	-

Statement-II

The State/UT-wise number of Public Notaries appointed by the Central Government as on 14-8-2006

Sl. No.	Name of the State/U.T.	Number of Notaries appointed	Quota earmarked for State/U.T.
1	Andhra Pradesh	52	575
2	Assam	01	575
3	Bihar	09	925
4	Gujarat	207	625
5	Kerala	58	375
6	Madhya Pradesh	18	1125
7	Tamil Nadu	89	725

1	2	3	4
8	Maharashtra	504	875
9	Karnataka	181	675
10	Orissa	07	750
11	Punjab	430	638
12	Rajasthan	261	800
13	Uttar Pradesh	671	1750
14	West Bengal	140	450
15	Jammu and Kashmir.	-	350
16	Nagaland	-	200
17	Haryana	453	713
18	Himachal Pradesh	04	300
19	Manipur	-	225
20	Tripura	04	100
21	Meghalaya	-	175
22	Sikkim	-	100
23	Mizoram	-	200
24	Arunachal Pradesh	-	325
25	Goa	04	50
26	Uttaranchal	13	325
27	Chhattisgarh	04	400
28	Jharkhand	01	450
29	Delhi	329	488
30	Andaman and Nicobar Island	-	50
31	Lakshadweep	-	25
32	Dadar and Nagar Haveli	-	25
33	Daman and Diu	-	50
34	Pondicherry	01	100
35	Chandigarh	25	38

Misuse of Tax Concessions

2586. SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to refer to the reply given to USQ No.864 dated February 24, 2006 regarding misuse of tax concession by private institutions and state:

(a) whether the information has since been collected;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the action taken thereon?

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

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

(c) Does not arise.

Statement

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Insofar as Direct Taxes is concerned, no centralised database is maintained. However, insofar as Indirect Taxes is concerned, the number of cases detected during the last three years and amount involved therein is given below:

Year	Number of cases detected	Duty involved (Rs. in crore)
2002-2003	172	140.01
2003-2004	180	346.014
2004-2005	248	407.756
2005-2006 (upto January, 2006)	152	722.006

(c) Insofar as Direct Taxes is concerned, as mentioned in part (b) above, no centralized data is maintained. However, insofar as Indirect Taxes is concerned, no such case against private hospitals and nursing homes has been booked.

(d) Insofar as Direct Taxes is concerned, as mentioned in part (b) above, it is not possible to furnish the information. However, insofar as Indirect Taxes is concerned, during the last three years four charitable trusts were found to misuse tax exemptions.

(e) Under the Income Tax Act, it is mandatory for wholly and partly charitable or religious trusts to file their income tax returns, subject to certain conditions. Further, any notified fund or institution established for charitable purposes having national or state importance, notified wholly public religious or wholly public religious and charitable trust or institution, university or other educational institution existing solely for educational purposes and not for purposes of profit or any hospital or other medical institution existing solely for philanthropic purposes and not for purposes of profit are required to file their income tax returns, subject to certain conditions.

It is also proposed to make it mandatory for any university or other educational institution existing solely for educational purposes and not for purposes of profit and any hospital or other medical institution existing solely for philanthropic purposes and not for purposes of profit to file their income tax returns annually through Taxation Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2005 which is to be passed by the Lok Sabha.

Foreign Debt

2587. SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total foreign debt outstanding against the country alongwith its percentage in the GDP;

(b) whether there has been any increase or decrease in the amount of foreign debt during the last three years;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to reduce the debt burden?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) Total foreign debt outstanding at end-March 2006 amounted to US\$ 125.18 billion and its share in GDP was 15.8 percent.

(b) and (c) India's external debt has increased during the last three years in US dollar terms. However, as a percentage of GDP, India's external debt has declined during this period. The details are given in the following Table.

Table India's External Debt (US\$ billion)

	At end-March		
	2004	2005	2006
(i) Total External Debt	111.64	123.20	125.18
(ii) External debt as % of GDP	17.8	17.3	15.8

(d) Government follows a prudent external debt management policy to keep external debt within manageable limits. The policy focus is on concessional loans, longer maturity profiles, close monitoring of short-term debt and laying emphasis on non-debt creating capital flows.

Lower Subansiri Hydel Power Project

2588. SHRI M.K. SUBBA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether any preconditions and suggestions were spelt out for grant of Environment clearance for the Lower Subansiri Hydel Power Project;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken in pursuance of these suggestions and to meet these conditions?

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

(b) and (c) The details of the specific and general conditions prescribed by the Ministry of Environment & Forests (MOEF), while according environment clearance to the Lower Subansiri Hydroelectric Project (2000 MW) of National Hydroelectric Power Corporation Limited (NHPC) in Arunachal Pradesh and the status of compliance of these conditions are given in the statement enclosed.

Statement

Sl.No.	Part-A: Specific Conditions	Status of Compliance
1	2	3
i.	(a) Rehabilitation as per Resettlement and Rehabilitation (R&R) Plan in Environment Management Plan (EMP) report.	Allotment of 40 ha land for resettlement of the Project Affected Families (PAFs) is to be done by the Deputy Commissioner, West Siang District, Along. R&R site has been identified & surveyed. Formal handing over of land is under process.
	(b) Constitution of a Monitoring Committee for implementation of R&R Plan.	A Committee has been constituted by Deputy Commissioner (DC), West Siang District, Along.

1	2	3
ii.	The catchment area identified for treatment of 1,663 ha. is to be treated in three years as per Catchment Area Treatment (CAT) plan.	CAT Plan is under scrutiny of Forest Dept, Government of Arunachal Pradesh, Itanagar. The State Forest Department has been requested to submit the Annual Plan of Operation (APO) for CAT and modalities of releasing payments (annually/half yearly) in line with the targets fixed by the MOEF. APO is yet to be received from the State Forest Department.
iii.	Minimum flow of water is to be 6 cusecs during the lean season in the pools immediately downstream of the dam.	This condition will be complied after commissioning of the project.
iv.	Baseline data of coliform count is to be collected and monitored periodically as a part of the water quality analysis.	Water quality analysis, including coliform count, of Subansiri river is being conducted with the help of Pollution Control Board of Assam (PCBA).
v.	Identification of orchids at species level is to be carried out before the submergence of the area, Appropriate action shall be taken to ensure that rare orchid flora along with host trees are not threatened.	The State Forest Research Institute (SFRI), Itanagar, Arunachal Pradesh has been entrusted with the task of carrying out survey and identification of orchids at species level in the submergence area of the project.
vi.	A hatchery is to be created in the vicinity of the proposed Subansiri reservoir. The hatchery should have all the required aquaculture facilities for development of artificial seed production of migratory fishes for stocking in the reservoir and river stretch.	This study is under process to be awarded to Central Inland Fisheries Research Institute (CIFRI), Barrackpore, Kolkata.
vii.	The local aquatic fauna of the river, particularly the fishes, snails, prawns and crabs is to be documented and identified scientifically. Possible impact of reservoir creation on the availability or otherwise, of these aquatic fauna should also be assessed to enable long term conservation of these fauna, as well as ensure their availability to the local population.	These studies are under process to be awarded in favour of Zoological Survey of India, Kolkata and Guwahati University.
viii.	A comprehensive one year study on biodiversity and habitat conservation with reference to the submerged area is to be undertaken. Efforts should also be made to identify the migratory routes of wildlife in the vicinity.	
ix.	Efforts must be made to employ maximum number of local people in not only unskilled category but also in semi skilled and skilled categories by making provisions for imparting skills through training to selected locals.	Training has been given to 48 local youth from North Lakhimpur, Assam in various disciplines like Welding, and Computer Operation. 28 local youth of Arunachal Pradesh are undergoing training at Industrial Training Institute (ITI), Roing & Tabarijo Arunachal Pradesh.

1	2	3
x.	<p>Once the construction of dam is completed the down stream water flow will be reduced. Specifically from head race to tail race tunnel flow of the river will slow down substantially, which may give rise to breeding of mosquitoes. To check mosquito breeding in this portion a minimum rate of flow of water at 60 cm/sec should be maintained. This part of the river should be properly channelised so that no pools and poodles are allowed to be formed. Specific measures to alleviate the problems of malaria/mosquito breeding will have to be made a part of this project.</p>	<p>This would be taken care of, after the construction of the Dam.</p>

Sl.No. Part: B General conditions.	Status of Compliance
i. Adequate free fuel arrangement should be made for the labour force engaged in the construction work at project cost so that indiscriminate felling of trees is prevented.	The major contractors are making suitable arrangements for providing fuel to their labourers/workers.
ii. Fuel depot may be opened at the site to provide fuel (kerosene/wood/Liquified Petroleum Gas (LPG)). Medical & recreational facilities should also be provided to the labourers.	One LPG Depot has been opened in the project after obtaining necessary permission. The major contractors have also been instructed to provide the requisite facilities to the labourers working with them.
iii. All the labourers to be engaged for construction works should be thoroughly examined by health personnel and adequately treated before issuing them work permit.	The health check up/awareness camps are being regularly conducted to examine the health of project labourers.
iv. Restoration of construction area including dumping site of excavated materials should be ensured by leveling, filling up of burrow pits, landscaping etc. The area should be properly treated with suitable plantation.	The condition is being complied.
v. Financial provision should be made in the total budget of the project for implementation of the above suggested measures.	The necessary provision in the budget has been made.
vi. A Multi-disciplinary committee should be constituted with representatives from various disciplines of forestry, ecology, wildlife, soil conservation, NGO etc. to oversee the effective implementation of the suggested safeguard measures.	A Multi-disciplinary committee has been constituted on 20.04.2004 with representatives from MOEF, State Forest Department and various disciplines including a member from NGO to oversee effective implementation of various environmental safeguards for the Project.
vii. Six monthly monitoring reports to be submitted to the Ministry of Environment & Forests and its Regional Office, Shillong for review.	Reports are being furnished regularly.

Performance of RRBs

2589. SHRI K.C. PALLANI SHAMY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of Regional Rural Banks functioning in the country, State-wise;
- (b) the profits and losses suffered by these banks during the last three years, State-wise;
- (c) the reasons for incurring losses, if any; and
- (d) the steps taken by the Government to make loss making RRBs into profitable.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) and (b) As on 31st March 2006, 133 Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) were functioning in the country. The State-wise number of RRBs making profits and losses during the last three years, is given in the statement enclosed.

(c) The main reasons of losses in RRBs are: limited area of operation, low volume of business, narrow banking, high establishment and administrative cost, low margin and high percentage of Non-performing Assets due to poor recovery of loans, accumulated losses which are non-income generating assets in the RRBs.

(d) As recommended by the Advisory Committee on flow of credit to Agriculture and related activities (Vyas Committee), Government has initiated the first phase of amalgamation of RRBs to make them viable and profitable units. As on 31st March, 2006, Government has issued notifications amalgamating 89 RRBs into 26 new entities. Other steps taken to improve the performance of RRBs are as under:

- RRBs have been allowed to finance non-target group.
- Shifting of non-viable branches to business potential places.
- Relaxation in service area Approach.
- De-regulation of interest on deposit and advances.
- Relaxation in investment norms..
- To devise new products and also venture into non-banking activities viz. sale of insurance policies, disbursement of pension and handling Government business.

NABARD has also been imparting/supporting training for skill upgradation of RRB officials, conducting Organizational Development Intervention, Exposure visits, etc. to build capacity and enhance efficiency.

Statement

No. of RRBs functioning in the country and RRBs making profits and losses during last three years

Sl. No.	Name of the State	No. of RRBs As on 31.3.06	Making Profit during			Making loss during		
			2003-04	2004-05	2005-06*	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06*
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1	Andhra Pradesh	8	15	16	8	1	0	0
2	Arunachal Pradesh	1	0	0	0	1	1	1
3	Assam	2	5	4	2	0	1	0
4	Bihar	5	7	7	2	9	9	3
5	Chhattisgarh	5	5	4	4	0	1	1
6	Gujarat	3	9	9	3	0	0	0
7	Haryana	2	4	4	2	0	0	0
8	Himachal Pradesh	2	2	2	2	0	0	0
9	Jammu and Kashmir	3	1	1	1	2	2	2

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	Jharkhand	6	3	5	4	3	1	2
11	Karnataka	7	13	13	7	0	0	0
12	Kerala	2	2	2	2	0	0	0
13	Madhya Pradesh	19	14	17	19	5	2	0
14	Maharashtra	8	9	8	6	1	2	2
15	Manipur	1	0	0	0	1	1	1
16	Meghalaya	1	1	1	1	0	0	0
17	Mizoram	1	1	0	1	0	1	0
18	Nagaland	1	0	0	0	1	1	1
19	Orissa	8	5	6	5	4	3	3
20	Punjab	3	5	5	3	0	0	0
21	Rajasthan	8	12	13	7	2	1	1
22	Tamil Nadu	3	3	3	3	0	0	0
23	Tripura	1	1	1	1	0	0	0
24	Uttar Pradesh	20	35	35	20	1	1	0
25	Uttaranchal	4	3	4	3	1	0	1
26	West Bengal	9	8	6	6	1	3	3
Total		133	163	166	112	33	30	21

* Note: Due to the amalgamation of certain FRBs, the number has reduced in the year 2005-06.

Nano-Technology Mission

2590. SHRI E.G. SUGAVANAM: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has launched Nano-Science and Technology Mission;

(b) if so, the salient features thereof; and

(c) if not, the time by which it is likely to be launched?

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) to (c) The Government plans to launch a variety of educational and Human Resource Development (HRD)

programmes, Research and Development (R&D) programmes, establish centres of excellence, promote institution-industry linked projects through increased public private partnerships, promote entrepreneurship through establishment of business incubators, etc. as a part of its Nano Science and Technology Mission.

Genetic Engineering

2591. SHRI RANEN BARMAN: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Genetic Engineering has been attracting growing interest of the scientific community across the world, including India;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the steps taken by the Government to encourage research in Genetic Engineering, particularly with a view to enable development in the fields of agriculture, floriculture, fisheries and animal husbandry; and

(d) the details of genetic engineering research facilities available, as well as projects presently under implementation in the country particularly in West Bengal?

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. There is growing interest among the scientific community to work in the area of Genetic Engineering as it enables the scientists to transfer desirable genes from any source plant, animal, bacteria or viral into other organisms. Besides developed countries, many developing countries have been conducting research making use of genetic engineering techniques in agriculture and allied areas. In India this is a fast growing area and at present there are around 300 institutions in public and private sector which are working on research programmes relevant to important sectors including agriculture.

(c) The Government is making concerted efforts for promoting and strengthening this area by providing research facilities and supporting research programmes covering both basic and applied aspects in the field of agriculture, floriculture, fisheries and animal sciences.

(d) The Government had earlier set up three Genetic Engineering Units in Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi, Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore and Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi. Presently, a Centre for Genetic Engineering and Strain Manipulation is being supported at Madurai Kamaraj University, Madurai. The Government has also established a National Centre for Plant Genome Research in New Delhi to work in the area of plant genomics. In addition, Centres for Plant Molecular Biology were established at seven national institutions and universities for promoting plant molecular biology research including application of genetic engineering for crop improvement. There are many other general universities, state agricultural universities, national agricultural research institutions which have developed fairly good competence for undertaking research in this field.

The Government is supporting research programmes on application of genetic engineering techniques for improving the productivity of our important crops through reducing their losses due to biotic and abiotic stresses, heterosis breeding and improving their nutritional quality.

In the area of animal sciences efforts are being made for use of genetic engineering techniques to develop suitable transgenic animals, vaccines and animal feed, while fisheries area, programme is being pursued for developing transgenic fish for various purposes.

In West Bengal, Bose Institute, Kolkata; Bidhan Chandra Krishi Vishwavidyalaya, Kalyani; and Indian Institute of Technology, Kharagpur are being supported for developing transgenic rice resistant to salinity & drought, tungro viral disease and improved mustard respectively.

Utilisation of Funds by Gram Panchayats

2592. SHRI HITEN BARMAN: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the funds earmarked for the construction of pavement, drains, cleanliness and setting up of hand pumps are spent on the prescribed purposes by Gram Panchayats in Sikkim;

(b) if not, the action taken against the persons responsible for it;

(c) whether any audit is being conducted by District Magistrates in this State;

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether the Government proposes to utilise these funds through D.Ms on the line of M.P.L.A.D.S; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL): (a) As per information received from the Government of Sikkim, no specific funds are earmarked for cleanliness of drains and pavements in Sikkim through the Total Sanitation Campaign or State budget to the Rural Management & Development Department, Sikkim.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) No audit is conducted by the District Magistrates. However, audit of various schemes under Rural Management & Development Department is conducted by CAG.

(e) and (f) Not applicable.

Bangalore Traffic Improvement Project

2593. SHRI MILIND DEORA: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Karnataka Government is planning to implement a Bangalore Traffic Improvement Project to tackle traffic problem in the State capital;

(b) if so, the total expenditure likely to be incurred on it;

(c) the time by which this project is likely to be implemented;

(d) the money earmarked for it in the financial year 2006-07;

(e) whether ten point programme will be prepared with the participation of the Bangalore Mahanagar Palika (BMP) and by related Agencies;

(f) if so, whether any financial assistance has been sought from the World Bank; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN): (a) to (g) The subject matter of the question entirely relates to the State Government. However, information is being collected from the Government of Karnataka and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Strengthening Transmission Line

2594. PROF. M. RAMADASS: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether 800 KV Transmission system between Kishanpur and Moga which was scheduled for completion in March, 1998 at a cost of Rs.417.71 crores has not been completed so far;

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

(c) the extent of cost overrun on account of this delay; and

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

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE): (a) to (d) The scheme for Kishanpur-Moga Transmission System consisting of two circuits of 800 kV, was originally approved in May, 1993 at an estimated cost of Rs.417.71 crore (based on 2nd quarter, 1992 price level) with an implementation schedule of 58 months from the date of investment approval. The project, however, got delayed mainly on account of repeated failure of towers due to inadequate design of the structures. The two circuits of the transmission system were completed in March, 2000 and January, 2001 respectively. The Revised Cost Estimate of Rs.938.48 crore (based on 4th quarter, 1999 price level) was approved for this project by the Government in July, 2002.

Setting up of Power Projects

2595. SHRI JUAL ORAM: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Central sector power projects proposed to be set up during Eleventh Plan;

(b) the names of the States where these Central sector power projects are proposed to be set-up;

(c) the power generation capacities of these projects; and

(d) the target set for their commercial production?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE): (a) to (d) A statement showing details of the generation projects, tentatively identified for being set up in Central Sector during 11th Plan, is enclosed.

Statement*List of Central Sector Projects (Tentative) for likely Benefits during 11th Plan*

Sl. No.	Plant Name	State	Agency	Sector	Ultimate Capacity (Mw)	Benefits 11th Plan (2007-12)	Likely Year of Benefit
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Central Sector							
Hydro							
1	Parbati-II	HP	NHPC	C	800	800	2009-10
2	Chamera-III	HP	NHPC	C	231	231	2010-11

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
3	Parbati-III	HP	NHPC	C	520	520	2010-11
4	Baglihar-I	J&K	NHPC	C	450	450	2007-08
5	Sewa-II	J&K	NHPC	C	120	120	2007-08
6	Uri-II	J&K	NHPC	C	240	240	2009-10
7	Nimoo Bazgo	J&K	NHPC	C	45	45	2010-11
8	Chutak	J&K	NHPC	C	44	44	2010-11
9	Kotlibhel-St IA	Uttaranchal	NHPC	C	195	195	2010-11
10	Kotlibhel-St.IB	Uttaranchal	NHPC	C	320	320	2010-11
11	Omkareshwar	MP	NHDC	C	520	520	2007-08
12	Teesta Low Dam-III	WB	NHPC	C	132	132	2007-08
13	Teesta Low Dam-IV	WB	NHPC	C	160	160	2009-10
14	Subansiri Lower	AR PR	NHPC	C	2000	2000	2010-11
	Sub-Total (NHPC)					5777	
15	Rampur	HP	SJVNL	C	412	412	2010-11
	Sub-Total (SJVNL)					412	
16	Koteshwar	Uttaranchal	THDC	C	400	400	2008-09
17	Tehri PSS	Uttaranchal	THDC	C	1000	1000	2009-10
18	Vishnugadpipalkoti	Uttaranchal	THDC	C	444	444	2011-12
	Sub-Total(THDC)					1844	
19	Kameng	AR PR	NEEPCO	C	600	600	2010-11
	Sub-Total(NEEPCO)					600	
20	Kol Dam	HP	NTPC	c	800	800	2008-09
21	Lohari Nagpala	Uttaranchal	NTPC	C	600	600	2010-11
22	Tapovan Vishnugarh	Uttaranchal	NTPC	c	520	520	2011-12
23	Lata Tapovan	Uttaranchal	NTPC	C	171	171	2011-12
24	Rammam St III	WB	NTPC	C	120	120	2011-12
	Sub-Total (NTPC-Hydro)					2211	
	Sub-Total (Hydro Centre)					10844	
Thermal							
1	Dadri Ext	UP	NTPC	C	980	980	2009-10
2	Sipat I	CHG	NTPC	C	1980	1980	2007-09
3	Bhilai V	CHG	NTPC	C	500	500	2007-08

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
4	Korba III	CHG	NTPC	C	500	500	2009-10
5	Ennore-V	TN	NTPC+TNEB	C	1000	1000	2010-12
6	Simhadri-Ext	AP	NTPC	C	1320	1320	2011-12
7	Barh	Bihar	NTPC	C	1980	1980	2008-11
8	Barh II	Bihar	NTPC	C	1320	660	2011-12
9	Nabinagar	Bihar	NTPC	C	1000	1000	2010-12
10	Integrated Proj. Daripali	Orissa	NTPC	C	3200	800	2011-12
11	North K Pura	Jharkhand	NTPC	C	1980	1980	2010-12
12	Farakka Stage-III	WB	NTPC	C	500	500	2009-10
13	Integrated Proj. LARA	CHG	NTPC	C	4000	800	2011-12
	Sub-Total (NTPC-Thermal)					14000	
14	Barsingsar	Rajasthan	NLC	C	250	250	2008-09
15	Barsingsar Ext	Rajasthan	NLC	C	250	250	2010-12
16	Neyveli-II	TN	NLC	C	500	500	2008-09
17	Tuticorin V	TN	NLC+TNEB	C	1000	1000	2010-12
	Sub-Total (Thermal-NLC)					2000	
18	Bokaro	Jharkhand	DVC	C	500	500	2010-11
19	Bokaro Replacement	Jharkhand	DVC	C	500	500	2009-11
20	Kodarma	Jharkhand	DVC	C	1000	1000	2011-12
21	Maithan RBC	Jharkhand	DVC	C	1000	1000	2010-11
22	Mezia Ext	WB	DVC	C	1000	1000	2010-11
	Sub-Total DVC					4000	
23	Tripura Gas	Tripura	ONGC	C	750	750	2010-11
	Sub-Total (Thermal-NEEPCO)					750	
	Sub-Total (Thermal Centre)					20750	
Nuclear							
1	Rapp U 5&6	Rajasthan	NPC	C	440	440	2007-09
2	Kudankulam U 1,2	TN	NPC	C	2000	2000	2007-09
3	PFBR (Kalapakkam)	TN	NPC	C	500	500	2010-11
4	Kaiga	KAR	NPC	C	440	220	2007-08
	Sub-Total (Nuclear Centre)					3160	
Total Central Sector						34754	

Reduction in Fertilizer Subsidy

2596. SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be please to state:

(a) whether the Government has reduced subsidy on fertilizers in the current financial year;

(b) if so, the details of the demand made by M/o Chemicals and Fertilizers and the details of funds sanctioned on account of subsidy;

(c) whether the Government has set up a Committee of Secretaries to examine the subsidy on fertilizers; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) and (b) No, Sir. A net provision of Rs.17,252.90 Crore for fertilizer subsidy has been made in BE (2006-07) against the provision of Rs.16,253.90 Crore in BE (2005-06). During 2005-06, a net additionality of Rs.2,200 Crore was provided over the Budget Estimates through the Second and Third Batch of Supplementary Demands for Grants for that year, taking the total allocation for 2005-06 to Rs.18,453.90 Crore. In the current financial year, additionality of Rs.1,500 Crore has been proposed for fertilizer subsidy through the First Batch of Supplementary Demands for Grants. Accordingly, against the total net provision of Rs.18,453.90 Crore for fertilizer subsidies for the year, 2005-06, Rs.18,752.90 Crore has already been provided in the year 2006-07.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. However, subsidy issues are discussed at various forums, including Committee of Secretaries, from time to time.

Development of Coal Blocks by NTPC

2597. SHRI SUGRIB SINGH: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) proposes to develop coal blocks in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of the investments likely to be made by NTPC in such coal blocks;

(d) the estimated coal reserves in each of such blocks; and

(e) the names of the NTPC plants likely to be benefited thereby?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE): (a) to (e) Yes, Sir. In order to achieve improved coal supply/security, National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) Limited has decided to enter in coal mining and so far six coal mining blocks have been allotted to NTPC. The details of these Coal Mining Blocks along with their estimated Geological reserves and names of end-use projects are as follows:

Sl.No.	Name of the Coal Block	State	Estimated Geological Reserves (MT)	End-use projects
1	Pakri-Barwadih	Jharkhand	1436	Basket source to supplement coal availability in NTPC's existing power stations in Eastern & Northern regions
2	Chatti-Bariatu	Jharkhand	243	Barh, Stage-II, (1320 MW)
3	Kerandari	Jharkhand	228*	
4	Dulanga	Orissa	260*	Darlipali (3200 MW) Thermal power project
5	Talaipalli	Chhattisgarh	965*	Lara (4000 MW) Thermal power project
6	Chhatrasal	Madhya Pradesh	150*	Basket source to supplement coal availability in NTPC's existing power stations in Singrauli region
7	Brahmini and Chichro Patsimal	Jharkhand	1900	By a proposed 50:50 joint venture between Coal India Ltd. (CIL) and NTPC, to supplement supplies to NTPC's Farakka & Kahaigaon power stations.

* These are tentative figures based on data made available to NTPC and will be firmed up only after preparation of respective Geological Reports.

The exact investment required to develop the above coal blocks is dependent on finalization of the Geological Reports (GR) and Feasibility Reports (FR).

R&D Programme for NCES

2598. SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL: Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken by the Government to improve Research and Development work and upgrading training programme for Non-Conventional Energy Sources; and

(b) the details of the plan size for the current year as well as the last two years for R&D and upgrading Training Programme for Non-Conventional Energy Sources?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR): (a) The Ministry of Non-conventional Energy Sources is providing central financial assistance for supporting a broad-based research and development programme in various areas of non-conventional energy involving R&D institutions/organizations and industry across the country. Dedicated R&D institutions of this Ministry such as the Solar Energy Centre and the Centre for Wind Energy Technology are facilitating research in solar and wind respectively. In addition, the Alternate Hydro Energy Centre, IIT, Roorkee has been strengthened to work in the area of small hydro. This Ministry also supports training programmes in various technical institutions across the country.

(b) During 2006-07, a plan provision of Rs. 43 crore for research and development, Rs.23 crore for Solar Energy Centre, Centre for Wind Energy Technology and National Institute of Renewable Energy and Rs. 3 crore for training in non-conventional energy sources has been made and an expenditure of Rs. 15.57 crore and Rs. 12.36 crore were incurred during 2004-05 and 2005-06 respectively for the aforesaid purposes.

[Translation]

Loan from World Bank

2599. SHRI HARISHCHANDRA CHAVAN: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has drawn up or

proposes to draw up any plan through the World Bank or the Asian Development Bank with a view to seeking loans for the schemes relating to Nasik district of Maharashtra for carrying out urban development, water supply and sanitation works in the district;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN): (a) and (b) There has been no such proposal. However, a concept note of the proposed Maharashtra Urban Water Supply and Sanitation Projects has been submitted by the Government of Maharashtra for exploring the possibility of getting financial assistance from the World Bank, details of which have not been firmed up so far.

(c) "Urban Development" being a State subject, urban infrastructure development and provision of civic amenities rest with the concerned State Governments. Such projects are formulated, funded and executed by the State Governments themselves. Central assistance/external assistance is given to the State Governments to supplement their efforts. Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM) has been launched by the Central Government on 03.12.2005 for providing reforms linked Central assistance to selected 63 cities including Nasik in Maharashtra.

Embezzlement in Cooperative Banks

2600. SHRI BRAJESH PATHAK: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has conducted any inquiry into the embezzlement taken place in District Cooperative banks during the last three years;

(b) if so, the outcome thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Government against those found guilty?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) to (c) No, Sir. However, the details of cases of frauds which include embezzlements, etc., reported by District Central Cooperative Banks (DCCBs), during the years 2002-03, 2003-04, 2004-05, are as under:-

(Rs. in lakh)

Year	No. of DCCBs involved	No. of Branches involved	Amount involved	Amount recovered
2002-03	290	1054	9267.43	406.35
2003-04	292	1001	30217.18	118.83
2004-05	301	1040	32166.54	157.03

Various measures have been taken to strengthen internal control mechanism and guidelines have been issued from time to time. Some of these are:-

- Setting up of Vigilance Cells, Inspection Cells, Audit Committees, preparation of comprehensive manual/guidelines etc.
- State Cooperative Banks (SCBs) and DCCBs have been suggested to (i) nominate a senior officer who would be responsible for submitting all the returns relating to frauds, (ii) fix staff accountability in respect of delays in reporting cases of frauds, (iii) prompt reporting of information relating to frauds to the Board of Directors and (iv) prompt filing of cases with the police.
- All the Banks have been advised to clear the reconciliation of arrears of more than six months in inter-bank and inter-branch accounts.
- The banks should report cases of frauds involving an amount of Rs. 1 crore and above to Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) and those below Rs. 1 crore to local police.

[English]

**Pooled Finance Development
Fund (PFDF)**

2601. SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR:
SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY:

Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has proposed to set up a Pooled Finance Development Fund (PFDF) to enable urban local bodies to raise funds from the domestic debt markets;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the urban local bodies have been asked to generate funds themselves; and

(d) if so, the manner in which PFDF is likely to be spent by local bodies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. There has been a proposal for setting up of a Pooled Finance Development Fund (PFDF) to enable urban local bodies to raise funds from the domestic debt markets, details of which could be known only after the proposal is finalised.

Core Banking Solution

2602. SHRI BANSAGOPAL CHOUDHURY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether core banking solutions (CBS) can help to check the black money in India;

(b) if so, the details thereof, and

(c) the extent to which it is likely to help the public/Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) and (b) Core Banking Solutions (CBS) enable online processing of banking transactions. CBS per se cannot help check the black money in India. Perhaps 'black money' refers to the amount involved in those transactions which do not pass through the normal banking channels. However, due to introduction of Anti Money Laundering Act in India, various Information Technology companies have come out with Anti-money laundering Software solutions which will check transactions as defined under Anti-Money Laundering Act and this solution will have an inter-face with the Core Banking Solution. Installation of Software solutions will have a check on suspicious transactions particularly the high value cash transactions and will also help identify multiple accounts maintained by an individual.

(c) CBS helps by way of timely extraction and submission of statutory information like Cash Transaction Report under Anti-Money Laundering Act, Annual Information Report to Income Tax Authorities and Banking

Cash Transaction Tax. It helps the regulators like Reserve Bank of India in implementing electronic payment systems. It also helps the Banks to provide its customers anytime, anywhere banking. Customers of a branch become customers of the bank by way of availability of alternate delivery channels like internet banking, SMS Banking, Tele-banking, ATMs etc, which provide banking services at their door steps.

[Translation]

Wind Energy

2603. SHRI KRISHNA MURARI MOGHE: Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received any proposal from Madhya Pradesh Government for setting up of two wind energy demonstration projects of 2 MW capacity each;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Two proposals for 2 MW each demonstration wind farm projects in Mamatkheda in Ratlam District and Mahuriya in Shajapur district were received in the Ministry from the Nodal Agency in the state i.e. Madhya Pradesh Urja Vikas Nigam, Bhopal.

(c) The State Nodal Agency is yet to confirm completion of certain conditions for sanctioning wind demonstration projects such as finalization of Power Purchase Agreement with State Utility and power evacuation facility for both the above projects and availability of state share of funds for the project at Mahuriya.

[English]

Working of Regulatory Systems

2604. SHRI B. VINOD KUMAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to strengthen and facilitate professional functioning of regulatory systems particularly in Financial and Insurance Sectors of the economy;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps Government have taken/proposes to bring the Indian Regulatory systems consistent with the emerging trends at national/international levels?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) to (c) The regulatory systems controlling the Financial and Insurance Sectors of economy viz. Reserve Bank of India (RBI), Insurance Regulatory & Development Authority (IRDA) and Securities & Exchange Board of India (SEBI), have evolved continuously in line with the new developments taking place from time to time and it is an ongoing process.

In respect of Banking Sector, RBI has taken several regulatory and prudential measures for strengthening the same. The Government has also recently amended the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934 to enhance regulatory flexibility and to empower RBI to deal with derivatives, etc. IRDA has also issued regulations covering various aspects of insurance business based upon international standards, which were adopted to domestic requirements. After gaining experience in the functioning of SEBI and the changing needs of the market, Government has strengthened SEBI by successive amendments in securities laws in 1995, 1996, 2000, 2002 and 2005.

Private Sector Participation in Drinking Water Supply

2605. SHRI JOACHIM BAXLA: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to take the task of safe drinking water on war footing with assistance from private sector; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL): (a) and (b) Rural drinking water is a state subject and the role of the Central Government is only to supplement the efforts of the States in providing drinking water supply to the rural areas. It is upto the State Governments to decide about the involvement of the private sector.

[Translation]

Earthquake Resistant Buildings

2606. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has developed new standards for construction of earthquake resistant buildings in various parts of the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN): (a) and (b) Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) has been developing standards for Earthquake Resistant buildings and various structures applicable to various seismic zones in the country. New standards on the design and constructions of all type of masonry and wooden buildings were published in the year 1993 and Mother Code on Earthquake Resistant Design and Construction of all types of buildings and structures was published in the year 2002. As an on-going activity, these standards are reviewed periodically and updated, where found necessary.

[English]

Clinical Research

2607. SHRI L. RAJAGOPAL: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether India is rapidly becoming clinical research hub in the World and the outsourcing market in India has gone up;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to encash this advantage?

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. India is rapidly becoming clinical research hub in the World which is evident by the opening up of the Indian market to multinational pharmaceutical companies for conducting clinical trials on new drugs which have passed through Phase I studies in the country of origin. Such trials can be accomplished with the expertise available in India at a much lower cost than in developed countries. Outsourcing of clinical trials to India is part of a larger globalization and knowledge economy process which, along with its potential benefits, seems set to proceed as the dominant theme of global development over the near future.

(c) As there is potential for mutual benefit, it would be desirable to capture the clinical trials' outsourcing opportunity in a manner that enables economic returns to India and the multinational companies, as well as tangible

benefits to public health without any exploitation. Certain country specific issues such as lack of clear regulatory norms and Intellectual Property Right (IPR) issues were earlier considered barriers to global clinical research development in India. Now, Government has streamlined the provisions under Drugs and Cosmetics (D&C) Rules concerning conduct of clinical trials in the country. Rules 122A to E of the D&C Rules have been amended for this purpose laying down mandatory requirements for prior permission to conduct clinical trials and powers to withdraw a trial. The term 'clinical trial' has been defined under the rules. Schedule-Y under the rules that prescribes the requirements for pre-clinical and clinical studies concerning new drugs has been extensively revised in January, 2005, to define the responsibilities of sponsors, clinical investigators and ethic committees. The requirements of Good Clinical Practice (GCP) guidelines published by the Government have been made mandatory.

Wind Energy

2608. SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVARAO:
SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA:
SHRI BALASHOWRY VALLABHANENI:
SHRI M.K. SUBBA:
SHRI K.C. SINGH 'BABA':

Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether India is constantly advancing in the field of wind power generation;

(b) if so, the place of India in the World in the field of wind power generation;

(c) whether required equipments for the generation of wind power have been made available by the Government;

(d) if so, whether these equipments are indigenous;

(e) If so, the details thereof; and

(f) the average cost per MW of energy generated through this source as compared to per MW average cost of thermal and hydro power generation in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) India presently ranks at the fourth position in the world in wind power installations after Germany, Spain and USA.

(c) to (e) No, Sir. Wind electric generators are being manufactured indigenously through local production in India using specified components being imported by the manufacturers depending upon the level of indigenization achieved by them. Import of specified components/parts for manufacture and maintenance of wind electric generators is allowed at concessional rate of customs duty.

(f) The levelised cost of wind power generation is quite comparable with cost of conventional power, taking into account various fiscal and promotional incentives available for wind power projects. The capital cost of wind power projects varies between Rs. 4.5 crore to Rs. 5.0 crore per MW, which is also comparable with that of thermal and hydropower generation.

Supply of Safe Drinking Water

2609. SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO:
SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA:
SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether as per the World Health Organization the minimum water consumption should be 50 liters a day per person to cover consumption and hygiene needs;

(b) if so, the quantity of water per person per day available in the country at present;

(c) whether the Union Government was committed to provide safe drinking water to all rural habitations by the end of 2004;

(d) if so, whether the above commitment has been fulfilled in all respects;

(e) if so, the details thereof and if not the reasons therefor;

(f) whether this target is likely to be achieved fully during the remaining period of Tenth Plan;

(g) if so, the details thereof indicating the progress achieved in this regard so far;

(h) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(i) the steps taken/to be taken by the Government to provide safe drinking water to rural habitations without any further delay?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF

RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Central Government administers a Centrally Sponsored Scheme namely Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP) to supplement the efforts of the State Governments in providing drinking water facilities in rural areas. As per norms of ARWSP, the requirement of Drinking Water is 40 liters per capita per day (lpcd). In addition, there is a provision of 30 lpcd for animals in hot and cold desert/ ecosystems in Desert Development Programme (DDP) areas.

(c) to (e) It was envisaged in the Tenth Plan document to cover all rural habitations with drinking water supply by March, 2004. As a result of the efforts made, 96.13% of rural habitations were Fully Covered and 3.55% Partially Covered as on 01-04-2005. However 0.32% of the total habitations remained Not Covered. The coverage status is, however, dynamic and a habitation once made fully covered may slip back to Partially covered/Not Covered Status due to various factors like increase in population, sources going dry, system outlived its utility, etc.

(f) to (i) Bharat Nirman has been conceived as a plan to build rural infrastructure in four year period (2005-06 to 2008-09). Rural Drinking Water is one of the components of Bharat Nirman aiming at coverage of all uncovered habitations (numbering 55067) and also to address the problem of slippage and water quality. During the first year of Bharat Nirman, 11597 Uncovered habitations are reported to have been covered. In addition, 76444 slipped back habitations and 4498 water quality-affected habitations are also reported to have been covered.

Pending Power Projects

2610. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH:
SHRI JASWANT SINGH BISHNOI:
SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA:
SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY:
SHRI CHHATTAR SINGH DARBAR:
SHRI TUKARAM GANPATRAO RENGE PATIL:
SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether some power projects are pending for completion for more than 20 years and have caused an additional burden of huge amount on the Government;

(b) if so, the details of all such projects and the factors responsible for causing delay in their completion;

(c) the time and funds required to complete these projects;

(d) whether some power projects are pending for want of funds;

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

(f) the steps taken by the Government to simplify the procedure of clearance of the power projects?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE): (a) to (c) The details of power projects which are pending for more than 20 years indicating the factors responsible for causing delay and likely completion date & cost for their completion are given in the statement enclosed.

(d) and (e) As per the information available with Central Electricity Authority, Dimapur DGPP (4x5.73MW) of Nagaland is pending for want of funds. Ministry of Development of North East Region has provided Rs. 32 crores from Non Lapseable Central Pool of Resources.

(f) The steps taken to simplify the procedure of clearance of the projects include:

- (a) Planning Commission has delegated full powers to State Governments for approval of power projects without any ceiling.

Clearance from Planning Commission is to be restricted only to those hydro electric projects where inter State issues are involved.

- (b) The requirement of according techno economic clearance by Central Electricity Authority has been dispensed with for thermal generation.

- (c) A generating company intending to set up a hydro generating stations has to prepare and submit the scheme to the Authority for concurrence involving a capital expenditure Rs. 2500 crores, provided that –

(i) the scheme is included in National Electricity Plan (NEP) as notified by CEA and conforms to the capacity and type.

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

(iii) Rs. 500 crores for any other scheme.

Statement

Projects Pending for more than 20 years with reasons for delay

Name of Project Capacity Agency	Date of CCEA clearance/ investment decision	Commissioning schedule		Project costs Rupees in Crores/ Price Level			Cost over run As per latest cost		Reason for Delay
		Original	Latest	Original	Latest	Latest	%age	Rs. Crs.	
Hydro									
Dulhasti HE. Project 3x130MW) J&K	10.11.1982 12.07.1989 29.10.1997	Nov. 1990 (1990-91)	Dec.2006 (2006-07)	183.45 (03/80)	3559.77 (11/96)	4924.56 (antici- pated)	2584.41	4741.11	Law and order problem, withdrawal of French Consortium, poor geological strata encountered in Head Race (Upstream) and rock burst leading to burial of TBM. Labour problem of the contractor.
Karbi Langpi H.E. Project 2x50 MW) ASEB	24.9.1979	1985-86	2006-07	36.36 (09/76)	36.36 (09/76)	557.42 (12/04)	1433.05	521.06	Initial delays due to frequent change in executing agencies, shifting of project from state sector to private sector and then back to state sector and Funds constraints. Slow progress of dam concreting works.

Modernisation of Government Press

2611. SHRI M. SHIVANNA: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether some Government of India presses which had been modernized earlier are being modernized again; and
- (b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN): (a) and (b) Photolitho Unit of Government of India Press, Minto Road was modernized in 1987 whereas Government of India Press, Ring Road and Government of India Press, Rashtrapati Bhawan were partially modernized in the year 1993 and 1995 respectively by inducting modern/offset printing and allied machines.

The Government of India Presses which have been set up beginning from year 1863 onwards for execution of printing jobs of various Ministries and Departments of Government of India continue to function with old letterpress technology for several decades. It was only in the year 2002 that the Cabinet took the decision of modernizing few Government of India Presses in order to undertake timely submission of quality jobs and to bring it

at par with the functioning of the printing industry in the private sector.

Foreign Reserve

2612. SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the FOREX Reserve have been consistently rising;
- (b) if so, the comparative FOREX Reserve position at the end of March 2004, 2005, 2006 and at present indicating also the Gold reserves and the FDRs; and
- (c) the main target market forces contributing to the high accumulation of reserves?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) India's foreign exchange reserves have generally been increasing in the past few years.

(b) The information is given in the statement enclosed.

(c) The increase in foreign exchange reserves in the recent period has been on account of capital and other inflows such as Foreign Direct Investment, Foreign Institutional Investment and net invisible inflows.

Statement**Comparative Forex Reserve Position**

(US \$ million)

Date	FCA	SDR	Gold	RTP	Forex Reserves
31 March, 2004	107,448	2	4,198	1,311	112,959
31 March, 2005	135,571	5	4,500	1,438	141,514
31 March, 2006	145,108	3	5,755	756	151,622
4 August, 2006	158,465	7	6,557	766	165,795

- Note: 1. FCA stands for Foreign Currency Assets
2. SDR stands for Special Drawing Rights
3. RTP refers to Reserve Tranche Position in IMF

Incentives for Scientists

2613. SHRI BALASHOWRY VALLABHANENI:
SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH:
Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the scientists working in various departments have demanded increase in their pay;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government had agreed to their demand; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

AND MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) No, Sir.

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

[Translation]

**Contribution of MPs under IAY
through MPLADS**

2614. SHRI SITARAM SINGH: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Members of Parliament have contributed through MPLADS to construct houses under Indira Awas Yojana (IAY) during the last three years and current year;

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

(c) whether any directions have been issued in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL): (a) and (b) The Ministry of Rural Development is implementing Indira Awaas Yojana (IAY) Scheme under which financial assistance amounting to Rs. 25,000/- per unit in plain areas and Rs. 27,500/- in hilly/difficult areas is provided to the shelterless rural BPL households for construction of a dwelling unit. In addition, the beneficiary can also contribute some additional amount from his own sources and/or in the shape of family labour. This Ministry have, however, no information about the Members of Parliament contributing through MPLADS to construct houses under IAY.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Import Duty on LNG

2615. SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have withdrawn the import duty on the import of Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG);

(b) If so, the reasons behind the withdrawal of import duty on LNG; and

(c) the loss of revenue likely to be incurred by

the Government as a result of withdrawal of import duty on LNG?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) and (b) LNG attracts a basic customs duty of 5%. However, Government have extended customs duty exemption on LNG imported by M/S. Ratnagiri Gas and power Private Limited for the purpose of generating power at their power project at Dabhol for a period of five years from 1.10.2005.

(c) Estimated revenue loss on account of this exemption is about Rs.500 crore.

[English]

Training Programme for Schools

2616. SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL:
SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO:
SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA:

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

(a) whether department of Biotechnology has supported vacation training programmes for school children on bioresources;

(b) if so, the details of the institutions selected for such training during the last three years, State-wise,

(c) the number of school children trained during the above period;

(d) the number of Rural Bioresource Complexes set up by the Government in different States to help people in value added production;

(e) whether there is any proposal to set up Rural Bioresource Complexes in all States;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) Yes, the Department of Biotechnology has supported the "Vacation Training Programme on Bioresources for School Children" at various locations in the country over the last 5 years.

(b) The state-wise details of the programme along with the names of institutes are given below:

S. No.	Name or the Institute	State in which located
1	2	3
1.	Ashoka Trust for Research in Ecology and Environment (ATREE), New Delhi	Delhi
2.	Centre of Advanced Study in Marine Biology, Annamalai University	Tamil Nadu
3.	Bharathidasan University, Tiruchirappali	
4.	St Joseph's College (Autonomous) Tiruchirappalli	
5.	Loyola Institute of Frontier Energy, Loyola College, Chennai	
6.	M. S. Swaminathan Research Foundation, Chennai	
7.	Salim Ali Centre for Ornithology and Natural History (SACON) Analkatty (PO) Coimbatore	
8.	Thiagarajar College, Madurai	
9.	Alagappa University, Karaikudi	
10.	PSG College of Technology, Coimbatore	
11.	St John's College, Palayamkottai Tamil Nadu	
12.	Shri AMM Murugappa Chettiar Research Center (MCRC), Taramani, Chennai	
13.	Agricultural College and Research Institute, Madurai	
14.	Centre for Environment Education, Ahmedabad	Gujarat
15.	Gujarat Council of Science City, Ahmedabad	
16.	National Botanical Research Institute, Lucknow	Uttar Pradesh
17.	Department of Environmental Sciences, University of Pune, Pune	Maharashtra
18.	Bombay Natural History Society, Mumbai	
19.	Bharati Vidyapeeth Institute of Environment Education and Research, Pune	
20.	Regional Museum of Natural History, Bhubaneswar	Orissa

1	2	3
21.	M S. Swaminathan Research Foundation, Jaypore (Orissa)	
22.	School of Studies in Zoology, Jiwaji University, Gwalior	Madhya Pradesh
23.	College of Agriculture & Plant Biotechnology Centre, Bikaner	Rajasthan
24.	Regional Research Station, Bawal (Rewari), Haryana	Haryana
25.	Ashoka Trust for Research in Ecology and Environment (ATREE), Bangalore	Karnataka
26.	College of Agriculture, Vellayani, Trivandrum	Kerala
27.	Environment Protection Training and Research Institute (EPTRI), Hyderabad	Andhra Pradesh

(c) During the last 3 years, the department has supported 33 such programmes benefiting around 1000 Class X school children.

(d) The Department has launched five Rural Bioresource Complexes.

(e) to (g) As of now, there is no proposal to set up Rural Bioresource Complexes in every state. The need to set up such centers would be evaluated critically and on a case-to-case basis keeping in mind the capacity of the host institute, the ability for value addition of bioresources, location-specific needs etc.

Devolution of Financial Powers to States

2617. SHRI JASHUBHAI DHANABHAI BARAD: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the States have urged the Centre to devolve more financial powers to the States;

(b) If so, whether the States have also suggested that a "united fund" be allocated regularly to States in addition to the assistance given under the Centrally Sponsored Schemes;

(c) if so, whether the Union Government have considered the request of the States; and

(d) if so, the time by which a final decision in this regard is likely to be taken?

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

(b) to (d) Does not arise.

**World Bank Assistance for
Sewage System**

2618. SHRI B. MAHTAB:

DR. DHIRENDRA AGARWAL:

Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has a proposal to renovate and improve the sewage/drainage system of the urban areas of the country;

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

(c) whether the World Bank assistance has been sought for the purpose; and

(d) if so, the cities selected for such assistance?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN): (a) and (b) Sewerage and drainage are admissible components under Jawahar Lal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM) and Urban Integrated Development Scheme for Small & Medium Towns (UIDSSMT) being administered by Ministry of Urban Development. However, there is no separate scheme for renovation and improvement of the sewage/drainage system of the urban areas of the country as these fall under the purview of the State Govt./ Urban Local bodies.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Question does not arise.

ATM

2619. SHRI PARSURAM MAJHI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Public Sector Banks propose to set up more ATMs at some selected railway stations; and

(b) if so, the details thereof, location-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) and (b) As per the information made available, the public sector banks who have implemented Core Banking Solutions (CBS) propose to install ATMs at major/selected Railway Stations subject to approval of Railway authorities and Reserve Bank of India. Location of ATMs would depend upon specific site clearance by Railway Authorities. State Bank of India has also signed a Memorandum of

Understanding (MoU) with the Railway Authorities for installation of ATMs at Railway Stations.

Prime Lending Rates

2620. SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE:

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR:

SHRI EKNATH MAHADEO GAIKWAD:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has directed public sector banks to keep in abeyance the hike in their Prime Lending Rate (PLRs) as reported in Business Standard, dated August 4, 2006;

(b) if so, the response of the banks; and

(c) the action likely to be taken by the Government against banks for violating these directions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) to (c) The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has deregulated the interest rates on advances by the banks above Rs. 2 lakh since October 18, 1994. Interest rates are determined by the banks themselves with the approval of their respective Board of Directors.

Government of India has requested some banks, which have recently announced increase in their lending rates to convene a meeting of their respective Board of Directors and announce the lending rates only after their respective Board of Directors has approved it, as stipulated in the deregulation policy of the RBI on interest rate on advances by the banks.

Solar Water Heating System

2621. SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN: Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the present status of installation of Solar Water Heating System in the country, State-wise;

(b) whether the Government is extending loans through various nationalized banks for setting up of the Solar Water Heating Systems;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to promote the use of solar energy in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI VILAS

MUTTEMWAR): (a) A total of around 1.5 million square metres of solar collector area has been installed for water heating so far in the country. This includes domestic solar water heaters and installations in institutions, industry and commercial establishments. Installations have been higher in States where hot water is required for a greater part of the year. Karnataka leads in installation of solar water heating systems followed by Maharashtra, Gujarat, Andhra Pradesh and Kerala. They are also becoming popular in other States such as Tamil Nadu, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Himachal Pradesh, Uttaranchal, Punjab and Haryana.

(b) and (c) The Government is implementing a Scheme, which provides interest subsidy so that loans for solar water heating systems are available from financial institutions and banks, including nationalized banks @ 2% for domestic users, 3% for institutions and 5% for industrial/commercial users. Besides, Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency (IREDA) and three Non-Banking Financing Companies (NBFCs), the Scheme is, at present being implemented through nine nationalized public sector banks and six scheduled co-operative banks.

(d) Steps taken to promote the use of solar energy in the country include financial assistance for installation of solar energy devices/systems through capital subsidy or interest subsidy, depending on the type of system and end-use application; promotional measures by State Governments, municipal corporations, electricity boards such as mandatory installation of solar water heating systems through amendment of building bye-laws, rebates in property tax or electricity bills; setting up of Akshay Urja Shops in various districts for sale and service of renewable energy products including solar energy systems and devices; technology upgradation to reduce cost, improve efficiency and reliability; support to training programmes, seminars/symposia and publicity and awareness campaigns.

Science Institute

2622. **SHRI K.C. PALLANI SHAMY:** Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has any proposal to set up science institutes in various parts of the country on the lines of Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore;

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

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

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) and (b) Based on the recommendations of the Scientific Advisory Council to the Prime Minister (SAC-PM), the Government of India under the Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD), has set up two new Indian Institutes of Science Education and Research (IISER) on the lines of Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore with integrated Post Graduate and PhD courses in science. These Institutes are located at Kolkata and Pune.

(c) and (d) The admissions for the current academic sessions at Kolkata and Pune are under process.

Exhibitions of Products made by SHGs

2623. **SHRI HITEN BARMAN:** Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to bring about holistic development and overall improvements in the quality of life in rural areas;

(b) if so, whether the Government has identified that marketing is a major bottleneck in rural artisans' upliftment and has decided to hold an exhibition of products made by self-help groups at regional and national level; and

(c) if so, the extent to which it has been helpful in improving the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL): (a) The Swarnajayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY) is a flagship programme covering all aspects of self employment i.e. organization of the rural poor into Self Help Groups (SHGs), training and capacity building, planning of activity clusters, credit, technology, infrastructure and marketing. The programme aims at establishing a large number of micro enterprises activities in rural areas and building upon the potentials of the rural poor.

(b) and (c) Marketing has been one of the main concerns of the Ministry of Rural Development implementing all self employment programmes especially those under the SGSY, as the target group under SGSY consists mainly of below poverty line families. To provide a forum to sell their wares, large number of exhibitions under the brand name "SARAS" has been organized by the Ministry

in different parts of the country. Marketing linkages have also been established with private sector and business houses i.e. in Madhya Pradesh Hindustan Lever Limited has helped to develop Vindhya Valley Brand of Masala. In Orissa ORMAS has been able to establish market linkage with SGSY beneficiaries. These linkages have considerably benefited the rural artisans.

Budget Allocation

2624. PROF. M. RAMADASS: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry is experiencing uneven utilization of Budgetary allocation;

(b) if so, the details thereof for the year 2004-05 and 2005-06;

(c) the causes for such an uneven utilization of Budgetary allocation;

(d) whether there are proposals to issue instructions to all concerned agencies responsible for imple-

mentation of schemes to prepare a time bound programme for their implementation so that the expenditure should be uniform in all quarters; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) and (b) Yes, the pace of expenditure is not uniform throughout the year. Month-wise expenditure (Plan and non-Plan) during 2004-05, and 2005-06 are given in enclosed statement.

(c) Some expenditures have in-built element of seasonality like expenditure on construction work and job guarantee. Other factors leading to uneven flow include implementation delays in various schemes/projects by various implementing agencies. Debt servicing is normally at pre-determined dates. Besides, some very large payments may be spread out in line with seasonal pattern in revenue collection.

(d) and (e) It is a continuous effort of the Government to match the flow of expenditure with flow of revenues and planned market borrowings, as far as practicable.

Statement

2004-05 Expenditure Pattern

Budget Estimates	477829.04		Revised Estimates	505791.41
				(Amount in crore of Rupees)
Month	Monthly Expenditure Estimate	%age to Budget	%age to Revised Estimate	%age to total Expenditure
1	2	3	4	5
April	30277.17	6.34%	5.99%	6.08%
May	30092.86	6.30%	5.95%	6.05%
June	29320.99	6.14%	5.80%	5.89%
Total 1st Quarter	89691.02	18.77%	17.73%	18.02%
July	33605.04	7.03%	6.64%	6.75%
August	30322.11	6.35%	5.99%	6.09%
September	41954.51	8.78%	8.29%	8.43%
Total 2nd Quarter	105881.66	22.16%	20.93%	21.27%
October	38042.65	7.96%	7.52%	7.64%
November	30787.38	6.44%	6.09%	6.19%

1	2	3	4	5
December	62388.26	13.06%	12.33%	12.54%
Total 3rd Quarter	131218.29	27.46%	25.94%	26.37%
January	41548.64	8.70%	8.21%	8.35%
February	36866.17	7.72%	7.29%	7.41%
March	92476.21	19.35%	18.28%	18.58%
Total 4th Quarter	170891.02	35.76%	33.79%	34.34%
Total 2004-05	497681.99	104.15%	98.40%	100.00%

2005-06 Expenditure Pattern

Month	Monthly Expenditure	%age to Budget Estimate	%age to Revised Estimate	%age to total Expenditure
Budget Estimates	514343.80		Revised Estimates	508705.37
(Amount in crore of Rupees)				
April	30256.15	5.88%	5.95%	6.00%
May	29480.68	5.73%	5.80%	5.85%
June	33846.90	6.58%	6.65%	6.72%
Total 1st Quarter	93583.73	18.19%	18.40%	18.57%
July	42489.12	8.26%	8.35%	8.43%
August	34715.89	6.75%	6.82%	6.89%
September	40194.69	7.81%	7.90%	7.98%
Total 2nd Quarter	117399.70	22.83%	23.08%	23.30%
October	41374.46	8.04%	8.13%	8.21%
November	40664.52	7.91%	7.99%	8.07%
December	39476.35	7.68%	7.76%	7.83%
Total 3rd Quarter	121515.33	23.63%	23.89%	24.11%
January	44965.39	8.74%	8.84%	8.92%
February	34457.22	6.70%	6.77%	6.84%
March (Prov.)	91987.15	17.88%	18.08%	18.25%
Total 4th Quarter	171409.76	33.33%	33.70%	34.02%
Total 2005-06 (Prov.)	503908.52	97.97%	99.06%	100.00%

Compensation to Blast Victims

2625. SHRI TUKARAM GADAKH:

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether compensation has been paid to victims of Mumbai blast;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has exempted the compensation paid to victims of Mumbai blast from payment of income tax;

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

(e) the details of provisions of such relief provided to various other types of calamities in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) and (b) The Ministry of Railways and Government of Maharashtra have announced the following ex-gratia payments in regard to victims of bomb blasts in suburban trains in Mumbai on 11.7.2006:

(in Rs./-)

	In the case of death	In the case of major injury	In the case of minor injury
Ministry of Railways	5,00,000	50,000	10,000
Government of Maharashtra	1,00,000	50,000	5,000

(c) and (d) In the wake of representations received on the matter, a press release was issued by the Government on 04.08.2006 wherein it was conveyed that amounts received or receivable by an individual or by the spouse or legal heirs of an individual, from the Central Government or any State Government or any local authority, by way of compensation on account of any disaster, shall not be subjected to tax. It was further stated therein that disaster for this purpose will have the same meaning as assigned to it under The Disaster Management Act, 2005 and that necessary amendments to the Income-tax Act, 1961 will be made at the appropriate time.

(e) Under section 10 (10BB) of the Income Tax Act, 1961, any payments made under the Bhopal Gas Leak Disaster (Processing of Claims) Act, 1985 and any scheme framed thereunder, except payment made to any

assessee in connection with the said disaster, to the extent he has been allowed a deduction under the Act on account of any loss or damage caused to him by such disaster, shall not be included in total income.

Extension of Excise Duty Exemption

2626. SHRI SUGRIB SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has recently extended the excise duty exemption to new industrial units in various States;

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

(c) whether the Government also consider similar exemption for tribal and other backward districts of the country;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the criteria fixed for extending/providing such exemption?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) and (b) In case of excise duty exemption for Uttaranchal & Himachal Pradesh, the Government has extended the last date, for setting up of new units or for effecting substantial expansion of existing units and starting commercial production for being eligible for exemption, from 31.03.2007 to 31.03.2010.

(c) and (d) There is no proposal under consideration of the Government, at present, to extend similar exemption to other areas.

(e) Area based exemptions, except in case of Kutchh district of Gujarat, have been given as per New Industrial Policies announced by the Government for such areas.

Target for Disbursement of Loan

2627. SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under consideration of Government to impose penalty on the banks disbursing loans below the prescribed targets;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) to (c) There is no target fixed for disbursing loans by the Banks. However, a target of 40% of Net Bank Credit (NBC) has been stipulated for lending to the priority sectors by the domestic scheduled commercial banks including public sector banks, and 32% of NBC by the foreign banks. Domestic scheduled commercial banks having shortfall in lending to priority sectors are required to contribute to the Rural Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDF) with NABARD. The foreign banks are required to make good the shortfall in achieving the priority sector lending targets by placing a deposit with Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI). These deposits with NABARD/SIDBI earn a rate of interest substantially lower than the prevailing market rates. The rate of interest vary between 3% to 6% – the greater the shortfall in achievement of the priority sector lending targets, lower the rate of interest paid to the concerned bank.

[Translation]

Assistance from World Bank & ADB

2628. SHRI BRAJESH PATHAK: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the financial assistance received by India from the World Bank and the Asian Development Bank for the implementation of poverty alleviation programmes during each of the last three years and the current year, State-wise and project-wise;

(b) the terms and conditions of the said loan; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) and (c) State and Project wise details of the financial assistance authorized by the World Bank and ADB for the implementation of poverty alleviation programmes during each of the last three years and the current year and their likely date of completion are given in the enclosed statement-I.

(b) External loans are provided as per the standard terms and conditions. Details are given in the enclosed statement-II.

Statement-I

Poverty Alleviation Projects

Development Partner	State	Year	Project	External assistance authorized (in Rs crore)	Likely date of completion
IDA	Andhra Pradesh	2003-04	Andhra Pradesh Rural Poverty reduction Project	748.84	30/9/2008
IBRD	Orissa	2004-05	Orissa Socio-Economic Development programme	381.62	31/7/2005
IDA	Orissa	2004-05	Orissa Socio-Economic Development programme	183.40	31/7/2005
IDA	Tamil Nadu	2003-04	Tamil Nadu Empowerment & Poverty Reduction Project	2.73	10/3/2007
IDA	Tamil Nadu	2004-05	Tamil Nadu Empowerment & Poverty Reduction Project	2.18	31/7/2005
IDA	Tamil Nadu	2005-06	Tamil Nadu Empowerment & Poverty Reduction " Puthu Vazhvu" Project	512.08	30/9/2011

Statement-II**Terms and Condition for availing external loans (as on August, 2005)**

Sl.No.	Source	Currency	Type of Loan (Conc./Mixed)	Grace Period (Years)	Period of Repayment after Grace period (Year)	Current Rate of Interest (in %)	Commitment Charges on undisbursed loan amount (in %)	Remarks
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1	I.B.R.D.	US Dollar	Semi Concessional	5	15	Variable*	0.75	<p>*(i) Interest-Variable every 6 months.</p> <p>US \$ Floating Rate Single Currency Loans</p> <p>*Interest rate is determined based on 6 months LIBOR rate plus a variable spread. The rate applicable for interest payment date beginning 15.07.2005 to 14.01. 2006 is as follows:-</p> <p>Where negotiation was issued prior to 31.07.1998 3.99% p.a. (with a spread of 21 basis points).</p> <p>Where negotiation was issued on or after 31-07-1998 4.24% p.a. (with a spread of 44 basis points).</p> <p>(iv) Interest Waiver for Prompt Payment - As notified by Bank, the wavier applicable for 2005 is as under:-</p> <p>Loans for which invitation to negotiation was issued prior to 31.07.98 0.05%</p> <p>Loans for which invitation to negotiation was issued after 31-07-98 0.25%</p>

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
								<p>(ii) Commitment Charges: Payable on the undisbursed loan amount at 0.75%. Bank have been notifying waiver of 0.50% since July, 91.</p> <p>(iii) Front End Fee: 1% (one time payment) reduced to 0.50% for appraisals after 1.7.2004 of the loan amount is payable in respect of loans negotiated after 1.7.1998</p>
2	I.D.A.	S.D.R.	Concessional	10	25	0.75	0.35	<p>(i) In respect of credits finalised till July 1988 the repayment period was 50 years including a grace period of 10 years. IDA credits presently enjoy a grace period of 10 years with a repayment period of 25 years</p> <p>(ii) Commitment charge is payable at 0.35% w.e.f. 1/1/05.</p> <p>(iii) 0.75% shown under Interest Column is termed as Service Charge.</p>
3	A.D.B.	US Dollar	Semi Concessional	3 to 5	12 to 20.0	Variable*	0.75	<p>*Interest - Variable every six months. The interest rate is determined on LIBOR + 0.40% based average cost of borrowings in their respective currencies which is 5.07 w.e.f. 15/12/ 05</p> <p>Commitment Charges: 0.75% on undisbursed loan amounts. However, the undisbursed amount is reckoned on a graded basis in respect of project loans. For programme loans it is on the entire loan amount.</p>

[English]

Power Stations

2629. SHRI BANSAGOPAL CHOUDHURY: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has any proposal to set up power stations along the sea coast of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof State-wise along with its locations; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE): (a) to (c) As per the information available in Central Electricity Authority, 9 thermal power projects totalling to 19065MW are proposed to be set up along the coast in the country. Details of these coastal power projects are given in the enclosed statement.

Statement

*List of Coastal Thermal Power Projects
Proposed to be set up in the country*

Sl. No.	Name of Project/ No. of Units x Unit size/ Agency/ State	Capacity (MW)
1	2	3
1.	Nagarjuna TPS 2x 507.5 NPCL Karnataka	1015
2.	Ennore JV of NTPC & TN 2x500 Tamil Nadu	1000
3.	Tuticorin TPS 2x500 JV of NLC & TNEB Tamil Nadu	1000
4.	Sikka TPP Extn 2x 250 GSECL, Gujarat	500
5.	Krishnapatnam TPS 2x800 APGENCO AP	1600
6	Ultra Mega project in Mundra 5x800 Gujarat	4000
7	Ultra Mega project, Girye, Sindhu Durg 5x800 Maharashtra	4000

Statement

As on 11.8.2006

The State-wise Position of DPRs of IHSDP

Name of States/UTs	DPRs Received		DPRs Returned	Projects under Appraisal	Sanctioned		Funds Released (25% of GOI share)	Remarks
	No.	Total Cost			No.	Amount		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Andhra Pradesh	4	91.39	1	3				
Chhattisgarh	17	149.21	15	2				

1	2	3
8	Ultra Mega project, Krishniapatnam 5x800 Andhra Pradesh	4000
9	Kayamkulam 3x650 NTPC Kerala	1950
Total		19065

[Translation]

Slum Development Programme

2630. SHRI KRISHNA MURARI MOGHE: Will the Minister of HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether several State Governments have submitted proposals under the new scheme Integrated Housing and Slum Development programme (IHSDP) to the Union Government;

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

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION (KUMARI SELJA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Details are given in the enclosed statement.

(c) Most of the proposals received had to be returned to the States as they were not in accordance with the scheme guidelines. The project proposals complete in all respects are considered and approved by the Central Sanctioning Committee without any delay.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Haryana	52	367.26	50	2				
Karnataka	22	341.08	22	-				
Maharashtra	1	6.98	-	1				
Madhya Pradesh	17	30.37	14	3				
Rajasthan	29	61.49	26	-	3	9.47		
Uttar Pradesh	51	41.42	51	-	-			
West Bengal	14	287.76	14	-	-			
Total	207	1376.96	193	11	3	9.47		

DPRs Under Appraisal:

1. A.P. = Kadapa (3 DPRs) 2. Chhatisgarh = Bilaspur, Jagdalpur. 3. Haryana = Bhiwani, Uchana. 4. MP = Gwalior, Rattam & Dewas. 5. Maharashtra = Akola.

Awareness Campaign for Toilets in Rural Houses

2631. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has prepared any plan to initiate a comprehensive awareness campaign to provide each and every house with toilet facilities in the rural areas;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the name of those parties/agencies/sectors whose cooperation is likely to be taken in this regard?

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

(b) Each district has been asked to generate awareness amongst the rural population to have toilet facilities in each and every household. Each district takes up campaigns through person to person contact, wall writings in villages, leaflets, posters etc. Members of Panchayati Raj Institutions and village opinion makers are also being given training about the importance of sanitation and hygiene.

At the state level, Communication and Capacity Development Units (CCDU) have been set up. This unit develops state specific media strategies and takes up media publicity. It also develops training modules for various stakeholders and organizes training workshops for state and district level functionaries and stakeholders.

(c) The parties/agencies/sectors whose coopera-

tion is likely to be taken in this regard are decided at the State level.

Specialised Agricultural Finance Branch

2632. SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO:
SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL:
SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Reserve Bank of India has directed to set up at least one Specialized Agricultural Finance Branch (SAFB) of a commercial bank in each State to adequately deal with high tech. agricultural loans;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the details of SAFBs set up in each State so far;

(c) the amount of outstanding credit given by those branches in each State for agricultural purposes during the last three years;

(d) whether there are number of cases in which payments were not made even after sanctioning loan;

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

(f) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. There are 49 Specialised Agricultural Finance Branches (SAFB-High Tech) of commercial banks in 15 States and one Union Territory (UT). The details are as under:

Name of State	Name of Centre		
Andhra Pradesh	Gudur	Nellore	Visakhapatnam
	Quthbullapur	Hyderabad	
Bihar	Hazipur		
Chandigarh	Chandigarh		
Haryana	Fatehabad	Karnal	
Jammu and Kashmir	Sopore		
Karnataka	Bijapur	Bangalore	
Kerala	Kottayam	Poovachal	Marayur
	Chavara	Chenkai	Mulavoor
	Kottarakkara	Balusseri	Thrissur
	Muttom	Cherukavu	
Madhya Pradesh	Indore	Bhopal	
Maharashtra	Nasik	Pune	
Manipur	Imphal		
Orissa	Balasore		
Punjab	Ludhiana		
Tamil Nadu	Coimbatore	Chennai	Namakkal
Tripura	Agartala		
Uttaranchal	Rudrapur		
West Bengal	Amtala		

(c) The details are given in the enclosed statement.

(d) and (e) The present data generating system of RBI does not capture the said information.

(f) The sanctioning and disbursement of loan rests with the banks as per their commercial judgement.

Statement

Agricultural Credit by Specialised Agricultural Finance Branches (SAFB-High Tech.) (as on 31st March)

(Amount in Rupees Thousand)

State	Bank	Number of SAFB Branches*	2003		2004		2005	
			Number of Accounts	Amount Outstanding	Number of Accounts	Amount Outstanding	Number of Accounts	Amount Outstanding
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Andhra Pradesh	Andhra Bank	5	821	163796	1540	188207	1452	370214
Andhra Pradesh	Bank of Maharashtra	1	22	102605	22	578966	19	576938
Andhra Pradesh	Canara Bank	1	108	716092	111	483877	108	346578
Bihar	Bank of Baroda	1	291	27166	412	32690	489	34313
Chandigarh	Bank of Baroda	1	70	107577	84	128359	73	128263

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Chandigarh	Bank of India	1	45	890719	51	662885	92	493372
Haryana	Canara Bank	1	116	140546	137	174970	69	6966
Haryana	Union Bank of India	1	746	82855	782	97614	942	143943
Jammu & Kashmir	Jammu & Kashmir Bank Ltd.	1	22	7311	213	17313	39	20404
Karnataka	Bank of India	1	21	840302	18	2696902	20	847676
Karnataka	Bank of Maharashtra	1	27	1060894	27	721352	29	1389415
Karnataka	Canara Bank	2	806	664906	917	838014	1733	1114885
Kerala	Canara Bank	1	87	60075	121	83915	137	90633
Kerala	State Bank of Travancor	10	16419	363100	18164	449562	12225	188272
Madhya Pradesh	Central Bank of India	1	7	108943	3	56216	3	56177
Madhya Pradesh	Union Bank of India	1	4	1747	3	927	8	6259
Mharashtra	Bank of Baroda	1	38	221891	1513	192150	1018	166919
Maharashtra	Bank of India	1	33	346626	27	309544	114	595684
Maharashtra	Bank of Maharashtra	2	120	362693	147	379914	188	466705
Maharashtra	Canara Bank	1	50	446345	50	446345	35	256031
Maharashtra	Union Bank of India	1	162	78918	144	83210	206	106310
Manipur	United Bank of India	1	2	233	22	6251	2	349
Orissa	Union Bank of India	1	184	22005	186	18863	196	20371
Punjab	Allahabad Bank	1	-	-	33	2047	33	2047
Punjab	Canara Bank	1	251	123977	149	107837	129	97374
Punjab	Punjab and Sind Bank	1	200	37103	184	31088	174	28418
Punjab	State Bank of Patiala	1	214	48709	347	77430	315	46825
Tamil Nadu	Canara Bank	3	89	37706	243	313505	855	391089
Tamil Nadu	Indian Overseas Bank	1	86	161757	100	182669	206	440177
Tripura	United Bank of India	1	9	21593	6	65	8	115
Uttaranchal	Union Bank of India	1	387	122597	435	116378	439	111259
West Bengal	United Bank of India	1	576	9078	521	6839	575	8978
All India	All Banks	49	22013	7379865	26712	9483904	21933	8561939

Source: Basic Statistical Returns (BSR)-1 Survey

Note: Data are as per place of Sanction of Credit (Location of the branch)

*: Based on latest updated Master Office File (MOF)

Infrastructure Finance Company Limited

2633. SHRIMATI JAYABEN B. THAKKAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the objectives of India Infrastructure Finance Company Ltd. (IIFCL);

(b) the details of projects sanctioned sector wise, year wise since inception;

(c) time taken for approval of project proposals and final execution;

(d) whether steps are being taken to facilitate early release of funds once projects get approved;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) The India Infrastructure Finance Company Ltd. (IIFCL) has been set up to provide debt of longer term maturity to commercially viable infrastructure projects.

(b) India Infrastructure Finance Company Ltd. has received certificate of incorporation on January 5, 2006. Financial assistance amounting to Rs. 965 crore for 12 infrastructure projects in Road, Sea port, Power and urban infrastructure stands approved so far by the Board of Directors of IIFCL.

(c) Final execution of the projects is not undertaken by IIFCL. Approval of project proposals by IIFCL takes 4-6 weeks.

(d) No, Sir. Release of funds would follow the pre-determined schedule agreed to between lenders and promoters, and, as such, no intervention seems called for.

(e) and (f) Do not arise.

[Translation]

Filling IT Return by PAN Holders

2634. SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of Permanent Account Number (PAN) card holders in the country, State-wise;

(b) whether these PAN card holders filled their income-tax returns regularly;

(c) if so, the number of PAN card holders filled their income-tax returns during the last financial year 2005-06, State-wise;

(d) whether the Government have a list of those PAN card holders who have not filed their income-tax returns; and

(e) if so, the number of such persons in this regard and action taken against them, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) The total number of PAN allottees in the country are 4,71,02,934 as on 14th August, 2006. No state-wise details of PAN allottees is being maintained.

(b) There is no requirement for all PAN card holders to file their tax returns. Income-tax returns are filed on the basis of, inter alia, taxable income of a person. However, while filing Income-tax return, it is necessary to quote PAN.

(c) and (d) In view of (b), details in respect of PAN holders filing/not filing Income-tax returns are not maintained.

(e) Does not arise.

Financial Packages to States

2635. SHRI PARSURAM MAJHI:
SHRI DUSHYANT SINGH:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have a proposal to give Financial Packages to some States;

(b) if so, the States from where such demands come to the Government and action taken thereon;

(c) whether the States of Rajasthan and Orissa have made a submission to the Government to announce special economic package for their States; and

(d) if so, the steps taken to consider the demand of these States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) to (d) As per information received from Planning Commission, some States such as Orissa, Kerala, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Maharashtra have requested the Centre for financial assistance. Government of Orissa has requested for a Special Economic Package of Rs.13,096 crore for the

period 2005-10. There is no proposal to provide a such Special Economic Package to Orissa. The States of Kerala, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Maharashtra have requested for a special rehabilitation package for the farmers in the suicide prone districts of these States. Ministry of Agriculture is working on the proposal to provide a rehabilitation packages for the farmers in the suicide prone districts of Kerala, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka on the lines of the package that has been announced for Vidharba in Maharashtra by the Prime Minister. No request has been received from the Government of Rajasthan.

Individual Beneficiaries under Swajaldhara

2636. SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Swajaldhara a centrally sponsored scheme has been implemented in all States;
- (b) if so, whether the individual beneficiaries are required to deposit certain amount to take the benefit of this scheme;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether some individual beneficiaries could not get the benefit of said scheme despite depositing their share particularly in Maharashtra and Himachal Pradesh particularly in Hamirpur district;
- (e) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (f) the number of such cases pending under the scheme in Maharashtra and Himachal Pradesh; and
- (g) the time by which these cases are likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL): (a) Yes, Sir. Swajaldhara scheme can be implemented in all States of the country. However, Goa and Sikkim have not taken up any project under Swajaldhara till date.

(b) and (c) The Guidelines of the scheme stipulate that the community shall contribute 10% of the capital cost of the project. There is no provision for individual beneficiary contribution. The community contribution towards the capital cost of schemes could be in the form of cash/ kind/ labour/land or combination of these. However, at least

50% of the community contribution will have to be in cash. In case of Scheduled Tribe Areas, and Scheduled Caste Habitations (where scheduled caste population is more than 50% of the total population), the proportion of cash contribution is not stipulated. In case community contribution is more than 10% of the scheme cost, the excess amount shall be taken into operation and maintenance fund.

(d) to (g) Rural drinking water is a State subject. State Governments are empowered to plan, sanction, execute and implement Swajaldhara projects. Upto 20% of Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP) funds may be allocated for the Swajaldhara scheme annually. These funds are then allocated to the States as per the inter-State ARWSP allocation ratio fixed for the year. The States then make district-wise allocations and consider specific proposals at District Water and Sanitation Committee (DWSC)/State Water and Sanitation Mission (SWSM) level and approve them in conformity with Swajaldhara Guidelines. Government of India does not maintain scheme-wise details of proposals pending at or cleared by the respective DWSC/SWSM. For enabling the State Governments to make district-wise allocations and expedite the projects under Swajaldhara, the inter-state allocation for 2006-07 has been finalized and intimated to the State Governments. The projects of Himachal Pradesh, including Hamirpur, have been approved for release for 2006-07. Projects from Maha-rashtra for 2006-07 are yet to be received.

New Engine for SARAS

2637. SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government proposes new engine propeller combination in SARAS PT-2 version;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the details of the progress so far made in the said project; and
- (d) the time by which induction of SARAS PT-2 is likely to be finalized?

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. The SARAS Prototype (PT)-2 version aircraft will be powered by two Pratt & Whitney (Canada), PT6A-67A engines of 1200 shaft horsepower (SHP) and 1700 Revolutions per Minute (RPM). These

engines will drive two 2.65 in diameter, five bladed pusher propellers.

(c) The first prototype SARAS PT-1 has so far done about 60 flight tests successfully. The SARAS Prototype (PT)-2 version aircraft is undergoing combination endurance tests under which 200 hrs. of testing has been completed at National Aerospace Laboratories.

(d) The Type Certification for the SARAS aircraft is expected to be obtained from the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) by December, 2009 and the aircraft will be ready for the induction immediately thereafter.

Connectivity of Villages with Roads

2838. SHRI SUGRIB SINGH:

SHRI KISHANBHAI V PATEL:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether more than 50% of villages in the country are yet to be connected by roads;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken to improve the connectivity of villages with roads; and

(c) the details of funds allocated to each State during 2004-05, 2005-06 and proposed for 2006-07 alongwith the targets fixed in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL): (a) and (b) The primary objective of Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) is to provide connectivity by way of all-weather road to all unconnected habitations with a population of 500 persons and above. (250 persons and above in case of Hill States and Desert areas). At the time of launching of PMGSY, it was estimated that there were 848894 habitations out of which 329898 habitations were unconnected, Out of these unconnected habitations, 172787 habitations are eligible for coverage under PMGSY. Projects have already been cleared to cover 56638 habitations with all-weather roads.

(c) A statement is enclosed.

Statement

Sl. No.	State	Releases made during			Normative allocation	Bharat Nirman target for New Connectivity during 2006-07		Bharat Nirman target for upgradation during 2006-07
		2004-05 (Rs. in crore)	2005-06 (Rs. in crore)	2006-07 (Rs. in crore)		Length (kms)	Habitations	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	
1.	Andhra Pradesh	88.97	187.69	100	0	0	2258.652	
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	0.00	53.81	52	637.5	65	0	
3.	Assam	164.52	156.82	276	2864.063	1988	2005.71	
4.	Bihar	29.58	234.29	332	3928.75	2062	2393.617	
5.	Chhattisgarh	218.68	307.57	435	4367.606	1310	1986.063	
6.	Goa	0	0	5	0	0	190.114	
7.	Gujarat	0	70.56	60	429.723	246	1557.971	
8.	Haryana	28.60	20.56	25	0	0	1146.789	
9.	Himachal Pradesh	13.95	171.27	232	795.833	209	1515.923	
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	20.00	70.35	60	1059.49	352	1007.584	

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
11.	Jharkhand	0	152.70	245	2594.39	1295	2108.433
12.	Karnataka	0	143.02	105	0	0	2573.529
13.	Kerala	10.39	42.41	25	0	0	628.931
14.	Madhya Pradesh	280.96	376.29	685	6162.451	1760	5189.543
15.	Maharashtra	0	141.92	140	0	0	4334.365
16.	Manipur	18.00	6.33	28	460.714	48	0
17.	Meghalaya	0	7.50	40	135.971	30	587.583
18.	Mizoram	47.85	60.99	27	274.819	39	257.998
19.	Nagaland	18.00	56.03	25	104.529	10	246.914
20.	Orissa	178.75	305.29	368	1985.609	874	4438.574
21.	Punjab	0	48.90	30	0	0	1483.051
22.	Rajasthan	653.94	434.82	604	3629.519	1252	4764.543
23.	Sikkim	0	41.20	25	104.042	30	196.85
24.	Tamil Nadu	79.78	58.95	85	0	0	2824.427
25.	Tripura	0	21.76	35	261.74	183	373.737
26.	Uttar Pradesh	328.76	644.69	520	2390.632	1533	7158.962
27.	Uttaranchal	0	14.29	95	422.008	108	889.454
28.	West Bengal	275.90	355.58	321	2572.767	2738	2549.942
Total		2436.64	4185.99	4980	35182.16	16130	54669.259

Plant Based Pesticides

2639. SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO:
SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA:

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

(a) whether there is a proposal to develop plant based pesticides;

(b) if so, the progress achieved so far;

(c) whether any formulations have been demonstrated positive;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the time by which this formulation will come for commercial use?

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) to (e) The Department of Biotechnology has supported a coordinated research project on development of plant based pesticides. Under this project, till date 694 samples from 61 species have been prepared and screened against eight test insects. Samples from six plants showed positive results against Diamond Back Moth, Aphid, Tobacco caterpillar, Cabbage semilooper, mosquito and the red spider mite respectively. Results were reviewed and studies related to product development were narrowed down to four species. Till date 55 formulations have been prepared and screened. Three formulations have so far demonstrated positive activity against Diamond Back Moth, the aphid and mosquitoes respectively. These formulations

are to be taken up for limited scale field trials for further evaluation.

Issue of Infrastructure Bonds

2640. SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to issue infrastructure Bonds with adequate tax incentives, to harness funds from parallel economy;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken and being taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

[Translation]

NABARD Refinance Policy

2641. SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether NABARD is providing loan to district cooperative banks in Maharashtra for giving to farmers at the interest rate of 2.5 per cent under short term finance refinance policy during 2006-07;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether as a result of decision taken by NABARD to release only 40% of target of crop loan, the financial condition of district cooperative banks are getting worsen;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Refinance at the rate of 2.5% for Short Term (Seasonal Agricultural Operations)-ST (SAO) will be available from NABARD to only those State Cooperative Banks (SCBs), which ensure provision of short term credit upto Rs. 3 lakh at an interest rate of 7% p.a. to farmers. The quantum of refinance would be 35% - 40% of aggregate loans issued by the eligible District Central

Cooperative Banks (DCBs) depending upon the level of Non Performing Assets (NPAs) of SCBs.

(c) to (e) Refinance support of NABARD to State Cooperative Banks (SCBs) is supplementary in nature. Refinance to the extent of 35%-40% of aggregate loans is provided at concessional rate to SCBs by NABARD and the remaining 60% to 65% should be from the own resources of SCBs/DCCBs to meet the credit requirements of farmers. As crop loans to the farmers are to be provided at a rate of interest of 7% p.a., the Cooperative Banks have represented that they are likely to incur some loss on their own resources involved for lending at 7% to farmers. Therefore, the State Government have been requested to provide interest subsidy to Cooperative Banks on the amount disbursed from their own sources to ensure that they can disburse ground level credit at a rate of 7% per annum.

[English]

Construction of Houses under IAY

2642. SHRI SUGRIB SINGH:
SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the criteria being adopted for selection of beneficiaries under Indira Awas Yojana (IAY);

(b) the number of houses constructed under IAY so far indicating the number of SCs/STs benefited therefrom, State-wise;

(c) whether the Government has revised or proposes to revise the target of construction under this Yojana during 2006-07;

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

(e) whether the Government proposes to merge all rural housing schemes with IAY;

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL): (a) The funds under Indira Awas Yojana (IAY) are released direct to the District Rural Development Agencies (DRDAs)/Zilla Parishads along with the targets fixed for the year. Based on the allocation so made and the targets fixed, the DRDAs/Zilla Parishads decide the number of houses to be constructed/upgraded

Panchayat wise, during a particular financial year. The same are intimated to the Gram Panchayat concerned. Thereafter, the Gram Sabha selects the beneficiaries from the list of eligible BPL households, restricting this number to the target allotted as per the Programme Guidelines.

(b) 147 lakh houses have been constructed under the scheme since its inception from 1985-86. However, the State-wise figures with separate data of SC/ST persons benefited under the scheme, is available only from the year 1996-97 onwards when IAY became an independent Scheme. Accordingly, the number of houses constructed

under the Scheme so far from the year 1996-97 onwards, and the SC/ST households benefited therefrom, are given in the Statement enclosed.

(c) and (d) The allocation of funds under IAY are made and target is fixed depending upon the overall budgetary allocation for Rural Housing for the year.

(e) and (f) At present the Ministry of Rural Development is implementing only one scheme i.e. the Indira Awaas Yojana Scheme and, therefore, there is no question of merging all rural housing schemes together.

Statement

State-wise number of houses constructed for SC, ST and others since 1996-97 to 2006-07 under the Indira Awaas Yojana

(Unit in Nos)

Sl.No.	Name of the States/ UTs	Number of houses constructed and allotted to			
		SC	ST	Others	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6
1	Andhra Pradesh	410314	157998	395260	963572
2	Arunachal Pradesh	0	33865	44	33909
3	Assam	126324	217306	230082	573712
4	Bihar	1029248	150313	661626	1841187
5	Chhattisgarh	22666	60858	39090	122614
6	Goa	65	91	3887	4043
7	Gujarat	61955	169661	90778	322394
8	Haryana	59671	0	32299	91970
9	Himachal Pradesh	16867	2377	15240	34484
10	Jammu and Kashmir	0	0	70935	70935
11	Jharkhand	84862	161742	102021	348625
12	Karnataka	215490	68277	177954	461721
13	Kerala	135180	14844	107668	257692
14	Madhya Pradesh	224306	290163	253253	767722
15	Maharashtra	267484	242968	302757	813209
16	Manipur	687	16832	2725	20244

1	2	3	4	5	6
17	Meghalaya	1026	30135	538	31699
18	Mizoram	0	14291	0	14291
19	Nagaland	0	52165	0	52165
20	Orissa	536360	282829	478946	1298135
21	Punjab	43973	0	5462	49435
22	Rajasthan	162196	92088	121178	375462
23	Sikkim	1543	4311	6543	12397
24	Tamil Nadu	430113	14003	137678	581794
25	Tripura	20265	40239	28808	89312
26	Uttar Pradesh	1076818	4195	581653	1662666
27	Uttaranchal	49839	7039	50972	107850
28	West Bengal	395179	100992	291725	787896
29	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	0	1810	832	2642
30	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	8	692	0	700
31	Daman and Diu	26	171	74	271
32	Lakhshadweep	0	451	0	451
33	Pondicherry	1377	0	1353	2730
Total		5373842	2232706	4191381	11797929

Position as on 14.08.2006

**Difficulties Faced In Implementation
of PMGSY**

2643. SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has issued any directions/guidelines to various States for implementation of Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) and to identify villages and selection of roads thereunder during 2005-06;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether some States have raised certain objections regarding implementation of PMGSY;

(d) if so, the details thereof, States-wise; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL): (a) and (b) The Ministry of Rural Development has issued guidelines for implementation of Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) which includes the process of identification and selection of roads for annual proposals. The Guidelines envisaged preparation of Core Network, Comprehensive New Connectivity Priority List (CNCPL) and Comprehensive Upgradation Priority List (CUPL) for every district. Projects to be included in the annual proposals are required to be selected in order of the priority indicated in the CNCPL and CUPL.

(c) to (e) No specific objection on the guidelines and implementation modalities of the 5 Scheme has been

received. However, suggestions received from the State Governments from time to time regarding implementation of the Scheme are considered by the Ministry.

[Translation]

Review of Monetary Policy

2644. PROF MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR:
SHRI ASADUDDIN OWASI:
SHRI BALASHOWRY VALLABHANENI:
SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU:
SHRI SHISHUPAL PATLE:
SHRI KAILASH NATH SINGH YADAV :
SHRI MOHD. TAHIR:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Reserve Bank of India in its first quarterly review of annual monetary policy 2006-07 hiked reverse repo rate by 25 paise to 6%;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether due to this step of RBI the loan interest rates are likely to go up;

(d) if so, extent to which this step of the Government is likely to hit the real and auto sector;

(e) the impact on economy and inflation in the country;

(f) whether certain sectors have opposed this step of the RBI;

(g) if so, details thereof; and

(h) the steps proposed to be taken for maintaining the status quo?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) and (b) The Reverse Repo rate has been increased by 25 basis points from 5.75 per cent to 6.00 per cent.

(c) to (e) The interests on loans have been deregulated and are decided by banks keeping in view various factors viz. general credit off-take in the banks, experience in managing loans, liquidity position, RBI's policy, prevailing interest rates in banking system, rate of inflation and cost of funds. The sectoral impact of interest rates is not likely to hit the real and auto sector.

As per first quarter review of annual statement on monetary policy for the year 2006-07 of RBI, the stance of monetary policy, inter-alia, would be to ensure a monetary

and interest rate environment that enables continuation of growth momentum by appropriate policy responses and containing year on year inflation rate for 2006-07 in the range of 5.0 to 5.5 per cent.

(f) and (g) A section of press has reported that there has been a mixed reaction to the RBI move to increase Repo and Reverse Repo rates.

(h) Annual policy statement of the RBI is reviewed by it from time to time in accordance with a pre-announced schedule.

[English]

Tipaimukh Hydro Power Project

2645. DR. THOKCHOM MEINYA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether environmental clearance has been given to the much awaited Tipaimukh Hydro Power Project;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the survey report of the project has not been made public;

(d) if so, the reasons thereof;

(e) whether there is large scale protest about this project in the North-East particularly in Manipur;

(f) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(g) the time by which the project is likely to be ready for investment decision?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) According to North Eastern Electric Power Corporation (NEEPCO), Executive Summary of the Project was sent to the Manipur and Mizoram State Governments for wide circulation and to arrange publishing notice of Public Hearing in two local newspapers. The States have been requested to expedite the public hearing process.

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

(e) and (f) No, Sir, However, some organizations have opposed this project apprehending environmental

concerns, which will be duly considered by the appropriate authority while according clearances.

(g) The State Governments of Manipur and Mizoram have been requested to complete the Public Hearing on priority for accord of Environment & Forest clearance. As soon as Environment and Forest clearance to the project is accorded, the matter will be processed for investment decision.

Flats for Tsunami Hit Areas

2646. SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the progress made in the scheme for construction of dwelling units in Tsunami hit areas of Andaman and Nicobar Islands;

(b) whether the Union Government is taking co-operation of local authorities for this scheme;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN): (a) CPWD has been entrusted with the task of constructing about 7400 dwelling units till now in the Islands of Little Andaman (Hut Bay), Car Nicobar, Choura, Terressa, Nancowry, Kamorta, Katchal and Great Nicobar. Except for the island for great Nicobar foundation work of shelters in all other islands have already begun. In Great Nicobar island, construction sites have not been finalized and, therefore, work has not started there. In addition to it, tenders for

super structure work for all the islands except Campbel Bay have been accepted in principle by CPWD.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The location of various permanent shelters are being finalized in consultation of local village captains/ Tribal Councils and District Administration. Similarly the drawings/design of community buildings is also being finalized by involving Tribal Councils and District Administration. The work of permanent shelters is being executed with active involvement of beneficiaries and A&N Administration.

(d) No Sir, in view of the reply to (c) above.

Pending Cases in Delhi High Court

2647. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cases filed in Delhi High Court during the year 1988-2000, year wise and category-wise;

(b) the number of cases that has been disposed of and pending as on 31.3.2006; and

(c) the steps taken during these years to dispose of the pending cases which are pending for the last ten years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI K. VENKATAPATHY): (a) As per information furnished by Delhi High Court, the number of cases filed in Delhi High Court during the year 1988-2000 is as under:-

Years	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994
Institution	41695	57611	47496	51463	53722	55844	53981
Years	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	
Institution	54362	57812	54511	71477	70874	72090	

Category wise figures are not available

(b)	Total number of cases pending as on 1.1.06	119914
	Total number of cases filed during the period from 1.1.06 to 31.3.06	31674
	Total number of cases disposed of during the period from 1.1.06 to 31.3.06	29649
	Total number of cases pending as on 31.3.06	121939

(c) The High Court of Delhi has taken the following steps to dispose of the pending cases which are pending for the last ten years:

1. Hon'ble the Chief Justice has created a special Cell called "Judicial Management and Legal Research Cell". The Cell is manned by one Joint Registrar and two Deputy Registrars. These senior officers are exclusively dealing with grouping of cases involving same and similar questions of law and also find out

whether any matter is covered by decisions of Supreme Court or this High Court. The cases are accordingly grouped and listed as covered matters, this helped in disposal of such matters expeditiously.

2. In order to reduce arrears, Rules have been amended w.e.f. January 1, 1996 providing for preliminary hearing of large number of categories of Civil Writs before the Single Benches instead of Division benches, service of advance copy of the writ petition to nominated/standing counsel of various Government Department and Public Sector Undertakings. This has substantially curtailed adjournments of cases and helps, at times, in disposing of the matters within a few hearings.
3. Further to expediate the disposal of old cases Hon'ble the Chief Justice has fixed every "Thursday" as an "OLD MATTERS DAY". On this day, all Benches are exclusively hearing old matters.
4. Lok Adalats are being held in Delhi High Court from time to time for quick and expeditious disposal of old matters.
5. Delhi High Court Mediation and Conciliation Center has been set up in this court to reduce the pendency of old matters.
6. Criminal matters including short sentences and other similar matters which demand immediate hearing are disposed of with all promptness.
7. Criminal matters in which accused/appellant are in jail are being listed at the top of the list for speedy disposal.
8. Criminal matters involving petty offences are disposed of expeditiously by organizing Lok Adalats.

Power Generation

2648. SHRI UDAY SINGH:

SHRI SUNIL KHAN:

SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO:

SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL:

SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU:

SHRI K.C. PALLANI SHAMY:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of power projects in the country with generation capacity and actual power generated by each of them during 2005-06, sector-wise and State-wise;

(b) whether capacity addition of power is much less than the targeted figure;

(c) If so, the steps taken to achieve actual capacity addition during the current five year plan;

(d) the share of Union, State Governments and private sector in power generation in the country State-wise and sector-wise during the last three years;

(e) the per capita demands and supply of power in the country as on date as compared to other developed countries; and

(f) the efforts being made by the Government to bridge the gap between demand and supply of power in the country?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE): (a) In the year 2005-06, there were 464 power stations (thermal, hydro and nuclear) and renewable energy sources of generation with aggregate installed capacity of 1,24,287 MW. Details of sector-wise, state-wise generation from the thermal, hydro and nuclear power stations during the year 2005-06 are given in the statement-I enclosed.

(b) and (c) During the Mid Term Appraisal of 10th Plan capacity addition target of 36,956 MW was considered feasible. A capacity of 16,909 MW has already been commissioned and a capacity of 17,115 MW is scheduled during 2006-07 out of which a capacity of about 3300 MW is under best effort scenario. Monitoring mechanism for monitoring the 10th Plan projects has been strengthened. There is one nodal officer in Central Electricity Authority for each of the project being monitored for commissioning in the 10th Plan.

(d) The Statement-II showing the sector-wise & State-wise percentage shares in generation for the last three years is enclosed.

(e) The per-capita demand of electricity in India for the year 2005-06 was 571 kWh against which the per-capita supply was 523 kWh. The developed countries generally do not have a gap between demand and supply of electricity.

(f) Following measures have been taken by the Government to bridge the gap between demand and supply of power:

- Quantum jump in generation capacity addition.
- Enhancement in central plan outlay.
- Advance planning of generation capacity addition during 11th Plan.

- Strengthening/augmentation of sub-transmission & distribution system in States under Accelerated Power Development & Reforms Programme (APDRP) as a major step towards reduction of Aggregate Technical & Commercial (AT&C) Losses.
- Expediting rural electrification programme in the country under Rajiv Gandhi Gramin Vidyutikaran Yojana (RGGVY).
- "Partnership in Excellence" Programme for adoption of better operation and maintenance (O&M) practices to enable enhancement of Plant Load Factor (PLF) of existing thermal power stations upto national average.
- Renovation, modernization and life extension of old and inefficient generating units with interest subsidy on loans by the Power Finance Corporation under Accelerated Generation and Supply Programme (AG&SP).
- Enhancement of inter-state and inter-regional transfer of power by strengthening of inter-state and inter-regional transmission links eventually leading to formation of National Grid.
- Exploitation of hydro potential at a faster pace.
- Promoting demand side management, energy efficiency and energy conservation measures.

Statement-I**State-wise Type-wise Generation details during 2005-06****Northern Region**

State	Sector	Type	Name of Station	Actual Generation (MU)
1	2	3	4	5
Chandigarh	State	Thermal	Chandigarh DG	0
Chandigarh Total				0
Delhi	Central	Thermal	Badarpur	5380.6
	State	Thermal	Indraprastha (2, 3, 4, 5)	984.65
			Rajghat	574.47
			Pragati CCGT	2298.07
			Pragati GT	1277.57
			Pragati WHP	463.36
Delhi		Thermal		10978.72
Delhi Total				10978.72
Haryana	Central	Thermal	Faridabad CCGT	2952.8
	State	Thermal	Faridabad	787.31
			Panipat	8174.48
		Hydro	Western Yamuna Canal	259.06
Haryana		Thermal		11914.59
		Hydro		259.06
Haryana Total				12173.65
Himachal Pradesh	Central	Hydro	Baira Sull	790.96
			Chamera	2338.17

1	2	3	4	5
			Chamera H E Project	1490.49
			Dehar	3122.71
			Nathpa Jhakari Unit 1- 6	4053.73
			Pong	1730.72
	State	Hydro	Andhra	62.54
			Baner	43.59
			Bassi	259.46
			Binwa	33.58
			Gaj	51.29
			Ghanvi	69.81
			Giri Bata	193.35
			Largi	0
			Sanjay	574.29
			Thirot	3.93
			Khauli	
	Private	Hydro	Bapsa Unit 1, 2, 3	1166.99
			Malana HE Project	337.45
	Himachal Pradesh	Hydro		16323.06
	Himachal Pradesh Total			16323.06
	Jammu and Kashmir Central	Hydro	Dulhasti	0
			Salal	3480.86
			Uri	2724.51
	State	Thermal	Pampore	8.92
		Hydro	Chenani	16.53
			Gandarbal	31.49
			Kargil	6.5
			Lower Jhelum	496.17
			Mohra	0.96
			Pahalgam	
			Sewa-III	12.13
			Stakna	1.67
			Upper Sindh II	214

1	2	3	4	5
		Hydro		6984.82
Jammu and Kashmir Total				6993.74
Punjab	Central	Hydro	Bhakra	5721.68
			Ganguwal	580.42
			Kotla	490.95
	State	Thermal	GHTP II Lehra Mohabbat	
			Guru Nanak Dev	2359.19
			Lehra Mohabbat	3145.93
			Roper	9329.31
	Hydro		Anandpur Sahib	721.77
			Mukerian	1239.25
			Ranjit Sagar	2013.22
			Shanan	508.95
			U.B.D.C.	531.18
Punjab		Thermal		14834.43
		Hydro		11807.42
Punjab Total				26641.85
Rajasthan	Central	Thermal	Anta	2809.1
		Nuclear	RAPS	4305.98
	State	Thermal	Giral TPP	
			Kota	8297.75
			Suratgarh	9951.25
			Dholpur CCGT	
			Ramgarh GT ST	435.95
		Hydro	Anoopgarh	1.9
			Jawaharsagar	228.58
			Mahi Bajaj	218.49
			Mangrol	0
			R.P Sagar	314.46
			Suratgarh	0
Rajasthan		Thermal		21494.05
		Nuclear		4305.98
		Hydro		763.43
Rajasthan Total				26563.46

1	2	3	4	5		
Uttar Pradesh	Central	Thermal	Rihand	10585.66		
			Singrauli	15503.1		
			Tanda	3330.1		
			Unchahar	7041.1		
			National Capital (Dadri)	6768.3		
			Auriaya	4281.4		
			Dadri	5394.4		
			Nuclear	NAPS	2138.35	
				State	Thermal	Anpara
			Harduaganj			519.37
	Obra	5572.93				
	Panki	954.04				
	Paricha	763.18				
	Hydro	E.Y. Canal	1.63			
		Ganga canal	34.09			
		Khara	328.57			
		Matatila	143.41			
	Uttar Pradesh					Obra-H
				Rihand	546.35	
				Thermal	72273.77	
Uttar Pradesh Total			Nuclear	2138.35		
			Hydro	1285.43		
				75697.55		
Uttaranchal	Central	Hydro	Dhuali Ganga	314.45		
			Tanakpur	483.17		
			Therl	0		
	State	Hydro	Chibro	804.96		
			Dhakrani	164.65		
			Dhalipur	236.13		
			Khatima	165.04		
			Khodri	378.83		
			Kulhal	160.92		
			Maneri Bhal	455.21		

1	2	3	4	5
			Mohammadpur	36.4
			Pathri	98.49
			Ramganga	333.3
			Rishikesh Chila	659.18
			Maneri Bhali II	
	Private	Hydro	Vishnu Prayag	
Uttaranchal		Hydro		4290.73
Uttaranchal Total				4290.73
Western Region				
Chhattisgarh	Central	Thermal	Korba S.T.P.S.	16001.3
	State	Thermal	Korba East IV	
			Korba II	1610.63
			Korba III	1587.1
			Korba West	5746.38
		Hydro	Gangrel	8.72
			Hasdeo Bango	358.28
Chhattisgarh		Thermal		24945.41
		Hydro		367
Chhattisgarh Total				25312.41
Goa	Private	Thermal	Salgaocar CCGT	302.75
Goa		Thermal		302.75
Goa Total				302.75
Gujarat	Central	Thermal	Gandhar C.C.G.T.	4478.2
			Kawas C.C.G.T.	2884.2
		Nuclear	KAPS	2366.94
	State	Thermal	Akrimota (Lignite)	168.29
			Dhuvaran	1459.63
			Gandhi Nagar	3703.6
			Gandhi Nagar (Unit-5)	1743.46
			Kutch Lignite	689.62
			Sikka	1404.7
			Ukai	5363.09
			Wanakobri (Unit-7)	1709.31

1	2	3	4	5
			Wonakabori	8472.08
			Dhuvaran CCGP	707.33
			Hazira	1182.21
			Utran CCGT	1077.44
		Hydro	Kadana	209.17
			Sardar Sarovar HE Project RBPH	1752.86
			Sardar Sarovar HE Project CHPH	208.65
			Ukai	580.49
	Private	Thermal	Sabarmati (Ahmedabad)	2703.14
			Sabarmati Old (Ahmedabad)	485
			Surat Lignite	1874.15
			Baroda (GIPCL-I&II)	2321.14
			Peguthan	4755.99
			Vatva (Ahmedabad)	718.17
	Private (Imp)	Thermal	Essar	1800.94
Gujarat		Thermal		49681.67
		Nuclear		2366.94
		Hydro		2751.17
Gujarat Total				54799.78
Madhya Pradesh	Central	Thermal	Vindhyachal S.T.P.S.	18304.6
		Hydro	Indira Sagar Unit 4	2572.97
	State	Thermal	Amarkantak	150.26
			Amarkantak Extn.	952.57
			Birsinghpur (Sanjay Gandhi)	4856.34
			Satpura	7581.25
		Hydro	Bansager Tone I	996.57
			Bansager Tone II	156.12
			Bansager Tone III	89.19
			Bansager Tone IV	0
			Bargis	565.35
			Birsinghpur	55.69
			Gandhisagar (MP)	148.01

1	2	3	4	5
			Pench	422.13
			Rajghat	135.68
	Private	Hydro	Tawa	23.88
Madhya Pradesh		Thermal		31845.02
		Hydro		5165.59
Madhya Pradesh Total				37010.61
Maharashtra	Central	Nuclear	TAPS	3714.63
	State	Thermal	Bhusawal	3381.68
			Chandrapur	13987.27
			Khaperkheda	5703.99
			Koradi	6460.34
			Nasik	5753.17
			Paras	479.72
			Parli	5161.2
			Paras Exp	
			Parli Extn	
			Uran WHP	1318.35
			Uran GTPS	2430.23
		Hydro	Bhandardara	44.89
			Bhatghar	57.76
			Bhatsa	85.14
			Bhira Tail Race	98.76
			Dimbhe	10.58
			Dom	10.5
			Dudhganga	59.02
			Eldari	16.3
			Kanher	14.7
			Khadakvasla Panshet	53.24
			Khadakvasla Varsagon	21.5
			Koyana Stage I-IV	4463.06
			Manikdoh	8.05
			Paithan	24.92
			Pawna	13.51

1	2	3	4	5
			Radhanagri	8.97
			Surya	22.62
			Tillari	182.95
			Ujjni	44.04
			Vaitrana	170.87
			Veer	46.36
			Warna	60.9
	Private	Thermal	Dahanu	4323.11
			Trombay	7854.36
			Dabhol	0
			Trombay GT	1330.75
	Hydro		Bhira PSS	1181.25
			Bhivpuri	427.83
			Khopoli	414.47
Maharashtra		Thermal		58184.17
		Nuclear		3714.83
		Hydro		7547.19
Maharashtra Total				69445.99
Southern Region				
Andhra Pradesh	Central	Thermal	Ramagundm	19691.1
			Simadri STPS	7741.4
	State	Thermal	Kothagudam (NEW)	
			Kothagudam A	
			Kothagudam B	8212.97
			Kothagudam C	
			Nellore	7.4
			Ramagudam B	397.23
			Rayal Seema	2369.09
			Vijayawada	9755.14
			Vijeswaram (APGPCOR.)	1836.92
		Hydro	Donkarayi Canal	114.71
			Hampi	57.8
			Lower Sileru	1037.06

1	2	3	4	5	
			Machkund (AP)	628.14	
			Nagarjuna Sagar LC	120.97	
			Nagarjuna Sagar RC	273.94	
			Nagarjunasagar	1580.16	
			Nizamsagar	9.64	
			Paleru	24.96	
			Penna Ahobilam	9.88	
			Pochampad	111.82	
			Singur	8.93	
			Srisaillam	1490.26	
			Srisaillam left Bank	2232.9	
			T.B. Dam	167.64	
			Upper Sileru	472.96	
	Private	Thermal	Gautami CCPP	0	
			Godavari Gas	1331.16	
			Jegurupadu CCGT	1293.7	
			Kona Thermal	0	
			Kondapalli	2116.12	
			Peddaguram CCGT	842.31	
			Vemagiri	1.96	
			L.V.S. DGPP	0	
	Andhra Pradesh	Thermal		55596.5	
		Hydro		8321.57	
	Andhra Pradesh Total			63918.07	
	Karnataka	Central	Nuclear	Kaiga	2859.58
		State	Thermal	Bellary TPP	
				Raichur	9173.48
				Yelahanka	96.7
		Hydro		Almati Dam Unit 1	598.62
				Bhadra	76.03
				Ghatprabha	122.5
				Jog	237.75

1	2	3	4	5
			Kalindi Nagjhari	2161.91
			Kodasalli	314.03
			Linganamakki	275.69
			Mallagur	0
			Manidam DPH	20.64
			Munirabad	63.28
			Sharavathy	4865.65
			Sharavathy Tail Race (Gerusuppa)	557.01
			Shimshapur	93.27
			Shivanasamudram	260.75
			Supa DPH	357.63
			Varahi	971.84
	Private	Thermal	Tanir Bavi CCGT	241.49
			Belguam (Tata) Diesel	133.12
			Bellary DG	17.25
		Hydro	Harangi	0
			Madhavamantri	22.89
			Mandagere	6.1
			Narayangpur	55.9
			Shahpur	21.73
			Shivapura (Hydro)	85.79
	Private (Imp)	Thermal	Torangallu	1362.95
Karnataka		Thermal		11044.99
		Nuclear		2859.58
		Hydro		11534.97
Karnataka Total				25439.54
Kerala	Central	Thermal	Kayamkulam	358.5
	State	Thermal	Brahmapuram DG	55.71
			Kozhikode DG	93.34
		Hydro	Chembukadavu	10.59
			Edamalayar	375.46
			Iddikki	2698.85
			Kakkad	248.56
			Kallada	64.16

1	2	3	4	5
			Kuttiady	515.52
			Lower Pariyar	631.39
			Madupotty	4.53
			Malankara	20.42
			Nariamanglam	244.9
			Pallivasal	238.42
			Panniar	159.82
			Peppara	6.17
			Porimgalkuttu LBE	105.19
			Porungal Kuthu	164.85
			Sabaragiri	1468.53
			Sengulam	188.93
			Sholayar	290.21
			Urumi	12.81
	Private	Thermal	Cochin	37.15
			Kasargode DG (Private)	7.91
		Hydro	Kuthungal	48.4
			Maniar	40.84
Kerala			Thermal	552.61
			Hydro	7538.55
Kerala Total				8091.16
Lakshadweep	State	Thermal	Agatti	2.7
			Amini	2.35
			Andrott	3.93
			Bangaram	0.09
			Bitra	0.09
			Chetlat	0.53
			Kadamat	2.37
			Kalpeni	1.98
			Kavaratti	6.42
			Kiltan	1.01
			Minicoy	5.26
Lakshadweep		Thermal		26.73
Lakshadweep Total				26.73

1	2	3	4	5
Pondicherry	State	Thermal	Karaikal	256.71
Pondicherry Total				256.71
Tamil Nadu	Central	Thermal	Navelli FST (Ext)	3082.33
			Neyveli I	3990.28
			Neyveli II	9173.54
		Nuclear	MAPS	1853.41
	State	Thermal	Ennore	600.53
			Mettur	6518.91
			North Madras	4001.21
			Tuticorin	7674.14
			Basin Bridge	39.89
			Kovikalappal	572.86
			Kuttalam	674.23
			Narimanam	0
			Valuthur CCGT	697.42
		Hydro	Aliyar	205.53
			Bhawani Kattal	
			Kadamparai	581.48
			Kodayar	244.71
			Kundah	1972.31
			Lower Bhavani	63.02
			Lower Mettur	341.22
			Mettur Dam	90.43
			Mettur Tunnel	639.44
			Moyar	175.44
			Papanasam	129.76
			Parsons Vally	53.39
			Periyar	441.16
			Pykara Dam	10.52
			Pykara	257.37
			Pykara Ultimate	189.36
			Sarkarpathy	115.1
			Sathanur Dam	23.36

1	2	3	4	5
			Servalar	53.95
			Sholayar	379.05
			Suruliyar	125.74
			Vaigai	18.13
	Private	Thermal	Neyveli (Z)	1450.45
			Karuppur	357.33
			Pillaiperumalanallur CCGT	428.82
			Valantharvi	98.06
			Basin Bridge DG	745.47
			Samalpatti DG	332.5
			Samayanallur DGPP	328.59
Tamil Nadu		Thermal		40766.56
		Nuclear		1853.41
		Hydro		6110.47
Tamil Nadu Total				48730.44
SR		Thermal		108244.1
		Nuclear		4712.99
		Hydro		33505.56
SR Total				146462.65
Eastern Region				
Andaman and Nicobar Islands	State	Thermal	Campbell Bay	2.85
			Car Nicobar	1.18
			Champion	
			Chatham 12.5 MWP/H	19.01
			Chowra	
			Dugong Creek	
			Hanspuri	
			Havelock	
			Jagannath Dera	
			Kakana	
			Kamorta Island	
			Katchal	
			Kondul	

1	2	3	4	5
			Little Andaman	4.05
			Long Island	
			Mohanpur	
			Neil Island	
			Paschim Sagar	
			Pheonixbay	7.09
			Pilobhabi	
			Pilomillow	
			Pilopanja	
			Pilpillow	
			Raj Niwas	
			Rangat Bay	12.5
			Secretariat	
			Shompen Complex	
			Sita Nagar	
			Smith Island	
			South Bay	
			Strait Islands	
			Tapong	
			Teressa	
		Hydro	Kalpong	6.67
	Private	Thermal	Bambooflat	105.49
Andaman and Nicobar Islands		Thermal		152.17
		Hydro		6.67
Andaman and Nicobar Islands Total				158.84
Bihar	Central	Thermal	Kahalgaon STPS	6572.3
	State	Thermal	Barauni	120.86
			Muzaffarpur	0
		Hydro	East Gandak Canal	28.5
			Kosi	17.19
			Sone East Canal	12.28
			Sone West Canal	17.03
Bihar		Thermal		8693.16
		Hydro		75
Bihar Total				6768.16

1	2	3	4	5
Jharkhand	Central	Thermal	Bokaro A	0
			Bokaro B	2665.86
			Chandrapura	2034.09
			Maithon	0
		Hydro	Panchet Hill	86.32
			Tiliaya	3.25
	State	Thermal	Patratu	846.34
			Tenughat	1527.48
		Hydro	Subernarekha	50.77
			Chandil	
	Private (Imp)	Thermal	Jojebera (Steam) (Pvt.)	1890.42
Jharkhand		Thermal		8964.19
		Hydro		140.34
Jharkhand Total				9104.53
Orissa	Central	Thermal	Talcher Old	3530.08
			Talcher STPP	21184.78
	State	Thermal	I.B. Valley	3094.78
		Hydro	Balimela	1053.39
			Hirakund Burla	908.93
			Rangali	677.88
			Upper Inderavati	1762.99
			Upper Kolab	624.39
	Private (Imp)	Thermal	ICCL	443.5
			NALCO	470.3
Orissa		Thermal		28723.44
		Hydro		5027.58
Orissa Total				33751.02
Sikkim	Central	Hydro	Rangit-III (NHPC)	352.05
	State	Thermal	Gangtok	0.16
			Rampool	0
		Hydro	L.L.P.H.	18.25
			Mayongchu	4.3
			Upper Rognichu	2.11

1	2	3	4	5
			Rongli	
			Small Hydro	9.1
Sikkim		Thermal		0.16
		Hydro		385.81
Sikkim Total				385.97
West Bengal	Central	Thermal	Durgapur	1799.93
			Farakka STPS	11464
			Mejia	5884.07
		Hydro	Maithon	85.19
	State	Thermal	Bakreswar	4374.32
			Bandel	2158.55
			Durgapur Projects Limited	2175.9
			Kolaghat	7352.7
			Santalidih	1223.38
			Sagardighi TPP	
			Haldia	0
			Kasba	0
			Siliguri	0
		Hydro	Jaldhaka	170.12
			Massanjore	0
			Rammam	196.74
			Teesta Canal Falls Ph-I-II	101.35
	Private	Thermal	Budge-Budge	4362.72
			Chinakuri	147.46
			Dishergarh	48.56
			Mullazore	0
			New Cossipore	447.35
			Southern Replacement	989.8
			Titagarh	1830.73
West Bengal		Thermal		44259.47
		Hydro		553.4
West Bengal Total				44812.87

1	2	3	4	5
North Eastern Region				
Arunachal Pradesh	Central	Hydro	Ranganadi	1411.86
	State	Hydro	Nurang MHS	0
			TAGO MHS	0
Arunachal Pradesh		Hydro		1411.86
Arunachal Pradesh	Total			1411.86
Assam	Central	Thermal	Kathalguri	1723.11
		Hydro	Kopili	1102.33
	State	Thermal	Borigaigaon	0
			Chandrapur	0
			Namrup ST	76.8
			Galoki (Mobile Gas TG)	0
			Kothalguri (Mobile Gas TG)	
			Lakwa	360.08
			Wasteheat (Namrup)	56.6
			Namrup GT	317.44
	Private	Thermal	Baskhandi GT (DLF Power Co.)	121.28
			Adamtilla GT (DLF Power Co.)	
Assam		Thermal		2655.31
		Hydro		1102.33
Assam Total				3757.64
Manipur	Central	Hydro	Loktak	586.15
	State	Thermal	Limakhang	0
	Manipur	Thermal		0
		Hydro		586.15
Manipur Total				586.15
Meghalaya	Central	Hydro	Khandong	197.58
	State	Hydro	Kyrdemkulai	139.9
			Umium	320.66
			Umium Umtru	48.94
Meghalaya		Hydro		707.08
Meghalaya Total				707.08
Mizoram	State	Thermal	Bairabi	0.03
Mizoram Total				0.03

1	2	3	4	5
Nagaland	Central	Hydro	Doyang	183.02
	State	Thermal	Dimapur	
		Hydro	Likkim	0
Nagaland		Thermal		
		Hydro		183.02
Nagaland Total				183.02
Tripura	Central	Thermal	Agartala GT	638.21
	State	Thermal	Baramura GT	169.38
			Rokhia	251.18
		Hydro	Gumti	63.43
Tripura		Thermal		1058.77
		Hydro		63.43
Tripura Total				1122.2

Statement-II

*State-wise/Sector-wise/Type-wise Generation percentage share of All India generation
Type-wise details during 2003-04 to 2005-06*

State	Type	2003-04		2004-05		2005-06	
		Actual (MU)	%Share	Actual (MU)	%Share	Actual (MU)	%Share
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Northern Region							
Chandigarh Total		0	0	0	0	0	0
Delhi	Thermal	10593	2.27	11172.12	2.30	10978.72	2.21
Delhi Total		10593	1.90	11172.12	1.90	10978.72	1.78
Haryana	Thermal	9536	2.04	10039.14	2.07	11914.59	2.40
	Hydro	256	0.35	289.55	0.34	259.06	0.25
Haryana Total		9792	1.75	10328.69	1.76	12173.65	1.97
Himachal Pradesh	Hydro	11753	15.93	16020.29	18.96	16323.06	15.84
Himachal Pradesh Total		11753	2.11	16020.29	2.73	16323.06	2.64
Jammu and Kashmir	Thermal	29	0.01	23.74	0.00	8.92	0.00
	Hydro	7241	9.81	6381.5	7.55	6984.82	6.78
Jammu and Kashmir Total		7270	1.30	6405.24	1.09	6993.74	1.13
Punjab	Thermal	14235	3.05	14383.83	2.96	14834.43	2.98
	Hydro	11346	15.38	7696.95	9.11	11807.42	11.46
Punjab Total		25581	4.58	22082.78	3.76	26641.85	4.31

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Rajasthan	Thermal	18079	3.87	20258.26	4.17	21494.05	4.32
	Nuclear	4323	24.37	4577.91	27.18	4305.98	24.98
	Hydro	643	0.87	935.5	1.11	763.43	0.74
Rajasthan Total		23045	4.13	25771.67	4.39	26563.46	4.30
Uttar Pradesh	Thermal	69149	14.81	70003.62	14.40	72273.77	14.54
	Nuclear	3041	17.14	2760.06	16.39	2138.35	12.40
	Hydro	2145	2.91	1171.26	1.39	1285.43	1.25
Uttar Pradesh Total		74335	13.31	73934.94	12.59	75697.55	12.26
Uttaranchal	Hydro	3904	5.29	3607.82	4.27	4290.73	4.16
Uttaranchal Total		3904	0.70	3607.82	0.61	4290.73	0.69
Western Region							
Chhattisgarh	Thermal	23954	5.13	24974.57	5.14	24945.41	5.02
	Hydro	295	0.40	385.73	0.46	367	0.36
Chhattisgarh Total		24249	4.34	25360.3	4.32	25312.41	4.10
Goa	Thermal	0	0.00	335.97	0.07	302.75	0.06
Goa Total		0	0.00	335.97	0.06	302.75	0.05
Gujarat	Thermal	43250	9.26	47964.84	9.87	49681.67	9.99
	Nuclear	3176	17.91	2513.53	14.92	2366.94	13.73
	Hydro	858	1.16	1088.92	1.29	2751.17	2.67
Gujarat Total		47284	8.47	51567.29	8.78	54799.78	8.87
Madhya Pradesh	Thermal	30392	6.51	32181.35	6.62	31845.02	6.40
	Hydro	2904	3.94	3602.41	4.26	5165.59	5.01
Madhya Pradesh Total		33296	5.96	35783.76	6.09	37010.61	5.99
Maharashtra	Thermal	59538	12.75	60994.68	12.55	58184.17	11.70
	Nuclear	2497	14.08	2587.06	15.36	3714.63	21.55
	Hydro	5336	7.23	5444.42	6.44	7547.19	7.32
Maharashtra Total		67369	12.07	69026.16	11.75	69445.99	11.25
Southern Region							
Andhra Pradesh	Thermal	54522	11.68	56822.19	11.69	55596.5	11.18
	Hydro	3210	4.35	5812.57	6.88	8321.57	8.07
Andhra Pradesh Total		57732	10.34	62634.76	10.66	63918.07	10.35
Karnataka	Thermal	14458	3.10	12413.73	2.55	11044.99	2.22
	Nuclear	3123	17.61	2926.25	17.37	2859.58	16.59

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
	Hydro	7459	10.11	8910.08	10.55	11534.97	11.19
Karnataka Total		25040	4.48	24250.06	4.13	25439.54	4.12
Kerala	Thermal	3766	0.81	1044.97	0.21	552.61	0.11
	Hydro	3957	5.36	6144.02	7.27	7538.55	7.31
Kerala Total		7723	1.38	7188.99	1.22	8091.16	1.31
Lakshadweep Total		0	0.00	23.41	0.00	26.73	0.00
Pondicherry Total		277	0.05	275.69	0.05	256.71	0.04
Tamil Nadu	Thermal	43049	9.22	42049.59	8.65	40766.56	8.20
	Nuclear	1577	8.89	1480.48	8.79	1853.41	10.75
	Hydro	2044	2.77	4413.11	5.22	6110.47	5.93
Tamil Nadu Total		46670	8.36	47943.18	8.16	48730.44	7.89
Eastern Region							
Andaman and Nicobar Islands	Thermal	0	0.00	131.02	0.03	152.17	0.03
	Hydro	0	0.00	7.29	0.01	6.67	0.01
Andaman and Nicobar Islands Total		0	0.00	138.31	0.02	158.84	0.03
Bihar	Thermal	6324	1.35	6235.88	1.28	6693.16	1.35
	Hydro	52	0.07	50.23	0.06	75	0.07
Bihar Total		6376	1.14	6286.11	1.07	6768.16	1.10
Jharkhand	Thermal	6431	1.38	7241.62	1.49	8964.19	1.80
	Hydro	327	0.44	296.44	0.35	140.34	0.14
Jharkhand Total		6758	1.21	7538.06	1.28	9104.53	1.47
Orissa	Thermal	17893	3.83	23704.23	4.68	28723.44	5.78
	Hydro	5935	8.04	6864.03	8.12	5027.58	4.88
Orissa Total		23828	4.27	30568.26	5.20	33751.02	5.47
Sikkim	Thermal	0	0.00	0.17	0.00	0.16	0.00
	Hydro	381	0.52	430.68	0.51	385.81	0.37
Sikkim Total		381	0.07	430.85	0.07	385.97	0.06
West Bengal	Thermal	37910	8.12	40237.44	8.28	44259.47	8.90
	Hydro	609	0.83	621.22	0.74	553.4	0.54
West Bengal Total		38519	6.90	40858.66	6.96	44812.87	7.26
North Eastern Region							
Arunachal Pradesh	Hydro	984	1.33	1643.51	1.95	1411.86	1.37
Arunachal Pradesh Total		984	0.18	1643.51	0.28	1411.86	0.23

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Assam	Thermal	2423	0.52	2506.87	0.52	2655.31	0.53
	Hydro	670	0.91	913.53	1.08	1102.33	1.07
Assam Total		3093	0.55	3420.4	0.58	3757.64	0.61
Manipur	Thermal	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00
	Hydro	504	0.68	629.07	0.74	586.15	0.57
Manipur Total		504	0.09	629.07	0.11	586.15	0.09
Meghalaya	Hydro	731	0.99	810.17	0.96	707.08	0.69
Meghalaya Total		731	0.13	810.17	0.14	707.08	0.11
Mizoram	Thermal	0	0.00	0	0.00	0.03	0.00
Mizoram Total		0	0.00	0	0.00	0.03	0.00
Nagaland	Thermal		0.00		0.00		0.00
	Hydro	164	0.22	254.16	0.30	183.02	0.18
Nagaland Total		164	0.03	254.16	0.04	183.02	0.03
Tripura	Thermal	1016	0.22	1056.55	0.22	1058.77	0.21
	Hydro	67	0.09	68.83	0.08	63.43	0.06
Tripura Total		1083	0.19	1125.38	0.19	1122.2	0.18
Central	Thermal	182933	39.19	194094.5	39.93	207248.44	41.68
	Nuclear	17737	100.00	16845.29	100.00	17238.89	100.00
	Hydro	26116	35.40	29387.73	34.78	33903.54	32.90
	Total	226786	40.62	240327.6	40.91	258390.87	41.84
State	Thermal	237499	50.88	244481.4	50.30	239492.41	48.17
	Hydro	44691	60.58	51943.69	61.48	63556.07	61.67
	Total	282190	50.54	29642.51	50.46	303048.48	49.08
Private	Thermal	46392	994	47499.56	9.77	50473.45	10.15
	Hydro	2968	4.02	3163.87	3.74	3833.52	3.72
	Total	49360	8.84	50663.43	8.62	54306.97	8.79
Captive-PTC/Bhutan							
Import						1764.12	1.71
All India Total		558336	100.00	587416.1	100.00	617510.44	100

Projects by TDB

2849. SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be please to state:

(a) whether Technology Development Board

(TDB) has sanctioned projects in contravention of its own funding guidelines and assessed the project proposals inadequately contributing foreclosure, non-achievement of objectives and default in repayment of loans;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the production and sales projections were invariably found to be inflated;

(d) if so, details thereof;

(e) whether TDB released loan installments without fulfilment of some of the prescribed milestones as per the loan agreement;

(f) If so, the details thereof; and

(g) the action taken by TDB against defaulters to recover the dues?

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) No, Sir. The projects have been sanctioned in accordance with funding guidelines.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) Does not arise.

(g) Technology Development Board (TDB) regularly issues notices for outstanding dues and monitors compliance thereof. When default is continuous, recall notice is issued to the defaulting unit. The cases are outsourced to the Asset Manager for pursuing further recovery process.

[Translation]

Measuring Earthquakes

2650. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of EARTH SCIENCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has formulated any scheme to install electronic instrument to measure accurate intensity of earthquakes;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which such instrument is likely to be installed?

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) and (b) India Meteorological Department (IMD)

already has a system in place to monitor earthquakes within the country and outside for all significant earthquakes, which affect India. The system consists of different types of observatories spread all over the country. Data from 40 stations are electronically collected and transmitted to central processing unit at New Delhi for accurate determination of location of the epicenter, time of occurrence and magnitude (size) of the earthquake. The intensity determination over wider affected area around epicenter is done through post earthquake survey. However, in the aftermath of the Great Sumatra Earthquake of 26th December, 2004, a most modern real time seismic monitoring network is envisaged, which shall have real time availability of data and automatic determination of location, time of occurrence and magnitude of the earthquake with 17 stations. The proposed seismic monitoring network is in the process of procurement as a part of Early Warning System for Tsunami and Storm Surges.

(c) The system is expected to be operational by the middle of 2007.

[English]

Utilization Certificates

2651. SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether utilization certificates are not being provided by the ministries/departments to CAG in respect of sums released to statutory bodies, non-government organizations etc. to ensure that funds have been properly utilized for the purpose for which they were sanctioned;

(b) whether utilization certificates involving Rs. 1057256 crore in respect of grants released up to March 2003 have not been given;

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

(d) the details of the grants released even where utilization certificates were not received, during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) to (d) The utilization certificates are required to be furnished by the grantees to the concerned Ministry/Department giving grants-in-aid in terms of provisions of General Financial Rules. Details of outstanding utilization certificates (year-wise, Ministry/Department wise number and amount) are given in the report of the Comptroller & Auditor General of

India on Autonomous Bodies. It is seen from the Audit Report No.3 of 2006 that 55,155 utilization certificates involving Rs. 14,425.17 crore were due by 31st March, 2005 in respect of grants released upto March, 2004.

[Translation]

Recovery of Foreign Exchange

2652. SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether recovery of foreign exchange for items exported from the country is not being recovered fully;

(b) if so, the extent of foreign exchange in the form of price of exported items is yet to be recovered;

(c) whether lapses on the part of the Government mechanism have been ascertained for not making recovery of foreign exchange from time to time; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by the Government to resolve these issues?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) and (b) Every exporter is required to realize and repatriate full export value of goods within 6 months from the date of export. However, following units are permitted to realize and repatriate the value of export proceeds within 12 months from the date of export:

- (i) Status Holder as defined in the Foreign Trade Policy
- (ii) 100% EOUs set up under Electronic Hardware Technology Parks, Software Technology Parks and Biotechnology Parks.

No period of realization of export proceeds is prescribed for units located in Special Economic Zones.

(c) and (d) In the case of non-realization of export proceeds for the exports effected by availing export promotion schemes administered by the DGFT the offices of the DGFT initiate necessary proceedings against the exporters for recovery of duty exemption/neutralization benefit availed and penalty, if any, in terms of the provisions of FT (D&R) Act, 1992 and the Policy and procedures laid thereunder. If the defaulting firms does not pay the same, the Adjudicating Authority declares the firm defaulter, thereby suspending all export benefits to the firm and the

Importer-Exporter Code Number of the applicant is suspended/cancelled by the DGFT. In addition, steps are taken for its recovery as an arrear of Land Revenue through the State Government machinery.

The RBI has also directed Authorized dealers/Banks to monitor realization of export bills and take up systematically and vigorously with the concerned exporter when the dues remain outstanding beyond the due date. The matter is also required to be reported to the regional offices of the RBI concerned.

12.00 hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN): On behalf of Shri S. Jaipal Reddy, I beg to lay on the Table –

- (1) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Delhi Development Authority, New Delhi, for the year 2001-2002, together with Audit Report thereon.

Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. L.T. 4750/2006]

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): I beg to lay on the Table a copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under of section 296 of the Income Tax Act, 1961:-

- (1) The Income-tax (Eighth Amendment) Rules, 2006 published in Notification No. S.O.1176(E) in Gazette of India dated the 25th July, 2006, together with an explanatory memorandum.
- (2) S.O. 1230 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 31st July, 2006 together with an explanatory memorandum notifying the ICC Development (International) Limited, as the person, ICC Champions Trophy, 2006 as the International Sporting event and the income arising to ICC Development (International) Limited on account of Sale of media and sponsorship rights received or receivable from global Cricket Corporation Private Limited, Singapore amount to \$42 million as the specified income.

- (3) The Income-tax (Seventh Amendment) Rules, 2006 published in Notification No. S.O.1163 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 24th July, 2006, together with an explanatory memorandum.

[Placed in Library, See No. L.T. 4751/2006]

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ): I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Notaries (Amendment) Rules, 2006 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 296(E) in Gazette of India dated the 19th May, 2006, under sub-section (3) of section 15 of the Notaries Act, 1952.

[Placed in Library, See No. L.T. 4752/2006]

THE MINISTER OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA): I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Company Secretaries (Amendment) Regulations, 2006 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. 710/1(M)/1 in Gazette of India dated the 4th May, 2006, under sub-section (4) section 39 of the Company Secretaries Act, 1980 together with a Corrigendum thereto published in Notification No. 111 (Hindi and English versions) in Gazette of India dated the 20th July, 2006.

[Placed in Library, See No. L.T. 4753/2006]

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): On behalf of Shri S.S. Palanimanickam, I beg to lay on the Table—

- (1) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (4) of section 23A of the Regional Rural Banks Act, 1976:-
- (i) S.O. 1129(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 19th July, 2006, regarding dissolution of the Cauvery Grameena Bank and Kalpatharu Grameena Bank.
 - (ii) S.O. 1130(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 19th July, 2006, regarding dissolution of the Aligarh Gramin Bank, Jamuna Gramin Bank and Etah Gramin Bank.
 - (iii) S.O. 1131(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 19th July, 2006, regarding dissolution of the Hoshangabad Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Chhindwara-Seoni Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Mandla-Balaghat Kshetriya Gramin Bank and Shahdol Kshetriya Gramin Bank.

- (iv) S.O. 1132(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 19th July, 2006, regarding dissolution of the Sree Anantha Grameena Bank, Rayalaseema Grameena Bank and Pinakini Grameena Bank.

- (v) S.O. 1133(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 19th July, 2006, regarding dissolution of the Marwar Gramin Bank, Sriganganagar Kshetriya Gramin Bank and Bikaner Kshetriya Gramin Bank.

- (vi) S.O. 1134(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 19th July, 2006, regarding dissolution of the Ranchi Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Singhbhum Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Hazaribagh Kshetriya Gramin Bank and Giridih Kshetriya Gramin Bank.

- (vii) S.O. 1135(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 19th July, 2006, regarding dissolution of the Chambal Kshetriya Gramin Bank and Gwalior-Datia Kshetriya Gramin Bank.

- (viii) S.O. 1165 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 24th July, 2006, regarding dissolution of the Alaknanda Gramin Bank, Ganga-Yamuna Gramin Bank and Pithoragarh Kshetriya Gramin Bank.

- (ix) S.O. 1166(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 24th July, 2006, regarding dissolution of the Bastar Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Bilaspur Raipur Kshetriya Gramin Bank and Raigarh Kshetriya Gramin Bank.

- (x) S.O. 1167(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 24th July, 2006, regarding dissolution of the Palamau Kshetriya Gramin Bank and Santhal Paraganas Gramin Bank.

- (xi) S.O. 1168(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 24th July, 2006, regarding dissolution of the Bundelkhand Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Damoh-Panna-Sagar Kshetriya Gramin Bank and Shivpuri-Guna Kshetriya Gramin Bank.

- (xii) S.O. 1169(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 24th July, 2006, regarding dissolution of the Shri Venkateshwara Grameena Bank and Kanakdurga Grameena Bank.

[Placed in Library, See No. L.T. 4754/2006]

(2) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under section 77 of Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1985:-

(i) The Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (Amendment) Rules, 2004 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 95 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 4th February, 2004, together with an explanatory memorandum.

(ii) The Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (Amendment) Rules, 2005 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 736 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 22nd December, 2005, together with an explanatory memorandum.

[Placed in Library, See No. L.T. 4755/2006]

(3) A copy each of the following Reports (Hindi and English versions) under article 151 (1) of the Constitution:-

(i) Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India – Union Government (Civil) (No. 19 of 2006) – Autonomous bodies – Performance Audit of the System of Revenue Generation by Doordarshan and All India Radio-Prasar Bharti for the year ended the March, 2005.

[Placed in Library, See No. L.T. 4756/2006]

(ii) Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India – Union Government (Civil) (No. 15 of 2006) – (Performance Audit) Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan – Department of Elementary Education and Literacy (Ministry of Human Resource Development) for the year ended the March, 2005.

[Placed in Library, See No. L.T. 4757/2006]

(4) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under section 31 of the Securities and Exchange Board of India Act, 1992:-

(i) The Securities and Exchange Board of India (Stock Brokers and Sub-Brokers) (Amendment) Regulations, 2006 published in Notification No. S.O. 1235(E) in Gazette of India dated the 1st August, 2006.

(ii) The Securities and Exchange Board of India (Mutual Funds) (Third Amendment) Regulations, 2006 published in Notification No. S.O. 1254(E) in Gazette of India dated the 3rd August, 2006.

[Placed in Library, See No. L.T. 4758/2006]

(5) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Export-Import Bank of India, Mumbai, for the year 2005-2006, alongwith Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Export-Import Bank of India, Mumbai, for the year 2005-2006.

[Placed in Library, See No. L.T. 4759/2006]

12.01 hrs.

MESSAGES FROM RAJYA SABHA
AND
BILL AS PASSED BY RAJYA SABHA

[English]

SECRETARY GENERAL: Sir, I have to report the following messages received from the Secretary-General of Rajya Sabha:-

(i) "In accordance with the provisions of rule 111 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha, I am directed to enclose a copy of the Central Silk Board (Amendment) Bill, 2006 which has been passed by the Rajya Sabha at its sitting held on the 14th August, 2006.

(ii) "In accordance with the provisions of sub-rule (6) of rule 186 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha, I am directed to return herewith the Produce Cess Laws (Abolition) Bill 2006, which was passed by the Lok Sabha at its sitting held on the 3rd August, 2006 and transmitted to the Rajya Sabha for its recommendations and to state that this House has no recommendations to make to the Lok Sabha in regard to the said Bill."

(iii) "In accordance with the provisions of rule 127 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business

in the Rajya Sabha, I am directed to inform the Lok Sabha that the Rajya Sabha at its sitting held on the 14th August, 2006 agreed without any amendment to the Government Securities Bill, 2006 which was passed by the Lok Sabha at its sitting held on the 7th August, 2006."

2. Sir, I lay on the Table the Central Silk Board (Amendment) Bill, 2006, as passed by Rajya Sabha on the 14th August, 2006.

12.02 hrs.

**COMMITTEE ON WELFARE OF SCHEDULED
CASTES AND SCHEDULED TRIBES**

Ninth to Eleventh Reports

[English]

SHRI BAJU BAN RIYAN (Tripura East): I beg to present a copy each of the following reports:-

- (1) Ninth Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Committee on the Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes including minutes (Hindi and English versions) of the sittings of the Committee relating thereto on the Ministry of Finance (Department of Revenue) on "Reservation for and Employment of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT)".
- (2) Tenth Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Committee on the Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes including minutes (Hindi and English versions) of the sittings of the Committee relating thereto on the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment and the Ministry of Tribal Affairs on "Provision of financial assistance and protection of traditional Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes artisans".
- (3) Eleventh Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Committee on the Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes including minutes (Hindi and English versions) of the sittings of the Committee relating thereto on the Ministry of Finance (Banking Division) on "Reservation for and Employment of Scheduled Castes and

Scheduled Tribes in Syndicate Bank and credit facilities provided by the Bank to them".

12.02½ hrs.

RAILWAY CONVENTION COMMITTEE

Fifth Report

[English]

SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN (Vandavasi): I beg to present the Fifth Report (Hindi and English Versions) of Railway Convention Committee (2004) on 'Rate of Dividend for 2006-07 and other ancillary matters.'

12.03 hrs.

STATEMENTS BY MINISTERS

- (i) Status of Implementation of recommendations contained in the 28th, 29th and 33rd Reports of the Standing Committee on Finance pertaining to the Ministry of Finance

[English]

*THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): Sir, I deem it my privilege to lay a statement on the Table of the House on the status of implementation of recommendations contained in the 28th Report of Departments of Economic Affairs, Expenditure and Disinvestment and the 29th and 33rd Reports pertaining to the Department of Revenues of the Standing Committee of Finance (14th Lok Sabha) in pursuance of Direction 73-A of the hon. Speaker, Lok Sabha vide Lok Sabha Bulletin, Part II dated 15th September, 2004.

- (2) The 28th Report of the Standing Committee on Finance (14th Lok Sabha) was presented in the Lok Sabha on 22nd December, 2005. It relates to the Action Taken by the Government on the recommendations in the 16th Report of the Standing Committee on Finance on Demands for Grants (2005-06) of the Ministry of Finance (Departments of Economic Affairs, Expenditure

* Laid on the Table and also placed in Library, See No L.T. 4760/2006

and Disinvestment). In the Report, the committee deliberated on various issues and made four recommendations, where action is called for on the part of the Government. These recommendations mainly pertain to the issues like Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority (IRDA), Debt Recovery Tribunal and Disinvestment Policy.

- (3) Action Taken Statements on the recommendations/observations contained in the Report had been sent to the Standing Committee on Finance on 12th January, 23rd January and 20th March, 2006. Present status of implementation of the recommendations made by the Committee in the Twenty-eighth Report is indicated in Annex-1.
- (4) The Standing Committee on Finance (14th Lok Sabha) presented its 29th Report on Demands for Grants (2005-06) of Ministry of Finance (Department of Revenue) to Lok Sabha on 22nd December, 2005 and laid the same in Rajya Sabha on the same date. The Report is based on the analysis of the action taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in the 17th Report of the Standing Committee on Finance on Demands for Grants (2005-06) of Ministry of Finance (Department of Revenue). The Committee called for action taken statements from the Department of Revenue on the recommendations contained in the 29th Report. The same were furnished to the Committee on 7th April, 2006. The Committee made seven recommendations in the Report. The Government has accepted six recommendations and partly accepted one recommendation. The action taken is indicated in Annex-II.
- (5) The Standing Committee on Finance (14th Lok Sabha) presented its 33rd Report on Widening of Tax Base and Evasion of Tax (2005-06) to the Lok Sabha on 17th February, 2006 and laid the same in Rajya Sabha on the same date. The Committee called for the action taken statements from the Department of Revenue on the Recommendations. The same were furnished to the Committee on 22nd May, 2006. In all, there were 39 recommendations of the Committee in the Report out of which, 33 have been accepted by the Government and 3 have been partly accepted. It has not been found feasible to accept the remaining three recommendations.

The action taken on these recommendations is indicated in Annex-III.

- (6) I would not like to take the valuable time of the House to read out the contents of these Annexes. I would request that these may be taken as read.

12.03½ hrs.

- (ii) Status of Implementation of recommendations contained in the 158th Report of the Standing Committee on Science and Technology, Environment and Forests on Demands for Grants (2006-07) pertaining to the Ministry of Earth Sciences

[English]

*THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): Sir, I beg to lay the statement on the Table of the House in pursuance of Direction No. 73A of the hon. Speaker, Lok Sabha issued vide Lok Sabha Bulletin, Part II, dated 18th September, 2004 to inform the esteemed House about the status of implementation of recommendations contained in the One Hundred Fifty Eighth report of Department Related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Science and Technology, Environment and Forests. This report relates to the consideration of the Demands for Grants of Ministry of Earth Sciences for the year 2006-07. The Committee reviewed the progress made by MoES during the reporting period and considered the Demands for Grants (2006-07) in detail.

2. The Committee, while reviewing the working and considering the detailed Demands for Grants of MoES, analyzed the Demands for Grants with reference to the aims, objectives and achievements of the Ministry and laid the 158th Report thereon to the House on the 18th May, 2006. The report contains Sixteen recommendations.
3. All the recommendations of the Committee have been considered in the Ministry of Earth Sciences. The Ministry has furnished a detailed Action Taken Report on these recommendations to the Committee in July, 2006. The current status on the action taken is detailed in the appended Annexure.

*Laid on the Table and also placed in the Library. See No. L.T. 4761/2006

12.04 hrs.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

[English]

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI): Sir, with your permission, I rise to announce the Government Business during the week commencing Monday, the 21st of August, 2006 will consist of:-

1. Consideration of any item of Government Business carried over from today's Order Paper.
2. Considering and passing of the Central Silk Board (Amendment) Bill, 2006, as passed by Rajya Sabha.
3. Consideration and passing of the Banking Companies (Acquisition and Transfer of Undertakings) and Financial Institutions Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2005.
4. Consideration and passing of the following Bills after they have been passed by Rajya Sabha:-
 - (a) The Wildlife (Protection) Amendment Bill, 2005;
 - (b) The Essential Commodities (Amendment) Bill, 2005; and
 - (c) The Union Territory of Pondicherry (Alteration of Name) Bill, 2006.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN (Chirayinkil): Sir, the following items shall be included in the next week's agenda.

1. The Vizhimjam Harbour Project approved by the Union Government is pending for Security Clearance for long. This is an important agenda to discuss in the next week's business.
2. The demand by the backward sections of the society for admission to self-financing educational institutions is an important agenda to be discussed in the next week's business.

SHRI P. MOHAN (Madurai): Sir, the following items may be included in next week's agenda:-

1. In India unemployment is increasing to an alarming proportion. On the other side, demand for reservation is gaining momentum throughout the country. Nevertheless the ban on recruitment to Central

Services is continuing since more than a decade. This should be resended forthwith.

2. On-line trading in India is trying its best to bring more trade items into its ambit. On-line trade contributes to price increase. This on-line trade is widening its scope bringing more commodities under its net, while not tax is paid. There must be a discussion on the impact of on-line trading on our economy.

[Translation]

SHRI V.K. THUMMAR (Amreli): Sir, following current items may be included in the next week's agenda:-

1. Farmers crop and their homes have been damaged recently in Gujarat due to incessant rainfall and flood. So Government should immediately take up relief work there.
2. National Highways and various other roads in Gujarat have been damaged due to flood and incessant rainfall. This will deeply affect transportation. So there is a need of construction and repair of highways by the Central Government.

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer): Sir, the following items may be included in the next week's agenda.

1. Need to evolve social ethos by putting a check on obscene and scintillating scenes and on false stories of loot, dacoity, murders shown due to cutthroat competition among various T.V. channels in order to supersede each other.
2. Need to increase the Member of Parliament and Local Area Development funds in view of the rising prices and aspirations of the people.

[English]

SHRI SUNIL KHAN (Durgapur): The following items may be included in the next week's agenda:-

- (1) Contractarisation and outsourcing have been spreading fast leading to casualisation of majority of the work force and introduction of 'hire and fire' through back door. Such fast track contractarisation and casualisation of work place have led to serious deterioration of the work environment, posing a severe threat to the trade union movement, which, it could ignore only at its peril.
- (2) Proposed outsourcing of vendors, e-ticketing, catering

services in Railways by IRCTC may result in retrenchment of workers as opposed to the commitment of UPA Government.

[Translation]

SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR (Sagar): Sir, the following items may be included in next week's agenda:-

1. Need to prepare comprehensive work plan and provide special package for implementation in view of revival and beautification of various lakes including Sagar Lake under National Lake Promotion Scheme.
2. There are vast reserves of rock phosphate, bauxite, black stone and iron in the locality of Hirapur in Sagar Parliamentary constituency. There is need to set up industries by the Union Government after conducting special survey through the Ministry of Mines.

SHRI GANESH SINGH (Satna): Sir, the following item may be included in the next week's agenda:-

I have sent proposals for approval for construction of a bypass over bridge over the railway crossing on National Highway No.7 at Malher and for construction of a bypass road in view of increasing population at Satna district on National Highway No. 75 in Madhya Pradesh under the Department of National Highways in my constituency.

I demand that it may please be included in the next week's agenda.

SHRI RAJNARAYAN BUDHOLIA (Hamirpur, U.P.): Sir, the following items may be included in the next week's agenda:-

1. A daily running train between Mahoba and Kanpur has halts at Kanpur for a very long time without any rhyme and reason. So there is need to extend it upto Lucknow in order to provide rail connectivity to the people of Mahoba to the capital of Uttar Pradesh directly.
2. Frequent accidents are taking place due to excess traffic on Kanpur-Sagar National Highway. There is an immediate need to convert the aforesaid National Highway into four lanes in view of the excess traffic pressure and frequent accidents.

[English]

SHRI SANTASRI CHATTERJEE (Serampore): Sir, I

would humbly request you to kindly include the following item for discussion in the next week's Business of the House:-

To discuss about the situation arising out of the crisis in the Iron and Steel Industry in West Bengal due to shortage of supply of raw material, namely, iron ore and coal. Thank you.

[Translation]

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR (Chail): Sir, the following items may be included in the next week's agenda:-

1. The Government of India should make budgetary allocations in their annual budget proportionate to percentage of Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes.
2. There must be a provision to construct community development centre in all Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribes villages.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, now I go to Calling Attention which is an important matter.

[Translation]

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV (Jhanjharpur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have given a notice. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MD. SALIM (Calcutta-North East): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have given a notice to raise a very important matter. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I will be guided by whatever the House wants.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: This is the difficulty. Please take your seat. May I complete my sentence? Please listen to me.

[Translation]

MOHAMMAD SALIM: Mr. Speaker, Sir, after the passage of the Resolution, we have seen that an atmosphere congenial to our country and the Government of India has been created in Lebanon. I want to submit. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Kindly, please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Don't you want the House to run?

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Don't you need the Chair? Don't you want the Speaker? Please take your seat.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Salim, this is very unfortunate.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Salim, nothing is being recorded. Don't waste your energy.

(Interruptions)...*

MR. SPEAKER: There are some important matters.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Sorry Mr. Salim, I don't know what you are talking. It is not being recorded. You cannot speak without my permission.

Hon. Members, I am not minimising the importance of any issue, but we cannot take all issues together. Therefore, according to procedure, I have to take the Calling Attention first followed by important matters. I know there are some very important matters which I shall allow immediately after the Calling Attention.

Mr. Dhindsa, you know that is the procedure. That is why I am requesting the cooperation of every side. Our friends from Orissa have a very genuine issue to raise through Calling Attention. Shri Braja Kishore Tripathy.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I cannot understand what is going on. I cannot follow what is happening.

...(Interruptions)

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI): Mr. Speaker, Sir, from the Government's side, may I make a submission for half-a-minute?

* Not recorded.

MR. SPEAKER: Yes.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Today is Friday. We have the Private Members' Business and of course other business of the House which you will take. My only plea to you is that for the last three days I am dragging on with the Cantonments Bill and today we have to pass it because we have a lot of business during next week. So, my appeal to the whole House is, we may dispense with Lunch Break today. This is my request, through you, to all sides of the House.

MR. SPEAKER: Yes. There will be no luncheon recess today. If all hon. Members cooperate, I can assure you we can transact all business.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I will call you after the Calling Attention. It is very important matter. Shri Braja Kishore Tripathy.

12.12 hrs.

CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

[English]

Situation arising out of proposed discontinuation of Revised Long Term Action Plan for the Kalahandi-Bolangir-Koraput (KBK) in Orissa and steps taken by the Government in regard thereto

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY (Puri): Sir, I call the attention of the hon. Prime Minister to the following matter of urgent public importance and request that he may make a statement thereon:

"Situation arising out of proposed discontinuation of Revised Long Term Action Plan for the Kalahandi-Bolangir-Koraput (KBK) in Orissa and steps taken by the Government in regard thereto."

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN): Mr. Speaker, Sir, hon. Members have raised the matter regarding the continuation of the Special Plan for the KBK districts during the Eleventh Plan.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Tripathy, would you agree if it is laid because you will save some time?

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: Yes, Sir.

MR. SPEAKER: The Minister's statement is treated as laid on the Table of the House.

*SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN: Sir, hon. Members have raised the matter regarding the continuation of the Special Plan for the KBK districts during the Eleventh Plan. I would like to assure the House that the total allocation for the KBK districts will be protected at Rs. 250 crore per annum in the Eleventh Plan, but this will be funded under the BRGF district norms, with the balance being provided under the KBK Special Plan.

The Government has been very concerned about the problems of development of the KBK districts and an amount of Rs.1,033 crore has been released till date during the Tenth Plan period for the Special Plan for these districts.

Hon. Members will agree with me that it is of utmost importance that we shift to the decentralized mode of planning which is as per the letter and spirit of the 73rd and 74th Amendment Acts. Hence, it has been decided that Panchayati Raj Institutions must be involved in the planning process in the KBK districts also so that the needs of the people are reflected in the plans for these districts. The decision for funding these districts under the BRGF norms rests firmly in the belief that allocations made for an area can have the best results if the schemes are chosen by the people themselves.

However, if the KBK districts were funded only as per BRGF norms, the allocation would fall short of the current level of support under the Special Plan.

Hence, it has been decided that the allocation for these districts would be protected at Rs. 250 crore per annum with the balance to be provided through the Special Plan which can be used for inter-district infrastructure and other larger schemes.

As hon. Members are already informed, these districts are already covered under the National Rural Employment Guarantee Programme. Further, with the flow of funds under the various components of Bharat Nirman, the total flow of funds into the region will be considerably high.

Regarding the inclusion of Padampur Sub-Division of Bargarh District, the hon. Members will appreciate that this Sub-Division does not form a part of the original KBK

districts and in the current situation, the spatial unit which has been considered is the district. Further, inclusion of this Sub-Division in the KBK region will lead to spreading of scarce resources too thinly over a large area.

It may be appreciated from the foregoing that the Government is seized of the need to pay special attention to the KBK districts.

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, we are thankful to you for having allowed this sensitive matter of Orissa to be raised here through this Calling Attention. The hon. Prime Minister is here. We expect that he would respond to the issues that would be raised by us.

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Alright, you make your submission.

[English]

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: Sir, the KBK region of Orissa, comprising of undivided Kalahandi-Bolangir-Koraput (KBK) districts which have, since 1992-93, been divided into 8 districts, is the poorest region of the country. As per the 2001 Census, about 54.66 per cent people of these districts belong to the Scheduled Tribes and the Scheduled Castes and this is the highest in the country. Even some districts like Malkangiri is having the Scheduled Tribes and the Scheduled Castes population as high as 78.80 per cent. The KBK region is the poorest region of the country with the incidence of poverty being as high as 87.14 per cent, as per the 55th round of National Sample Survey. The poverty in this tribal dominated region is not only widespread but also very severe and long duration. The region also suffers from very adverse socio-economic and human development indicators. For example, the female tribal literacy rate is only 1.93 per cent in this region. This region has remained severely disadvantaged due to long neglect in terms of appropriate investment and proper attention and on account of low agricultural potential, fragile ecology, weak infrastructure, poor connectivity and weak functioning of markets. They need greater support and handholding over a long period of time. Therefore, long term and holistic development strategies are needed in this region.

Sir, late Rajiv Gandhi, as Prime Minister, had launched Area Development Approach for Poverty Termination at a projected total outlay of only Rs.29 crore and this was also discontinued in 1989. A Long-Term Action Plan (LTAP) was also envisaged and launched in the year 1995 for seven years, that is, from 1995 to 2002

* Laid on the Table and also placed in the Library, See No. L.T. 4762/2006

and it was laid by the then Prime Minister Shri P.V. Narasimha Rao with an approved outlay of Rs.4,557 crore. But a meagre Central assistance of only Rs.20 crore was sanctioned during the period. Hence this programme also did not take off.

The cry of Kalahandi is the real picture of Bharat. Nobody will believe it but ironically it is true that the mother sells her beloved child due to acute hunger. The conditions of chronic mass poverty and severe malnutrition prevailing in this region have from time to time drawn the attention of all the Prime Ministers of India till 1998-99 but it was of no avail.

In persuasion of the directions of the hon. Supreme Court and the National Human Rights Commission, along with the directions in the 106th Report of the Rajya Sabha Committee on Petitions, regarding the starvation deaths in KBK districts, ultimately the Revised Long-Term Action Plan was drawn up in the year 1999.

We are thankful to the NDA Government that the LTAP was modified in 1998-99 as Revised Long-Term Action Plan (RLTAP) at a projected outlay of Rs. 5,527 crore for a period of nine years, that is, from 1999 to 2007. Out of the projected outlay of Rs.5,527 crore, only a sum of Rs. 1,033 crore has been sanctioned till today. This is less than 20 per cent of the projected outlay. We are thankful to the NDA regime when the implementation has accelerated the actual development process in these backward districts, even though the flow of funds is less than 20 per cent of the projected outlay.

Though these initiatives have brought several benefits to this region, the acute conditions of regional and social disparities have not been adequately addressed. There is still a felt need to continue with long-term development measures beyond 2006-07 for addressing the mass poverty and chronic backwardness of this region.

MR. SPEAKER: Please put your questions.

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: The existing Rashtriya Sam Vikas Yojana has been revised. The Government has taken a decision to include KBK districts in the revised proposed Backward Regions Grant Fund Scheme, which will in effect reduce the overall allocation to this Revised Long-Term Action Plan of the KBK districts.

MR. SPEAKER: There are four other hon. Members.

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: Sir, we were getting this special package, over and above the normal Central and State assistance. This is not the new thing. It

was already included in the Rashtriya Sam Vikas Yojana by the previous Government over and above the special Central assistance.

Now you are discontinuing with the Central assistance, although some of the other districts of other States are availing the facilities of special Central assistance and are also coming under of the new BRGF district norms. Our demand and our request is that you continue with whatever Central scheme and you may include the undivided K.B.K. districts along with the other districts of other States of the country. We do not have any objection, but the same R.L.T.A.P. Scheme should continue. It is because less than 20 per cent fund has been allocated. Although the projected outlay was more than Rs. 5,500 crore, only about Rs. 1,033 crore has been allocated so far. Our demand is to include this Scheme in the coming Eleventh Five Year Plan and to continue with this project. This will be helpful to the poor people of this area. Of course, the State Government has not remained silent. It is because, in spite of the repeated requests of the Chief Minister of Orissa, the Central Government have rejected it; the hon. Prime Minister has not heeded to the request of the State Government and the personal request of the Chief Minister in this regard. In spite of all that, in bad financial situation, the State Government has agreed to provide more than Rs. 600 crore for the coming five years. But, what is the work of the Central Government?

We would like to know from the Central Government as to what is the fault of these poor people of K.B.K. districts, these tribal people. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: They have given a reply. You have spoken about the proposal and they had not discontinued that.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: Late Shri Laxan Naik, the greatest freedom fighter, the tribal leader, belongs to this area who was hanged by the British people. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Prasanna Acharya.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Tripathy, your colleague wants to put a question.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: I would like to know from the Central Government why they are rejecting this special package. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: He has answered it.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: I would like to request that we are really not taking anything from the Union Government. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: You have complained of this. I find from the reply that there is no discontinuance.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: When there is Congress Government at the Centre, we have been persistently neglected by this Union Government. What are they doing? ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Sorry. Shri Prasanna Acharya.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: Is it because these people have not voted for you, that is why you will also not continue with this? ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: You are not serving those hapless people by this.

Shri Prasanna Acharya.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: I would just conclude. I just remind what Kalidas once has told Vikramaditya. He has told: "Skandh Na Badhte Rajan, Tav Badhati Badhate" This was also done to the people of Orissa by U.P.A. Government. Their behaviour, their treatment to the people of Orissa, to the tribal people of Orissa is very much giving pain to us. Whatever you have not given and the way you are treating, that is not painful to us. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing more will be recorded. I am sorry; it is more politics than economics.

(Interruptions)*...

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing will be recorded. I would not allow.

(Interruptions)*...

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Tripathy, nothing more is being recorded.

(Interruptions)*...

MR. SPEAKER: Do not record it.

(Interruptions)*...

MR. SPEAKER: I have given you nearly 12 minutes which is never done.

Shri Prasanna Acharya. Put your question.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRASANNA ACHARYA (Sambalpur): I rise to speak on the Calling Attention Motion because it concerns the deprived people of Orissa. It is a question of national importance. I was going through the reply of the hon. Minister of State for Planning. I am sorry to say that this reply is totally misleading. There is nothing but trying to hoodwink the people of Orissa and the people of the country.

MR. SPEAKER: Put your question.

SHRI PRASANNA ACHARYA: I am just putting a question. This reply is nothing but an attempt to camouflage the facts and the realities. I do not want to go into the details of poverty. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: This is not the procedure. Sorry.

SHRI PRASANNA ACHARYA: As you know, this programme was initially mooted by late Shri Biju Patnaik. At that time, Shri Narasimha Rao was the Prime Minister. As you know, Sir, there was a good personal rapport between Shri Narasimha Rao and Shri Biju Patnaik. At that time, a seven-year plan was mooted for the overall development of the KBK districts which is considered as one of the most underdeveloped areas of this country during the last several years, and practically fund has started to. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: You know the rules; you are a senior Member; you know the procedure. If the five hon. Members speak for ten minutes each...

...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRASANNA ACHARYA: I will just put some questions. Funds started flowing only three years before. Per annum, Rs. 250 crore was given for the development of KBK districts. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: You seek only a clarification.

* Not recorded.

* Not recorded.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRASANNA ACHARYA: But, true condition of the regional and social disparity have not been adequately addressed. So, the programme needs to be continued

Therefore, our Chief Minister, Shri Naveen Patnaik has been fervently appealing to the hon. Prime Minister, the Planning Commission and everybody concerned to take this programme into the Eleventh Five Year Plan for the overall development of these areas.

Sir, our further request is to enhance the annual allocation from Rs. 250 crore to Rs. 500 crore. Instead of enhancing the allocation, what the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs has decided is to dismantle this programme. What will be the impact? ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Sorry. You are not putting your question.

SHRI PRASANNA ACHARYA: Sir, I am putting my question. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: You have no question to ask.

SHRI PRASANNA ACHARYA: Sir, I would like to know from the Government whether according to all yardsticks the Union Government considers the KBK region as the most backward region of this country or not. The actual flow of funds to KBK started three years back at the rate of Rs. 250 crore per annum. I would like to know whether the Union Government is not satisfied with the percentage of expenditure or not. Has there been any deviation in utilization of these funds? ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Many hon. Members are waiting to raise important issues.

Now, Shri B. Mahtab.

SHRI PRASANNA ACHARYA: Has the Union Government made an in-depth assessment of economic, social and other developments of these areas and satisfied itself that enough has been done to uplift the under-developed people of the region?

Sir, I have two more questions. Has the Prime Minister received a negative note from an ex-Chief Minister of Orissa, who ruled for 14 years and who is an important leader till now, indirectly suggesting to dismantle the KBK Scheme. I would like to know specific answer from the hon. Prime Minister to this question. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seat. Now, Shri B. Mahtab.

SHRI PRASANNA ACHARYA: Has not the National Human Rights Commission and the Supreme Court kept an eye on it? Has not the special Rapporteur of the National Human Rights Commission visited the region in December 2005 and expressed satisfaction? ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Mahtab, if you do not respond, I will go to the next hon. Member.

Please do not record any more.

(Interruptions)*...

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Prasanna Acharya, nothing is being recorded. Sorry, I would not allow you anymore. Some discipline has to be there.

(Interruptions)*...

SHRI PRASANNA ACHARYA: Sir, please allow me to make just one last point.

MR. SPEAKER: Yes.

SHRI PRASANNA ACHARYA: Sir, we have taken our daughter, Kalinga kanya from the hon. Prime Minister as our daughter-in-law. ...(Interruptions) Would we not expect something in return from him? Do the poor and downtrodden people of the KBK region, the most under-developed part of Orissa, expect something in return from the Prime Minister?(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I do not think the Prime Minister is against Orissa. We are all in favour of Orissa. It is a beautiful State.

SHRI PRASANNA ACHARYA: Therefore, my sincere appeal is that let it be taken to the Eleventh Five Year Plan, and the allocation of Rs. 250 crore per annum should be enhanced to Rs. 500 crore per annum.

MR. SPEAKER: You come to the most important point last. That is the trouble.

Now, Shri B. Mahtab. Please seek a clarification.

SHRI B. MAHTAB (Cuttack): Sir, I will just put it on record that when Shri Narasimha Rao was the hon. Prime Minister of this country, the present hon. Prime Minister was the Finance Minister of this country. During that regime, concrete steps were taken to have special plan for this poorest region of this country.

* Not recorded.

[Shri B. Mahtab]

Is the Government aware that undivided Kalahandi-Bolangir-Koraput has a very high concentration of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes comprising of about 54.66 per cent? Is the Government aware that the KBK region is the poorest region of this country with the incidence of poverty being as high as 87.14 per cent? Is the Government aware that this region suffers from acute regional, social and gender disparities? Does the Government agree with the view that this region has remained severely disadvantaged due to long neglect in terms of appropriate investment?

Is the Government aware that late Shri Rajiv Gandhi, the then Prime Minister, visited Kalahandi in August 1988, two decades before, and was in front of a hut of Phanusi Punji who had sold her child for a mere Rs. 40? After that, the whole nation came to know about the problems that Kalahandi was facing. Did the Government realise that in 1988-89, short-term, ad hoc and a paltry sum of Rs. 29 crore was given to be spent in two years?

But later on, did the Government realise that short-term ad hoc measures will not ameliorate the depressing conditions of this region, and therefore, a Seven-Year Long-Term Action Plan was agreed upon at a cost of Rs. 4,557 crore in August 1995?

Then, I want to know whether the Revised Long-Term Action Plan with the projected outlay of Rs. 5,527 crore started in 1998-99 to end in March, 2007; whether the Government is aware that only less than Rs. 1,100 crore have been spent within the seven years.

Sir, my next question is that whether the Union Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs has decided that the additional Central assistance under the Backward Regions Grant Fund to the eight KBK districts would be pegged at only Rs. 250 crore during the 11th Five Year Plan.

MR. SPEAKER: You have put your question.

SHRI B. MAHTAB: I am just putting the questions.

MR. SPEAKER: It cannot be a series of questions.

SHRI B. MAHTAB: Sir, I would like to know whether no separate funds are being provided to the KBK as per the recent CCEA decision. It means, the eight KBK districts would get a sum of Rs. 250 crore, which implies that there would be a reduction of entitlement of KBK Region of Rs. 120 crore per annum in the entire 11th Five Year Plan.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Mahtab, please co-operate.

SHRI B. MAHTAB: My last question is whether the Government is not denying the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe people dominated KBK District, which deserves special attention and higher amount of funding; whether the process of infrastructure building and programme for the livelihood support has just begun to take route, and terminating of the special plan would prove to be a great set back. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Member, your name is there. I will call you. Why do you worry? Only persuade him to stop.

SHRI B. MAHTAB: Thereby, it would be a great set back on the economic development of this Region.

MR. SPEAKER: Now, Mr. Manjhi – Not present.

SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO: Thank you, Sir, for admitting this Calling Attention.

MR. SPEAKER: Let me also thank you for co-operating.

SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO: Yes, Sir.

Thank you, for allowing me to speak on this Calling Attention. I was going through the statement laid by the hon. Minister. Here, I come to see that the report is very inconclusive. It is a very illusive report of gradually liquefying the importance of the KBK Region and its problems.

Today, Kalahandi, Bolangir and Koraput are the three undivided backward districts of Orissa. Now, they have become eight districts. So, under the KBK programme, eight districts have been covered. So, I can say that it is being liquefied, the reason being, they are trying to get the Plan merged with the Backward Regions Grant Fund, thereby, it would be causing us to lose Rs. 120 crore.

Sir, Rs. 250 crore was the annual expenditure for the KBK Region. But after the Backward Regions Grant Fund has been initiated, which is of Rs. 165 crore, a balance of Rs. 150 crore would be given from the KBK Special Plan Fund. So, we would be getting the Fund, which would be reduced by Rs. 120 crore.

I would, therefore, request the Central Government to fulfill the demand of the Orissa Government. The Orissa Government has demanded Rs. 500 crore per annum for total development of these eight KBK districts. There should be an equitable distribution of grants.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you.

SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO: 'No, thank you', Sir. I am just coming to my next points. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Why? Do you not want me to thank you?

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO: Sir, I represent Kalahandi district.

MR. SPEAKER: Therefore, you are not helping your voters' cause; you are only speaking indefinitely. Put a relevant question. That is the rule.

SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO: I am putting a second relevant question, Sir. I do not think that the Government is aware. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You cannot go on speaking indefinitely.

SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO: Sir, take for example, Malkangiri. It is under terrorist activities. About Bolangir, till today, the total irrigated area is only three per cent.

Kalahandi has slightly improved but the economic indicators, which are supposed to improve the human index, are not improving at all. The previous Members have said about the literacy rate and all those things. So, to give a boost and thrust to this area, Rs.500 crore should be given and the Revised Long-Term Action Plan should be started.

MR. SPEAKER: No, I am sorry. Whether you thank me or not, I will have to call the hon. Minister.

SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO: It is because every Prime Minister makes it a point to visit Kalahandi when he sits down in the Prime Minister's chair. Whether it might be Shri Narasimha Rao or it might be the late Rajiv Gandhi, they all visited the State, and I had the honour to receive Rajiv Gandhi and Mrs. Gandhi.

MR. SPEAKER: You invite him properly.

SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO: I received Rajiv Gandhi at Nuapada. We expected changes. A lot of programmes were adopted. Then, the RLEGP was adopted. But these programmes never made any change.

MR. SPEAKER: Ask the hon. Prime Minister to come to Kalahandi. That is the question.

SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO: These programmes brought no changes.

MR. SPEAKER: You let the hon. Minister to reply to this very valid point.

SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO: That is why, this Revised Long-Term Action Plan was conceived, and in 1998, we brought this scheme and things are improving. Thank you, Sir. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Dharmendra Pradhan, you are not entitled to speak. But I will allow you because an hon. Member is absent. The only thing is that we have to follow the rules. But do not treat it as precedent in future. All are saying you have allowed five Members, six Members, nine Members and 10 Members. No, it is not like that.

Mr. Dharmendra Pradhan, amongst the three late notice givers, if I may use such expression, yours is the first at 9.30.

SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN (Deogarh): I have a very specific and pointed question.

MR. SPEAKER: You put the question. I know you are a very articulate young Member.

SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN: I will put one question.

[Translation]

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon'ble Prime Minister is sitting here. He has provided assistance to some of the backward districts of the country by funding Sam-Vikas-Yojna in the Tenth Five-Year Plan. He has also funded KBK in it. He has provided funds to the tune of Rs. 1000 crore to Bihar too in the year 2006-2007. This is a good thing. Now the preparations for 11th Plan have started and I have come to know that he is going to extend finances to 250 districts of the country from Backward Region Grants Funds. He will fund 19 districts including eight districts of Orissa. He is providing funds to 36 districts of Bihar. This is also a good step. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Do not reply to him.

[Translation]

SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN: Sir, I welcome his decision to increase funds to the tune of Rs. 1500 crore by continuing Rs. 1000 crore funding in 11th Plan alongwith entitlement of Rs. 540 crore for 36 districts of Bihar. But, Chief Minister of our State has repeatedly requested him

[Shri Dharmendra Pradhan]

to increase funds for our state upto Rs. 500 crore from Rs. 250 crore. With the amount of Rs. 250 crore, our entitlement was for 19 districts which goes upto Rs. 285 crore. If we add special allocation to KBK in it, for which I am demanding Rs. 500 crore, our entitlement comes to Rs. 535 crore, but he has given Rs. 250 crore. He has promised to provide Rs. 415 crore. Has he decided to provide us Rs. 120 crore, he should just tell us. Mr. Speaker, Sir, with your kind permission I would like to say that he has done injustice to Orissa. He is doing injustice to the poor people of Orissa on the advice of J.B. Patnaik. All the noted personalities are sitting here. You kindly tell us whether you are going to provide Rs. 120 crore to Orissa or not?

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Arjun Sethi, only your name will be associated.

SHRI ARJUN SETHI (Bhadrak): I have only one small question.

MR. SPEAKER: What small one? How can you put a small question here? It can be a short question, and not small.

SHRI ARJUN SETHI: With your permission, I request the hon. Prime Minister, who is very much present here, to inform us whether he will visit the KBK area. Then, he will be convinced as to how the things are happening there. Then, afterwards he will decide and have this Plan implemented.

MR. SPEAKER: Have you invited him?

SHRI ARJUN SETHI: My request to the hon. Prime Minister is that he should visit that area. My first request is that he should visit that area.

MR. SPEAKER: Arjunji, do not repeat it. You are such a good Member. Why are you repeating like this?

SHRI ARJUN SETHI: Then, he will be convinced how backward these KBK districts are. So, my request to the hon. Prime Minister is that he should visit that area. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: More than once you have said it. There should be no more repeating. Do not record it.

*(Interruptions)...**

MR. SPEAKER: Your invitation is already there.

SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN: Sir, I would like to assure the hon. Members through you that there would not be any discrimination as far as Orissa is concerned. I would also like to assure the hon. Members that the hon. Prime Minister has taken all the initiative to take care of the backwardness of the districts in Orissa State. After the UPA Government came into being, last year the hon. Prime Minister and the hon. Minister of Finance have announced the Backward Regions Fund with the result that today out of 30 districts in Orissa, 19 districts are covered – that is eight districts under KBK programme and 11 districts under the Backward Region Fund. Therefore, there is no discrimination. Actually, the amount of Rs. 250 crore which has been assured to be spent every year under the scheme of improvement of backward region as well as KBK districts is going to be continued and protected under the Eleventh Plan. Let me make it very clear to you. Therefore, I would like to once again assure the hon. Members. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO: Sir, this is not correct. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You are not helping the cause. You should have the patience to hear him. You are not helping your cause. I am sorry. I am sure, the entire House is concerned with this. That is why as soon as it was brought to my notice, I have allowed the Calling Attention.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: It cannot go on like running questions and answers.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO: He is saying about the Eleventh Plan. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN: Sir, through you I would like to appeal to the hon. Members. There is no change as far as the support to the KBK districts is concerned. As I said, that is being protected under the Backward Regions Fund. That has been taken care of. ...*(Interruptions)* Let me assure the hon. Members once again through you.

As far as visiting the backward districts is concerned, let me say this. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Bikram Keshari Deo, what has happened to you today? ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: No. There is no point of order.

...*(Interruptions)*

* Not recorded.

MR. SPEAKER: Very well. Then I will call Sukhdev Singh Dhindsa to raise an urgent matter of public importance. If you do not cooperate, then I am sorry.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Do not record any of the observations there except those of the hon. Minister.

(Interruptions)...*

MR. SPEAKER: Do not blame me if I adjourn the House.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN: Sir, as far as visiting the KBK districts is concerned, hon. Members know very well that I have visited that area and I spent nearly three to four days and I have kept the hon. Prime Minister informed about the situation. That is the reason why Orissa is getting all the funds required to take care of the backwardness in the region. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Do not record anything except the speech of the hon. Minister. I have said that. The habit has to go.

(Interruptions)...*

SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN: That is why I am telling. I am sorry. I do not know how they got the wrong impression that the funds are being cut and being reduced. Let me share this information. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Do not record it.

(Interruptions)...*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Arjun Sethi, you only want to hear your voice and you do not want to hear the hon. Minister.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN: I would like to share this information of what happened after the UPA came to power. For example, in the year 2003-2004 an amount of Rs. 225 crore was released and the total expenditure at that time as it has been informed is Rs. 318 crore which has been spent to uplift the poorest of the poor in the backward region. Again in the year 2004-2005 an amount of Rs. 275 crore has been released and the expenditure is

to the extent of Rs. 279.11 crore. Coming to the year 2005-2006, an amount of Rs. 250 crore has been released. For the present year we have already released Rs. 83.33 crore.

Therefore, you would understand from the figures that there is no discrimination and funds are released from time to time. I may assure the hon. Members that in the present UP Government, under the captaincy of our hon. Prime Minister, there will not be any discrimination. Let me assure you. Every State is treated equally, particularly the backward regions of Orissa. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Now I come to urgent matters. There are many urgent matters. I have to take up some of them now. I had promised Shri Dhindsa. Now Shri Dhindsa will speak.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing else is being recorded.

(Interruptions)...*

MR. SPEAKER: Please co-operate. I have no manner of doubt that your KBK should get all the attention that is possible. I am sure, as the Minister has promised, it will be done. If it is not done, then you may come.

Shri Dhindsa. Nothing else will be recorded.

(Interruptions)...*

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: Sir, we are not satisfied with the reply given by the Minister. The Prime Minister is also sitting here. So, we are walking out of the House. ...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRASANNA ACHARYA: Sir, the Prime Minister is here. This is a very important matter. Let the Prime Minister intervene. ...(Interruptions)

12.46 hrs.

(At this stage, Shri Braja Kishore Tripathy and some other hon. Members left the House.)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: What can I do? You just request him.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: You know everything. I do not have that much power.

* Not recorded.

* Not recorded.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Dhindsa has an important issue to raise.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: When I called your name you were not present. And now you are making a noise.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI SUKHDEV SINGH DHINDSA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, at first I am grateful to you that you have given me an opportunity to raise an important issue. At the outset I would like to clear one thing in the House that I am not against the total tax holiday granted to industries in hilly states. It has been extended for three years. I would like to ask as to what is the fault of Punjab. As a result of this policy all industries have been shifted from Punjab. At present more than 15000 units have been shifted out of Punjab. I feel sorry to say that Hon'ble Prime Minister is very much revered by me. When I met Prime Minister he said that this was done by the NDA Government. If it was done by the NDA Government, we had also opposed it even then. You have been in the power at the Center for last two and a quarter years and your party is in power in Punjab. Then why are you ruining Punjab. The contribution of Punjab was maximum when at the time of defending the country and also when country needed foodgrains. Such a situation has arisen there. ...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I fully agree with you.

[Translation]

SHRI SUKHDEV SINGH DHINDSA: What you have seen in Punjab during 11-12 and what has happened during the period of militancy in Punjab, has ruined it. You know about the condition of Agriculture there. You must think about improving condition of farmers. I am happy to note that it has been extended for ten years but why Punjab is not being given the same treatment, what is the fault of Punjab? What wrong Punjab has done that it is being punished in this manner. The farmers of Punjab are heavily indebted to the tune of Rs. 26000 crore and each

farmer is indebted to the tune of Rs. 48000. Agriculture is ruined there. What will Punjab do? We have fought three wars against Pakistan. Who suffered? ...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing is being recorded. Why are you shouting from there?

(Interruptions)...

[Translation]

SHRI SUKHDEV SINGH DHINDSA: Whenever required, Punjab extends maximum help. In the war Punjab suffers the most. I would like to ask the Government as to what is our fault. Why are we not being given exemption and why Punjab is being ruined? I would like to urge the Government to save Punjab. Industries and agriculture have ruined there.

MR. SPEAKER: You have put your views in a very good manner.

...(Interruptions)

DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA (Rajkot): Sir, I associate myself with it.

MR. SPEAKER: Please send your name in writing.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please send your name in a slip.

SHRI AVINASH RAI KHANNA (Hoshiarpur): Sir, I would also like to say something about Punjab.

MR. SPEAKER: I am saying that you all send your names in writing.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I am sorry, but this is not allowed.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: The names of Dr. Vallabhbhai Kathirira, Shri Ashok Pradhan, Shri Avinash Rai Khanna, Dr. Ratan Singh Ajnala and Sardar Sukhdev Singh Libra

* Not recorded.

are being associated with the issue raised by Shri Sukhdev Singh Dhindsa.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: You have even taken the trouble of giving a notice. Shri Harin Pathakji you please say.

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV (Jhanjharpur): Mr. Speaker, I would like to raise an important issue and I have already given notice.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I will allow you, but I beseech you to please cooperate with the Chair.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: An hon. Member is raising an important matter concerning floods in the State, and I have given him an opportunity to raise it. How can he raise it if he is disturbed like this?

...(Interruptions)

12.49 hrs.

SUBMISSIONS BY MEMBERS

- (1) **Need to provide special package to Gujarat in view of recent flood situation in the State**

[Translation]

SHRI HARIN PATHAK: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak. Last Friday Gujarat witnessed devastating floods. My colleagues and I have informed the Government and the Parliament about the flood situation in the state during last fifteen days. The same day in the evening the Prime Minister visited the flood affected areas. Earlier, the leader of the House visited Gujarat and he surveyed the loss caused by floods there. Flood has wreaked havoc in Central Gujarat and South Gujarat. Through you, I would like to reiterate in the House that keeping in view the loss and devastation caused by floods we had some expectations from the Government, but I am sorry to say that our expectation has not been fulfilled. Hon'ble Minister of Home Affairs had also visited Gujarat. In the beginning we had said that Rs. 2000 crore are needed, so that the common people can be rehabilitated and start a new life. But that amount has not been received as yet. Through you, I would like to request the Government again to provide assistance to

the people of Gujarat at the earliest because they suffer time and again due to such natural calamities.

Sir, today the issue on which I am saying is related to it. Now I gradually the situation is improving after the flood and now we come to know as to how much loss has been caused there. There common people do suffer due to flood but you cannot imagine the loss caused to small scale industries. Both small and big industries have suffered loss. But common people is concerned with the small industries to a large extent. All the poor workers who come from Bihar, West Bengal, flood affected areas of Gujarat and other areas, all have been rendered jobless today.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: We have already discussed it in the House.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI HARIN PATHAK: In Surat alone 38 thousand small scale industries have been ruined and almost 2.14 lakh workers employed in them have been rendered jobless. In Vadodara district 9500 units of small scale industries have been devastated and 39000 workers have been rendered jobless. Today these poor people are starving.

There are 600 S.S.I units in Bharuch district where more than 2300 workers have been rendered jobless and are in dire straits. I would like to say that small and big industries have suffered a great loss which led to destruction of everything including raw material, buildings, finished goods, packing material, electrification, farming, pathway and approach roads.

I, through you, would like to make a humble request to the hon. Finance Minister that I have sent a personal note to him about some of our demands and I would also go to meet him along with my colleagues. But, as of now I want to put only three demands in the House. The first demand is to waive off the interest on the loans taken by industries and small scale industries for at least one year. The second one is to provide advance to those industries according to their turnover at ten per cent lower interest rate to make them self-dependent.

Income-tax advance returns which is required to be filed quarterly has not been filed by them because of destruction of their machinery and houses. So, they should

be given more time to file their returns. They should be provided concession in excise, customs and service tax and combined with these things, a relief and rehabilitation package, especially for small-scale industries and industries should be given separately in addition to Rs. 2,000 crore demanded by Gujarat so that Gujarat can contribute to the progress of our country as a prosperous Gujarat is always beneficial to the country. So, I request that Gujarat should be helped so that Gujarat can participate again in the development of the country and also extend help to laes of migrants who have settled here. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA (Dhandhuka): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I too want to speak on this issue. ...*(Interruptions)* I associate myself with this subject. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You are allowed to associate.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please give two or three hours.

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: All the names of the Members will be recorded as "associated".

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI P.S. GADHVI (Kutch): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I, too associate myself with that subject.

SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN (Khurja): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I, too associate myself with the subject raised by Shri Harin Pathak.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Haribhau Rathod – Absent.

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA (Bettiah): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I through you. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I did not interrupt Mr. Harin Pathak. He raised very important issues and he had put it very properly.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA (Rajkot): Sir, this may leave the farmer's issue undiscussed, so I am saying. ...*(Interruptions)* I, too associate myself with the issue raised by Harin Pathak ji. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I am telling you to associate yourself with the subject.

SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA (Dhandhuka): Mr. Speaker, Sir, as demanded by Harin Pathak ji. ...*(Interruptions)* Please associate my name also with it. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: This is becoming a great torture.

[Translation]

What can I do? Please make him understand.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down.

...*(Interruptions)*

12.56 hrs.

(ii) Drought situation in various parts of the country

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA (Bettiah): Mr. Speaker, Sir, hon. Minister of Home Affairs is also the Minister of Disaster Management; so I want to draw his attention towards Bihar. Bihar is affected by flood and drought every year and this time entire state has been affected by drought. The situation is so severe that all the crops have withered and dried. It has resulted in fodder problem for domestic animals. Districts like North Champaran, West Champaran, East Champaran, Siwan, Sitamarhi, Madhubani, Darbhanga, Saharsa, Patna, Gopalganj, Chhapra and Vaishali are severely affected by it. So, I, through you, would like to make an earnest request to the hon. Minister of Home Affairs to send a Central team to Bihar to assess the ground reality so that adequate assistance and relief can be given. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV (Patna): Please, associate my name with the subject raised by him.

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV (Jhanjharpur): Please associate my name also with the subject raised by hon'ble Member.

SHRI SITARAM SINGH (Sheohar): Please associate my name also with subject raised by the hon. Member.

SHRI ANIRUDH PRASAD ALIAS SADHU YADAV (Gopalganj): Please associate my name also with the subject raised by the hon. member.

MR. SPEAKER: Mere mentioning your name will serve no purpose. You may send your name for that purpose. Only then your speech can be included in record.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: Sir, our agitation is a genuine one. ...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Please do not disturb.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: You have understood by this time that I will not allow any violation of rules.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: We should discuss other issues also which are important to the public, other areas are also affected by drought.

SHRI HARIKEWAL PRASAD (Salampur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, today, the whole of northern India is facing severe drought. Specially the condition of Uttar Pradesh has become very serious due to drought. Kharif crops and sugarcane in lakhs of acres are being damaged and there is lack of fodder for the cattle. Irrigation work through tube wells is being disrupted due to insufficient power supply and hike in price of diesel also makes the farmers unable to irrigate their fields. Through this House I demand the Union Government that Uttar Pradesh should be declared a famine affected state at the earliest, waived all the agriculture loans of the farmers and ensure the supply of additional power from Central Pool, start relief work at war footing level and provide a special economic package for Uttar Pradesh. This is my humble submission before the Govt. through you.

SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA (Rampur): Please allow me to associate myself with the subject of Hon'ble Member.

13.00 hrs.

SHRI HARISINH CHAVDA (Banaskantha): Mr. Speaker, Sir, all of you are aware of the state of Gujarat that the people of Gujarat have been facing trouble for last 15 days. Not only Surat, Bharuch of South Gujarat but Northern Gujarat also has faced trouble. Harin ji mentioned troubles faced by the industries but he forgot so many troubles faced by the farmers. ...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Your name will be recorded. All names will be recorded.

[Translation]

SHRI HARISINH CHAVDA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, thousands of acres of land of farmers has gone waste and crops damaged. I intended to request something for the farmers. Day before yesterday, I went to my Parliamentary Constituency, Banaskantha. There is 5 feet water in slum areas. Moreover, mass destruction has taken place in Palampur. I demand to release a relief package of Rs. 10 crore for the people of my constituency, this is my humble request. ...(Interruptions)

SHRI HARIN PATHAK (Ahmedabad): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have mentioned about farming which is related to farmers. What I mentioned was nothing else but farming.

MR. SPEAKER: All right, you said that.

13.01 hrs.

(III) Need to provide more facilities to Haj Pilgrims.

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN (Ferozabad): Mr. Speaker, Sir, having seen the troubles faced by Haj Pilgrims I met Hon'ble Prime Minister on 19th and we met you also on 4th August. Last time, 1 Lakh 6 thousand muslims applied for Haj Pilgrimage whereas the quota was fixed for 82 thousand pilgrims, the Government increased it for another 18 thousand people. Thus, one lakh people went for Haj Pilgrimage. This time, 1 lakh 48 thousand people have applied for Haj but it is a matter of grief that the representatives of the Union Government did not held talks the Government of Saudi Arabia in this regard. During the tenure of last Governments the quota for Haj had been increased as per the number of applications received but despite repeated requests the present Government did not held talks with the Government of Saudi Arabia which is a matter of concern.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, on 15th May, 2002 when Haj Act was being passed, I had submitted before the Hon'ble Minister that the office of Haj Committee was in Mumbai because people went on Haj pilgrimage by ships in those days but as the air service to Saudi Arabia is available, at least 100 Members of Parliament demanded that its office should be shifted to Delhi, but the Government has not taken notice of it till today. It has been repeatedly demanded that constitutional rights should be given to Haj Committee but the Government remained silent. Haj volunteers go to

serve Haj pilgrims. State Haj Committee has always demanded that this matter should be left to the State Governments to select the volunteers but the Government of India declared that only Government employees would go as volunteers. Certainly it is a matter of concern. People from Eastern Uttar Pradesh have been agitating for long that they face trouble during Haj pilgrimages. *...(Interruptions)* Facility should be provided to Haj pilgrims to go on Haj pilgrimage from Varansi.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to submit another point that 62 Haj pilgrims lost their lives during the unfortunate incident that took place in Meena last time. I am happy that the Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh gave Rs. 5 lakh to the families of each deceased but despite my repeated requests the Union Govt. has not given a single penny so far.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: He has already said that. There is no need to repeat it.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I need your protection. The Minister of Parliamentary Affairs is sitting here. I would appeal him to initiate for solving the problems of Haj Pilgrims.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Ravi Prakash Verma, Shri Ilyas Azmi, Shri Hannan Mollah, Dr. Shafiqur Rahman Barq and Shri Abdul Rashid Shaheen are associating with this.

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the UPA Government is equally concerned with the Haj yatis. All possible arrangements had been made last year. This year also the Government is considering the matter. The Government is neither overlooking it nor ignoring it. Understanding the shortcomings of last year, appropriate steps would be taken by the concerned Ministries.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: You have got your response. Please cooperate.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Gangwar, you have to give

notice. You have to follow rules. I cannot allow the second matter.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Then, I will have to adjourn the House.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: The second is about allegations.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: You know the rules very well.

[Translation]

Gangwar ji, please speak on the issue of Mahmudabad. Raise the other issue next day after giving notice.

SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR (Bareilly): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the matter which I am raising now has also been raised by me earlier. Property of Mahmudabad Estate is located at Lucknow and Sitapur in Uttar Pradesh. The owner of this property migrated to Pakistan at the time of partition of the country and he was the treasurer of then Muslim League. His property has been vested in the Government. The Government sold his property and gave the money to him and allotted the same to the local people. It is a matter of misfortune that 15-20 years ago he came to this country and settled, joined a party and became MLA of that party and got that property back through court. As a result there of, the action is being taken to vacate the property worth rupees hundreds of crores which is situated at Lucknow and Sitapur and wherein hundreds of people are residing and Government offices are running. I had requested the Minister of Home Affairs to get information in this regard. I had written to him that hundreds of people are becoming homeless. *...(Interruptions)* At that time Hon'ble Mohan Singh was in the Chair. He understood the point and gave direction in this regard. I would like to submit again through you that Hon'ble Minister of Home Affairs may pay attention to it and take a proper decision.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Mohan Singh ji will help you again.

13.06 hrs.

(iv) Need to take steps for laying the Report of Liberhan Inquiry Commission expeditiously

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV (Jhansi): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the

Government and specially that of the Minister of Home Affairs, through you, towards a very sensitive matter of national importance. In 1992, an unsuccessful or successful attempt was made to demolish the structure of Babri Mosque of the country and destroy a historical heritage of our secular country. Through this act an attack was made on the secular fabric of the country. On 16th December, 1992, Librahan Commission was set up to enquire the incident of demolition of Babri Mosque at Ayodhya that took place on 6th December, 1992. The tenure of this commission is very strange. The tenure of this commission has been extended 39 times which is unprecedented. We do not find such a tradition in history. I would like to know from the Government. ...*(Interruptions)* Evidences have been recorded from almost 175 leaders and bureaucrats.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: It is a Central Government Commission and he is asking for its Report.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV: After the period of about 14 years since 1992, report of Librahan Enquiry Commission has not been tabled in the House. ...*(Interruptions)* Hon'ble Home Minister is present here, I would like to know as to when the report of Librahan Ayodhya Enquiry Commission is going to be tabled in the House and I would like to know the reaction of the Government regarding my request that time limit for the submission of report of the Commission should not be extended further. Crores of secular and peace loving people of our country are looking forward and they are eager to know, but they are not getting any information. Hence, the country should not be kept in dark. I would like to request the Hon'ble Home Minister that he may clarify the situation in this regard. ...*(Interruptions)*

Mr. Speaker, Sir, Hon'ble Home Minister wants to say something....*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Following hon. Members have notices and their names are being associated:

Dr. Shafiqur Rahman Barq;

Shri Adhir Chowdhury;

Shri Asaduddin Owaisi;
Shrimati Krishna Tirath;
Shri Madan Lal Sharma;
Shri Furkan Ansari
Dr. Rajesh Mishra; and
Shri J.M. Aaron Rashid;

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: It is their right to know about the Commission.

DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA (Rajkot): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to submit that time-frame should be prescribed for all such Commissions. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: All your names are recorded.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: They have a right to know about the commission.

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing is to be recorded except the statement of hon. Home Minister.

(Interruptions)...*

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL): I am grateful to you, Sir, for allowing me to respond to the matter which is raised by the hon. Members over here.

I seek your permission to respond to three other issues also because I am in the House now and they are also important. I will just briefly respond to them.

One is about the Gujarat situation. We had been there; we found that the situation was quite serious. We did give them an amount of Rs.500 crore to provide relief to them. Hon. Prime Minister has asked me to see if some more help is required and if so, it would be given.

* Not recorded.

The second point was raised by Shri Raghunath Jha. This is equally important.

MR. SPEAKER: Many other non. Members also.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: Yes, other hon. Members also. Every year, we have drought in some areas and heavy rains are affecting the people in some other areas. This year, unfortunately Bihar and some other adjoining States are suffering from drought. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Then, I will request the hon. Minister not so speak.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: I have already said that Bihar and some adjoining States are suffering, like Uttar Pradesh, some parts of West Bengal, etc. ...*(Interruptions)* Let me be allowed to speak. Otherwise, I will keep quiet. ...*(Interruptions)* Sir, that is why, I am saying that the Government would certainly send a team to Bihar and other places, wherever it is necessary to take steps, like Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, etc. We will find out and do it. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: This is most unfortunate. Some decency should be there; you are interrupting the hon. Minister when he is responding on his own. Is this the way in which the House is to be conducted?

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE (Pandharpur): What about Maharashtra? ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: Sir, we had visited Maharashtra also. Hon. Prime Minister and myself had visited Maharashtra. Mrs. Gandhi had visited Uttar Pradesh and we had visited other States also. Maharashtra also was given Rs.400 crore, out of the Calamity Relief Fund. We are keeping a watch on the situation in different States and wherever it is necessary and possible, we will certainly extend help to the States. This is what I wanted to say about this.

Another point was raised by Shri Devendra Prasad Yadav here. It is really important. We appreciate the anxiety of the hon. Members to get the report so that it can be considered in the House. It is true that it has taken a long time for the Commission to give the report. But the Commission had to wait because of some other reasons also, like the matter was taken to the court and some witnesses got the stay orders against their appearance before the Commission. Then, there are some other issues. But we do appreciate that long time has been made available to the Commission and we are all expecting to get the report. ...*(Interruptions)* Informally, we are told that

the report could be given by 31st of December 2006. We are told this informally. ...*(Interruptions)*

MD. SALIM (Calcutta – North East): Are you giving another extension to them? The House is demanding that no extension should be given but the Minister is saying that he is going to give another extension. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: You do not understand it. It is not a question of extension. ...*(Interruptions)*

MD. SALIM: I understand very well. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing will be recorded without my permission.

(Interruptions)...*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Salim, I am very sorry. Hon. Minister, you may conclude. Nothing, except whatever the hon. Minister says, will go on record.

(Interruptions)...*

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: Sir, Members are agitated, but they should first hear me as to what I am going to say. It is not a question of giving them extension. The Commission is going to continue up to 31st December, 2006. It has said that the Report could be given before this period is over. We are waiting with our fingers crossed. We will see whether the Report could be given or not. Having given them so much time, when they are on the verge of writing the Report and giving it to us, no action should be taken in a manner that the Report would not come at all. We have also to keep that in mind. Do not jump on your feet and unnecessarily misunderstand what we are saying. It is not a question of giving extension. They are continuing up to 31st December, 2006. They have already said that they would give the Report. Let us hope that the Report would be given. Whatever you have expressed here, will also be communicated to them so that they keep that in mind.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Other matters, to be raised as Special Mentions, will be taken at the end of the day.

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

MR. SPEAKER: I had called your name. You were not present.

* Not recorded.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Sir, I was not here.

MR. SPEAKER: It is your fault, not mine.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Sir, I would like to raise a very important matter.

MR. SPEAKER: Maybe, but then you should have been present here.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: You have to apologise to the House. You may tender your apology to the House.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Sir, I apologise. I will take only a minute.

The Confederation of Central Government employees and workers, All India State Government Employees Federation, State Teachers Federation of India, All India Universities and College Teachers Federation and All India Defence Employees Federation are jointly organising a march to Parliament demanding withdrawal of new Pension Scheme, privatisation of pension, down-sizing of work force, outsourcing of Government function, ban on recruitment and privatisation.

Sir, the Government has announced constitution of Sixth Pay Commission. Last time, when the Fifth Pay Commission was announced, the Government had also announced the Interim Relief but this time, in spite of the specific recommendation made by the Fifth Pay Commission, the Government has not decided on the Interim Relief. Now they are demanding Rs.1000 as an Interim Relief pending finalisation of their pay revision and also the effective date, as recommended by the Fifth Pay Commission, should be 1.1.2006.

I demand that the Government should consider the genuine demand of the Central Government employees and other employees and workers of our country with regard to the only social security which is today available and also the new Pension Scheme should be withdrawn.
...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Salim, you have not given any notice.

[Translation]

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA (Jaipur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am making a small request for. ...(Interruptions)

SHRI ILYAS AZMI (Shahabad): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have also an important point to raise. ...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: It is too late for the day.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI ILYAS AZMI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have already apologised. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: You may associate. Your subject has been discussed as your name has been called in your absence.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, sufficient amount has been spent on Shwet Jaldhara Yojna in Rajasthan, but the scheme has not been implemented due to non-disbursement of the amount by the Union Government. It is my request to the Union Government that hurdles coming in the way of providing the amount should be removed and more funds should be allocated for this scheme so that this scheme may be completed. Many people have deposited money for that, but this scheme is still pending because Union Government are not extending co-operation to it. It is my request, through you, Sir, to the Union Government that funds should be provided for this scheme.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, I have already allowed 20 matters to be raised.

[Translation]

Credit should be given to me also for doing good work.

[English]

Now other matters will be taken up at the end of normal business.

13.20 hrs.

CANTONMENT BILL, 2006

MR. SPEAKER: Now, the House shall take up Item No.14 – Discussion on the Cantonment Bill, 2006 and Shri Santosh Gangwar to continue his speech.

[Translation]

SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR (Bareilly): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have started speaking on Cantonment Bill, 2006. Yesterday and today in continuation of my point I want to

[Shri Santosh Gangwar]

say that this is a very important Bill. The Standing Committee has given suggestions after discussing the Bill extensively. But the Government has not even accepted half of those suggestions. I recall that it had been discussed in details in Rajya Sabha and a few amendments were proposed there also, but the Minister of Defence had not accepted those amendments. I would like to propose a few amendments which are real and should be accepted. But I think that Defence Minister is not going to accept those amendments.

Sir, I would like to draw your attention towards some issues. There was a time when cantonments were established far from cities and towns and it was very difficult to commute from there. But, now most of the cantonments among 62 cantonments have come in the middle of the cities. Hence, their problems are different now. If those problems are taken care of then problems and difficulties will continue to be there and this Bill will not provide the expected solution.

13.22 hrs.

(MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the Chair*)

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, hon'ble Minister has said many a thing and has given suggestions. After listening to the Minister it appears that Minister is influenced by the officers and he has taken decisions suiting to them. I would like to draw the attention of the Minister, through you Sir, towards some issues. You have increased the categories from three to four, but what is the benefit of it? You can achieve the same thing with three categories as with the four categories. It can be understood that CEO means Cant Executive Officer but which the nomenclature of Chief Executive Officer it gives the impression of a influential person. You have given so many powers to CEO and made him all in all and above all you have made him a member too. When you are making the CEO as president and then member also, what will be the role of elected representatives? I think, the status of the elected representatives would be such as they are working under CEO. You have made MPs and MLAs ex-officio members but they have not been given the voting rights. I am sure that no MP or MLA would participate in the meetings of Cantonment. It is possible that their representatives may participate. Whether we should work under the CEO whereas you are considering cantonments as Municipality after 73rd and 74th Constitution Amendments. Today, there has been change at Municipality level also. Municipality Chairman, Town Area Chairman and Mayor are appointed

through election. There you are making elected people as ex-officio members. Number is the same, so I do not think that change is on the anvil regarding democratic system or it is going to change anymore.

I would like to let you know that my Lok Sabha Constituency is Bareilly and without spending from the MPLAD fund, I can say that I have spent the most among the 62 cantonments. I would like to request the Defence Minister that I have established a library with the co-operation of Gas Authority of India Limited, which will be one of the major libraries of our country. But unfortunately, after the change of officer there, facilities at Library are diminishing. If any MP or MLA executes any work there or make parks and spend money there, no body is there to take care of. I would like to request that you should visit the library. It has a huge building with a well equipped facilities like video conferencing and internet, but no body is taking benefit of it. As many Members of Parliaments have said that we cannot spend money but I have spent money by making some arrangement but I fail to understand as to what result we are getting from it.

I would like to let you know about another issue that I have experienced. If I want to acquire any property or land there in which political pressure is also involve, then it would be transferred. I would like to know that how many properties have been transferred from the Defence Estate. I know their names but I am not going to expose it. There is land available in the city and I have written so many letters that this property is at the prime location and there is no need to keep this land with the Defence and it should be disposed off. After a year or two people from defence department visit there and demolish the buildings. After that they try to hush it up and then we also write letters that it should be done in this way and it should be considered in this way.

[English]

I don't want to repeat it, people have already mentioned that Standing Committee has said that CEO should not be member in any case, now when CEO has been made member, the Government know it better about the role of a member there. I do not want to speak in detail about its composition but I would certainly like to state that why the voter list should be prepared every year? Election process is same for Legislative Assembly and Lok Sabha. People attaining the age of 18 years will be included in the Voter List every year in January. If elections are held once in every five year, the voter list should also be prepared once in five years. Now it would be stated that all these points will be incorporated later on. I would like

to suggest that certain points should be taken care of. The tax exemption limit has been raised from 10 per cent to 30 per cent. I do not think this is proper, it should be reconsidered. Later on either changes are made in it or is considered again, it all these things depends on the Government as to how to correct it. I hope the Government will decide accordingly.

I urge that an unambiguous opinion should be made regarding allotment of accommodations or allotment of land. Perhaps, the hon'ble Minister had mentioned in his speech made in Rajya Sabha that land in the cantonment area will not be handed over to promoters for development works, it will be used for welfare of the armed forces only. There is land in the cantonment area in Uttar Pradesh and how the people have got it transferred in their names and have constructed buildings on it worth crores of rupees. I know their names, but I would not like to name those who have been allotted land there, the persons responsible for it, how aware we are about the use of defence land. I would like to cite my own experience as an example of the system prevailing at present. The night before yesterday on the day of Janmashtmi, I wanted to visit Bareilly Cantt. I was prevented from going there by a sepoy. I was asked to show my identity card. I said that we do not keep identity card and I did not enter the area. Later on, I received a phone call to come there, I said what is this? A deemed municipality is working in a town, definitely a proper way should be provided to visit there. I have been writing letters complaining closure of roads since I have elected as an MP. Such a fight for roads going on continuously. In my constituency there is a village which is surrounded by Military from three sides. As a matter of chance firing range is also located there, half of the people from Army are living there. When the road was constructed, an English gentleman named it as Mango Road because someone said that it is 'aam rasta'. He took 'aam' as mango fruit. Englishman could not comprehend the word 'aam' and therefore named the Aam Road as Mango Road. The Brigadier deputed on the site agreed to it and the road was named as Mango road. Now they are saying that there is no mention about drainage.

Sir, there is a village named Bharthaul. I would like to bring it to your notice that it has a population of 5000 people and more than half of them belong to Military. They are saying that a proper sewerage arrangements cannot be made there. I would like to ask for how the water would be drained in the absence of a proper sewerage system. A detailed report has been presented in this regard but I would like to urge the Government to send a team to

practically access the situation as to how to rectify the problem. I understand the requirement of extensive dialogue in this regard. I would like to say that all the 62 cantonments are in the middle of towns. I take Bareilly as an ideal cantonment. People from far and wide come to visit it. This cantonment sets an example as how each and every cantonment area can be developed. The Government should associate with the common man. If Government is of the view that a military man is honest but a common man is not, if our credibility is doubtful and whatever a military officer says is always deemed as right, then the Government should reconsider it. I think, if cantonment areas are in the middle of the towns and arrangement for running it has not been liked with the arrangement of the towns, then whatever Bill is introduced and passed the basic problems will remain there. I request you to pay attention to it.

A number of cantonments and the buildings therein are worth preserving. Hon. Members speaking before me have said that cantonments situated at Kausani, lands-down, Ranikhet, Almora and Mau are there for the last many years. As stated that these monuments dates back to the time of Barakpur. I am of the opinion that such monuments should be maintained. Such an attempt was made in Bareilly and as a result Bareilly cantonment won the prize of free cantt. award after the name of Smt. Indira Gandhi. I would like to know about its follow-up. It also got the 'Vriksh Mitra' award in 2002-03. We wanted to work, the officers present there also wanted to work. I feel that there is no obstacle in the way of the person who wants to work but the irony is that one who works also faces inquiry.

[English]

More work, more pain.

[Translation]

If one does not work, he will face no problem but if one works more he will face more problems. One of the nine amendments moved by us is regarding the role of the elected members? How the representatives of people will become members? An opinion should be made about the voter list as mentioned here. We have to ponder over the powers of CEO also. If adequate attention is not paid to it, the Bill will be passed as it is and our amendments will not be accepted. The Government should consider it. In the future, please act according to the need.

With these words I express my gratitude to you.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I want to finish this discussion before 2.30 p.m. So, I would like to request the hon. Members to be brief.

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): Sir, is it including the reply?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The reply should be at 3 p.m.

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: Time allotted for discussion on this Bill is three hours. How much time has so far been consumed?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: There are so many speakers to speak on this Bill.

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: What I am suggesting is that we shall have to complete the reply also by 2.30 p.m.

[Translation]

SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR: Sir, the allotted time was three hours and it was decided that the time limit for the discussion may be increased. Members may be allowed to speak for five to seven minutes. It may continue upto 3.30 p.m.

[English]

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN (Balasore): Sir, there are seven speakers from our party.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I also have some limitations.

[Translation]

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR (Chail): Sir, as per the number of Members of my party we should be given more time to speak.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please do not speak about the time which has been decided there.

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak on Cantonment Bill, 2006. We are going to amend 80 years old Act. The Britishers had enacted the Cantonment Act in 1924. I emphasize the need of this Bill and rise to support it. It has been stated that there are 62 cantonments across the country and these cantonments

cover 15 Lakh acres of land. I would like to request the Hon. Minister that people residing in cantonment council, cantonment board area, whether they are ex-servicemen or residents of that area, may at least be given opportunity of employment on the land. Cantonment board area comprises a large number of habitations of people belonging to lower class, scheduled castes and slums. You have paved the way for the modus operandi by constituting the steering board but I would like that the representatives elected by the cantonment board in slums should be given maximum powers as the previous officers of the board were enjoying their monopoly.

You have made a provision to keep 8 nominated members and 8 elected members in this Act. I would like that elected representatives of that area, whether they are MPs or MLA's must be given at least voting right. We have voting right in municipal corporations also. Wherever we convene a meeting of cantonment board they should be included as ex-officio members so that they can give their suggestions about their areas covered by the cantonment board area.

You have empowered the board to levy tax on the line of municipalities so that they can levy tax ranging from minimum 10 percent to maximum 30 percent. It is right in its own way. You have provided for nearly 60 amendment processes in this Act.

You have appointed a commanding officer as its Chairman. I, through you, Sir, would like to request the Hon. Minister that it is the need of the democracy, India is a democratic country, therefore, in my point of view it would be much better that you should appoint the elected representative as Chairman and Commanding officer as its Deputy Chairman.

In Allahabad, hon. Mohan Singh ji had pointed out a problem while speaking on the Cantonment Bill that there is a banyan tree at the confluence in the fort. This tree has a great significance of its own. From time immemorial, from the mythological point of view people are of the perception that the holy dip into the water at the confluence cannot be completed without viewing that tree. It has been enshrined in Purans and Vedas also that nobody can attain salvation without viewing this banyan tree. The then Defence Minister hon. Mulayam Singh ji got opened that fort and a large number of people had viewed of that banyan tree.

Hon'ble Members had complained about their respective areas. Regarding Allahabad, I request you to allow VIPs entry to cantonment area. Now board, hooter, ret light etc. have been disallowed in Uttar Pradesh, it is

not known which representatives are going or coming they are also punished.

There is a Neewan Village in my area which lies in cantonment area. Secondly, sometimes we take to 'Kariappa Road' due to traffic jam but that road is barricaded. I want that Neewan village, Kariappa road should be opened for public. In the war time, this road may be blocked due to security point of view but that road may be opened at least when there is no war time.

There is run way, whole area is of Air Force. The maximum land of the Umari Village is under the occupation of Air Force. This is the main passage and it has been opened after the great efforts. We pass through our constituency. I would like to tell you that either Umari village should be rehabilitated somewhere else or open the passage of Bhagwatpur of Umari village so that it may facilitate all the people to move. It has been stated in the Bill, that whatever we are doing here is for the welfare of the people. Therefore, it should be our efforts that the passage of Umari village or Bhagwatpur should be opened for the facility of the public.

With these words, I support this bill and conclude.

[English]

SHRI NAVEEN JINDAL (Kurukshetra): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am thankful to you for giving me an opportunity to place my views before this august House on this important Bill. I rise to support the Cantonments Bill, 2006.

As Members are aware, all the cantonments are the Central territories and the civic bodies functioning in those areas are not covered under the State municipal laws as per the Cantonments Act 1924. Now, all the Cantonment Boards shall be deemed to be municipalities. Reservation for women and Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes will have to be made in election of members of Cantonment Boards.

Cantonment Boards will be able to impose taxes and receive grants. The Boards can also avail of benefits and advantages of Centrally-Sponsored Schemes for social and economic development as are presently available to municipalities. The Cantonment Boards will now be able to receive service charges on the properties owned by the Central Government and the State Governments.

As per this Bill, democratisation of the Cantonment Boards will be done. The number of elected members has

been increased in all the Cantonment Boards varying from two to eight, depending upon the category of the Cantonment Boards.

MPs and MLAs of the area will be special invitees in all the meetings of the Board. As per the present Bill, they do not have voting rights. This point has been raised by many other Members also. I would like to recommend over here that voting rights must be given to MPs and MLAs so that their going to these meetings would be more meaningful.

By all these measures, aspirations and needs of the people of these areas would now be fully met.

A new Chapter XV for management of defence lands has been incorporated in the Bill. At present, only two lakh acres of land, out of 17 lakh acres is being managed. After passing of this Bill, the Central Government will be able to notify the defence lands, consolidate land management policies and records. The Government will also be able to detect land abuse much better.

The problem of encroachments of defence lands situated all over the country will also be tackled under the Bill more expeditiously. The above provisions are in addition to the existing powers available to the Government under the Public Premises (Eviction of Unauthorised Occupants) Act, 1971.

I would like to suggest to the hon. Defence Minister that since the cantonments have a culture of sports, if they could also open these areas and create stadiums and sporting facilities, like swimming pools; athletic stadiums, football grounds, hockey grounds, etc. for the civilians also, the Army and the Defence will be able to play a much more important role in promoting sports in the entire country.

To give necessary impetus to developmental activities, a new Chapter X for town planning and control over buildings has been incorporated in the Bill. With this, the Cantonment Boards will be able to start developmental activities such as town planning, old-age homes, houses for disabled and destitute, working women hostels, rain water harvesting, non-conventional energy, and other miscellaneous activities important to sustain the environment.

All Indians are very proud of our cantonments. We take a lot of inspiration when we go into these cantonments and see as to how the planned activities can be done and how well the community lives over there.

[Shri Naveen Jindal]

With these words, I congratulate the hon. Defence Minister and the UPA Government for bringing this Bill to meet the aspirations of the residents of the cantonment areas apart from managing the defence lands effectively. I wholeheartedly support this Bill.

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am thankful to you for giving me an opportunity to speak. There are two cantonments in my constituency – Ajmer and Nasserabad. The cantonment of Naseerabad is very old. Though, the cantonment area in Ajmer Cantonment is very limited but Ajmer and Naseerabad are also included in the list of 62 cantonment areas. This Cantonment Act was enacted in 1924.

After that it has been amended 25 times and as per the need of the hour it is being amended regularly. Similarly, at the time of 74th amendment to the constitution, through which municipalities were empowered and opened new dimensions of development, then it was necessary to amend the Cantonment Act also. During the tenure of NDA Government when Shri George Fernandes was Defence Minister, this Bill was prepared and referred to the Standing Committee in the year 2003. In the mean time Lok Sabha was dissolved. It was again referred to the Standing Committee after UPA Government came to power. So, this Bill has been presented before us after two and half years. Had it been presented earlier, it would have been better, but it is all right better late than never. In this regard, particularly about my Naseerabad cantonment, I would like to say that slaughter houses have been established to supply of meat for army personnel in cantonment area. In this regard the citizens of the area have complained to Central Pollution Control Board, State Pollution Control Board, Collector, Station Officer of the Army and the high ranked office of the Army-GOC about it. All of them inspected it and accepted that it is causing litter and pollution at large scale. The state of affairs is that this work is being done in some of the houses who throw the litter in the open. There is a school near this area in which the children of military personnel are also studying. The houses of military personnel have also been constructed in civilian area, where they live as tenant.

Therefore, through you, Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the Hon. Defence Minister towards the human and health related problems due to which there is an apprehension of breaking out of diseases. Besides, the water for the soldier is also supplied from that place. As you know that there is a scarcity of water in Rajasthan. The water in Naseerabad comes from Bisalpur. A place

has been fixed there where the tankers and water carriers of army are filled up. But the surrounding area is very filthy. As a result, it is adversely affecting the health of the people. Therefore, there is a need to pay special attention in this regard.

Sir, secondly, I would like to say that BPL cards were issued to the people living in villages by the State Government, Municipalities and village panchayats, whereas the same have not been issued in the Cantonment area. The State Government refused to issue BPL cards for the people living in Cantonment area with a plea that they fell under Cantonment area. State officer or CEO's in the Cantonment area said that it was not their task but it is the task of State Government. As a result of it, BPL cards could not be issued to the people living there. For the last two years I have been continuously writing to the Defence Minister on your advise, I wrote to the State Government, as well. Now the State Government has ordered to issue them BPL cards. No ration and kerosene is distributed and no other facilities are extended to the people living below poverty line in the Cantonment area. The State Government and the Cantonment Board pass on their responsibility over each other. Therefore, you should pay special attention in the Cantonment area to ensure that the development schemes of the Union Government or the State Government are implemented smoothly. In this regard, the area's station Officer or CEO should be given orders so that the civilian population living in the Cantonment area march ahead with the State population instead of feeling themselves deprived and neglected. I am aware of the problems of the Cantonment area in my constituency and therefore, I would like to say all this.

Sir, third problem is that a lot of area was covered for Cantonment area during the British times, out of which large area is still lying unused. A huge civilian population residing there which needs land for construction of houses. Some Cantonment area is lying unused and there is no doubt about the fact that the army should be given priority in using said land, however, if the land is not being used by the Army and lying unused since many years, it should be extended for the use of civilian population so that the people living on the civil area could get the facility of constructing of houses etc.

Sir, I would like to make another request. Sometimes the State Government or the Union Government inform us about the various development work taking place in our area but we don't receive any information either from Ministry of Defence or Directorate of Estates in Pune and not even from the Delhi's office in R.K. Puram about the crores of rupees allocated for the developmental work in

the Cantonment area for carrying out construction and repairs of sewer lines, roads etc. The Member of Parliament of the area should be given this information because in a way he is people's representative as well as representative of the Union Government but he receives no such information as he is not invited to attend the meeting. You have made the provision that the Committee will consist of so many members. However, if all the powers are vested with the CEO and he remains all-in-all, it will lead to dictatorship. It is all right that he will be the member Secretary. Therefore, you should complete the democratic process set up by yourself and confer the voting rights upon the local MLA and MP besides having the right to voice his opinion. Apart from this, he should be invited every time when a meeting is held so that he is able to put forth his viewpoint on the problems of the people correctly.

Cantonment Board area is quite a large area and there should be arrangements for catching monkeys and langurs. There is a Kendriya Vidyalaya in our Naseerabad Cantonment area in which 500 children of army men and officers study. Once a monkey found its way into the school and it remained closed for five days. The officers of the Cantonment area did not have any means to get hold of it. As a result, it bit several children. It also made headlines in the newspapers there. It may be seems to be an insignificant thing and can be laughed at but attention should be paid in this regard. It seems the officers of the Cantonment area have become insensitive. They seem to be unaware that the Kendriya Vidyalaya has been opened there for their own children. This type of problems are being faced by the people there.

The ancient monuments of the British time in the Cantonment area should be maintained and looked after properly. As long as army is there, the maintenance goes well. However, it has been seen that when some order comes for movement of army towards border or some operational areas and they no longer remain in peace area, the maintenance of the Cantonment area goes haywire in the hands of the officer's left behind. I would like to request the Minister of Defence not to allow any laxity in maintenance despite the high-ranking officers moving towards the operational area.

The firing range in the Cantonment area, where the military men learn firing, is located either in a forest or near a village. It so happens that the animals of the nearby villages like cows, goats etc. slip into that area while grazing. It is often seen that the unexploded shells or half burnt shells are found lying there. As a result, these shells some times explode and those animals and the herdsman become its victim. Therefore, it should be borne in mind

not to let this thing happen and strictness should be observed in the firing range so that the unused material is not found lying there. Apart from this, there is a need to bring down octrai in the area.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to conclude my speech by thanking you for giving me the opportunity to speak.

[English]

SHRI TARIT BARAN TOPDAR (Barrackpore): Sir, first of all, I would like to say that I support this Bill because the basic contents of this Bill are to democratise the Cantonment Boards and to give some responsibilities to the Board.

In this context, I would like to say that the elected local representatives like MLAs and others may have the voting rights. I am not in favour of the voting rights of the MPs. At the same time, the MPs should be invited for the Cantonment Board meetings as advisors and not as voters.

Secondly, I come to categorisation of the Cantonments which is given here. It is based on the population. For example, a Cantonment having population of 50,000 is categorised as Category-I. It goes on like that. In this categorisation process, the number of military personnel living in the Cantonments should be taken into consideration to give weightage.

The total number should not be counted as the population, but weightage should be given for the number of military personnel residing in the cantonment in order to have the categorisation.

Then, with regard to land management it has been said in the Statement of Objects and Reasons that the military land inside and outside the cantonment area will be monitored or adjusted or commanded by the Cantonment Board, but I find that no provision has been made to this extent. Here it has been stated that the Central Government may make suitable provisions for the regulation, control and management of any defence land situated throughout the territory of India. While going through the provisions contained in sub-clauses (a), (b), (c), (d) and (e), I find nothing where the Cantonment Board is going to get the power to manage the total land. But the conditions subject to which any permission to occupy defence land belonging to the Central Government outside the cantonment have been prescribed, but no specific power has been mentioned and it has also not been mentioned as to what will be the powers of the Cantonment Board in holding the land etc.

[Shri Tarit Baran Topdar]

Then, it talks about the defence land which might have been occupied by any individual or any organisation under lease or any other dispensation and it goes on to state that such land shall continue to be defence land. Finally, it has been provided that the authority of the Director-General of Defence Estates is supreme. It also states that the Cantonment Board will maintain records of land management. I do not want to go into details now because time is very short. But the sum and substance that comes out of the Chapter on 'Management of Defence Land' of this Bill is that the Cantonment Board will maintain records and nothing else. I would like that at least some power, not extraordinary power, should be given to the Cantonment board on the question of the use of defence land.

Sir, defence lands are lying idle, without any purpose at many places and they will be lying without any purpose for Centuries and nothing can be done about that. But I want that those lands should be gainfully utilised. The views of the Director-General of Defence Estates will be final in this regard. It is all right, but they should take into account the suggestion made by the Cantonment Board. Some such provision must be provided in the Bill. Otherwise, the land inside and outside the cantonment will not be properly utilised.

14.00 hrs.

Now the Cantonment will be in command of the land management outside the Cantonment area also. But the provisions of the Act do not corroborate with the idea that has been enunciated in the object of this Bill.

Lastly, my constituency is Barrackpore. Barrackpore happens to be the first and the oldest Cantonment in the country. Barrackpore also happens to be the martyr place of the First War of Independence by the Indians, more particularly, Sepoy Mangal Pandey and others.

Therefore, in the course of passing this Bill, I would urge upon the hon. Defence Minister to declare Barrackpore as a heritage and a historic place. Provisions should also be made so that the people of this country and also the world may come to know that Barrackpore happens to be the oldest cantonment and that it is a historic place.

PROF. CHANDER KUMAR (Kangra): Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, I am thankful to you for giving me this opportunity to speak on this Bill.

Sir, the Cantonment Bill 2006 is a very comprehensive Bill and I congratulate the hon. Defence Minister for keeping in view the problems of all the Cantonments. This Bill has been enacted by consolidating and amending the law relating to the administration of Cantonments with a view to impart greater democratisation, improvement of their financial base to make provisions for developmental activities, and for matters connected therewith or incidental there.

[*Translation*]

Sir, many things have been said about the management and maintenance of Cantonment area in this Bill. I am a Member of Parliament from Himachal Pradesh and Kangra-Chamba is my Parliamentary Constituency. Cantonment Yule Camp is the oldest here. Dalhousie Cantonment is adjacent to it and similarly two to three Cantonments are there in that area. When these Cantonments were set up, no town was nearby them. Those were set up in such hilly places where the drainage pattern was good, geographical condition was also good there. But so many changes have been brought about there for 25-30 years that National Highways were constructed in between the Cantonment areas. For example, in the areas of Palampur and Hota, national highway linking to Manali was constructed in between. Adjacent to them all roads leading to villages were closed down. I demand from the Minister of Defence that when this Act was enacted, at least the problems of locals should have been looked into because when the Cantonments were set up in 1924-25, Military used to stay here and this place was developed accordingly. Civilians living in nearby colonies did not have any problems. But today wherever Cantonments have been set up, boundaries have been made around them. The water is supplied to the Cantonment and people have their own rights for this. For example, near the Cantonment of Yule camp, there were many public water channels from which water was supplied to the Cantonment. But later on Cantonment took the control of those water channels into its own hands and many areas of that place were deprived of irrigation. Many roads in between led to the villages, but today if someone has to go there, he will have to take another long route of about 10-12 kilometres. Therefore, I humbly submit the Minister of Defence that when this Act was enacted, at least the basic problems of local people of Cantonment area should have been taken into account – whether they were potable water problems or the problems concerning with the methods of agriculture and that too in that condition when amenities of life are available. Cantonments have the rule of British times. If someone wants to pass through

the Cantonment area he cannot pass through that area after 10 p.m., he will have to take permit. If some farmer or patient wants to go to hospital, he cannot pass through the road that lies in cantonment. It is proposed in the Act that Cantonment committee will be appointed. It can erect barrage there and also can collect toll tax. If a national highway is passing through a cantonment or village road is leading to it, taxation will be so much that a common man passing through that way with his vehicles will face a lot of problems. I am talking about the Yule camp. Similarly, Municipal Corporation and cantonment are adjacent to each other. For example, there are Dharmshala cantt., the Municipal Corporation of Makraun Cantt. The Municipal Corporation of Makraun Cantt, the Municipal Corporation of Dharmshala. If there is much taxation on barrage as to how many times a single vehicle has to pay the tax. Tourism will face a set back there and tourists will have to face the problems. I support this Bill but nothing has been done in the Bill regarding the problems of local people. The problems have been lying intact for the last 20-25 years. No provision has been made in this Bill for removing them. My submission is that no provision for vote of right for the local representatives, the MLAs of these Cantonments have been made. This kind of thing will invite the outsiders. They will sit there and the commanding officer of the Cantonment will chair. If you want to do these things in a democratic set up you should see to the local problems there and such a provision should be made that it should be chaired by the elected representative as is being done in case of District Council or Block Samiti where B.D.O. or Deputy Commissioner acts as Member Secretary. If you want to continue the very conservative British atmosphere the very purpose of Cantonment will be defeated in democratic set up. I want that correspondence should be made with adjoining areas of Cantonment. Simultaneously, we will have to extend the areas of Cantonment. ...*(Interruptions)* Eight weeks notice will be served there, the whole process will be completed, payment will be made and the land will be acquired. Nowhere such things are done. At least three months' notice is served. The person whose land is being acquired is given an opportunity. Similarly, award is announced and after that other processes are completed. Keeping in view all these things, I want to say that this is a good comprehensive Bill. Whatever, I have said should be incorporated and problems should be solved. I thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak.

SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN (Indore): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I will put forth points only. You will have to allow me to speak for one minute more because in my constituency the situation of Mau Cantonment area is very

different. I would like to attract the attention of the Minister to it. As per the treaty of 1821, which was called Mansaur Treaty. It was entered into by Maharaja Holkar and the Britishers after getting defeated in war. In it, Holkar Maharaja allowed a few tract of lands in and around Mau Cantonment for keeping British troops there. But the circumstances got changed. I would not go into the detail. But it was clear from the letter number 15/45 of the 1944 crown representative that the name of Government of India is wrongly registered with GLR8. I would request you to be aware of it. Military authority or crown representative did not have any right over it, its real owner was Holkar Darbar. Therefore, the Cabinet resolution passed by Holkars in 1947 says that the occupation of military will continue and the land will be acquired by the government if needed. It is clearly written in the treaty. But later on when Madhya Pradesh was created from Central Province, the land did not go to the state, but it came under the Government of India. There are some drawbacks in the Ministry in this regard, I would like to separately attract the attention of the Government to it.

Sir, the Bill, which has come today is very big, but you have allowed me to speak for five minutes only, nonetheless, I would like to put my points before you. You have used the word for greater democratization in your Bill for civil areas till date in the cantonment. If you are bringing this Bill for greater democratization, I would like that the President of Cantonment Board should be among from the elected persons and not a commanding officer. Indeed, this can be the first starting of democracy there. After this, you talked about better financial management. Generally, what is called the better financial management? If the population of civil area becomes 80 per cent and the population of Cantonment area becomes 20 per cent and then a ratio of 20:80 take place, it means 20 per cent is being spent on civil area whereas 80 per cent is being spent on Cantonment area. Let me know about it as to what is better financial management out of these two.

Another point which I want to emphasize is that the same situation crops up in various schemes like Kissan Credit Card or others even when they are sponsored by Central Government or State Governments. There is a proverb in Marathi — "Aai jeu ghalina, baap bhikh mangu deina". It means that on the one hand, my mother does not provide me any food and on the other hand my father prevents me from begging. In this way, the child remains hungry. This is the present situation in civil area. In Chapter 3, Clause-235 of the Act, you have given absolute power to C.E.O. This power creates a dictator mentality. It is all right to give permission for new construction. But, the

[Shrimati Sumitra Mahajan]

permission of E.O.O. is also needed for repair of old houses. But there is no written rule for that. Keeping in mind the steep rise in population, it is necessary to give some more leverage for F.S.I. But, no one is paying any attention to this aspect. Moreover, I was told that permission for building was being given. But, there was no mention of any time bound permission. It is pertinent that C.E.O. should give permission for construction but it is perplexing that no permission is being given for repair of buildings. I am witness to the fact that there are many hundred year old buildings where almost half of the portion has broken down, but permission to repair those buildings has not been given. A delay of six months or even a year is being witnessed. There is no limit to such things. One is compelled to go to courts for redress. But the poor people who can not afford to go to courts are utterly helpless.

One more point which I would like to emphasize is that the development of the area is the key word in that Act. I suggested to the Commander of the area that it was O.K. if he wanted to control the area for the sake of development. But, city planning should be done in a time-bound manner. In the present situation, the roads are still narrow while the population is increasing very fast. The roads are under the control of Cantonment Board but traffic is controlled by state police. Again, electricity is under the control of State Government. There is no coordination between these agencies. So, the above mentioned proverb is apt enough to describe the situation. There is no planned coordination. Actually, I wanted to mention the situation prevailing in bungalow area. It was initiated by the British regime. There are cities in Cantonment areas. They had permitted their own retired officers to construct bungalow by allotting them certain areas. They were given rented plot with the instruction that these should be given exclusively to army officers. This area is called bungalow area. But, this rule can not be applied to Mau. In the beginning itself I had told that it was the origin of dispute.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: It is O.K. Thanks.

SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to continue my speech for a little more time. The present discussion is about a big bungalow in five acre area. As the bungalow is very old, so the solution is either to bring forward a scheme or to grant permission to its owner. But, the authority is implementing neither of the two above mentioned options. It results in unplanned illegal construction resulting in notices being served to the owners and added pressure on court work. So, I

think, some kind of planning is necessary to solve this problem.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to raise two points. As there is no land register available at that place, one cannot scrutinize whether some changes have been made or not. The second point is that some festivals like Dussehra are celebrated at that place every year. The authorities know that it is celebrated at that particular place every year. The permission for arrangement of Dussehra is not given in a proper manner, although it is a fact that it is a military ground but such a large area is lying without any use. When they are aware of the festival programme, then what is the reason of the hurry in compelling people to vacate the ground in one or two hour's time. Their behaviour reminds one of the British regime when the Britishers used the derogatory epithet of 'Bloody Indian' to call a native, as they had a inferiority complex for them. All this becomes more painful because the people are treated like that during Dussehra, a traditional festival. So, there should be a manual for that. The civilian population of the area is living in miserable condition as they cannot mortgage their property and because there is no provision for revival of the lease rights of their agricultural land.

I want that civil area should be increased in Mahou. Mahou has a total area of 4190 acre, out of which only 341 acres of land is demarcated for civilian population. If road area is excluded from it, then only 240 acres of land is available for a population of 80,000 and the remaining land is available for 10,000 people. I have no objection about their comfort. But, I shall insist on increasing the land area for civilian population because on an average at least five people are compelled to live in a room. It creates a lot of problem like riots for the civilian population because Muslim population is also there. But, their attitude is such that the proposal was rejected when the people's representative was not present in the meeting. Now, the Cantonment Board has been dissolved and now the military officers are in charge of the entire process. Civil area should be increased. I am perplexed at their attitude. I know that our Army and Army personnel fight for our safety. Will the mentality of discrimination between a military man and a civilian prevail for such a long time? In that situation 'democracy' will remain just a word and it will lose its basic meaning. Sir, I request the hon'ble Minister to pay attention to this issue.

SHRI RAMKRIPAL YADAV (Patna): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, at the outset I would like to thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak on the Cantonment Bill, 2006.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, there are 62 such cantonment Boards in the country at present. Today after eighty years the relevant law in this regard is being sought to be amended through this Bill. This is a right step and I support it. The Minister has taken a right step by providing relief to the people through amendment in the relevant law in view of the prevalent set up. Through this Bill the hon'ble Members of parliament will be the invitees and the legislators will also be its members. Therefore, it is a right step.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Danapur Cantonment Board is in my Parliamentary constituency. Many hon'ble members have expressed their views that intention of the Government is clear but I apprehend that the way the Executive Officer is being given powers and a commanding officer is being made its chairman the elected civilians will be rendered powerless and reduced to a mere rubber stamp and Government wants to reinforce the same system. I feel that the elected civilians should be office bearers so that they can undertake development works in the Cantonment Board and provide more facilities to the people. The hon'ble Minister would clarify it in his reply. It is our apprehension that the powers, which are sought to be provided through this Act, may not become a reality. We would, therefore, like the Government not to kill the essential spirit of strengthening the Cantonment Boards democratically.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Danapur Cantonment Area is surrounded from all sides by the civilian areas. If there is the Ganges on the one side, there is a large rural belt on the other. Now-a-days urbanization is taking place at a very large scale. The population is increasing by the every passing day but the Cantonment Board still remains at the Centre. It has a very small periphery. The public at large find it convenient to use the road passing through the Cantonment area. There is a main road, which provides connectivity to the areas of Aurangabad, Sasaram and Buxar. There is a lot of strictness on that road. No patient is allowed to pass it howsoever urgent an emergency might be. A limit of 4-5 kilometers has been determined and sometimes patients breathe their last on the way but the Military is not sympathetic enough to let the patients go as they feel that the rule would be violated. Sometimes people are forced to do sit ups and made to run on foot. In this way people are punished. I would urge the hon'ble Minister to shift that road away from the Cantonment Board so as to be used for bus route. This will provide the people immense relief. The hon'ble Minister should take initiative

in this regard. It can also solve the problem of the public in general. The Military personnel will also be able to maintain their rules and regulations and safety as well.
...(Interruptions)

Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, I have just started.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You have taken more than five minutes.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMKRIPAL YADAV: You have allowed every one to speak for more than five minutes. Therefore, kindly allow me also.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please conclude in just one minute.

SHRI RAMKRIPAL YADAV: Sir, there was a mention regarding a graveyard also. It contains a provision that it is necessary to take permission for a new graveyard. I would like to draw your attention that there are two important graveyards there. One of them is for Christians and the other is for Muslims which is quite old. That one is in a very dilapidated condition. The Cantonment Board performs many functions. There is also a rule of the Government of India in this regard. That funds are provided to construct boundary wall of a graveyard but no provision has been made for this purpose. The graveyard of the Christians is also in a dilapidated condition. I would like to request that such a provision should be made in the Bill so that condition of the graveyards falling under the territory of the Cantonment Boards can improve.

I would like to make one more submission. I have written two or three letters to the hon'ble Minister and personally requested the D.M. There is a mosque there.
...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You can take up the rest of the matters personally with the Minister.

SHRI RAMKRIPAL YADAV: You have incorporated a provision in rule and regulation of the Board to protect people belonging to all castes and creeds. There is a mosque there, which is quite old. That was demolished in the Cantonment. There is an agitation going on over it. People have met the Minister many a time but no solution has been found so far. I would like to submit that some solution to the problem needs to be found so that tempers of the minorities could be brought down.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Our last Speaker on this Bill will be Major General (Retd.) B.C. Khanduri.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMKRIPAL YADAV: I would like to conclude with one request.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You can give it in writing to the Minister.

SHRI RAMKRIPAL YADAV: You are looking particularly annoyed with me. I shall sit down if you are angry. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The Minister is to reply at 14.30 hrs.

SHRI RAMKRIPAL YADAV: I am just the second speaker from my party. ...*(Interruptions)*

Sir, There is a firing range there. There is also a large village beside that. A branch of the Delhi Public School has also opened there. Any accident can take place there at any time. You should take such steps so as to ensure safety of the people while letting the army personnel to continue with their firing practice. You should empower the Board and provide the same amount of powers to the civilians as being enjoyed by the Military officers in the Cantonment Board. The development activities of the Cantonment Board should be undertaken with mutual coordination. There are problems like Road and water at many places in Danapur. Try to rectify these anomalies. While supporting this Bill I express my special thanks to you for giving me an opportunity to speak.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: General Khanduri to speak now. Please give only suggestions in five minutes.

MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI (Garhwal): Thank you, Sir. I rise to give my views on this Cantonment Act, 1924. As we can see, it was brought in 23 years before Independence and now we are in the 60th year of Independence. It has taken us 83 years to have a look at this British-made Act. I am very happy that at last it has seen the light of the day and it has come to this stage.

Sir, time is a great constraint. But I have to mention that I would have liked to go in a little more in detail on this Bill. I have the experience of both the sides. I have spent long time in the Army and, therefore, I know what is important in Cantonments and how possessive the Army people are about the Cantonments.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You should have been the first speaker of your Party.

MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI: I think I was kept as the last man. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: But this is not my fault.

MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI: Sir, I will make my speech very short. A lot of Members have spoken before me. So, I will not repeat those things.

Sir, I understand the problem. On the one side, there is certain status of cantonments today which needs to be maintained to a certain extent. I will tell about that to you. Then, having been in the electoral politics for the last 15 or 16 years, there is other side of it also which, unfortunately, has not been given due consideration. In your own 'Objects and Reasons' – sometimes I wish you had not given that in your 'Objects and Reasons' – you have talked about democratisation, more authority and the needs of the civilian people. That aspect has been highlighted by every Member and rightly so. We expected a lot of democratisation and we expected civilian needs to be looked at with specific reference to what other persons have been speaking about those needs. Some of them are genuine needs and ought to have been taken care of. After highlighting this in the Objects and Reasons, you are not following it.

In some cases, you have gone to the other side also. Democratisation has become less democratic and the need of the people has not even been looked at. Unfortunately, now we are at a stage where, I am sure, the hon. Minister is not going to accept any of our suggestions or amendments. I will still make a request to him and to the organisational system that we must have a look at it and we should do whatever arrangement we can make in the Rules to make this less stiff and a little more liberal towards civilians. I am not suggesting that you should totally lose the concept and importance of cantonments, but you have to give a little bit of more freedom and authority.

As Shrimati Sumitra Mahajan said, we are getting very short time and it is very difficult to put forth all our views. First, we have 113 pages of the original Bill which was given to us in 2003. Then, there were about 11 pages of amendments which were given by you in Rajya Sabha. Then, there is the present Bill which is of 139 pages. Therefore, it is a nightmare to particularly try to correlate all these documents. It has been very difficult and therefore, some of the suggestions being made may have already been accepted in Rajya Sabha.

Regarding certain things in the 'Objects and Reasons', I have already said that since they were highlighted in the 'Objects and Reasons', a lot of expectations were there, but unfortunately, they have not been met. You may say that the Bill was prepared during the tenure of NDA Government. I agree, but it does not prevent us from pointing out the lacunae in the Bill. The Report submitted by the Standing Committee on Defence is a very good and voluminous one. They have taken a very long time and made good suggestions. Unfortunately, the Government has accepted almost none. Though the Government has accepted about 40 out of 90 suggestions made by them, but they are minor ones. No major suggestion has been accepted except deletion of Chapter XV dealing with management of defence land. You have taken that away. They are very good suggestions. I do not know the reason for not accepting those suggestions of the Standing Committee on Defence, which has Members from all parties.

Sir, you have been a Chairman of the Standing Committee and I had the privilege of working under you in the Committee and you know how people go into it thoroughly. There are many good suggestions, but unfortunately, almost nothing has been accepted. No major recommendation of theirs has been accepted.

Now, you talk of democratisation. In the very beginning of the summary, the Standing Committee on Defence in its Report has said:

".....elected members have been given very few powers. Even the decisions taken by this Committee especially for civil areas can be objected to by various other members of the Board and can be stalled indefinitely making its existence infructuous. The Committee further note that even the decisions of the full Board can be over-ridden by the very nominated members of the Board who may be privy to that decision."

In fact, it says that the 1924 Act enacted during the British Rule was probably better in some cases. The present Bill does not in any way help democratisation of Cantonment Board.

It also states that:

"Even the Government's claim that the Bill envisages enhanced representation for elected members to make a proper balance between the elected and nominated members does not have good..."

Further, they have stated in paragraph 11 of this document that wide powers have been given to the people who are not elected, but who are nominated. This particular point is mentioned in clause 13.

They have also spoken about elections not being held in the cantonments, and thereby carrying out certain changes, which again is not correct. Out of the 62 cantonments, elections have not been held in 61 cantonments. I have four cantonments in my constituency. One of them holds the Indian Military Academy (IMA), another one holds the Garhwal Regiment Centre, and two others.

Why do we not hold elections? This is a perpetual complaint. In any case, earlier and now also these did not have overruling powers. Therefore, this sort of thing is creating a lot of ill-will amongst the people in addition to the hardships that they are going through. This has also been mentioned by some of my colleagues.

As regards democratisation, you are saying that you have increased the numbers in it from 6 to 7 or so, but the parity is there. How does it become more democratic? I could have understood the point if you had given one more vote to the elected member. But we talk about democratisation, and do nothing about it. This is more disappointing than not speaking about it at all.

I do not know the past experience, but the number has been given such that if there is a tie among the elected and non-elected members, then there is no arrangement as to what will happen. What would happen if both sides get equal votes? In some cases the amendment says that it will be a draw. But I do not know whether it will be applicable across the board. ...*(Interruptions)* MPs have also not been given representation in it. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please do not give running commentary in the House. You are wasting the time being given to you.

...*(Interruptions)*

MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI: Sir, I do not want to dilute this issue as this is also a very major issue in it. But I can understand what must have worked in the mind of the people who framed this. I am saying this because if we had added this to the elected members rather than the nominated members, then perhaps the balance would have become upset. But I do not know whether we can take that sort of thing, and treat MPs and

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MLAs to that extent. In my constituency of Dehradun — where a corporation is there — I am allowed to vote, but I would not be allowed to vote here. These are some of the issues, which have created some problems.

There are two more major issues about which I would like to mention in the House. Firstly, I would like to mention about the CEO. I do not understand this point. Why have you given such wide and dictatorial powers to the CEO. I just fail to understand this point. Further, as regards CEO, you have made him CEO from EO. The Committee objected this change of name itself. Apart from giving wide powers, overriding powers and overruling powers, there is one very ridiculous paragraph somewhere in it, which says that if the President or the Vice-President has passed something, then it will be counter-signed by the CEO. Since when has a junior officer started to counter-sign the recommendations of a senior officer? I do not understand this. Who has thought of this idea? Who has made this ridiculous point in the Bill? This sort of a thing has downgraded the quality of this Bill irrespective of whosoever has made it. Clause 128 at page 43 mentions this point, which I just mentioned here.

There is another point about the CEO. The people are opposing the powers given to the CEO. The civilians are objecting to it. The Committee also objected to it very seriously, but what is more interesting is that even the Army has objected to it. Kindly see page 113 of the Report of the Committee. Brig. J.S. Kohli, President of the Pune Cantonment — which is one of the biggest cantonments in India — has given a lot of suggestions. One of the suggestions regarding the CEO is that the Chief Executive Officer should not be a member of the Cantonment Board. From an ordinary Secretary, you have made him a member, and you have given him vast powers. He should only be an Executive to the Board.

He further suggested that:

"under certain sections power of CEO to carry out execution of work without the sanction of the Board in case of emergency should be deleted"

He further suggested to the Committee that:

"In a number of clauses the responsibility has been shifted from the Board to the CEO...."

"Individual authority has been given importance over collective authority."

This is not the view of an elected member with an eye on his vote-bank. I am really surprised as to why this

has been allowed to happen. As far as the powers given to the CEO is concerned, I want to make a special request to you. Of course, this Bill will get passed today, but I would request you to please have a re-look at it after it is passed that and see whether certain amount of curtailing can be done within the rules. It is going to create a lot of problems. In the next five to seven years, the Government is going to have problems because the civilians, the Army, the Navy and the Air Force will have problems. Then, the ball will rest in your court. The Government will have problems because the CEO was given powers which he will not be able to handle, and it will also be not accepted by the elected members and the Army. Therefore, my request to you is please have a re-look at it and see whether betterment can be done by way of rules, regulations, directions or instructions. This should be certainly looked into.

My last point is, since I do not want the hon. Deputy Speaker to ring the bell the second time, you have also put a toll tax within the Cantonment area. It is already creating a lot of problems. It is not going to be practical. A person goes up and down three to four times. There will be fights, if a person is stopped. In case of a national highway, you will be providing better facilities and a person may be crossing the borders, probably, once in a day, but here a person will be crossing the Cantonment area three to four times a day. In such a situation, how will the toll tax be collected? It is creating a lot of problems. My request to you is to please have a re-look at it, otherwise you will be flooded with complaints on this issue, and you will have very difficult times ahead. As I said, in the next five to seven years, you will have no choice but to again bring an amendment to this Bill. Therefore, I suggest that something should be done to minimize the hardship that is being created by this.

With these words, I thank you for giving me the time, and I thank the Government for bring this Bill, though it has taken a long time. Whatever lacunae have been pointed out by my colleagues, I hope that you will look into them with a sympathetic view.

[Translation]

SHRI VEERENDRA KUMAR (Sagar): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Cantonment area also lie in my parliamentary constituency. Therefore I would also like to speak for two minutes. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: No, please sit down.

[Translation]

A lot of BJP members have already spoken.

[English]

the honourable Minister is on legs.

[Translation]

SHRI VEERENDRA KUMAR: Sir, I would conclude my points within two minutes. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: O.K. You will get only two minutes to say your points.

SHRI VEERENDRA KUMAR: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am grateful to you for giving me two minutes to present my points.

Sir, I would not like to repeat these points which my earlier speaker have said. I come from Sagar. 177.60 acres of land come under cantonment there. Every farmer uses one and half acres of this land for horticulture purposes. They have been working there prior to 1983. Their lease have been terminated since 1974. No rent has been charged for thirty years all over India. I have been working for last eleven years for disposal of this problem. I would like to submit to the honourable Minister, through you, to find some solution to this problem. The Government of Madhya Pradesh had given consent to provide reserve land to farmers in stead of cantonment land. You may take initiative thereon so that farmers of Sagar as well as all cantonment areas country wide could get relief. 1400 acres of surplus cultivable land of Ministry of Defence is lying in Sagar district only. You will not face any problem to provide 177.60 acre land out of that. The farmers will be able to make their both ends meet with this land and they will settle down. I would not like to say any things more in this regard. I wanted to say so many things. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You can submit your points to honourable Minister in writing.

[English]

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): You can send it to me or you can give it to me. ...*(Interruptions)*

First of all, I would like to express my gratitude to all the hon. Members who have participated in this debate and have also made very useful and constructive suggestions.

As many as 21 Members have participated in the discussion that has been held on almost three days including today.

It is natural that we go into the history of cantonments. The first cantonment was established in 1765 – with my State having a share along with Danapur – and the last one was established in 1962. So, from 1765 to 1962, that is, over a period of almost 200 years these 62 cantonments were established.

The major law enacted in this regard was by the then British Government in 1924. The last Clause of the present Bill, Clause 360, states that with the passage of this Bill the existing Cantonments Act of 1924 would stand repealed. That means, this is the closing chapter of one of the laws which was enacted by the colonial masters.

I understand the anxieties of the hon. Members who have highlighted the problems of the civilian areas, the shortcomings of the democratisation process, and also their anxiety as to how to effectively use the land which is in possession of the defence forces.

The history of the Act is known. As the hon. Members know, in the process of legislation it had contribution of the 12th Lok Sabha, 13th Lok Sabha and the 14th Lok Sabha. I must express my gratitude to the Chairman of the Standing Committee on Defence, Shri Balasaheb Vikhe Patil, and all the Members of the Committee for making a very valuable contribution. If I have not been able to accept all the recommendations that the Committee has made, it is not because the recommendations are not relevant or are not wise; but it is simply because of the fact which I will explain in a little detail. I will explain as to why this enactment comes with certain constraints and what those constraints are.

In the other House I explained why I am not using the word 'municipality' or the 'municipal services' and why I am compelled to use the word 'deemed municipality'. If it was just for extending the municipal facilities in the context of the 74th Amendment of the Constitution to the territorial areas located in the cantonments, perhaps there was no need of bringing this Bill. That is because, to create a municipality or to provide a locality with the municipal facilities is essentially within the domain of the State Government. But here we have the interests of two parties – interest of the troops located in a particular area and the interests of the civilians who are residing in that area. Therefore, we had to make a compromise and balance between protecting the interest of the troops and protecting the interests and provide services to the civilian population.

[Shri Pranab Mukherjee]

It is known to the hon. Members that cantonment is primarily meant for the troops. Establishment of cantonment is not creation of certain urban units. Troops are to be located in different parts of the country as it was much more relevant in those 200 years ago. When troops are to be located in a particular area, they ought to be provided certain civic facilities because the health, discipline of the troops and environment in which the troops are living are very important to keep their fighting spirit. As the troops are located, certain logistic offices are to be provided and as the facilities were provided, remember, 200 years ago or 150 years ago or 100 years ago when the process of industrialisation and urbanisation in this country did not take place. It happened that cantonment became the attractive place because of the civic facilities available in the cantonment area that those who had not essentially required to provide services to the troops, they thought because of the better civic amenities being available in the area, they started living there. Shri Topdar was talking about Barrackpore cantonment. I have visited several times. It is a beautiful bungalow which they have on the river side.

This is not the story of one cantonment; this is the story of almost every cantonment that they started living. Originally, when the cantonments were established, they were not established in the populous localities or areas. Most of them are established in secluded area but with the process of establishment and with the changing pattern of habitation, now we find that some of these cantonments are located in the heart of the city. Barrackpore was almost 25 or 30 kms. away from Kolkata. Most of the cantonments stories are like that. Originally, they were located or situated outside the main city area but over the years, urbanisation grew around and the civilian population started living. It was how that the civilian population in the cantonment area were suffering because the facilities which are available to the normal city people are not being given to them. From the military authorities, they are also not getting the same facilities. As Shrimati Sumitra Mahajan was talking of the Marathi proverb – a mother is not giving food; and father is not allowing begging. So, the child has to live with empty stomach. To some extent, it was correct. Therefore, it was thought that whatever is possible, whatever benefit we can extend and specially, certain social developmental activities which are entrusted to the local bodies after the passage of the 74th Amendment to the Constitution, and for which substantial funds are being made available, civilian population living in the cantonment area should have access to them. Therefore, I am candid

enough to say that it is not full democratisation; it is not full municipalisation or a conversion of the cantonment area into full municipality. We are making something in between.

But the question is why. The civic bodies or the civilian population are not given full authority. Cantonment is to locate the troops. Therefore, the overall control, from the point of view of discipline and from the point of view of security, is to be vested in the Commanding Officer and there is no other way. If we are to do that, there cannot be full democratization and there cannot be full accountability. Accountability would be to the Defence Ministry and the Defence Ministry will be accountable to the Parliament, but not at the local level. But in-between whatever arrangements we could make, we have made. We have extended certain facilities.

Therefore, the Bill is to be looked at in that context. It is not just extending municipal facilities to some urban pockets; it is to protect the interests of the civilian population located in the cantonment, troops located in the area and to strike a balance without compromising the overriding needs of the troops. I am using the words 'overriding requirement' or 'overriding needs' of the troops because cantonment is primarily meant for that.

Keeping that in view, we have been able to bring certain basic changes. We have divided the cantonments as per the population. There will be one category which is for 50,000 plus population. There will be very few cantonments, out of 62, which would be having more than one lakh or so population. Secunderabad is perhaps the largest populous cantonment. How may be one; there may be a few others. Cantonments having 10,000-50,000 population will be another category. Cantonments having 10,000-2,500 population will be the third category and cantonments having up to 2,500 population will be the fourth category. The number of members, both nominated category and elected category are at par, will be 8, 7, 6 and 2 respectively. The question is why can the elected members not be made the chief. I have already explained that. Whenever there will be an extraordinary situation from defence point of view and from the security point of view, these boards are to be varied and suspended.

One hon. Member raised a point and asked how long it will continue, whether we can fix any time limit, etc. It is not that always it is done. When a country is in war, only then that becomes a crisis. A few years back, we had Operation Vijay and Operation Parakram. Operation Parakram was not an actual war, but a massive mobilization that we had to make. The entire army was on the state of alert; actual war did not take place. But the Government at

that point of time thought that the situation has arisen that they should be put on alert. So, everything would be dovetailed, keeping in view the requirements of security situation.

Therefore, in the cantonment area, overall responsibilities will have to be vested in the Commanding Officer who will be there. What are the features that we are bringing in? One is that we have increased the number, not to a great extent though; but if you look at the overall population size of the cantonment per elected member, the voter and the elected member ratio is not very small compared to big municipalities or big metropolitan cities. A question that has been raised in this connection is this why are you going to have voters list for every year?

15.00 hrs.

Preparation of voters' list for every year is a progressive measure. It is not a regressive measure. Your point as to why elections should not take place regularly is correct. I do agree that elections should take place at the stipulated time and there should not be varied vote for a very long period of time. Updating electoral roll is a progressing measure. In respect of cantonments, you cannot have full five years. There will have to be mobility of the troops. They are also voters, not only voters for the Cantonment Boards, they are voters for General Elections also. Therefore, if we have that, it is a progressive measure.

We have made reservation. Some Members have asked as to where is the reservation. As per rule, reservation has been provided in Clause 31 of the Bill. When the delimitation would take place, which seats would be reserved for Scheduled Tribes, Scheduled Castes and women, would be determined. The number will also be determined as per the population.

An important aspect, about conservation and preservation of the heritage properties, has been raised by a large number of Members, especially, Shri Suresh Prabhu and Shrimati Maneka Gandhi have dealt on this at length. As I have mentioned, sub-clause 43 of clause 340 (a) says that conservation and maintenance of the ancient and historic monuments, archaeological sites and remains, all places of public importance in the cantonment will be preserved.

Not only that, Gen. Khanduri will agree with me, these are immovable things. There are certain movable items like very good paintings. There have been some very rare paintings and furniture in the old cantonments. Those are also to be preserved. Quite a few of them are

completely destroyed because of our negligence. So, I have instructed the officers concerned to look into it. It has been taken care of. The necessary rules and other things will be made at an appropriate time.

A question was raised that since the Government has kept equal number of members, what would happen in case of a tie. The system is, in case of a tie the Presiding Officer has the casting vote. The Presiding Officer need not necessarily would always be the Army Officer because elected Vice-President is also there.

A question was asked as to why in case of contracts, the counter-signature of the CEO is being taken. As you know, as per the provisions of the contract, it is being counter-signed even from the British time. We have retained that. This is not a regressive step because all contracts worth Rs.50,000 and above will have to be signed by two members and one of them is the President or the other is Vice-President. Vice-President is an elected Member. This is one of the reasons why we have kept it there.

A question was raised as to how the Government is going to provide financial support to the cantonments. Shri Mahtab wanted to know about it. The financial support to the cantonments in 2004-05 was Rs.20 crore and it is Rs.40 crore for the year 2005-06. Nearly 50 per cent of the cantonments are financially deficit. They are given support by the Government. We will continue to do so but we are also trying to see that there should be an arrangement for the cross-subsidization so that it is not necessary that the Government will have to give budgetary support. But we shall have to give support from the Budget as and when it will be necessary.

A point was made about the movements, especially when a highway is passing through the cantonment area or the restriction imposed by the Army authorities on the movement of the civilians. A point has also been made about the road passing through Danapur Cantonment. Certain other specific areas have also been mentioned. It has been stated that these roads should be opened. As regards individual problems relating to the individual cantonments, it is not possible for me to respond to each of the 62 cantonments. But I am happy that quite a large number of Members who participated in the debate also represent the cantonment areas. In this connection, a question has also arisen as to why we are giving only an associate status to the Members of Parliament and the Members of the State Legislative Assemblies in the Board and why are we not giving the voting rights. In this connection, let us take the case of NDMC. The Members of Parliament are the members of the NDMC and they

[Shri Pranab Mukherjee]

take part in the debate but they do not vote. In some States, there are some provisions in this regard. For example, in the State of West Bengal, a Minister cannot be a member of a local body but the MPs are the members of the local bodies without having the voting rights. Same is the story in this case because the basic principle is very sound. The Members of Parliament and the Members of Assemblies should exercise their voting rights in a body which is presided over by the Speaker who is the chosen representative of the House. The Cantonment Board is being presided over by a Brigadier. Even in the Warrant of Precedence, Members of Parliament come above them. The basic principle is that it is not full democratization. I have never said that it is full democratization. The priority is to be given to the requirement of the troops and soldiers. It is not the creation of a few additional urban pockets or areas. Therefore, keeping that in view, it was thought that it may not be necessary to give them voting right.

As regards the financial arrangement, it has been pointed out especially by Shrimati Sumitraji that 80 per cent of the civilian population gets just 20 per cent of the financial resources. I do not know what is the exact ratio of each cantonment. In Mhow Cantonment. It may be so. She has given us the details.

MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI (Garhwal): This 80:20 ratio has been given in the report of the Standing Committee.

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: It is an average but it is not so in every cantonment. As per the Treaty entered with the then British Government, certain land was transferred and it was reiterated in 1944 and 1947. Surely all those historical documents are not readily available with me but I can assure her that I will look into them. In respect of repairs, a particular problem from her Mhow Cantonment was raised. In fact, I wrote back to her. A decision was taken and additional land was given. But should we consider that they will require additional land for their purposes and that is why that decision was nullified?

But that does not mean that the rule is not there. I will come a little later about the Defence land. But one short point that I would like to make is that whenever there had been a necessity of providing land for the construction of road, or for construction of runways or for construction of metro rail, or for that matter for providing railway facilities, Defence land has been provided. But at what point of time what would be the requirement of the Army, one cannot

predict. Nowadays land acquisition process also has become very difficult.

SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN (Indore): Now, they have nullified the things but they have not discussed it with the janpratinidhi.

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: That is an individual case. I will look into it. But what I am saying is that it is not a general rule that we do not permit or the Cantonment Board does not permit the repairing of the old and dilapidated buildings. Permissions are being given within the byelaws of the building construction within the cantonment area and within the States.

Now, Defence has two lakh acres of land in the cantonment area and 15 lakh acres of land other than in cantonment areas. How these lands would be utilised? Various suggestions have come. A suggestion was that extra and surplus land was available at Sagar and at some other places. What is surplus today need not necessarily be surplus tomorrow. Given the type of expansion we are having, we would require land. But one point I would like to assure the hon. Members that whenever there has been a demand for public utility we have given land from Defence and because we are scrupulous we have been able to protect the land to a considerable extent. How does a land become a prime land? It is because of historical evolution. When we got the land initially it was not a prime land but because of development of the area over the years it has become a prime land.

Sir, certain specific issues had been raised. In respect of certain individual cantonments some problems have been mentioned. I would like to respond to one of the points since I know the history of that famous old tree in Allahabad. Surely, I will examine as to why which was permitted earlier is not permitted now. I do not have the information right now. That is why I cannot share that information with Shri Mohan Singh and Shri Shailendra Kumar, both of whom had mentioned about it. *...(Interruptions)* I have already responded to it. I will check it up and see if there be no problem why it cannot be opened up. Sometimes, of course, we close it. Take the case of Danapur. We shall have to construct a highway, except that this problem cannot be sorted out. Nowadays with extra sensitivity in respect of security we shall have to be extra careful.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I think, I have covered all the general points. But I would like to clarify one point raised by Maj. Gen. (Retd.) Khanduri. He drew the attention of the Government to some anomaly in clause 128. I

would like to share this information with him. There was actually a printing mistake. One amendment was made to clause 128 but unfortunately that amendment got printed under clause 129. We have issued one errata. the Lok Sabha Secretariat also has issued the correction.

Gen. Khanduri pointed out as to why we have given so much power to the Chief Executive Officer and whether it is called for or not. One of the reasons why so much power is given to him is this. Keeping in view the interests of the troops and the Forces, he should have the overall control of the entire cantonment area. But I do not rule out the possibility when a time may come that there may be an apprehension of misuse. I cannot claim that whatever has been done in this piece of legislation will be 100 per cent correct. But we will be able to know it when we put it into operation. Then we will be able to identify the areas of shortcomings and deficiencies.

One question has been raised as to why we have not accepted all the recommendations of the Standing Committee. It is not possible to do it.

MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI: I said major recommendations have not been accepted like what the CEO and even Army Officer are saying. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: All right. I do agree that even the Army Officer has stated it. But as you yourself have said, before entering into public life and entering into electoral politics, you had the total picture of the other side. Therefore, the basic presumption with which I started my observations is that cantonment is primarily meant for the troops. The discipline, health, morale and mobility of the troops in that particular locality are our primary considerations. Keeping that in view, it cannot be judged as the extension of another municipal area. For that, the State Governments are there. They are creating a large number of municipalities. Urbanisation is taking place and more and more of them will come. But somewhere, I have to keep the troops and this cannot be an argument that I develop the defence areas and therefore, the prices of that land go up. Somebody else will come there, raise high level buildings, make constructions and make profit by commercial utilisation. This is not an acceptable proposition. We shall have to strike a balance and we have tried that balance. We will have to see whether that balance is of a right mix. We will have to see all these things.

With these words, I would request the hon. Members to support the Bill. I would request Shri Gangwar and others not to press for their amendments because with the

spirit with which we have discussed the Bill, if we get the approval of the whole House, it would facilitate the passing of the Bill.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now, the House will take up Motion for Consideration of the Bill.

The question is:

"That the Bill to consolidate and amend the law relating to the administration of cantonments with a view to impart greater democratisation, improvement of their financial base to make provisions for developmental activities, and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto, as passed by Rajya Sabha, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The House will now take up clause-by-clause consideration of the Bill.

The question is:

"That clauses 2 to 11 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clauses 2 to 11 were added to the Bill.

Clause 12

Constitution of Cantonment Boards

[Translation]

SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT 'BACHDA' (Almora): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I have three amendments in respect of clause-12 and number is one, two and three. There has been talks to make it more democratic but it is quite the opposite here. I am in favour of increasing the number of Members from eight to nine and of seven to eight. The third amendment is concerning my demand for devolving the right to vote to the Members of Parliament and Legislators in Municipalities in addition to their right of being present there and express their opinion to enable them to arrive at a decision which proves beneficial for the commonmen and I am moving this amendment.

[English]

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: I have already replied to all these points. It is not uniform everywhere. I gave the examples of certain States.

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Are you moving this Bill or not?

SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT 'BACHDA': Sir, I am moving. It would be better if honourable Minister would have accepted the proposal. I request the hon'ble Members to give their consent to it and accept it.

I beg to move:

1. Page 7, line 43,— 12
for "eight members", substitute "nine members".
2. Page 8, line 13,— 12
for "seven members", substitute "eight members".
3. Page 8, line 42,— 12
for "but without a right to vote",
substitute "and shall also have a right to vote".

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I shall now put Amendments No.1, 2 and 3 to clause 12 moved by Shri Bachi Singh Rawat 'Bachda' to the vote of the House.

The amendments were put and negatived.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

"That clause 12 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 12 was added to the Bill.

Clauses 13 to 18 were added to the Bill.

Clause 19

President and vice-President.

[Translation]

SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT 'BACHDA': Sir, I have moved the amendment that the president of Board are encouraging democratic system of Governance and there are 7 or 8 elected members and so Present should be elected out of them. There is Station Officer Commanding here and he is the President who is ex-officio Member and he is the President but the person elected from among the people, is Vice-President. Therefore everybody should accept it and as for as Deemed Municipality is concerned that the President of the Board will be elected from among elected members then and that is my amendment. In real terms the aforesaid move has ushered in the phase of democracy in cantonment. Thus, I beg to move this amendment.

Sir, I beg to move:

Page 11, for lines 15 and 16, substitute,— 19

"19. (1) The President of the Board shall be elected from amongst the elected members of the Board."

SHRI MOHAN SINGH (Deoria): Sir, Shri Bachi Singh Rawat is saying that democracy should be instituted in meeting also.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I shall now put Amendment No.4 to clause 19 moved by Shri Bachi Singh Rawat 'Bachda' to the vote of the House.

The amendment was put and negatived.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

"That clause 19 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 19 was added to the Bill.

Clauses 20 to 66 were added to the Bill.

Clause 67

Charging of fees

[Translation]

SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT 'BACHDA': Sir, there is a separate amendment in 67.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Your main points have been discussed.

SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT 'BACHDA': It is not Sir, The main points all still to be raised. It is related to double taxation. I think that the change should be effected therein because it has been mentioned that license fee would be charged on parking motor vehicles in cantonment area and the owners of wandering animals will also have to pay the tax. RTO also charges license and registration fee. We are not in favour of this double taxation. I have to say that the people who are living there the outsiders who are visiting the area will have to pay license fee as well as the parking fee etc. and it pinches if all the hon'ble members and Hon'ble Minister are agreed on it, an amendment may be moved to effect the charge in clause 67 and I am ready to withdraw rest of the amendments.

[English]

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: Sir, it is difficult, I can assure you that a very few cantonments have the parking fee. Most of the cantonments do not have the parking fee. Therefore, licence fee is needed.

[Translation]

SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT 'BACHDA': There is toll tax in Ranikhet too.

[English]

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: In one cantonment it may be there. I do not say that it is not there, but it is not there in each cantonment.

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER:: Rawatji, are you moving it or not?

SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT 'BACHDA': I am moving it and I hope you will take care of it later on.

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: We will definitely look into it.

SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT 'BACHDA': I beg to move:

13. Page 28, line 36,—

for "licence fee on vehicles and animals"

substitute "parking fee on vehicles and licence fee on animals".

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I shall now put Amendment No. 13 moved by Shri Bachi Singh Rawat to the vote of the House.

The amendment was put and negatived.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

"That clause 67 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 67 was added to the Bill.

Clause 68

Norms of Property Tax

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Bachi Singh Rawat, are you moving your amendment?

SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT 'BACHDA': No, Sir.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Santosh Gangwar, are you moving your amendment?

SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR (Bareilly): No, Sir.

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Defence Minister is expressing thanks to you for withdrawing your amendment.

[English]

The question is:

"That clause 68 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 68 was added to the Bill.

Clauses 69 to 80 were added to the Bill.

Clause 81

Notice of transfers

[Translation]

SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT 'BACHDA': I have an amendment in Clause 244 also. The amount of fine is Rs. One lakh and it would be Rs. Ten thousand per day as long as there is offence. It is a very big amount. Instead of one lakh rupees it should be ten thousand rupees. This is my amendment. I demand that it should be reconsidered and I am moving my amendment.

I beg to move.

Page 32 line 43

For 'ten' substitute 'one'

(14)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I shall now put Amendment No. 14 moved by Shri Bachi Singh Rawat to the vote of the House.

The amendment was put and negatived.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

"That clause 81 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 81 was added to the Bill.

Clauses 82 to 239 were added to the Bill.

Clause 240 **Power to sanction
general scheme for
prevention of
overcrowding etc.**

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: There is Amendment No. 20 by Shrimati Maneka Gandhi – not present.

The question is:

"That clause 240 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 240 was added to the Bill.

Clauses 241 to 243 were added to the Bill.

Clause 244 **Restrictions on use
of building**

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Bachi Singh Rawat, are you moving your amendments?

SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT 'BACHDA': No, Sir.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

"That clause 244 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 244 was added to the Bill.

Clauses 245 and 246 were added to the Bill.

Clause 247 **Illegal erection
and re-erection**

[Translation]

SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT 'BACHDA': Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, this is my last amendment in clause 249. This clause is about the procedure of sealing of unauthorised construction. But there is no provision of right to appeal for committing an offence of unauthorised construction. As per judicial prudence in natural justice

there should be right to appeal. Therefore this is my first amendment and the second amendment is in clause 4 of it which provides for imprisonment of six months. Even if a child breaks the seal the provision of imprisonment of six months and a fine of Rs.20,000/- has been there. I have asked to reduce the imprisonment to two months and the fine to Rs.5000/-. I have moved two such amendments which have a logic. If House agrees, they should be accepted. There should be provision of right to appeal and the provision of imprisonment should be reduced.

I bet to move—

Page 74, line 33

For 'fifty', substitute "five" (17)

[English]

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: Sir, this suggestion is not acceptable in the sense that this has become the practice of delay. They just take this. I think they can go to the court on appeal. That is available to them.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I shall now put Amendment No.17 moved by Shri Bachi Singh Rawat 'Bachda' to the vote of the House.

The amendment was put and negatived.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

"Clause 247 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 247 was added to the Bill.

Clause 248 was added to the Bill.

Clause 249 **Power to seal
unauthorised
constructions**

[Translation]

SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT 'BACHDA': Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I have already submitted about clause 249, it is regarding the sealing and reducing the imprisonment from six months to two month and fine from Rs. Twenty thousand to five thousand. These are last amendments. I beg to move—

Page 75, after line 23,—

Insert "Provided that the power to seal unauthorized construction and to impose penalty shall be available to the Cantonment Board only and the affected party shall have the right to appeal against the decision of the Board". (6)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I shall now put Amendment No.6 moved by Shri Bachi Singh Rawat 'Bachda' to the vote of the House.

The amendment was put and negatived.

[Translation]

SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT 'BACHDA': Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Amendments No. 18 and 19 are clubbed. They are related to the clause 249.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Then withdraw these amendments.

SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT 'BACHDA': I withdraw them.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

"That clause 249 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 249 was added to the Bill.

Clauses 250 to 360 were added to the Bill.

Schedules I to V were added to the Bill.

Clause 1, the Enacting Formula and the Long Title were added to the Bill.

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: I beg to move:

"That the Bill be passed."

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

"That the Bill be passed."

The motion was adopted

15.35 hrs.

PRIVATE MEMBER'S RESOLUTION

Re: Steps for balanced and equitable development of all parts of the country

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: We will now take up item no. 17.

Shri J.M. Aaron Rashid – Not present

SHRIMATI TEJASWINI SEERAMESH (Kanakpura): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I rise to support the Resolution moved by our hon. colleague Shri Sarbananda Sonowal who comes from the hilly area of North Eastern India. He is pressurising the Government to take steps for balanced and equitable growth of different parts of the country by removing regional imbalances.

15.37 hrs.

(DR. SATYANARAYAN JATTYA *in the Chair*)

Sir, we are living in a federal structure where every State deserves equal development on the basis of its topography, cultural background, natural wealth and population. Without considering the population and its population, we cannot equate every part of India by one policy.

India comprises of the great Himalayas in the North, the southern parts of our country are having sea coasts and the Central India comprises of the Vindhyas and other hilly areas. According to the topography and according to the ecology, we must formulate policies to develop our country which will benefit our 100 crore people.

Today, basic necessities are our rights. We can clearly see two sections of India in our country, that is, backward India and forward India or rural India and urban India. In rural India, even though our people are provided the fundamental right to have equal development, the majority of our people, that is, more than 60 per cent of the people in rural India are deprived of equal development.

Let us look at the allocation of funds. I do not want to divide the country, I do not want to divide the politicians with figures that I am going to quote, but I would like to express my concern regarding the plight of agriculture in our country. What is the amount that we are allocating to agriculture today in our Budget? We are allocating only 2

[Shrimati Tejaswini Seeramesh]

per cent of our Budget to 80 per cent of the population and the remaining money goes to the rest of the population. This is a worrying factor. What sort of India can we build with this 2 per cent allocation of funds to agriculture?

Then, we are allocating a lot of funds to education, health and infrastructure sectors and successive Governments, whether it is the NDA Government or the UPA Government, are implementing a lot of programmes and projects to improve the basic life of the people living in rural India, but it is not adequate. Why are the rural people moving towards urban areas today? Look at Mumbai, Chennai and Bangalore. Why are these cities flooded with population?

Sir, in 1947 the population of our country was 35 crores. Today our population has crossed 100 crores. But what is our allocation of funds towards rural India? We have not raised our allocation, according to this, for the rural India. I mean to say that rural India deserves more and more attention with more and more funds for the development of infrastructure.

Sir, our youths are suffering from unemployment because in rural India they are unable to get themselves in the agricultural activities due to lack of land or proper housing. We have been discussing so many issues in this House. How many Indians are there who have been deprived of housing? Housing is the basic need, drinking water is the basic need of the people.

On the one side, India is suffering from floods and on the other side it is suffering from drought, which has resulted in the suicide by farmers. We cannot differentiate India like this. In the coastal belt, due to land erosion, the farmers are losing their land, the fishermen are suffering and in the Jammu & Kashmir region, there are natural calamities like earthquake and all that. It is a unique picture. So, there is earthquake in the hilly regions and there is Tsunami in the coastal belt. The agony of the common people is the same. I do not want to divide India on their topographical background. So, I would urge upon the Government to give more attention to equal development of all the regions of India.

Why are people migrating to big cities? On the one side, we can see malls, bungalows, multi-storied buildings and next to that, we can see the drainage and common people living in the surrounding area, that is, in the slums. It is very painful. We can see that 55 per cent of the

population of Mumbai is living in slums. It indicates the regional imbalance. Even in Bangalore, same is the case. I think, it will escalate the major regional problems, like language and culture.

In Bangalore, I feel that the native Kannadigas have been reduced to 28 per cent only. My fellow Indians have every right to live anywhere in the motherland, but it should not disturb one's basic right to live on its own land. Today, our native people cannot afford to stay 25 kms. near the city of Bangalore. The rich ones come and buy malls, flats by paying crores of rupees. Why are they coming to big cities? It is because they lack business and other opportunities in their areas. By providing proper roads, by providing proper infrastructure in the rural areas, we can restrict migration of these people to big cities.

We must take Panchayati Raj Institutions into confidence. When I visit villages in my constituency, the experience is and it may be the experience of all of us here, lower level people demand more and more funds. They demand more and more funds from the MPLAD Funds to have proper drainage facilities and to have proper roads, etc. From where can we afford such a huge amount to provide these infrastructural facilities? It is not the duty of the Member of Parliament to provide basic infrastructural facilities. It should be the duty and responsibility of the respective State Governments, respective Zila Panchayats, respective Gram Panchayats and all that.

I appreciate and congratulate the UPA Government for giving a lot of importance to the Panchayati Raj Institutions. The village should be our unit. We must stop migration to big cities by providing them every opportunity. Unless, we strengthen the rural employment by encouraging jobs like handlooms, by encouraging cottage industry, which was the dream of the father of our nation, Mahatma Gandhi, we cannot restrict migration to big cities.

Jobs like sericulture and animal husbandry are the livelihoods in our villages. But their knowledge is limited because the people are deprived of proper education and health. Recently, an epidemic disease called 'Chikungunia' attacked severely the people in the State of Karnataka. Of course, it also attacked the neighbouring States. But the plight of the poor people is that they are unable to pay the medical fees and are unable to afford the costly drugs. Many of the MLAs in my constituency paid from their pockets to see that these people must get good medical care to cure 'Chikungunia'. So, Sir, health should be one's basic right. It should be the responsibility of the Government to provide basic health facilities to its people and then only we can maintain hygienic atmosphere for the people of our country.

Otherwise, in an unhygienic condition, what sort of citizens will be there? It must be the basic right of the rural people. Today rich can afford good education. Even though the village boys and girls are equally talented, with their limited environment they are not the privileged ones to live in a good environment, and to acquire the best knowledge. Today, we are living in an era of globalisation, and the children living in rural areas and the children of the farmers are all able to see the computer and internet. We ourselves were deprived of such facilities in our childhood. Whatever we claim today, the fruits of the independent India must reach every nook and corner of the rural India. Unless we achieve this, we cannot see equality in the nation. One day it may disturb the peaceful atmosphere. Why are we seeing so much of disturbance in the country? Why our youths are picking up weapons? Today, one-fifth of India is under the Naxalite influence. It is an alarming situation. Why is it so? Why these bright boys and girls are picking up weapons? That means, they are deprived of their basic right to education, right to employment and right to a decent living. That is why, I urge upon the Government to allocate more funds for education.

States like Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and Karnataka are suffering from flood. I do not understand the logic why my State was deprived while allocating flood relief fund recently. It may be a technical mistake; I do not know. Northern Karnataka was very much affected by the flood menace. River Bheema has caused a lot of problems in northern Karnataka. I urge upon the Government to release more funds to address the problems created by the flood menace in Karnataka.

I urge upon the Finance Minister to strengthen the cooperative banks. Only cooperative banks were encouraging and addressing the needs of the farmers in the rural areas of the country. These banks were not getting enough concessions by the Government. I would like to request our Prime Minister and our Finance Minister to pay attention to this sector also. We should strive to develop the hilly areas like North-Eastern States; coastal belts like Kerala, Mangalore and Tamil Nadu. Also, rural and urban imbalance should be reduced. Otherwise, one day we may see more criminals, more beggars and more orphans in our independent India. So, we must strive to reduce this inequality by adopting a good policy which should be rural oriented. It is because the people in rural areas are more in number and they are deprived of this. If they stop producing food, what would we eat? Already many of them have left farming because it is no more viable and profitable. We cannot eat money; only we need

food to eat. So, we must protect our *annadata* and the children of our farmers; we must protect the poor people through our pro-poor people policies.

With these words, I would like to support the resolution moved by Shri Sarbananda Sonowal. My Government is already doing it, and my Government is pro-people. I am hundred per cent confident that my Government will address to these problems.

With these words, I conclude.

[Translation]

SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL (Tonk): Mr. Chairman, Sir, the resolution which is being discussed today is very important and we should consider it very seriously. I read out the resolution and. I am reading this because under the Constitution the same mandate had been given to the rulers of the country on January 26, 1950. The resolution is:-

"This House expresses its concern over the regional imbalances created by the lack of development of different parts of the country and urges the Government to take urgent steps for the balanced and equitable growth of different parts of the country, particularly the remote areas, in order to strengthen the federal structure of the country.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, we have adopted the constitution and in the constitution, the word on which I would like to give maximum emphasis, is citizen, citizen has been made the basis. There is a reference of justice in the preamble of the constitution. It has been said that we will secure social, economic and political justice and liberty of worship to all its citizens. Endeavours will be made to secure justice to all its citizens in a democratic republic. It has also been mentioned that we will secure social, economic and political justice and liberty of worship to all its citizens. Endeavours will be made to secure equality of states and of opportunity to all its citizens. Further it has also been said that we will work towards promoting fraternity assuring the dignity of individuals and the unity and integrity of the nation. This was the objective of the adoption of the Constitution. To achieve this objective article 395 has been put in schedule 12. I would like to urge here that federal character of our policy is not that which is reflected in political service.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, if we take an example of America, there is dual citizenship of federal state in America, one is citizenship of the USA and another is citizenship of the state. In respect of some subjects they have surrendered a

[Shri Kailash Meghwal]

bit of their supreme sovereignty to the federal state and autonomy of all the states is also maintained. Here we have formed a union of states but it has been imposed. We have fought for our freedom. The history of our country is thousands of years old. And history shows that the state is also a unit of governance. We have said that we would form new states. India shall be union of states and states would be formed in that union. We can alter boundaries of states. We can increase and diminish the areas of states. Article 1, 2 and 3 show that we would establish states for administration of India and after the establishment of states we would demarcate their boundaries and increase or diminish their areas. There shall be single citizenship in India. The federal structure of India is different from the federal structure adopted in various countries of the world. Our federal structure is unique.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, article 38 of our Constitution dealing with Directive Principles of State Policy, states:

(1) The State shall strive to promote the welfare of the people by securing and protecting as effectively as it may a social order in which justice, social, economic and political, shall inform all the institutions of the national life. The State shall, in particular, strive to minimize the inequalities in income, and endeavour to eliminate inequalities in status, facilities and opportunities, not only amongst individuals but also amongst groups of people residing in different areas or engaged in different vocations". Provisions in the Constitution were made in 1950 in pursuance of the said objective. Article 39 says: securing — that the

"The State shall, in particular, direct its policy towards citizen, men and women equally, have the right to an adequate means of livelihood";

Mr. Chairman, Sir, the thing I would like to draw your attention, to is that:

"that the ownership and control of the material resources of the community are so distributed as best to subserve the common good; that the operation of the economic system does not result in the concentration of wealth and means of production to the common detriment."

These were the directions of the Constitution. Unfortunately, the kind of political set up we have evolved has worked against achieving these objectives.

Sir, I want to submit that we created states as units, but in my opinion, we committed a blunder when we

created states on the basis of language which has resulted in two historical mistakes. Whenever historians will assess it, they will find that India has been standing as united for a long time during the freedom struggle. That kept the Indianness and nationality of the country intact. We lost that spirit during the fifty years of post-independence. Today, Indianness has taken a backseat and regionalism has come to fore.

Sir, alongwith it, the principle of politics of the country have changed. We have many political thoughts. Politics is there world-over and it is based on different political philosophy but it is our misfortune that we could not sustain the politics of principles. Owing to that nationalism is replaced by regionalism and in absence of politics of principles, casteism came as a replacement. If we take a holistic view of the country, today's politics is based on casteism. It will have disasterous results.

Sir, the direction we are moving on is not the right one. Therefore, we see regionalism across the country. If you go to Tamilnadu, there is Tamil language for Tamilians. If you go to Assam, Assamese language is there for the people of Assam. If you go to Maharashtra, Marathi language is there for Marathi people, in Punjab there is Punjabi language of Sikhs, in Andhra Pradesh there is Telugu language of people of Andhra Pradesh. As a result of that the regional parties which evolved became stronger. Their strengthening has resulted in gradual weakening of our Central Government leading to political compromises owing to which today no problem of any state is resolved. The physical resources of the country which should have been property of the country, are today in the custody of states. Unfortunately, such a situation has arose today that the state which has more political presence and pressure groups within the Government exercises more and more regional political bias.

Sir, I want to say that today Punjab has stopped water of Rajasthan. The division of water was decided upon in the year 1984, but Punjab is not ready to accept it. The Union Government had facilitated that decision. The decisions regarding power across the country were made much earlier but they are not being adhered to. There have been disputes over water, including interstate river disputes and that of electricity related in the whole country. Today Bihar has become owner of coal. Assam has become owner of oil. This situation is very dangerous. If this continues emboldening this way and if this is not controlled, I want to say that, the situation in the country will turn extremely bad.

Sir, this situation is not seen there where the politics

of principles has worked. I want to congratulate our communist brothers who have sustained the politics of principles in at least Kerala, Tripura and West Bengal. Therefore, no fundamentalist movement has arisen there. Hindi speaking states have also not witnessed any fundamentalist movement. Therefore, I want to submit that this ongoing caste based and region based politics is very dangerous.

16:00 hrs.

Sir, Literacy rate in India is 64.8 per cent. Literacy rate amongst males and females is 75.3% and 53.7% respectively in Kerala. Maximum literacy is in Kerala which is 90.9%. Literacy amongst males and females is 93.2% and 87.7% respectively. Bihar has the lowest literacy of 47 per cent, where 49.7% per cent males and 33% females are literate. The yawning gap in literacy between states should be an eye opener. Everybody has a right to education. One state is at the bottom of the table in respect of education and other states are in middle, I do not want to go into its details. Maximum rate of literacy amongst males is 75.3%, 23 states have this rate and 11 states are below this average. Maximum rate of literacy amongst females is 53%, 23 states have this rate and 11 states are lagging behind. The disparity between upper and lower level has been taken care of in this Resolution.

Sir, for survival, food, clothing and housing, education and health care one needs to have sound economic condition. India's per capita income is Rs.11799 as per figures of the year 2003-04. Lowest per capita income is of Bihar state which is Rs. 3557. Uttar Pradesh comes next with Rs. 5975, Assam with Rs. 6466, and Orissa with Rs. 6885. Goa has the maximum per capita income of Rs. 30506. Next comes Gujarat with Rs. 16770. So, 15 states are above the national average of income whereas 14 states are below that average. If we had evolved policies properly, this would not have happened. Economic policies are enshrined in Directive Principles and Preamble. If the development of the country had been guided accordingly, per capita income would have been equal. As long as per capita income is not equal, these things will keep on raising. The sum and substance of all this is that if we want to make this country developed, you will have to make everybody prosperous and provide them economic justice.

Sir, what are the reasons of these inequalities? Our politics has been evolved in such a way that those who are powerful, for example the most powerful at the centre is the Prime Minister, if he is more generous towards state or a leader, that person or state succeeds in getting

maximum funds from the centre. Gadgil formula is in favour of rich states and against poor states. There has been continuous demand for bringing out change in this formula.

The developed states maintain that funds should be allocated according to their performance and income whereas the backward states demand funds in view of their backwardness, therefore, Gadgil formula should be changed. Secondly, a new trend is being followed.
...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now conclude please. I donot have enough time to allow everybody to speak.

SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL: The centrally sponsored scheme of the states are becoming a big reason behind discrimination and I would like to submit about the matching grant under centrally sponsored schemes. Those states, which have resources, can provide matching grants for developmental schemes as while the rest can't get their share in centrally sponsored schemes they do not have resources which is a dangerous thing. I request that the Union Government should provide the entire funds for the development schemes and the rules framed for the matching grant should be done away with immediately. The condition of every state is poor. It has different categories, Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, nomadic tribes, other tribes and other poor classes. An average has been drawn on this basis but a millionaire and a rickshaw puller both have been included in it. This disparity in every state has also assumed alarming proportions. Therefore the policy and programmes of every state should be such that the poorest of the poor may get benefit and there should be some check and balances on the people belonging to such class.

There is paucity of time or else I would have placed data of all the states before you. The maximum number of Scheduled Tribes live in your state and it should get the maximum benefit and economic support but a step-motherly treatment is being given to it. The position of Rajasthan is almost the same. In some areas the number of Scheduled Castes is more whereas in some areas the number of Scheduled Tribes and poor people is more. Apart from that some areas are hilly. To provide development infrastructure in hilly areas requires a lot of funds. The density of population in desert and hilly areas is less. Where the density of population is less, more people are benefited with less funds while less people are benefited with more funds in areas having less density. There is a need to remove the inherent flaws and contradiction of our scheme and therefore the proposal given by the hon'ble Member Shri Sonowal is an important one and Parliament should express its views after dwelling over it seriously.

[Shri Kailash Meghwal]

With these words I express my gratitude for giving me time to speak.

[English]

SHRI PRASANNA ACHARYA (Sambalpur): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This is a very important issue that this House is discussing. India, in the last 60 years of our Independence, has, no doubt, recorded remarkable growth in many sectors. But, as you know, India is a country of diversities. It has many languages, many cultures and it has different climates in different parts of the country. It has different geographical situations and different economic conditions at different places. So, a country like this, with so much of diversity, cannot be said to have properly grown without the fruits of growth being equally tasted by all the States of the country, by all the regions of the country and by all the people of this country, as this is a vast country.

There is no denying the fact that in India there are large regional variations in the level of development which, no doubt, pose a danger to our national unity. You know that on the basis of our per capita Net Domestic Product, India has been divided into three categories of States, namely the higher income States, the middle income States, and the lower income States. Thus, all the 30 States in our Union have been divided into three categories as per their development. The most important question is that there is a regional variation in the country.

There is variation in development between different States. It is also a fact that there is regional imbalance within the State. That is also another important thing that we should not and cannot ignore.

Sir, during the last 60 years of our Independence, a number of schemes has been formulated and many of those schemes are now under implementation. Most of the schemes are poverty alleviation schemes, but still, we have not been able to completely eradicate the regional imbalance. We have not been able to completely remove the imbalance in development, the imbalance in economic growth, and the imbalance in per capita income. There are many reasons for this, like defective implementation of schemes. Maybe, the schemes are good, the intention is good, but the implementation is defective.

The second reason is the wrong selection of an area for its implementation. There are many good schemes, but when we are selecting areas, when we are deciding the States, when we are finalising the regions where the good schemes are to be implemented, we are making mistakes.

I think, that is one of the various reasons which is helping growing gap between States, so far as economic development is concerned.

Another important thing with which we may or may not agree is that there is political interference in the announcement of packages for the underdeveloped States or underdeveloped regions. Even now, we talk of ideals, we talk of uniform growth of economy all over the country, but whoever may be in the Government, whoever is the leader, whichever political party is there, there are occasions when the decision-makers are not able to free themselves from political interference and influence. That is one of the reasons why the regional imbalance in this country has been growing.

Sir, selection of wrong parameters in allocating Central assistance to different States is also one of the reasons. The previous speaker referred to the Gadgil Formula. There has been a consistent demand to make necessary changes in that Formula, but so far, we have not been able to do that. The application of wrong parameters in allocation of Central assistance is, no doubt, one of the major reasons for the regional imbalance.

These are the reasons for which the regional imbalance is widening, and the gap between States and regions, so far as economic development is concerned, is growing. I will cite one example. After Independence, no doubt, we have to admit that there has been industrial growth in this country. Industry has grown. Our income from industrial growth is very substantial, and there is no doubt about it. However, this growth is not uniform. There has been a total imbalance in this industrial growth. A particular region or particular States have tremendously developed, so far as industrial growth is concerned. But there are States in this country, there are regions in this country, and there are areas in this country, which are far, far away, as far as industrial growth is concerned. As you know, there are underdeveloped regions in different States of the country where not even a single industry is located. How do we expect that there will be uniform economic growth in this country?

The Economic Census of 2005 has exposed this skewed nature of industrialisation in our country with only five States accounting for nearly 50 per cent of total enterprises in the country.

I will not hesitate to name those States. I am not envious of any State. I do not say that industries should not grow in a particular State. I just would like to make a point that fifty per cent of industries are concentrated in only five States out of 30 States of the Country. Which are those States? They are: Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra, West

Bengal, Andhra Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh. This is not a story that I am making up. It is a report of a survey that says 50 per cent of the industrial growth has been concentrated in five or six States in the country. What about the rest of India? Under these circumstances, regional imbalance will grow and nobody can check it unless we point out this problem and try to eradicate it, unless we try to distribute our economic growth uniformly all over the country in different regions.

As I said at the outset, we have many good schemes. After Independence, Governments after Governments have evolved many good schemes and there is no doubt about it. But the implementation of those schemes has been defective. Selection of the areas for implementation of those schemes has been wrong. That is one of the major reasons why there has been regional imbalance. I will cite an example, a recent one. There are two schemes called National Rural Employment Guarantee Programme (NREGP), a very widely known and a fresh scheme, and the Backward Regions Grant Fund (BRGF). I welcome these schemes. There are many backward regions in the country which need development. The Government has promised the country that a substantial amount of money will be earmarked and a corpus will be created to help the backward regions of the country. However, let us see how these two good schemes are being implemented which is resulting in creation of regional imbalance. Implementation of these schemes is creating a gap in the development of different regions and increasing regional imbalance.

An allocation of Rs.300 crore has been made for NREGP this year and for BRGF this year's allocation, if I am correct, is Rs.3,500 crore. Two hundred Districts have been selected for implementing NREGP and 250 Districts have been selected for implementation of BRGF. Out of these 450 Districts, there are 200 Districts which figure in both the lists. That means, these 200 Districts out of 450 have been chosen to implement both these important schemes under which funds are allocated for development of the backward regions of the country. As a result of this, there is one District, whose name I do not want to mention, would get the benefit of both the schemes while the neighbouring District which is equally poor would be deprived of the benefit of either of the schemes. Is it justice? Are these Schemes aimed at removing the regional imbalance? Is this our plan to bring uniform economic development in all the backward regions of the country? So, the Schemes are good but the implementation is wrong. That is the point I wanted to make. We have to analyse and rectify these defects. We have to plug the loopholes. Unless we do it, in spite of our sincere efforts, in spite of

good schemes prevailing in the country, regional imbalance cannot be removed.

Which are the most neglected areas of the country? Which are the most underdeveloped regions in the country? The irony of the situation is, the most underdeveloped regions of the country are those which are full of natural resources. God has not done injustice to them. God has done sufficient justice to them. God has gifted those regions or States with plenty of natural resources.

But the Government is doing injustice. I would cite the names of a few States — my own State, Orissa; my neighbouring States, Chhattisgarh and Bihar. There are some States like Jharkhand and North-Eastern States where plenty of natural resources are there but we have not been able to develop necessary infrastructure and make sufficient investment to create infrastructure to exploit those natural resources even after 60 years of Independence. Therefore, those States are still called poorer States. As I said, these mineral rich States like Orissa, even West Bengal, Madhya Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh and North-Eastern States are relatively most backward States. Surprisingly, those States are tribal dominated States. Most of the tribal population in this country live in these under-developed States are full of natural resources but they are still under-developed and are reeling under poverty, starvation. There is still migration taking place from those States. There are reported starvation deaths in those States which are rich in natural resources. Where lies the defect? God has not done injustice; we are doing injustice to all those under-developed areas. Lateral transfer is taking place from the backward States to the rest of the country. I was mentioning about the natural resources and minerals. I would like to give an example — coal. Coal-bearing States because of the defective coal royalty policy of the Central Government are suffering the most. Those there is a provision that every three years, coal royalty policy has to be revised, Government has been refusing to do so. Thus, depriving the coal bearing States of their natural claim. How those under-developed States would develop? ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Prasanna Acharya ji, another member of your party is about to speak and he will get less time in this way.

[English]

SHRI PRASANNA ACHARYA: The Chief Minister of my State has sent a proposal to the Central Government

[Shri Prasanna Acharya]

requesting that a Special Corpus Fund should be created for such States for infrastructure development, to expedite the projects of rail, road, port construction, etc. Our proposal is, let there be a minimum of Rs.3,000 crore Corpus Fund for development in the under-developed areas in those States.

Railways play a major role in development. If we go through the history of Railways, after Independence, how many kilometers of new railway line have been constructed in the, under-developed States? We are refusing to create infrastructure. How can we dream of bringing regional balance and economic development in this country?

This morning, in the form of Calling Attention, we were discussing Kalahandi-Bolangir-Koraput (KBK), which are the most under-developed areas of the country. Shri Tripathy was citing all the data in his speech this morning. I do not want to repeat it. Illiteracy is the highest there; percentage of people living below the poverty line is the highest there; SC population is the highest there; migration is there; starvation is there in spite of natural resources. To redeem those areas from poverty, there was a scheme, which is called KBK Scheme. Cabinet Committee of Economic Affairs has decided to withdraw that Scheme. When such is the policy of the Government of India, how do you expect that regional imbalance would be removed? I would give an example of Telengana. ...*(Interruptions)*

[*Translation*]

MR. CHAIRMAN: The time allotted for this Resolution is over. Ten more Members have to speak yet. If the House agrees, the time for the discussion on the Resolution may be extended by an hour.

SEVERAL HON'BLE MEMBERS: All right.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Acharya ji, now you conclude.

SHRI PRASANNA ACHARYA: I am concluding by saying two more points. ...*(Interruptions)*

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer): Mr. Chairman, Sir, please try to get the next matter presented today.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Of course, I will try.

[*English*]

SHRI PRASANNA ACHARYA: As I said at the outset, regional balance is there between State and State; it is

there within the State. There has been a demand from many of the States for the creation of new States. Why is this happening? Why is the mindset growing like this? Why do people demand creation of more States? In my own State of Orissa, there is a demand for a new State of Koshal. Why is there such a demand? Unless regional imbalance within the State is removed, this demand will go on. Has not the Central Government a role to play? Poor States like Orissa, Chhattisgarh and Jharkhand cannot meet the growing demands.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Okay; you have made very good points. Please conclude.

SHRI PRASANNA ACHARYA: Therefore, it is the utmost duty of the Central Government to come out with a corpus to assist such poor States to remove regional imbalance within the State.

My last point is this. Language plays a major role in one's life and in a country's life also.

[*Translation*]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Prasanna Acharyaji, another hon'ble Member of your party has to speak, now no time left for him.

[*English*]

SHRI PRASANNA ACHARYA: Therefore, there is a demand for many States. As you know, language created Bangladesh. There is a demand for Bhojpuri to be included. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Okay, you have very well spoken; please conclude.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRASANNA ACHARYA: There is a demand that Koshali language in Orissa should find a place in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution. So, if you soothe the feelings of the people, the growing resentment, discontentment, etc. will come down.

Therefore, the Centre has to take into consideration all these factors. The Centre has a vital role to play to remove regional imbalance.

[*Translation*]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Prasanna Acharya ji, there is less time left for another Member of your party to speak.

[English]

SHRI KIRIP CHALIHA (Guwahati): Sir, I thank my colleague, Shri Sarbananda Sonowal for bringing a very important topic for discussion in this House. This is a Resolution regarding balanced and equitable development of all parts of the country. It reads, in short, like this: This House expresses its concern over the regional imbalance and it is in order to strengthen the federal structure of the country.

A number of speakers have highlighted a number of significant aspects regarding the prevalent regional disparities in this country. Very few tend to realize that this country was not really a united country till we attained Independence.

16.28 hrs.

(SHRI ARJUN SETHI *in the Chair*)

When we talk about the concept of India, very few understand that India perhaps was really born, in its true sense of the term, in its present form with its present ethos, only because of the struggle of Independence, led by the Congress Party and of course, with Mahatma Gandhi's legacy.

There was India before that. There was a mythological India; there was an India during the times of Moghuls; there was a golden India during the golden Hindu period, as you read in the history of ancient Indian Hindu period. But India as it exists today is really the creation of Gandhi's Independence movement and the British scheme of partition.

These are two very important aspects which we have to take into account when we talk about regional disparity, when we talk about regional imbalance, when we talk about the problems relating to that and when we think of going ahead with all these problems. Let us not be very defamatory against one another; let us not blame governance of any particular party; but let us accept the fact that when India was born in 1947 in its present form, India was a land of diverse – not only language, not only religion - levels of development, because of historical, because of geographical and because of psychological reasons of isolation. There were huge gaps between parts and parts, regions and regions and what you now.

Even the concept of State came as per the linguistic formation of States. The States were formed not on the basis of the kingdoms that had been there during Mughal

or old Hindu period but on the basis of language. At the time of Independence, the concept of Indian unity was in its very nascent stage. Parities were bound to be there. But, there were disparities between regions, States, cities, the rural India and the urban India. We all remember very well how Mahatma Gandhi used to talk about Bharat, the rural India and the urban India. There are regions like Northeast, from where I come. There was the South, where people did not like to speak Hindi. Then, we had the Hindi-belt, which felt that since majority of the people speak Hindi so, it was the real India. There was the West, which thought that it was prosperous and it contributed to India's economy, and hence it had perhaps the biggest claim for India's economic resurgence. So, we had different kinds of people with all kinds of pride and prejudices.

There is a regional imbalance because of different geographical divides and because of different psychological and mental make ups. The Indian civilisation has suffered for ages from several other ills, like caste, religion, ethnic divide and so on. All these ills were there when this country came into being. Fortunately or unfortunately, the priority at that time was not really to address the regional imbalances but to keep India united. That is how our Constitution was framed in 1950.

Our Constitution did not adopt the American Federal structure. It rather went for a combination of unitary and federal structure. It became somewhat unitary in nature. I am referring to it because the Resolution speaks about the federal structure and says that we have to go for removal of regional imbalance to strengthen the federal structure of the country. I would suggest that instead of saying, 'strengthening the federal structure of the country' it should say 'to strengthen the unity and integrity of this country'.

I have gone through some of the speeches made by the earlier speakers. Various Constitutional changes in the political system have been suggested. According to me the more important thing now is to go for economic measures with a lot of caution and time-bound framework and to see that different regions remain united and progress equally. We have to see that the backlogs are taken care of and the country starts progressing unitedly to the best extent possible. How could that be done?

One of my friends has referred to the Constitution of 1950 and said how Fathers of our Constitution had given importance to regional disparities. The Tenth Five Year Plan has also referred to regional disparities in a very emphatic term. It says:

[Shri Kirip Chaliha]

"Economic and social development of a country must also take full cognizance of the growing regional imbalances in practically all indicators."

These indicators are: per capita income, development, industry, infrastructure, etc. Then it says:

"Not only had the per capita income in the various States of the Union started diverging rapidly during the past decades, the disparities in social attainments also appear to be persistent as brought out by the National Human Development Report 2001."

It is very serious. Now, the Tenth Five Year Plan – Strategic Concerns says:

"These trends indicate a growing polarisation of the country which can have an extremely damaging effect on national unity. However, there is also evidence that protectionists and beggar-thy-neighbour behaviour is becoming increasingly more prevalent among the States. In the context of a country as a whole, it is in the process of fostering greater integration with the rest of the world. Such behaviour is fraught with serious dangers."

Hon. President of India had also drawn the attention to the regional imbalances when he said:

"Regional imbalances have been accentuated not only by historical neglect but also by distortions in plan allocation."

This has come from the President of the country. I remember my great leader with whom I had the privilege of working. He was a great visionary, the former Prime Minister, late Rajiv Gandhi. Whenever he visited the North-East or any of the backward regions like Orissa or Jharkhand or any other tribal area, he always paid attention to the different levels of development in different regions. He said:

"There is a need for the creation of parities between regions and regions and States and States."

During the last Budget Speech of hon. Finance Minister when he was going eloquent on the great divide between rural and urban India, I had asked him to talk not only about the great divide between rural and urban India but also about the advanced and less advanced Indian regions, and the regions like East, North-East, etc.

I do not exactly remember where I read it but there was one prediction made by a great economist that 20 years from now perhaps the prosperous India would be in the coastal region and the big cities and the poorest India somewhere in the eastern side. It may be Orissa barring the coastal districts, the top part of the West Bengal, northern part of Bihar and perhaps the whole northern lot up to Kashmir. If a man has to develop, his whole body has to develop together. You cannot have very good hands without a brain. You cannot have very good eyes if you have a limb in your legs. Have our economists given due importance to this aspect or not? Have the various Committees and Commissions that have been formed taken it into account like the Sarkaria Commission which looked at the political aspect or the Gadgil Formula which looked at the economic aspect? Have these been able to deliver the goods or not?

I would like to know whether a new mechanism is now needed, especially after the liberalisation. When liberalisation came and when we were talking about bringing in foreign investment to this country with a lot of hope to build a resurgent India, I was a young Member at that time. I had expressed my apprehension that the foreign investment will come only to the best of the places like Bangalore, Mumbai, Delhi and Kolkata. Will a foreign investor come to a place like Guwahati or to my home town? Will they come to a remote village in Kerala or perhaps in Orissa? The foreign investment will not come there. They do not have a five star hotel there to attract foreigners. So what will happen? I said that maybe Bangalore, Delhi and Mumbai would grow but other cities or the smaller States will become the dumping ground of Indian civilisation.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude now.

SHRI KIRIP CHALIHA: Sir, I am just concluding my speech in a minute or two.

I come from a State, I will not go into the psychological aspect, which my friends have said, is a mineral rich State and is a State where oil was first struck. Do you know that as a student I had to agitate to build a refinery in Assam? Do you know that as a young student I had to agitate to have a bridge over the river Brahmaputra? With that kind of a background I became a nationalist but there are many others who took to gun asking for Independence. Non-development and regional disparity is becoming the breeding ground for insurgency and terrorism. Let me tell this august House that if we do not arrest this process right now, then maybe, after 20 to 30 years we would not have an India that Gandhiji dreamt of; we would not have

an India which is a symbol today of unity in diversity to the rest of the world. We cannot afford to ignore regional imbalances any further.

I would just make one or two more points and then conclude. I would not take much time of the House. We must not forget that the North-East is bound to India by a very small piece of land and in Bengal it is called the Chicken Neck. Let that Chicken Neck not be a psychological neck also. Areas like the North-East and States like Orissa, Jharkhand — it may not be proper to say this, but it is a fact—are suffering because of rich neighbours. When you have rich culture on one side and a poor culture on the other; when you have a rich State on the one hand and a poor State on the other, then that rich State with a rich culture dominates the poor State with a poor culture. This domination has to stop. Everybody has to be given things on par. In fact, the weaker ones would have to be propped up by the great Indian machinery. If we try to bully, if we try to show muscle power and if we try to show dominance because of strength of population, then it is not going to help our cause. I wanted to make a point on this aspect of population.

Why should development be based only on population? On the one hand we say that we need to go in for family planning in order that our population does not grow, on the other hand we make population the only criteria for allocation of funds. Can that take place all the while? A more populous State gets more funds and a less populous State gets less funds. A tribal dominated States would not have much population. Can we continue to deprive them of their dues because they have less population? Are we pushing them towards a stage where we are indirectly asking them to go in for mass production of children? Will that help us? Will these incongruencies and these contradictions and these concepts which are no longer legitimate today and may become redundant in the creation of a resurgent India help our cause? Do these policies not require a new look? I hope, the House will endorse my point.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You have taken 15 minutes. You are making a good speech, but now, you may please conclude.

SHRI KIRIP CHALIHA: Sir, I am a very disciplined Member. I have full respect for you. Please be considerate to me for another two to three minutes.

Sir, my last point is that recently we have seen some kind of a dilution of some of the special measures that are

being taken to remove regional disparities. Some of the special schemes that have been evolved over the years for development of acutely backward, these are now being given to almost all other States. every State is demanding that and because of that the States for whom those were meant are suffering. It is a dilution of the special measures to remove regional disparities. The special packages, their import should never be diluted and Government should be aware of the problems of those acutely backward States.

I suggest that, instead of passing a resolution for changing the political structure, we should urge the Government unitedly saying that the time has come for the House as a whole to perhaps recommend for the formation of a new economic or political committee or commission to look into the problem of regional disparities in the country. We should go in for a Commission like the Gadgil Commission. I hope you will give your ruling on this. We should go in for the formation of a commission which will look into all the aspects of regional disparities, of differences between States and States and of differences between rural and urban areas. It will come with a solution so that we can go ahead with a time-bound programme.

[Translation]

SHRI KIREN RIJJU (Arunachal West): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I thank you for giving me a chance to speak. Neither do I want to turn over the pages of Constitution nor do I want to make any theoretical arguments. My speech will be on practical things only. I agree to the views expressed by many hon'ble Members and I would like to express my views by supporting the Resolution moved in the House by hon'ble Member Shri Sarbananda Sonowal. Being a Member if I have to go to London or Germany from Delhi, I reach the airport comfortably and it takes me 6-7 hours to reach the destination. But for reaching to my village from Delhi, I have to reach Guwahati first and then further journey by train for two days and on foot for four days, to reach my destination. This is the picture of India even after 60 years of independence. And if our Prime Minister and Finance Minister say with proud that our country is making progress, it is tantamount to insulting lakhs of people who do not have a vehicle, no roads to walk and houses to live in. After seeing all this we do not feel proud over being an Indian. The House should try to understand my feeling. I am expressing my grief here. Several hon'ble Members have mentioned that we compare ourselves with the East and West. It is an irony that the states who are rich and have natural resources and mineral resources are poor here. Why there is so much poverty in those areas which are endowed with natural resources. I give you an example of Arunachal Pradesh. The 50 percent of the total

[Shri Kiren Rijiju]

hydropower capacity of India is in my state. We have the largest forest area and the nature has endowed us with everything. But the Government of India have not paid its attention towards it. It's great pity. We have been requesting time and again to pay attention towards us. We talk about nationalism. I have been saying in the House that if you want to see nationalism, you go to the forests and villages of Arunachal Pradesh. Even today if somebody goes there from outside, he is welcomed with the slogan 'Jai Hind'. Why don't we have the same feeling. When we say that we are facing a lot of problems, it is said that yours is a poor and remote area.

Sir, there is a need to feel these problems by heart and only then they can be solved. Some officers boast proudly that they have given so many schemes for Assam, Arunachal Pradesh and North East, I would like to know are we begging? We are the citizens of this country and this is our right. How do you say that you have given us so many schemes and have also given so much in comparison to other remaining states? If you look upon it from national point of view, no one asks when a single person is not living in Kargil as to why the Govt. of India is spending ten crores of rupees per day there. But this has to be spent in the interest of the country and for the sake of its security.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, Arunachal Pradesh has been under China in 1962 for two months. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE (Pandharpur): If you join us, we shall give you a lot.

SHRI KIREN RIJIJU: Shri Athawale ji is inviting me.

I am saying that though we have been under China for two months. But if you open up the pages of chronology or history of till date, you will not find a single man in Arunachal Pradesh who says that he wants his state to be separated from India. The name of terrorism is being heard, but let me know the name of that young man from Arunachal Pradesh who says that he wants to be separated from India. If you want to have a glimpse of nationalism, I would like to invite all the hon'ble Members to accompany me in my state where you will find the blood gushing around the veins and arteries of everyone towards the nation. I invite all the hon'ble Members to come. I am a Member of Parliament and I go to my village on foot. Even for a smallest scheme I have to go from pillar to post but nobody listens to me. The Minister of Rural Development said during the last Budget that the Government had a special

view to North-East. What happened to that promise? Nothing has been done. For example, the Rural Employment Guarantee Bill was passed unanimously in the House and according to the Rural Employment Act, 200 districts were to be covered under the scheme, but only one district out of 16 districts of my state was included. The present Government has been in power for more than two years and only five per cent target has been fixed under the said scheme. When two per cent target has not been achieved so far, then how can the said target be achieved in the coming two years? Kapil Sibbal Ji, you are in the Cabinet. Shri Bijoy Handique from our area is also in the Cabinet. Hence, let this point be raised there by both of you saying that only one small district among the 16 districts of the state has been included. What sort of justice is it? Why do not you say that we shall not look after the North-East? But do not say that I want to look after it, you do differently whatever you say. Just think yourself about it that how much it hurts. You talk of national unity and want to keep this region backward. Which is already backward. You are adopting the similar policy in this affair. Why do you not understand the point? We, being the Member of Parliament are aware of our duties and people from treasury benches are also aware of their duties. But in spite of it if your programme does not reach the people, it is of no avail. I am constrained to say with heavy heart whatever has been in power in Government of India, no work has been done there with true spirit.

Who formulate plans? Plans are formulated in closed air-conditioned rooms. For example, it rains in our region for six months a year and it remains covered with snow for remaining six months. It rains in low-lying areas and work can be done there during three-four months. But when policies are formulated the cost of construction of a house under Indira Awas Yojana is evaluated and estimated Rs. 27,500/-. I would like to say the Prime Minister whether he will try to get a house constructed with the cost of Rs.27,500/- in my region. Let this House be informed if he could do the same. Why do you frame such policies, which are meaningless? It will be meaningful if you make planning on papers after considering the points connected with villages. When the programmes for road construction are chalked out, the funds for them are released in the month of February in my region and this work has to be completed in the month of March. When it rains or falls snow there during that period as to where the time saves to complete them. Here, you can construct two km. road with Rs. One crore but in my region sometimes it becomes difficult to construct even twenty meters road with rupees ten crores. This is a fact. If you do not make planning by

considering the relevant facts, the plans on paper do not have any meaning. If you want to keep the integrity of India intact, you will have to pay attention to each and every region which is backward. I want to say about North-Eastern States. The Government has said that these are special category states. A state is called a special category state when we provide liberal funding for its development. But what was done by the Government of India? Bodoland Territorial Council was set up. The Government of India said that they would provide money. But later on, the Prime Minister and the Minister of Finance say that rupees 100 crore from Central Pool of Resources were spent for Bodoland Territorial Council. Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan is such a scheme of Government of India for which we give our full support. Rupees 92 crores were given for this scheme. What does it mean, what type of policy is this? If you do not want to give money to North-Eastern States you should say that we cannot give. Only then we shall not say anything to you. If these states have been declared as special category states, they should be treated as special states.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I have many points but due to shortage of time I am curtailing them because you have been ringing the bell again and again. An industrial policy regarding Tax Holiday in North Eastern States will have to be introduced because these states need support. In regard to hilly areas like Uttaranchal and Himachal Pradesh, which are more advance than these states, the same Tax Holiday policy has been adopted there but who will go and set up industries in North Eastern States?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, conclude, please.

SHRI KIREN RIJJU: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am concluding. I would like to know from the Government as to what kind of treatment is this. This Government will have to change its outlook and its way of thinking. The bureaucratic set up you made gives money to North-Eastern States like alms, it should be stopped.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, we have told the Government time and again that works should be done in Himalayan belt in a special way. Our Himalayan belt is adjacent to China. We have seen McMohan Line at other place also. As we cross the international border of China, the infrastructure there is first class whereas our army marches to the border. We are forbidden to go there. The British government had made this policy that our relation should not be with China and infrastructure should not be there. Whether be it an NDA Government or a UPA Government, every Government has made its policy that development of Arunachal Pradesh should not take place. The Prime Minister knows all this.

In which file it has been written that road will not be constructed there otherwise it will be used by China. We shall have to change this kind of negative attitude. Today it is said that MPs cannot go there, but even now when we are watching all this on satellite you say that we cannot go there. Whether an Indian needs a pass to visit Arunachal Pradesh. How a foreigner has to go from pillar to post in Arunachal Pradesh. He has to go to the Ministry of Home Affairs to get R.A.P. In modern times especially in 21st Century, which is the era of high technology and even satellite technology, the Government says that they will develop tourism in Arunachal Pradesh. On the other hand, a tourist has to knock at every door. Is this your policy? The Government will have to adopt right and uniform policy so that people may get assured that the Government really intends to do something and implement it.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I had so many points but due to shortage of time, I conclude my speech with these words and thank you for giving me opportunity to speak.

17.00 hrs.

*SHRIMATI PARAMJIT KAUR GULSHAN (Bhatinda): Thank you, Sir, for giving me the opportunity to speak on the important subject of "Lack of development of backward areas" in my mother-tongue Punjabi. Sir, we celebrated the 59th anniversary of Independence a few days ago. On such an occasion, the Government in power usually waxes eloquent on its achievements. However the ground reality is far removed from the claims made regarding these achievements. The backward regions of our country have not yet tasted these so-called achievements.

In this august House, we make tall claims regarding the rate of growth of our economy. The Government claims that our economy is growing at a healthy rate of 7 to 8%. But the people of remote and backward areas do not understand the data and statistics. The stark reality is that we have failed to provide even basic amenities to these people.

We all claim that Punjab is a prosperous state. However, there are backward and remote areas in Punjab too that can not be turned prosperous. In such areas in Punjab, primary education to children has remained a pipe-dream. In such areas in Punjab, there are no schools. If schools are there, the posts of teachers are vacant. Infrastructure is in shambles. Drop-out rate of school children is on the higher side. I am sorry to say that there is no concrete primary education policy in the country.

*English translation of the speech originally delivered in Punjabi.

[Shrimati Paramjit Kaur Gulshan]

With the change in Governments, our education policy also keeps on changing. As a result, 70% children in our country are outside the ambit of primary education. No children from such neglected areas grow up to become doctors, engineers, I.A.S. officers or even teachers. This is the sad state of affairs of the backward regions of our country.

The health service in these backward areas is in a mess. There are no medicines in dispensaries in these areas. Posts of doctors are lying vacant. The health-service in these areas is virtually non-existent.

In Punjab, there are many backward areas that have not been connected by bus-service. People from these areas have to trudge long distances if they want to come to the nearest town. In such areas in Punjab, there is no electricity connection. Even in areas where electricity connection has been provided, there are power-cuts for a long duration. In these backward regions of Punjab, in the absence of electricity, mosquitoes have a field day and the suffering of the people is compounded. As a result, the people in these areas are plagued by various diseases.

In these backward areas, a vast majority of people do not have a place of shelter. Many of them are forced to live in houses that are makeshift and temporary in nature. The Government grants them a paltry sum of Rs. 25,000/- for construction of a permanent house. It is a cruel joke played on these people.

The sanitary condition in these areas are very bad. There is no flush-system or toilets in these houses. A measly amount of Rs.600/- is granted by the Government for the purpose of construction of a toilet. It is a farce.

There is no one to take care of our old people in these backward areas. We have no policies for the welfare of our elders. The old people are leading a life of misery in these areas.

Unemployment is on the rise in such backward areas. There are no schools in these areas. Even if someone gets educated, he has no future as there are no jobs. As a result, the unemployed youths take to social evils. Suicides are on the rise. Hence, the Government must launch a campaign to generate employment for the youths of these areas. Only then can we dream of development of these areas.

Sir, there are no drinking-water facilities for the people of these areas. We have miserably failed in our duty to provide potable water to these people. Women of these

areas have to trudge long distances in search of drinking water, with pitchers balanced precariously on their heads.

There are many villages in Punjab that have seen no development work since ages. They are completely cut-off from the nearest towns. No Government official ever visits such villages. They are devoid of even basic facilities.

The farmers of these backward areas are in a miserable condition. The farmers cannot take their produce to the city. These poor and hapless farmers have no purchasing power either. So, I appeal to this august House that efforts must be made to bail out our farmers. The Government must chalk out concrete schemes and come to the rescue of the people of these backward areas. When the people of these remote and backward areas make real progress, only then can we realize the dreams of the founding fathers of our country.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Members, I have a list of 12 Members who want to speak on this Resolution. We have to wind up this discussion today. That is the request I have received from the hon. Minister. So, I would request all hon. Members who will be speaking hereafter to confine their speeches to only five minutes each. Please help me in controlling the proceedings of the House.

SHRI W. WANGYUH KONYAK (Nagaland): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I thank you for giving me time to participate in the Resolution moved by my colleague Shri Sarbananda Sonowal regarding balanced and equitable development of all parts of the country. This is a very important subject.

Sir, we have many extremist groups and underground groups in our country like naxalites and other extremist forces. Why are such groups coming up in our country? What is the reason? The Government of India should think about it very seriously. There are naxalites in different parts of our country. In some States, proper treatment has not been given to these people by State Governments and in some States proper treatment has not been given to them by the Central Government. These extremist groups are demanding autonomous regions have come up only due to regional imbalance. Therefore, I fully support the Resolution moved by my friend Shri Sarbananda Sonowal. Two of my hon. friends from the North-East Shri Kirip Chaliha and Shri Kiren Rijiju have already spoken on this Resolution.

The Department of Development of North-East Region was created in September, 2001 and it started functioning on 1st November, 2001. It was accorded the

status of the Ministry vide a Gazette Notification of the Government of India issued on 27th May, 2004. As my friend from Arunachal Pradesh Shri Kiren Rijiju said, the NDA Government took a decision that all the Ministries of the Government of India should make a contribution of 10 per cent from their budgetary allocation to a Non-Lapseable Common Pool for the development of the North-East. That was the decision taken by the Government of India, but 18 Ministries have been exempted from making that 10 per cent contribution for the development of the North East. Even now, many Ministries are trying to get exemption from making 10 per cent contribution.

Sir, a special accord was made with regard to Bodoland called Bodoland Territorial Accord and Bodoland Territorial Council was created. The Government of India has committed to give Rs. 100 crore every year for five years to Bodoland for infrastructure development. Then, an amount of Rs. 700 crore was earmarked to be given for the development of the entire North East. Out of this amount, Rs. 100 crore has been allocated to Bodoland Territorial Council (BTC).

The HRD Ministry has sufficient funds and all the States are not getting from HRD and they are taking out Rs. 90 lacs from NLCP for Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan. This is the injustice meted out to the people of North-East. On this, the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Home Affairs has recommended that special amount should be given separately from the Central Government and that no amount should be managed from the DONOR Ministry. That was the recommendation given by the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Home Affairs.

Sir, the North-Eastern Council was created and the North-Eastern Council had demanded a sum of Rs.1,337 crore for the year 2006-07 and that was the projection made by the NBC. Against the sum of Rs.1,337 crore, only a sum of Rs.600 crore has been given. What has happened is that the amount of border fencing with Bangladesh has been done from the amount of that Rs.600 crore. This imbalance has been created greatly by the Ministry and the Government of India.

We talk about justice, but we are not giving justice to the people of India, particularly, to the backward regions. Why are the people in Andhra Pradesh demanding a separate Telangana State? Why are they making a demand for an Autonomous Council? It is because of imbalance that has been created in some parts of the country.

Sir, in Nagaland, in 1927, one Railway station was established at Naganimora. After India got independence, this Railway station was dismantled. Instead of taking up

new projects, this Railway station was dismantled. The Government of Nagaland and I have taken up this matter with the Railway Ministry several times, but there is no response from the Railway Ministry.

Sir, in our country, there are three States without any medical colleges. They are Arunachal Pradesh, Mizoram and Nagaland. The Parliamentary Standing Committee on Home Affairs has recommended that each State should have a medical college. Then, they have included Bodoland Territorial Council because in Upper Assam, there are three medical colleges. The Government is not taking any interest in this regard. So, where is the justice and where is the regional balance?

Sir, I now come to tax holiday on industries. Nagaland is a State where there is no industry. We have only one sick unit. We have written thousands of times to the NDA Government and to the UPA Government but we have got nothing. The Government is talking about tax holiday on industries, but if there is no industry in the region, how can we avail the facility of tax holiday.

17.14 hrs.

(DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY *in the Chair*)

Lastly, the discrimination is there even among the elected Members in the Lok Sabha. Let me cite one example. There are more than one MP in all the States, except States like Nagaland, Mizoram, etc. Sir, I come from Nagaland and there are about 11 districts in the State. I have to look after 11 districts and the entire State. I am getting a sum of Rs.2 crore from the MPLAD Fund as the other hon. Members. In Delhi, which has seven MPs, one Member is getting the same amount for one or two districts. In one district of big States, there are two-three MPs. They are also getting a sum of Rs.2 crore. So, the injustice has started from this House only. Can I alone look after my whole State with a meagre sum of Rs.2 crore? There are 80 MPs from Uttar Pradesh. In one district, there are five to six MPs. So, we have written a letter to the hon. Prime Minister States that have one MP should be given special priority.

We told, at least, to enhance our quota but there was no response. This is the discrimination, and discrimination is starting from here, from this House. Unlike other States who are having more MPs, we are suffering as smaller and single-MP State. This is the discrimination.

My last submission is this. There is regional imbalance in the country because any Government of the State or the Central Government is not doing justice to the

[Shri W. Wangyuh Konyak]

people. So, they form a separatist group maybe this group or that group, and we are not talking about them. We are very glad that we are looking after weaker section of the people, but we are not doing that. Therefore, I would like to suggest that the Government should form a Committee to have an in depth study State-wise and find out why people have gone in the other side and how we can have balance. The Committee should submit a Report to this House and it should be taken up in a serious manner. Any scheme announced by the Central Government against any State or region should be implemented properly. Then only we can talk about balanced and equitable development of all parts of the country.

[*Translation*]

DR. KARAN SINGH YADAV (Alwar): Sir, I would like to thank Shri Sarbananda Sonowal who has presented a very important issue as a Resolution before the House. The whole House is unanimous on the issue that there is still too much imbalance in our country, whatever the reasons behind it, be it the reasons before the independence or be it historical reasons, be it reasons linked with Princely States. We can see that high-rise buildings are coming up in the towns and cities are developing day by day. We can see that all the amenities, means of education and health are available in the towns. Remote villages stay deprived of development. If we look at all the states of India, we find that some states have developed due to their geographical location, due to their good production capacity and due to facility of good educational institutions before the independence. In the Southern States battle for reservation was fought before independence. Depressed classes were provided education there and were made able to visit overseas on the basis of education and they earned and developed their regions. If we see the South Indian States of Kerala, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu on any criterion, be it the criterion of education, be it the criterion of population stabilization, be it the criterion of availability of employment, be it the number of people getting employment overseas, all these things verify it. A large number of people in North India considered themselves learned persons and are against reservation, this is an example before them how the people of Kerala, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu have advanced in these 50 years by means of education.

Sir, I hail from Rajasthan. This is more backward in comparison to many other states of the country. This state is backward on all the parameters of development. There is not a single large-scale industry in Rajasthan. There is

neither any oil refinery nor any premier educational institution. Now there is talk of All India Institute being opened there. Even if we look at Rajasthan in parts, we find that areas adjoining Delhi like Alwar, Bharatpur, Jhunjhunu have more education facilities, the condition of agriculture is good there. Therefore, this region of Rajasthan is somewhat developed. But on the other hand if we look at Jaisalmer, Barmer, Nagaur, Churu, Bikaner, we find desert far and wide. There is sand, there is no sight of greenery. These areas are very backward even today in the fields of education, health, road transport, schools and colleges, medical and engineering colleges, industries and this imbalance is having its impact on social harmony. It is fortunate that there is no terrorism or insurgency in those areas of Rajasthan, but people are frustrated over the fact that whenever any jobs are given, the urban educated class captures the whole of it and if they are asked to teach in bordering area of Barmer or in bordering village of Jaisalmer, they are not ready to work in those backward areas, even after getting selected through R.P.S. on the very next day they make plea to us that there is forest, there is no living place, there is no potable water, there is no hospital around in those areas, we have to cover a long distance on foot, how can they keep their children in those areas and request us for transfer to Jaipur or Alwar. In the previous Congress Government tenure, the then government made an effort to give reservation to the regional people living in the backward areas. The priority should be given to the local people in employment, some such bonus points should be given to those people so that son of the soil can teach there, the people living in those areas get selected as teacher, as compounder, as patwari and in government jobs. Today the situation is such that a gentleman from Delhi was transferred to Leh and he approached me, thus, nobody wants to go to Leh. I asked if there is any Engineer from Leh side who can work in Doordarshan. If somebody transferred to Barmer he says that he has been transferred to Kalapani. There is no engineer from Barmer side who can be deployed there. Therefore, if we plead for giving special package and more economic resources for backward areas, we will have to ponder over that....

[*English*]

some kind of regional reservation has to be given for the people of that area. If people from North India or South India do not want to go and work in the Manipur Radio Station or Manipur Central Government services, then we must find certain method by which local and regional people can be adjusted there.

[Translation]

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I will conclude my point in just one minute. Rajasthan has a very large area, it is the largest state of the country, area of Jaisalmer alone is bigger than the whole area of England, but whenever there is talk of distributing funds the same Gadgil formula applies. It doesn't take care of the density of that area, population thereof, what distance has to be covered to take services there. Hilly areas are being given special packages, special grants, then in financial devolution Rajasthan should also be taken care of where the entire area covered with sand. These should be considered and economic resources should be raised in view of the proportion of scheduled castes, scheduled tribes and the poor people in the total population of Rajasthan and considering that the whole area of Rajasthan is covered with sand.

I would like to conclude here and take my seat with thanks to you.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Members, the extended time for this Resolution is over now. Still I have a list of seven more Members to speak on this Resolution. If the House agrees, then we may extend the time for this Resolution by one more hour.

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS: Yes.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Okay, the time for this Resolution is extended by one more hour.

Now, Dr. H.T. Sangliana.

DR. H.T. SANGLIANA (Bangalore North): Respected Presiding Officer, having come from a disciplined background, I would not violate the time that would be allotted to me, but I hope, you would be reasonable enough so as to enable me to finish some of the crucial points, which I want to raise today in support of the Resolution moved by our hon. colleague, Shri Sarbananda Sonowal.

Though I come from Bangalore North Constituency, I could identify the seriousness of the SOS raised by way of this particular Resolution, because I am originally from the North-East; I have experience, I have gone through, I have shared all the feelings – ill feelings or the sad feelings – of the people of the North-East for the past 64 years.

Well, our problem today is more of imbalanced growth inside imbalanced growth. Generally speaking, wherever there have not been proper development, we have had

problems like insurgency, naxalism and other types of crime. In States, where there are imbalances, where certain regions have not properly developed, we have naxalism, like in West Bengal, Orissa, Andhra Pradesh, also today in Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh and some other States.

Sir, it is important for the Government to constantly monitor development in various areas so as to ensure equal development for the people of the country. Now, for my State of Karnataka, the State Government had sent the proposals to the Government of India for its development. Even right now, as many as more than 200 proposals are pending with the Government of India. I think, a specific time should be fixed for disposal of cases. You reject it or you grant it. But making the States to wait for clearance at the Centre is also causing heartburn, which would result in disharmony.

If development is going to take place on the basis of volume of shouting done in Parliament, the North-Eastern people are the most unfortunate people because by nature we are shy, we are timid, we do not want to shout or indulge in any odd behaviour and our number is less. If democracy is by numbers, our population is small and we are nowhere as you have been seeing us all these years.

Today, the voices raised by the earlier speakers, more so by the young MPs like our Arunachal Pradesh MP, Shri Kiren Rijiju, were the outcome of experience at the grass-root level. They had raised their voices in a limited way, but it demands for immediate response with wisdom. If the Government would not see the seriousness of this kind of SOS raised by our people in the North-East, I cannot guarantee you cent per cent peace. You know us very well that we need more attention, better understanding and quicker implementation of developmental projects. We talk about NEC. Our friend from the Nagaland had mentioned the failure of certain Ministries when it comes to the question of contributing some percentage for developing the North-East. What is the mechanism you have to force them to contribute? These are very important points, and you have to reply them with wisdom.

I recommend for the creation of a Committee of Experts, a Committee which should include economists and management experts, as their findings will be more acceptable and meaningful. So, it will be good if such a Committee could be formed. It can go round and verify, on the spot, the different stages of development in all the States in the country, and more so in the North-East.

As you are aware, North-Eastern States are having limitless potential for developing hydel power. This too is

[Dr. H.T. Sangliana]

neglected. Till today even the Tipaimukh hydel project, which was sanctioned and started some time in 1984, has not seen the light of the day. What are the reasons? We do not know. If there are good reasons, let us know them so that we will be able to appreciate causes of the delay.

Our imbalanced growth is so bad that in certain States they can even distribute TVs and cycles freely to their people. Whereas in the North-East, we have people who are not even sure of having two square meals a day. Not only TVs and cycle that they are distributing but also good quality rice, at the rate of only Rs.2 per kilogram. Such is the imbalance in our country. It has been expressed by the Finance Minister also that free distribution of TVs, cycles and rice is a possibility in the State of Tamil Nadu. Where are we? How imbalanced is our growth and development?

I sincerely request the Government of India to look into the imbalanced growth which has been taking place all over the country. Please remember that if you are going to decide grants on the basis of population, we are nowhere in the North-East. If you are going to depend on the amount of shouting we do in the Parliament or elsewhere or writing even in the newspapers, then also we are nowhere because our number is small. Therefore, let us not continue to neglect this important of imbalanced growth, more so in the context of the North-East so that insurgency will not continue, people will not take the law into their own hands and peace will prevail everywhere in the country.

SHRIMATI ARCHANA NAYAK (Kendrapara): Hon. Chairman, Sir, thank you for giving me an opportunity to participate in the 'Resolution on steps for balanced and equitable development of all parts of the country' moved by hon. Member, Shri Sarbananda Sonowal.

Article 1 of the Constitution of India says that "India shall be a union of States". Like the organs of a human body, a nation can become stronger only if its all constituent parts are equally developed economically. From Kashmir to Kanyakumari and from Gujarat to Arunachal Pradesh, India is one. Imbalanced growth and parochial development only lead to discontentment and divisive tendencies among the people. All round development of all parts of the country can make it economically stronger to compete with the economic giants of the world.

There are hundreds of villages in our country, which do not have proper roads and rail infrastructure to connect with the rest of the country.

I come from Orissa which is frequently affected by natural calamities. Droughts and floods visit the State frequently. Sir, 47.13 per cent of the people of the State live below the poverty line. Even though there are abundant deposits of minerals, thick forest, natural resources, Orissa languishes in poverty. The State does not get the credit which it should deserve. It does not get proper share in the coal royalty from the Centre.

The long pending demand to declare Special Category status to the State is still a dream. In our country, the farming community do not get low interest loans, have no access to irrigation facilities, safe drinking water or modern agricultural implements.

They live in perpetual miseries and abject poverty. Their crop failures lead them to suicide. The demand of Orissa for a National Institute of Science is denied by the Central Government through delaying tactics. It is most unfortunate that the Central Government proposed the discontinuation of revised long-term action plan for KBK districts of Orissa. The scheme should continue for those people who live in poverty and misery.

Salination destroys thousands of hectares of land regularly and makes them infertile on the coastal belt like in Kendrapara in Orissa. My humble appeal is that Orissa should not be neglected and the projects should be implemented on top priority basis. The country is so vast that while one part reels under drought, the other part faces flood. We have people living in luxury and at the same time people die of hunger.

Different parts of the country have different types of natural and human potential. The Government must identify the different potentials available in the country and tap them properly. Industries should be set up accordingly. Vast human potential should be fully utilised. There is a need to set up a National Commission to monitor the balanced and equitable development of all parts of the country which should be entrusted with the job.

Sir, once again I thank you for giving me an opportunity to participate in the discussion.

SHRI SANSUMA KHUNGGUR BWISWMUTHIARY (Kokrajhar): Respected Chairperson, Sir, I am thankful to you for giving me time to speak on this most important and serious Resolution which has been moved by Shri Sarbananda Sonowal.

I rise to support Shri Sonowal's Private Member's Resolution. I come from Bodoland territory which is one of the most backward and neglected areas of the State of

Assam. I belong to a tribe called Bodo. Bodo is one of the most ancient and most indigenous or real autochthons of the State of Assam. Throughout the whole country, the total population of the Bodos would be around ten million. Within the State of Assam itself, the total population of the Bodo tribal people will be more than 50 lakh. Within the Bodoland Territorial Areas District, we are having 30 lakh population and out of this figure of three million, the indigenous Bodo tribal population is around 70 per cent.

For this most neglected and backward area, the Government of India has committed to give only Rs. 100 crore per year for five years for the creation of some developmental infrastructure which is a very, very meagre amount of money. With this mere amount of Rs. 100 crore per year, it is not at all possible to create a lot of required infrastructure.

I will give an example of the clear discrimination and disparity as well which is taking place within the Bodoland area. We, the Bodoland people, do not have a single university. We do not have a single medical college. We do not have a single engineering college. We do not have even a single polytechnic institute. We do not have even a domestic airport. We do not have any Management Institute.

We do not have good road infrastructure. We do not have required health and medical service facilities and good hospitals. There is insufficient power supply in the villages. There are no good educational institutions. There is no industrialisation. There is no good infrastructure for development of agriculture sector also. Over the last more than 59 years since Independence, the most indigenous tribal people of the country, the Bodo people, have been deprived of what was due to them. Whatever commitments had been made by different leaders of this great nation since Independence and whatever provisions have been enshrined in the Constitution of India have not yet been implemented in toto. Because of the obstinate mindset, because of the parochial attitude, because of the discriminatory policy approach adopted by the people and parties in power against the indigenous tribal people, this regional imbalance is rising high. So, I would like to appeal to the Government to set up a high-level national commission to inquire into all these regional imbalances that are taking place in all the spheres of development and growth on all sectors in different regions and areas across the country. As a measure of solution to the regional imbalances, all the backward and neglected regions and sub-regions of the respective States and of the whole country should be re-organised on a real federal plan into viable and workable autonomous States or sub-States and into autonomous territories or autonomous regions

on the pattern of China's Tibet Autonomous Region and Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region and so on and so forth within the existing provincial States and Union Territories.

All the tribal people should be given adequate political power. In this regard, I would quote Dr. Ambedkar who said: "Political power is the main key by which you can open either a big or small lock." We, the tribal people of this country India, have not been given adequate political power. Because of this disparity, the tribal people of India have been deprived of equitable justice in the matter of development of tribal areas in each and every sphere. So, I would like to appeal to the Government of India to set up a high-level inquiry commission to inquire into all these things and to make such viable recommendations to re-organise all the backward and neglected regions and sub-regions of the respective States of the country into autonomous States, sub-States, autonomous territories or autonomous regions on a real federal plan. Then only, we can expect the people of each and every region to have equitable justice.

Why has the young generation of the North-Eastern India and State of Assam gone underground? The basic reason is negligence, discriminatory policy approach and regional imbalance. If India has to be kept intact, these disparities shall have to be removed at the earliest possible. Otherwise, you will miss the train. You cannot buy the hearts and minds and sentiments of the people of North-Eastern region by money only, and by mere populist slogans that you have been given more than Rs. 1,000 crore per year as a special package. The implementation part too is not up to the mark. So, I would like to appeal to the Government of India and to the nation as a whole that

[Translation]

we should be treated whole heartedly but mere words won't serve the purpose. Money can't buy the people of north east. If we want to stay in India in union, we will have to be helped openheartedly.

[English]

We have been trying to bring all the militant groups of the North Eastern States to the national mainstream, but we need adequate support from the Government of India with positive political wisdom.

I would like to appeal to the Government of India to sanction at least one Central University for the Bodoland territory; one engineering college for the Bodoland territory; one Central Agricultural University for the Bodoland

[Shri Sansuma Khunggur Bwiswmuthiary]

territory; one IIT for the Bodoland territory; and one IIM for the Bodoland territory. These are the pre-requisite factors to help develop the Bodoland territory.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Member, please conclude your speech.

SHRI SANSUMA KHUNGGUR BWISWMUTHIARY: The Government should also take complete action plan for the development of the Indo-Bhutan border as it has been very much neglected. Is it not a part of our free India? What about the developmental projects and policies in relation to the Indo-China border?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Member, please conclude your speech.

SHRI SANSUMA KHUNGGUR BWISWMUTHIARY: Sir, I am not able to talk much about all the issues because of lack of time. I want that the Government of India should definitely respond to all that we have spoken in this House.

Last but not least, I strongly support the Resolution moved by my colleague Shri Sarbananda Sonowal.

17.47 hrs.

ASSENT TO BILL

[English]

SECRETARY GENERAL: Sir, I lay on the Table the Parliament (Prevention of Disqualification) Amendment Bill, 2006, passed again by the Houses of Parliament during the current Session and assented to by the President since a report was last made to the House on the 25th July, 2006.

17.47½ hrs.

PRIVATE MEMBER'S RESOLUTION — *Contd.*

Re: Steps for balanced and equitable development of all parts of the country

[English]

SHRI P.S. GADHAVI (Kutch): Sir, thank you very much for giving me this opportunity to speak. I rise to support the Resolution moved by our hon. colleague Shri Sarbananda Sonowal. This Resolution has much importance from the point of view of strengthening our federal structure.

Many regions of the country are much developed, and many other regions are still lagging behind with regard to development even after completion of 59 years of our Independence. The southern areas, particularly, the urban areas and big cities are much developed, as they have almost all types of infrastructure facilities, namely, education, water, electricity, good roads, transportation, and chances of vast opportunities to earn their livelihood, and do other jobs. On the other hand, we do not have even basic amenities like electricity, road connectivity, transport, etc. in certain areas even today.

It is a very imbalanced development in even certain parts of developed States like Gujarat. We consider Gujarat as a developed State, and it is a very forward State. But if we take into account the entire State of Gujarat, many parts of that State are still lagging behind in the field of development. For example, my friends here from the North East States mentioned that they are on the eastern border of the country, and they are not having many of the basic infrastructure facilities. Similar is the case with the western end, particularly, my constituency, namely, Kutch. Kutch is much under developed in all ways, that is, socially, educationally, economically, etc. Kutch forms 24 per cent area of the whole of Gujarat State, but unfortunately its population is merely 3 per cent. The allocation of funds is made on the basis of per capita. Naturally, this big area cannot get adequate funds even though it forms 24 per cent of the Gujarat State because the population there is merely three per cent.

It is very unfortunate that nature has not been very kind to this area. In the last 50 years, we have faced more than 35 famines. In every five-year cycle, we had drought continuously for three years and rain in one year. Even when there was rain, the rainfall is only 10" or 12" per year. That area also faced two worst cyclones — one in 1998 and another in 1999. In the 1998 cyclone, we have lost more than three lakh fruit bearing trees, which were nursed by the farmers for the last 40 years. All of them perished in one cyclone, and we have lost more than 3,000 precious human lives. The 1999 cyclone had hit the western part of Kutch. In 2001, we faced the worst earthquake ever occurred in the world in which we have lost 18,000 human beings; we have lost more than two lakh residential houses, and almost the entire property in that area has been destroyed.

This unfortunate region is also having a good potentiality for development. Nature has given much for the development to this area. We have got abundant mineral wealth, like bauxite, bentonite, lignite, and china clay etc. However, it has to be utilised in a proper way.

For the development of our Kutch region, the NDA Government had given some tax benefits and as a result, some industries have come up in that part. My point is that it has covered only a little part of that area.

If we go to the western end of the Kutch, there is a big potentiality for development. There is one Jakhau Port there. If you can provide little infrastructure there, it will then cater to the needs of that area to a large extent. In the northern end of Kutch, there is an abundant potentiality available in the form of non-edible salt. We have got more than 10,000 square kilometres of marshy land, and there is abundant salt there. That can be utilised in so many things. My only request to the hon. Minister here, who is looking after Science and Technology, is that science and technology should come to the help of this area. The Rann of Kutch has got minerals like potash, calcium and so many other things which can be used in chemical manufacturing. In order to utilise these resources, we have to provide only 100 kilometre railway line from Bhuj to Khavda. In the past, we were importing bromine from outside. Recently, two factories have come up there and they are producing enough bromine to meet the needs of our country. Therefore, these types of things should be taken care of.

Our honourable and visionary President has envisaged a development plan for that area. When he was staying in the Rann of Rajasthan, Pokhran, at that time, he had a vision that if the Rann of Rajasthan can be developed, then Rann of Kutch can also be developed in a similar fashion. Kutch has a different kind of Rann. That Rann is not desert or sandy area; that Rann is a marshy land, and it has got abundant potentiality for development. My only request is that science and technology should be made use of for the development of that area. When this type of natural potentiality is there, it should be made use of. The question of how to make use of it can be taken care of by science and technology.

As stated by the hon. Member from the North-Eastern States, the Government should pay more attention because only then and there these potentialities can be developed.

There is enough potentiality. In spite of having the potentiality, such regions are not yet developed. Similar is the case of Scheduled Tribes belt in the State. At the eastern borders of Gujarat, many Scheduled Tribes live in Panchmahal and Dahod. There is also a great potentiality for development. But this requires the Government's attention. It should not be said that since Gujarat is a developed State, development of these regions could not be undertaken by the Centre. My humble request to the

Government is that if there is an under developed area within a developed State, the Government must pay attention to that area also.

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I want to make a request.

I believe - it is my personal belief, many may not share it - that science and technology is at the heart of economic development. No nation can move forward without investments in science and technology. But, while I have been a Minister in this Government, I have not had the advantage of any proposals from Members of Parliament on how we in this Ministry can help a specific State. Whether it is Arunachal Pradesh in the North-East - Kiren made a wonderful intervention today - or whether it is Orissa or any other State. It is you who have to give me proposals. I can assure you that without reference to any politics - because it is at the heart of economic development - I will come forward and do what I can.

I have one small request to make to the Members of this House and I take I advantage of this time. Please, in the next Session have a full day's discussion as to how science and technology can take this country forward. In the course of that discussion many things will emerge which will benefit the common man of this country. It is only science and technology that can reach the benefits of whatever environmental and mineral resources we have to the common man. This is my request to you. You help me and I will never hesitate to help you.

SHRI P.S. GADHAVI (Kutch): We express our thanks to the hon. Minister for this.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN (Balasore): Sir, in the Business Advisory Committee last time I had appealed for a discussion on this in the Demands for Grants and the hon. Speaker had agreed to that. Unfortunately this could not take place. We will do it.

SHRI MANI CHARENAMEI (Outer Manipur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, first of all I would like to thank Shri Sarbananda Sonowal for moving this important Resolution.

All over India, whether it is in the South, North, East or West, the areas inhabited by the tribals are the most backward areas, in spite of those areas being rich in natural resources. It would not be wrong to say that the social conditions and economic conditions of the tribals in the States reflect the quality of governance and administration of those States in particular and the country as a whole. No officer from the Centre would like to serve in the interior and remote areas.

[Shri Mani Charenamei]

Today we are speaking about regional imbalances in matters of development in the country. North-East region of our country is one region which is predominantly inhabited by tribals of various ethnic groups. The country has taken initiative to bring about equality in development in the North-East by creating as many as four pure tribal-owned States. This, in fact, is a noble step to infuse confidence and dignity in the minds of the indigenous tribal people. But then, more needs to be done. Creation of States in the North-East has been done without the knowledge and consent of the indigenous tribal people who have been living in the region since time immemorial. As such, today we are experiencing a lot of turmoil in the North-East region people crying for recognition of their rights, identity, justice and permanent peace.

18.00 hrs.

North-Eastern Region is well-known for its natural beauty and rich natural resources. However, due to poor and faulty planning in the past, people are becoming poorer and poorer. It seems that planners have failed to understand the intricate and typical situation of the North-Eastern Region. Today, we are talking of globalisation. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Kindly stop your speech. It is 6 o' clock now. You can continue your speech when this is taken up next time.

We are now taking up 'Zero Hour'.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: Sir, what will happen to the Motion of Prof. Rasa Singh Rawat? ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN: This resolution has not been concluded as yet. Thereafter the resolution of Shri Rawat can be moved. Now, it will be moved in the next session.

[English]

As per rules, it would be decided.

[Translation]

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: His Resolution has not been moved for the last three times.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The resolution which was going on has not been completed as yet.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: It has been going on in the same way since February.

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer): Discussion has been going on about This matter for seven hours.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: Get the discussion started on Shri Rawat's resolution right now please.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: There are five more speakers and the hon. Minister has to reply also. Moreover, how is it possible to take up his Motion when the debate is not concluded on this?

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI T.K. HAMZA (Manjeri): Sir, the Pravasis, that is, Non-Resident Indians, who are going and working abroad have to deposit an amount to get emigration clearance. For the last 30 years, lakhs of people had gone abroad. There is a rule that they would get back the amount deposited when they returned. But they are not keeping the receipts and documents of deposit and as such amounts would not be disbursed.

Now, it has accumulated as a huge amount. I understand that it would be more than Rs.5000 crore in the treasury of the Government of India as dead money. I would like to suggest that we can have beneficial projects for the progress of Pravasis, especially when they return from abroad unemployed.

Hence, I would request that the Minister for Overseas Affairs may kindly look into the matter.

SHRI LONAPPAN NAMBADAN (Mukundapuram): Sir, I rise to bring to the notice of the House, the sufferings, agony and misery of the people, in general, and youngsters, including students, in particular, due to the liberal and uncontrolled manufacture and sale of harmful Pan Masalas in the country.

Youngsters and construction workers are generally trapped in this habit. The ingredients of Pan Masalas are highly dangerous and they are leading to serious diseases like Cancer. In a small State like Kerala, about 370 quintals of Pan Masalas are sold every month. It is alarming.

Pan Masala is treated as food item. The emblem of 'Green Dot' is allowed to be used on biscuit packet as well as Pan Masala packets.

I would request the Government to take immediate

action to stop the manufacture and distribution of Pan Masala in the country.

[Translation]

SHRI GANESH SINGH (Satna): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am glad to inform this House that Baansagar Multi-Purpose-Project was inaugurated 28 years ago. It was inaugurated by the then Prime Minister Hon'ble Morarji Bhai Desai. Now, that project has been completed. I am giving this information to the House and demand that this circle should be included in the tourist circuit.

Sir, Baansagar Multi-Purpose Project which was inaugurated on 14th May, 1978 by the then Prime Minister, Shri Morarji Bhai Desai on some River in the border area of Satna and Shahdole district of Madhya Pradesh has been completed after 28 years with the cost of Rs. 1265 hundred crore. The said project will generate 425 Megawatt of power and irrigate 1,54,887 Hectares of land. The work on this project has been completed with the concerted efforts of UP, Bihar and Madhya Pradesh and these three states will get benefit of this multi-purpose Baansagar Project. 336 villages have been affected by this project out of which 79 villages have been submerged fully and 36421 families have been affected by this project. 98408 hectare land is submerged in this project where waters logging is there. In this project 175 villages of my parliamentary constituency, Satna are submerged in which 48 villages are fully submerged. 55 villages of Katni district are submerged in which six villages are fully submerged. The remaining 69 villages are of Shahdole district in which 22 villages are fully submerged 37 village are of Umeria district in which 3 village are fully submerged. Under this project 21714 hectares of land of Sidhi district, 26370 hectares of land of Satna and 102556 hectares of land of Rewa district will be irrigated.

The above area can be developed into a tourist spot. Baansagar water has been dammed by the mountains from all four sides and there are many hillocks in the midst of all this which look very attractive. Through this House I appeal to all the tourist agencies and tourist departments of Government of India to inspect this spot and try to add it to the tourist map. The above spot is situated on this dam at Devlond on Rewa Shahdole Road which is 58 kms from Rewa National Highway No.7, 100 kms from Satna and 105 kms from Shahdole. Here, Bandhavgarh is the only habitat of white tigers in the world and this all from Bandhavgarh Banaras via Khajuraho, Chitrakut, Satna, Bharhut, Panna, Mehar National Park, Gidhkot Ramnagar, Ramvan, Baansagar, Amarkantak can be developed into a tourist circuit.

I would like to congratulate Madhya Pradesh Government through you that they have contributed to complete the above project in add circumstances. I congratulate the Chief Minister of MP for that.

18.08 hrs.

SUBMISSIONS BY MEMBERS – *Contd.*

(v) **Re: Need to implement one rank one pension policy to Ex-soldiers.**

SHRI KISHAN SINGH SANGWAN (Sonepat): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak. I would like to draw the attention of the House to a very old demand of one rank one pension which is related to lacs of ex-service men. Hon'ble Minister is sitting in front of me. He declared in this House that the decision had been taken. Prior to that, he also gave an assurance during the session that committee had been constituted for the same. He declared in the last session that this had been decided.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE) : Decision has been taken.

SHRI KISHAN SINGH SANGWAN: But I say with a heavy heart that it has not been implemented so far despite your assurance to the Parliament in this regard. Lacs of Ex-servicemen are waiting for it. This has been a long pending demand in this House for twenty years. I am also demanding it in every session but it has been implemented. Nowhere, it seems to me that there is some powerful officer in the Ministry of Defence, which has become a hurdle in its implementation. The Standing Committee on Defence had also taken decision on this issue in this House that there should be one rank one pension. Hon'ble Supreme Court gave a judgment about their pension in civil appeal No. 5346 of 1997 that whenever someone becomes eligible to pension and if it is stepped up, it should be applicable to these people and the same should be given to them. After that in Appeal No. 3048 in 1968 a Judgment was given that if any one is eligible to pension and if it is revised, the same should be applicable to those persons. Committee on Defence have also okayed it. But despite all this and an assurance by the Minister in the House, it has not been implemented in practical in the field so far.

I request the Hon'ble Minister that the decision taken with regard to one rank one pension should be implemented w.e.f. 01-01-1996 immediately.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: You can raise only one matter.

[Translation]

SHRI KISHAN SINGH SANGWAN: Sir, the second one also relates to martyrs. I would like to say that there should be no discrimination in regard to martyrs attaining martyrdom irrespective of whether they have achieved so during Kargil struggle or in any other struggle after Kargil or in any other struggle involving para-military forces. The facilities which were given to the martyrs of Kargil should also be given to the martyrs of para-military forces. A martyr is a martyr whether he belongs to para-military forces or police because they all sacrifice their lives for the sake of the country and the persons losing their lives in the terrorists incidents are also martyrs because they have laid their lives for the sake of the country. Therefore, they must be treated as martyr and be given same facilities and their wards must be given jobs under ex-gratia. No ward has been employed so far. An announcement was made during the struggle of Kargil that jobs would be given to the wards. But let me know in details as to how many wards will be given jobs. Similar situation is with the Central Govt. and I would like to seek details in this regard from the Hon'ble Minister.

[English]

SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE: Chairman, Sir, I would like to give a clarification. So far as one-rank-one-pension is concerned, already a decision has been taken by the GoM and I had informed about the same in the House. I had said it with authority. After that, it was informed to the Services officers. Now, probably the matter is in the process. It involves a huge number of ex-Servicemen. I do not remember the details now because I have left that Ministry. It takes some time to process. The decision had been announced to them and they had celebrated and congratulated themselves also.

[Translation]

SHRI KISHAN SINGH SANGWAN: So many years have passed. Whether anything would be done for them when they leave for heavenly adobe.

[English]

SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE: It involves a huge number of ex-Servicemen and, therefore, it is taking time.

18.13 hrs.

*(SHRI ARJUN SETHI in the Chair)**[Translation]*

SHRI HARIBHAU RATHOD (Yavatmal): Mr. Chairman, Sir, on 5th August it rained heavily in Maharashtra. There were floods and in the meantime 108 villages of my area were washed away in the floods. This has not happened only because of floods. People were not informed about the release of water from the Dam. People were asleep in the midnight. In these circumstances all the 108 villages of my area submerged in water. Why people were not informed in advance about the release of water from the dam? Who are the persons responsible for this? People, their agricultural equipments, electronic pipes, motor pipes, all the material used in agriculture were washed away in the floods. Hon. Prime Minister visited Maharashtra and the Chief Minister of Maharashtra also visited the area, but compensation has not been given to flood affected persons as yet. The Government has taken a good step in respect of management of natural calamities. But, those doing calamity management have still not reached Maharashtra.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Just let me know what is your demand. Your time is limited.

SHRI HARIBHAU RATHOD: There has been demands for helicopters and steamers but they did not reach there even after two days. By the grace of God and due to the lower intensity of rains, these people managed to survive. My demand is that it is merely providing homes to the people under the ongoing resettlement work, people of 108 villages have fear in their minds that water could be released from the dam anytime. So, people should be resettled in such areas where people are resettled at the time of some projects. They should be resettled under the resettlement laws.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Hansraj G. Ahir and Shri Ramdas Athawale associated themselves with the matter raised by Shri Haribhau Rathod.

[Translation]

SHRI BHANU PRATAP SINGH VERMA (Jalaun): Mr. Chairman, Sir, there are heavy traffic jams for hours occurs between Bara and Jhansi in Uttar Pradesh on National Highway No. 25 connecting Kanpur to Mumbai because there are patholes in between on the road. Traffic jam

lasting 8-10 hours occurs whenever the vehicles start plying on this road. When we approached to the Govt. of Uttar Pradesh, they told us that as the Govt. of India has taken over the work under the Golden Quadrilateral Scheme, so it will be maintained by the Govt. of India. I would like to give one more example, stretch between Jolupur to Bhognipur is 20 kilometers long, two and a half to three hours are required to cross it because area of Betwa river is rocky, and sand is transported from here. At least 500-700 trucks pass from here daily causing jams on the road. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: What is your demand?

SHRI BHANU PRATAP SINGH VERMA: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I demand that road, which is in dilapidated condition, and comes under the purview of Union Government should be repaired soon as transporters, traders, people's representatives in Jalaun and Kalpi are ready to launch an aggressive agitation. I request the Union Government to immediately build this road before any such agitations begins so that the vehicles bound for Mumbai could reach on time.

[*English*]

SHRI MANJUNATH KUNNUR (Dharwad South): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the Ministry of Agriculture to the matter regarding inclusion of Haveri district in Karnataka in the Horticulture Mission. The Haveri district has not been included in the Horticulture Mission and only 13 districts of Karnataka have been identified. Haveri district is situated on NH-4 in between Pune-Bangalore road, abutting Western Ghats. There are seven Talukas in Haveri district, out of which four talukas have been included in Malanad Area Development Board (MADB) of Karnataka where mango is grown in abundance. Chillii crop is also grown in abundance in this area. Byadgi chillis, which is grown in Haveri district, has got international market. People from other countries of the world come to Byadgi to purchase the chillies. Even MDH Masala is getting chillis from Byadgi to prepare spices and the same are exported. People from Kerala have put up Oleo Resin Oil Factory in Kerala as well as in Haveri district of Karnataka as it has got good demand not only within the country but also outside. The farmers of this area are growing coconut, arecanut, coffee, grapes, all the vegetables etc.

Therefore, under the circumstances, it has become absolutely necessary to include Haveri district in Horticulture Mission by giving top priority.

[*Translation*]

DR. KARAN SINGH YADAV (Alwar): Hon. Mr. Chairman, around two years back permission was granted to small passenger vehicles owners to run their vehicles by using LPG with a view to protect the environment from pollution. Under this, owner of the vehicle gets permission to run the vehicle by using LPG after installing LPG kits of companies authorised by the Government and after getting the registration certificate from the competent transport officer. After this several motor vehicle manufacturing companies have started to sell such LPG operated vehicles of their own make. In the state of Rajasthan, LPG operated vehicles are being registered in all the transport offices, in my own Lok Sabha Constituency Alwar, several such vehicles have been registered. But, there is not even a single LPG refilling centre in the entire city. In such a situation, vehicle owners operate their vehicles by refilling domestic gas cylinders in their gas kits. In such a situation, it not only results in shortage of cooking gas cylinders but also in revenue loss to the Government.

Therefore, I request the hon. Petroleum Minister through the House to immediately make the arrangements for opening LPG refilling pump and CNG refilling stations in district Alwar particularly in Alwar city, industrial city Bhiwadi and in Bahrod on National Highway No.8. District Alwar is a part of National Capital Region and here same rules are applicable to vehicles as in Delhi. Therefore, pumps of LPG and CNG should be allotted soon.

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR (Chail): Mr. Chairman, Sir, through you I would like to draw the attention of the Government towards the deteriorating law and order situation in the Capital Delhi. Forty to Fifty people are reported missing in Delhi every day. Every year 15000 people are reported missing. I am quoting the said figure as per the missing persons reports registered in police stations. A look at the figures of last three years, will reveal that there is no trace of 20000 missing persons. In the year 2003, 11231 people went missing, in 2004, 13062 people went missing, in 2005, 14983 people went missing, out of these 4222 were children and 5827 were women and 3300 persons have been traced and 9772 people are missing in Delhi according to the police record till August this year. Most of them are children. Every year 3000 unclaimed dead bodies are found in Delhi. I am just mentioning the figures of police stations. Delhi is the Capital of India. This is proving to be a tough task for Delhi Police. The Government should find out whether humans trafficking or some criminal activities are cause of their disappearance and also try to find the facts in this regard. It is a matter of serious concern.

MR. CHAIRMAN: What is your demand?

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR: I would like to demand from the Government to find out the whereabouts of those persons who are missing and whose missing reports are being registered in police records. This is a matter of concern. The government should particularly pay attention in this regard.

SHRI ANIRUDH PRASAD ALIAS SADHU YADAV (Gopalganj): Mr. Chairman, Sir, through you, I would like to raise a public matter of utmost importance in the House. Every year, there is a heavy rain in the Coastal States of India like Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Orissa etc. due to occurrence of cyclones in the Bay of Bengal. The people face trouble due to flooding of the coastal regions. The most afflicted under these circumstances is the fishing community. Unless, the storm tones down and calm prevails over the bay, the fishermen cannot go back on their jobs. That means no work no earning and no food without earning. The people have to suffer from the waterborne diseases also because of the flooding of nearby areas.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, through you, I would like to request the Government of India to formulate certain schemes in order to make the fishermen tackle the problems of hunger and diseases under the circumstances so that they can be rid of the problems arising due to bad weather which affect their lives.

SHRI PUNNU LAL MOHALE (Bilaspur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, a new Chakarbhatha air strip has come up in the Bilaspur district of Chhattisgarh. I would like to demand from the Union Government to start new air services using the Chakarbhatha air strip in the Bilaspur district. In this matter, I would like to say that Bilaspur is my Parliamentary constituency and an NTPC station is also located there. A High Court is there in Bilaspur and it is also an industrial town. Bilaspur is an area adjacent to the capital which has coal mines headquarters and where a zonal Railways Office is also located. Korbo has a Thermal Power Station. In view of all this and keeping in view the access facility, there is a need for starting air services. The people have been demanding this for a long time. A 16 seater Vayudoot Service had been started eight or ten years back which was discontinued abruptly. There is an overcrowding of passengers. The aircraft service is on in the Raipur capitals, where two aeroplanes fly-one at eight o'clock and another one an airlines plane at 8:55. Air Deccan is also flying there, but the air services in Bilaspur is still to take off. A complete air strip has come up in Bilaspur and many aircrafts land there and take off whether be its Prime Minister, Governor or the President or some one else. It is

requested to start air services from the Chakarbhatha air strip in Bilaspur in view of business prospects.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to demand from the Union Government to carry out this task at the earliest. One of the two flights taking off at an interval of one hour, comes via Bhubaneshwar and the second one goes via Vishakapatnam and Bombay. Both these links can be connected by starting to air services from Bilaspur also. This way they will be fully utilizing the air service which is turn will provide to and fro air facility to the people living there. I would like to demand from the Union Government to start air service from the Chakarbhatha air strip in Bilaspur.

[English]

DR. C. KRISHNAN (Pollachi): Sir, I am speaking on behalf of Marumalarchi Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam headed by Shri Vaiko, the beloved leader of Tamilians.

The subject about which I am speaking is the Sri Lankan Air Force bombing on innocent Tamilian school children in Sri Lanka on 14th August, 2006. The Sri Lankan Air Force bombed on school buildings in Mullai Theevu area where innocent school children were undergoing a two-day course in first aid. Due to the bombing on this school, about 61 students, girls and boys, in the age group of 15 to 18 years were killed and about 150 persons were injured. This is based on reports available through the media and the press, namely, The Hindu dated the 16th August, 2006. This inhumanitarian violent activity of the Sri Lankan Government has been condemned by the UNICEF and also by the Sri Lankan Government Monitoring Mission which has rejected the statement of the Sri Lankan Government. It stated that military facilities were present and military training was being given in the school campus.

This has been denied by the UNICEF as well as by the Sri Lanka Monitoring Mission. The UNICEF Executive Director says that these children are the innocent victims of violence.

MR. CHAIRMAN: What is your demand?

DR. C. KRISHNAN: On behalf of Marumalarchi Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam, I would request that our Government should take the initiative to press the Sri Lankan Government to respect humanitarian law and to protect the children in places where they play, live and study.

I would request the Government of India to take all necessary steps to protect the Tamilians in Sri Lanka and prevent the genocide killing. They kill our people

indiscriminately and do not allow the Tamilians to live there peacefully. Thousands of Tamilians are coming back to India as refugees.

Any sort of help, in the form of (i) going for escort duty for their warships; and (ii) giving training for their military personnel in India as it happened in Coimbatore ten days ago should be stopped forthwith. ...*(Interruptions)* These are against the interests of Tamilians at large. Thank you very much.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE (Pandharpur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, the present day population of our country is approx. 110 crore. The census work took place in the year 1931, 1951, 1961 and the final one got completed in the year 2001. The census in our country is usually done to find out the number of scheduled castes and scheduled tribes. The census in the year 2001 took place on the same basis. As per the census of year 2001 the number of scheduled castes have been found to be 16.02% and that of scheduled tribes to be 8.02% and consequently the total population of these castes in our country has come to approx. 24.02%.

Sir, what is the number of any caste in the country, its assessment does not take place in our census. Therefore, I would like to demand from the Government of India to arrange for gathering the information regarding the number of any caste in the next census going to take place in the year 2011 so that the census can be done on the basis of castes and the information regarding the number of people of any caste living in the country can be gathered. The Minister for Parliamentary Affairs is present here. I would like him to issue directions to make arrangement in this regard.

***SHRI P. MOHAN (Madurai):** Hon'ble Chairman, Sir, Madurai city is one of the ancient historical cities in India which is also known as the Athens of South. It has a vast potential and resources to emerge as an important hub of commercial, pilgrimage, tourist and industrial activities. It has got important hill resorts and wild-life sanctuaries like Kodaikanal and Thekkady that will attract tourists towards nature. Kodaikanal is situated about 75 kms. from Madurai city. Thekkady is situated at about 150 kms. from this city. Palani, the important shrine of Lord Murugan among the famous six shrines of the deity attracts hundreds of pilgrims towards it. Thousands of pilgrims from all over the country throng Rameshvaram, the pilgrim town that is there from

the puranic times. This town is situated 150 miles from Madurai city. Hence, Madurai city continues to remain an important centre attracting tourists of various hues from all over the world. Hence, I urge upon the Civil Aviation Ministry and the Tourism Ministry to provide enhanced infrastructural facility like Helicopter service to link all these tourist centres in and around Madurai city. In Jammu & Kashmir, we find Helicopter service taking pilgrims to Vaishnodevi Shrine. In the same pattern, Madurai must have Helicopter service to link all these places of tourism importance. This would greatly help those who can afford spending to save three to six hours in traveling to these places by road. Helicopter service would help the tourist both from across the country and from the different parts of the world to reach these destinations within an hour from Madurai city. This would greatly help the Madurai city to improve its economy thereby giving a pep to the foreign exchange earning to the country. Hence, I urge upon the Union Tourism Ministry and Civil Aviation Ministry to look into this aspect of promoting tourism making Madurai city an important tourist destination. Thank you.

SHRI GUHARAM AJGALLE (Sarangarh): Mr. Chairman, Sir, there is shortage of mobile SIM cards of BSNL in Chhattisgarh. Due to non-availability of these cards people are constrained to purchase SIM cards of private mobile companies for which they have to pay more money.

Sir, I feel that top ranking officers of BSNL are promoting the mobile services of private companies. Due to this, SIM cards of BSNL are not being made available in sufficient number deliberately, thereby leaving no option with the people except purchasing the SIM cards of private companies. As soon as the mobile services of private companies are introduced in any town or city, there are some faults in the lines and network of BSNL, thereby making people constrained to take mobile services of private companies. By way of such unfair means, these are being promoted.

Sir, I would like to request the Minister of communications and Information Technology, through you, that top officers of BSNL should specifically be controlled and be instructed clearly in this regard so that more and more people in Chhattisgarh can avail benefit of BSNL mobile service.

SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR (Sagar): Sir, in National Hydro-electronic Power Corporation Limited, which is a public sector undertaking under the ministry of Power, no promotions to the post of Assistant Manager have been given to almost 300 engineers of 2001 batch as per rules from 1 April, 2006 whereas all the engineers from all batches have been given promotion to the post of Assistant Manager within five years of service. This time a

* English translation of the speech originally delivered in Tamil

discriminatory treatment is being given to almost 300 engineers who had joined their service till 30th of June, 2001. They are also being denied promotion. CMD of NHPC does not have any positive approach in this regard.

When all the engineers of the same company have been given promotion to the post of Assistant Manager so far prior to 1st April, 2006 as to why the engineers of 2001 batch are not being given promotion from April, 2006.

The above said entire information is available with NHPC under the Right to Information Act which proves that all engineers before 2001 batch have been given promotion and promotions to the batch of 2001 are due and thus, the engineers of 2001 batch are being harassed by violating the rules.

The timely promotions are being given in the other companies like NTPC, Power grid falling under the Ministry of Power.

Therefore, the Union Government is requested through you that immediate action should be taken for promotion of engineers of year 2001 batch in NHPC.

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer): Sir, there is an urgent need to give special economic package to the state of Rajasthan like other states due to its odd geographical condition, limited natural resources, limited potential of industrialization, economic backwardness, heavy rainfall in some parts and drastic drought in some other parts, crisis arising out of perpetual drought and famine for the last five six years and its being a border and the biggest state from area point of view and in view of the efficient financial management by the present govt. There is an urgent need to extend special economic package to Rajasthan immediately for lessening the increasing burden of debt of the peasants, developing livestock and checking the increasing Thar desert, for exploiting the minerals to be found in Aravali, seeking solution to the ever increasing problem of potable water, checking the power crisis and for augmenting the resources.

Therefore, Government of India is requested that the Special Economic Package should be provided to Rajasthan, the land of brave soldiers without any delay, while rising above, above political considerations the all round development of the nation.

[English]

SHRIMATI TEJASWINI SEERAMESH (Kanakpura): Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the Government towards the need to build countrywide 'Shree Shakti

Bhawans' in each village at the cost of Rs. 5 lakh to empower the Indian women folk including my State Karnataka.

I know that the women empowerment is the priority agenda in this UPA Government. It is our duty to provide basic infrastructure like an office building to the Self Help Groups in this country. Self Help Groups are doing silent revolution in the rural economy through their honest and disciplined economic, social and developmental activities.

In my State of Karnataka, these Self Help Groups saved more than Rs.400 crore. They also prevent the middlemen from exploiting the rural farmers who are charging heavy interest while lending money. They are also fighting against the social problem like liquor menace. So, we would like to strengthen the Self Help Groups with proper care.

Presently, they are suffering from lack of their own office to sit and organise their activities. Many times, they are depending on schools, Anganwadi and Panchayat buildings to conduct their meetings. Many times, they are unavailable due to the own activities of the schools and the Anganwadis. So, I urge upon the Government to build a full-fledged office with all the facilities called Shree Shakti Bhavan at the cost of Rs.5 lakh in each village, country-wide which will boost their self respect and morale in the public life. There is an urgent need to do this. So, I hope my hon. Prime Minister will consider this request. If it is done, the whole country, particularly, the rural women will remember this Government for ever. They will also pay their respectful thanks to our leader Shrimati Sonia Gandhi.

SHRIMATI ARCHANA NAYAK (Kendrapara): Hon. Chairman, Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister of Water Resources about a serious issue of my constituency.

The Mahakalpada area of my constituency Kendrapara in Orissa is directly exposed to sea water inundation as it lies on the coastal line of the Bay of Bengal. Even though there is an old embankment, it became weak due to constant sea erosion. The sluice gate at Akhadasali (Barkanda G.P.) of Mahakalpada Block has been damaged completely. As a result, the saline sea water enters the agricultural land during the high tide. Consequently, the crops in about 15,000 acres of land are destroyed due to salinity and inundation. More over, the salinity destroys the fertility of land.

I would, therefore, urge upon the Central Government that a new sluice gate should be constructed urgently to

secure the crops. Further, the embankment itself, which has become very weak due to constant erosion, should be strengthened at the earliest to save the agricultural land of 15000 acres from salinity and inundation.

DR. K.S. MANOJ (Alleppey): Sir, Christian institutions and Christian religious groups are doing a yeomen services in the field of rural health, education, destitute care and care of HIV/AIDS patients. The late Mother Teresa was awarded the Nobel Prize for her services among the destitutes. She was the founder of one religious congregation called the Missionaries of Charities. Likewise, several Catholic and Non-Catholic Institutions are there in the country. But, Sir, persecution of Christian Missionaries is alarmingly increasing in the country. Pastor V.P. Paulos and his family members were attacked on the Easter Sunday in Karnataka, and the Mangalore Church was ransacked. Jimindra Digal of Orissa had to pay his life for accepting the Christian faith. Rev. Rana was attacked in Rajasthan. The functioning of the Emmanuel Mission, which is running 103 orphanages, 140 schools and a hospital nation-wide, is being disturbed and distorted in Rajasthan. Only by the intervention of the hon. Supreme Court of India serenity is restored. Still they are under the threat of attack.

Article 25 of the Constitution guarantees every citizen the right to freedom of religion. It states that all persons are equally entitled to freedom of conscience, and the right to freely profess, practice and propagate religion. This constitutional right is denied in all these cases.

So, I urge upon the Government to ensure this constitutional right to the members of the Christian minority community so that a sense of safety and security may be created in them.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI P. SATHEEDEVI (Badagara): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I draw the kind attention of the Ministry of Civil Aviation regarding the unscrupulous methods adopted by Indian Airlines and Air India during summer holidays of Gulf countries.

Indian Airlines and Air India are charging about Rs. 3,000 more per ticket during summer vacations of Gulf countries. It is during these holidays workers of Gulf countries are able to meet their families. The increased price is more than affordable to the poor families travelling to and fro usually in the summer holidays. In away, this policy of airlines is squeezing all the hard-earned money of the poor labourers.

Moreover, during this season, all the flights from Calicut Airport for Gulf countries are overbooked resulting in the offloading of passengers on many days.

Many passengers have been stranded facing the risk of losing jobs as they would not be able to report for duty before the expiry of visa. Hence, I urge upon the hon. Minister of Civil Aviation to look into the issue and take immediate action to curtail the burden of travellers by reducing the airfare and by providing more aircraft to and from Calicut to the Gulf sector.

Thank you.

*SHRI S. MALLIKARJUNIAH (Tumkur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I thank you for giving me this opportunity to speak. Tumkur is facing the problem of unemployment of educated youth. There is a medical college, engineering college and many other educational institutions. But those who come out of these educational institutions are not finding any placement. Hence, the Centre should find out a way to solve this unemployment problem in Tumkur district.

The roads in Tumkur city are very narrow. Hence, all the roads have to be widened and two double roads have to be constructed immediately. Regarding this I have already given my demands before the Government of India.

I hope that the Centre would take keen interest in this regard and provide sufficient funds for widening the roads and also to construct double roads in Tumkur City. I thank you once again for giving me this opportunity and with these words I conclude my speech.

SHRI ASHOK ARGAL (Morena): Sir, I would like to speak about the flood playing havoc with twenty districts in Madhya Pradesh. It has come to my notice through the preliminary investigation conducted by the Government that 1375 cattle have died due to floods in twenty districts of Madhya Pradesh and nearly 100 people have lost their lives and 30717 houses have been damaged. 38595 persons have been kept in the relief camps. 179 persons have been rescued from Shora village in Guna district by the army helicopter. Madhya Pradesh has suffered heavy loss. The Government of Madhya Pradesh has demanded Rs. 650 crore on the priority basis. I would like to request the Central Government through you that Madhya Pradesh should also be provided the funds liberally like Andhra Pradesh and Maharashtra, so that the flood victims of Madhya Pradesh can get relief. In my area Chambal,

*English translation of the speech originally delivered in Kannada

there is a situation of drought. I would like that my area should be surveyed because at some places the people are in trouble over flood and at other place, people are in trouble over drought. The people have to suffer a lot due to drought. I again request through you, that the Union Government should assess the loss and the demanded amount should be provided to the Madhya Pradesh so that the relief may be provided to the people in the relief camps.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: The House stands adjourned till 11.00 a.m. on Monday.

18.49 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Monday, August 21, 2006/Sravana 30, 1928 (Saka).

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